



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 November 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) is conducting about 50 criminal investigations of former executives, directors, and employees at U.S. banks that have failed since the start of the financial crisis, according to the Wall Street Journal. (See item [17](#))
- The New York City subway system is ill-prepared for a mass evacuation in the case of a fire, explosion, or terrorist attack, according to a whistleblower lawsuit filed in federal court, the New York Post reports. (See item [26](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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. *November 17, Jackson Sun* – (Tennessee) **Woman killed in burning car after driving over fuel hose.** A Jackson, Tennessee, accident-reconstruction team spent November 16 investigating the cause of a car fire that left a woman dead at the Abel's Way convenience store on N. Highland. She died in a blaze that took place after an accident involving her car and a gasoline tanker truck transferring fuel at the store. The fire began around 4:17 p.m. November 16. Witnesses said the woman drove her car over

the tanker truck's hose, according to Jackson police. Authorities said the fire occurred after the woman restarted her car. The flames engulfed the car and burned the wheels of the tanker truck. The driver of the tanker was able to shut off the fuel pump's safety valve before the fire spread, said the deputy chief for the Jackson Fire Department. Firefighters immediately put out the fire when they arrived on the scene, he said. More than 1 hour after the incident, firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel remained on the scene.

Source: <http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20101117/NEWS01/11170309>

2. *November 17, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Severe storm damages dozens of homes in city, Parkville, Maryland area.** A severe storm with winds reported at or near 80 mph moved through northeast Baltimore and the Parkville area of Maryland November 17, felling trees, damaging homes, and downing power lines. Only one injury was reported, the mayor said. City fire officials said roofs blew off several buildings in Northeast Baltimore. Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. reported that, as of 8:30 a.m., about 19,400 customers had electric power restored; nearly 11,000 remained without power, with the largest pockets in Northeast Baltimore and Baltimore County. At least two county public schools, Villa Cresta Elementary and Parkville High, were closed November 17 due to no power. Dominion Power said about 2,860 customers lacked power in Northern Virginia. Pepco was reporting about 250 customers were without power, mostly in Washington, and in Delaware, Delmarva Power was reporting about 2,170 customers were without power, mostly in New Castle County.

Source: <http://www.explorebaltimorecounty.com/news/109771/severe-storm-damages-dozens-homes-city-parkville-area/>

3. *November 17, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Strong winds damage small airplanes at Trenton Mercer Airport.** Powerful winds knocked out power to more than 27,000 customers and damaged some small airplanes in New Jersey early November 17. There were pockets of wind gusts between 50 to 65 mph in southern New Jersey. Seven single-engine planes were damaged at Trenton Mercer Airport in Ewing Township, including two that flipped over. Three sections of roof blew off a hangar after a wind gust of 55 mph. PSE&G reported about 11,000 customers were without electricity, mainly in Camden and Burlington counties. JCP&L reported 8,700 outages, mainly in Sussex and western Morris counties. Atlantic City Electric said more than 8,100 customers did not have power.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/strong_winds_damage_small_airp.html

4. *November 17, WUSA 9 Washington* – (Virginia) **Powerful storms leave thousands of Northern Virginia residents in the dark.** A line of powerful thunderstorms blew through the Washington D.C. metro area November 17, causing significant damage to areas of Northern Virginia. A spokesperson for Dominion Virginia Power, said the powerful winds brought down numerous trees on power lines causing approximately 25,500 Northern Virginia residents to lose power. The spokesperson said crews have restored all but 5,600 of those outages. Repair crews should have most of those outages restored by mid-morning, and all customers should have power by the end of the day.

Crews were working to repair wires that were brought down by a tree near the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, closing George Mason Drive between 16th Street North and Washington Boulevard. The hospital was never without power.

Source: <http://wusa9.com/news/breaking/story.aspx?storyid=120614&catid=158>

5. *November 16, WOAI 4 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Natural gas continues to shoot into the air at explosion site near Pearsall, Texas.** Workers continued to try to cap the natural gas well that exploded right outside the Pearsall, Texas, city limits. Natural gas and water continued to shoot out almost 100 feet in the air from the old gas well. Workers completing a well were drilling and punctured the old well, causing it to break. A mandatory evacuation was ordered around 9 p.m. November 15 for people living within a quarter mile due to toxicity levels in the air, according to the Pearsall police chief. He said all entities involved — including county, city, and state officials — met November 16 to discuss steps that would be taken in the event the toxicity levels in the air continue to rise. VirTex, the company that owns the well, released a statement: “Late Sunday afternoon, a natural gas well located in Frio County that is believed to have been abandoned nearly twenty years ago (1991), suddenly began releasing a mixture of water and natural gas into the air. Although this well was never a VirTex well, its surface location happened to be located near the wellbore of another well that was recently drilled by VirTex.”

Source: <http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Natural-gas-continues-to-shoot-into-the-air-at/qLN0iQ7pYUqbTFC5TDqKTA.csp>

6. *November 16, WYMT 57 Burnaugh* – (National) **MSHA: Increase amount of rock dust to decrease chances of underground explosions.** Starting November 22, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is requiring underground coal mines to increase the amount of rock dust. Officials said a study proves this will help decrease the chances of explosions. MSHA officials held a public hearing in Lexington, Kentucky to discuss whether to make the rule permanent. MSHA officials said underground coal miners could be at risk under current standards for rock dust. A recent National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study shows the 65 percent rock dust standard is not enough to prevent an explosion. MSHA is now requiring underground coal mines to increase incombustible rock dust to 80 percent. Researchers said the current 65 percent was set in the 1920s, but now mining methods and equipment have changed and the rock dust standards need to change too. MSHA used a study on explosions that happened in 1976 to 2001 and believe this 80 percent standard could have made a difference in six explosions that killed 46 people. The change could cost more than \$22 million to implement. The final decision on the rule will come in June 2011.

Source: http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/MSHA_108580394.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

7. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Commercial fumigant spill evacuates Danville homes.** About two dozen homes were evacuated in Danville, Virginia, and three firefighters taken to the hospital November 16 after several containers of a commercial fumigant fell from a truck. A city spokesman said the smoking packages of magnesium phosphide were reported around 11:40 a.m. The product is used to fumigate local tobacco warehouses for rodent control. The pesticide reacts with water, so rain caused several of the containers to release toxic gas plumes. The spokesman was not aware of how many containers, which are the size of reams of paper, fell or were activated. Emergency crews contained the pesticide in barrels just before 6 p.m., and residents were allowed to return to about 25 homes. Officials had forced them to leave for fear the wind could spread the hazardous plume. “What danger does it pose to area residents, we don’t know,” he said. Three firefighters who were exposed to the fumes were treated and released from a local hospital, the city said in a news release. Two of them returned to duty. Students at Glenwood Elementary School, just outside the evacuation area, were kept inside but continued classes. The driver was charged with failure to secure a load.

Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/breaking/commercial-fumigant-spill-evacuates-danville-homes-108482774.html>

8. *November 16, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **Rt. 31 reopens after truck carrying explosives overturns near Marysville.** A semi carrying a load of explosives overturned on Rt. 31 north of Marysville, Ohio, November 16, closing the road for several hours, authorities said. The truck, carrying liquid ammonium nitrate, overturned just after 2 p.m. At 4 p.m., the Marysville fire chief said the load had been stabilized, and a crew and another truck would assist in removing the explosives. Nothing exploded, and the truck driver suffered only minor injuries, the state highway patrol said. The road was reopened at 7:30 p.m. between Cotton Slash and Wheeler Green roads after crews cleaned up the area.

Source:

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/11/16/Explosives-truck-overturns.html?sid=101

For more stories, see items [31](#), [34](#), [40](#), and [43](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *November 17, St. Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Monticello nuclear plant down for maintenance.** The Monticello nuclear plant in Monticello, Minnesota is offline for maintenance work. Workers are repairing one of 10 feed water heaters, which increase plant efficiency by heating incoming water before it is routed through the reactor. The repairs are expected to be completed in a week or two. The 600-megawatt plant is owned and operated by Xcel Energy. While the maintenance work is under way, Xcel will purchase electricity from other utilities or increase production at its other

generating plants.

Source: <http://www.sctimes.com/article/20101117/NEWS01/111170024/1009>

10. *November 16, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Errors found in reactor report.** Westinghouse, the maker of the new nuclear reactors that will be installed at Plant Vogtle in Georgia near Augusta and Waynesboro, must correct minor errors in the way it modeled the potential impact of an airplane crash, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In a 33-page notice of violation issued last month, the agency's office of new reactors found the company "did not use realistic analyses" in portions of its aircraft incident assessment. Such studies were made necessary by regulations adopted after the September 11 terrorist attacks, and are part of the certification for the new AP1000 reactor's design. The low-level violation was assigned a severity level of IV — the least serious — and involves calculations of plane strikes on annex buildings next to the reactor containment facility, along with fire control activities. The remainder of the aircraft incident assessment was in compliance with the standards.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2010-11-16/errors-found-reactor-report>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *November 17, Bloomberg* – (International) **Rolls-Royce will ship engines from superjumbo factory.** Rolls-Royce Group plans to ship some engines from the Airbus A380 factory to customers replacing units after a turbine explosion on a Qantas Airways Ltd flight in November, according to the planemaker. "Rolls-Royce is arranging for some engines to be supplied to airlines from the production line to replace some engines that have been removed from in-service aircraft," said an Airbus spokesman November 16. Qantas, Singapore Airlines Ltd., and Deutsche Lufthansa AG have removed some Rolls-Royce powerplants from aircraft after the mid-air blowup of a Trent 900 engine earlier in November led to the discovery of potential defects. The London-based engine-maker said it will miss its 2010 profit target, and Airbus said A380 deliveries may suffer next year from the blowout on the superjumbo.

Source: <http://gulfnews.com/business/aviation/rolls-royce-will-ship-engines-from-superjumbo-factory-1.713184>

12. *November 17, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Ohio) **OSHA cites Cleveland manufacturer for 15 alleged safety violations.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Precision Production Inc., a manufacturer of fabricated components in Cleveland, Ohio, with 15 alleged safety violations. The company faces penalties totaling \$149,250. As a result of a May inspection by OSHA, the company was issued four willful citations with proposed fines for failing to establish lockout/tagout procedures of energy sources, train workers on recognizing hazardous energy sources and control methods, and require workers to lock out machinery when performing maintenance and have machine guards in place. A willful

violation is one committed with intentional, knowing or voluntary disregard for the law's requirements, or plain indifference to employee safety and health.

Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/27489/OSHA-cites-Cleveland-manufacturer>

13. *November 16, Lincoln Journal Star* – (Nebraska) **South Lincoln factory evacuated during fire.** About 45 employees at a factory in Lincoln, Nebraska found their work interrupted November 16 because of a fire in an industrial oven. The Lincoln Fire and Rescue battalion chief said the Schneider Electric factory, formerly Square D, already was being evacuated when fire crews arrived at about 8 p.m. Firefighters contained the fire to the metal oven and had it extinguished within about 20 minutes. The chief said no one reported any serious injuries, and damage appeared to be minimal. Schneider Electric is a global company that makes a variety of products, particularly items for industrial control and automation.

Source: http://journalstar.com/news/local/article_6a9de790-f1f2-11df-8a8f-001cc4c03286.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Report cites lagging Maine shipyard upgrades.** A new government report said the Navy has fallen short of funding for modernization work at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and three other public shipyards in Maine. The Government Accountability Office report examines the Navy's backlog of modernization and restoration projects at the four public shipyards, including the Kittery facility. The report said the Navy's estimate of a \$3 billion shortfall in modernization of the shipyards, including \$513 million at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard alone, underestimates the actual backlog.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2010/11/17/report_cites_lagging_maine_shipyard_upgrades/

15. *November 16, Enviro.BLR.com* – (New Hampshire) **1.2 Million OSHA Fine Following Explosion.** A Colebrook, New Hampshire, company that manufactures a gunpowder substitute was fined \$1.2 million by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for 50 alleged violations that contributed to a May 2010 explosion in which two employees were killed. According to OSHA, two workers and a plant supervisor were manufacturing the gunpowder substitute when the explosion occurred. The workers had been required to hand feed powder into operating equipment due to the employer's failure to implement essential protective controls, OSHA alleged.
- Source: <http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/EHS-management/EPA-and-state-environmental-compliance-enforcement/1.2-Million-OSHA-Fine-Following-Explosion/>

16. *November 14, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy amphib 'combat ineffective': Pentagon report.** A recently leaked Pentagon evaluation called the U.S. Navy's San

Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ships used to transport U.S. Marines and position them for beach landings “combat ineffective.” The Navy, however, said the process to correct the ships’ shortcomings is already well underway, and officials insist the ships are “warfare capable.” Five of the ships have been commissioned. Four ships are under construction; a total of 11 ships are planned. The ship is manufactured by Northrup-Grumman.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=5046685&c=SEA&s=TOP>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

17. *November 17, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **U.S. sets 50 bank probes.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) is conducting about 50 criminal investigations of former executives, directors and, employees at U.S. banks that have failed since the start of the financial crisis. The agency responsible for dealing with bank failures is stepping up its effort to punish alleged recklessness, fraud, and other criminal behavior, as U.S. officials did in the wake of the savings-and-loan crisis a generation ago. More than 300 banks and savings institutions have failed since the start of 2008, but just a few have led to criminal charges being filed against bank officials. In an interview, the deputy inspector general at the FDIC, which works with the FBI to investigate crime at financial institutions, said the probes involve failed banks of all sizes in cities across the United States. The FDIC is also ramping up civil claims to recover money from former bankers at busted lenders.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703628204575619000289073686.htm](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703628204575619000289073686.html)
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18. *November 17, WLS 890 AM Chicago* – (Indiana) **Feds: ‘Swine Flu’ bank robber was B of A employee.** The “Swine Flu Bandit” was a Bank of America employee, federal prosecutors said November 16. The suspect, whose father is a hired killer and mother is a Chicago, Illinois cop, was nabbed by the FBI November 10 as he peered through a Chicago bank window. The suspect was armed with a handgun and matched the description of the Swine Flu Bandit, a suspect in nine bank holdups where the robber wore a mask and said he was suffering from swine flu, according to the FBI. The robber pointed a gun and threatened to kill a bank employee in at least one heist, prosecutors said. The suspect, whose back was injured in a car wreck, was on leave from Bank of America in Seattle, Washington. He previously worked for Chase Bank in Chicago, officials said. The suspect, 28, is charged in the November 6 robbery of a Chase branch at 550 S. Dearborn. He relied on his banking know-how in his holdups, prosecutors said. The FBI found \$224,000 inside a safe in a South Side home where the suspect was staying, officials said.

Source: <http://www.wlsam.com/Article.asp?id=2024566&spid>

19. *November 16, WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **Dallas police shoot suspected bank robber.** Dallas, Texas police wounded an armed suspect in a shootout near the

Wells Fargo bank branch at LBJ Freeway and Coit Road November 16. Police said the man arrived at the bank in a taxicab around 2 p.m. He was armed with what appeared to be two weapons. The man exited the bank a few minutes later and got back into the cab, but he did not get far. “Around the corner, he tried to exit the cab and flee on foot, at which time officers converged on the cab and on the suspect,” said Dallas police. “The suspect attempted to hide.” Two officers spotted the man near the Crazy Buffet restaurant and drew their weapons. Detectives said they saw the suspect pull out what appeared to be a 9mm gun. There was an exchange of gunfire. Police later determined that the suspect’s pistol was not what it appeared. The suspect was taken to the hospital and is expected to recover.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Police-shoot-suspected-bank-robber-108491879.html>

20. *November 15, Media Newswire* – (National) **Principal of A&O Entities pleads guilty to his role in \$100 million fraud scheme involving life settlements.** A 36-year-old male, of Houston, Texas, pleaded guilty November 15 in U.S. District Court in Richmond, Virginia, to conspiracy charges in connection with his role as a principal of the A&O entities, a group of businesses that acquired and marketed over \$100 million of investments in life settlements to more than 800 victims across the United States and Canada, announced the U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of Virginia and the assistant attorney general of the criminal division. The suspect pleaded guilty to a two-count criminal information alleging conspiracy to commit mail fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering involving losses to investors of more than \$50 million. At sentencing, he faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. According to court documents, the suspect admitted to making material misrepresentations and omissions to investors about A&O. Specifically, he admitted making false statements and omissions about A&O’s safekeeping and use of investor funds and about the risks of A&O’s investment offerings. The suspect also admitted that he and his co-conspirators failed to inform A&O investors that the vast majority of investor money was used for purposes wholly unrelated to purchasing and maintaining portfolios of life settlements.

Source: http://media-newswire.com/release_1133559.html

21. *November 12, KPTV 12 Portland* – (Oregon) **Reward offered In bank fraud investigation.** The FBI and Wells Fargo bank are offering a reward to help track down a former bank manager in Coos Bay, Oregon accused of taking up to \$1.2 million from customers. They are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of a female suspect. FBI agents and police raided her home in October as part of an investigation into allegations she stole from accounts at a Wells Fargo branch in Coos Bay. The FBI said the suspect worked for the bank from August 2006 to August 2010. The suspect was fired when Wells Fargo discovered she had opened bank accounts for customers without their knowledge to get commissions for the new accounts. A federal judge issued an arrest warrant for the suspect October 27 based on charges of identity theft, aggravated identity theft, credit card fraud, wire fraud, bank fraud, and money laundering. Investigators have asked for the public’s assistance in locating her.

Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/25779065/detail.html>

Transportation Sector

22. *November 17, NBC News, Reuters, and Associated Press* – (International) **Germany: Terrorists plan attacks this month.** Germany said November 17 it had firm evidence Islamist militants were planning attacks in the next 2 weeks and ordered increased security at potential targets including train stations and airports. “The security situation in Germany has become more serious,” said Germany’s top security official. “We have concrete indications of a series of attacks planned for the end of November,” he said. This is the first time German officials have referred to “concrete” intelligence in reference to a terrorism investigation. A series of recent events suggest authorities are dealing “with a new situation,” according to the official.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40230005/ns/world_news-europe/
23. *November 17, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (National) **Airline Wi-Fi sparks security concerns.** A new potential safety issue has arisen for airlines: Does Wi-Fi service given to passengers pose any sort of danger aboard a plane? The question arose after Yemeni terrorists tried recently — and failed — to destroy two U.S.-bound cargo planes by stuffing printer cartridges full of explosives and then detonating the charges in flight. According to a explosives consultant, Wi-Fi “gives a bomber lots of options for contacting a device on an aircraft. “We recognize the potential of the threat and are looking at it closely,” said the spokesman for the International Federation of Air Line Pilots’ Associations (ALPA). “We need to fully explore what could the bad guys do, how could this be turned against us,” said a Boeing 737 pilot and chairman of the national security committee for ALPA.
Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/airline-wi-fi-sparks-743309.html>
24. *November 17, Alton Telegraph* – (Illinois) **Nine cars jump tracks in Roodhouse derailment.** Roodhouse, a community in Greene County, Illinois, dodged a bullet November 16 when nine empty Kansas City Southern Railway Co. cars derailed, just four cars shy of a fully loaded anhydrous ammonia tanker car. The Roodhouse police chief said the derailment occurred at 8:05 a.m. as the 144-car train was making its way from the west and making a slow turn onto its southbound track. Four engines and six cars made the turn and were on the southbound track. The nine cars that followed jumped the track and fell to the west side of the tracks near the railroad overpass on West Rowe Street. The Roodhouse Police Department barricaded access to West Rowe under the train overpass and were doing traffic control and ensuring public safety by keeping spectators off railroad property near the derailment.
Source: http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/kacs_nine-cars-jump-tracks-in-roodhouse-derailment-1314413.html
25. *November 16, Cleveland Plain Dealer* – (Ohio) **Derailment causes 26-car pileup at Sheffield railyard.** Twenty-six cars on a Norfolk Southern railroad train derailed and crashed at the railroad’s yard near Abbe Road in Sheffield, Ohio, November 16, damaging track but causing little other disruption. No one was injured in the accident

that happened just after 7 a.m. Police did not order an evacuation of the area since half of the cars were empty, and the others contained no hazardous materials. No roads were affected and a Norfolk Southern spokesman said other trains were directed to a second line between Vermilion and Cleveland. The train was headed from Bellevue, Ohio to Buffalo, New York, on a main line adjacent to the Sheffield yard. The rail yard remains open, despite the pileup of toppled cars and loads of sand being dumped on tracks.

Source: http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/11/post_393.html

26. *November 16, New York Post* – (New York) **New York subways not prepared for a mass evacuation, bombshell lawsuit claims.** The New York City subway system is ill-prepared for a mass evacuation in the case of a fire, explosion, or terrorist attack, and a judge needs to command the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to fix the “very dangerous and potentially lethal” conditions, according to a whistleblower lawsuit filed by a 25-year MTA veteran in Brooklyn federal court November 17. In August 2007, the former superintendent in the division of station operations, told his bosses that the “anti-crime” gates — which make it possible to close off alternate entrances and exits to subway stations during certain times of the day — were open, but not padlocked open. That meant someone could enter the station, close the gates, and lock them, creating “a very dangerous and potentially lethal event in an emergency situation,” like an explosion, bomb threat, or chemical or biological attack, the suit said. The former superintendent also claimed the MTA provided him with too few chains and padlocks for the gates, and when transit bosses took a survey of how many were unsecured, “the actual safety conditions in the field were being underreported in the survey.”

Source:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/subways_not_prepared_for_mass_evacuation_UMwjMQHWM5b0PN0BtIEJP

27. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Fed officials recommend dredging Port of Savannah.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said November 16 that the environmental costs of dredging the Port of Savannah in Georgia to accommodate larger ships can be offset, a long-awaited finding that advances a plan to expand the country’s fourth-largest container port. Port officials want to dredge the Savannah River by 6 feet, giving it a 48-foot depth, so the port can accommodate the larger cargo freighters expected to pass through the Panama Canals once it’s deepened in 2014. Unless Savannah’s port can accommodate those ships, authorities fear they will dock elsewhere. Ships carrying petroleum, wood, cement, gypsum and textiles moving through Savannah’s port must now wait until high tide to transit the port, said the executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority. He said the shipping industry is moving toward larger ships that can transport more cargo more efficiently.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9JHET7O4.htm>

For more stories, see items [3](#) and [8](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *November 17, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. postal workers injured in storms.** The storms that moved through the Washington D.C. region overnight from November 16 into November 17 blew the windows out of 20 to 30 postal vehicles, and left two workers with minor injuries, Federal Eye reports. The Curseen-Morris Mail Processing Facility in Washington D.C. had to be evacuated for about 30 minutes overnight. The building has reopened, and the two workers were treated at a local hospital and released.

Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-breaking-news/dc/dc-postal-workers-injured-in-s.html>

29. *November 17, Marketwire* – (California) **Cargo theft in Southern California on the rise and expected to worsen during 2010 holiday season.** California has the highest rate of cargo theft in the nation with a frightening increase in armed robberies, warehouse theft, and truck hijackings occurring throughout the state. According to Diversified Risk Management, Inc. (DRM, Inc.), a Southern California investigative firm, many of these incidents are “inside jobs.” Law enforcement and insurance industry officials estimated that cargo theft costs the U.S. shipping industry over \$30 billion per year with most incidents occurring in the fourth quarter of the year. Thefts are such a great threat that the FBI recently issued an alert on this growing crime. “Over the past decade, cargo theft has risen dramatically but it’s never been as high as it is now,” said DRM’s managing partner and senior executive investigator. To offset millions of dollars in potential losses, he suggested executives in manufacturing and shipping industries take definitive action. “Cargo typically disappears from the truck somewhere between the distribution facility and the final destination,” said the official. “In our investigations, we have found that either there is an inside connection at the shipping department feeding valuable information to the hijackers, or the freight truck driver is working independently with the criminals. It’s very rare for hijackers or burglars to approach a truck without already knowing what’s onboard. The type of merchandise targeted for theft typically includes recyclable metals, pharmaceuticals, consumer electronics, clothing, building supplies, cigarettes, or food.”

Source: <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Cargo-Theft-Southern-California-on-Rise-Expected-Worsen-During-2010-Holiday-Season-1354972.htm>

30. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Downtown Eugene buildings evacuated after bomb threat.** Police said a man who threatened to blow up a van near the Eugene, Oregon post office has been arrested. The Register-Guard said authorities November 16 evacuated nearby buildings, including the Hilton Eugene, after learning of the threat. Police negotiators talked the man out of the van, which was parked outside the post office on Willamette Street. A bomb team found no explosives. A Eugene police spokeswoman said a 62-year-old male from nearby Corvallis was arrested for investigation of disorderly conduct. The FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service are working on the investigation.

Source: <http://www.koinlocal6.com/news/local/story/Downtown-Eugene-buildings-evacuated-after-bomb/IrYymKBp0ug0-Rvoh7jhA.csp>

Agriculture and Food Sector

31. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Ala. health officials warn that fish caught in Lake Logan Martin area may be contaminated.** The Alabama Department of Public Health said there is a potential health risk from eating fish caught in the Lake Logan Martin area. Possible polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination caused the department to issue advisories October 7. PCBs were used as electrical insulation until they were banned in 1979. PCBs are listed by the department as a possible carcinogen. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating and working on cleanup strategies. The EPA's remedial project manager for the Anniston PCB site said the investigation includes the Monsanto plant site in Anniston, and the area from Snow Creek down to Choccolocco Creek. She said PCB concentrations have been decreasing, but the EPA needs to make sure they keep going down.
Source: <http://www.whnt.com/lifestyle/sns-ap-al--fish-contamination,0,2051534.story>
32. *November 16, ScienceDaily* – (National) **Feed likely source of Salmonella contamination on pig farms.** Commercial feed appears to be a source of Salmonella contamination in commercial swine production units, according to a paper in the November 2010 issue of the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology. Moreover, nearly half of isolates found in pigs were multidrug resistant. The findings suggest that pork could be a source of human infection. They also strongly question the conventional wisdom that processed feed is not a source of contamination. Heat treatment during processing has been thought to kill any bacterial contaminants. The research team, led by a researcher from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Ohio State University, tested samples collected from feed bins prior to exposure to the barn environment, as well as fecal samples and environmental samples from the barns. They found contaminated feed in eight of 36 barns tested, with a sample prevalence of 3.6 percent. These isolates fell into five different genotypes. In four of the five cases, they found that fecal samples they tested from a given barn and time point matched the feed samples from the same barn and time period, suggesting that the feed was indeed the contamination source.
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/11/101116162652.htm>
33. *November 16, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (National) **Lead taints reusable shopping bags.** A number of reusable bags available at major retailers and supermarkets are tainted with lead, according to an investigation by the Tampa Tribune. The lead, contained in the paint on the outside of the bags, is not likely to rub off on foodstuffs, but the levels of the toxic metal are high enough that the bags would be considered hazardous waste by the county health department featured in the Tribune's report. A Senator from New York has called for a federal investigation into the safety of the grocery bags.
Source:
http://www.startribune.com/local/108521729.html?elr=KArksDyyicyUtyyicyUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUokEya_tyycy_eEQDU

34. *November 16, Cleveland Sun News* – (Ohio) **Ammonia leak in Hinckley cleaned up early this morning.** Fire personnel from Hinckley, Ohio along with the Brunswick Fire Department responded to a chemical leak at 2 a.m. at the distribution center for the Aldi supermarket chain in Hinckley. “We were there for calls of a chemical smell in the air,” said the Brunswick assistant fire chief. “They use the ammonia in refrigeration tanks at the distribution facility. From what I understand, there was a malfunction of a valve causing the ammonia to spill out.” The Medina County Hazmat team was called to the scene, which was cleared at around 5 a.m., he said. There were no reported injuries.

Source:

http://blog.cleveland.com/brunswickstimes/2010/11/ammonia_leak_in_hinckley_clean.html

35. *November 16, Bar Harbor Mount Desert Islander* – (Maine) **Oyster disease worries industry.** Oysters growers and Maine officials met recently to deal with the spread of a disease that is lethal to oysters which, while harmless to humans, could have an effect on the oyster market. Officials with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and many of the state’s oyster farmers and other experts gathered at the University of Maine’s Darling Marine Center on the shore of the Damariscotta River. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on some sort of action plan in the face of an outbreak of MSX in shellfish grown in the river. According to DMR, about 70 to 75 percent of the state’s \$1.2 million-plus annual farmed oyster harvest comes from the Damariscotta. Neither DMR nor Maine oyster farmers have much firsthand experience with MSX – a disease caused by the parasite *Haplosporidium nelsoni*. But the potential for damage if the disease spreads is well documented. Mortality among oysters attacked by the disease can reach 80 to 90 percent. Several years ago, MSX nearly wiped out the oyster population of Chesapeake Bay off the coast of Maryland and Virginia.

Source:

http://fenceviewer.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52422:oyster-disease-worries-industry&catid=39:maritime&Itemid=651

For more stories, see items [7](#), [36](#), and [43](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

36. *November 17, Muncie Star Press* – (Indiana) **Coal-fired power plants contaminate fish, water.** Mercury in the rain and mercury going down the drain are responsible for statewide contamination of water and fish in Indiana. Indiana’s mercury levels routinely exceed levels recommended to protect people and wildlife, a new federal study found. About one in eight fish samples tested had mercury that exceeded the recommended safety limit for human consumption, according to the report “Mercury in Indiana Watersheds,” conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Coal-fired power plants were responsible for 58 percent of all mercury emissions into Indiana’s air in 2005. The other largest contributors were steel mills and cement plants.

Source: <http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20101117/NEWS01/11170301>

37. *November 17, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Line sparks gas fire North Toledo homes evacuated; no one hurt.** A fire in a Columbia Gas of Ohio regulator station November 16 shot a bright plume of flame into the treetops, caused several homes to be evacuated, and a Toledo neighborhood to lose electricity, but injured nobody. The only gas customer to lose service was Toledo's wastewater treatment plant, a Columbia Gas spokesman said, adding that restoring service would take 24 hours. Fire crews responded to a report of a downed electrical line in the 3200 block of East Manhattan Boulevard about 5:20 p.m. Firefighters arriving at the scene detected a strong odor of natural gas and found the downed line, the battalion chief said. Columbia Gas and Toledo Edison were contacted and electrical service to neighborhood businesses and residences was disconnected, but not before a spark from the downed line probably ignited leaking gas inside the regulator station, the chief said. At 7:30 p.m. the valve was closed, and the flames died as the residual gas in the line burned away.
Source: <http://toledoblade.com/article/20101117/NEWS16/11160373>
38. *November 17, KUAM 8 Hagatna* – (Guam) **GWA violating Clean Water Act for 7 years.** The Guam Waterworks Authority's (GWA) violations of the Clean Water Act were the subject of a November 17 court hearing. During the quarterly hearing, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) officials sounded off violation after violation blasting GWA for its continued failure to complete the last seven items in the stipulated order. The Sinajana transmission line, the groundwater chlorination system, drinking water tank assessments — until these projects are completed, E.coli and fecal contamination will continue to pose a serious threat to the public water supply. "We agree its urgent," said the chairman of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities of Guam. "We agreed with them in 2003." But for 7 years, deadlines for completion have come and gone. GWA's excuse has always been the same: money. With last week's \$118 million bond issuance, the chairman said GWA can finally begin to put planning into action, but the DOJ is still concerned they have not seen any movement on upgrading the island's wastewater system. Even with the bond, GWA does not have the money to pay for it. For now, GWA has identified \$4 million for upgrading the Agana Treatment Plant and according to the chairman the U.S. Department of Defense has verbally committed to paying \$8 million for implementing interim technical solutions that would increase the capacity of the Northern Water Treatment Plant. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requesting that, at the very least, GWA submit to them those plans to bring Guam's wastewater system into compliance with current permits.
Source: <http://www.kuam.com/Global/story.asp?S=13516662>
39. *November 17, San Bernardino County Sun* – (California) **Regulators require replacement for contaminated water.** Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) must provide clean drinking water to residents in Hinkley, California whose groundwater has abnormally high levels of a cancer-causing pollutant, water regulators announced in a November 16 memo. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board said it will formally issue the order by November 30, but a PG&E spokesman said the utility company is already distributing water bottles to six residents whose wells have more than 3.1 parts per billion of hexavalent chromium. That is the same limit the board is proposing, because chromium exists naturally in the town's groundwater. Tests showed

plumes of chromium — made famous by then-legal clerk Erin Brockovich's successful lawsuit against PG&E in 1996 — spreading again in March. A water board spokeswoman said the board is considering an additional order regarding wells with levels of the contaminant lower than 3.1 parts per billion, but rising relative to what earlier tests showed.

Source: http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/pcg_regulators-require-replacement-for-contaminated-water-1314012.html

40. *November 16, Columbus Republic* – (Indiana) **Contamination of old Arvin plant raises health concerns.** Homes of 46 residents who live near the former 17th Street Arvin plant in Columbus, Indiana, are being tested for vapors released from chemicals once used at the plant, which have contaminated soil and groundwater. Soil vapor tests in mid-September revealed that perchloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) were detected outside the plant's property and near about 136 homes in surrounding neighborhoods. PCE and TCE are chemical solvents used in commercial and manufacturing operations such as dry cleaning and metal cleaning. They are classified as volatile organic compounds that can release gases into air, soil and groundwater. Prolonged exposure to PCE and TCE through the air may cause cancer or problems with the central nervous system or neurological problems, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/local_story/Contamination_of_old_Arvin_plant_raises_health_concerns_11_16_2010/

41. *November 16, Orlando Sentinel* – (California) **Evaluation for man accused of naked run at Hollywood water plant.** A federal magistrate has ordered a psychiatric evaluation for a man who allegedly ran naked inside a Hollywood, Florida, water plant, put on a bright-green biohazard suit and flipped off switches, causing electrical disruptions, court records show. The judge November 15 ordered the evaluation for the 29-year-old, of St. Louis, who faces federal charges of tampering with a public drinking water system. According to a Hollywood police arrest report: At about 5 a.m. November 1, the accused climbed a fence to enter the Hollywood water treatment plant and removed his clothes near a retention pond. A witness phoned police to report seeing a naked man running across the plant. Meanwhile, the accused got into a main control room and shut off power to the plant's north side by turning off three control breakers. He put on a fluorescent-green biohazard suit he grabbed from a cabinet in the control room. Then he made his way across the rest of the plant, turning off more switches and causing more electrical disruptions. The suspect ran into a plant manager who asked what he was doing. The manager phoned police and they responded. The suspect told the officer he was from California and did not know why he was there. He said his name was "Micheal Myers" and that his Social Security number consisted of a string of sixes.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/fl-hollywood-water-plant-arrest-20101116,0,3994398.story>

42. *November 16, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (California) **U.S. EPA orders Caltrans to comply with Clean Water Act to protect state waters.** The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) to upgrade its statewide stormwater management program, and exert stronger controls over stormwater discharges from its road construction and maintenance sites. The Clean Water Act enforcement action follows a series of EPA field audits of four Northern California CalTrans districts. Accompanied by state and regional water board representatives, EPA inspected numerous CalTrans construction and maintenance sites, and found violations of the California-issued stormwater permit designed to protect the state's water resources from polluted stormwater runoff.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/9635D2E39894B2A1852577DD0062CFDE>

43. *November 16, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Truck falls into river in Minturn.** A tractor trailer fell down an embankment November 16 and landed in the Eagle River in Minturn, Colorado. The truck spilled about 28 tons of salt used to make fertilizer into the river, the driver and fire officials said. As of about 4:15 p.m., Belfor Environmental Company was on the way to evaluate if any contamination had occurred, Minturn Police said in a press release. As a precaution, the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District shut down the intake for the public drinking water facilities in Avon, Edwards, and Wolcott. Around 11:30 a.m., a tractor trailer heading south on Highway 24 crossed the center line, hit a northbound pickup truck and rolled down the river embankment, the Eagle River Fire Protection District battalion chief said. The tractor trailer landed upside down at the edge of the river. Officials are investigating whether the snowy weather conditions caused the wreck. It is too soon to say how the spill could affect the fish, the district wildlife manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife said. The district engineer with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said the chemical in the river is potash, which is made primarily of potassium sulfate. Minturn Police, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, Eagle County Ambulance District, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and A-1 traffic control also responded.

Source:

<http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20101116/NEWS/101119864/1078&ParentProfile=1062>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

44. *November 17, WOFL 35 Orlando* – (Florida) **Deputies investigate hospital bomb threats.** Law enforcement agencies in three Central Florida counties were investigating bomb threats made at three Florida Hospital locations November 16. Authorities in Lake, Orange, and Osceola counties said calls were received at Florida Hospital Waterman (Tavares), Florida Hospital East, and Florida Hospital Kissimmee, respectively. In Orange County, deputies said an unidentified female caller said there was a bomb on the hospital property, located at 7727 Lake Underhill Road. Hospital

personnel decided to shut down the emergency room to incoming patients, but patient care inside the hospital was not interrupted. Investigators believed the call was a hoax; however safety precautions were taken and after two-and-a-half hours, the scene was cleared and it was determined that the threat was unfounded. There were similar calls placed at the two other hospitals. All sites were cleared of any danger.

Source: http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/orange_news/111610deputies-investigate-hospital-bomb-threat

45. *November 17, WMUR 9 Manchester* – (New Hampshire) **Police search for thieves who stole prescription medications.** Rochester, New Hampshire police are asking for the public's helping in finding thieves who stole a large amount of prescription medications. Police said at about 9:30 p.m. November 9, a white box truck was making a delivery at Care Pharmacy on South Main Street when a large amount of prescription medications was stolen from the back of the truck. Police said the truck was unlocked and the driver was inside the store making the delivery. Authorities said the truck was backed up to a loading dock near the traffic lights by Benedicts Restaurant and Southside Bubbles when the medication was stolen.

Source: <http://www.wmur.com/newsarchive/25823304/detail.html>

46. *November 17, CNN* – (Florida; International) **Florida woman diagnosed with cholera.** A woman who recently returned to Florida from Haiti has been diagnosed with cholera, the Florida Department of Health (FDH) announced November 17. An outbreak of the disease in Haiti has killed more than 1,100 people there, health officials said. "We have laboratory confirmation that it is the type of cholera spreading in Haiti," an FDH spokesman said. "This is not a major public health concern, but we're on top of it," he added. The woman has been released from the hospital where she was being treated and is doing well, he said. "We are working with our health care partners to ensure appropriate care of this individual and prevent the spread of this disease within the community," the Florida Surgeon General said in a written statement. Florida authorities will "continue to monitor the state for any future cases," she added. The FDH noted that the superior U.S. infrastructure minimizes the risk for fecal contamination of food and water, limiting the potential spread of the disease. Person-to-person transmission is rare, it added. In the past 5 years, 44 cases of cholera have been reported in the United States, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/11/17/florida.haiti.cholera/index.html?hpt=T2>

47. *November 16, WABC 7 New York* – (New York) **Doctor accused in pain medicine bust on Staten Island.** An 83-year-old doctor on Staten Island, New York is charged with dealing drugs. Police said he was selling Oxycontin out of his dining room. On November 16, federal agents lugged boxes of evidence from the Hunter Avenue home the doctor also uses as his office. The 83-year-old was arrested for allegedly distributing Oxycodone. Prosecutors alleged in court papers that he handed out about 3,000 prescriptions of Oxycodone over the last 7 months, making for an average of 15 per day, 7 days a week. Officials said nearly 500 customers were under 30-years-old. And the prescriptions of 180 or 240 Oxycontin pills sold for \$200. If convicted, the

suspect could face 20 years behind bars.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local&id=7792617>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

48. *November 17, KETK 56 Tyler* – (Texas) **Feds investigate bomb threat at Austin-area school.** Texas and federal authorities are investigating a bomb threat at an Austin-area middle school a day after the threat was first made. A Williamson County sheriff's sergeant said the middle school and a nearby elementary school were evacuated about noon November 16 because of elevated concern over a call that came in late November 15. No explosives had been found on campus. Investigators called in the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Texas Department of Public Safety. More than 1,500 students are enrolled in the two schools.

Source: <http://www.ketknbc.com/round-rock/feds-investigate-bomb-threat-at-austin-area-school>

49. *November 17, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **N.E. Phila. man admits threats to congressman.** A Philadelphia, Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty in federal court November 16 to making death threats to a U.S. congressman. The 38-year-old suspect threatened the life of a U.S. Representative from Virginia and the lives of his family members in several videotaped rants posted on YouTube. The suspect, who has a history of mental illness according to his family, was arrested March 27 by the FBI. After the arrest, the man told agents that the U.S. Representative was "pure evil" and "will be dead." He pleaded guilty to an information charging him with threatening an official of the United States and related crimes. He faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced February 3.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20101117_N_E_Phila_man_admits_threats_to_congressman.html

50. *November 17, abs-cbnNEWS.com* – (International) **Explosives found near US embassy.** A fragmentation grenade and grenade launcher were found near the United States Embassy in Manila, Philippines, November 17. In a statement, a U.S. Embassy spokesperson said a street sweeper "found a bag containing possible explosive devices on the median between the Service Road and Roxas Boulevard in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy property." The street sweeper immediately alerted an embassy guard, who in turn informed local police authorities. The incident comes at a time when the government is trying to sway other nations, including the United States, from taking back their travel advisories against the Philippines.

Source: <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/metro-manila/11/17/10/explosives-found-near-us-embassy>

51. *November 16, Peoria Journal Star* – (Illinois) **Chicagoan arrested in threat.** Court records released November 16 allege a Chicago, Illinois teenager called in at least one

bomb threat to Western Illinois University (WIU) and could be linked to possibly four others. A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Peoria the week of November 15 alleged the suspect made an October 25 call regarding the university's Tanner Hall. The complaint charged the Internet address of an unnamed immediate family member was used to access an automated phone system, which then placed several more threatening calls to the university. FBI officials have said they don't "believe this family member was involved in any way." The 18-year-old suspect was arrested November 16 in Chicago by the FBI and university police. He appeared in federal court that day on the single count of making a bomb threat, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison. After a brief hearing, he was ordered held in the custody of the U.S. marshals pending a bond hearing November 22. The complaint, unsealed November 16, stated police believe the suspect called in the threat to Tanner Hall because the school's caller ID system connected his cell phone number to the threatening call. When questioned by police, he allegedly admitted he made the call, providing details that hadn't been released, the complaint stated. He told police after the first arrest that he made the initial call to test the response time of WIU officials to a bomb scare on campus. The FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Springfield Division said it is not believed the suspect is connected to the notes, and an investigation continues into those cases.

Source: <http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1615408893/WIU-suspect-in-Peoria-courtroom>

52. *November 16, KTXS 12 Trent* – (Texas) **Old courthouse evacuated following bomb threat.** About 4:40 p.m. November 16, someone phoned in a bomb threat to the Taylor County Community Corrections Office in Abilene, Texas. The old courthouse was evacuated and a search begun. Taylor County sheriff's deputies also cordoned off the area around the courthouse and the sheriff requested assistance from Dyess Air Force Base. Their bomb-sniffing dogs spent over 1 hour searching the building. The search ended just before 7:30 p.m. and no threat was found. The sheriff's department is working to see if they can identify the male caller who phoned in the threat.

Source: <http://www.ktxs.com/news/25820130/detail.html>

For another story, see item [61](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

53. *November 17, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Teen gunman raids Calif. police station after killing 2 men.** An 18-year-old gunman fatally shot two men and wounded a woman at a Vacaville, California, apartment early November 16 before raiding the city's nearby police station, where he was arrested, authorities said. The suspect came to the Merchant Street station armed, but lost his weapon while smashing a glass door and a window in the lobby, police said. An officer fired a Taser at the Vacaville resident before he was subdued. The incident began just before 2 a.m., when police received reports of gunfire on the 500 block of William Street, about 3 blocks from the station. Officers found the wounded woman in front of the apartment and the

two dead men inside. The woman is recovering at a hospital and is expected to survive, police said. Detectives believe the victims knew the suspect, but are investigating why he allegedly shot them and then stormed the station minutes later.

Source: <http://www.policeone.com/active-shooter/articles/2919694-Teen-gunman-raids-Calif-police-station-after-killing-2-men/>

54. *November 16, New York Times* – (National) **F.B.I. seeks wider wiretap law for web.** The director of the FBI traveled to Silicon Valley in California November 16 to meet with top executives of several technology firms about a proposal to make it easier to wiretap Internet users. The FBI director and the FBI's general counsel were scheduled to meet with senior managers of many major companies, including Google and Facebook, according to several people familiar with the discussions. The director wants to expand a 1994 law, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, to impose regulations on Internet companies. The law requires phone and broadband network access providers to make sure they can immediately comply when presented with a court wiretapping order. Law enforcement officials want the 1994 law to also cover Internet companies because people increasingly communicate online. An interagency task force of Presidential Administration officials is trying to develop legislation and submit it to Congress early next year. Under the proposal, firms would have to design systems to intercept and unscramble encrypted messages. Services based overseas would have to route communications through a server on United States soil where they could be wiretapped.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/technology/17wiretap.html?_r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss

For more stories, see items [52](#) and [62](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

55. *November 17, The Register* – (International) **Hackers hop onto royal engagement search results.** Knaves, scoundrels and others took only minutes to leap onto November 16's news of the engagement of a prince of England in a bid to expose surfers to malware. Links to malicious sites appeared prominently in Google searches for the prince's fiancée. Malicious downloads are offered to surfers under the guise of a Firefox update, as explained in a blog post by GFI Software. Net security firm Websense adds that prince-themed search terms have also been poisoned, in many cases towards redirecting surfers towards sites touting rogue anti-virus (scareware). Websense recently reported that 22.4 percent of all searches for current news leads to malicious search results, a figure that probably increases for the biggest stories such as the royal wedding engagement announcement.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/11/17/royal_engagement_malware/

56. *November 16, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Changing password may help curb computer virus.** A computer virus plaguing inboxes the week of November 15 appears to be affecting Web-based e-mail accounts. The fix might be as simple as changing a password. The virus can be caught through spam that erroneously looks like it is from the user. It is sent to people the user knows. The subject line is blank and the body of the e-mail contains no text, just an e-mail link. It is invasive, bothersome, and mysterious, and believed to be affecting thousands of people in Utah. The e-mail administrator at Internet Service Provider XMission investigated and found a common link in Web-based e-mail accounts such as Hotmail, Yahoo, and Gmail. In most cases that XMission checked, passwords may have been hacked, allowing access to e-mail address books. Changing passwords appears to be an important, yet simple fix. XMission's vice president of operations said some of the problems have been fixed for providers, but not all. "This is fairly typical to what is happening all the time. Just follow best practices, good passwords, anti-virus software," he said. Experts said it is wise to have a good password in general — a mix of letters and numbers, at least eight characters long, and not found in the dictionary.

Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=13301520>

57. *November 16, Computerworld* – (International) **Adobe patches under-attack Reader bug.** Adobe November 16 issued an emergency update for its popular Reader PDF software that patched two critical vulnerabilities, including one attackers have exploited for weeks. The more notable flaw fixed in Reader 9.4.1 for Windows and Mac OS X was a bug that hackers have been leveraging since late October using malicious PDF documents. Those attacks have taken advantage of a flaw in Reader's "authplay" component. Authplay is the interpreter that renders Flash content embedded within PDF files. Successful attacks have dropped a Trojan horse and other malware on victimized Windows PCs. The second vulnerability addressed November 16 was disclosed on the Full Disclosure security mailing list earlier this month. At the time, Adobe said the flaw could be used to crash Reader, but not Acrobat, and said it was unsure whether an exploit could compromise a computer running the PDF program. Only the Windows and Mac versions of Reader and Acrobat were patched November 16. An updated Reader for Linux/Unix will not ship until November 30. Adobe also postponed a patch for the older Adobe 8.x, which is vulnerable to the second bug. Neither bug affected the Android version of Reader Adobe launched in August. Adobe Reader and Acrobat for Windows and Mac OS X can be downloaded using the links included in November 16's advisory. Alternately, users can call up the programs' built-in update mechanisms to grab the new versions.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9196818/Adobe_patches_under_attack_Reader_bug

58. *November 16, IDG News Service* – (National) **Man charged with stealing secrets from wireless company Sirf.** A San Ramon, California, man is facing charges he stole valuable technology from his former employer in hopes of building competitive location-aware products. The suspect was arrested November 16, on charges he stole trade secrets from Sirf Technology, a San Jose, California, maker of Global Positioning

System chipsets, used by wireless location-aware programs in devices such as mobile phones and automobile navigation systems. A noted expert on location aware technology, he had been a director of software development before resigning from Sirf in May 2009. He had been with the company for 7 years. According to prosecutors, the suspect set up a company called Anywhere Logic “in order to develop and sell location-based services utilizing trade secrets stolen from Sirf.” He allegedly hired two Sirf engineers away from Sirf to work at Anywhere Logic. They have also been charged in the case, but are now living in China. The suspect was indicted by a grand jury November 10, but the indictment was sealed until he was arrested. He could face a 10-year sentence if convicted of the charges. He was released on a \$500,000 bond after making his first court appearance at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in San Jose, November 16. Sirf was acquired by the U.K.’s Cambridge Silicon Radio, a maker of Bluetooth and wireless chipsets, in 2009.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9196878/Man_charged_with_stealing_secrets_from_wireless_company_Sirf

59. *November 16, Computerworld* – (International) **Hackers, spammers will target Facebook Messages, say experts.** Facebook’s revamped Messages will be a very attractive target for spammers, scammers, and malware makers, security experts said November 16. Facebook countered, saying that it has implemented new measures to protect users, including third-party anti-spam filtering of inbound e-mail. On November 15, Facebook unveiled its new Messages, which adds e-mail to the ways members can communicate with friends. An all-in-one inbox collects Facebook messages, instant messages, text messages, and e-mail into a single view. The addition of e-mail means that spammers and scammers have yet another way to reach users, said a senior security adviser at antivirus vendor Sophos. The security adviser compared Facebook’s history of combating spam with Google’s Gmail, and gave the thumbs up to the latter. “In Gmail, it’s not impossible to spam, but it’s difficult ... Gmail does a pretty damn good job of protecting users.” In a reply to questions, a Facebook spokesman said the company has contracted with a third-party vendor to “supplement our spam detection and protection for messages sent from e-mail addresses off of Facebook.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9196828/Hackers_spammers_will_target_Facebook_Messages_say_experts

60. *November 16, SC Magazine UK* – (International) **Symantec claims breakthrough in understanding on how Stuxnet operates and what its targets are.** The Stuxnet worm requires the industrial control system to have frequency converter drives from at least one of two specific vendors. According to a Symantec representative, new research that was published late the week of November 8 established that Stuxnet searches for frequency converter drives made by Fararo Paya of Iran, and Vacon of Finland. He said: “The new key findings are that Stuxnet requires particular frequency converter drives from specific vendors, some of which may not be procurable in certain countries. Stuxnet requires the frequency converter drives to be operating at very high speeds. While frequency converter drives are used in many industrial control applications,

these speeds are used only in a limited number of applications. Stuxnet also changes the output frequencies and thus the speed of the motors for short intervals over periods of months. Interfering with the speed of the motors sabotages the normal operation of the industrial control process. Symantec's new detection therefore determined that once operation at those frequencies occurs for a period of time, Stuxnet then hijacks the PLC code and begins modifying the behavior of the frequency converter drives. In addition to other parameters, over a period of months, Stuxnet changes the output frequency for short periods of time to 1,410Hz and then to 2Hz and then to 1,064Hz. Modification of the output frequency essentially sabotages the automation system from operating properly," he said.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/symantec-claims-breakthrough-in-understanding-on-how-stuxnet-operates-and-what-its-targets-are/article/190903/>

61. *November 16, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. sees huge cyber threat in the future.** The United States faces a major threat in the future from cyber technologies that will require civil-military coordination to shield networks from attack, the U.S. Defense Secretary said November 16. "I think there is a huge future threat. And there is a considerable current threat," he told The Wall Street Journal CEO Council. The Defense Department (DoD) estimated that more than 100 foreign intelligence organizations have attempted to break into U.S. networks. Every year, hackers also steal enough data from U.S. government agencies, businesses, and universities to fill the U.S. Library of Congress many times over, officials said. The Secretary said the U.S. military had made considerable progress protecting its own sites and was working with private-sector partners "to bring them under that umbrella." But how to allow Pentagon know-how to be applied to protecting domestic infrastructure can be tricky for legal reasons, including fear of violating civil liberties. "The key is the only defense that the United States has against nation-states and other potential threats in the cyber-world is the National Security Agency," he said, referring to the super-secretive DoD arm that shields national security information and networks, and intercepts foreign communications. Last month, the Presidential Administration announced steps to allow greater cooperation between the NSA and DHS.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AF4UX20101116>

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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

62. *November 17, AOL News* – (National) **Emergency broadcast system coming to cell phones.** The communications company Alcatel-Lucent announced November 16 that it

is creating a Broadcast Message Center that will allow government agencies to send cell phone users specific information in the event of a local, state, or national emergency. It will be similar to the TV alerts in that the text messages will be geographically targeted for areas where a tornado alert or major road closure, for example, is in effect. The Broadcast Message Center is designed to help mobile phone companies comply with new federal rules outlined in the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Commercial Mobile Alert System, the Urgent Communications journal reported. Under the new system, all phones would receive emergency alerts directly from the U.S. government about terrorist attacks or natural disasters, but users can opt out of receiving local warnings about weather, traffic accidents, or Amber Alerts. The system has already been tested in California and Florida, and is expected to be up and running in compliance with FCC guidelines by April 2012.

Source: <http://www.aolnews.com/nation/article/emergency-broadcast-system-coming-to-cell-phones/19721588>

63. *November 16, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Copper wire thieves knocked out fiber optic cable.** Thousands of customers in Northern Utah had their telephone and Internet service restored after thieves attempted to steal 1,000 feet of copper cable, but got fiber optic cable instead. Someone snuck through a hole in a fence near 1400 West and 200 South November 15, then lifted heavy iron lids to get to a series of cables, which carry telephone and Internet to Tooele, western Utah and northeastern Nevada. The thieves cut the line from one vault, and pulled out 1,000 feet of cable out another several blocks away. They left it there, apparently disappointed to find fiber optic rather than copper, which draws a pretty penny on the black market. It took nearly 24 hours for Beehive Telephone's crews to string the cable back through the line and repair the damage, and cost an estimated \$20,000.

Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=13301386>

64. *November 16, Talladega Daily Home* – (Alabama) **AT&T service problems continue in Talladega County.** Dropped calls and delayed text messages have plagued Talladega County, Alabama AT&T customers for the past few months, resulting in numerous phone calls to customer service and numerous attempts by AT&T to pacify them. Complaints range from customers receiving 6-day old text messages all at once, to elation that their cell phone actually rang that day. But the consensus among most disgruntled customers is the inability for AT&T to secure a date and time when service will improve. Customers have heard that their service woes would be taken care of in October, and early November, and now the date heard around the county is November 20. The main source of the poor reception in Talladega County is what an AT&T customer service representative refers to as a degraded tower. "From our maps here, we have a tower down 10 miles from Talladega," she said. She said the outage started September 27 and the planned restoration for that degraded tower will be by November 20.

Source: http://www.dailyhome.com/view/full_story/10340064/article-AT-T-service-problems-continue-in-Talladega-County?instance=home_lead_story

For more stories, see items [54](#) and [58](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

65. *November 17, KOKI 23 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Residents evacuated after police find active meth lab.** At least one person is in police custody after the discovery of a “active meth lab” November 16 at a South Tulsa, Oklahoma housing project. Authorities were called to the Inhofe Plaza Apartments just before 11 p.m. regarding a burglary in progress. When police arrived, they found the burglar inside the bathroom of one of the apartments manufacturing meth. A Tulsa police sergeant said the lab was “volatile and dangerous” enough to warrant the evacuation of surrounding apartments. Residents remained outside the building for a short time while Tulsa Police called in their meth lab clean-up team along with the Tulsa Fire Department to aid in the removal of the lab.
Source: <http://www.fox23.com/news/local/story/Residents-Evacuated-After-Police-Find-Active-Meth/kmlXIfMfIk-wwNXvYMap9A.csp>
66. *November 16, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Security guard admits making bomb threats at NBA office.** A private security guard admitted phoning bomb threats to a National Basketball Association (NBA) office in New Jersey that he was hired to protect. The man pleaded guilty November 16 to knowingly providing false information indicating that malicious damage by means of an explosive would take place. The 19-year-old faces up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced in March. Prosecutors said the Elizabeth, New Jersey, resident made several calls from his cell phone threatening to blow up the NBA Properties office in Secaucus over a 2-day period beginning July 26, 2010. The offices were evacuated, but no explosives were found.
Source: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/northeast/view/20101116security_guard_admits_making_bomb_threats_at_nba_office/srvc=home&position=recent
67. *November 16, Medford Transcript* – (Massachusetts) **Fire forces temporary evacuation of Mystic Valley Parkway high-rise.** Several residents of a Mystic Valley Parkway high-rise in Medford, Massachusetts, were rushed out of their homes November 15 after a two-alarm fire forced the partial evacuation of the building. The fire caused smoke and water damage to several nearby units inside the Mystic Place Apartments complex. Floors 7 through 10 needed to be evacuated, authorities said. No one was injured in the incident, authorities said, although the evacuation of the building left many residents out in the cold with temperatures dipping into the mid-40s. Tenants were allowed into the lobby of an adjacent high rise for shelter while crews battled the fire. Units from Malden, Somerville, and Cambridge all responded with assistance. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/medford/news/x1270139438/Fire-forces-temporary-evacuation-of-Mystic-Valley-Parkway-high-rise>

For another story, see item [30](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

68. *November 17, Martinsburg Journal* – (West Virginia) **Fire destroys barn near Harpers Ferry park.** A fire destroyed a barn owned by the National Park Service November 16 near Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The barn, located near the intersection of U.S. 340 and Bakerton Road, contained snow equipment and other items used at the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. The fire was first reported before 4 p.m. There were numerous reports of the fire, and the barn was fully involved when firefighters arrived on the scene, the chief of Friendship Fire Co. said. Some of the snow-removal equipment stored in the barn included snowblowers, and there also were a replica cannon, 400 bales of straw and industrial propane heaters, the park grounds, trails, and roads supervisor said. “We just lost our snow removal capabilities,” the park facility manager said. Emergency responders included units from Friendship, Bakerton, Independent, Citizens, Shepherdstown, Maryland, and Virginia. There were no injuries as a result of the fire.

Source: <http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/551592/Fire-destroys-barn-near-Harpers-Ferry-park.html?nav=5006>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

69. *November 17, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Dam project to help New Braunfels avoid flooding.** A \$10 million federal grant will be used for the Krueger Canyon Dam project to help prevent flooding in New Braunfels, Texas. The funding for Comal County was announced November 16. The dam is to be built on Dry Comal Creek in an area west of New Braunfels. During 2 weeks in June, the Comal River and the Guadalupe River were closed to recreation after strong storms led to flooding that swamped some areas. The New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung reported that county commissioners are expected to seek bids for the project, which includes a redesigned dam proposal.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/7298679.html>

70. *November 17, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Workers begin taking down section of Hope Mills dam.** Construction workers began making cuts in the breached Hope Mills Lake dam in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in preparation of removing a 67-foot section of the wall. The town manager said it should take 4 to 6 days to remove the wall. After the wall is removed, water flow will be diverted so engineers can begin the process of determining why the dam failed in June. He said the phase two stabilization process should take 4 to 6 weeks. The pedestrian bridge over the dam will have to be closed at least part of that time. The work is being done by Crowder Construction Co. or a subcontractor. The investigation into the dam failure may take as long as a few

years, the town manager said.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/11/17/1048449?sac=Local>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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