



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 November 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

### Top Stories

- The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) warned 13 mines around the country that they could be cited for a “pattern of violations,” a designation that would open them to stringent penalties and partial shutdowns. (See item [5](#))
- According to the Associated Press, the U.S. Energy Department’s watchdog said government agents hired to drive nuclear weapons and components in trucks sometimes got drunk on the job. (See item [11](#))

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### Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 22, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **North Dakota oil well shut down after spill.** A Denver-based energy company has shut down an oil well in northwestern North Dakota after a spill. Whiting Petroleum Corp. said a valve failure led to the spill November 20 about 8 miles northwest of New Town. Workers at the site were evacuated, but Whiting said the spill was in a rural area and no residents had to be

evacuated. No injuries were reported. The company said oil, water, and natural gas spilled. There was no immediate estimate on spill amounts.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/184328/group/homepage/>

2. *November 22, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Storm leaves thousands without power.** A weekend snowstorm left nearly 20,000 people in the Sierra, California, without power. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) said crews were addressing more than 300 separate outages in their Sierra Division. They called in crews from other regions for assistance getting power restored. For many people, PG&E cannot predict when their power will be restored because of the level of outages. Washington, California is one of those communities. The entire town has no power. Nearly 200 people live in the small town. They have been huddling together in the town's only hotel. Last year, the town went 9 days without power following a similar storm. Not far away, in Nevada City, one mobile home community also lost power. A slew of falling trees and branches also caused damage to many homes and vehicles.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/news/25873441/detail.html>

3. *November 21, Bloomberg* – (Illinois) **Exxon Mobil reports ammonia release at Joliet refinery.** Exxon Mobil Corp reported that ammonia gas was released at its Joliet refinery in Illinois November 19 in a filing made with state regulators. More than 160 pounds of the gas was being released per day, caused by the design of the "selective catalytic reduction process," according to a filing made with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The release began at 10 a.m., the report showed. The 248,000-barrel-per-day refinery processes Canadian crude delivered by pipeline. It produces gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas, and asphalt, according to Exxon. The plant is 42 miles southwest of Chicago along the Des Plaines River.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-21/exxon-mobil-reports-ammonia-release-at-joliet-refinery.html>

4. *November 21, Odenton Patch* – (Maryland) **Firefighter at BGE substation hospitalized.** A firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion November 20, while battling an ongoing fire and cleanup at the BGE substation on Waugh Chapel Road in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. An Anne Arundel County Fire Department spokesman said the man is expected to be fine after being evacuated from the scene, where firefighters are expected to remain for at least another day or two. Firefighters have been at the BGE substation since November 17, when a transformer failed and led to major fire involving tens of thousands of gallons of mineral oil. The flames have been contained with fire-suppressing foam, but crews are working to drain the oil from its tank while monitoring the process to prevent further flare-ups. More than 1,000 gallons of oil spilled as a result of the fire, and firefighters have worked to douse the flames while preventing any further environmental problems. The spokesman said draining the mineral oil has occasionally led to flare-ups due to the heat of the oil and the vessel it is contained in.

Source: <http://odenton.patch.com/articles/firefighter-at-bge-substation-hospitalized>

5. *November 20, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (National) **MSHA warns 13 mines of possible ‘pattern of violations’**. The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) November 19, warned 13 mines around the country that they could be cited for a “pattern of violations,” a designation that would open them to stringent penalties and partial shutdowns. No company has ever been placed on a pattern of violations status since the power was first given to MSHA in 1977. The bulk of the pattern of violation letters went to coal mines in the Appalachian region, including Upper Big Branch in Montcoal, West Virginia, which is the subject of a separate dispute over MSHA’s claim that representatives of Massey Energy, the mine’s owner, are impeding their investigation into the deadly April blast that killed 29 miners. The pattern of violation warning list also includes two other Massey properties: the Freedom Energy Mine No. 1 in Pike County, Kentucky, and Spartan Energy Co.’s Ruby mine in Mingo County, West Virginia. The list also targets the Left Fork Mining Co.’s Straight Creek No. 1 coal mine in Bell County, Kentucky. During a blitz of targeted inspections at suspect mines, MSHA issued 92 orders closing sections of the Straight Creek mine since 2008, which MSHA called the highest number issued among the roughly 14,500 mining operations in the United States. The largest mine receiving a threat was Willow Lake Portal, an underground coal mine in Saline County, Illinois, owned by Peabody Energy Corp.  
Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10324/1104711-113.stm>
6. *November 20, Wheeling Intelligencer* – (Pennsylvania) **Profs: Wells pose threat**. With the potential to release uranium and other hazardous materials, the process of Marcellus Shale drilling and hydraulic fracturing must be tightly regulated, university professors said November 19. During the “Health Effects of Shale Gas Extraction” conference at the University of Pittsburgh — located in the city whose council this week unanimously voted to outlaw Marcellus drilling within its boundaries — professors from numerous institutions spoke of the dangers associated with the process. A Pitt professor of environmental and occupational health, also noted some of the rural areas — such as those in Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, and Tyler counties that are seeing increasingly more drilling activity — may be used for the purpose of benefiting big cities. Many of the instructors, students and concerned residents in attendance heard professors speak on the dangers of drilling the deep and horizontal wells required for Marcellus extraction, as well as the fracturing, or “fracking,” method used to break the shale to release the gas. An assistant professor of geology at the University of Buffalo in New York, told the group Uranium is being mobilized by the fracking process. “Concentrations are fairly low,” she said of uranium’s presence in the water used to frack a well. “But they are high enough that it should not be treated like your drinking water.” Though she said she does not consider uranium to be radioactive in terms of her research, she noted the element’s toxicity can lead to liver and kidney damage.  
Source: <http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/549020/Profs--Wells-Pose-Threat.html?nav=515>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *November 22, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **Big rig with liquid nitrogen topples onto HWY 237.** An 18-wheel tanker truck carrying liquid nitrogen toppled over November 20, significantly injuring the driver and blocking all four lanes of traffic on state Highway 237 in San Jose, California, a fire spokesman said. The crash happened around 7:20 p.m. on the eastbound highway just west of First Street, a San Jose Fire spokesman said. The crash caused significant injuries to the driver and spilled about 50 gallons of diesel fuel onto the roadway, he said. No liquid nitrogen was spilled from the truck during the incident.  
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/25869718/detail.html>
8. *November 22, WJBF 6 Augusta* – (Georgia) **Precautionary evacuation made after train derailment in Midville, GA.** In Burke County, Georgia, a stretch of highway was still closed November 22 after a train derailment. Highway 17, from Midville to Millen was shut down. Nineteen hours after the derailment, some families that were evacuated the night of November 21 were reportedly still out of their homes. According to a Norfolk Southern spokesperson, 39 cars headed eastbound jumped the track around 5 p.m. November 21. The train was reportedly pulling nearly 90 cars. Some of the cars that derailed had hazardous material on board. No injuries were reported.  
Source: <http://www2.wjbf.com/news/2010/nov/22/9/precautionary-evacuation-made-after-train-derailme-ar-1118929/>
9. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Rogers hazardous material site cleaned up, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality says.** The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) said 600 tons of hazardous materials have been removed from a bankrupt Rogers business where leaking containers were discovered during an inspection earlier this year. In July, ADEQ workers found leaking containers of flammable materials and liquid oxidizers during a routine inspection at Haz-Mert, a former hazardous waste cleanup business. The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission agreed to spend \$550,000 to clean up the site. ADEQ issued an emergency order for the permanent removal of all materials from the site. Contractors have since removed more than 20 tons of crushed paint cans, more than 56,000 pounds of latex paints, 34 tons of pesticides, 30,000 gallons of paint and lacquer waste, 22 tons of batteries, and 1 ounce of uranium nitrate.  
Source: <http://www.kspr.com/sns-ap-ar--hazmatcleanup.0,5189863.story>

For more stories, see items [3](#), [30](#), [31](#), and [33](#)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

10. *November 22, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Peach Bottom's Unit 3 returns to service.** Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station's Unit 3 reactor in Peach Bottom Township, Pennsylvania returned to service at 7:10 a.m. November 20 after a 5-day maintenance outage, in which workers replaced one of the station's main power transformers, according to Exelon Nuclear, the plant's owner. During the outage,

“workers also performed a number of maintenance tasks that can only be performed while the unit is offline,” Exelon said. The plant’s Unit 2 reactor ran at full power during the transition, Exelon said.

Source: [http://www.ydr.com/business/ci\\_16679260](http://www.ydr.com/business/ci_16679260)

11. *November 22, Associated Press* – (National) **Watchdog: Gov’t workers driving nukes got drunk.** The U.S. Energy Department’s (DoE) watchdog said government agents hired to drive nuclear weapons and components in trucks sometimes got drunk on the job, including an incident last year when two agents were detained by police at a local bar during a convoy mission. The DoE’s assistant inspector general said her office reviewed 16 alcohol-related incidents involving agents, candidate-agents and others from the government’s office of secure transportation between 2007 through 2009. A November 22 report said the incidents “indicate a potential vulnerability” in what it described as a “critical national security mission.” There are nearly 600 federal agents who ship nuclear weapons, weapon components, and special nuclear material across the United States. The report said when agents drank overnight after checking into local hotels, their trucks were in “safe harbor” status.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/11/22/national/main7078461.shtml>

12. *November 20, WRGB 6 Schenectady* – (New York) **DOE launches safety investigation into local atomic power plant leaks.** The U.S. Department of Energy has launched a safety investigation at the Knolls Atomic Power Plant in Niskayuna, New York . According to the Albany Times Union, the agency has replaced its project manager and warned the private cleanup company that it could be fired. The investigations and warning stems following three separate occasions when radioactive material was mishandled at the power plant between September and October. In one of those instances, more than 600 gallons of radioactive water was leaked into the Mohawk River. The river is the water supply Colonie and Cohoes rely on for supplying its public drinking water.

Source: <http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/power-1280569-water-plant.html>

13. *November 19, WREX 13 Rockford* – (Illinois) **Byron’s power plant moves forward with a back-up nuclear waste plan.** Exelon leaders said government indecision forced them to come up with a back-up plan for nuclear waste from the Byron power plant in Ogle County, Illinois. This is only a temporary solution until the federal government figures out where all used nuclear material should go. Exelon said the industry’s original plan had been to move nuclear waste from each company’s “spent fuel pools” to a national repository. It was supposed to be at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. That plan has been stopped and in the meantime, nuclear waste is piling up in company’s pools. “We’re actually nearing capacity in the pool and we actually have two refuel outages in 2011,” said the plant manager. “So projecting forward if we did not complete this campaign we would have run out of capacity by next year.” That is why Exelon had dry casks built. The steel reinforced concrete cylinders have walls up to 26 inches thick and have been tested to survive tornadic winds and extreme heat or fire. In just one dry cask there is about a year’s worth of nuclear waste, at the Byron plant they can store 96 of them. By the middle of next month, Exelon wants to fill up 6 casks. That will leave

enough room in the pool for the nuclear waste it will generate when it refuels the plant next year.

Source: <http://www.wrex.com/Global/story.asp?S=13539577>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

14. *November 22, Associated Press* – (National) **Feds probing mutual funds in alleged insider trading ring: Report.** Federal authorities are examining whether multiple insider-trading rings reaped illegal profits totaling tens of millions of dollars, the Wall Street Journal reported November 20, citing people familiar with the matter. The 3-year criminal and civil investigation could result in charges by the end of the year, the Journal reported. A federal grand jury in New York has heard evidence, the paper said. One focus of the investigation is whether independent analysts and consultants who work for companies that provide “expert network” services to hedge funds and mutual funds passed along nonpublic information, the Journal reported. Such companies set up meetings and calls between current and former managers and traders who want an investing edge. The newspaper said one firm under examination is Primary Global Research LLC of Mountain View, California, which connects experts with investors seeking information in the technology, health care, and other industries. The firm’s Web site said the chief operating officer and the firm’s CEO previously worked for Intel Corp. Prosecutors and regulators are also examining whether bankers from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. leaked information about transactions, including health-care mergers, to the benefit of certain investors, the Journal reported.

Source: <http://www.investmentnews.com/article/20101122/FREE/101129995>

15. *November 21, Evansville Courier and Press* – (Illinois) **Zachary E. Richey sentenced to 35 years for bank robbery.** A Lawrenceville, Illinois, man faces up to 35 years in federal prison after admitting he was the getaway driver in the December 2009 armed robbery of a bank in Lebanon, Illinois. The 24-year-old male told an FBI agent he participated in the robbery because he was unemployed and needed money to buy Christmas gifts for his 6-year-old son. In pleading guilty to a charge of aggravated bank robbery, he faces up to 25 years in prison, and up to 10 more years for his plea to a



charge of using a firearm in relation to a violent crime. Sentencing is set for March 4 in U.S. District Court in East St. Louis. Two other suspects already have entered guilty pleas and have been sentenced for their roles in the holdup of the Regions Bank, which netted the robbers \$22,000. A 32-year-old male is serving an 11-year sentence, and a 62-year-old male is serving a 65-year sentence for their roles in the robbery.

Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/nov/21/no-headline---21b00xguiltyplea-brf/>

16. *November 20, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (New York) **Societe Generale trader convicted of stealing high-frequency trading system code.** The United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that a male suspect, a former trader at Societe Generale (SocGen) was found guilty November 20 of theft of trade secrets and interstate transportation of stolen property for stealing the proprietary computer code used in SocGen's high-frequency trading system. The suspect was found guilty by a federal jury after an 8-day trial before a United States district judge. The Manhattan United States Attorney stated: "As the Manhattan federal jury has now found, he [the suspect] was a thief who hoped to make a small fortune by stealing and copying sophisticated computer code that was the equivalent of gold bullion to his former employers. According to the evidence introduced at the trial and other documents and proceedings in the case: From March 2007 to November 2009, the suspect worked at SocGen's New York offices, first as a quantitative analyst and then as a trader in SocGen's High Frequency Trading Group. SocGen is a global financial services company, headquartered in France.

Source:

[http://7thspace.com/headlines/364353/societe\\_generale\\_trader\\_convicted\\_of\\_stealing\\_high\\_frequency\\_trading\\_system\\_code.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/364353/societe_generale_trader_convicted_of_stealing_high_frequency_trading_system_code.html)

17. *November 19, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Secret Service: Seattle cyber attack larger than first thought.** Federal agents now say the recent Seattle, Washington, cyber attack was a much bigger crime than first thought. A U.S. Secret Service spokesman said more than 1,000 accounts may have been compromised. "We are very close to pinpointing the actual person or persons who perpetrated this crime," he said. The scheme appears to involve the sale or distribution of the stolen account information to numerous individuals across the country, as well as foreign countries. Those individuals then used the information to make purchases against the consumer accounts. The spokesman said the trail leads overseas, with the data stolen October 22 via a one-day computer hack. At this time, evidence points to only one hacker. And now only one business appears to have been hacked. The popular Broadway Grill said it started working with police as soon as the fraud was uncovered last month, and immediately reinforced its computer security.

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/consumer/108568029.html>

18. *November 19, Hermosa Beach Patch* – (California) **Police see similarities between Wells Fargo robber and 'Chimney Sweep Bandit'.** There may be a connection between the robbery of the Wells Fargo November 16, and other bank robberies across Southern California, according to the Hermosa Beach Police Department. "We suspect

it could be the guy who they're calling the 'Chimney Sweep Bandit,' " a detective said November 19. "There are similarities." The Chimney Sweep Bandit, so named because officers noticed dirt on his face in surveillance images, is suspected of robbing a Bank of America branch in Torrance November 4. He is also suspected of robbing banks in Ventura and Orange counties. He allegedly robbed a Chase bank in Orange last year. During that incident, he allegedly passed a note to the teller stating he would kill her, and demanded money. In the Torrance holdup, the robber also passed a note to the teller saying that he had a gun. Similarly, the man who robbed the Wells Fargo in Hermosa passed a note to the teller that read, "I have a gun, give me the money." The FBI is searching for the Chimney Sweep Bandit.

Source: <http://hermosabeach.patch.com/articles/police-see-similarities-between-wells-fargo-robber-and-chimney-sweep-bandit>

19. *November 19, Stamford Times* – (Connecticut) **Man sentenced to 4-plus years for bank robbery spree that included 2 Wilton banks.** A Stamford, Connecticut, man was sentenced November 18 to more than 4 years in prison for his role in a 4-month bank robbery spree that included two Wilton banks. According to court documents and statements made in court, between May 2009 and August 2009, the 29-year-old male robbed 12 banks in Norwalk, Westport, Stamford, Darien, Wilton, Fairfield, and West Harrison, New York. The suspect was sentenced November 18 by the U.S. District Judge in Bridgeport to 54 months of imprisonment, followed by 3 years of supervised release.

Source: <http://www.thestamfordtimes.com/story/494751>

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## **Transportation Sector**

20. *November 22, Associated Press* – (International) **11 alleged gang members killed by Mexican troops.** A gun battle between Mexican soldiers and drug cartel gunmen near the border of Texas killed 11 alleged gang members and prompted the U.S. to reinforce security at international crossings, officials said November 18. The soldiers came under fire November 17 when they were investigating a tip about the presence of armed men in the town of Nueva Ciudad Guerrero in Tamaulipas, the Mexican Defense Department said in a statement. Eleven of the gunmen were killed in the ensuing gun battle but no troops were hurt, it said. Afterward, soldiers arrested two surviving gunmen who told authorities they belonged to the Zetas drug gang, the statement said. Troops also seized nine assault rifles, four handguns, a grenade launcher, and ammunition.

Source: <http://topnews360.tmcnet.com/topics/associated-press/articles/2010/11/22/119569-11-alleged-gang-members-killed-mexican-troops.htm>

21. *November 22, Associated Press* – (International) **Namibian officer charged with smuggling explosive.** A Namibian court has charged a senior airport police officer with placing a fake bomb at an airport in the country's capital last week. The court said November 22 that a chief inspector of the Namibian police aviation security faces



charges for smuggling a suspected explosive device, using the device in an airport, and giving false information that interfered with airport operations. The suspicious device, found on a conveyor belt with luggage on a Germany-bound flight, did not contain explosives, but airport security did not know that when it was discovered November 17 at the Windhoek airport. Germany is on alert because of warnings of heightened terrorism threats.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2010/11/22/namibian-officer-charged-smuggling-explosive/>

22. *November 21, Associated Press* – (New York) **JFK emergency landing: Delta Flight 30 suffers engine failure.** A Moscow-bound flight carrying more than 200 people returned safely to John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York after one of its two engines failed November 21. No one was injured. Delta Flight 30 reported that the left engine of the Boeing 767 had failed shortly after takeoff, said a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokeswoman. The plane departed at about 4:40 p.m. with 193 passengers and 11 crew members. The plane dumped fuel and circled the airport before landing back in New York more than 1 hour after takeoff. The cause of engine failure is still unknown. Earlier reports of a fire on one of the plane's wings were incorrect, the FAA spokeswoman said.

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/21/jfk-emergency-landing-delta\\_n\\_786588.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/21/jfk-emergency-landing-delta_n_786588.html)

23. *November 21, CNN* – (Florida) **Florida airport considers ditching TSA.** An Orlando, Florida, airport official wants to join the small group of U.S. airports who use a private company to screen passengers instead of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The airport first considered the change in February and it was approved October. 5. According to the president of the Sanford Airport Authority in Orlando, research shows that using a private security screening company would be “more efficient and more enjoyable to the public.” His comments come during a week in which the TSA has been under fire for its airport screening procedures, including imaging technology and pat downs. The TSA currently lists 16 airports that are participating in its Screening Partnership Program.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/11/19/private.airport.screening/>

24. *November 21, Associated Press* – (International) **Plane makes emergency landing in Buffalo.** A small crack in the windshield forced a Boston-to-Chicago flight with 176 people on board to make an unscheduled landing in Buffalo, New York. The Buffalo News reported that United Airlines Flight 881 landed without incident at 10:34 a.m. November 21 at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. An airport spokesman said there was no problem for passengers on the Boeing 757, and the airline was arranging for another plane to take them to Chicago.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/APea77f85d1528448cb1ddf586251b3939.html>

25. *November 20, WISH 8 Indianapolis* – (National) **Pilots to skip new airport screening.** Pilots are getting a break from enduring the stepped-up and intrusive screening of airline passengers. The Transportation Security Administration agreed

November 19 to let uniformed airline pilots skip the body scans and aggressive pat-downs. Pilots must pass through a metal detector at airport checkpoints and present photo IDs that prove their identity. The change followed a 2-year lobbying campaign by union leaders.

Source: [http://www.wishtv.com/dpps/news/national/pilots-to-skip-new-airport-screening\\_3653141](http://www.wishtv.com/dpps/news/national/pilots-to-skip-new-airport-screening_3653141)

26. *November 19, Clatsop Daily Astorian* – (Oregon) **Bridges pose evacuation plan hitch for coastal town.** The town of Cannon Beach, Oregon is planning for an emergency evacuation in the event of a tsunami. The problem is the existing bridge across Ecola Creek will collapse, stranding students at Cannon Beach Elementary School and those at the Cannon Beach Conference Center who need to reach the higher north end of town across the creek. The city's emergency preparedness committee supports a plan to build a 12-foot-wide concrete pedestrian bridge across the creek in addition to the current bridge. The cost could range between \$1.6 million and \$3 million, depending on the bridge's alignment. Meanwhile, the mayor of the town began talking to architect and the former mayor about a wooden stationary pedestrian bridge or a floating bridge that would cost between \$300,000 and \$600,000. Discussion over the two concepts has already become heated, especially now that the city has an opportunity to seek a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct a geological study of the creek bank. The grant application is due in November.

Source:

[http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101119/NEWS0107/11190360/1001/NEWS01&nav\\_category=NEWS01](http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101119/NEWS0107/11190360/1001/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01)

27. *November 19, New York Times* – (International) **Damage worse than thought in Qantas explosion.** The A380 superjumbo aircraft whose engine blew apart on departure from Singapore November 4, was far more seriously damaged than initial reports indicated, with hydraulic and electric failures and serious damage to the plane's skeleton, according to independent experts who examined newly available photographs of the jet and leaked accounts of the investigation. The new information makes it clear that the shrapnel cut hydraulic lines and electric cables in the left wing, disabling equipment throughout the aircraft. It also punctured 2 of the 11 fuel tanks and damaged the wing's spar, or backbone. Investigators have been reconstructing the episode from pilot interviews, the flight data recorder and the jet's damaged parts, but their first major report is not due for at least 2 weeks.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10323/1104861-82.stm>

For more stories, see items [7](#) and [8](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

28. *November 19, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Kalamazoo deputies defuse 'potentially explosive device' in Pavilion mailbox.** Kalamazoo County sheriff's

deputies requested assistance from a bomb squad November 18 after they found a suspected explosive device inside a mailbox in Pavilion Township, Michigan, authorities said. Deputies made the discovery after responding at 10:15 a.m. to a report of property damage in the 7000 block of East ON Avenue, the undersheriff said. He said the deputies were investigating the property damage complaint when they found the “potentially explosive device.” “It was a homemade concocted device,” the undersheriff said. The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety’s bomb squad responded to the scene and detonated the device as “a precautionary measure,” the undersheriff said. He said no injuries were reported, and the sheriff’s office is continuing to investigate the incident.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/11/kalamazoo\\_deputies\\_defuse\\_pote.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/11/kalamazoo_deputies_defuse_pote.html)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

29. *November 19, Kentucky Post* – (Indiana) **Employees escape building as it explodes.** Employees at a Ripley County, Indiana, business are lucky to be alive after the building exploded and went up in flames November 19. The Ripley County fire chief said employees at the Farm Bureau Co-Op accidentally knocked over a propane tank causing the nozzle to come off around 1 p.m. The explosion happened as the employees were evacuating the building on U.S. 421, lifting many people off their feet. The building was destroyed and windows at a nearby building shattered, but no injuries were reported. The incident remains under investigation.

Source: [http://www.kypost.com/dpps/news/region\\_indiana/employees-escape-building-as-it-explodes\\_5540868](http://www.kypost.com/dpps/news/region_indiana/employees-escape-building-as-it-explodes_5540868)

30. *November 19, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Ammonia leak that sent 4 to hospitals was accidental.** An ammonia leak November 18 at Blackland Grain and Storage Co. in Heidenheimer, Texas was accidental, investigators said November 19. The leak sent four people to hospitals, and led authorities to close down a portion of Highway 36 late November 18. The leak was reported around 8:15 p.m., just south of Temple. Residents in the area of FM 436 and Hwy 36 said they smelled a strong odor of ammonia. Temple Fire & Rescue and its hazardous material team responded along with other volunteer fire departments. Bell County’s fire marshal said two people were taken to a hospital, one in stable condition and the other in critical condition. Two others were also treated as walk-in patients. All four victims had respiratory problems. It took crews several hours to determine exactly where the leak was. HAZMAT team members wearing protective suits finally traced the leaking ammonia to a partially opened valve on an ammonia tank on a trailer. The leak was stopped by around 11:30 p.m.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/109088624.html>

For another story, see item [55](#)

## **Water Sector**

31. *November 22, Automotive Body Repair News* – (National) **EPA screens chemicals for potential endocrine disruptors.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has listed 134 different chemicals that will be screened for their potential to disrupt endocrine systems in humans and animals. The list of chemicals that have been identified for screening include some that may be found in sources of drinking water. The chemicals listed are those used in solvents, gasoline, plastics, personal care products, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals. The endocrine disruptor screening is currently proceeding on three fronts. Step 1 will be to develop and validate tests. Step 2 will be to select chemicals for testing and screening. Step 3 will be to implement the policies and procedures the EPA will use to require screening.  
Source: <http://abrn.search-autoparts.com/abrn/Collision+Repair/EPA-screens-chemicals-for-potential-Endocrine-disr/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/696895?contextCategoryId=498>
32. *November 22, Associated Press* – (California) **Most. of Ca. desert town still awaits clean water.** Much of Barstow, California, was able to drink and cook with running water again, but more residents were still waiting for the OK November 22 as the Mojave Desert city entered its fourth day of a water crisis spurred by excessive levels of a toxic chemical, perchlorate. Service has been restored for about 3,000 of the company's nearly 9,000 business and residential water accounts in Barstow, said a spokesman for Golden State Water Company, which provides water for most of the city and some of its surrounding areas in San Bernardino County. He had no estimate when full service would be restored. The restrictions were lifted a day after the company began flushing its distribution system to remove the chemical-tainted water. The spokesman could not say how many people had water restored or how many were still without clean water — only that about one-third of its businesses and residences had service again. The governor said in a statement declaring a state of emergency in the area November 20 that more than 40,000 were without water service.  
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/11/19/state/n181705S14.DTL&tsp=1>
33. *November 21, Cedar Rapids Gazette* – (Iowa) **Former manufacturer pleads guilty to storing, dumping toxic waste.** A former Monticello, Iowa, circuit boards manufacturer pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court November 18 for storing toxic waste and dumping the waste into Kitty Creek in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of violation of the Clean Water Act, and also pleaded guilty on behalf of Riddle Inc. for one felony count of knowing storage of hazardous waste without a permit. The man manufactured printed circuit boards for electronic devices from 1972 to 1991 in Monticello. Many chemicals were used in the process, including raw copper sulfate, copper with ferric sulfate, ferric sulfate, sulfuric acid with alcohol, nitric acid, lead tin, formaldehyde, potassium cyanide, and several fuming acids, according to court documents. The chemicals were stored in a deteriorating building about 400 feet from

Kitty Creek, which flows into the Maquoketa River. Neither the man nor the company had a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the state of Iowa to store these chemicals. When Kitty Creek flooded in 1993, 2002 and 2009, the water entered Riddle's storage building, and in 2009 the flooding knocked over drums and containers of the chemicals. EPA took samples in December 2009 from the drums and there were about nine samples that had at least one characteristic of ignitable, corrosive, and toxic hazardous waste. EPA began cleanup at Riddle last July and completed the work in August, according to an EPA Region 7 fact sheet.

Source: [http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/mncof\\_former-manufacturer-pleads-guilty-to-storing-dumping-toxic-waste-1322767.html](http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/mncof_former-manufacturer-pleads-guilty-to-storing-dumping-toxic-waste-1322767.html)

34. *November 21, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans cancels boil-water advisory.** The boil-water order issued November 19 for some 300,000 residents of New Orleans, Louisiana was canceled about 6:45 p.m. November 20. Officials said the boil advisory was called as a precaution after a power failure November 19 at the city's main treatment plant including its three backup power systems caused low water pressure throughout the east bank. Electricity was restored around midnight November 19 and water pressure is back to normal.

Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/news/nation/2010/11/new-orleans-advisory-continue-boil-water>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

35. *November 20, Macon Telegraph* – (Georgia) **Ex-Macon hospital worker accused of accessing patient information.** Macon, Georgia, police are investigating a former employee of Coliseum Hospital accused of entering a secure area and accessing patient information, according to a report. It said investigators are looking into a former employee who was at the hospital November 18 for a nurse's birthday party. While there, the ex-worker, who still had her access code, entered a secured area and logged into the hospital's computer records, allegedly accessing patient information, the report said. Hospital security caught the woman and called Macon police. The case remains under investigation, police officials said. The report said the hospital turned over surveillance video and log-in times to investigators.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/2010/11/20/1347629/ex-hospital-worker-accused-of.html>

36. *November 19, Los Angeles Times and KTLA 5 San Diego* – (California) **Six California hospitals fined for medical record security breaches.** State officials have fined six California hospitals and a nursing home for failing to prevent unauthorized access to confidential patient medical information, according to a report made public November 19. California Department of Public Health officials have required all facilities — which may appeal the fines — to submit plans to correct the problems. Pacific Hospital

of Long Beach was fined \$225,000. Children's Hospital of Orange County was fined \$25,000. Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield was fined twice for a total of \$310,000. Delano Regional Medical Center was fined \$60,000. Biggs Gridley Memorial Hospital in Butte County was fined \$5,000. Oroville Hospital, also in Butte County, was fined \$42,500. Kaweah Manor Convalescent Hospital in Tulare County was fined \$125,000. None of the facilities had been previously fined for privacy breaches.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/11/hospital-fines.html>

37. *November 19, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA pulls Darvon painkiller due to safety risks.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said November 19 that Xanodyne Pharmaceuticals had agreed to halt all U.S. marketing of Darvon and the related brand Darvocet, which have been subject to safety concerns for decades. The Kentucky company confirmed the move in its own statement. The FDA also ordered generic drugmakers to stop making and selling low-cost drugs containing the active ingredient in Darvon, called propoxyphene. FDA officials said they decided to take action based on a recent study showing Darvon interferes with the electrical activity of the heart, causing irregular heart rhythms that can be fatal. Xanodyne conducted the study last year at the government's request.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/11/19/general-us-painkiller-withdrawal\\_8153251.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/11/19/general-us-painkiller-withdrawal_8153251.html)

38. *November 18, STLToday.com* – (Missouri) **HITECH required breach notification of theft of protected health information.** A laptop containing information on a dentist's patients was stolen from his locked vehicle during the overnight hours of October 16-17, in Florissant, Missouri. The dentist is in the process of alerting approximately 1,400 patients seen in his St. Charles office that their protected health information is vulnerable to access as a result of the incident. The Florissant Police Department was notified immediately and began an investigation. However, no arrests have been made nor has the laptop been recovered. The information related only to patients of the dentist's St. Charles office. The information may have included certain patient demographic information and clinical information. No financial data such as bank accounts or credit card numbers was included in the laptop. Although there is no indication that unauthorized access to the laptop actually took place, and the information was protected by usernames and passwords, the office has mailed out written notifications to affected patients and is offering complimentary credit monitoring for 1 year to all affected patients.

Source: <http://interact.stltoday.com/pr/business/PR11181010084870>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *November 20, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida) **Bomb threat forces St. Marys City Hall evacuation.** The Saint Marys, Georgia City Hall was evacuated for about 1 hour



November 19 after a man told a police officer he planted a bomb in the building. No bomb was found. The threat also forced the evacuation of several businesses, including a day-care center, after police and fire officials established a 500-foot perimeter. St. Marys Elementary School was also locked down after the threat. A businessman and owner of James Jewelers was arrested for making a false public alarm, the police said. He was in city court waiting to appear before a judge on unspecified charges when the threat was made. An officer noticed the man leaving his seat several times, supposedly to go to the bathroom. The officer told him to stop leaving the courtroom when the man made the threat. After the evacuation, the bomb squad from Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base was called. A dog trained to sniff for explosives checked the building and a package was found, but it did not contain any hazardous devices.

Source: <http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2010-11-20/story/bomb-threat-forces-st-marys-city-hall-evacuation>

40. *November 19, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Elko college class evacuated when floor drops.** Officials at Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada, are trying to figure out what caused the foundation of a campus building to partially collapse November 18, forcing the evacuation of classrooms but causing no injuries. The floor in one classroom dropped several inches, separating from the walls. A college spokesman said a steel pipe column supporting the primary floor girder apparently became corroded in the building built in 1973. He said the floor dropped about 3 inches before it stabilized in its place on the concrete and steel base.

Source: <http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=13538564>

41. *November 19, Long Beach Press-Telegram* – (California) **Malfunction stalls Long Beach's technology.** The city of Long Beach, California, experienced a major technical glitch November 18 that shut down its networks and virtually every piece of technology for 12 hours. Although 911 emergency services were not affected, every other city department lost use of its e-mails, computers, Internet access, and phones, according to a city spokeswoman. The outage affected libraries, park community centers, the department of health and human services, and city hall, among others. The city's phone lines stopped working, and the city Web site was down during the outage. The exact cause was not known. Technicians worked throughout the night, and all systems were back online about noon November 19.

Source: [http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci\\_16660824](http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_16660824)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

42. *November 22, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (New York) **Weapons of mass destruction drill held in Rockland County.** Some 250 military personnel paired with Rockland County police, fire, and haz-mat members in New York to train, prepare for, and respond to incidents that could involve the use of a chemical, biological, or

radiological agent, or a high yield explosive. Specially trained New York Army and Air National Guard units participated, including the 104th Military Police Battalion from Kingston, and security personnel from the 105th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard Base at Stewart Airport at Newburgh. A lieutenant colonel with the Kingston unit said three teams drilled with the local personnel. “One team is a search and extraction team, they go forward into the simulated contaminated zone,” he said. “They will bring back casualties to be deconned by my decontamination element and then they are evaluated by medical personnel all the way through the process and then they are evacuated out.” The drill, held at the Rockland County Fire Training Center in Pomona, is one of several held around the state throughout the year.

Source: [http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2010/November/22/RC\\_WMD\\_drill-22Nov10.html](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2010/November/22/RC_WMD_drill-22Nov10.html)

43. *November 21, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **Police dept partially evacuated for dangerous carbon monoxide.** Part of the Lubbock, Texas, police department was evacuated November 21 after a carbon monoxide alarm. At about 1:45 p.m., firefighters and EMS responded to the police department and shut down the police dispatch center. For less than an hour, police officers were dispatched through the fire department’s dispatch center. There were no reports of injuries and police dispatchers were allowed to return to their communication center on the condition that the heating system not be turned on. City maintenance crews were on the scene and isolated the problem for repairs.  
Source: <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=13546790>
44. *November 21, Arlington Patch* – (Virginia) **Power down at fire department.** The Arlington Fire Department headquarters in Arlington, Virginia was without power, and landlines in the station were down November 21. The fire department was in contact with the police department via two-way radios and cell phone. The fire dispatch is located in the police station, so fire calls and fire emergencies were not expected to be disrupted due to the power outage. As of 6:15 p.m. November 21, the Arlington Fire Department was still working to restore power to its east Arlington location. The police department helped to field calls and there were no reports of delays in service.  
Source: <http://arlington.patch.com/articles/power-down-at-fire-department-call-police-for-emergencies>
45. *November 21, KYTV 3 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Hackers send out vulgar messages through Springfield-Greene County Health Department.** A hacker wreaked havoc with the Greene County, Missouri emergency e-mail system. Emergency officials said someone hacked the server November 21 and sent out mass e-mail alerts to all of the people registered to the Nixle system. The crude and vulgar messages all had to do with why one should not eat at certain fast food restaurants. The problem has been fixed, and now officials are searching for the hacker.  
Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-hackers-send-out-vulgar-messag-112110,0,1668447.story>

46. *November 21, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Too often, records show, Charleston County’s emergency radio system simply doesn’t work.** Over the past 2 years, various public safety officials have described Charleston County, South Carolina’s radio network as substandard, unacceptably dangerous and worse. The \$17.5 million system, which went online in 2007, was designed to place the county on the cutting edge of emergency communications. The system has experienced problems from the start. But after an expansion in 2008, it became plagued with lost transmissions, strange noises, volume issues, and gaps in service that have placed police, firefighters, and civilians in jeopardy on several occasions, according to documents obtained by the Post and Courier. After numerous complaints, Charleston County is prepared to spend about \$12 million to have Motorola upgrade the system and add more radio towers to overcome bugs and interference. On November 23, the county council was expected to decide on the proposed remedy. A third phase of work, also expected to cost millions, will be discussed in the coming budget year.  
Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/nov/21/unreliabletoo-often-records-show-charleston/>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

47. *November 22, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Kroxxu botnet hits a million web users.** Security experts have uncovered a dangerous new botnet which has already infected over 100,000 domains and 1 million systems worldwide, although it is still unclear how the cyber criminals are monetizing their efforts. The Kroxxu botnet has been designed solely to steal FTP passwords but, unlike traditional botnets, it is able to spread through infected Web sites alone rather than individual PCs, according to researchers at Avast Software who have been tracking it for over a year. The stolen passwords enable Kroxxu’s creators to add a script tag to the original Web site content, which then makes it possible to upload and modify files on infected servers and spread to other servers globally. The malware relies heavily on redirects to obfuscate itself, while various components of the network are able to perform different roles, known as “indirect cross infection”. “Kroxxu’s indirect cross infections are based on all parts being equal and interchangeable,” said the head virus researcher at Avast. Avast has not yet discovered how the botnet organizers are making money from the scam, but the researcher suspects they could be selling stolen credentials or hacked space on infected servers, or using key-loggers to spread other spam. The botnet has infected 1,000 domains a month since its discovery in October 2009, and many of the PHP redirectors and malware distributors placed in the sites have survived for months at a time. By infecting legitimate sites, the botnet could have a serious impact on the success of URL blocking software, warned Avast.  
Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2273368/kroxxu-avast-botnet-threats>

48. *November 22, The H Security* – (International) **Spam hole in Google Mail.** Until recently, a security hole in a Google API allowed e-mails to be sent to GMail users without knowing e-mail addresses. As reported by TechCrunch, victims only had to visit a specially crafted Web site while being logged into their Google account. Apparently, the hole could even be exploited while in Private Browsing mode, which does not usually give access to a user's cookies. The vulnerability allowed e-mails with arbitrary subject lines and message bodies to be sent from the e-mail address noreply@google.com. As the e-mails included an authentic header, it was virtually impossible for users to distinguish them from an authentic e-mail sent by Google. The hole was discovered by a 21-year-old Armenian, who made his demo exploit freely accessible on Google's Blogspot / Blogger service. Google shut the blog down shortly after the exploit was reported, and confirmed the problem in an e-mail to TechCrunch. Google said the hole in its Apps Script API has now been traced and fixed.  
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Spam-hole-in-Google-Mail-1139762.html>
49. *November 20, TechWorld* – (International) **China Internet 'hijack' hugely exaggerated, says researcher.** The claimed 'hijack' of Internet traffic by China Telecom has been hugely exaggerated in scale and intent, a traffic analysis by Internet security company Arbor Networks has concluded. A blog by the Arbor chief scientist picked apart the speculative claim, attributed to McAfee's VP of threat research, that the unusual routing diversion through China Telecom April 8, 2010 could have amounted to as much as 15 percent of Internet traffic. According to the chief scientist, this appears to have been calculated by comparing the 40,000 affected BGP routes to the 340,000 in the routing table as a whole, a calculation originally cited by the industry BGPmon Web site. Using numbers culled from the Arbor Atlas traffic monitoring system of 80 global ISPs, however, traffic on that day barely increased beyond normal patterns, at most it amounted to only a few gigabits per second out of an Internet total between 80 and 100 terabits per second. A redirection of a major portion of Internet traffic would have been expected to have either boosted or suppressed traffic volumes, depending on the scale of increase in traffic to China Telecom or the decrease in volume to other ISPs. Neither appeared to happen on any scale.  
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/112110-china-internet-hijack-hugely-exaggerated.html>
50. *November 19, eWeek* – (International) **Hackers target Black Friday, Cyber Monday search terms.** Attackers have set their sights on holiday shoppers searching for leaked Black Friday ads, creating malicious sites that appear on search engine result pages, according to a November 18 alert by SonicWall. Security experts at SonicWall UTM Research discovered "polluted" results appearing in search engine results for holiday shopping-related terms in advance of Black Friday sales, the company said. These links take users to a malicious site that tricks users into downloading malware. The terms include "Walmart Black Friday Sales 2010," "Black Friday," and "Cyber Monday," according to researchers. The infected machines are sending encrypted data back to a specific site, said a SonicWall researcher, adding that team is still decrypting the data, but it "looks similar" to the InfoStealer Trojan activity. The returned search results

have titles like “Walmart Black Friday 2010” and the same phrase embedded in the URL string, according to the screenshot of malicious search results posted on the SonicWall site. Since many of the sites are already known to be malicious, Firefox and Google are able to flag the links accordingly. Hackers are also using Best Buy-related search terms, such as “Best Buy Black Friday 2010 deals,” to push a fake antivirus software called “Internet Security Suite,” according to security company Thirtyseven4. Researchers at Sunbelt Labs also noticed that search terms for free holiday e-cards (“free cards to print”) directed users to a fake antivirus called FakeVimes.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Hackers-Target-Black-Friday-Cyber-Monday-Search-Terms-347977/>

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### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto: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

51. *November 20, Kane County Chronicle* – (Illinois) **Downed lines spark Comcast outage November 20.** Downed overhead utility lines knocked out cable television, Internet, and telephone service to many Comcast customers in portions of Kane and DeKalb counties in Illinois, November 20. At about 10:30 a.m. November 20, a garbage truck operating in the area snagged and severed Comcast utility lines, said a Comcast spokeswoman. The resulting telecommunications service outage affected a number of Comcast subscribers throughout the Wasco area of Campton Hills and in portions of Batavia, as well as customers as far west as DeKalb and Rochelle. The outages continued until 2:30 p.m. in the DeKalb area and until shortly after 3 p.m. in the Campton Hills area. Full service was restored throughout the region by 4:30 p.m. Source: <http://www.kcchronicle.com/articles/2010/11/20/91341420/index.xml>
52. *November 19, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Line break affects telephone service in Urbana, Illinois.** Company spokesmen for AT&T said repair crews continued working around-the-clock to fix a line break that left many Urbana, Illinois customers without phone and Internet service. The outage stretched into its second day November 19. Many Urbana schools were without phone service November 19, but officials said Champaign County’s 911 emergency line service was restored early November 19. The AT&T line break occurred just after 8:30 a.m. November 18 when an auger struck the cables as a contractor was taking core samples on the University of Illinois campus. AT&T spokesmen told the (Champaign) News-Gazette that complete repairs could take days to complete, as crews work on splicing cables to replace the damaged section.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2010/11/19/1483396/line-break-affects-telephone-service.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

53. *November 21, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Motels evacuated, hospital searched after bomb threats in Somers Point.** Multiple bomb threats in locations throughout Somers Point, New Jersey, November 20 led to the evacuation of three motels, and a precautionary sweep of Shore Memorial Hospital. The threat came in at 11:21 a.m., a police captain said. A 911 caller told a dispatcher that “there would be three explosions at three different (specific) locations within Somers Point,” as the captain described the call. “We’d only have time to save two locations and one would fall.” The Somers Point emergency management coordinator said the Sunrise Motel on Bay Avenue, the Residence Inn on MacArthur Boulevard, and Pier 4 were evacuated following the threat. Shore Memorial was not specifically mentioned, he said, but the streets on either side of the main hospital building were blocked off and no one was allowed inside. Bomb-sniffing dogs from Hamilton Township and Pleasantville K-9 units swept the main building and declared it clear at about 1:15 p.m. All locations were declared clear by 1:30 p.m.

Source: [http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article\\_640d756a-f4ce-11df-86be-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/article_640d756a-f4ce-11df-86be-001cc4c002e0.html)

54. *November 21, Associated Press* – (New York) **NY police: False report led to mall evacuation.** Police said a homeless man made a false claim about a suitcase that led to a Westchester County, New York, mall being evacuated for almost 2 hours November 20. Authorities said the man told police that a suitcase he left in the food court at The Galleria mall had been given to him by a Middle Eastern man and was ticking. The story led to the mall’s evacuation around 12:15 p.m. The suitcase was examined and found to contain clothes, and the mall was reopened around 2 p.m. The man faces a charge of falsely reporting an incident.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP645613751b294df7ab0a35def29710f2.html>

55. *November 21, WBAL 11 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Blaze damages three buildings in Maryland.** Crews on November 21 battled a 3-alarm fire that damaged three buildings in Canton, Maryland, according to fire officials. The fire broke out at about 6:20 a.m. in the 800 block of South Montford Avenue and was brought under control at about 7 a.m. Officials said a hair and tanning salon and a bistro and martini lounge sustained damage. One occupant escaped with a burn to his stomach and was taken to Bayview Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries, officials said. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/blaze-damages-three-buildings-maryland>



56. *November 20, Evansville Courier & Press* – (Indiana) **Two injured in fireworks shop explosion.** Investigators with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) returned to a Princeton, Indiana, fireworks shop November 20 to continue an investigation into the cause of an explosion the previous evening that injured two people. The explosion occurred about 5:30 p.m. at Sgt. Pepper's Fireworks on South Main Street. Injured were the shop owner and another person, according to an ATF spokeswoman. She said investigators from Indiana State Police, the Evansville Police Department bomb squad, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration assisted ATF personnel November 20 in determining that the structure housing the business was safe and there was no risk to the community. The owner, she said, had a federal license to store and sell explosives. Investigators were still investigating the cause of the blast, which was reported to have been heard and felt by residents who live near the store.  
Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/nov/21/no-headline---21a0xfireworks-brf/>
57. *November 20, Santa Cruz Sentinel* – (California) **Small fire forces evacuation of Santa Cruz hotel.** An early morning fire caused about \$30,000 in damage and forced the evacuation of a Riverside Avenue hotel November 20, according to the Santa Cruz Fire Department in California. Two people suffered minor burns but declined to be treated by medics, fire officials said. The fire broke out in a two-story suite in the Hotel Pure Beach Inn on the 600 block of Riverside Avenue at 5:15 a.m. When firefighters arrived, a moderate amount of smoke was coming from the third floor of the building. However, the hotel's sprinkler system had activated and the blaze was contained to a mattress and box spring in the second story of the suite, fire officials said. The incident, which fire investigators determined was accidental, caused \$10,000 in fire damage and \$20,000 in water damage, officials said.  
Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_16665521?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16665521?nclick_check=1)
58. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **No injuries or damage reported with fire at Science Museum Oklahoma building.** Oklahoma City firefighters are trying to determine what caused a blaze at the Science Museum Oklahoma. Crews received a call reporting the blaze about 11:40 a.m. November 20. Officials said firefighters found roofing material that was next to the building on fire. Officials evacuated several hundred people from the building. No one was injured. A hazardous materials unit was called to the scene because of some nearby propane tanks. A pop off valve on one of the propane tanks blew, and flames could be seen shooting up several feet. But firefighters were able to put out the fire with no apparent damage to the museum.  
Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/news/sns-ap-ok--sciencemuseumoklahoma-fire,0,2547175.story>
59. *November 19, Pratt Tribune* – (Kansas) **No injuries from small explosive in park.** No one was injured when a small explosive device detonated in Sixth Street Park in Pratt, Kansas, November 18. The small homemade device was created with a combination of household chemicals and placed in a glass bottle that became the equivalent of shrapnel when the device exploded, said a Pratt police detective. The people who reported the

small explosion were driving by the device when it exploded at 4:28 p.m. The explosion was east of the park entrance on Pine Street and south of the ball fields by the park road. No one was injured.

Source: <http://www.pratttribune.com/news/x535936769/No-injuries-from-small-explosive-in-park>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

60. *November 22, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Fire in George Washington National Forest grows to about 560 acres, 2nd fire burns 83 acres.** Trails are closed in areas of the George Washington National Forest in Page County, Virginia, where two forest fires have burned more than 600 acres. The U.S. Forest Service said a fire at Burners Gap grew over the weekend of November 19 from 350 acres to about 560 acres. As of November 21, the fire was 75 percent contained. A smaller fire about 3 miles northeast at Kennedy Peak is about 75 percent contained. That fire has burned 83 acres. A Virginia Department of Forestry spokesperson told The Daily News-Record in Harrisonburg that authorities believe humans accidentally started both fires.  
Source: <http://www.wdbj7.com/sns-ap-va--forestfire,0,6238278.story>
61. *November 21, CNN* – (Utah) **Suspect in Utah park ranger's shooting is at large.** Scores of law enforcement officers are scouring rugged terrain in Utah for a wounded man they said repeatedly shot a park ranger, authorities said. "He is wounded, and on foot," said the Grand County, Utah, sheriff, who is leading the search. The ranger was shot multiple times November 19 while on patrol on the Poison Spider Mesa Trail area near the city of Moab, according to the Grand County Sheriff's Department. Marked by cliffs, dry canyons and rocky terrain, the trail is a haven for mountain bikers as well as hikers. The ranger had stopped the man in his vehicle, then was shot in the arm, leg, and stomach as the two exchanged gunfire, according to KSL. The 34-year-old victim was airlifted to a hospital, where he was conscious and talking to officers, KSL said. Local, state, and federal authorities have since teamed up to look for the suspect. They include 130 officers from the sheriff's department, Utah state agencies, the FBI, the National Park Service, and local police departments.  
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/11/20/utah.ranger.shot/>
62. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Stretch of Ohio forest closed during coal fire.** A 5-acre area of Ohio's only national forest will remain closed while authorities try to put out an underground coal fire. The Columbus Dispatch reported forest managers plan to hire a contractor to locate the source of the fire and then suppress it using a mix of water and soil. Federal firefighters located the fire after spotting small amounts of smoke coming up during a routine patrol in Wayne National Forest near Nelsonville in southeast Ohio. An emergency order November 19 closed the area while heavy equipment is brought in to help extinguish the fire. Forest officials warn there

could be fumes and unstable ground in the area. They said the fire is near where an April brush fire spread over some 100 acres.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/ohio-news/stretch-of-ohio-forest-closed-during-coal-fire-1008296.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

63. *November 22, WSIL 3 Harrisburg* – (Illinois) **Army Corps certifies levee.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has certified the levee protecting the City of Harrisburg, Illinois. Thousands of cars pass through the levee on IL-34 on a daily basis, while drivers likely never think about its impact. When the waters rise, a steel flood gate is installed across the highway to keep low-lying downtown Harrisburg dry. “The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District has given a positive Levee System Evaluation to the Harrisburg, Illinois Local Flood Protection Project located in Saline County,” a letter from the Corps said. The mayor of Harrisburg said the improvements have taken more than 2 years to accomplish, not to mention getting them approved. It took more than improving a steel flood gate to get the city protected. Crews had to change the way they mow the grass on the levy and replace a flap gate. City leaders also decided to replace pumps along the levy to better handle heavy rains. The Corps certification is good through November 10, 2020.  
Source: [http://www.wsilv.com/p/news\\_details.php?newsID=11689&type=top](http://www.wsilv.com/p/news_details.php?newsID=11689&type=top)
64. *November 20, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Preliminary report issued on Lake Delhi dam breach.** The catastrophic failure of the Lake Delhi dam in northeast Iowa July 24 was most likely caused by internal erosion in an earthen embankment following 2 days of heavy rain, according to a preliminary report by an independent panel of engineers. The breach resulted in the draining of a 9-mile recreational lake behind the dam, which is on the Maquoketa River in Delaware County. The resulting flash flood destroyed 16 homes and released about 180,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment downstream along with more than 100 boats. The dam has not been rebuilt. The draft engineering report was released November 19 by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, which is assisting the state’s Lake Delhi Recover and Rebuild Task Force. It was prepared under the auspices of the National Dam Safety Review Board. The engineers attributed the embankment erosion to a “seepage path” in earthen embankment material adjacent to a concrete core wall. The failure was triggered by water levels that overtopped the concrete core wall. The situation was worsened because dam operators were unable to fully open one of the three dam spillway gates, the engineers concluded. The location and design of the concrete core wall and the fact that it did not extend to the crest of the dam created more favorable conditions for internal erosion of embankment materials, the engineers determined. They added that any flood of sufficient magnitude which raised the water levels above the top of the concrete core wall for more than several hours would have resulted in internal erosion problems. If the dam is reconstructed, remedial measures should be developed for the structure’s north embankment, the engineers said.

Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101120/NEWS/11200328/-1/EDITORPICKS/Preliminary-report-issued-on-Lake-Delhi-dam-breach>

65. *November 19, Auburn Reporter* – (Washington) **Corps lowers flood threat as repairs continue on Hanson Dam.** Even though the flood risk of the Green River is lower than it was last winter, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers still needs to complete repairs over the next 2 years to get the Howard Hanson Dam near Auburn, Washington back to full operating capacity. “Folks still need to get ready and be ready,” said an Army Corps public-affairs specialist. “We are not out of the woods yet.” The Corps has lowered the threat of Green River flooding this winter to 1 in 60 from 1 in 33 last year, owing to a grout curtain installed last year that stood up to summer tests to allow for more storage capacity in the reservoir behind the dam. That means more protection from the dam for homes and businesses in Auburn, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila. The odds of flooding are 1 in 140 when the dam is fully operational. An additional \$44 million in repairs, including more drains and the extension of the existing drainage tunnel to put the dam back at its top level, will not be completed until after this flood season. The grout curtain installed last November helped control water storage problems behind the dam the Corps discovered when a 10-foot-wide depression formed on the embankment next to the dam after heavy rains in January 2009.

Source: [http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/aub/news/108792244.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/aub/news/108792244.html)

66. *November 19, WSAZ 3 Huntington* – (Ohio) **Floodwall pump explosion exposes multiple problems.** A pump station explosion crippled the flood defenses of New Boston, Ohio. The blast also exposed an expensive problem plaguing several river cities — severely aging floodwall infrastructure. The equipment at New Boston’s floodwall pump station number seven was installed in 1945. The village administrator said when an employee went to hit the power switch November 16 to pump out some excess collected water, the old transformer exploded. It could have been fatal but, the operator was not hurt. The blast disabled three of seven village pump stations, leaving the community flood vulnerable. It could cause the homes all around Rose Avenue to be flooded. The village administrator said he has not been able to comply with the multi-million dollar Federal Emergency Management Agency mandate to upgrade the aging system because he did not receive the stimulus money he had requested.

Source:

[http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Floodwall\\_Pump\\_Explosion\\_Exposes\\_Multiple\\_Problems\\_109302484.html](http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Floodwall_Pump_Explosion_Exposes_Multiple_Problems_109302484.html)

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