



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to USA Today, U.S. border officials are warning that the violent prison gang suspected of killing three people linked to the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico may retaliate against U.S. officers. A bulletin issued through the El Paso Intelligence Center is urging law enforcement officials along the border, particularly in El Paso, to wear their protective vests and alert their own family members to the threat. (See item [49](#))
- The Associated Press reports that federal officials say damage to levees in Missouri has put much of northeast Arkansas in a federally defined high-risk flood zone. The St. Francis Levee District CEO estimates that 125,000 households in the region will now have to buy flood insurance. (See item [64](#))

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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 25, WFED 1500 Washington, D.C.* – (Texas) **Terror plot concerns Houston.** Saudi Arabia says it arrested more than 100 al Qaida militants including suicide bombers who had been planning attacks on energy facilities in the world's top oil exporter. The interior ministry said its sweep caught more than 50 suspected Saudi militants and another 50 from Yemen. But the Saudis are not the only ones worried. So is Houston, Texas. In September 2008, "An al Qaida operative was quoted as saying Houston remains in al Qaida's gun sights because of the oil and gas sector," said the vice president of Counter-terrorism at Stratfor. Today March 2010, he reiterates, "that threat very much still exists today." He says other sites include: "the Port of Long Beach where you have the flow of goods and services in the containers coming in from around the world." The Saudi arrests, heightened concerns in the U.K. and U.S. law enforcement beefing up WMD defenses suggest the worry is warranted. The threats actually began in 2006, "circulating on Jihadist websites," says a Fellow for Homeland Security & Terrorism Programs at Rice University. She adds a lot of sensitive information was posted, "maps, charts, pipelines, electrical facilities." She says terrorists are no stranger to Houston. "Members of Al Qaida have been through Houston, Hezbollah, Hamas." And there have been some very recent connections, "the Christmas Day bomber was in Houston in 2008 and the Mumbai attacks, the communications system was hosted in Houston."
Source: <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?sid=1919875&nid=122>
2. *March 25, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Potential leak at gas drilling site probed.** The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is investigating a possible leak or spill at a natural gas drilling site in Susquehanna County. A DEP spokesman at the Wilkes-Barre office said the department received a call to its emergency response line from Cabot Oil & Gas Co. on the afternoon of March 21, informing the department that employees found "a discharge of black water" at the site. A DEP spokesman said there are two wells on one pad at the site, and no drilling activity is currently taking place. He said the team took samples from a private drinking water well that is currently not being used, from two nearby springs and from the site pit. The samples are being analyzed at DEP's lab in Harrisburg. He confirmed Cabot had a vacuum truck on-site "in response to where this dark fluid was observed. It was a voluntary measure on their part," he said. He said he believes there was no recent drilling activity at the site. The site had not been shut down because of the discovery of the liquid, he said. A spokesman for Cabot Oil & Gas said there was no indication of any environmental contamination or pollution.
Source:
http://www.timesleader.com/news/Potential_leak_at_gas_drilling_site_probed_03-25-2010.html
3. *March 25, The Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Oil business suffers fire in Ware; owners vow to rebuild.** Police and fire officials are investigating a suspicious fire that heavily damaged the garage and storage facility of L. Sidur & Sons Inc. trucking and oil business on Homecrest Avenue early Thursday morning. Officials are trying to determine if the garage — which housed three large dump trucks, two oil delivery trucks, and other heavy equipment — was broken into prior to the fire which was

discovered by a neighbor and called in shortly before 4 a.m. The fire chief said the fire was suspicious in origin and no one was injured. Some in the neighborhood discovered some damage, and police are investigating to see if it is connected. State and local police, local firefighters and troopers assigned to the state Fire Marshal's office were surveying the scene Thursday morning, including the Homecrest Apartments, located at 7-29 Homecrest Ave., across from the business. The chief said that when he got to the scene a few minutes after it was called in, the fire was still contained in the building. It took about an hour to bring it under control. Firefighters from Palmer and Warren were called to the scene and to man the Ware fire station, he said.

Source:

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/oil_business_suffers_fire_in_w.html

4. *March 25, Wheeling Intelligencer* – (Missouri) **Bomb scare at plant ends safely.** A bomb scare at the former Columbia Chemicals Plant ended safely on March 24 after a section of W.Va. 2 was shut down for several hours. At about 10 a.m., employees of Consol Energy, who were at the facility changing office locks, discovered a device that appeared to them like some type of explosive, said the Marshall County Chief Sheriff's Deputy. Consol Energy recently purchased the plant and is in the process of clearing offices and buildings. The employees immediately called 911 and sheriff's deputies were sent to the area, he said. "Deputies found the device sitting on a desk in an office of one of the main buildings," he said. "The device did look like something legitimate that was not made by an amateur. We definitely thought it could have been a bomb." A Marshall County bomb expert was called to the scene and he decided to detonate the bomb without removing it from the area. Deputies and two local fire departments kept the roadway cleared during the detonation and while the plant was checked for any other devices, he said. "We did find a vehicle on the property and we were able to trace it back to an individual who formerly worked with Columbia Chemicals," he said. "He immediately became a person of interest." By early afternoon the man was located and questioned. He told police the suspected bomb was a device used for training at the plant for many years and he had kept it at his desk and left it when the business closed, he said. "We're not sure why he decided to leave it at his desk, but of course we had no choice but to take it seriously," he said.

Source: <http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/535971.html?nav=515>

5. *March 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Oil spill drill in Maine tests response crews.** More than a dozen vessels were deployed off the New England coast on March 24 in a drill to test their abilities to respond to a massive oil spill at sea. The so-called Spill of National Significance Exercise in Portland Harbor was held 21 years to the day the Exxon Valdez ran aground off Alaska, leaking 11 million gallons of crude oil in the nation's worst oil spill. The Maine Responder, an oil spill-cleanup vessel, joined other boats in wet, blustery weather to counter a simulated collision between an oil tanker and a ship carrying cars resulting in nearly 3 million gallons of oil being leaked. In reality, there was no oil tanker, no car carrier and no oil spilled. But the vessels and the "spill" were tracked with computers to measure the performance of more than 50 federal and state agencies and private organizations. The exercise is held every three years and takes more than a year of planning, a Coast Guard Rear Adm. said from

Washington. This is the first time it has been held in New England, a region that has a lot at stake with its rich natural resources and fishing and tourism industries, he said. More than 600 people participated in the exercise, and the results will be used by decision-makers in Washington on how best to respond to catastrophic oil spills. The exercise is mandated as part of the Oil Prevention Act of 1990, which was passed following the Exxon Valdez disaster. Previous exercises have taken place in Pennsylvania, Alaska, Texas, California and on Lake Michigan.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9EL5UHO0.htm>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *March 24, Delaware News-Journal* – (Delaware) **Fire at warehouse near New Castle causes \$350,000 in damage.** Two firefighters had to be decontaminated following a fire that involved hazardous materials Wednesday morning at a New Castle, Delaware, area packaging plant. A fire was reported at 7:52 a.m. in a silo in the warehouse of Print Pack Inc. south of New Castle. All employees were safely evacuated from the building. When firefighters arrived, they encountered heavy smoke in the rear portion of the warehouse, said New Castle County Assistant EMS Chief. Two firefighters had to be decontaminated after being exposed to an unknown chemical in a storage container, he said. The fire was placed under control about 9:15 a.m. An investigation determined that a malfunction in a processing unit caused the fire, said the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal. Damage was estimated at \$350,000. Good Will of New Castle Fire Company was assisted by firefighters from Minquadale, Minquas of Newport, Port Penn, Delaware City, Wilmington Manor, Elsmere and Five Points fire companies, along with Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the New Castle County Haz Mat team.

Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100324/NEWS/100324012/Fire+at+warehouse+near+New+Castle+causes++350+000+in+damage>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *March 24, Reuters* – (Nevada) **US lawmakers seek to keep Yucca nuclear waste dump.** The U.S. Energy Department's push to scrap a long-planned national nuclear waste dump in Nevada has run into stiff opposition as lawmakers on Wednesday questioned the Presidential administration's decision. A bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a resolution of disapproval in the House of Representatives on Tuesday aimed at making the department stop efforts to shelve the project and maintain all records relating to the proposed storage site. Lawmakers on a House Appropriations subcommittee grilled the Energy Secretary about plans to cancel the repository at Yucca Mountain. These moves may signal trouble for the administration's pledge to scrap the Yucca site, fiercely opposed in Nevada and by the Senate Majority Leader

who represents the state. A panel of experts that the administration named to devise a strategy for handling nuclear waste has been preparing to hold its first public meetings on Thursday and Friday.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2414840420100324?type=marketsNews>

8. *March 24, KRGV 5 Rio Grande Valley* – (Texas) **Containers with radioactive material stolen.** The Texas Department of State Health Services is looking for six small lead containers filled with a potentially dangerous radioactive material. The containers were stolen from a pickup truck. The truck was parked outside a Wal-mart in Alice on March 19 when the theft occurred. Officials say the containers were in a clear plastic bag that was taken from a toolbox in the back of the truck. Each metal container is shrink-wrapped and contains a glass vial of ceramic granules called radioactive tracer “sand,” used in the oil and gas industry. A person handling the containers or the sand could be at risk of radiation exposure. The company that owns the pickup truck is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the containers. Source: <http://www.krgv.com/news/local/story/Containers-with-Radioactive-Material-Stolen/me-CHFhkJ0WKKZflmyF6Ww.csp>
9. *March 24, Wilmington Star News* – (North Carolina) **Uranium found in waste container at Castle Hayne plant.** Global Nuclear Fuels has notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that a small amount of uranium was found in a waste container Monday morning at its Castle Hayne uranium fuel fabrication plant. The event report was triggered when an operator found 8.7 kilograms of uranium oxide in two vacuum bags. Noting this was less than the 25 kilograms of uranium specified in the company’s Criticality Safety Analysis, Global Nuclear’s report to the NRC pointed out that “no unsafe condition existed.” While one control to ensure the safety of the waste collection receptacle did not work as intended, a second control that limits the weight of the waste collection receptacle did work as intended, a Global Nuclear spokesperson said Wednesday. The material was then transferred to an approved container, she added. There was no safety or health impact on the public, workers, or the environment, she said. In February, Global Nuclear’s fuel fabrication operations were temporarily shut down when documents related to the safe handling of hydrofluoric material were found to be incomplete. Source: <http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20100324/ARTICLES/100329855/-1/SPORTS01?Title=Uranium-found-in-waste-container-at-Castle-Hayne-plant>
10. *March 24, Red Wing Republican Eagle* – (Minnesota) **City officials nearly disown nuke plant role.** Red Wing city officials reversed course Monday amid concerns over correspondence that had called for Red Wing to effectively end its role in emergency management at the Prairie Island nuclear plant. City Council members called on top city leaders to re-sign the longstanding agreement after a response from state officials sparked pointed debate at Monday’s council meeting. “This says we’re worse off and we can no longer support Xcel,” a Council member said of the council president’s letter at Monday’s meeting. “I totally disagree with that.” In his letter to Northern States Power’s emergency planning coordinator, the council president said the city was unable to handle the responsibilities within the Prairie Island nuclear plant’s emergency

response plan. The council president stated the reason is “a direct result of unprecedented budgetary challenges resulting from revenue instability.” Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Preparedness branch director responded by saying “the state will be required to show how reasonable assurance is now going to be maintained for FEMA without the involvement of the city.” The branch director’s response stated he is “disappointed that the city of Red Wing can no longer maintain the responsibilities assigned to the city in the emergency response plan.” He also said the change would prompt elimination of city funding for radiological emergencies.

Source: <http://www.republican-eagle.com/event/article/id/65483/>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *March 25, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Ex-employee to serve 6 months for ITT threat.** A former ITT Night Vision security guard whose bomb threat halted production was sentenced to six months in jail and ordered to repay the Roanoke County defense contractor’s \$297,777 cost of the shutdown. The 24-year-old man from Roanoke was given credit for time already served in jail. He will be on probation for three years after his release. The man, a former U.S. Army air traffic controller, pleaded guilty in December in U.S. District Court in Roanoke to a federal charge of conveying false information about a bomb in the workplace of a government contractor. He posted bathroom wall threats in March and April 2009 after a co-worker was promoted, according to the government. The first threat said, “IF I LOSE MY JOB SECURITY IS DEAD.” He turned in a security report on the graffiti himself. The next month he wrote, “There Is A Bomb in Bldg 1 & 2. Have fun.” The factory was evacuated for four hours while searchers hunted vainly for a bomb.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/241074>

12. *March 24, Military Times* – (National) **7 Hornets grounded because of cracks.** Seven F/A-18 Hornets have been grounded due to cracks found in the wing fasteners, but many of the aging fighter jets inspected during the past two weeks have returned to full flight status, a Navy official said Tuesday. Naval Air Systems Command grounded 104 Navy and Marine F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets March 12 after inspectors discovered that parts of the airframes were developing cracks much earlier than engineers had thought. Of those 104 aircraft, 82 have been returned to the fleet after inspections revealed no cracks, said a spokesman. Inspections are pending for the remaining aircraft. The seven planes with cracks will require depot-level maintenance to replace the aft wing shear attach fitting, where the back portion of the main wing attaches to the fuselage, the

spokesman said. The cracks came to light during service-life extension inspections that NavAir is conducting for all the aging Hornets to determine how much longer the individual planes can remain in the fleet. Navy leaders fear a “fighter gap” in the next few years as the older model Hornets are forced into retirement before the Navy receives newer F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighters to replace them. Those concerns have led Navy leaders to call for buying more F/A-18 Super Hornets to fill the gap, something the Pentagon has opposed.

Source:

http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/navy_hornet_grounding_032410w/

13. *March 24, KXLY 4 Spokane* – (Idaho) **Navy conducts anti-terrorism training exercise in Bayview.** There was heavier than normal law enforcement activity in Bayview, Idaho Wednesday as the US Navy’s Acoustic Research Detachment participated in a Navy-wide security exercise dubbed Exercise Solid Curtain ‘10. Numerous law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies participated in the anti-terrorism / force protection drill at Bayview, which lasted for about eight hours. “At first it starts off with the locals responding to the incident, which happens to be the Kootenai County Sheriff’s Office,” a member of the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management said. Their mission is to defuse a simulated hostage situation at the Acoustic Research Detachment facility. SWAT teams, negotiators, dispatchers, and other key players set up shop at a mobile command center up the street from the facility. Road blocks and signs warned visitors and those living in town about the training exercise. The event in Bayview was just one of more than 250 individual training events held at naval facilities in the continental United States as well as Hawaii and Guam this week. The scenarios ranged from the hostage situation at Bayview to small boat attacks on waterfront bases and cyber attacks on shore installations.

Source: <http://www.kxly.com/news/22947716/detail.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *March 25, Courthouse News Service* – (New Mexico) **Real estate mogul caught in \$80 million Ponzi scheme.** A prominent New Mexico real estate mogul was accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of running an \$80 million Ponzi scheme. The Vaughan Company began selling promissory notes with fixed returns between 10 and 25 percent in 1993. The SEC says the mogul promised investors their money was secured by his personal wealth and land assets, and that the aggregate value on the notes would never exceed \$2.5 million. He also told investors that his company would use the funds to make big profits on new real estate opportunities, the SEC says in its indictment. The mogul claimed to prefer raising money from investors instead of banks because he had vowed “never to go back to banks” after one mistreated him in 1992, the SEC said. He sold his notes and placated his investors with false earnings reports, claiming to be purchasing properties in Phoenix and Las Vegas and making “hard money” loans to builders and contractors, the SEC said. In fact, he paid all of his

interest obligations with cash from new investors, according to the indictment.

Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/03/25/25866.htm>

15. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Police: 2 held in Utah gas pump ‘skimming’ case.** Police in a Utah town arrested two men and are trying to determine if eight credit card “skimming” devices found at service station gasoline pumps are part of a multistate theft operation. Richfield’s Police Chief says devices were found March 17 at gas pumps at Flying J and Walkers gas stations in his city off Interstate 70, east of Interstate 15 south of Salt Lake City. Security video helped police identify a damaged white Hummer that a store clerk spotted on March 19 near gas pumps at a Walkers station. Officers arrested two men, ages 27 and 55, suspected of being in the country illegally but carrying California identification cards. Richfield police have been contacted by authorities in Nevada and California tracing similarities in other skimming cases.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14748028

16. *March 24, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Police warn about debit card phone scam.** Shelbyville police say not to be fooled if people get a phone call from an automated service saying their debit card has been compromised because it’s a scam. Police said a lot of residents are getting calls from a 703 area code. The recording asks people to enter their card and PIN so it can be fixed. The best advice, police said, is to hang up right away. People who have a problem with their card will receive a letter in the mail from their bank.

Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/money/22933251/detail.html>

17. *March 24, WPTA 21 Fort Wayne* – (Indiana) **Three Rivers Credit Union phone scam alert.** A warning from the Better Business Bureau for consumers who could receive automated calls about their Three River’s Credit Union accounts. The Robo-Calls are telling consumers their debit card has been deactivated and to press one to reactivate. If an individual press’s one, a person will ask you for your card number and hack into their account. BBB officials say everyone should just hang up if they get this message. The number that appears on the caller id is spoofed, meaning the scammers are using another innocent company’s number to call.

Source: <http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/89048447.html>

18. *March 24, IDG News Service* – (International) **E.C. launches new drive for bank data-sharing agreement.** The European Commission on March 24 began work on a new set of negotiations with the U.S. on the transfer of E.U. citizens’ bank data for counterterrorism purposes, after a previous agreement was vetoed by the European Parliament. The agreement is needed because while European data protection laws prohibit the passing of personal data to the U.S., American authorities say the data has been a valuable tool with which to track the funding of terrorist acts. The Parliament torpedoed the agreement last month partly because it felt that European civil liberties were being compromised, but also because it was excluded from the decision-making process. As a result, SWIFT, the Belgian bank networking firm that transmits billions of financial transactions every day and lies at the center of the debate, is in legal limbo,

with the U.S. demanding the data, while E.U. laws forbid it from continuing such cooperation. In addition to respecting E.U. citizens' rights to privacy, the E.U. commissioner for civil rights said the future agreement would explicitly provide U.S. reciprocity. The agreement shot down by the E.U. Parliament made no demands on the U.S. to share bank transfer data belonging to U.S. citizens in order to assist European antiterrorism efforts.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174050/E.C. launches new drive for bank data sharing agreement](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174050/E.C._launches_new_drive_for_bank_data_sharing_agreement)

19. *March 22, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (National) **FBI releases 2009 bank crime statistics.** On March 22 the FBI released bank crime statistics for calendar year 2009. Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009, there were 5,943 robberies, 100 burglaries, 19 larcenies, and three extortions of financial institutions reported to law enforcement. The total 6,065 reported violations represents a decrease from 2008, during which 6,8572 violations of the Federal Bank Robbery and Incidental Crimes Statute were reported. Some of the highlights of the report include: Of the 6,062 total reported bank robberies, burglaries, and larcenies, loot was taken in 5,514 incidents (91 percent). No loot was taken during the three reported bank extortions; The total amount taken was valued at more than \$45.9 million. More than \$8 million was recovered and returned to financial institutions; and during the reported bank robberies, burglaries, and larcenies, the following modus operandi were the most common: oral demand (3,368 incidents), demand note (3,269 incidents), firearm used (1,619 incidents), use of a weapon threatened (2,553 incidents). Of the three reported extortions, perpetrators used or threatened the use of explosive devices during one incident and made threats by telephone during two incidents, among others. These statistics were recorded as of February 22, 2010.

Source: http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel10/final2009bankcrimestats_032210.htm

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Transportation Sector

20. *March 25, Associated Press* – (California) **FAA: Plane lands on Los Angeles freeway.** A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman says a single-engine, two-seat plane landed at about 7 p.m. Wednesday in the northbound lanes of State Highway 57 just south of Interstate 10 in Pomona, California. He says the pilot of the Champion Citabria reported engine problems to air traffic controllers at Brackett Field in La Verne. He was heading to Cable Airport in Upland. The pilot was the only person in plane. He wasn't injured, and there was no damage to the plane or anything on the ground. California Highway Patrol Officer Monica Posada says crews are working to get the plane off the freeway. The two right lanes were blocked, and northbound traffic was backed up.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/03/25/faa-plane-lands-los-angeles-freeway/?test=latestnews>

21. *March 25, Homeland Security Newswire* – (National) **TSA to propose more limited security measures for general aviation.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is listening to the general aviation community as it formulates its new security plan for general aviation, a source close to the program said. The source credits TSA's associate administrator as a prime reason why the agency is radically scaling back its original Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP). When first proposed, the LASP applied to all aircraft over 12,500 lb max takeoff weight and generated vehement opposition from the general aviation community. The new plan, the source said, is likely to exempt all general aviation aircraft smaller than mid-size jets as defined by maximum takeoff weight or fuel capacity. Pilots of such mid-size and larger GA aircraft would be required by TSA to go through a vetting process and earn "trusted pilot" credentials. Such credentialed pilots then solely would be responsible to determine who is allowed to board the aircraft, similar to how general aviation pilots screen passengers today.
Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/tsa-propose-more-limited-security-measures-general-aviation>
22. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Feds asked to expand probe of NV highway project.** The discovery of cracks in the largest of a series of bridges under construction between Reno and Carson City prompted a congressional committee to ask federal inspectors Wednesday to expand their investigation into the safety of a \$600 million highway project in Nevada. At 300 feet high and 1,700 feet long, with a supporting cathedral arch, the Galena Creek bridge will be the largest structure of its type in the world. "Given the recent developments, we are requesting that you expand the scope of this investigation to include the deficiencies discovered on the Galena Creek bridge," leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said in a letter obtained by The Associated Press. The Reno Gazette-Journal reported Tuesday that it could cost the state nearly \$1 million to repair the cracks that are up to 30 feet long and about the width of a dime in the concrete supports of the arch. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General launched an investigation in January into a smaller bridge — the Galena Forest bridge — at the request of the committee after an ex-construction worker complained he'd been ordered to do substandard concrete work to save money.
Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/ap/ApTopStories/201003240549>
23. *March 24, York News-Times* – (Nebraska) **County declares another road-related disaster.** The York County Commissioners have declared yet another disaster when it comes to the rural road conditions. This is the third disaster declaration since Christmas. The first two were in regard to the extreme conditions created by back-to-back blizzards. The third is in response to the horrible condition of the country roads, because of thawing and wet conditions. The county's emergency coordinator said that the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will be doing a tour of the county with the York County highway superintendent this week, to see the most affected areas. Meanwhile, the superintendent said the county continues to haul rock and will be moving to bringing in more gravel this week. "A lot of the roads have been shaped up," he told the commissioners. "As that's done, we are graveling." "I think that in the

future, we need to add some patrol areas to the county,” said the commissioner. The superintendent said that each patrol (for maintainers) covers about 100 miles of road. “This is really something that should have been done a while ago,” the commissioner said. The superintendent said the county has 14 motorgraders, which means two are considered spares. He said they are running one spare now on a regular basis, due to the need. He also estimated that if the county were to consider purchasing more motorgraders, it would probably run about \$180,000 apiece. To add a patrol area (which would include labor and other expenses), it would take about \$250,000 per area. Source:

<http://www.yorknewstimes.com/articles/2010/03/24/news/doc4ba95a922806d774397063.txt>

24. *March 23, CNN* – (National) **TSA nominee wants to move airport screening closer to ‘Israeli model’.** The U.S. president’s nominee to head the Transportation Security Administration told Congress on Tuesday he wants U.S. airport security to more closely resemble security at Israeli airports, where officers engage travelers in conversations and questions to determine whether they are a threat to aircraft. “We should move even closer to an Israeli model where there’s more engagement with passengers,” he told members of the Senate Commerce Committee. The nominee, a retired Army major general, said U.S. airport screeners take a one-week course in engaging passengers, and about 2,000 specially trained “behavior detection officers” roam airports looking for suspicious behavior. The Israeli system, marked by its aggressive questioning of passengers, is praised by many security experts as one of the most secure in the world. But it also is criticized by some civil rights and privacy advocates because Israeli officials profile passengers, ask intrusive questions and sometimes prevent people from flying. At Tuesday’s confirmation hearing, shortened so senators could attend the president’s health care bill signing ceremony, the nominee endorsed the use of full-body imagers at airports.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/03/23/tsa.nominee.senate/?hpt=T2>

25. *March 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Want to fly through a loophole in the no-fly list? Buy a plane.** The Transportation Security Administration’s security regulations does not require any screening for those flying domestically on a privately-owned aircraft, no matter how large. Both TSA officials and the FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center director confirmed to ABC News last week that the effort to keep U.S. airspace off-limits to terror suspects has not included vetting the passengers and pilots on large private jets. A TSA spokesman said the agency has been working for some time on a fix to toughen the restrictions for non-commercial jets. “We’re working with industry to strengthen security for private planes that have previously gone unregulated,” he said.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/terrorism-loophole-fly-list/story?id=10149211>

26. *March 23, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Shootings along Route 3 end since guns seized.** Police have received no new reports of passing cars struck by a possible sniper along Route 3 in the Kingston area since state police seized three pellet guns from a home in Plymouth, they said Monday. In a press release issued March 22, state

police said the guns were voluntarily turned over by parents after police were tipped off about the weapons. Police have not definitively linked the pellet guns to the apparent shootings along the busy state highway, but the press release specifically noted there had not been any shattered windows reported since the guns were confiscated. Police have discovered no projectiles in the area of the shootings, which damaged the windows of a reported seven vehicles over a period from March 17 to March 19. Three vehicles were stuck March 19. Police stepped up patrols and used the state police air wing to fly over the area during the investigation. There had been reports of young people seen in the woods along the highway during the period of the shootings, but no one was found during a police search.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100323/NEWS/3230317/-1/NEWSMAP>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *March 25, Farm & Dairy* – (Ohio) **Fire destroys Ohio Fresh Eggs facility in Wyandot County.** A major fire near the Marion/Wyandot County, Ohio, line destroyed a warehouse at an egg facility owned by Ohio Fresh Eggs. The fire was reported around 11 p.m. March 23 and remains under investigation. An estimated 250,000 laying hens were euthanized after electric was shut off, and some of the birds began suffering from smoke inhalation. But no birds were lost in the fire, said the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Livestock Environmental Permitting Program. The company was in compliance as Ohio Fresh Eggs was permitted to have about 2.4 million birds and had roughly 2.2. He said ODA staff were on scene to make sure manure did not catch fire, and to block manure and water from mixing. Elder said the birds were euthanized according to industry standards and were already near the end of their laying cycle, and soon to be euthanized regardless of the fire. The blaze was reported to have drawn more than 100 firefighters from 35 fire departments.

Source: <http://www.farmanddairy.com/news/fire-destroys-ohio-fresh-eggs-facility-in-wyandot-county/14526.html>

28. *March 24, American Chemical Society* – (National) **Rapid 2-in-1 E. coli test unveiled.** Scientists have developed the first two-in-one test that can simultaneously detect both the E. coli in ground beef responsible for food poisoning, and the toxins the bacteria use to cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and other symptoms in its victims.

“Our test may be used in meat processing plants to allow in-house testing of products prior to sale,” said project leader of the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Albany, California. “This would reduce the frequency of foodborne illness, reduce product recalls and enhance public health while reducing annual cost for food testing.” Until now, separate tests were required for strain of bacteria. Current tests for E. coli in beef also are time-consuming and can take three to five days for results. The new test cuts the waiting time to just 24 hours, the researchers said. The test is slightly less sensitive than current tests, but scientists think the sensitivity can be improved. “Finding a few E. coli bacteria in a large sample of ground beef or other food is like looking for a needle in a haystack,” he said. “This new method makes the needle much easier to find, compared to standard methods. But improvements in sampling and sensitivity are still needed.”

Source: <http://www.foodproductdesign.com/news/2010/03/rapid-2-in-1-e-coli-test-unveiled.aspx>

29. *March 24, WTNH 8 New Haven* – (Connecticut) **Bomb threat at Subway headquarters.** Four buildings at Subway’s headquarters in Milford, Connecticut, were evacuated Wednesday morning following a bomb threat. A caller left a voice mail overnight saying that a bomb would go off at 9am at the Bic Drive location. The buildings were evacuated as a precaution, but a search turned up nothing out of the ordinary. Employees were back inside by 9:30am.

Source: <http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/crime/milford-bomb-threat-subway-hq>

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Water Sector

30. *March 25, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Vandals target Valley SRP water pumps, cause \$50K in damage.** Phoenix police investigators believe someone may have a grudge against utility company SRP and has been targeting their water pumps. Someone has damaged dozens of the pumps at SRP stations around the Valley since January. “Twenty-four in three months. They’ve been very, very active,” said a Phoenix Police sergeant. Wellsite stations in Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, Peoria, and Glendale have been vandalized. He said someone is cutting plastic tubes on the pumps just for the sake of causing damage. An SRP spokesperson said no customer’s water has been affected but added if the vandalism continues customers could feel the effect. “As a public power utility, our costs are passed on to our customers,” he said. The company said there has been about \$50,000 in damage so far. Police say they have other concerns as well. The police sergeant said one of the most recent cases turned violent when a man attacked a female SRP employee while she was checking on one of the stations. “The potential for violence could escalate,” he said. A \$6,000 reward is being offered in this case.

Source: <http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/Vandals-target-Valley-SRP-water-pumps-cause-50K/W7cb4yaXUEOzbJ67rHioZw.csp>

31. *March 24, Livingston Daily Press and Argus* – (Michigan) **Salty waterways in Livingston County near ‘crisis’ level, drain chief says.** Salt accentuates many fine foods, but it is proving detrimental to fish life and potentially to lakefront home values, Livingston County’s chief drain official said. Locally, excessive volumes of sodium chloride — from road salt and water softeners — have been found in Earl and Thompson lakes north of downtown Howell. A University of Michigan report states Earl Lake is one of the saltiest lakes in Michigan, and an example of a problem reaching “crisis proportions,” said the county drain commissioner. The bigger issue with Thompson Lake is the rate of salt accumulation over the past 20 years, he explained. Large amounts of salt tend to form a resistance to lake mixing, a natural process that creates the oxygen in deeper waters. Without that process intact, fish are depleted of oxygen and can die in mass numbers, he said. Sodium chloride can reach levels toxic to fish, also. Salt can also enter groundwater via local lakes, diminishing the quality of well water. Most county residents rely on either private or municipal well systems for their water. Salt in drinking water is more of a matter of taste and quality than a health risk, he said. All of the above factors must be reported when selling lakefront property, making it harder to sell — or increase the value — of lakefront homes, said a resident who lives on Earl Lake.
Source: <http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20100324/NEWS01/100324001>
32. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Broken sewer line spills into Missouri River.** A collapsed sewer line in Sioux City, Iowa, was not fixed for a week and spilled about one million gallons of untreated wastewater into the Missouri River. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued the city a notice of violation for not reporting the break within 12 hours. A resident says the line break happened on March 11, when saturated soil slid into a ravine, carrying a section of the pipeline with it. Sioux City set up bypass pumps into a section of unbroken line late last week. The DNR says it has notified residents downstream from the spill.
Source: <http://wcco.com/wireapnewsia/Sioux.City.left.2.1585766.html>
33. *March 24, WDAF 4 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Equipment failure causes KCMO sewage leak.** An equipment failure at a Kansas City, Missouri, pumping station resulted in approximately 50,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater being released into an area creek, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources said on Wednesday. According to the DNR, debris built up in a well caused a system clog which resulted in wastewater from a pumping station in the 6600 block of East Side Drive to be discharged into Walnut Creek around 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning. Officials say that the sewage discharge was stopped at 8:30 a.m.
Source: <http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-story-sewage-leak-032410,0,894388.story>
34. *March 24, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Teen arrested for meth lab under city water tower.** A Corbin teen was arrested Sunday night after police found a meth lab in a backpack. Police say the Corbin teen was arrested Sunday night after they received a tip about a meth lab under the tower. When authorities arrived they say the teen was carrying a generator out to the lab. A police captain and a resident who lives near the tower both told reporters that there is a serious meth problem in the area. Authorities

say if the meth lab had caused an explosion it probably would not have been bad enough to put the water tower at risk — but certainly the person making the meth. The teen is being held at the Breathitt County Juvenile Detention Center.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/home/headlines/89082017.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *March 25, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Man pulls knife after Stanford Hospital denies him medication.** A Union City man was arrested Tuesday night in the emergency room at Stanford, California, Hospital after he allegedly demanded medication at knifepoint. The man came into the emergency room complaining of abdominal pain and asking for narcotic medication, a police agent said. After hospital employees checked him out and denied him the drugs, the man pulled out a pocket knife with its blade extended. Witnesses told police he threatened to kill either himself or someone else if he did not get the medication. Security officers at the hospital quickly showed up and detained him without incident.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14752965

36. *March 25, WTVT 13 Tampa* – (Florida) **Fire damages St. Pete warehouse.** A warehouse at MTS Medication Technologies in St. Petersburg, Florida, went up in flames late Wednesday night. Firefighters say they found a large printing machine on fire inside the 128,000 square-ft. warehouse on Gandy Boulevard shortly before 11 p.m. The building's sprinkler system helped to control the blaze, fire officials say, while firefighters used handheld hoses to extinguish the flames. Fire crews began salvage and overhaul operations once the blaze was put out. No damage estimate has been released. St. Petersburg Fire Rescue says the warehouse is used to manufacture packaging material for medications.

Source: <http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpp/news/local/fire-damages-st.-pete-warehouse-032510>

37. *March 24, Health Day* – (National) **Fewer deaths in larger, busier hospitals.** Patients suffering from a heart attack, heart failure, or pneumonia fare better in hospitals that see more of these patients than in those that see relatively few, a new study finds. However, once the number of these patients reaches a certain threshold the outcomes are the same regardless of the size of the hospital, the researchers say. "When you look straight on, you do see that the higher-volume hospitals have slightly better outcomes," said the lead researcher, an assistant professor of geriatrics and palliative medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. In addition, as hospital volume increases in general, "the importance of volume seems to decline," he said. "And you can point out a point at which increase in hospital volume wouldn't be expected to have any mortality benefit." The researchers undertook the study because although the relationship between volume and outcomes in surgery is well-known, little is known about the connection between volume and outcomes for medical conditions, he said.

The report is published in the March 25 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/637339.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

38. *March 25, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Frenchman arrested after hacking into Obama's Twitter accounts.** A Frenchman will face trial after hacking into Twitter accounts, including that of the U.S. President, a French prosecutor said. The 24-year-old man from central France was arrested on Tuesday and could face up to two years in prison in France for fraudulent access to a computer system. The arrest followed a joint operation between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the French police, according to a French state prosecutor. The man is charged with having hacked into the Twitter Inc. social networking accounts of famous people. He did this in April 2009 after posing as a site administrator. The man, who used the pseudonym "Hacker Croll," had not aimed to profit financially by hacking into the accounts. Neither did he post anything on the accounts, the prosecutor said. Instead he simply wanted to prove he was capable of hacking into the accounts. "The man in question had no training in computers," says the prosecutor. "He was just very cunning." Hacker Croll spent three hours visiting several Twitter pages before the company was alerted to the problem. He took screen shots of the pages he visited and posted them on Internet chat forums.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704094104575143391819054502.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

39. *March 25, Bangor Daily News* – (Maine) **Soda bottle bomb explodes at UMaine.** University of Maine police are investigating the apparent eruption Monday of a homemade soda bottle bomb outside a building in the Stewart Quad area of campus. When the device went off about 10:20 p.m., the noise caught the attention of a campus police officer, a UM spokesman said Wednesday. He said campus police said the bottle contained chemical components. He said the device sounded comparable to those known to police as acid bombs. Though no injuries were reported as a result of this week's incident, the devices are considered dangerous because they can burn, blind, or otherwise injure people and because their lack of a fuse or timer makes them unpredictable.

Source: <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/139753.html>

40. *March 25, Magic Valley Times-News* – (Idaho) **Mercury spill closes Shoshone school.** More than 580 students were evacuated from Shoshone's K-12 school in Idaho Wednesday morning as area and state health officials responded to a mercury spill. The Shoshone School District superintendent said the school will be closed to students through Friday. He announced the decision at 9 p.m. Wednesday night as an intensive investigation and clean-up of the spill site by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality continued. He said buses potentially exposed to mercury that must be cleaned are the reason for the closure to students Thursday and Friday. Earlier Wednesday, the

Shoshone Police chief said his department was notified by the school after a student told school officials at about 11 a.m. that a small amount of what was believed to be mercury had spilled from a broken necklace inside the boys' locker room at about 12:45 p.m. Tuesday. The police chief said between 40 and 50 students were quarantined inside the school for several hours after a school administrator reported the spill. The quarantined students believed to be in the locker room at the time of the spill were tested for mercury contamination. The Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team, the Shoshone city and rural fire departments, and law-enforcement officers from Lincoln and Gooding counties were at the scene.

Source: http://www.magicvalley.com/news/local/article_bfacddc8-2036-568e-9b49-56b649b23ccd.html

41. *March 25, Associated Press* – (National) **FBI investigating threats to Democrats.** The FBI is investigating threats against lawmakers stemming from intense opposition to the health care overhaul law. The House Majority Leader says more than 10 Democratic lawmakers have reported incidents. The Majority Leader adds that the FBI and Capitol Police briefed Democrats on how to handle perceived security threats. The FBI says that all threats and incidents directed against members of Congress are taken seriously and are being investigated by the FBI. The bureau's Washington field office issued the statement. The FBI statement added that U.S. Capitol Police and other law enforcement agencies also are investigating to identify and bring to justice those responsible.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iNzNTxkoXXj-xOcwAcI2QSXKupwD9EL8FHG2>

42. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Students arrested for making bomb threats.** Police in Smyrna, Georgia, say two students at Griffin Middle School have been arrested after a series of fake 911 calls, including bomb threats. A spokesman with the Smyrna police department says the seventh-graders were arrested on Wednesday. They are charged with transmission of false public alarm and disruption of a public school. The spokesman says three calls were made on Tuesday. He says the last call was to report a bomb at the school. Another call reporting a bomb was made on Wednesday. The spokesman says police cleared the building both days, but did not find any explosives. He says police were able to identify the boys after interviewing students and teachers. He says the boys were released to their parents. A School district spokesman says the boys could face suspension.

Source: http://www.11alive.com/rss/rss_story.aspx?storyid=142152

43. *March 24, KFOR 4 Miami* – (Florida) **Suspicious package removed from Coast Guard bldg.** Miami Police detonated a suspicious package that evacuated the Coast Guard office building near Brickell Avenue and shut down SE 1st Avenue Wednesday afternoon in the Brickell area of Downtown Miami. According to Miami Fire Rescue spokesman it began around 2:30 p.m. when the package was either dropped off or delivered to the building at 909 Brickell Plaza. Security raised a red flag after it was scanned and the Miami Police Department's Bomb Squad was notified. About 700 people were evacuated from several buildings in the area as a precaution, including Mary Brickell Village. Several hours later the bomb squad used a robot to detonate the

package in question, avoiding any potential disaster. They are trying to find out what the contents of the package were. They used bomb sniffing dogs to make sure no threats inside the office building remain. Most workers in the building had since left for home.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/Coast.Guard.Building.2.1587145.html>

44. *March 24, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **Information Security: Concerted response needed to resolve persistent weaknesses.** The GAO (GAO-10-536T) released the following statement: Federal agencies have reported mixed progress in securing their systems and implementing key security activities. For example, in fiscal year 2009, agencies collectively reported an increasing percentage of personnel receiving security awareness training and specialized security training, but a decreasing rate of implementation for other key activities when compared to fiscal year 2008. In addition, federal systems continued to be afflicted by persistent control weaknesses. Almost all of the 24 major federal agencies had information security weaknesses in five key control categories. An underlying cause for information security weaknesses identified at federal agencies is that they have not yet fully or effectively implemented key elements of an agencywide information security program, as required by FISMA. As a result, they may be at increased risk of unauthorized disclosure, modification, and destruction of information or disruption of mission critical operations. Such risks are illustrated, in part, by the increasing number of security incidents experienced by federal agencies. Opportunities exist to enhance federal cybersecurity through a concerted response to safeguarding systems that include several components. First, agencies can implement the hundreds of recommendations GAO and inspectors general have made to resolve control deficiencies and information security program shortfalls. In addition, OMB's continued efforts to improve reporting and oversight as recommended by GAO could help assess agency programs. Finally, the White House, OMB, and certain federal agencies have undertaken several governmentwide initiatives that are intended to enhance information security at federal agencies.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-536T>

45. *March 23, WAFF 48 Decatur* – (Alabama) **School security upgrades in Colbert County.** The Colbert County School District looked into upgrading their security cameras for three years ago and a new federal grant is making that plan a reality. Cherokee High School is one of eight schools in the Colbert County School District. Faculty put the importance of a quality education on top of their priority list, but the district also puts a precedent on school safety and security of its students. The school's have more than a dozen cameras rolling at all times, monitoring the campus, but the system was almost ten years old and out of date and a new program helped the district catch up. "Through the EMA and the Department of Homeland Security it's an \$8,000 grant and we put in an additional \$5,500 to help upgrade our security cameras at all our high schools," said Colbert County schools superintendent. The new system is all digital and the feeds will all be broadcast online meaning law enforcement will have instant access in case an incident like an active shooter or violent intruder ever comes up.

Source: <http://www.waff.com/Global/story.asp?S=12191979>

Emergency Services Sector

46. *March 25, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Gas leak explosion spurs retraining, new equipment purchases.** A new federal report claims that equipment problems and emergency responders' lack of knowledge about protocol when dealing with flammable gases played a role in the injuries that occurred in May when a natural gas explosion damaged a Forestville strip mall. Eight firefighters and a gas company employee received injuries, ranging from third-degree burns to a sprained ankle, from the explosion. The explosion destroyed five businesses in the center. The report, conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, was requested by the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association, the firefighters' union, to see if the injuries could have been prevented. As a result of the report, the department plans to retrain its approximately 1,900 career and volunteer firefighters and hold drills on flammable gas responses so all are familiar with the most recent revisions to guidelines. "[The report is] saying the Prince George's Fire/EMS Department has the standard operating procedure in place to prevent fatalities. The problem was we were not following the operating procedures to a T," said a spokesman. "If those things had been done, they more than likely would have reduced some of the injuries we saw." Training opportunities have shrunk over the last few years with the fire department's budget, said the union president. While he is glad to see a commitment to more training for firefighters he believes that equipment replacement and increased staffing is also needed to prevent further injuries. Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/03252010/prinnew161705_32551.php
47. *March 24, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Fire at Pasadena firehouse ruled arson.** Pasadena, Texas, fire officials say the fire that damaged one of their stations was arson. The fire damaged three rooms that had hardly been used in the past 10 years, officials said. Since Pasadena has a volunteer fire department, no one in the station at the time. However, firefighters were able to use one of their own trucks to put out the flames. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7348666>
48. *March 24, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Was distress call to the Coast Guard a hoax?** A mysterious distress call came to the Coast Guard early Wednesday morning but there were no signs of anyone in trouble. The Coast Guard searched the water off of Malibu, California, after someone radioed in a mayday call. Rescuers found no clues of trouble. The Coast Guard received a dramatic call that came in at 2:09 a.m. "This is King Fisher 1. Mayday. Mayday. Mayday. Come back Coast Guard," said the caller. Coast Guard officers immediately launched a helicopter from their base at LAX. They loosely triangulated the source of the radio call as coming from a location that was 30 miles west of Point Dume. When searchers arrived, nothing was found. At midday, the Coast Guard called off the search and said it will remain suspended unless they receive another call.

Source:

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=7349483

49. *March 24, USA Today* – (National) **Mexican prison gang may target U.S. agents.** U.S. border officials are warning that the violent prison gang suspected of killing three people linked to the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, may retaliate against U.S. officers. A bulletin issued through the El Paso Intelligence Center is urging law enforcement officials along the border, particularly in El Paso, to wear their protective vests and alert their own family members to the threat, says the intelligence division chief for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Last week, more than 200 officers from 20 separate law enforcement agencies targeted the prison gang Barrio Azteca in a series of raids. Investigators were looking for information about the slayings that stunned U.S. officials in Juarez, neighboring El Paso, and in Washington, where the U.S. President condemned the killings. An El Paso FBI spokeswoman says the actual source of the threat and whether it had come directly from the gang is not known. The Barrio Azteca group is one of the most violent prison gangs in the United States, according to the federal government's 2009 National Gang Threat Assessment. A spokesman for the El Paso County Sheriff's Department says officers were made aware of the threat against law enforcement earlier this week.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-03-24-drug-war_N.htm

50. *March 23, Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Feds investigating threatening calls to cops.** A federal law enforcement agency is continuing to investigate what police say are ongoing threats from an out-of-state ex-convict against the Milford Police Department. Police said the man has threatened to come to town and fire AK-47s in retaliation for being arrested in Milford on weapons charges in 2006. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is looking into whether he has broken federal laws with his phone calls — the latest of which was made March 21, police said. "It's continuous harassment," a lieutenant said Monday. Police say the man, who lives in Olive Branch, Mississippi, has before vowed to seek "Southern justice" over having to serve time in prison. The lieutenant said his department is relying on the federal investigation to determine whether to charge the man. Police said the man called an emergency dispatcher at 2:32 a.m. March 21 and sounded angry. The caller said he would be visiting "very soon" with his cousin, and they would both be armed with machine guns, according to police. Police said the call comes after the man told an emergency dispatcher on February 28 that bulletproof vests "ain't going to do you much." Locally, he could face misdemeanor charges such as making harassing or annoying phone calls, or making threats, the lieutenant said. Police said the ATF could decide to bring more serious charges.

Source: http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/police_and_fire/x126578197/Feds-investigating-threatening-calls-to-cops

51. *March 23, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (National) **FBI laboratory seeks to enhance the efficiency of the National DNA Index System.** In order to enhance the efficiency of the nation's DNA database, also known as the National DNA Index

System (NDIS), the FBI has established an ongoing dialogue with various groups to gain a broader perspective and better understand the needs of the entire law enforcement community. Those groups include the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM), CODIS State Administrators, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and various federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. The FBI is committed to seeking common ground in the interest of protecting the public, reducing backlogs, ensuring privacy, and maintaining the integrity of the National DNA database. Many public law enforcement agencies collaborate with private laboratories for analysis of their DNA samples. The FBI Laboratory is currently re-evaluating existing policies, standards, and protocols, including requirements for outsourcing DNA analysis to private laboratories and review of their results by public law enforcement laboratories. Private laboratories continue to be an integral part of the process and share in the success of NDIS. The current policy assessment will focus on these contributions and will engage both public and private laboratories.

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel10/ndis032310.htm>

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Information Technology Sector

52. *March 25, The Register* – (International) **iPhone, IE, Firefox, Safari get stomped at hacker contest.** It was another grim day for internet security at the annual Pwn2Own hacker contest on March 24, with Microsoft's Internet Explorer, Mozilla's Firefox and Apple's Safari and iPhone succumbing to exploits that allowed them to be remotely commandeered. Like dominoes falling in rapid succession, the platforms were felled in the fourth year of the contest, which has come to underscore the alarming insecurity of most internet-facing software. To qualify for the big-money prizes, the exploits had to attack previously undocumented vulnerabilities to expose sensitive system data or allow the remote execution of malicious code. The exploits were all the more impressive because they bypassed state-of-the-art security mitigations the software makers have spent years implementing in an attempt to harden their wares. That included DEP, or data execution prevention, and ASLR, or address space layout randomization and in the case of the iPhone, code signing to prevent unauthorized applications from running on the device.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/25/pwn2own_2010_day_one/

53. *March 25, IDG News Service* – (International) **Malware attack uses China World Expo guise.** A malware attack dressed up as an e-mail from organizers of the upcoming Shanghai World Expo targeted at least three foreign journalists in China, in the latest sign of increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks from the country. The e-mail appeared to be sent from the inbox of the Expo news office, but it was not sent by the Expo and may be targeting journalists who signed up to cover the event, a reporters' advocacy

group in China told members in an e-mail on March 25. There was also no evidence to suggest that the e-mail sent to foreign journalists had any tie to the government. But at least one version of the e-mail, which was sent by an attacker to IDG News Service, clearly targeted people who had filled out a spreadsheet to register for the Expo. The e-mail had a .pdf attachment that exploited a recently patched vulnerability in Adobe Reader, according to scan results on the Wepawet malware analysis Web site.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174100/Malware_attack_uses_China_World_Expo_guise

54. *March 25, Help Net Security* – (International) **Millions continue to click on spam.** Even though over 80 percent of email users are aware of the existence of bots, tens of millions respond to spam in ways that could leave them vulnerable to a malware infection, according to a Messaging Anti-Abuse Working Group (MAAWG) survey. In the survey, half of users said they had opened spam, clicked on a link in spam, opened a spam attachment, replied or forwarded it – activities that leave consumers susceptible to fraud, phishing, identity theft and infection. While most consumers said they were aware of the existence of bots, only one-third believed they were vulnerable to an infection. Less than half of the consumers surveyed saw themselves as the entity who should be most responsible for stopping the spread of viruses. Yet, only 36 percent of consumers believe they might get a virus and 46 percent of those who opened spam did so intentionally. This is a problem because spam is one of the most common vehicles for spreading bots and viruses.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=9063>

55. *March 24, Computerworld* – (International) **Gmail now warns users of suspicious account activity.** Google on March 24 added an alert to Gmail that warns users of the Web mail service when their account may have been hijacked. Using several criteria — including plotting the Internet protocol (IP) address of each successful log-on — Google determines whether to sound the alarm, which pops up at the top of a user's account and reads "Warning: We believe your account was last accessed from..." along with the location associated with the log-on. If an account is accessed from one country, then again a few hours later from a different country, Google would likely sound the alarm. The assumption: The multiple and geographically divergent log-ons would be a clue that the account had been hacked, and was now being used to send spam, spread scams or distribute malware.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174044/Gmail_now_warns_users_of_suspicious_account_activity

56. *March 24, SC Magazine* – (International) **Security conference gets underway, with the revealing of 20 zero-day flaws in Apple's OS X expected to be the highlight.** March 24 saw the CanSecWest conference get underway in Vancouver, British Columbia and among the highlights is predicted to be the unveiling of 20 zero-day exploits in the Mac OS X platform. A security researcher, whose previous presentations included a demonstration of a vulnerability in the Apple iPhone, will

speak on analysis of fuzzing at the conference. Speaking to ThreatPost.com, the researcher explained that he took the most naive approach to fuzzing and performed it against Preview/Safari, Adobe Reader, MS PowerPoint and Open Office. In an interview with Forbes, the researcher gave more insight into his discoveries, claiming that he had found 30 previously unknown critical security vulnerabilities in common software, 20 of which are in Apple's Preview application.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/security-conference-gets-underway-with-the-revealing-of-20-zero-day-flaws-in-apples-os-x-expected-to-be-the-highlight/article/166395/>

57. *March 24, SC Magazine* – (International) **Insider threat and data loss can be brought under control with effective end-user behavior.** The ability to monitor end-user behavior can make a difference when it comes to data loss and insider threats. The managing director of Comsec Consulting said the process can allow a company to monitor what an employee is doing and it allows all behaviors to be looked at. When asked if the ability to monitor internet usage has always been present, with IT and line managers given reports of employee's activity, the managing director said that this technology exists with software companies such as Websense, but if a user is accessing internal systems and is doing it with legitimate access, it is difficult to monitor. So should employees be told that they are being monitored? The managing director said that they should absolutely be told, as people want to be protected.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/insider-threat-and-data-loss-can-be-brought-under-control-with-effective-end-user-behaviour/article/166396/>

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

58. *March 24, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Mobile data traffic now bigger than voice.** The consumption of mobile data surpassed that of voice for the first time last year, according to new research into global mobile networks by telecoms service provider Ericsson. The firm said at the CTIA Wireless 2010 conference in Las Vegas that the amount of data traffic had grown by 280 per cent over the past two years to reach 140,000 terabytes a month by December 2009. Ericsson explained that this shift means that mobile data traffic being sent over 3G networks is now higher than on 2G networks, and that the amount of data traffic is expected to double every year for the next five years. The figures represent a significant milestone in the rise of mobile data, which will continue to accelerate, according to Ericsson's chief executive. The growing number of smartphones on the market, and the rise of social networking sites like

Facebook, are the primary causes for the rapid mobile data growth, he said.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2260102/mobile-traffic-overtakes-voice>

59. *March 24, Fredricksburg Standard* – (Texas) **Fiber-Optic cut causes communication outage.** Hill Country, Texas, residents and businesses had to endure a seven-hour interruption in communication service yesterday when a major fiber-optic line was severed in neighboring Kendall County. Cell phones, land lines and some Internet communications across a major portion of Central Texas were left without service starting at about 1 p.m. when a large AT&T line was inadvertently cut by a third-party contractor doing drainage work along a rural road near Waring, said an AT&T spokesman. In addition to affecting most major retailers who use phone-line based credit card machines, the outage also impacted the city's financial institutions.

Source: <http://www.fredericksburgstandard.com/articles/2010/03/24/news/03news.txt>

60. *March 24, Kenosha News* – (Wisconsin) **Time Warner Cable points finger at software after three service outages.** An internal software problem that disrupted Time Warner Cable service in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, over the last two days has been remedied. The first disruptions of video services came at about noon on Tuesday as an undetermined number of customers lost all television channels in Kenosha and Racine counties. The director of community and media relations for Time Warner Cable in Milwaukee said those channels were only out for a brief period of time.

Source:

http://www.kenoshanews.com/news/time_warner_cable_points_finger_at_software_after_three_service_outages_7615324.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

61. *March 24, Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **250 homes evacuated in Hixson, but no bomb found in suspicious truck.** Authorities evacuated some 250 homes in a mile and a half area in Hixson on Wednesday after detecting possible explosives inside a truck dropped off at a storage facility. However, no bomb was found inside the vehicle and all roads were reopened by 4:30 p.m. A member of the sheriff's department said, "The Federal Bureau of Investigations did enter the truck and no explosive material was found. As there was no eminent threat to the surrounding community and at this point no crime committed, authorities on the scene opened roadways to traffic and allowed homeowners to return to their homes. The sheriff said at 3:45 p.m. that Bomb Squad members were preparing to enter the vehicle at Ark Storage on Hixson Pike. He said the vehicle had been dropped off on Monday by a man who partially filled out a form and would not show ID. He said the owner of the business began to get more and more suspicious about the truck and officers began to check it out late this morning. He said dogs trained to detect explosives indicate a hit on the vehicle. He said the truck has Mississippi tags and is registered in Texas. He said there were several suspicious items related to the truck, causing officials enough concern to call for the wide evacuation. The county mayor said, "We know it is inconvenient, but we felt we should err on the

side of caution.” County Emergency Medical Services was set up at the site. A number of roadblocks were set up at streets near the business. Residents of a nearby subdivision were blocked from entering their neighborhood. A large contingent of officers was at the scene.

Source: http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_171847.asp

62. *March 24, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Motel guests evacuated after meth ingredient discovery.** Twenty-five guests at a motel in Athens, McMinn County had to evacuate after officers say items used to make meth were found throughout the business. The drug task force, along with Athens Police, and the McMinn County Sheriff’s office raided and quarantined the America’s Best Value Inn on Decatur Pike. They had received a report that a meth lab might be inside. When they got there, officers say they found a large amount of items used to make meth. Officers arrested an employee of the motel.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12200303>

For another story, see item [43](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

63. *March 24, Las Vegas Sun* – (Arizona) **Man accused of vandalizing petroglyphs while shooting paintballs.** An Arizona man was cited by park rangers in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area for allegedly shooting paintballs and defacing four petroglyph panels and numerous rock faces with paint. The 20-year-old Bullhead City man and a 13-year-old boy were shooting paintballs March 19 at Grapevine Canyon. The National Park Service is coordinating a cleanup effort with area tribes. A 911 caller reported that kids were shooting paintballs in the canyon. Park rangers responded and contacted a man at the Grapevine Canyon trailhead parking lot, a Lake Mead National Recreation Area spokesman said. An investigation led them to suspect that the man was responsible for the red and green paint splatters in the canyon. The man was issued citations for defacing/disturbing an archeological resource, using and discharging a weapon, littering, and vandalism. He was released, but will be required to appear before a federal magistrate. Penalties can include a year in jail and fines up to \$100,000. Violators can also be held responsible for restitution and reimbursement of costs associated with cleanup.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/24/man-accused-vandalizing-petroglyphs-while-shooting/>

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Dams Sector

64. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Arkansas; Missouri) **Damage to levees in Mo. puts much of NE Arkansas in federally defined high-risk flood zone.** Federal officials

say damage to levees in Missouri has put much of northeast Arkansas in a federally defined high-risk flood zone. The St. Francis Levee District CEO estimates that 125,000 households in the region will now have to buy flood insurance. People living along the Mississippi River and as far inland as Jonesboro could be affected. The designation comes from a nationwide effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine which areas are at high risk of flooding. Congress required the evaluation following Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast in 2005. FEMA has since re-evaluated areas that fall under a 100-year flood risk — meaning there is a 1 percent chance each year of a catastrophic flood.

Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/news/sns-ap-ar--floodzones,0,4710482.story>

65. *March 24, San Bernardino Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Engineers give update on Perris Dam reconstruction.** State engineers and water officials talked Wednesday about their plans to reinforce the Perris Dam, which is not sufficiently earthquake-safe, according to officials with the California Department of Water Resources. The problem originated because the dam, designed in the 1960s, was built on sandy soil that tends to destabilize during earthquakes. Though the dam was considered strong and safe in the 1960s and 1970s, since then scientists have learned that during an earthquake sandy soil tends to behave more like a liquid than a solid, said the state engineer managing the reconstruction. Now officials are studying the environmental impact and gathering public feedback on a plan to fortify the base of the dam by mixing cement in with soils 10 to 50 feet underground and recompacting the uppermost 10-foot layer of soil. The plan also calls for building an earthen berm that would help contain the water in the event of a quake. He said the project would cost \$50 million to \$100 million. Officials said Wednesday they are still unclear which agencies would foot the bill.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_W_sdam25.467052d.html

66. *March 23, Associated Press* – (North Dakota; Minnesota) **Fargo's long-term flood solution: 10 years, \$1.3B.** The Red River Valley's battle with major flooding for the second straight year has intensified the push for a solution that does not rely on thousands of volunteers and millions of sandbags. Local governments say the best option is a massive 36-mile-long channel but the project's \$1.3 billion cost and long construction timetable means that spring flooding is likely to remain a headache for another decade. As the river was still on the rise last week, a task force of officials on both sides of the North Dakota-Minnesota border settled on the diversion channel as their preferred solution to protect a metro area of 200,000 people. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will manage the final project, said the federal government would cover \$565 million of the costs, leaving state and local governments to pay about \$735 million. As the channel splits from the river's main path and angles west of the city, it would cross three larger and two smaller tributaries. It would pass underneath the Sheyenne and Maple rivers through some "extremely large culverts" while open channels — basically aqueducts — would carry the normal flows of those rivers above, said a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Paul, Minnesota. Another smaller river, the Wild Rice, would also require its own structure over the channel. Upstream, a span resembling a highway bridge would have gates that would

be lowered during high water to make the diversion. Construction alone would take 8 1/2 years, and that's just from when the corps gets funding and starts digging. More time will be needed to acquire some 6,500 acres of land, line up funding and take care of other pre-construction needs, he said.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j0AkYEpAqImTjPhZpbsbyM1y85YwD9EJUOV80>

67. *March 23, Sioux City Journal* – (Iowa) **Lower Gar dam breach on indefinite hold.** Citing ideal melt conditions, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has put on indefinite hold its plan to breach Lower Gar Road in an effort to prevent flooding on the Iowa Great Lakes. Revised runoff forecasts show it is unlikely the lake will reach flood stage, the corps' public affairs officer said in a news release Monday afternoon. A Sioux Falls company was awarded a contract last week to begin work Sunday on the project, which was to close 230th Avenue at the dam end of Lower Gar Lake in an effort to allow water to run over the dam and across the road. The corps' operations project manager said Monday the corps "received direction from the state that they wanted us to hold off." The lake is expected to crest at 1397.3 to 1397.6 feet — about 1 to 0.4 feet below the level where damages begin, the corps' press release explained. The Milford mayor had objected to the project over fears water levels in Lower Gar and other lakes in the east chain of the Iowa Great Lakes would drop too low. He noted that the city has "kind of" agreed to the addition of a couple of more culverts above the dam to prevent future flooding without allowing water levels to get too low. "The corps has told us that the road does not impede the flow of the water until it gets to a depth of 12 inches over the dam," the mayor added.

Source: http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/article_bb72532b-2ec2-5fef-a75f-677f9fa77bd8.html

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