



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 November 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Reuters reports that commercial aircraft manufacturers and airlines must take new steps to protect thousands of jets from serious structural fatigue and cracking as they age, according to a rule finalized November 12 by the Federal Aviation Administration. (See item [17](#))
- A Florida man was jailed on charges of tampering with a public drinking water system after he got inside a treatment plant, put on a hazardous material suit, and turned off some power switches and a backup generator, according to the Associated Press. (See item [37](#))

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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>]

- November 15, Bloomberg** – (International) **Exxon Mobil says offshore platform in Nigeria attacked.** Exxon Mobil Corp.'s Nigerian unit said armed attackers boarded one of its offshore platforms on the country's southeast coast November amid increasing violence in the oil-rich region. "Relevant government and security agencies have been informed and appropriate response measures are underway," the company said in an e-mailed statement. The southern Niger River delta, home to Nigeria's oil

and gas industry, has seen a new surge of violence since a government amnesty in 2009 led to the disarming of thousands of fighters and a period of relative quiet. Attacks by armed groups cut Nigeria's oil output by more than 28 percent between 2006 and 2009, according to Bloomberg data. An armed group, which identified itself as the Niger Delta Liberation Force, said in an e-mailed statement to reporters it was "no longer part of the fraudulent amnesty" and will target oil installations in fresh attacks. "This time, we will operate on both land and sea," the group said. "Oil installations are our target." Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil producer and the fifth-biggest source of U.S. oil imports. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-11-15/exxon-mobil-says-offshore-platform-in-nigeria-attacked.html>

2. *November 15, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Old pipelines are a hidden menace.** According to a Houston Chronicle investigation, more than half of the major natural gas transmission lines in Texas were laid more than 40 years ago and now are vulnerable to failure. In Texas alone, more than 25,000 of nearly 46,000 miles of transmission pipe are older than 1970, some dating to the Great Depression, according to federal records. Federal regulators warned companies more than 20 years ago to reconsider the use of all pipelines built with lower-quality welding techniques that were widely employed in pipe factories prior to 1970, documents show. Also a potential problem is some aged protective coating on pipes that actually can make them more vulnerable to corrosion, according to some pipeline experts. Texas experienced at least two accidents in the past 5 years where pipeline age appears to have been a factor, according to federal records. Experts said several types of coating on old pipe — including asphalt — are vulnerable to failure. With newer pipe, the industry relies on a superior fusion-bonded epoxy coating, among other improvements. Congress began imposing federal construction standards on new natural gas pipelines in 1968, resulting in major improvements in welds, coatings and pipeline inspection techniques. But the old pipe remained in the ground. Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/front/7294570.html>
3. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Most power restored from weekend outages.** Power has been restored to most of the 200,000 Xcel Energy customers who lost service in the Minneapolis, Minnesota-area due to a snowstorm November 13 and 14. Utility crews worked around the clock to restore power knocked out by high winds, wet snow and falling tree branches. An Xcel spokesman said about 10,000 customers were still without power November 15. Connexus Energy powers seven Minnesota counties, including Anoka. Some 14,000 Connexus customers lost service at the height of the storm. A Connexus spokesman told KARE-TV the company brought in additional crews from northern Minnesota who worked around the clock. Snowfall amounts varied. Eleven inches fell at Eden Prairie, nearly 8 inches at the main airport, and about 3 or 4 inches in Hastings. Source: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/40863/group/Weather/>
4. *November 15, Fort Myers New-Press* – (Florida) **Fort Myers gas explosion: Five more days of no gas.** TECO Peoples Gas workers hope to have natural gas service restored to all business and residential customers in Lee and Collier counties in Florida

by November 19, a spokesman said November 14. An estimated 1,000 had been reconnected as of November 15 with about 6,200 to go, a TECO spokesman said. Those customers have been without natural gas since November 11, when a digging machine on a road project cut into an unmarked natural gas line on Colonial Boulevard near State Road 82 in Fort Myers. The accident caused a fiery explosion that knocked out gas service and has cost area restaurants weekend business that could mount into the millions of dollars.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20101115/NEWS01/101114033/Fort-Myers-gas-explosion-Five-more-days-of-no-gas>

5. *November 15, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Met-Ed: Man burned, triggers power outage while allegedly stealing copper wire.** A man was severely burned when he tried to steal copper wiring from a Met-Ed substation in Spring Garden Township, Pennsylvania November 14, according to a company spokesman. The man's meddling triggered an outage where 3,000 customers lost power for nearly 4 hours, said a spokesman for Reading-based First Energy, the parent company of Met-Ed. Just after 9 p.m., the man gained access to the fenced-in facility and "was removing copper wiring from our equipment ... All I can say is that the individual was severely burned," the spokesman said. The Spring Garden Township police chief said officers are investigating the theft at the substation at 1700 Mount Rose Avenue. "We do have a person of interest, and the investigation is ongoing," he said. When asked how the man was able to gain access, the spokesman said only that all of the company's substations are enclosed with fences and signs that clearly state to not enter. All customers had power restored by 12:40 a.m., he said.

Source: http://www.ydr.com/ci_16617589

6. *November 14, Stockton Record* – (California) **PG&E probes substation blaze.** Officials with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) November 13 were investigating the cause of a fire that left thousands of Stockton, California residents and businesses without power overnight November 12. A utility spokesman said 13,000 customers were affected by the outage caused when a fire started at the Hammer substation, on the north side of Hammer Lane just east of Lower Sacramento Road. About half of affected customers — in an area bordered by Eight Mile Road on the north, Alexandria Place on the west, March Lane on the south, and Tam O'Shanter on the east — saw power restored between 10:30 p.m. and midnight. Power was fully restored by about 2:30 a.m. November 13. Witnesses reported hearing a loud boom about 8:25 p.m. November 12. They then saw flames coming from the substation. A fire department official said a regulator caught fire and eventually burned itself out.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101114/A_NEWS/11140325/-1/NEWSMAP

7. *November 14, Bloomberg* – (Mississippi) **Chevron Pascagoula plant leaked hydrogen sulfide, NRC reports.** Chevron Corp.'s Pascagoula, Mississippi, refinery leaked 180 pounds of hydrogen sulfide from a process line November 14, according to a report made to the National Response Center. The refinery has a capacity of 360,000

barrels per day, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The plant can produce 130,000 barrels of gasoline, 50,000 barrels of jet fuel and 68,000 barrels of diesel fuel daily, according to the company's Web site. The refinery ships about 65 percent of its products by water. Thirty percent move by pipeline to Collins, Mississippi, where the line connects to two major pipeline systems. U.S. refineries must notify the center if they release hazardous substances in excess of reportable quantities, according to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, commonly known as the Superfund.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-14/chevron-pascagoula-plant-leaked-hydrogen-sulfide-nrc-reports.html>

8. *November 13, KENS 5 San Antonio* – (Texas) **AGE slapped with thousands in fines after San Antonio explosion.** The AGE refinery has been slapped with more than \$12,000 in fines for violations related to a San Antonio, Texas explosion. That happened back in May 2010 after a tanker truck exploded while taking on fuel at the refinery's filling station. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) said the company did not follow industry standards for loading a fuel truck, did not eliminate ignition sources, and did not place the fuel loading rack far enough away from the plant's buildings.

Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/business/AGE-slapped-with-thousands-in-fines-after-SA-explosion-107651123.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

9. *November 15, WSBT 22 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Blast linked to chemicals.** Multiple fire departments were called November 14 to fight a blaze in Bremen, Indiana, that also shut down traffic. The industrial fire in the Marshall County community kept several departments busy as small vats of chemicals exploded at Standard Glass Co. in the 400 block of North Bowen Street. The fire broke out about 1 p.m. in a storage area by the main plant. Witnesses said flames were shooting out the building's front door. Officials called the Nappanee and LaPaz fire departments for assistance. They said they were concerned the chemicals would emit dangerous vapors. Some of the vats exploded in the blaze. The Bremen Fire Department chief said precautions were taken with air packs, to battle the fire and the chemicals. "There were several small vats of different chemicals," he said. "I don't believe anything real toxic; they were fiberglass. We had probably three or four small explosions, nothing large."

Source:

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20101115/News01/101119706/1011/News>

10. *November 12, KSTP 5 St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **Chemical released when semi overturned in Southern Minn.** A semi truck carrying two chemical tanks overturned in Kilkenney, Minnesota, releasing ammonia into the air. According to the LeSueue County Sheriff's Department, just before 12 p.m. November 12, a truck carrying anhydrous ammonia overturned on 420th State Route. Deputies report one of the tank's

valves opened during the accident and released the chemical. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue was on the scene for clean up. There were no injuries reported.

Source: <http://kstp.com/article/stories/s1836485.shtml>

For more stories, see items [7](#), [18](#), and [34](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

11. *November 15, ComputerWorld* – (International) **New Stuxnet clues suggest sabotage of Iran’s uranium enrichment program.** Researchers have uncovered new clues the Stuxnet worm may have been created to sabotage Iranian attempts to turn uranium into atomic bomb-grade fuel. According to one of the three Symantec researchers who have dug into Stuxnet, the worm targets industrial systems that control very high speed electrical motors, such as those used to spin gas centrifuges, one of the ways uranium can be enriched into fissionable material. One expert called Symantec’s discovery “very interesting indeed.” The researcher reported Symantec’s new findings in a blog post November 12, and in a revised paper first published in September. Stuxnet, considered by many security researchers to be the most sophisticated malware ever, targeted Windows PCs that managed large-scale industrial-control systems in manufacturing and utility companies. Those control systems, called SCADA, for “supervisory control and data acquisition,” operate everything from power plants and factory machinery to oil pipelines and military installations. Since the worm was first detected in June, researchers have come to believe it was crafted by a state-sponsored team of programmers, and designed to cripple Iran’s nuclear program. In September, Iran officials confirmed Stuxnet infected 30,000 PCs in the country, but have denied the worm had caused any significant damage or infiltrated the SCADA systems at the Bushehr nuclear reactor. Symantec’s latest analysis indicated the reactor was not the target. Instead, Stuxnet aimed to disrupt uranium enrichment efforts.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9196458/New_Stuxnet_clues_suggest_sabotage_of_Iran_s_uranium_enrichment_program

12. *November 13, Newport News Daily Press* – (Virginia; National) **Nuclear waste piles up in Virginia.** Inside the Surry Power Station in Surry, Virginia, on a concrete pad the size of a football field, is nearly 1.9 million pounds of radioactive nuclear waste. Encased in concrete casks and no immediate public health threat, the waste is a by-product of nearly 4 decades of atomic energy-making at Virginia’s oldest nuclear power plant. It should not be there. The Department of Energy (DOE) agreed decades ago to build a permanent nuclear waste repository. It has not. As a result, roughly 138 million pounds of spent commercial nuclear fuel sits at temporary sites — such as Surry — across the nation, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute. The growing stockpile is alarming to environmental advocates who worry about long-term management of the waste and its potential ill effects. Some view it as a threat to national security. And it concerns nuclear power enthusiasts, who say a permanent

storage site is needed to build new power plants. DOE is required under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to build a permanent storage site for spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste. In 1987, Congress designated a site: Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The plan was to begin transporting waste there in 1998. That never happened. Instead, Nevada officials fought the move and, in 2009, the President eliminated funding for the project. The President, who supports the expansion of nuclear power, created a blue-ribbon panel to develop alternatives to Yucca Mountain. The panel is scheduled to issue a report in 2012. Utilities, meanwhile, are required under the 1982 legislation to continue storing nuclear waste on-site. In Virginia, that duty falls largely to Dominion Resources, which owns the Surry plant and a majority of state's other nuclear plant, North Anna Power Station, located roughly 45 miles northwest of Richmond. Together, Surry and North Anna hold more than 5.2 million pounds of spent uranium.
Source: http://articles.dailypress.com/2010-11-13/news/dp-nws-cp-nuclear-waste-20101113_1_casks-nuclear-waste-policy-act-storage-site

13. *November 13, Syracuse Post-Standard* – (New York) **Inspections at Nine Mile 2, FitzPatrick find issues at Oswego County nuclear plants.** Recent security inspections found some problems with Nine Mile Nuclear Station Unit 2 and the FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant near Oswego, New York the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. At Nine Mile 2, the occupational radiological safety inspection found two findings, both related to radiation exposures experienced by workers during a refueling and maintenance outage last April. Both findings stemmed from a failure to appropriately plan and coordinate outage activities. The deficiencies led to a radiation exposure deemed a “very low safety significance,” said an NRC spokesman. An official speaking for Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, which owns Nine Mile 2, said the company “took immediate action” when the problems were identified. At FitzPatrick, a security inspection found a problem “of low to moderate safety significance,” the NRC spokesman said. He said he could not describe the issue because it related to plant security. But he said the plant will receive additional inspections from the NRC. A spokeswoman speaking for FitzPatrick’s owner Entergy said the security issue was identified by FitzPatrick officials. “We reached out to the NRC upon identifying the issue and took immediate action to correct it,” she said. There was no reoccurrence of the issue and “the NRC gave us positive comments when they left” after the inspection. She also said at no time was the safety or health of the public or FitzPatrick employees in jeopardy. The NRC spokesman agreed that FitzPatrick officials corrected the problem there sufficiently before inspectors left the plant.

Source:

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/security_inspections_at_nine_m.html

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

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

14. *November 13, LancasterOnline* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire damages Mount Joy foundry.** A fire caused \$70,000 damage to a foundry in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania November 13. Heavy smoke was coming from the Donsco foundry at 100 S. Jacob St. when the first of about 35 firefighters arrived shortly after 1:30 a.m., said the assistant fire chief at Fire Department Mount Joy. Workers in the foundry evacuated the building before firefighters arrived. The fire likely started near where maintenance workers were repairing a garage door in the manufacturing area of the building. “I believe some sparks got on some cardboard and ignited,” he said. The fire burned cardboard and foam materials in the building and extended quickly to a wall and the roof. Damage was estimated at \$70,000. Foundry employees resumed work before firefighters left, which was at about 4 a.m. Fire Department Mount Joy was assisted by Rheems, Maytown, Susquehanna, Columbia No. 1, and Elizabethtown fire companies, as well as Susquehanna Valley EMS and Mount Joy Borough police.
Source: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/312124>
15. *November 13, SpeedLux.com* – (International) **Mercedes-Benz issues recall of vehicles suspected to have fuel spillage problems.** Mercedes Benz officially issued a recall involving a number of vehicles that include the 2011 models of the E-Class, M-Class, R-Class, and GL-Class. The company suggested that the reason is due to defective fuel filters. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration cited the O-ring. It noted it might not have been installed properly or there might be some problem in the lubrication of the O-ring. This could lead to spillage of fuel on roads, and ultimately dangerous driving conditions for all motorists. So Mercedes recalled all vehicles that might have the problematic filters. According to internal sources and trustworthy reports, Mercedes estimated that about 2,300 vehicles have defective filters. This recall is expected to begin a little later this month. Mercedes also reported that all the affected vehicles will go to their respective dealerships, and all the problems will be fixed.
Source: <http://www.speedlux.com/mercedes-benz-issues-recall-vehicles-suspected-fuel-spillage-problems/>
16. *November 12, Aviation Week* – (International) **A321 control issues prompt fault warning.** Airbus is warning operators of A320 family aircraft about the potential for an electrical fault to cause display failures as well as uncommanded rudder trim movement and control difficulties after an incident involving a BMI A321 in August. The Airbus A321 was over northern Sudan during a night-flight from Khartoum to Beirut August 24 when the incident happened. According to a bulletin issued by the U.K. Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), an electrical fault led to display and control problems. These included the intermittent failure of both pilots’ electronic displays, and the uncommanded application of left rudder trim. The AAIB said the crew also reported the aircraft did not seem to respond as expected to control inputs and “shuddered and jolted repeatedly.” It added that as a result of the uncommanded rudder trim, the Airbus adopted a left-wing-low attitude and deviated left of track. The cockpit lights also switched off and on intermittently. The crew also reported hearing “chattering” from the circuit breaker panels. During the incident, the crew flew the A321 manually, referring to the standby instruments which continued to function

normally. The problem was rectified after the crew switched off the No. 1 generator in response to a fault message on the Airbus's ECAM warning display, the AAIB said. It said Airbus noted a reset of the Flight Augmentation Computer, caused by an electrical power interruption, can result in incremental offsets in rudder trim. The AAIB is continuing to probe the incident with Airbus and France's BEA investigation agency.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/awx/2010/11/12/awx_11_12_2010_p0-269169.xml&headline=A321 Control Issues Prompt Fault Warning &channel=mro](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/awx/2010/11/12/awx_11_12_2010_p0-269169.xml&headline=A321%20Control%20Issues%20Prompt%20Fault%20Warning&channel=mro)

17. *November 12, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. orders new safety steps on aging aircraft.** Commercial aircraft manufacturers and airlines must take new steps to protect thousands of jets from serious structural fatigue as they age, according to a rule finalized November 12 by U.S. aviation regulators. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requiring manufacturers, such as industry leaders Boeing Co. and Airbus, a unit of Europe's EADS, and airlines to intensify and streamline inspections of the metallic skeleton and skin of aircraft. The FAA estimated compliance costs for the industry at \$3.6 million. The regulation has been in the works for years and pulls together related rules and directives issued by the agency on fatigue cracking, which is mainly caused by repeated changes in pressurization during flight. More than 4,100 planes registered to fly in the United States are affected by the new rule. Structural fatigue and questions about FAA oversight have arisen in a handful of incidents in recent years. The FAA said it is working with European safety officials to harmonize regulations. European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is currently working on its own fatigue directive. At issue are tiny cracks, some of them visible, that often form on a plane as it ages. Individually, the cracks are of little concern. But they can weaken an aircraft's structure if permitted to spread and link with other cracks. Fatigue is understood up to a point, the FAA said in raising concern about operating jets beyond a certain age. Many planes are in service for two decades or more, and current inspection methods do not reliably catch all cracks. Manufacturers have between 18 and 60 months to comply with the new FAA rule, depending on the plane involved. Airlines then have another 30 to 72 months to incorporate the changes into their inspection routines.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AB3V020101112>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

18. *November 15, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Crews douse chemical fire inside Sohier Road business.** Firefighters in Beverly, Massachusetts, responding to a Sohier Road business November 14 found a chemical tank smoldering next to a 55-gallon drum of hazardous materials that included a chemical with small amounts of cyanide. "At no time was there any significant threat to the public," said a statement from the fire department, which responded to Communications and Power Industries at 10:03

a.m. The company provides microwave, radio frequency, power and control solutions for critical defense, communications, medical, scientific and other applications. Crews put out the fire with a dry chemical fire extinguisher. They noticed the container was damaged and left the building, the deputy fire chief said. The chemical has the commercial name of Alumseal 2000. It is used in aluminum plating and is a cyanide-based zincate. Two of the chemicals involved were sodium hydroxide and sodium cyanide in small amounts. Once crews knew what was in the breached container, they requested help from the District 6 state hazardous materials team. Workers at the business then donned protective gear and cleaned up the substance. Firefighters and fire investigators found the fire confined to a single container and the adjacent storage drum. They said the blaze was caused by a malfunctioning heater in the tank. The sprinkler system prevented the spread of the fire, but could not completely extinguish it.

Source: <http://www.salemnews.com/local/x967715402/Crews-douse-chemical-fire-inside-Sohier-Road-business>

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Banking and Finance Sector

19. *November 15, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (National) **ATM outage: More hype than hack.** The ATM and online banking outage that allegedly struck several of the nation's top financial institutions, including Bank of America (BoFA), Chase, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, Compass, USAA, SunTrust, Chase, Fairwinds Credit Union, American Express, BB&T on the East Coast, and PNC, over the weekend of November 6, may have been more hype than reality. A spokeswoman for BoFA, the country's largest bank, with \$2.36 trillion in assets, said none of the bank's systems were affected by malware, as was suggested as a possible reason for the outage, and that only "very minor systems issues" adversely affected deposits and withdrawals for a few customers. The chief information officer of Fairwinds Credit Union, a \$1.5 billion institution serving central Florida, calls reports of the massive ATM and online outage "ridiculous." "Nothing happened here," he said. "This is complete fiction, and I'm trying to figure out where it started."

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3096

20. *November 15, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (Florida) **AML whistleblower sues bank.** In a case alleging money laundering violations and discrimination, a Miami, Florida bank officer has filed suit against Ocean Bank, a \$3.9 billion institution, claiming she was fired after reporting suspicious banking activity. Two law firms representing her filed a complaint against Ocean Bank and issued a statement detailing the client's claims. The former bank employee had been employed as a private banking officer at the bank for more than 25 years, but said after a new bank president arrived from Venezuela, he began showing favoritism toward employees of Venezuelan descent and fired her in 2009 after she reported suspicious bank transactions involving a wealthy Venezuelan customer who was a close friend of the president. The complaint is pending now before

the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in Miami.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3099

21. *November 13, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (National) **3 banks closed on November 12.** Federal and state banking regulators closed three banks November 12. These failures raise the total number of failed institutions to 168 so far in 2010. These are the latest closures: Tifton Banking Company, Tifton, Georgia, Darby Bank & Trust Co., Vidalia, Georgia, were closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was appointed receiver. Ameris Bank, Moultrie, Georgia will acquire the banking operations including all the deposits of the two failed banks, which were not affiliated with each other. The branches of the two closed institutions will reopen as branches of Ameris Bank. Tifton Banking Company had assets of \$143.7 million, and Darby Bank & Trust Co. had total assets of \$654.7 million. The estimated cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) will be \$24.6 million for Tifton Banking Company, and \$136.2 million for Darby Bank & Trust Co. Copper Star Bank, Scottsdale, Arizona, was closed by the superintendent of the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions. The FDIC was appointed receiver. The FDIC arranged for Stearns Bank National Association, St. Cloud, Minnesota, to assume all of the deposits of Copper Star Bank. The three branches of Copper Star Bank will reopen as branches of Stearns Bank N.A. Copper Star Bank had \$204 million in assets. The estimated cost to the DIF will be \$43.6 million.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3098

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Transportation Sector

22. *November 15, KOKI 23 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **All lanes of I-44 now open after semi fire.** The westbound lanes of I-44 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, were shut down for about 9 hours after a semi caught fire November 15, but they have since reopened. The semi carrying frozen chickens was headed westbound on I-44 just before 4 a.m. when it got a flat tire causing the truck to strike a concrete barrier on the Yale Avenue overpass. That is when one of the fuel tanks burst into flames. All lanes of I-44 were shut down for awhile, and westbound traffic was diverted for about 9 hours.

Source: <http://www.fox23.com/mostpopular/story/Tanker-Fire-Shuts-Down-Westbound-I-44/5cIH77woBECw0Jof5QcwYw.csp>

23. *November 15, New York Post* – (Colorado) **At least 20 injured in 40-car pileup on Colorado highway.** At least 20 people were injured November 15 in a 40-car pileup on a Colorado highway, KUSA-TV in Denver, Colorado reported. Interstate 25 was closed in the northbound direction while authorities responded to the collision near Larkspur, Colorado, about 40 miles south of Denver, Colorado. Twenty people were transported to local hospitals following the 8:45 a.m. local time crash, the report said. Authorities estimated 40 vehicles were involved in the collision, including five semi-trucks.

Source:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/at_least_injured_in_car_pileup_on_IgPQVTTvq0ZVm0TD88wRaO

24. *November 14, CNN* – (International) **Qantas flight makes emergency landing.** A Qantas Airways flight carrying 199 passengers was forced to turn back to Sydney, Australia, November 15 because of a technical problem, the airline said. Specifics of the Boeing 747's technical problem were not immediately clear, a Qantas spokesman said. The flight was bound for Argentina. The flight landed without incident and everyone aboard the aircraft was fine, Qantas said. Early this month, Australia's national airline grounded its Airbus A380 fleet after part of a plane's engine cover fell off in flight. One of the four engines on the airliner shut down 6 minutes after takeoff from Singapore's Changi Airport. The Sydney-bound flight — with 440 passengers and 26 crew members aboard — returned to Changi.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/11/14/australia.qantas.emergency.landing/index.html?hpt=T2>
25. *November 14, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (Ohio) **Locomotive fire in Lockland.** Firefighters from three departments battled a Norfolk Southern train fire that broke out about 5:30 a.m. November 14. Lockland, Wyoming, and Woodlawn, Ohio, fire departments responded to the fire on tracks near the intersection of Durrell and South Grove avenues on the Lockland and Wyoming border. They found a compartment fire in the lead engine of the 80-plus-car freight train. The engine carried 2,300 gallons of diesel, but it did not ignite, the Lockland fire captain said. A car containing hazardous materials at the rear of the train was not affected. The engineer and conductor were able to get off the train without injury, he said. Several intersections in the area remained blocked at 1 p.m. November 14 while crews waited for a train crane to move the engine. Firefighters are still investigating the cause of the fire.
Source: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20101114/NEWS01/11150323/Locomotive-fire-in-Lockland>
26. *November 14, KTHV 11 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Train derailment in Little Rock.** Emergency personnel from Little Rock, Arkansas, police and fire departments are on the scene of a train derailment near Central High School. Emergency crews were dispatched just after 10 a.m. November 14 after a report of several box cars coming off the tracks and flipping over near 16th and Jones Street. Union Pacific officials are on the scene investigating a possible cause. No injuries have been reported, and the box cars do not contain any hazardous materials.
Source: <http://www.todaysthv.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=127705&catid=2>
27. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Minnesota; Wisconsin) **Minnesota blizzard 2010 causes 400 crashes.** Parts of the Upper Midwest dug out from a heavy snowfall November 13 that caused more than 400 traffic accidents in Minnesota, and wintry conditions also were being blamed for a collision in northern Wisconsin that killed two people. Nearly 1 foot of snow had fallen in parts of the Twin Cities area by the evening of November 13, downing trees and causing sporadic power outages. The Minnesota

State Patrol responded to 401 crashes as of 4 p.m., with 45 of them involving minor injuries, a patrol captain said. There were no other immediate reports of fatalities or major injuries. The storm dumped 11 inches of snow in parts of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and 10 inches in the Forest Lake and Mankato areas, a federal meteorologist in Minneapolis said.

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/13/minnesota-blizzard-2010-n_783195.html

28. *November 12, KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids* – (Iowa) **Three locomotives off the tracks by General Mills.** Three Union Pacific locomotives derailed south of General Mills in southwest Cedar Rapids, Iowa around 6 p.m. November 12. Firefighters were notified of the derailment and arrived on the scene to find diesel fuel leaking out of the first locomotive. The locomotive was leaning off of the railroad tracks, but had not fallen on its side. The other two locomotives were upright, but off of the railroad tracks. Approximately 1,000 to 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel leaked out of the fill cap of the first locomotive and accumulated in a natural ditch between two sets of railroad tracks. Firefighters were able to prevent the diesel from entering a nearby storm sewer. The engineer in the locomotive was not injured. Initial reports indicated the train was in the process of a switching procedure to increase the size of the train, including the locomotives and rail-cars. The fire department notified an area environmental services agency to vacuum up the spilled diesel fuel. A side-boom company from Des Moines, Iowa, was notified by railroad supervisors to respond to the scene to upright the first locomotive and place the remaining two locomotives back on the rail tracks.
- Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Three-Locomotives-off-the-tracks-by-General-Mills-107599558.html>

For another story, see item [17](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

29. *November 15, WMTW 8 Poland Spring* – (Maine) **Teen pleads guilty to mailbox bombings.** A Westbrook, Maine teen pleaded guilty November 15 to four of nine counts of criminal use of explosives. The 18-year-old male had originally pleaded not guilty to making chemical bombs and setting them off in Windham last spring. No one was hurt in the bombings, but a couple of mailboxes were damaged. Police said the teen and two other minors combined toilet bowl cleaner and aluminum foil in water bottles to make the explosives. The teen was sentenced to 2 years in jail with all but 5 months suspended, and 4 years probation.
- Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/r/25796100/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *November 14, Associated Press* – (National) **USDA recalls turkey products.** New Braunfels Smokehouse of New Braunfels, Texas, has recalled 2,609 pounds of fully cooked, ready-to-eat smoked turkey breast products November 14 because of possible contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. The following products are subject to recall: 1-pound packages of “New Braunfels Smokehouse Sliced Smoked Turkey” with package code “2210” on the label; 4- to 6-pound packages of “New Braunfels Honey-Glazed Spiral Sliced Smokehouse Hickory Smoked Boneless Breast of Turkey” with package code “2180” on the label, packages of “Stegall Boneless Hickory Smoked Turkey Breast” with package code “2210” on the label, and packages of “Stegall Spiral Sliced Hickory Smoked Turkey Breast” with package codes “2180” or “2210” on the label.
Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_f3f10fe6-f066-11df-a435-001cc4c03286.html
31. *November 14, Food Poison Journal* – (National) **37 confirmed illnesses in cheese e coli outbreak; Arizona continues to be hardest hit.** Thirty-seven people have now reported ill in five states in the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak linked to Bravo Farms gouda cheese. Illnesses in the cheese *E. coli* outbreak have occurred in 5 states, with Arizona having most ill people at 19 cases. California has 3, Colorado 10, New Mexico 3, and Nevada 2. The outbreak has caused one case of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), and no reported deaths. Laboratory testing conducted on two opened packages of Bravo Farms Dutch Style Gouda Cheese purchased at Costco from two different case patient’s homes has identified *E. coli* O157:H7 matching the outbreak strain. Preliminary laboratory testing conducted on a unopened (intact) package of Bravo Farms Dutch Style Gouda Cheese obtained from a Costco retail location has identified *E. coli* O157:H7. Preliminary laboratory testing conducted on two additional opened packages of Bravo Farms Dutch Style Gouda Cheese purchased at Costco from two other case patient’s homes has indicated the presence of *E. coli* O157:H7.
Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/11/articles/foodborne-illness-outbreaks/37-confirmed-illnesses-in-cheese-e-coli-outbreak-arizona-continues-to-be-hardest-hit/>
32. *November 13, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Leak at Hermitage eatery sends 14 to hospitals.** At least 14 people were taken to hospitals in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, after being overcome by carbon monoxide November 12 in the Golden Corral restaurant in Hermitage. The Golden Corral’s senior vice president of corporate operations said there were about 70 customers in the restaurant when the leak occurred. County emergency dispatchers said the first report of trouble occurred at 1:30 p.m. when firefighters and paramedics were dispatched to the restaurant along Route 18. Preliminary indications were that only a few people were taken to the hospital, but an hour later, hospital officials called to say a number of patients were in their emergency rooms, dispatchers said. The restaurant will remain closed until the cause of the leak is found and the necessary repairs are made.
Source: http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/Wire_News_Display.1302904955.html

33. *November 12, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **Fire damages 1,000 hay bales on McPherson County farm.** Fire damaged about 1,000 round hay bales on a McPherson County, South Dakota, farm. No one was hurt, but firefighters in shifts spent November 10 and 11 controlling the blaze at the farm southwest of Long Lake to keep it from spreading to buildings. The sheriff told the Aberdeen American News it appears some of the hay got hot and ignited when it was being moved to the farm.
Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_4da6e5ac-ee81-11df-8cc0-001cc4c002e0.html
34. *November 12, Trenton Trentonian* – (New Jersey) **Vapor cloud clears out ShopRite market in Ewing.** A vapor cloud of refrigerant spewing from a broken pipe forced authorities to evacuate the ShopRite supermarket in Ewing, New Jersey, the night of November 11, but the store was allowed to reopen about an hour later after the leak was stopped, fire officials said. It was shortly before 7 p.m. when a pipe supplying freon to the store's network of refrigerators and freezers broke inside a mechanical room on the top floor of a two-story employees-only section located at the rear of the store in the 1700 block of North Olden Avenue, according to the Prospect Heights Fire Co. chief. The leaking freon gas set off the supermarket's fire alarm system and an off-duty Ewing police officer who was working as a store security guard immediately helped evacuate patrons and employees from the building. Prospect Heights firefighters and the store's manager were able to safely access a valve for the refrigeration system and shut off the leak. The Trenton Fire Department's hazardous materials task force was called in to check the air quality in the building and make sure there were no other hazards.
Source:
<http://www.trentonian.com/articles/2010/11/12/news/doc4cde12cb91bb7436073538.txt>
35. *November 11, Reuters* – (Arizona; International) **Arizona bans Mexico produce checks.** Arizona has banned produce inspections by its agriculture department in Mexico over fears that escalating drug violence there could put inspectors lives at risk, authorities said November 11. The Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) said it took the decision earlier in November not to send inspectors to northern Sonora state to check fruit and vegetable quality prior to import, citing fears of surging drug violence there. "The biggest reason was violence over the border," an ADA spokeswoman said of the decision not to send up to 20 inspectors to check produce at warehouses in Sonora. "They drive miles south of the border into Mexico where ... you read stories of innocent bystanders caught in the cross-fire, and it's not worth the risk to have our people put in the danger zone," she added. The change will have no immediate impact as no inspectors are currently in Mexico, while future inspections will be carried out north of the border, she said. The ban comes as exploding drug violence in Mexico has claimed more than 31,000 lives since Mexico's president took office in late 2006 and sent the military to crush the powerful cartels.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AA5I620101111>

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [22](#)

Water Sector

36. *November 15, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Atomic leak alarms Latham water officials.** After radioactivity from the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in New York spilled into the Mohawk River above drinking water intakes for tens of thousands of Colonie residents, no one from Knolls, the federal government or the state warned town officials. “We learned about the leak when we read about it in the newspaper,” the Latham Water District superintendent said November 12. Officials in the city of Cohoes, which also relies on the Mohawk River for drinking water further downriver from Latham, also did not receive warnings about the October 25 leak, with state officials maintaining the amount of radiation was too small to present a health risk. The superintendent and Knolls officials, who have warned Latham water officials about past discharges into the river, blamed the lack of a heads-up this time on the U.S. Energy Department, which is running demolition and cleanup of tainted Cold War-era atomic research buildings at Knolls in Niskayuna. Warnings about leaks at Knolls allow officials in the Latham Water District, which serves about 80,000 residential customers, a chance to switch its water supply from the Mohawk to a series of wells. The drinking water intakes are about 1.5 miles downriver from Knolls. Heavy rains caused about 630 gallons of drainage water from around a building under demolition to spill into the river after an electric pump failed for about 3 hours. The water contained small amount of Cesium-137, Strontium-90, uranium, and plutonium. Officials at the state department of environmental conservation and health department repeated November 12 that the amount of radioactivity was too small to pose a public health risk. But Latham water officials, who routinely test the river for background radiation levels, are still awaiting test results from the time around the spill.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Atomic-leak-alarms-Latham-water-officials-810974.php>

37. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Man accused of water tampering after strange acts.** A Florida man was jailed on charges of tampering with a public drinking water system. The FBI said the man climbed a fence on November 1 at the city of Hollywood water treatment plant. He allegedly took off all his clothes and then turned off some power switches in a control room. Then, the FBI said he put on a hazardous materials suit and turned off more switches and a backup generator. That is when plant personnel stopped him, halting a potentially hazardous situation. Police said the man gave a false name when he was arrested. Court records do not indicate why the man may have done this. At a court hearing November 12, he was given until November 15 to get an attorney and a bail hearing was set for November 17.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ggLo9VoP77SS-Gq0OLctFYGuO9uA?docId=783ed98d04c04318a1173cf98629c8dd>

38. *November 14, Dalles Chronicle* – (Oregon) **Sewer plant operators grapple with equipment failure issues.** A screen system used to remove debris from the sewage stream at The Dalles, Oregon wastewater treatment plant before it goes into the rest of

the system has failed. On November 14, personnel at the facility were tearing deeper into the unit to assess the damage and gather information to decide whether to rebuild or replace the unit, the public works director said. A backup system was put online and has been performing the same function as the one in need of repair. He said there were no compromises to the treatment process, and discharge quality remained well within discharge guidelines for release into the Columbia River. The director did not have a timeframe for when the treatment plant might be back to normal operation.

Source: <http://www.thedalleschronicle.com/news/2010/11/11-14-10-03.shtml>

39. *November 14, WTOP 103.5 FM Washington D.C.* – (Maryland) **Smoke tests' scheduled to detect sewer leaks in Myersville.** In an effort to track down leaks in the town's water and sewer system, Myersville, Maryland, officials have scheduled a "smoke test" to run from November 17 to 23. Town officials have been concerned for months about meter readings showing much more water treated at the treatment plant than is used by residents. "The plant normally treats 130,000 to 150,000 gallons a day," the town manager said. "During wet-weather events, that can approach 300,000 gallons a day. That tells us we have a serious inflow and infiltration problem." Myersville contracted with Maryland Environmental Service (MES) to run the smoke test, which introduces a chemically produced vapor into the main sewer system to track leaks. MES was the low bidder for the project. It will cost about \$7,500 for the testing and subsequent analysis of the findings. Testing will not be conducted during the weekend. "These vapor tests will find any illegal sewer connections that may have occurred over time, any manholes that might be sitting below grade and collecting water, and any caps that might be missing from cleanouts," the town manager said. "We're hoping this will uncover simple, inexpensive fixes that will ultimately save the town money."

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=598&sid=2118016>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

40. *November 15, PR Newswire* – (National) **New national electronic health record safety system launched.** A new electronic health record (EHR) safety reporting system was announced November 15 by the iHealth Alliance, a not-for-profit organization composed of medical society and professional liability carrier executives in collaboration with federal agencies and PDR Network. EHRevent.org establishes a national system where physicians and other health care providers can report issues related to the implementation and use of EHRs. Using a standardized online format, EHRevent will collect reports from physicians and other health care providers who use EHRs and create reports that medical societies, professional liability carriers, and government agencies will use to help educate providers on the potential challenges that EHR systems may bring. The system will be available directly via the Internet and also integrated into the Web sites of participating liability carriers, medical societies, PDR Network and other partners, including EHR system vendors. EHRevent reports include issues related to software problems, inadequate user training, security breaches, and near-misses.

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-national-electronic-health-record-safety-system-launched-108140714.html>

41. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **MRSA outbreak kills infant at Richmond hospital.** A Richmond, Virginia, hospital has reopened its neonatal intensive care unit after a staph bacteria outbreak that claimed the life of one infant and sickened 10 others. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* outbreak shut down the newborn intensive care unit at CJW Medical Center's Chippenham hospital for 5 weeks. A hospital spokeswoman said one child died. The unit reopened November 11 after approval by the Richmond City Health District, and infection-control experts.

Source: <http://www.wset.com/Global/story.asp?S=13496645>

42. *November 12, Reuters* – (Florida) **Miami has first dengue fever case in 50 years.** Health authorities in Miami, Florida, have reported the first case of dengue fever in the city in 50 years, an official said November 12. The person diagnosed with the sometimes deadly mosquito-borne virus has fully recovered after a brief hospitalization, said a director at the Miami-Dade County Health Department. The case comes 4 months after officials announced more than 1,000 people in Key West, Florida, were believed to have been infected with dengue last year, marking its reemergence in the southeast U.S. state for the first time in decades. The strains in Key West and Miami are not the same, according to the health department director, meaning it did not appear to signal the infection was moving north into the United States.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AB3PL20101112>

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Government Facilities Sector

43. *November 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Social Security judges facing more violent threats.** Judges who hear Social Security disability cases are facing a growing number of violent threats from claimants angry over being denied benefits or frustrated at lengthy delays in processing claims. There were at least 80 threats to kill or harm administrative law judges or staff over the past year — an 18 percent increase over the previous reporting period, according to data collected by the Social Security Administration. The data was released to the Association of Administrative Law Judges and made available to the Associated Press. One claimant in Albuquerque, New Mexico, called his congressman's office to said he was going to "take his guns and shoot employees" in the Social Security hearing office. In Eugene, Oregon, a man who was denied benefits said he is "ready to join the Taliban and hurt some people." Nearly 2 million people are waiting to find out if they qualify for benefits, with many having to wait more than 2 years to see their first payment. Judges said some claimants become desperate after years of fighting for money to help make ends meet.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gS_ny_kr_XwfY4z0jM8Xh_IL_easg?docId=2d288f93a84746a08348c0c8d27b750c

44. *November 14, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Missouri) **Two juveniles arrested in connection with Parma fire.** Two juveniles are in custody in connection with the November 12 fire at the old school in Parma, Missouri. According to the Parma police chief, the juveniles face arson charges. The entire old high school gym is a total loss, and is now in rubble. The blaze also destroyed the old Parma High School. The state fire marshal investigated the fire November 13. The director of the children's services department told Heartland News since the building housing the head start was not affected, classes will resume November 15. Several fire departments responded to the fire.
Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=13494595>
45. *November 13, Fargo Forum* – (North Dakota) **NDSU officials evacuate research building as precaution after incident.** North Dakota State University officials decided to err on the side of caution when a project created a potentially hazardous material incident November 12. The problem began about 4:30 p.m. when research on the making of high capacity batteries generated a potentially hazardous chemical, NDSU's vice president for research said. The incident took place inside the the Center for Nanoscience and Engineering Research II building, a NDSU spokeswoman said. Campus officials immediately called suppliers of the compound involved, lithium nitride, to check if it was dangerous. Although most said it was not, one supplier noted it had "issues" with the lithium nitride so NDSU officials decided to evacuate the building and contain the project. Only a handful of people were left in the building at the time of the evacuation. Occupational Health and Safety Administration representatives, along with the Fargo and Moorhead fire departments, responded.
Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/298283/group/News/>
46. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Va. computer system crashes again.** Virginia's computer system has been hit by another widespread outage. A spokeswoman for the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) said a statewide outage November 12 affected several agencies. Among them was the department of motor vehicles, which was unable to process driver's license transactions for about 1 hour. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that officials attributed the problem to a firewall failure at VITA's center in Chesterfield County. In late August, a massive outage crippled state services for 8 days. VITA runs the state's computer system through a \$2.5 billion, 13-year contract with Northrop Grumman, which is paying for an investigation of the August outage by the legislature's watchdog agency.
Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-breaking-news/virginia/va-computer-system-crashes-aga.html>
47. *November 12, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Copper theft leaves school without drinking water.** Schools in Orange County, Florida have already lost more than \$100,000 in 2010 to copper thieves. The latest target was Excel Alternative Schools. The theft forced the district to give 300 students bottled water November 12. Orange County Schools sprang into action when administrators realized there would be no drinking water for students after a thief vanished with a copper backflow valve; the valve is what protects the water supply from contamination or pollution. County

contractors estimated the thief caused about \$1,000 in damage. The part stolen is probably only worth \$30 to \$40 as scrap. The Orange County Sheriff's Office estimated that at least 900 businesses and homes were hit by metal thieves this year.

Source: <http://www.wftv.com/countybycounty/25775744/detail.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

48. *November 15, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (Nevada) **Sheriff's new computer spots area's crime trends.** The Washoe County Sheriff Office's ACES computer is spotting crime trends and helping deputies do detective work, as volunteers warn people about leaving cars unlocked. The system has produced results: A 62 percent drop in vehicle burglaries. The sheriff's office reported that in unincorporated Washoe County, Nevada, vehicle burglaries dropped from 146 for July through September 2009 to 55 for the same period in 2010. The sheriff's office also has 500 trained Community Emergency Response Team volunteers who knock on doors and remind people to lock up. The computer can detect general trends, such as August being the highest crime month of the year. It can also discern patterns such as an increase in vehicle burglaries in parks and then fine-tune that to a series identifying common time frames, method of entry, and the area.

Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20101115/NEWS/11150312/1321/NEWS>

49. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Maryland, Virginia) **Feds charge 9 in Prince George's County, Md. probe.** Federal authorities charged nine people, including three Prince George's County, Maryland police officers in two indictments unsealed November 15 as part of an ongoing federal investigation in the county. Seven people, including two of the officers, were charged with conspiring to commit extortion in a scheme to sell untaxed cigarettes and alcohol. A third officer and another man have been charged in a second indictment with a drug and gun conspiracy. The first indictment, which was returned in October, alleges that an owner of numerous liquor stores and others allegedly paid police officers to use their authority to ensure transport of untaxed cigarettes and alcohol in Maryland and Virginia. Two sergeants have been charged in the first indictment, along with the liquor store owner and his wife. An owner of an auto glass store in College Park and two others also have been charged in the first indictment, which seeks the forfeiture of \$3.5 million, 25 properties, 13 vehicles, and 84 bank accounts. They face a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted in the extortion conspiracy case. The second indictment charged a Prince George's County police officer and a second individual with conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine and use of firearms in drug trafficking. All nine defendants were scheduled to have initial appearance at U.S. District Court in Greenbelt November 15.

Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsmd/FBI.arrests.9.2.2010072.html>

50. *November 13, Martinsburg Journal* – (Virginia) **Berkeley and Frederick counties sign agreement.** The first jurisdiction-to-jurisdiction mutual aid agreement between

Berkeley County and Frederick County, Virginia, was signed November 12 by the leaders of the respective counties' governments. The Berkeley County Commission president and the chairman of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors have worked together in their official rolls on projects involving the two counties for years, the Berkeley commission president said. The November 12 ceremonial signing was held at the Berkeley County Commission chambers in Martinsburg, Virginia. The accord was signed officially on September 30 by Berkeley County, and on October 13 by Frederick County. The reciprocal agreement covers fire service, emergency medical service, and hazardous materials response between the two counties. With the new agreement, each county's insurance will cover their emergency services personnel if they respond across the county line.

Source: <http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/551376/Berkeley-and-Frederick-counties-sign-agreement.html?nav=5006>

For another story, see item [69](#)

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Information Technology Sector

51. *November 15, Infosecurity* – (International) **Latest rogue Facebook app dissected by IT security expert.** There are many reports of darkware Facebook apps, but it is rare to find a really thorough analysis of a rogue app. But Sophos' principal virus researcher has analyzed one of the latest apps in some detail. According to the researcher, the latest rogue app on the social networking site specifically targets Croatian users. Compared to some other Eastern European countries, he said, Croatia is not very well known for being a land of malware writers, which makes this particular app all the more surprising. The rogue Facebook app, he explained, invites users to install a new "Love" Facebook button, and uses a malicious Java applet to install a password stealing Trojan. "The Trojan is designed to steal Facebook credentials and other passwords from various sources on the system, including Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Google Chrome," he said, adding that the attack reminded him of a recent "Dislike" button attack but it is clearly the work of a different attacker. The Facebook application, he said, is actually a simple Web page hosted on one of the free Web-hosting providers. The handcrafted page, he goes on to say, contains a tag to load a Java applet to allegedly install the Love Facebook button, rather than the usual obfuscated Javascript code with a drive-by exploit.

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/13961/latest-rogue-facebook-app-dissected-by-it-security-expert/>

52. *November 13, Computerworld* – (International) **Researchers take down Koobface servers.** Security researchers, working with law enforcement and Internet service providers, have disrupted the brains of the Koobface botnet. On November 12, the computer identified as the command-and-control server used to send instructions to infected Koobface machines was offline. According to the chief research officer with SecDev Group, the server was one of three Koobface systems taken offline November

12 by Coreix, a U.K. Internet service provider. Coreix took down the servers after researchers contacted U.K. law enforcement. The takedown will disrupt Koobface for a time, but for any real effect, much more will have to happen. Machines that are infected by Koobface connect to intermediary servers — typically Web servers that have had their FTP credentials compromised — that then redirect them to the now-downed command and control servers. The November 12 takedown is part of a larger operation that first started 2 weeks ago. SecDev Group notified the ISPs about the compromised FTP accounts, and has also tipped off Facebook and Google to hundreds of thousands of Koobface-operated accounts. The Facebook accounts are used to lure victims to Google Blogspot pages, which in turn redirect them to Web servers that contain the malicious Koobface code.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9196398/Researchers_take_down_Koobface_servers

53. *November 12, SC Magazine* – (International) **Latest Mac OS X update locks out some PGP users.** A massive security update from Apple fixed more than 130 security flaws in its Mac OS X operating system, but it left users of PGP's Whole Disk Encryption (WDE) product unable to reboot their computers. PGP users first started noting problems about the update, Mac OS X 10.6.5, shortly after it was released November 10. Symantec, which now owns PGP, first issued an alert about the issue November 10, warning PGP WDE users to not apply the update. Symantec said the problem was the result of "compatibility issues." If the update to OS X 10.6.5 has already been made and the machine fails to boot, the data on the machine is not lost, however, Symantec said. The company issued a fix for affected users that involves booting into OS X from the PGP recovery CD. WDE users who have not yet applied the OS X update can safely do so by decrypting the system first, then applying the update, then re-encrypting the system. The update from Apple fixed approximately 80 vulnerabilities in Mac OS X "Snow Leopard" and dozens of other flaws affecting the Flash Player plug-in. Many of the vulnerabilities could be exploited by an attacker to run malicious code on a user's system.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/latest-mac-os-x-update-locks-out-some-pgp-users/article/190717/>

54. *November 12, IDG News Service* – (National) **Sarah Palin hacker Kernell gets one-year sentence.** The former college student who guessed his way into the former Republican Vice-Presidential nominee's Yahoo e-mail account during the 2008 U.S. presidential election was sentenced to a year and 1 day in prison November 12. The hacker's lawyers had been hoping for probation only; federal prosecutors had asked for an 18-month sentence. The judge in the case recommended that the hacker serve his time at a halfway house rather than federal prison, but that decision is up to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Department of Justice said. Following his 1-year sentence, the convict must serve 3 years' probation. The hacker, a 20-year-old college student at the time of the incident, got into the account by guessing answers to the security questions used by Yahoo to reset the account's password. In chat logs, the hacker said he was hoping to find information that would "derail" her 2008 vice presidential

election campaign.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9196334/Update_Sarah_Palin_hacker_Kernel_l_gets_one_year_sentence

55. *November 12, DarkReading* – (International) **Drive-By Downloads: Malware’s most popular distribution method.** Why try to fool users into opening e-mail attachments when one can simply drop a Trojan on them from their favorite Web sites? That is the question many malware authors and distributors are asking — and the obvious answer is spurring most of them to try out the emerging “drive-by download” method. “What we’re seeing is a fundamental change in the method of malware distribution,” said the CTO of Dasient, which offers a service that detects and eradicates Web-borne malware. “In the old days, we saw executable code in a static file, which was originally delivered via floppy disks and then via e-mail attachments. Now we’re seeing active content delivered via drive-by downloads at legitimate sites.” A drive-by download typically begins by injecting a Web page with malicious code, often through JavaScript. The code generally invokes a client-side vulnerability to deliver shell code, such as the JavaScript-based Heap Spray attack, to take control of the user’s machine. From there, the attacker can send a “downloader,” which is often custom, zero-day code that is not recognized by traditional antivirus systems. Once the downloader is in place, the attacker can deliver his malware of choice. Drive-by downloads are particularly effective for delivering code that can steal end user credentials (such as Zeus), launch a fake antivirus scam (such as Koobface), steal server-side administrative credentials (such as Gumblar), steal corporate secrets (such as Project Aurora), or collect fraudulent click revenue (such as clickbot.A).

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=228200810

56. *November 12, InformationWeek* – (International) **Spam down in October: Symantec.** Spam levels are down, at least for the moment. So said a new study released recently by Symantec, which found that spam comprised 86.6 percent of all messages in October 2010, compared with 89.4 percent in September. Symantec said the decline continues a “sharp decrease in global spam volume,” with spam volume down a whopping 47 percent from August to October. That’s the lowest volume of spam seen since September 2009. What’s behind this decrease in spam? Chalk it up to the bust-up of multiple Zeus-using gangs in recent months, the spamit.com shutdown, as well as Dutch authorities essentially unplugging the Bredolab botnet, Symantec said. The prevalence of phishing spam attacks, however, increased slightly — by 0.3 percent — from September to October, due to criminals’ more widespread use of automated crimeware toolkits. While most phishing attacks still arrive via e-mail, in October, 4 percent arrived via social networks. Many of these social network phishing attacks targeted not only financial information, but also people’s social networking details.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=228200813>

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

57. *November 15, myMotherLode.com* – (California) **Internet and phone services restored in Tuolumne, Calaveras Counties, California.** Internet and phone services were back on for most residents across the Mother Lode area of California November 15. An AT&T service representative reported that there was a vehicle accident November 14 that damaged fiber lines. The accident was in the Stockton, California area, according to AT&T. It may have been related to a vehicle accident November 14 on Highway 12 that knocked utility lines down. AT&T has not confirmed whether that location is the source of the outage. The outage affected most all DSL customers across Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, including Internet customers who have service through other companies like Mother Lode Internet, Gold Rush, and Hub 3. AT&T phone service was restored for most residents November 14, and a majority got back online with Internet November 15.
Source: <http://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/1175129/Internet-And-Phone-Services-Restored.html>
58. *November 13, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Sprint cellular service was out November 12.** Telecommunications carrier Sprint's mobile-phone service in Milwaukee and other parts of southern Wisconsin as far as Madison were knocked out of service for much of November 12, Sprint spokespersons said November 13. An outage for Sprint mobile voice, data, and text service lasted from 2:30 pm to 9:30 pm November 12, a spokesman said. An equipment breakdown at a major switching station in New Berlin knocked out service in most of Milwaukee and a broad swath of southern Wisconsin. Sprint was unable to say how many users were affected but parent company Sprint Nextel Corp. ranks as the third largest wireless carrier in the United States with 50 million customers.
Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/107761143.html>
59. *November 13, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Severed communications cable isolates Oroville, California.** A severed fiber optic cable effectively shut off Oroville, California from the rest of the world November 12, halting calls in and out of the area, and in many cases blocking Internet and e-mail service and cell phone communication. The outage was first noticed around 9:45 a.m. when people in Oroville could call local prefixes, but could not call out of the area. The director of media relations for AT&T said the cable was accidentally cut when some work was being done. Reports of the

phones being restored began about 1:30 p.m. Calls also could not be made to or from some cell phones. The loss of communication did impact the Oroville Police Department, but calls were quickly rerouted.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_16601459

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Commercial Facilities Sector

60. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Escalator fire prompts evacuation at Vegas casino.** No injuries were reported after a fire in an escalator area forced patrons off the casino floor several blocks off the Las Vegas Strip in Nevada. A Clark County spokeswoman told the Las Vegas Sun that firefighters doused the fire after it spread up a wall to the second floor of the Terrible's Hotel & Casino a little before 6 p.m. November 14. She said no one was hurt, and that hotel guests in their rooms were told to stay there. She said the gambling area of the casino at Flamingo and Paradise roads was evacuated while firefighters cleared smoke from the building.
Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/nov/15/nv-escalator-fire-casino/>
61. *November 15, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire prompts evacuation of occupied Pa. hotel.** Several people were taken to a hospital for treatment November 14 after a fire erupted at The George Washington Hotel in Washington, Pennsylvania. The Washington Fire Department chief said that the fire started in the laundry room in the basement of the hotel at 60 S. Main St. at about 10:30 a.m. "Upon our arrival, the laundry room all the way up to the ninth floor was fully charged with smoke," he said. He said that firefighters were able to put out the blaze by about 11:30 a.m. No injuries were reported, but five people were treated with oxygen for smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire was still under investigation.
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fire-prompts-evacuation-occupied-pa-hotel>
62. *November 15, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **Power outages hit Giants-Cowboys game.** The New Meadowlands Stadium in New Jersey went dark twice during the third quarter of the Giants-Cowboys game November 14. The power outages interrupted play and disrupted Fox's broadcast of the game. According to stadium officials, "Power was lost when one of the two feeders to the stadium experienced a power interruption. A second power interruption occurred to the second feeder causing a full outage. Functionality to the original feeder was restored and we are now receiving power though that feeder." Though the first blackout at 6 p.m. caused some players to hit the ground, several light banks did remain lit. But 8 minutes later, the whole stadium went dark with all the lights going out. This delay took 10 minutes before there were enough lights available to play the game (and 10 minutes later, all lights were back on.)
Source: <http://newsfeed.time.com/2010/11/15/power-outages-hit-giants-cowboys-game/>

63. *November 15, Waynesboro Record Herald* – (Maryland) **Hagerstown Walmart evacuated when boxes catch fire.** The Hagerstown Walmart Supercenter in Maryland was evacuated November 13 as the result of a fire in the indoor garden center. One employee was treated for smoke inhalation. Fire officials said the fire began when boxes stacked too high on racks were ignited by ceiling-mounted heaters at 10:28 p.m. The fire did not go beyond the original rack, where Christmas items are on display, and garden center doors were closed to contain the smoke. Firefighters were on the scene until 11:10 p.m. The employee was treated by an ambulance crew and taken to Washington County Hospital.
Source: <http://www.therecordherald.com/news/x1270137137/Hagerstown-Walmart-evacuated-when-boxes-catch-fire>
64. *November 15, Green Bay Press-Gazette* – (Wisconsin) **4 hospitalized after carbon monoxide leak at Green Bay apartment building.** Four residents of an apartment building on Green Bay's west side in Wisconsin were hospitalized and the building was evacuated November 15 because of a carbon monoxide leak. Green Bay firefighters arrived at the building at 1809 Shawano Ave. shortly after 5 a.m. and immediately encountered a strong smell of natural gas, according to the battalion chief. Fire crews detected a high level of carbon monoxide in the apartment from which the original call for help was made, and lower levels of carbon monoxide in a nearby apartment. Residents from the 10-unit complex were evacuated. They were allowed back in at about 7 a.m. Four people who lived in the apartment with the highest levels of carbon monoxide were taken to St. Vincent Hospital. No other injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20101115/GPG0101/101115011/West-side-apartment-building-evacuated-for-carbon-monoxide-leak>
65. *November 14, Associated Press* – (International) **Hotel explosion kills 7 in Mexico.** A powerful explosion likely caused by an accumulation of gas killed seven people, including five Canadian tourists, on November 14 at a large resort hotel on Mexico's Caribbean coast, authorities said. Two Mexican employees of the 676-room Grand Riviera Princess hotel in Playa del Carmen, south of Cancun, were killed in the blast, said the attorney general of Quintana Roo, where the resorts are located. Two other Canadians suffered severe injuries and were listed in critical condition. Ten others, including two U.S. citizens and eight Mexican employees of the hotel, suffered less serious wounds and were listed as stable. The blast occurred on the ground floor of one of a dozen or so buildings that make up the hotel, and left a crater a yard deep. The attorney general told local media that investigations were under way to see if the hotel building, which sat on a concrete pad on a swampy area near the beach, had been properly constructed. "The report suggests an accumulation of gases produced by decomposing organic material in the subsoil, and this gas produced the explosion," he said. Officials said no gas lines were located in the area where the blast occurred.
Source: <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2031329,00.html>

National Monuments and Icons Sector

66. *November 14, Lewiston Sun Journal* – (Maine) **Forest service investigating wildfire in Hartford.** The Maine Forest Service is investigating a wildfire that burned 33 acres in Hartford November 13. According to a press release issued November 14 by the Maine Forest Service, reports of the Oxford County wildfire came in about 1 p.m. Firefighters from Turner, Leeds, and Buckfield responded to the fire with Maine Forest Service resources, and contained the blaze shortly before sunset. The blaze burned in a mixed-wood stand of forest and brush, according to the press release. No structures were immediately threatened by the wildfire, and no firefighters were injured during the effort to bring it under control. The blaze has been classified as one caused by some human element. The Maine Forest Service and firefighters remained on scene early November 14, extinguishing hotspots and continuing with the fire investigation.
Source: <http://www.sunjournal.com/approved/story/942390>
67. *November 12, U.S. Customs and Border Protection* – (Arizona) **CBP U.S. Border Patrol seized nearly a ton of marijuana.** Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents in Arizona seized more than 1,954 pounds of marijuana, valued at more than \$1,563,200 in two separate incidents within 12 hours. Ajo Station agents, while on patrol near the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument encountered an abandoned vehicle and discovered several bundles of marijuana inside the vehicle, weighing more than 1,389 pounds. The vehicle and marijuana, with an estimated value of more than \$1,111,200 were taken to the Ajo Station for processing. In a second incident, agents assigned to the Willcox Station encountered a semi tractor trailer near Pearce, Arizona, in an area that is not routinely traveled by semi-trucks. It appeared to agents that the vehicle was attempting to circumvent the checkpoint. Agents questioned the driver of the semi tractor trailer who was unable to produce any documentation that corroborated his need to be in the area. A Border Patrol K9 team was called and alerted to the trailer, and agents subsequently discovered 24 bundles of marijuana, weighing more than 565 pounds, concealed in the trailer. The driver and the marijuana, with an estimate value of more than \$452,000 were transported to the Willcox Station for processing.
Source: <http://tucsoncitizen.com/view-from-baja-arizona/2010/11/13/another-ton-of-pot-bites-dust/>
68. *November 12, Franklin Press* – (North Carolina) **Wildfire burns in Nantahala.** Dry and windy conditions helped contribute to spreading a wildfire that burned more than 120 acres in the Nantahala area of North Carolina November 8, though no structures were damaged and no injuries were reported, according to a Nantahala district ranger with the U.S. Forest Service. The cause of the fire was still being investigated, though there was some debris burning close by. The fire occurred partly on private property and on National Forest land, so U.S. Forest Service and North Carolina Forest Service crews were jointly engaged in fighting the blaze.
Source: <http://www.thefranklinpress.com/articles/2010/11/12/news/02news.txt>

Dams Sector

69. *November 15, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Emergency exercise on Wednesday will close Shasta Dam area.** The Shasta Dam area in California will be closed to the public November 17 for a full-scale emergency exercise involving the bureau of reclamation and other federal, state, and local agencies. The exercise will occur over a 12-hour period at a variety of locations near the dam. Due to security and safety concerns, all exercise training events are closed to the public, according to the bureau of reclamation. The security-based exercise is designed as a training opportunity for first responders to employ emergency response and security plans, policies and procedures as they pertain to a potential terrorist threat at the dam. More than 250 people are expected to participate in the training.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/15/3185140/emergency-exercise-on-wednesday.html>

70. *November 15, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (National) **Study shows grass can play significant role in armoring levees.** The Army Corps of Engineers financed a \$1.7 million simulator in Colorado last year to study, among other things, whether New Orleans, Louisiana area levees could survive overtopping during a big 500-year hurricane if “armored” only with grass. But if grass is critical to levee survivability, then it also is critical the Corps and its contractors learn how to efficiently grow it, something they did not do this summer on East Jefferson levees recently rebuilt to protect against 100-year storms. And it has been a problem for many years. To deliver a system able to stop flooding from a 100-year storm, which has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year, the levees must have a permanent grass cover by the Corps’ June 1 deadline. With that date in mind, Corps contractors are seeding bare and spotty levees with a mix of mostly winter rye grass. Come spring, the rye grass will be mowed and the areas reseeded with mostly Bermuda, which germinates in warmer weather, the Corps turf manager said. The two-step seeding is one of many changes the Corps made after Hurricane Katrina to improve its ability to establish grass on new or rebuilt levees before handing them off for local levee districts to operate and maintain.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/11/study_shows_grass_can_play_sig.html

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