



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 March 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Associated Press reports that nine suspects tied to Midwest Christian militia group Hutaree were charged on Monday with conspiring to kill police officers, then attack a funeral using homemade bombs in the hopes of killing more law enforcement personnel. The Detroit Examiner reports that the Joint Terrorism Task Force became interested in Hutaree when the group made threats of violence against certain Islamic organizations. (See items [55](#) and [70](#))
- The Associated Press reports that federal prosecutors charged a Chicago cab driver on March 26 with trying to provide funds to al-Qaeda, saying the man planned to send money to a terrorist leader in Pakistan who had said he needed cash to buy explosives. According to the criminal complaint, the cab driver also discussed a possible bomb attack on an unspecified U.S. stadium this summer. (See item [73](#))

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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 29, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Suez traffic resumes after oil tanker accident.** Traffic in Egypt's Suez Canal on Monday returned to normal, a day after an oil tanker ran aground in the waterway, a canal official said. The 54,000-ton tanker, flying the Liberian flag, had disrupted traffic on Sunday after it rammed into the east bank of the canal, without causing any spillage. The ship was towed to the south of the channel for repairs, said a canal spokesman.
Source: [http://www.zawya.com/Story.cfm/sidANA20100329T124450ZLEA95/Suez traffic resumes after oil tanker accident](http://www.zawya.com/Story.cfm/sidANA20100329T124450ZLEA95/Suez%20traffic%20resumes%20after%20oil%20tanker%20accident)
2. *March 29, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Transformer burns at SRP substation in Avondale.** Avondale firefighters battled a burning Salt River Project power transformer from midnight to early Monday morning. The substation transformer, near 123rd Avenue and Broadway Road, sent billowing smoke into the sky for hours. Fire crews from Avondale and Tolleson fought the fire for more than six hours, said the division chief. Residents in the area still had power throughout the night, and SRP did not have any reported outages. The fire is thought to have been caused by malfunction, the chief said. But an investigation was still being conducted. He also said it was fortunate the transformer was not an older model. Older transformers are filled with petroleum instead of mineral oil, which would have been a more serious problem. The transformer is somewhere in size between a car and a large bus, said an SRP spokesman. "This is not common at all," he said. "We will be working with investigators to determine a cause."
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/2010/03/29/20100329srp-transformer-fire.html>
3. *March 29, United Press International* – (Florida) **Possible tornado hits Oak Park, Fla.** A tornado may have knocked out power Monday to about 4,200 homes and businesses hit by a powerful storm in Oakland Park, Florida, officials said. Tornado spotters trained by the National Weather Service reported a tornado near Interstate 95 and Oakland Park Boulevard at about 8:30 a.m. local time, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported. The high wind and heavy rains scattered debris and knocked down power lines over several Oakland Park streets, Florida Power & Light officials said. Tree limbs were strewn throughout the area and streets flooded. A resident told the Sun Sentinel the sky darkened and a transformer suddenly exploded in huge sparks.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/03/29/Possible-tornado-hits-Oak-Park-Fla/UPI-28571269874772/
4. *March 29, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Electrical worker hospitalized after explosion in Wilkes-Barre.** A northeastern Pennsylvania utility worker has been burned in an underground fire that occurred while he worked to restore service during a power outage. Officials from PPL say the unidentified man was hospitalized in stable condition after sustaining burns early Sunday morning in Wilkes-Barre. Utility officials say they are still trying to determine what caused the explosion and fire around 4 a.m. Sunday. Officials say the injured worker was able to climb out to the surface on his own. Another worker was taken to a hospital and released with no injuries. More than a

thousand homes and businesses were without power following the explosion. Service was restored to all customers by late Sunday night.

Source:

<http://www.poonorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100329/NEWS/100329838/-1/NEWSMAP>

5. *March 27, WTOP 1500 Washington* – (Indiana) **Train derailment affects some Washington Amtrak service.** A train heading to Michigan carrying hundreds of tons of coal derailed Friday night east of Elkhart, Indiana and is causing problems for Amtrak passengers in the Washington region. The Capitol Limited trains 29 and 30 between Chicago, Illinois and DC are canceled Saturday. No alternate transportation is provided. The Lake Shore Limited train 48 from Chicago to New York is operating over a detour route between Chicago and Toledo, Ohio.
Source: <http://wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1921712>
6. *March 26, WDAF 4 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Gas main break shuts down Bannister Road.** A large gas main break at Bannister and Elm shut down Bannister Road at a construction site the afternoon of March 26. The Kansas City Fire Department said the rupture may have been caused by the age of the pipe or simply a weakening in the line. The rupture happened at a pumping station, where gas is fed from Missouri Gas Energy to customers. The Kansas City Fire Department said there are no occupied structures in the area, so there was no evacuation. Forty-seven construction workers at the scene were sent home early. The construction site is for a \$9.7 million early childhood education center for the Hickman Mills School District. There was no damage to the site. Bannister Road was closed from Manning to Elm and Raytown Road to James A. Reed.
Source: <http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-bannister-road-gas-leak-032610,0,7005481.story>
7. *March 26, Associated Press* – (New York) **State seeks \$1M fine over deadly '09 NYC gas blast.** New York utility regulators want Consolidated Edison to pay a fine of up to \$1 million for a gas explosion that killed a Queens woman in her home last year. The state Public Service Commission voted March 25 to seek the fine. The exact amount is yet to be determined. A neighbor reported a smell of gas in the area more than an hour before the blast killed the woman on April 24. The commission is faulting Con Ed's response to the gas leak. The utility says it has since "completely revamped" the way it handles leaks.
Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=12208531>

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Chemical Industry Sector

8. *March 29, WSAZ 3 Huntington/Charleston* – (Ohio) **Road reopens after chemical leak.** A portion of State Route 335 just south of Minford, Ohio, is now back open to traffic. A semi-truck turned over on the road, right at the Dixon Mill Road intersection.

Route 335 was shut down several hours due to the cleanup. Dispatch says the truck was carrying some sort of chemical. Emergency crews say the leak was minimal and did not pose a threat to the community. Route 335 reopened around 1am on March 29.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/89365327.html>

9. *March 29, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Big rig overturns, chemical leaks from truck.** HazMat crews continue to monitor a dangerous chemical spill in east Harris County. An 18-wheeler overturned, spilling its highly corrosive cargo of hydrochloric acid. The big rig overturned just before 7a.m. March 29 on Haden Road near the Eastex Freeway. Hundreds of workers are being denied access to Haden Road due to the chemical spill. Deputies have blocked off the roadway, and people who work down that road are waiting nearby for clearance. Sources told Eyewitness News that the 18-wheeler tipped while turning out of PVS Chemical plant. Harris County authorities, HazMat, and the Cloverleaf volunteer fire department have been on the scene for about 4 hours. According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the rig is leaking hydrochloric acid on the roadway. There are at least three other nearby chemical plants along Haden Road. Workers on shift at the time of the chemical spill were asked to shelter in place. Non-essential night shift workers have since been asked to leave the premises. Officials have stabilized the tanker, and now they are essentially getting people out that do not need to be there. There are no injuries to report. The road should be back open in several hours.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7355608>

10. *March 26, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Spill prompts evacuation.** A toxic chemical spilled at MeadWestvaco in North Charleston on the afternoon of March 25, prompting workers to be evacuated. "There are no injuries, and there is no impact on the community," said a company spokeswoman. The spill happened about 5:15 p.m. at the south plant of the company's Specialty Chemicals Division on Virginia Avenue. A valve on one of the plant's tanks began leaking, she said. The chemical — maleic anhydride — poured into a concrete dike designed to contain such spills, she said. The chemical is a respiratory irritant and can cause thermal burns. All emergency response procedures were followed, she said. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control and other authorities were notified immediately. But there was no need for backup from nearby agencies, such as North Charleston Fire Department, to respond. A hazardous materials response team of DHEC and MeadWestvaco emergency workers continued late on March 25 to assess the leak for cleanup. By about 8 p.m. workers at the north plant began heading back to work, but south plant workers still were being kept out of the area. The contained spill will be evaluated further on March 26 and that damages and a cause analysis will be performed in the coming business days.

Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/mar/26/spill-prompts-evacuation/>

For another story, see item [31](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

11. *March 28, News Herald* – (Ohio) **Fire breaks out at Perry Nuclear Power Plant.** A fire took place at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant about 5:45 p.m. Sunday and was finally extinguished by about 9:30 p.m., a FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. spokesperson said. The “small” fire took place in a lubrication system for one of the pumps that feeds water into the plant’s reactor. As a result, the company reduced power at the plant to about 70 percent. The spokesman said oil coated insulation in the system, which caused smoldering and the fire to reignite “several times.” “It is officially out,” he said after 10 p.m. Two of FENOC’s internal brigade personnel experienced heat stress before being transported to TriPoint Medical Center in Concord Township. The employees are believed not be contaminated. “Everything is under control,” the spokesman said. “Our internal fire brigade responded, along with Perry, Madison and Painesville [fire departments]. There is no impact to public safety.”
Source: <http://www.news-herald.com/articles/2010/03/28/news/doc4baff5e686d7142453513.txt>
12. *March 27, Toledo Blade* – (Michigan) **Fermi 2 shutdown probed.** An automatic shutdown that occurred Thursday at DTE Energy’s Fermi 2 nuclear plant remained unexplained Friday. The power plant’s main turbine shut off unexpectedly at 4:27 p.m., according to a company notice the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission posted online. The malfunction of the turbine automatically triggered a rapid shutdown, or “scram,” of the reactor. Safety systems are designed so that shutdowns occur automatically when certain components of the plant are involved. Reactors also can be shut down manually if safety systems aren’t activated. The automatic shutdown procedure worked as designed, a DTE spokesman said. The reactor was operating at 67 percent power at the time. The shutdown ended 135 days of continuous operation for Fermi 2, he said. “We will remain shut down until the cause is determined,” he said. The reactor’s power was reduced from 100 to 50 percent earlier in the week so that repairs and adjustments could be made to a water recirculation pump. The utility was bringing the reactor back to full power when the turbine shut off, the spokesman said.
Source: <http://toledoblade.com/article/20100327/NEWS16/3270369>
13. *March 27, New London Day* – (Connecticut) **Millstone gets extension for security upgrades.** Millstone Power Station has received an extension from March 31 to late summer and early fall to complete certain security upgrades. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved the extensions to August 30 for power supply requirements and September 30 for alarm station requirements, which the NRC cannot describe in detail because they involve security. Plants across the country have had to make upgrades involving such areas as fencing, barriers, motion detectors, etc., an NRC spokesman said. Dominion, the owner of the nuclear complex, needs more time to procure the equipment it needs and install it, the NRC said.
Source: <http://www.theday.com/article/20100327/BIZ02/303279877/-1/BIZ>
14. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Yankee seeks to seal probe records.** Despite pledges of “transparency” and “openness” in its bid to regain the trust and confidence

of Vermonters after its radioactive leak at Vermont Yankee, Entergy Nuclear attorneys have taken steps to keep key documents at the Public Service Board under seal and confidential. An Entergy Nuclear attorney and three other attorneys from Downs Rachlin Martin, requested the protective order from the board Wednesday, a day before an Entergy Nuclear executive reiterated a pledge Thursday during a press conference for openness and full communication. Entergy specifically is seeking to seal the report from its internal investigation conducted by its law firm, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, into whether Entergy Nuclear Vermont executives lied to state regulators, state consultants and legislators over the existence of buried underground pipes at Vermont Yankee. Meanwhile, the NRC said it was keeping its investigation into the tritium leak open, and a spokesman said regulators hoped Entergy would continue its investigation despite its statements on Thursday that it had found the radioactive leaks that have been plaguing Vermont Yankee and stopped them. “Our inspection remains open and will include the area of ‘extent-of-condition’ checks and evaluations. The company would be expected to continue its reviews of similar piping and systems to ensure they are not vulnerable to the same failure mechanisms,” said an NRC spokesman.

Source:

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20100327/NEWS04/3270359/1003/NEWS02>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

15. *March 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Boeing calls key 787 test results ‘positive’.** Boeing said the results of a key airworthiness test for its long delayed 787 are “positive,” but it will be weeks before the aircraft maker can say whether it is a success. The aircraft maker said Sunday the test involved flexing the jet’s wings while applying loads to the frame to replicate 150 percent of the most extreme forces the airplane could experience in flight. The wings were pushed up about 25 feet during the ground test performed at Boeing’s Everett, Washington, factory. The test took more than two hours, and thousands of pieces of data were collected to measure wing performance. Boeing, based in Chicago, says the data will be reviewed over the next several weeks. Boeing has been testing the plane and its systems for more than three months, after production delays and problems with carbon-fiber composite materials used in the plane put it nearly three years behind schedule. The first test plane made an unplanned landing last month after an engine lost thrust. Japan’s All Nippon Airways is scheduled for the first delivery of the 787 later this year. Boeing says airlines around the world have ordered 851 of the aircraft. The largest 787 model has a range of up to 3,050 miles and can carry as many as 330 passengers.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g5JKUhRYNSaPptbzMt4OfH UJv7EgD9EOA0OG0>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

16. *March 27, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **NM environment head wants federal agency removed.** New Mexico’s environmental secretary wants the National Nuclear Security Administration removed from environmental cleanup and surveillance programs at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The New Mexico environmental secretary says the National Nuclear Security Administration has had a “troubled history” in implementing a 2005 consent decree over cleanup. He wrote the Energy Secretary that the agency’s involvement “has compromised the pace and direction” of work to protect the New Mexico’s water resources and its citizens’ health. The New Mexico environmental secretary wants cleanup issues left to the Energy Department’s Office of Environmental Management — both for the consent decree with the state and a natural resources damage assessment sought this month by the Los Alamos National Laboratory Resource Trustee Council. NNSA says it has an Environmental Project Office with the same support and priority as other NNSA work.
Source: <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S1487551.shtml?cat=504>

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Banking and Finance Sector

17. *March 29, IDG News Service* – (National) **Company says 3.3M student loan records stolen.** Data on 3.3 million borrowers was stolen from a nonprofit company that helps with student loan financing. The theft occurred on March 20 or 21 from the headquarters of Educational Credit Management Corp. (ECMC), which services loans when student borrowers enter bankruptcy. The data was contained on portable media, said the organization, which is a dedicated guaranty agency for Virginia, Oregon, and Connecticut. The data included names, addresses, birth dates and Social Security numbers but no financial information such as credit card numbers or bank account data, ECMC said in a news release. Law enforcement has been notified. “ECMC is cooperating fully with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies conducting the investigation,” it said in a statement. ECMC will send a written notification to affected borrowers “as soon as possible” and offer them free services from Experian, a credit monitoring agency.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174312/Company_says_3.3M_student_loan_records_stolen
18. *March 27, Bank Info Security* – (National) **Four banks closed on March 26.** Four banks were closed by state and federal regulators on Friday, March 26, raising to 46 the number of failed banks and credit unions so far in 2010. McIntosh Commercial Bank, Carrollton, Georgia, was closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$123.3 million. Key West Bank, Key West, Florida, was closed by the Office of Thrift Supervision, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$23.1 million. Unity National Bank, Cartersville, Georgia, was closed by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency,

which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$67.2 million. Desert Hills Bank, Phoenix, Arizona, was closed by the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions, which appointed the FDIC as receiver. The FDIC estimates that the cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$106.7 million.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2346

19. *March 26, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Kentucky attorney pleads guilty for role in stock manipulation scheme and obstruction of justice.** A Louisville, Kentucky, attorney pleaded guilty late March 26 in U.S. District Court in Tulsa for his role in a scheme to defraud investors through the manipulation of the publicly traded stocks of three companies, announced the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division and the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma. The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, securities fraud and money laundering, as charged in the indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Tulsa on January 15, 2009. He also pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of justice, contained in a criminal information filed March 25, 2010. Specifically, he pleaded guilty to making false and misleading statements to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to the Department of Justice regarding stock promotions and movement of stock proceeds. According to the indictment, between April 2004 and December 2006, the attorney and his co-conspirators devised and engaged in a scheme to defraud investors known as a “pump and dump,” in which they manipulated three publicly traded penny stocks. A penny stock is a common stock that trades for less than \$5 per share in the over the counter market, rather than on national exchanges. According to the indictment, the scheme reaped from the defendants more than \$41 million.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-crm-325.html>

20. *March 26, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Florida; Georgia) **Pink haired bank robbery suspect linked to Florida heist.** Officers have a man in custody after the robbery of a Catoosa County bank. Authorities say they found a cellphone with a suspicious device attached to it at the Capitol Bank on Highway 41. The bank was robbed at 9am. The suspect fled in a van but was later captured on Interstate 75. Our reporter says 25 law enforcement cars are on the scene. Members of a police bomb squad are sweeping the building. The suspect has been identified as a suspect in a January 23rd bank robbery in Ft Myers, Florida. Authorities in Catoosa County, Georgia say around 9:05am the suspect entered Capitol Bank and handed a bank teller a note. He then allegedly took \$10,000 from the teller and fled, leaving the suspicious cellphone. He was later captured on I-75.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12209736>

21. *March 26, Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Smyrna police investigating ATM theft.** Police are searching for the person or persons responsible for stealing an ATM from a bank early on March 26. Dispatchers received a call from a Bank of America’s alarm company at 4:25 a.m. that someone had possibly attempted to break into the machine. The operator asked that officers check the Sam Ridley Parkway location for burn

marks, smoke, damage to the exterior and to make sure the machine's screen did not read "out of order," a transcript of the call shows. About three minutes later, the operator called back and said the company had placed a tracking device on the ATM and that it had been moved to Sanford Road, near La Vergne city limits. When officers arrived at the bank, they found a forklift on the scene and determined it was used to move the ATM. Glass was also found in the area near the ATM, and it's possible the suspect broke a window while loading the ATM, the report said.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/D4/20100326/NEWS01/100326010/Smyrna+police+investigating+ATM+theft>

22. *March 26, WLWT 5 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Thieves use skimmer to take \$50,000 from ATM customers.** Norwood police are looking for the men who used an ATM skimmer to steal money from dozens of bank accounts. Police said the skimmer device was placed on a US Bank ATM on the weekend of February 27 and removed before March 22. Investigators said more than 120 customer accounts were compromised, taking about \$50,000 in all. A police detective said that the thieves waited until the last week or so to begin using the information at ATMs to take money from accounts. Police said they have video from the ATM's camera that shows the men they believe installed and removed the device. The detective said there appear to be at least four men involved, some of whom were also captured on tape putting a skimmer on an ATM in Wisconsin. Source: <http://www.wlwt.com/news/22965050/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

23. *March 29, New York Times* – (International) **Subway blasts kill dozens in Moscow.** Female suicide bombers set off huge explosions in two subway stations in central Moscow during the Monday morning rush hour, Russian officials said, killing more than three dozen people and raising fears that the Muslim insurgency in southern Russia was once again being brought to the country's heart. The first attack occurred as commuters were exiting a packed train at a station near the headquarters of the F.S.B., the successor to the Soviet-era K.G.B. Officials said they suspected that the attack there was intended as a message to the security services, which have helped lead the crackdown on Islamic extremism in Chechnya and other parts of the Caucasus region in southern Russia. The two explosions spread panic throughout the capital as people searched for missing relatives and friends, and the authorities tried to determine whether more attacks were planned. The subway system is one of the world's most extensive and well-managed, and it serves as a vital artery for Moscow's commuters, carrying as many as 10 million people a day. "The terrorist acts were carried out by two female terrorist bombers," said Moscow's mayor. "They happened at a time when there would be the maximum number of victims." The mayor said 23 people were killed in the first explosion, at the Lubyanka station, and 12 people were killed 40 minutes later at the Park Kultury station. At least two others died later. More than 100 people were injured. Crowds of people rushed to both stations in an effort to locate relatives, and

cell phone networks became jammed. Streets in central Moscow were blocked with traffic as people avoided the subway system.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/world/europe/30moscow.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

24. *March 29, BBC* – (International) **RAF fighter jets scrambled amid terror plot fears.** RAF Typhoon fighter jets have been scrambled twice this month amid fears of possible terror threats in UK airspace, the BBC has learned. One week ago - on 22 March - the RAF was alerted to a conversation overheard on the airwaves, believed to have come from a plane travelling through UK airspace. It included the words “ransom” and “hostage”. Soon afterward a Delta Airlines plane - on its way from the U.S. to Frankfurt - made what is described as an “unusual request” to descend just as it was flying south of Reading. Within minutes, two Typhoon fighter jets were scrambled from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. The fighters circled over Kent as the civilian flight, which had raised concerns, cleared UK airspace. It was, thankfully, a false alarm. On average the alarm is raised every month - perhaps no surprise given that there are three million flights through UK airspace every year.
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/8592070.stm

25. *March 29, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Man arrested in Carnival cruise ship bomb threat.** A bomb scare blamed on a passenger who had been drinking caused a five-hour delay in Sunday’s return to Port Canaveral for the Carnival Cruise Ship Sensation, authorities said. No bomb was found and Brevard County deputies arrested a Virginia man accused of starting the scare. The ship was on its way back from Nassau, Bahamas, early Sunday when witnesses heard the “highly intoxicated” passenger say that “a bomb was about to explode,” and “We are Jihad,” said a U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer. The Coast Guard, FBI and Brevard deputies boarded Sensation at about 9:30 a.m. and after interviewing witnesses and the suspect, determined there was no bomb. The man, 31, was arrested. He bonded out of jail Sunday night after being charged with falsely threatening to detonate a bomb, Brevard jail officials said.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-cruise-ship-bomb-scare-20100328,0,2617995.story>

26. *March 29, Associated Press* – (National) **US transit security increased over Moscow blast.** U.S. transit agencies beefed up security as a precaution Monday following the suicide bombing in Moscow’s subway system, sending more police into stations and having officers conduct random inspections of rail yards. In New York, caravans of police vehicles were dispatched to transit hubs, and officers assigned to subways overnight were held in place so they overlapped with the day tour. Special units distinguished by their special black uniforms, helmets, and body armor also were assigned to transit facilities. New York City’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority acknowledged heightened security, but declined to provide details. In Washington, D.C., Metro police were conducting random inspections of stations and rail yards, officials said. Atlanta’s public transit system said its police department was increasing the number of officers and patrols throughout the system. In Chicago, the city police

department's public transportation section and Chicago Transit Authority personnel were watching closely for any suspicious activity or behavior, said a CTA spokeswoman. Representatives of transit agencies in Boston and Philadelphia said they believed their normal security practices were vigilant enough to protect the riding public. The federal government did not immediately make any recommendations for increased security at mass transit systems, but authorities were monitoring the situation, a U.S. official said. Caucasus Islamic separatists tend to be focused on targets in the region, primarily Russia, and are not generally considered a threat to U.S. domestic interests.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iiWUN9MTQ7j6Zex1_afXOidwRDBAD9EODMSG0

27. *March 27, Avstop.com* – (Indiana) **Safety and health violations at Evansville air traffic control tower.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has notified officials at the Evansville Regional Airport that a recent inspection has found four serious and four repeat safety and health violations in its Air Traffic Control Tower. OSHA began its safety and health inspection in August 2009 as a planned inspection under the federal safety agency's Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Monitoring Program. Serious violations found include failing to post a diagram of emergency egress routes, conduct annual fire drills and properly identify doors as "Not an Exit," as well as an improperly grounded electrical outlet. Repeat violations include failing to test the stair pressurization system, unobstructed exit routes, and inadequate or missing emergency action plans and fire prevention plans. "Workers in air traffic control towers should be assured they can escape quickly and efficiently if disaster strikes," said an OSHA Area Director. "All of us want to see working men and women go home safe at the end of every work shift."

Source:

http://avstop.com/news_march_2010/safety_and_health_violations_at_evansville_air_traffic_control_tower.htm

28. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Fire forces evacuation of Flint airport tower.** Authorities say a fire in the air traffic control tower at Flint's Bishop Airport caused significant interior damage, forced the evacuation of 15 employees, and sent one person to the hospital. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the fire broke out the morning of March 26 in the 110-foot tower. One employee was treated and released from a hospital, but her identity and injuries were not disclosed. The spokeswoman said the tower suffered significant electrical, water, and smoke damage and will be unusable for a while. A cause is unknown. Air traffic controllers are handling local traffic from a temporary airport facility and a Cleveland center is controlling traffic beyond five miles or above 3,000 feet. There have been no significant delays.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/michigan/index.ssf?/base/national-114/1269639628133580.xml&storylist=newsmichigan>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

29. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Police: Homemade bombs explode in mailboxes.** Police say small homemade bombs exploded in two mailboxes outside of Des Moines, Iowa. No one was injured in either incident on Saturday in Clive. A Clive police spokesman says the devices were made from 2-liter bottles and household chemicals. Clive police say a similar incident in Des Moines last week may be related. Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12217601>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *March 29, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (Illinois; Indiana; Michigan) **FDA, Health Department investigating raw milk cases.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, along with several state agencies, is alerting consumers to an outbreak of campylobacteriosis associated with drinking raw milk. At least 12 confirmed illnesses have been recently reported in Michigan. Symptoms of campylobacteriosis include diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever. The FDA is collaborating with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health and the Indiana State Health Department, to investigate the outbreak. MDCH reports that, as of March 24, 2010, it received reports of 12 confirmed cases of illness from Campylobacter infections in consumers who drank raw milk. The raw milk originated from Forest Grove Dairy in Middlebury, Indiana. Source: <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=40850>
31. *March 27, Iowa City Press-Citizen* – (Iowa) **Ammonia leak sends 16 meatpacking workers to hospital.** An anhydrous ammonia leak caused 16 meatpacking employees to be taken to University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City on Friday. The leak at West Liberty Foods originated with a tank on the plant's roof, according to an assistant chief of the West Liberty Fire Department. He said the employees were treated for anhydrous ammonia inhalation, although no one was directly exposed to the chemical. He described the injuries as minor to moderate. The leak led to an evacuation of West Liberty Foods, which processes mostly turkey. The company said operations had resumed after closing for nearly four hours. West Liberty Foods officials said preliminary indications point to a failed suction header on the plant roof. The header spilled approximately 30 gallons of liquid ammonia onto the roof. A shut-off valve was closed within 10 minutes and the leak was isolated, the company said. Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100327/NEWS/3270328/-1/BUSINESS04/Ammonia-leak-sends-16-meatpacking-workers-to-hospital>

32. *March 26, WNYW 5 New York* – (New York) **Couple arrested in Jell-O tampering.** Suffolk County Police today arrested an East Northport husband and wife for tampering with JELL-O brand pudding mixes purchased at local supermarkets. After reviewing hours of surveillance video and following up on numerous leads, officers identified a couple in their 60s as the individuals responsible for tampering with the pudding mix. Apparently, the wife purchased the product, removed the original pudding mix and re-filled the boxes with a sandwich bag containing salt and sand. The boxes were then resealed and returned to the supermarkets for a monetary refund. There is no indication that her intent was to inflict physical harm to any other consumers or the supermarkets, but to obtain the pudding mix without having to pay for it. None of the individuals that purchased the resealed product were injured.
Source: http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/local_news/long_island/Jello-Product-Tampering-20100326-lgf
33. *March 26, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **U.S. agents probe fire at fruit warehouse in Yakima County.** A national response team from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives began investigating a fire Friday that heavily damaged an Evans Fruit warehouse. The leader of the team of 20 agents from around the country, said the agents should be able to draw some conclusions about the origin and cause of the blaze in four to five days, although he said one option is also “indeterminate.” The other possible conclusions are incendiary, that is, caused by a device such as a bomb and thus criminal, or accidental. Crews spent all day Wednesday attacking the fire, which caused much of the roof to collapse. The flames were successfully stopped at the wall adjoining one of the cold-storage rooms that was damaged in a 2008 fire that was later declared to be arson. The fire mostly involved the packing line and employee lunchroom. Most of the 100 warehouse workers will be reassigned to other operations in Yakima and Cowiche. Total dollars lost have not been estimated, but damage could be several million dollars, largely because a new packing line will have to be designed and installed, authorities said. Nobody was injured in the fire.
Source:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2011454350_warehousefire27m.html

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Water Sector

34. *March 29, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **18K gallons of sewage spills into Overlea Stream.** Baltimore County officials say about 18,000 gallons of sewage spilled into Stemmers Run over the weekend when a sewer line became blocked in Overlea. A Department of Public Works spokesman says the overflow lasted from midday Saturday to early Sunday. Workers brought pumps to the site to restore sewer service. That overflow comes days after another incident in which 15,000 gallons of untreated waste overflowed from a manhole near Loch Raven Reservoir and two weeks after a

much larger overflow in Baltimore. City officials disclosed on Friday that 220,000 gallons of sewage overflowed March 13 in the 400-block of East Eager Street. A City's public works spokesman says the sewage flowed through storm drains into the Jones Falls, but the area has been cleaned up.

Source: <http://wjz.com/local/18K.gallons.sewage.2.1596701.html>

35. *March 28, Saratogian News* – (New York) **Spike in Hudson River PCB levels spurs Halfmoon to switch water source.** The town of Halfmoon has switched its water source after PCB levels in the Hudson River near Thompson Island Dam were recorded at more than 2,000 parts per trillion last week — far above the Environmental Protection Agency's 500 ppt drinking water standard. Since dredging ended for the season in the late fall, the town had gone back to using the river as its main source of drinking water. On Friday, however, news of the spike in PCB levels forced the town to start taking its water from Troy. An EPA spokesperson said she believed the Halfmoon supervisor was notified of the PCB spike as soon as EPA officials found out about it late Friday. In a statement posted on the town's Web site, the supervisor says she was not given enough time to properly make the switch. She said the notification procedure was followed properly in this instance.

Source:

<http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2010/03/28/news/doc4baebbc33a312862517458.txt>

36. *March 28, Associated Press* – (California) **OC beaches remain closed 5 days after sewage spill.** A large swath of Orange County beaches remains closed five days after a ruptured pipe sent more than 500,000 gallons of raw sewage into the ocean. Health officials said Sunday they would reopen the beaches once testing shows bacterial levels have fallen within state standards for two days in a row. Beaches from the breakwater at Dana Point Harbor to Capistrano Bay Community Beach are closed. A 24-inch iron wastewater pipe in Rancho Santa Margarita ruptured Tuesday afternoon, sending raw sewage gushing into a creek that emptied into the ocean at Doheny State Beach in Dana Point.

Source: http://www.times-standard.com/statenews/ci_14774564

37. *March 27, Vicksburg Post* – (Mississippi) **Land shift puts city water main in jeopardy.** A land shift threatening the stability of one of Vicksburg's main water lines was on overnight watch, with work scheduled to resume this morning. The shift occurred underneath Washington Street, near the MV Mississippi IV. "This is as serious as it gets, and we're working feverishly to stabilize that slope and make sure we don't lose that line," the North Ward Alderman said Friday afternoon. He was acting as mayor pro-tem because the mayor was out of town. As of Friday night, water service in the city continued to flow. However, if the 36-inch concrete water main located about three feet below the street were to burst, service to the entire city could be lost, he confirmed. The land shift was discovered Friday morning by contract workers who have been doing ground work on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Interpretive Center just north of the MV Mississippi IV, said a Corps spokesman. "This is not a big issue yet, and we're just trying to make sure it doesn't turn into one," he said. "We're doing what it takes to make sure it doesn't slide anymore." Above the slide, Washington

Street suffered several cracks as wide as six inches and as long as five parking spaces. The large cracks were sealed. City officials would not speculate on the cause of the land shift, saying they were still investigating.

Source:

<http://www.vicksburgpost.com/articles/2010/03/27/news/doc4bad85dc26200121079466.txt>

38. *March 27, Coloradoan* – (Colorado) **City officials investigate elevated bacteria levels at wastewater plant.** Fort Collins, Colorado, officials say they are investigating an operational problem at the city's Drake Water Reclamation Facility that led to the discharge of wastewater with elevated levels of bacteria into the Poudre River.

Although the situation is not considered a public health risk, residents downstream of the plant, which sits south of Prospect Road near Interstate 25, are advised to avoid swimming and other direct contact with the river water, officials said. Larimer County and state health officials have been notified of the situation. Steps have been taken to correct the operational problem, officials said, and the effectiveness of treatment processes at the facility appears to be improving. Treatment specialists are working to find the cause of the bacteria influx and the actions needed to prevent further problems.

Source: <http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20100327/NEWS01/3270322/City-officials-investigate-elevated-bacteria-levels-at-wastewater-plant>

39. *March 26, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Michigan) **EPA settles with Drug and Laboratory Disposal on hazardous waste violations.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has reached an agreement with Drug and Laboratory Disposal Inc., Plainwell, Michigan, for alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requirements for hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. The company has agreed to pay a penalty of \$41,300 to settle the violations. Drug & Laboratory Disposal failed to comply with the storage time limits, container labeling and dating rules of its operating license. The company also failed to follow hazardous waste container labeling provisions of RCRA. Under RCRA, EPA regulates hazardous waste from production to final disposal.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/4128769994EE4545852576F20067545C>

40. *March 26, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Missouri) **Fresh and Clean Restrooms LLC of Park Hills, Mo., faces Clean Water Act violations.** EPA has issued an administrative compliance order to Fresh and Clean Restrooms LLC of Park Hills, Mo., for failure to apply sewage sludge in compliance with Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations. The company also failed to treat the sludge to reduce pathogens and maintain records at its land application site at the Doe Run Desloge Mine Tailings Site in Desloge, Mo. EPA conducted an inspection of the Desloge Mine Tailings Site in December 2009 to determine compliance with federal regulations. In addition, EPA found that the company had not retained records of its land application activities as required by law. The compliance order directs Fresh and Clean Restrooms LLC to take all necessary action to ensure the sewage sludge it applies to land is in compliance with the law, including pathogen reduction and pest reduction requirements, and requires the

company to maintain all records for its land application of sewage sludge.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/CB546DDC5C7E57C6852576F2006D9DA5>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

41. *March 29, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **2-alarm fire at Tacoma medical building called suspicious.** Fire investigators said a fire at the Tacoma, Seattle, Living and Wellness Center medical building Friday is suspicious. Officials said the first crews to arrive called a second alarm within 10 minutes because of the size of the building and the potential for the fire to spread. Firefighters entered the building to look for a cause and estimate damage. Officials have not said why the fire appears to be suspicious.
Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/22964440/detail.html>
42. *March 29, WIBQ 98.5 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **Union hospital receives second bomb threat.** Police are asking for the public's help in finding the person who called in a bomb threat to Union Hospital in Terra Haute, Indiana late last week. A spokesperson for the hospital says a male suspect called the hospital shortly after 7:30 Thursday night. Security and staff searched each floor of the hospital and did not find a bomb. This is the second bomb threat the hospital has received this year. Last month, a man walked into the pharmacy and threatened pharmacists with a bomb after they refused to give him methadone.
Source: <http://new.wibqfm.com/news/articles/2010/mar/29/union-hospital-receives-second-bomb-threat/>
43. *March 29, Reuters* – (International) **Independent experts to review pandemic handling.** A group of independent experts will review how the H1N1 pandemic has been handled to ensure that the next global health emergency is dealt with better, a top World Health Organization official said on Monday. The H1N1 influenza outbreak, which began in April last year, was marked by controversies over whether the WHO and public health authorities had exaggerated the risks of H1N1 and created unnecessary alarm by declaring it a 'pandemic'. The WHO has also been criticized for its pandemic alert system that focuses on geographical spread of the outbreak rather than its severity, and on alleged conflicts of interests between health officials and experts and vaccine makers. The review will examine how well the WHO and its 193 member states prepared for and responded to the swine flu outbreak, whether the risks were fully understood or exaggerated and poor countries' access to vaccines, WHO's flu expert said.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE62S0WT20100329>
44. *March 28, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Stockton MRI center burns, sustains \$1.4 million in damage.** A 2-alarm fire ripped through an MRI medical building Sunday morning in Stockton, California, causing an estimated \$1.4 million in damages,

according to fire officials. The fire broke out at the Stockton MRI Medical Center at 2320 North California Way around 6:30 a.m. Sunday, a Stockton Fire Department spokesman said. Responding firefighters found heavy fire in the roof on the south side of the building. It took 46 fire personnel almost four hours to contain the blaze that ultimately destroyed one MRI machine and another imaging machine as well as significantly damaging the front part of the building. Strong magnetic fields surrounding the MRI machines as well as thick metal surrounding other x-ray machines made it difficult for firefighters to access the rooms and extinguish the fire. At one point, a strong magnetic field ripped an ax from a firefighter's hand. Due to the large amount of water runoff while fighting the blaze, Municipal Utilities Department officials were called in to contain the water in that area, preventing medical syringes and other equipment from flowing into nearby storm drains. No injuries were reported. Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=78252&provider=top>

45. *March 27, WTVR 6 Richmond* – (Virginia) **Bomb threat in Henrico.** Henrico, Virginia, police are investigating a bomb threat at the offices of area health insurance provider. Dozens of people were evacuated from the Health Management Corporation building on Paragon Place Friday after someone found a sticky note on the door. According to police sources that note referred to the insurance company as greedy and said there was a bomb in the first floor of the building. It was later determined the threat was just a hoax. HMC fits under the umbrella of WellPoint Incorporated. The U.S. Presidential Administration recently criticized WellPoint for hiking up their premiums by 39 percent while offering lavish multi-million dollar retreats to corporate executives. Police say they still do not know whether that has anything to do with Friday's bomb threat. It is still under investigation. Source: <http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-henrico-bomb-scare,0,5994896.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

46. *March 29, U.S. Air Force* – (National) **USAF officials continue plans to modernize GPS.** Through the years, the Global Positioning System has become one of the most widely-used Air Force applications. Today GPS is used in everything from farming and aviation to public safety, disaster relief and recreation, not to mention its military purpose of providing precision navigation and timing to combat forces. This dependence requires a keen focus on maintaining and modernizing the system. Air Force officials took the next step in that process when they awarded a contract last month to Raytheon Company for the Next Generation GPS Control Segment, commonly referred to as OCX. "OCX is the new ground system that will replace our current Architecture Evolution Plan ground system," said the 2nd Space Operations Squadron commander. "OCX is critical for us as we cannot fly GPS III satellites with our current ground system." The OCX development contract is set to last 73 months with option years for sustainment worth about \$1.5 billion. The contract will include development and installation of hardware and software at GPS control stations here and at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., deployment of advanced monitor stations at

remote sites and initial contractor support with sustainment options for five years. “The new OCX ground system will bring more automation and combine AEP and our Launch Anomaly and Disposal Operations system into one ground system eliminating the need for dual certifications,” she said. The new ground system also will allow for command and control of an additional number of satellites. “OCX is also meant to fly up to 64 satellites where our current AEP system can only fly up to 32 satellites,” she said.

Source:

[http://www.gpsdaily.com/reports/USAF Officials Continue Plans To Modernize GPS 999.html](http://www.gpsdaily.com/reports/USAF%20Officials%20Continue%20Plans%20To%20Modernize%20GPS%20999.html)

47. *March 27, Gannett News Company* – (Louisiana) **Bomb threat shuts down BPCC.** A Bossier Parish Community College student has been arrested in connection with a bogus bomb threat that shut down the college’s main campus Friday morning, according to Bossier City Police. The suspect, 18, of Blanchard, was charged with one count of felony communication of information of a planned arson, a Police Department news release states. The suspect, who was identified early on as a suspect, was located in a car parked on U.S. Highway 80 in front of the school. “We were able to get information that led to this person,” said a spokesman for Bossier City. “We do know that the call was not made from the campus.” The caller dialed 911 at 9:35 a.m. and told the operator “there was a bomb on campus,” the spokesman said. The Fire Department immediately was dispatched and the campus was evacuated about 10 a.m. The school initiated its first call to alert all faculty, staff and students of the threat. At least 2,000 students were on campus at the time.

Source:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20100327/NEWS01/3270317/1060/NEWS01>

48. *March 27, V3.co.uk* – (National) **Zeus malware takes aim at tax season.** Security experts are warning of a flood of spam emails masquerading as U.S. tax documents in an attempt to spread the Zeus malware. A Sans researcher reported that the organization had received several reports of unsolicited email claiming to come from the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The emails claim that the recipient has ‘under-reported income’ on their tax statements, and urges them to download and run a linked file. The file is an executable which infects the user with the Zeus malware. The technique is not new. Citizens in the U.S. and the U.K. were targeted by social engineering malware attacks last year purporting to be documents from tax authorities. The IRS does not send official notifications via email, and advises people to avoid any messages claiming to be from the agency.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2260347/zeus-malware-takes-aim-tax>

49. *March 26, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (South Carolina) **U.S. GAO - Nuclear nonproliferation: DOE needs to address uncertainties with and strengthen independent safety oversight of its plutonium disposition program.** The GAO issued the following report: The end of the Cold War left the United States with a surplus of weapons-grade plutonium, which poses proliferation and safety risks. Much of this material is found in a key nuclear weapon component known as a pit. The

Department of Energy (DOE) plans to dispose of at least 34 metric tons of plutonium by fabricating it into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for domestic nuclear reactors. To do so, DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is constructing two facilities — a MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) and a Waste Solidification Building (WSB) — at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. GAO was asked to assess the (1) cost and schedule status of the MFFF and WSB construction projects, (2) status of NNSA's plans for pit disassembly and conversion, (3) status of NNSA's plans to obtain customers for MOX fuel from the MFFF, and (4) actions that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and DOE have taken to provide independent nuclear safety oversight. GAO reviewed NNSA documents and project data, toured DOE facilities, and interviewed officials from DOE, NRC, and nuclear utilities. The MFFF and WSB projects both appear to be meeting their cost targets for construction, but the MFFF project has experienced schedule delays. Specifically, the MFFF and WSB projects are on track to meet their respective construction cost estimates of \$4.9 billion and \$344 million. However, the MFFF project has experienced some delays over the past 2 years, due in part to the delivery of reinforcing bars that did not meet nuclear quality standards. Project officials said that they expect to recover from these delays by the end of 2010 and plan for the start of MFFF operations on schedule in 2016.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-378>

50. *March 26, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **U.S. GAO - Bureau of the Public Debt: Areas for improvement in Information Security Controls.** GAO issued the report, Bureau of the Public Debt: Areas for improvement in Information Security Controls. In connection with fulfilling GAO's requirement to audit the financial statements of the U.S. government, GAO audited and reported on the Schedules of Federal Debt Managed by the Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD) for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. GAO identified information security deficiencies affecting internal control over financial reporting, which, while GAO does not consider them to be collectively either a material weakness or significant deficiency, nevertheless warrant BPD management's attention and action. This report presents the control deficiencies GAO identified during fiscal year 2009 testing of the general and application information security controls that support key BPD automated financial systems relevant to BPD's Schedule of Federal Debt. GAO's fiscal year 2009 audit procedures identified seven new general information security control deficiencies related to access controls and configuration management. In the Limited Official Use Only report, GAO made eight recommendations to address these control deficiencies. None of the control deficiencies GAO identified represented significant risks to the BPD financial systems.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-517R>

51. *March 26, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Texas inmate accused of trying to hire someone to kill a judge.** Federal prosecutors say they have charged a West Texas jail inmate in an alleged plot to try to hire someone to kill the judge in his drug case. A press release issued Friday by the U.S. Attorney's Office said the suspect tried to hire an undercover special agent of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to kill a state district judge from Brownwood. The suspect's attorney says

his client was in the Brown County Jail in Brownwood on marijuana and controlled substance possession charges. The suspect was arrested on the federal charge at the jail March 24 and was in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service March 26.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/89286707.html>

52. *March 26, Computerworld* – (International) **Military warns of ‘increasingly active’ cyber-threat from China.** On the same day that Google Inc. and the GoDaddy Group Inc. complained about China to a congressional committee, a U.S. Navy admiral appeared before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee with an even stronger warning about cyber-threats posed by China. His comments about China received little press attention but were stronger than anything said by either company. “U.S. military and government networks and computer systems continue to be the target of intrusions that appear to have originated from within the PRC (People’s Republic of China),” the admiral said. He said that most of the intrusions are focused on acquiring data “but the skills being demonstrated would also apply to network attacks.” The admiral testified on the military’s operations in its Pacific command, which he said “faces increasingly active and sophisticated threats to our information and computer infrastructure.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174242/Military_warns_of_increasingly_active_cyber_threat_from_China

53. *March 26, eWeek* – (International) **House bill bans government employee file sharing.** The Secure Federal File Sharing Act bans recreational use of P2P software on all federal computers, computer systems and networks including those belonging to government contractors. The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation March 25 that would place greater restrictions on the use of open network P2P software on all federal computers. The Secure Federal File Sharing Act (H.R. 4098) makes important progress toward banning the recreational use of P2P software on all federal computers, computer systems and networks including those belonging to government contractors. The bill would also require the OMB (Office of Management and Budget) to approve legitimate uses of P2P software on a case-by-case basis and provide to Congress annually a list of agencies that are using P2P software and the intended purposes for using the software.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Government-IT/House-Bill-Bans-Government-Employee-File-Sharing-642744/>

54. *March 25, WTRF 7 Wheeling* – (Ohio) **Monroe County man faces explosives charges.** A Monroe County, Ohio, man was arrested on March 23 on charges that he allegedly planned to blow up a government facility. The 50 year-old suspect was charged with four counts of unlawful possession of dangerous ordinance, according to a news release from the Monroe County Sheriff. He also was charged with five counts of illegal manufacture or process of explosives. The Sheriff’s Office executed the search warrant March 23 at the suspect’s Wayne Township residence. The warrant was obtained based on information that a government facility was a potential target for an explosion. At the home, officers found blasting caps, improvised explosive devices, suppressed weapons, large amount of ammunition and chemical compounds used to

manufacture explosives. They also discovered document and literature describing how to make explosives as well as milling equipment used to make firearm accessories. Another search warrant was executed at the home March 24 with agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, FBI, the Ohio Fire Marshal's Office, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, and the Columbus Bomb Squad, the news release states.

Source: <http://www.wtrf.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=77334>

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Emergency Services Sector

55. *March 29, Associated Press* – (National) **9 militia members charged in police-killing plot.** Nine suspects tied to a Midwest Christian militia that was preparing for the Antichrist were charged with conspiring to kill police officers, then attack a funeral using homemade bombs in the hopes of killing more law enforcement personnel, federal prosecutors said Monday. The Michigan-based group, called Hutaree, planned to use the attack on police as a catalyst for a larger uprising against the government, according to newly unsealed court papers. A U.S. Attorney said agents moved on the group because its members were planning a violent mission sometime in April. Members of the group were charged following FBI raids over the weekend on locations in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. The idea of attacking a police funeral was one of numerous scenarios discussed as ways to go after law enforcement officers, the indictment said. Other scenarios included a fake 911 call to lure an officer to his or her death, or an attack on the family of a police officer. Once other officers gathered for a slain officer's funeral, the group planned to detonate homemade bombs at the funeral, killing more. After such attacks, the group allegedly planned to retreat to "rally points" protected by trip-wired improvised explosive devices for what they expected would become a violent standoff with law enforcement personnel. Eight suspects have been arrested by the FBI, and one more is being sought. The charges against the eight include seditious conspiracy, possessing a firearm during a crime of violence, teaching the use of explosives, and attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hGc00FR9o4OUr36gm80mOpG00ccwD9EOE9I80>

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56. *March 28, MyNorthwest.com* – (Washington) **Riot at King County jail in Seattle.** The King County Jail in downtown Seattle was locked down Sunday afternoon after a reported riot on the 10th floor. A Seattle Police spokeswoman said officers were called after receiving reports of inmates, possibly with weapons, breaking out windows on the north side of the jail. SWAT units responded to the disturbance, while police closed off roads around the building. State Patrol stopped traffic in both directions on I-5 over concerns of escaping inmates. The incident was under control by 3 p.m., less than an

hour after it started. According to KING 5, ambulances responded to the scene, but police did not get any calls regarding injuries or people transported to the hospital.
Source: <http://www.mynorthwest.com/?nid=11&sid=303410>

57. *March 28, Associated Press* – (California) **More SF cases may be dropped in crime lab scandal.** Prosecutors are considering dropping an additional 1,400 cases this week because of a scandal at the police crime lab, a spokesman for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office said. Though no final decision has been made, the additional cases would be come on top of the 500 cases that have already been dropped, a spokesman said. Of those cases, prosecutors plan to refile charges in 300 cases. The police crime lab was closed March 9 following allegations that a longtime technician stole cocaine evidence. She has not been charged. Meanwhile, police officials have acknowledged that other drugs may have been stolen, including the painkiller Oxycontin.
Source:
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gxjNCYUTONPJICWFFnwasASw5-XwD9ENVFK00>

58. *March 26, Daily News of Newport* – (Massachusetts) **Mold evacuates fire station: Amesbury second-floor personnel moved into temporary trailers.** Amesbury, Massachusetts, firefighters were forced to evacuate their School Street Fire Department building on March 25 when toxic black mold was discovered growing along the back walls. The problem will force firefighters to stay in trailers for six months or more, at a cost of at least \$24,000. The fire chief said the significant outcropping of black mold, which workers discovered after investigating a strange, musty odor on the second floor, was found on the rear interior walls of the entire second floor of the building in the wake of last week's heavy rainfall. All workers who formerly occupied that space, including the chief, deputy chief, administrative support and firefighters, were being relocated yesterday afternoon to two mobile units in the Amesbury police station parking lot, next to the fire station. Firefighters work 24-hour shifts, and the second floor is where their kitchen, lounge and facilities are located. Mold remediation company Service Master felt the bloom presented too dangerous a situation for those employees, who will remain in the portable units until the mold problem can be eradicated.
Source: http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news_display/143018875.html

59. *March 25, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **2 police air units hit by lasers.** Two Phoenix, Arizona, police air patrols were recently hit by laser beams. In one incident, the pilot was hit in the eyes. Police said that on March 22 at about 1 a.m., two officers were on air patrol when their aircraft was hit with a green laser from the ground, lighting up the cockpit. The light blurred the vision of the pilot, immediately forcing the officers to land at a nearby elementary school. On March 23, another group of officers in a Phoenix police aircraft were also hit by a laser beam while on air patrol. This time, police were able to locate where the laser beam was coming from and detained a 14-year-old boy and his 13-year-old friend. Police said the 14-year-old boy admitted to pointing the laser beam at the aircraft, knowing it belonged to Phoenix police. The incidents are reminiscent of a similar situation on May 4, 2009, when an Arizona State

University student was arrested for the same crime. Since then, there have been at least 12 incidents involving the use of laser lights that have been pointed at police aircraft.
Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/22946404/detail.html>

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Information Technology Sector

60. *March 29, SC Magazine* – (International) **Could blocking access to webmail save you from insider threat problems, and what are the ethics behind scanning sent emails.** Companies should look to scan webmail activity for malicious activity, data loss and to control the insider threat. According to the chief marketing officer for Proofpoint, email companies should look to scan other email applications, or at least monitor use on it and then choose to block it or not. When asked if this would infringe privacy policies, the chief marketing officer said: “It depends on the organization and its policies, in a financial services company they are trying anything that secures the network. It does have an impact and it depends on the company, as an organization should be comfortable with monitoring, but the rule is do not use it. It is still a requirement to protect confidentiality of information in the organization.” A malware data analyst at Symantec Hosted Services claimed that traditionally, the vast majority of 419 scams are sent from webmail accounts and sending the scam via a webmail adds legitimacy to the mail, makes the email harder for security vendors to block, and helps to hide the identity of the scammers.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/could-blocking-access-to-webmail-save-you-from-insider-threat-problems-and-what-are-the-ethics-behind-scanning-sent-emails/article/166790/>

61. *March 29, The Register* – (International) **Trojan poses as Adobe update utility.** Miscreants have begun creating malware that overwrites software update applications from Adobe and others. Email malware that poses as security updates from trusted companies is a frequently used hacker ruse. Malware posing as update utilities, rather than individual updates, represents a new take on the ruse. Vietnam-based anti-virus firm Bkis said the tactic is a logical follow-on from earlier approaches where viruses replace system-files and startup-program files. The director of Bkis Security writes that the recently detected Fakeupver trojan establishes a backdoor on compromised systems while camouflaging its presence by posing as an Adobe update utility. The malware camouflages itself by using the same icons and version number as the official package.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/29/software_update_trojan/

62. *March 29, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft defends Windows 7 security after Pwn2Own hacks.** Just days after a pair of researchers outwitted major Windows 7 defenses to exploit Internet Explorer (IE) and Firefox, Microsoft said the measures aren’t meant to “prevent every attack forever.” At the same time, it defended the security measures, saying they remained an effective way to hinder exploits. A product manager with IE’s developer division, stood up for DEP (data execution) and ASLR

(address space layout randomization), the security features that two hackers sidestepped to win \$10,000 each at the high-profile Pwn2Own hacking contest on March 24.

“Defense in depth techniques aren’t designed to prevent every attack forever, but to instead make it significantly harder to exploit a vulnerability,” the product manager said, referring to DEP, ASLR and another feature specific to IE, called Protected Mode. DEP, which Microsoft introduced in 2004 with Windows XP SP2, is designed to prevent attack code from executing in memory not intended for code execution. ASLR, a feature that debuted with Windows Vista three years ago, randomly shuffles the positions of key memory areas, such as the stack, to make it more difficult for hackers to predict whether their attack code will run. Protected Mode, a sandbox-like technology in which IE runs with restricted rights, is designed to reduce the ability of attack code to “escape” from the browser to write, alter or delete data elsewhere on the PC.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174309/Microsoft_defends_Windows_7_security_after_Pwn2Own_hacks

63. *March 28, Techworld* – (International) **Beware botnet’s return, security firms warn.** The volume of spam being sent by the notorious Rustock botnet using TLS encryption has surged in recent weeks, establishing an important new trend in botnet behavior, security companies have said. Roughly the week of March 15, Symantec’s MessageLabs division reported noticing large volumes of spam using TLS (Transport Layer Security), an encryption protocol successor to the better-known SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), and normally a way of securing the contents of an email between server and client. At that point, the percentage of spam encrypted by Rustock using TLS was around the 35 percent mark, a figure the company says in its latest Intelligence Report this week has surged to as much as 77 percent of its activity during the month. The challenge is that TLS imposes higher processing demands on mail servers compared to non-TLS traffic, estimated to be around 1 kilobyte overhead for every spam email. Given that most email is now spam, the accumulated overhead on mail servers has the potential to be high whether the messages are detected as spam or not.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/192668/beware_botnets_return_security_firms_warn.html

64. *March 26, The Register* – (International) **World Cup-themed PDF attack kicks off.** Miscreants have booted a World Cup-themed email malware attack onto the web, taking advantage of existing material on the tournament. Booby-trapped emails are doing the rounds, posing as messages from African Safari organizer Greenlife. The emails contain an attached PDF file claiming to provide a guide to the first African edition of football’s most prestigious tournament. In reality, the attachment payload takes advantage of a recently patched Adobe Reader vulnerability (involving the handling of TIFF files and resolved with a patch on 16 February) to drop malware into machines running an unpatched version of Adobe reader. Hackers behind the attack have taken Greenlife’s genuine guide (available on its website) and inserted exploit

code instead of content related to this June's tournament and travel in South Africa. The poisoned version of the guide was sent to an unspecified "major international organization", email filtering outfit MessageLabs reports. The Symantec-owned hosted security operation adds that successful execution of the attack drops a rootlet and a backdoor Trojan on compromised machines.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/26/world_cup_malware/

65. *March 26, The Register* – (International) **Kit attacks Microsoft keyboards (and a whole lot more)**. Security researchers on March 26 unveiled an open-source device that captures the traffic of a wide variety of wireless devices, including keyboards, medical devices, and remote controls. Keykeriki version 2 captures the entire data stream sent between wireless devices using a popular series of chips made by Norway-based Nordic Semiconductor. That includes the device addresses and the raw payload being sent between them. The open-source package was developed by researchers of Switzerland-based Dreamlab Technologies and includes complete software, firmware, and schematics for building the \$100 sniffer. Keykeriki not only allows researchers or attackers to capture the entire layer 2 frames, it also allows them to send their own unauthorized payloads. That means devices that don't encrypt communications - or don't encrypt them properly - can be forced to cough up sensitive communications or be forced to execute rogue commands.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/26/open_source_wireless_sniffer/

66. *March 26, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (International) **iPhone, IE8, Firefox, and Safari easily hacked at Pwn2Own contest**. Hackers gathered for an annual contest in Vancouver demonstrate easy hacking of iPhone and all major browsers; a non-jailbroken iPhone was also hacked and its SMS database stolen; security measures taken by Firefox, Safari, and IE8 no match for hackers. The annual Pwn2Own contest has seen the Apple iPhone and nearly all the major browsers hacked. At the contest, held at the CanSecWest show in Vancouver, interest has so far centered on the revelation of twenty zero-day flaws in Apple's OS X by a security researcher. As attendants wait for his keynote address, the Pwn2Own content gave hackers and security experts a chance to demonstrate their ability and try to breach the security of various devices and software. Reporting from the event, Mashable claimed that Firefox, Safari, and IE8 were hacked at the contest. A non-jailbroken iPhone was also hacked and its SMS database stolen by two researchers, who were able to send an iPhone to a Web site they had set up, crashed its browser, and stole its SMS database — including some erased messages.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/iphone-ie8-firefox-and-safari-easily-hacked-pwn2own-contest>

For more stories, see items [68](#) and [69](#)

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

67. *March 27, V3.co.uk* – (National) **Google sheds new light on broadband plans.** Google has posted an update concerning its planned high-speed fiber broadband network, and will announce the target market for the first tests by the end of the year. The initial trial will cover a group ranging from 50,000 to 500,000 people. The project, announced in February, will provide 1Gbit/s fiber networks in targeted markets as a way of testing open broadband networks. Google will also make its broadband cables open to other service providers. Interest in the project has been high since the announcement, and Google claims that some 600 community groups have expressed interest in participating, as well as more than 190,000 individuals. Google will visit prospective sites and speak with local leaders and community groups before making a final decision later this year.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2260346/google-sheds-light-broadband>

68. *March 26, Network World* – (International) **Yahoo proposes ‘really ugly hack’ to DNS.** Network engineers from Yahoo are pitching what they admit is a “really ugly hack” to the Internet’s Domain Name System, but they say it is necessary for the popular Web content provider to support IPv6, the long-anticipated upgrade to the Internet’s main communications protocol. Major ‘Net players mulling IPv6 “whitelist”
- Yahoo outlined its proposal for changes to DNS recursive name resolvers at a meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) held in California recently. Yahoo says it needs a major change to the DNS — which matches IP addresses with corresponding domain names — in order to provide IPv6 service without inadvertently cutting off access to hundreds of thousands of visitors. Under Yahoo’s proposal, these visitors would continue accessing content via IPv4, the current version of the Internet Protocol. The reason Yahoo is seeking this change to the DNS is that a significant percentage of Internet users have broken IPv6 connectivity.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174230/Yahoo_proposes_really_ugly_hack_to_DNS

69. *March 26, IDG News Service* – (International) **After DNS problem, Chinese root server is shut down.** A China-based root DNS server associated with networking problems in Chile and the U.S. has been disconnected from the Internet. The action by the server’s operator, Netnod, appears to have resolved a problem that was causing some Internet sites to be inadvertently censored by a system set up in the People’s

Republic of China. On March 24, operators at NIC Chile noticed that several ISPs (Internet service providers) were providing faulty DNS information, apparently derived from China. China uses the DNS system to enforce Internet censorship on its so-called Great Firewall of China, and the ISPs were using this incorrect DNS information. That meant that users of the network trying to visit Facebook, Twitter and YouTube were directed to Chinese computers instead. In Chile, ISPs VTR, Telmex and several others — all of them customers of upstream provider Global Crossing — were affected, NIC Chile said in a statement on March 26. The problem, first publicly reported on March 24, appears to have persisted for a few days before it was made public, the statement says. A NIC Chile server in California was also hit with the problem, NIC Chile said. While it's not clear how this server was getting the bad DNS information, it came via either Network Solutions or Equinix, according to NIC Chile.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9174278/After_DNS_problem_Chinese_root_server_is_shut_down

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Commercial Facilities Sector

70. *March 29, Detroit Examiner* – (National) **FBI task force busts members of Christian militia, charges to be revealed today.** At least seven members of the Hutaree, a militant Christian group based in Adrian, were taken into custody by the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force over the weekend. The members, picked up in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, will learn their fate at the US district courthouse in Detroit Monday, when an indictment against them will be unsealed. The task force reportedly became interested in the Hutaree when the fringe group made threats of violence against certain Islamic organizations. The Michigan Militia has taken care to distance itself from the Hutaree. A militia spokesman referred to them as “too extreme or radical for us.” One source claims that among other activities, the members arrested had made pipe bombs for distribution in their respective states.

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-19336-Detroit-Crime-Examiner~y2010m3d29-FBI-task-force-busts-members-of-Christian-militia-charges-to-be-revealed-today>

See item [55](#)

71. *March 28, New York Times* – (New York) **Crane operator's license is suspended.** New York City officials on Sunday suspended the license of a worker who had been operating a 250-foot-high crane before it crashed into a 25-story building in Lower Manhattan, saying he had failed to secure it properly before leaving the site for the day. The operator had held a top-level crane operating license since 2002, said a spokesman for the city Department of Buildings. Investigators said the operator's lapse — he did not lower the boom as far as it could go — contributed to the accident but might not have been the sole cause. They said that they were looking into whether mechanical failure was a factor and that they might issue further citations. The crane's boom slowly listed just after 7 p.m. Saturday, after its crew had left for the day. It landed with a crash against the building, on Maiden Lane, where it had earlier been

hoisting air-conditioning equipment to the roof, and stayed there, leaning across a triangular plaza; work continued overnight and into Sunday morning to remove it. The crane slowly tipped and hit the building's decorative cornice, knocking terra cotta tile and brick to the sidewalk but causing no structural damage, he said. Five nearby buildings were evacuated, and no one was injured.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/29/nyregion/29crane.html>

72. *March 27, Oshkosh Northwestern* – (Wisconsin) **Charges filed in bomb threats.** An Oshkosh, Wisconsin, teen accused of making bomb threats to three downtown buildings in an Internet chat room is now facing criminal charges. A 19-year-old was charged in Winnebago County Circuit Court Friday with three counts of bomb scares, felonies that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years, six months and \$30,000 in fines if he is convicted of all three counts. According to the criminal complaint, the Oshkosh Police Department received information from a teen hotline in California that a user in a chat room said there was a bomb in Oshkosh. An investigation linked the user's IP address to Cheek. When detectives spoke with him he initially denied being involved in the bomb threats, but later admitted he was the one who had made the threats. He told detectives he had accessed the chat room through his PlayStation3 player and the threats targeted the Oshkosh Public Library, City Center and the City Center Hotel. Winnebago's county court commissioner placed him on a signature bond and ordered a competency evaluation be completed before the case proceeds.

Source:

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/article/20100327/OSH0101/3270380/1987/OSHopini on/Charges-filed-in-bomb-threats>

73. *March 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Chicago taxi driver accused of supporting al-Qaeda.** Federal prosecutors have charged a Chicago cab driver with trying to provide funds to al-Qaeda, saying the man planned to send money to a terrorist leader in Pakistan who had said he needed cash to buy explosives. A 56-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen of Pakistani origin, was charged Friday with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. According to the criminal complaint, he also discussed a possible bomb attack on an unspecified U.S. stadium this summer. Speaking with a man identified only as Individual B, he allegedly said bags containing remote-controlled bombs could be placed in the stadium and then, "boom, boom, boom, boom," prosecutors said. A U.S. attorney said there was no imminent danger to the Chicago area. Authorities say the cab driver claimed to have known another man for 15 years and the cab driver came to believe that this other man was receiving orders from al-Qaeda's leader. Prosecutors have said that this other man does in fact maintain close ties with at least one al-Qaeda leader. According to the complaint, the cab driver sent \$950 from a currency exchange in Chicago to "Lala," a name meaning older brother that he used in speaking of the other man. It said the money was sent after the other man after the other man indicated that he needed cash to buy explosives. On March 17, the cab driver accepted \$1,000 from the undercover agent and assured him that the money would be used to purchase weapons and possibly other supplies, the complaint said.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i8cDBcu_QALQpoeOTNk3X0313L9AD9EMS17O0

74. *March 27, Greenville News* – (South Carolina) **Simpsonville strip mall reopens after threat.** No explosives were found at a strip mall late March 26 after a Simpsonville man said he had plastic explosives and an M16 rifle in his pickup parked outside, authorities said. Five businesses in the strip mall were allowed to open back up after the scare in a bustling shopping area. A 50-year-old Simpsonville man in one of the businesses, The Zone Sports Bar and Grill, said he had the materials outside, said a deputy of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Other patrons detained the man, who said he had a military background, and deputies were called to 404 Harrison Bridge Road just after 3 p.m. Authorities searched a white Ford Ranger with a robot and dog and found no explosives or rifle. Employees and patrons were allowed back into all but the bar by about 4:30 p.m. Yellow tape was taken down outside the bar about a half hour later. Deputies were questioning the man.

Source:

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20100327/NEWS/303270009/1071/YOURUPSTATE02/Simpsonville-strip-mall-reopens-after-threat>

75. *March 25, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Tennessee) **Tennessee man sentenced to 183 months in prison for burning Islamic center.** A Senior Judge of the Middle District of Tennessee today sentenced a man to 183 months in prison for vandalizing and burning down the Islamic Center of Columbia, Tennessee, the Justice Department announced. The man pleaded guilty on September 18, 2009, to destruction of religious property and using fire to commit a felony. The 34-year-old man previously admitted to the court that he and two others constructed Molotov cocktail explosive devices, ignited them and used them to destroy the mosque on February 9, 2008. He further admitted that he committed the arson because of the religious character of the property and that he painted swastikas and the phrase "White Power" on the mosque in the course of the arson. One of his co-defendants was sentenced to 171 months for his role in the arson. The other co-defendant pleaded guilty but has not yet been sentenced.

Source: <http://memphis.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/me032510.htm>

For another story, see item [36](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

76. *March 27, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Courthouse fire still burns as Chatham looks to recovery, rebuilding.** Chatham County officials rented cranes March 26 to begin extracting debris from the county's landmark courthouse in Pittsboro, which was destroyed by fire a day earlier. The courthouse's clock tower fell into the building between 1 and 2 a.m., and all the floors collapsed, officials said. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but it appears to have been accidental and started in the attic. The State Bureau of Investigation, the federal Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Chatham County fire officials were investigating. County and town officials held an emergency meeting that morning to discuss what to do with the ravaged town landmark, which was built in 1881 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Structural engineers inspected the building that afternoon to determine whether the brick facade could be salvaged and whether the building was safe enough for firefighters to enter. Officials planned to erect a chain-link fence around the courthouse to keep people away. Old court records, property deeds, and other items, some dating to colonial days, were stored in the courthouse, said a spokesperson for the Chatham County Historical Association. Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/7306330/>

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Dams Sector

77. *March 29, West Virginia MetroNews Network* – (West Virginia) **Halfway there at Bluestone Dam.** The ongoing project to bring the Bluestone Dam up to modern standards is nearing the halfway point in Summers County. Officials have been working on the project for about 10 years and the work is expected to take another 10. The job calls for improving the strength and stability of the facility to insure the future safety. “The risk involves certain conditions or water elevations behind the dam that could be putting more force on the dam than it actually has the strength to resist at this time,” said the project manager of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Bluestone Dam was built decades ago and over the years has outlived a lot of technology and advancement in engineering. Today, designers are working on ways to make the dam stronger and bring it up to modern day standards of stability. Contractors are drilling through the dam’s core and into the bedrock below the structure and anchoring the dam with steel cables. So far 152 such anchors have been placed, how many they’ll wind up installing remains a moving target. She says the work is progressing at a rapid pace and reassures that the threat to the dam is no more than any other structure of its size and age across the United States. The project to strengthen the dam follows an ongoing inspection and evaluation process throughout the Corps projects nationally.

Source:

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=36148>

78. *March 28, KMOX 1120 St. Louis* – (Missouri; Illinois) **Army Corps watching Wood River Levee.** The Mississippi River is under a flood warning at St. Louis, Missouri, and was predicted to be topping out in front of the Arch on Sunday. Only moderate flooding is forecast. Just to the north, though, the Army Corps of Engineers is bringing in heavy equipment to work on the Wood River Levee. It won’t be over-topped but there is concern that water might get in underneath. Plans are to use air compressors to force water out of the reserve wells along the levee. The Corps emphasizes there is no danger the Wood River Levee will break.

Source: <http://www.kmox.com/Army-Corps-watching-Wood-River-Levee/6673901>

79. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. officials to remove unsafe dam.** The State of Massachusetts has hired a contractor to remove a more than 200-year-old dam in Freetown that became unstable during the recent heavy rains. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) said Friday that the Forge River dam poses a serious threat to public safety, requiring emergency action. Some nearby residents voluntarily evacuated during a recent storm when high waters on the Assonet River behind the dam created unsafe conditions. The governor says the state cannot allow downstream communities to remain at risk. DCR will pay a contractor nearly \$190,000 to begin breaching the dam next week. The state says the owner of the earth-filled dam, who died last year, failed to properly maintain the 8-foot-high, 260-foot-long structure.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/03/26/mass_officials_to_remove_unsafe_dam/
80. *March 26, Business & Legal Reports, Inc.* – (National) **Vegetative standards for levees.** Vegetation-free zones are a critical element in the design and construction of earthen levees and floodwalls. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides for variances to allow additional planting on these structures when specific criteria are met. USACE is now proposing to modify the process for requesting such variances for flood damage reduction projects within a USACE program or project authority. Among other benefits, vegetation-free zones for levees and floodwalls ensure open access when damage or emergencies occur and also eliminate seepage paths created by root penetration and/or root decay. The minimum vegetation-free zone dimensions may not be diminished without a formal variance. USACE's new policy guidance letter revises procedures for obtaining variances from vegetation standards for levees, floodwalls, and appurtenant structures as described in Engineer Technical Letter 1110-2-571 — Guidelines for Landscape Planting and Vegetation Management at Levees, Floodwalls, Embankment Dams, and Appurtenant Structures. The policy guidance letter will serve as interim guidance until the new process is incorporated into a USACE engineering publication. The variance must be shown to be necessary and comply with two basic criteria: Preserve, protect, and enhance natural resources and/or protect the rights of Native Americans; Ensure that the safety, structural integrity, and functionality of the levee system are retained and that accessibility for maintenance, inspection, monitoring, and flood fighting are also retained. USACE's proposed revision to the process for requesting a variance from vegetation standards for levees was published in the February 9, 2010, Federal Register.
Source: <http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/water/CWA-SDWA-water-regulations/Vegetative-Standards-for-Levees/>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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