



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 November 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- IDG News Service reported a Florida woman has pleaded guilty to charges she helped her employer sell counterfeit computer chips for use by the U.S. military in items ranging from missile programs and radiation detectors to high-speed trains. (See item [13](#))
- According to KHOU 11 Houston, copper thieves have hit dozens of transmission towers in two Texas counties, in one instance endangering more than 250,000 people, when they knocked emergency communication systems for firefighters and paramedics offline. (See item [40](#))

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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 23, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin; Illinois) **Rare November tornadoes cause damage in Wisconsin, Illinois.** Cleanup from a rare November tornado began November 23 in southeastern Wisconsin. A confirmed tornado touched down in Walworth County, where four homes and four farm buildings were damaged. The National Weather Service said the tornado was an EF-1 and traveled about 4 miles. An

apparent twister also moved through Union Grove in Racine County, where semis were blown over and debris was spread over parts of Interstate 94. We Energies said about 3,000 customers lost power. By November 23, utility crews restored service to all but several hundred customers. In Caledonia, the township hall was demolished and a number of homes were damaged, the North Boone fire said. The storm also destroyed a number of silos and grain bins. A complete damage list could not be compiled November 22 because the whole town was in darkness from a power failure, the fire chief said. Utility outages were widespread November 22, with some 42,200 customers without power from northern Winnebago County east to Belvidere, Illinois a ComEd spokesman said. The utility said the storms hit 10 transmission towers in Boone County.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/tornadoes/2010-11-22-midwest-storm_N.htm

2. *November 23, Associated Press* – (Washington) **66,000 in dark as storm bears down on Washington.** Tens of thousands of people in the Puget Sound area were in the dark as a winter storm barreled through Washington state. A Puget Sound Energy spokeswoman said of the 66,000 customers without power November 23, 56,000 were in Kitsap County. She said tree branches being blown into power lines by strong winds were to blame for the outages that peaked at 90,000. The spokeswoman said if the winds continued to be a problem through November 23, more power outages were possible. The National Weather Service has posted a winter weather advisory for most of Western Washington while Eastern Washington is bracing for a rare blizzard.

Source:

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_ap_us_western_weather_power_outages.html

3. *November 23, Michigan Messenger* – (Michigan; International) **Enbridge Pipeline 6B could be turned back on by November 24.** The Lakehead 6B pipeline, owned by Enbridge Energy Partners of Canada, could be flowing oil again by November 24, reported the Calgary Herald. The line was shut down November 17 at about 9 p.m. an Enbridge spokesman told Michigan Messenger. The decision to shut the line down was made when a new tool used to measure the condition of the pipeline indicated a total of four anomalies in the line just outside the village of Stockbridge, Michigan in southern Ingham County. The company decided to shut the line down and examine the pipe in part to determine the accuracy of the new tool, called a smart pig. Enbridge spent November 18 getting permits to dig up three locations, all within 2 miles of each other. The pipeline has drawn attention because in July, the line ruptured in Marshall, spewing an estimated one million gallons of Cold Lake Crude oil into Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River. The line transports 290,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Illinois, across Michigan and into Sarnia, Ontario. The start up was approved after the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) rejected one start up plan, and required additional safety measures for the resubmission of the plan. Under the restart authorization, Enbridge was required to have a third party supervise the restart, and the line was not allowed to function over a fraction of the maximum pressure.

Source: <http://michiganmessenger.com/44120/enbridge-pipeline-6b-could-be-turned-back-on-by-wednesday>

4. *November 22, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Massey cited after second explosion at strip mine.** Federal inspectors have cited Massey Energy with creating an “imminent danger” following two explosions in less than 1 week at one of the company’s sprawling surface mines in southern West Virginia. U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) officials issued the order to Massey’s Progress Coal subsidiary November 15, after the second of two unplanned ignitions at the Twilight MTR Surface Mine in Boone County, government records showed November 22. MSHA inspectors described the event as “an unplanned ignition or explosion of a blasting agent or explosion.” It apparently occurred while an excavator was removing rock and dirt from a mining pit. “This is the second ignition/explosion of this nature since 11-10-2010 while removing overburden with excavators,” the MSHA order said. No injuries were reported in either incident, but MSHA classified its enforcement action as an “imminent danger” order because of the “unknown nature of the cause/causes of this type of incident at this time.” “An investigation is underway as to the causes of this type of accident,” the MSHA order said. “Until the blasting operations and explosives handling practices are deemed by MSHA to be safe, all blasting and loading of explosives are hereby stopped to ensure the safety of those involved in this mining procedure.” The Twilight Mine is a huge mountaintop removal operation, producing nearly 5 million tons of coal last year with about 370 workers, according to company disclosures filed with MSHA.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201011220815>

5. *November 22, Brockton Enterprise* – (Massachusetts) **Electrical equipment fails in Whitman, Massachusetts, causing power outages across the area.** A piece of electrical equipment that failed and “lit up the sky” in Whitman, Massachusetts caused widespread power outages November 22. The equipment failed at the transmission station on Auburn Street, said a National Grid spokeswoman. When that station failed, three other substations in Abington, Norwell, and North Abington failed as well, she said. The failure happened at approximately 8:25 p.m., causing power outages in Whitman, Abington, Rockland, Hanson, Weymouth, Norwell, Cohasset, and Scituate. Local fire and police departments in communities including Abington, Whitman, Rockland, Hanover, Norwell, and Weymouth fielded hundreds of emergency calls from residents reporting power outages shortly after the failure. The spokeswoman said approximately 23,000 National Grid customers were temporarily without power between 8:25 p.m. and 9 p.m. November 22.

Source: http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/cops_and_courts/x1392205529/Power-outages-reported-in-several-area-communities

6. *November 22, Bloomberg* – (Louisiana; National) **Shell Hopes to start pipe tomorrow, official says.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc hoped to complete testing and restart its 360,000-barrel-a-day Houma, Louisiana-to-Houston, Texas oil pipeline November 23, according to a state regulator. Repairs have been completed, a spokeswoman for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, said. The conduit, known as the Ho-

Ho pipeline system, makes deliveries to refineries in Texas and Louisiana with a combined capacity of more than 1.2 million barrels, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The line was shut November 16 after a leak was identified near Vinton, Louisiana, according to Shell. About 1,030 barrels of oil spilled from the line, according to an operator estimate, said a spokesman for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-22/shell-hopes-to-start-pipe-tomorrow-official-says-update1-.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *November 23, WJBF 6 Augusta* – (Georgia) **The latest on Midville train derailment.** An evacuation for the area around Highway 17 in Midville, Georgia, remained in effect as of the morning of November 23. Emergency crews have been working 24/7 after a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous materials, including chlorine, derailed November 21. Crews were repairing the track and making sure the area is free of contamination. Nearly 60 people were evacuated from their homes. Crews are trying to re-rail nearly 40 cars of a 90-car train. Three cars were carrying hazardous material. The public information officer for Norfolk Southern and representatives with the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health said one of the cars contained chlorine residue. “That car has a hair line fracture in it and right now we’re applying a patch and working to turn the chlorine residue into a bleach,” she said. Another car contained sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, a main ingredient in Oxiclean and Methyl Ethyl Ketone, a solvent used to make airplane glue. Officials said the cars are too far from each other for cross contamination. Emergency crews have also been testing the air quality. Highway 17 remains closed between Millen and Midville. People who live within the quarter mile radius of the accident will not be allowed back into their homes as a precaution for at least 24 hours until the rail cars are removed. Source: <http://www2.wjbf.com/news/2010/nov/22/6/new-details-coming-midville-train-derailment-being-ar-1122023/>
8. *November 23, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Highway 59 near Liberty, San Jacinto County line reopens after chemical truck fire.** All northbound and southbound lanes of Highway 59 near the Liberty, San Jacinto County, Texas, line were temporarily shut down November 22 due to a chemical truck fire. It has since been cleared. Authorities said a vehicle pulling a trailer carrying methyl-acrylate, a highly flammable chemical, toppled over around 4:50 a.m. The driver was said to be unharmed. San Jacinto police, Cleveland police and Conroe Hazmat worked to clear the scene in order to get traffic moving. The southbound lanes reopened shortly after 8 a.m. and the northbound lanes reopened around 8:30 a.m. Source: <http://www.khou.com/news/local/Chemical-truck-fire-closes-Highway-59-near-Liberty-San-Jacinto-County-line-110110424.html>

9. *November 18, Urgent Communications* – (National) **National Hazmat Fusion Center offers information-sharing Web portal.** National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center officials unveiled a responder-driven data collection, analysis and education Web portal as part of a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). The portal is the central element of the Hazmat Fusion Center, a free, voluntary, confidential, and secure Web-based portal that serves as a data and information network for hazmat teams; first responders; federal, state and local agencies; and the private sector. The Internet-based portal serves as a one-stop shop for hazmat-response information, including training packages, reports, incident-based case studies, statistics, trends, alerts, recommendations, and peer-to-peer networking. It was designed with a consistent method of information collection to support information-sharing across jurisdictions and levels of government and to support individual and national-level needs. The secure incident-reporting system is available for hazmat teams to enter, manage and analyze their own incident reports while letting the Hazmat Fusion Center create a national picture of hazmat response and disseminate regional and national hazmat trends and statistics. There is a public and a members-only private side to the Web portal.

Source: http://urgentcomm.com/networks_and_systems/news/hazmat-fusion-center-20101118/

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *November 23, Albany Times Union* – (New York) **Federal probe: Workers felt pressed to ignore safety issues at Knolls nuclear site.** A federal investigation into radiation released during demolition of a research building at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, New York found workers felt pressed by bosses to ignore safety issues and get work done faster. A draft report, filed by investigators for the Department of Energy and obtained by the Times Union, also concluded that Washington Group International, a private company performing work under a \$69 million contract, made missteps that led to an “uncontrolled spread of radioactive contamination” during the September 29 demolition of a tainted Cold War-era research building at the research complex. The company was pushing to finish work three months earlier than first planned — by September 2011 rather than December 2011 — in order to receive an extra \$32 million in federal stimulus funding awarded for the cleanup in April 2009.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Federal-probe-Workers-felt-pressed-to-ignore-826703.php>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *November 22, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Boeing 787 fire caused by misplaced tool: Report.** The fire on a Boeing Co 787 Dreamliner test flight 2 weeks ago resulted from a short circuit caused by a tool mistakenly left in an electrical equipment cabinet on the plane, according to French newspaper La Tribune. In an article November 22, the paper said that while the misplaced tool was the cause of the fire, engineers are trying to find a way to prevent it from happening again. La Tribune attributed the information to “industry sources.” A Boeing spokeswoman declined to comment on the accuracy of the report, saying the investigation is ongoing. The French report said contractor Hamilton Sundstrand, a unit of United Technologies that provides electrical components, was likely one of several manufacturers involved. Boeing, the world’s second-largest plane-maker after Airbus, halted test flights on the long-delayed 787 Dreamliner following the November 9 fire, which caused an emergency landing of the plane in Laredo, Texas. The company has not said whether the fire would affect its plans to make first delivery of the light-weight, carbon-composite plane to the first customer in the first quarter of 2011. The delivery is already nearly 3 years behind schedule. Some aviation experts believe there could be another delay of a few months to a few years.
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=12216798>
12. *November 22, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Regulators move to combat potential engine-oil fires.** U.S. and European regulators issued separate air-safety directives aimed at preventing oil leaks, fires and potentially hazardous engine failures on hundreds of airliners, including wide-body Boeing Co. jets and Airbus A380 super jumbos. The directives, issued November 22 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Aviation Safety Agency, cover at least several dozen A380 engines made by Rolls-Royce PLC and roughly 900 other engines made by United Technologies Corp.’s Pratt & Whitney unit. The Pratt & Whitney engines are used to power some Airbus A300 and A330 models as well as such Boeing aircraft as the widely used 777 and 767 jets, according to the FAA. Airbus is a unit of European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co. The mandates highlight increased concerns by regulators and air-safety experts about the hazards of undetected oil leaks in jet engines. Such problems are believed to have prompted the blowout of a Rolls-Royce Trent 900 engine on a Qantas Airways Ltd. superjumbo A380 earlier this month, sparking an international investigation and prompting Qantas to ground its fleet of the aircraft.
Source:
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704243904575630930383298638.htm](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704243904575630930383298638.html)
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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *November 23, IDG News Service* – (Florida; National) **Woman admits aiding firm in selling fake chips to U.S. military.** A Florida woman has pleaded guilty to charges she helped her employer sell counterfeit computer chips for use by the U.S. military. The

woman was an administrator at VisionTech Components, a Clearwater, Florida, company that sold military-grade integrated circuits designed to handle extreme temperatures and the shocks and bumps of battlefield use. She pleaded guilty November 19 to a single conspiracy charge. Prosecutors said VisionTech did more than \$15.8 million in business over a 3-year period, doctoring and then selling counterfeit integrated circuits imported from Hong Kong and China. The fake chips were sold to many companies, including subcontractors working with big defense suppliers such as Raytheon Missile Systems, BAE Systems, and Northrop Grumman. They were often destined for use in sensitive areas such as missile programs, radiation detectors, and non-military systems such as high-speed trains, the Department of Justice said in court filings. Many of the chips were used in situations where a system failure would be disastrous.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9197758/Woman_admits_aiding_firm_in_selling_fake_chips_to_U.S._military

14. *November 22, Guam News Watch* – (Guam) **Navy ship spotted at Guam ship repair facility.** A large naval vessel closely resembling the USNS Alan Shepard appeared to be docked at the Guam Shipyard November 22. Upon confirmation from the Navy, at 1:17 p.m. November 22, Guam News Watch reported that the Alan Shepard had suffered presumed minor damage toward the end of October. Not long thereafter, News Watch spotted what is likely the Shepard cleated to the pier at the private Shipyard, formerly the Naval Ship Repair Facility. “Guam Shipyard cannot comment on this incident at all since the damage to USNS Alan Shepard happened at the Navy Wharf,” wrote the Guam Shipyard president.

Source: <http://guamnewswatch.com/201011223653/Local-News/Navy-Ship-Spotted-At-Guam-Ship-Repair-Facility.html>

For another story, see item [18](#)

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *November 23, Reuters* – (National) **FBI raids three hedge funds in insider trading case.** The FBI raided three hedge funds as part of a widening probe into suspected insider trading in the \$1.7 trillion hedge fund industry. The November 22 raids come as federal prosecutors prepare to unveil a series of new insider trading cases as soon as this year against hedge fund traders, consultants and Wall Street bankers. Two of the raided funds are Diamondback Capital Management LLC and Level Global Investors LP, each based in Connecticut and run by former managers of SAC Capital Advisors, one of the best-known U.S. hedge funds. A Boston, Massachusetts-based firm, Loch Capital Management, was also raided, a person familiar with the matter said. Loch has close ties with a witness who pleaded guilty in an insider trading probe centered on hedge fund Galleon Group. “The Justice Department promised a more muscular approach to white-collar crime, and is delivering,” said a professor at the City

University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Spokesmen for the FBI in New York and Boston said November 22 that the agency had executed search warrants in connection with an ongoing investigation.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLNE6AM01N20101123>

16. *November 23, Delaware County Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Marple, Aston probe bank robberies.** Police believe a suspect in a November 22 robbery at Sovereign Bank in Marple, Delaware is the same hooded male in sunglasses who pulled off a similar heist in Aston earlier this month. Just as the lone male did November 13 at the Iron Workers Bank in Aston, the suspect in the latest incident implied but did not display a weapon. According to a Marple police detective, the male presented a demand note to tellers when he entered the Sovereign Bank at 3001 West Chester Pike in Broomall, about 2:57 p.m. November 22. A suspect was captured on surveillance video at both banks and appears to be wearing a similar gray hooded sweatshirt and knit gloves. He is described as white, 25 to 30 years old, about 5 feet 10 inches tall, medium build with dark hair, beard and mustache. In Aston, the suspect was the only customer in the bank at 3333 Concord Road, during the robbery. He entered the bank at about 11:14 a.m. At the time, he approached the counter, stood between two tellers, and asked who was available. Police said the suspect's speech suggested to the tellers that he was from the area.

Source:

<http://delcotimes.com/articles/2010/11/23/news/doc4ceb492f5f2e6835868787.txt>

17. *November 22, East County Magazine* – (California) **Escondido bomb maker had largest stash of home-made explosives ever found in U.S.; suspect also accused of bank robberies.** A 54-year-old male from Escondido, California pleaded not guilty to 28 criminal counts November 22. He is accused of possessing destructive explosive devices and the ingredients to make them, as well as robbing two local banks. The deputy district attorney told the judge that the suspect's home was "a bomb factory" containing "the largest quantity of these types of homemade explosives at one place in the United States." Those materials pose "a huge danger to officers and the public," she said. In addition to bombs and explosive materials, authorities found multiple detonators, grenades, and shrapnel. Authorities have not disclosed what the intended target of the bombs may have been, nor whether the man was acting alone or as part of an organization. After a gardener was injured in an explosion in the home's backyard last week, investigators with the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and San Diego County Sheriff's Department searched the premises. They discovered mason jars containing over 9 pounds of HMTD, an explosive commonly used by suicide bombers and implicated in the foiled Millennium plot to bomb Los Angeles Airport. On November 22, prosecutors revealed, additional explosives known as ETN and PETN were also found. ETN is often mixed with other explosives and is highly volatile and sensitive to friction. Mixed with plasticizers, PETN becomes a plastic explosive. It is one of the most powerful explosives in the world.

Source: <http://eastcountymagazine.org/node/4852>

18. *November 22, Straits Times* – (International) **M'sian hacker 'not alone'**. The Malaysian accused of hacking into the system of a United States central bank branch in Ohio is believed to be highly skilled and acting in collaboration with others to carry out cybercrimes. The 32-year-old male was described as an “extremely sophisticated and dangerous computer hacker” in documents obtained from the U.S. Justice Department. He allegedly made a career of compromising computer servers belonging to financial firms, defense contractors, and major corporations. He then sold or traded the stolen information to others, according to U.S. prosecutors. He is accused of hacking into the high-security systems of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank and the Pentagon's security contractors. He was caught in a New York diner by the U.S. Secret Service October 21 while allegedly selling stolen credit card numbers for \$1,000. He had arrived in the city just hours before his arrest.
Source:
http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/SEAsia/Story/STIStory_606001.html

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Transportation Sector

19. *November 23, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Plane overshoots runway at Sea-Tac Airport; incoming flights delayed**. Incoming flights at Sea-Tac Airport in Sea-Tac, Washington, were being delayed as much as 4 hours November 22 due to icy runways. It comes after a cargo plane skidded off an icy Sea-Tac Airport runway November 22. The China Airlines 747 from Taipei was bound for Sea-Tac via John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. It touched down at about 4:45 p.m. According to the airport, the plane went about 100 feet past the designated landing marker. By the airport's definition, that means it was off the runway, although it was still technically on pavement. The plane went to the cargo hangar on its own power. After the incident, Sea-Tac Airport temporarily initiated a ground stop, which meant no incoming planes were allowed to land. The ground stop was lifted a few minutes later, but a ground delay was initiated, delaying flights as much as 4 hours. As of 11 p.m. November 22, the Federal Aviation Administration Web site reported arrival delays were down to 29 minutes and decreasing.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40325510/ns/local_news-seattle_wa/
20. *November 23, Deutsche Presse-Agentur* – (International) **Norwegian airport terminal evacuated over suspicious item**. A terminal at Bergen airport in Oslo, Norway was evacuated November 23 over a suspicious piece of luggage. Baggage handlers spotted an item which resulted in the decision to evacuate the terminal building, police told local media. Bomb disposal experts were heading to Bergen from Oslo, police added. Police were also trying to trace the owner of the luggage that had been checked in. The terminal was expected to remain closed for several hours.
Source:
http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1600886.php/Norwegian-airport-terminal-evacuated-over-suspicious-item

21. *November 23, WLEX 18 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Semi accident snarls traffic in Louisville.** Residents in Louisville, Kentucky, faced a snag in their morning rush hour commute November 23. A section I-65 northbound in downtown Louisville remained closed as police and emergency crews clean up the mess left by a jackknifed semi. Around 4 a.m., a truck lost control along I-65 at Hospital Curve in downtown Louisville, near Muhammad Ali Boulevard. The semi spilled about 60 gallons of diesel fuel onto the roadway. The accident left the rig's cab partially hanging off an overpass. No one was seriously injured and police said there was no danger to traffic below. Police were directing traffic to exit off of 65 north at the Brook and Broadway exits near downtown Louisville. Crews removed the semi around 6 a.m., but the fuel cleanup continued.
Source: <http://www.lex18.com/news/semi-accident-snarls-traffic-in-louisville>
22. *November 23, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Logan Airport cargo area evacuated.** Massport officials said a cargo area at Logan International Airport in Boston, Massachusetts, was being evacuated as a precaution November 23 while investigators examined a suspicious item discovered there. They said it was the Delta Airlines cargo area located on Harborside Drive, well away from any passenger areas at the airport. There was no immediate word on what the item was but Massport officials said the evacuation was triggered by TSA K-9 unit dog picking up a scent on a pallet at the cargo area during a security sweep. They were examining two duffel bags with Nigerian addresses, according to a Massport spokesman. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/r/25894162/detail.html>
23. *November 22, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Snow, wind, ice make for hours-long commutes.** Another round of snow and wind barreled into the Seattle, Washington, area November 22, covering Puget Sound roads with a sheen of ice and bringing roads and freeways to a standstill for the evening commute. One person was killed in a crash on I-5 near the Tacoma Dome late in the evening when he was hit while outside of his vehicle. For all of the evening, every major freeway except for I-90 had major problems for those trying to leave Seattle. Perhaps the worst was on the southbound lanes of I-5, where a jackknifed bus and several spinouts shut down the freeway for 2 hours around 5:30 p.m., and created a miles-long backup. The state department of transportation was able to reopen the freeway for about 15 minutes before several new spin-outs of buses and semi trucks forced the freeway to shutdown again. It reopened just before 11 p.m. On I-5 North, a disabled bus was blocking most of the freeway at NE 71st Street. Then about 2 hours later, two buses jackknifed in the northbound lanes at Mercer, causing new backups. Spun out cars blocked all lanes of Eastbound 520 at 84th Ave NE and westbound traffic was parked to the west highrise for several hours.
Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/109979899.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *November 23, Watertown Daily Times* – (New York) **Parcel alarms post office.** A package leaking an unidentified substance at the post office caused emergency responders to shut down a portion of St. Regis Road in Hogansburg, New York November 19. A U.S. Postal Service inspector said the package “arose some suspicions with the employees.” St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police said about 4 ounces of a substance spilled from the package. Officials would not identify the substance. While the typical protocol would have required the employees to notify the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Inspector said the local employees instead contacted Franklin County 911, which dispatched its hazardous materials unit. She said postal inspectors also responded to the scene once notified of the incident.
Source: <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20101123/NEWS05/311239960>
25. *November 22, CBS/Associated Press* – (California) **‘Dancing with the Stars’ studio received threatening letter with white powder.** Not everyone is a fan of ABC’s hit television series “Dancing with the Stars,” but one person apparently went to great lengths to make that point — by sending a threatening letter filled with white powder to the Los Angeles, California studio where the show is filmed. The crew was forced to evacuate the building November 19, but according to RadarOnline.com, none of the remaining contestants were in the building at the time. Authorities said the powder was tested and was not hazardous. In a statement, ABC confirmed the envelope was received at the show’s production office and the substance was determined to be talcum powder. It is unclear whether the letter was directed at one of the three remaining stars on the show, however, the daughter of the former governor of Alaska has been the center of controversy since her very first appearance.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20023550-504083.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *November 23, WJHG 7 Panama City* – (Florida) **Fire destroys Side Pocket Tavern in Parker.** A fire November 23 completely destroyed Side Pocket Tavern in Parker, Florida. Parker and Bay County fire rescue crews responded to the blaze that broke out a little after 1 a.m., shortly after closing time for the tavern. It took several hours for crews to get the fire under control, and even at 8:30 a.m., hot spots were still flaring up. The structure appears to be completely destroyed. Several nearby mobile homes were in danger, and three were evacuated by fire rescue crews, but the fire departments managed to save the neighboring structures. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
Source:
http://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/Fire_destroys_Side_Pocket_Tavern_in_Parker_110135094.html
27. *November 22, Sebeka Review Messenger* – (Minnesota) **MDA confirms first detection of brown marmorated stink bug in Minnesota.** Late the week of November 15, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) laboratory staff in St. Paul found a

brown marmorated stink bug on some new equipment that had been delivered to the lab building. The staff contacted the MDA's Plant Protection Division, where staff confirmed the insect was the first brown marmorated stink bug found in the state. Native to Asia, the pest was first identified in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2001. It has since been reported across the mid-Atlantic region and in Oregon. The bug typically spreads to new areas by flying or by stowing away in shipping containers or vehicles. It is unclear how the insect arrived in the laboratory building. However, MDA's plant protection director said it is likely the insect hitched a ride inside the boxes containing the new lab equipment, which had been shipped from the eastern U.S. In response to this discovery, MDA is searching the laboratory to find and eradicate any other stink bugs that may have arrived.

Source:

http://www.reviewmessenger.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8098:mda-confirms-first-detection-of-brown-marmorated-stink-bug-in-minnesota&catid=35:other-local-news

28. *November 22, Portland Oregonian* – (Washington) **New cheese recall: Washington State company pulls Mexican-style cheese.** The Food and Drug Administration announced a new cheese recall November 22. Del Bueno, located in Grandview, Washington, is pulling four Mexican-style cheeses over fears they are contaminated with listeria. The recall covers all packages of its Queso Fresco Fresh Cheese, Queso Panela Fresh Cheese, Requeson Mexican Style Ricotta Cheese, and Queso Enchilado Dry Cheese.

Source: <http://www.perishablenews.com/index.php?article=0011133>

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Water Sector

29. *November 23, Newark Advocate* – (Ohio) **Company's discharge violates Heath city permit.** A Heath, Ohio, company discharged industrial waste to the city's wastewater plant, in violation of its permit, the utilities superintendent told Heath City Council members November 21. WS Packaging, a print, packaging and label manufacturer in the Mid-Ohio Industrial Park, released an unauthorized discharge of ink and solvents in October, he reported. The inks must be hauled off site, which can be expensive, he said. The city monitors the company and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitors the city. The discharge put the company out of compliance, which put the city out of compliance with the EPA for a few days. The city's treated discharges into the river, therefore, were not in compliance with EPA standards until the city determined the origin of the problem. The city probably will avoid any financial penalty because it met with company and EPA officials and required WS Packaging to build an off-site sampling station and buy a sampler, a total cost of about \$5,000, within 90 days.

Source: <http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20101123/NEWS01/11230315>

30. *November 23, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Pearl Harbor sewage spill prompts warnings.** The Hawaii State Department of Health is warning divers to avoid the water around Pearl Harbor's Pier Mike 1 after thousands of gallons of sewage spilled in a storm drain that empties into harbor. The department said a sewer line ruptured near the pier November 21. Authorities were able to contain and vacuum 12,500 gallons but 4,200 gallons entered the storm drain. The department said military personnel and private contractors should postpone diving activities in the area for a few days until bacteria levels return to normal.
Source: <http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/11/ap-pearl-harbor-sewage-spill-112310/>
31. *November 22, WDSU 6 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **City still investigating boil order procedures.** A day after the tap water on the east bank of New Orleans, Louisiana was deemed safe to drink, there were lots of questions for city leaders about what led to the initial boil-water order and the related communication breakdown. The largest boil-water advisory since Hurricane Katrina was issued as a precaution. It stemmed from what a sewerage and water board member called a catastrophic failure of all backup systems resulting in low water pressure and the increased risk for contamination. Following a news conference at city hall November 22, the deputy mayor attempted to address concerns over the 5-hour delay between the time the sewerage and water board announced the boil order and the time the information was posted on the city's e-mail and text alert system. "I think they should have been notified minutes after. We are going to get to the bottom of why that took so long and put systems in place to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said. There have been no reports of sickness as a result of the incident.
Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/r/25883248/detail.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *November 22, Northwest Herald* – (Illinois) **Norovirus outbreak in three facilities; 129 people ill.** An outbreak of norovirus has been reported after 129 people became ill in three long-term care facilities, according to the McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) in Illinois. Fourteen cases of norovirus, which is highly contagious, have been confirmed and five people have been hospitalized. An MCDH spokeswoman declined to release the names of the facilities where the virus was found, but said that their administrators are cooperating and taking steps to prevent it from spreading. Unlike influenza, which is an upper respiratory virus, noroviruses are generally the culprit that causes what is referred to as "stomach flu." It affects the intestinal tract and causes nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Symptoms usually last between 24 and 48 hours.
Source: <http://www.nwherald.com/2010/11/22/norovirus-outbreak-in-three-facilities-129-people-ill/ah5cxnj/>

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *November 23, Honolulu Star Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **2 boys arrested after explosion at school.** Two students at Kapolei High School in Kapolei, Hawaii were arrested, and an employee was sent to a hospital with lightheadedness and nausea after a plastic bottle exploded in a campus restroom just before noon November 22. The two 14-year-old males were arrested for investigation of reckless endangering and released pending investigation, a police spokeswoman said. The explosion, caused by what firefighters described as a “chemical pressure bomb,” happened in a boys’ restroom in “G” Building. Two adults, both of whom appeared to be security guards, were treated for chemical exposure at about 1 p.m., a city emergency services department spokesman said. One of the injured, a woman in her 30s, was taken in stable condition to a hospital, the spokesman said. A man who appeared to be in his 40s was treated and released at the scene after complaining of eye irritation. The explosion was caused by a chemical reaction from the mixing of household chemicals such as corrosives and oxidizers.

Source:

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaii/news/20101123_2_boys_arrested_after_explosion_at_school.html

34. *November 23, Washington Post* – (National) **Security at U.S. courthouses questioned.** Federal judges and court personnel could be at risk because of poor training, questionable contracts, and broken security equipment used by guards protecting the nation’s federal courthouses, according to a new report by the Justice Department’s inspector general. Federal courthouse security is handled by the U.S. Marshals Service, which employs about 5,000 contract guards to protect more than 2,000 federal judges and 6,000 other court personnel working at 400 facilities nationwide. But multiple district offices failed to detect mock explosive devices sent to them by agency officials in February 2009 as part of a test of local security procedures, the report said. Three unnamed federal district court chief judges at unspecified locations expressed serious concerns with security procedures, especially with how guards screen visitors and large vehicles entering courthouses. Names and locations were not published for security purposes, according to the inspector general’s office. Federal court personnel were the target of 1,278 threats in fiscal 2008, more than double the threats received in 2003, according to an inspector general report published in 2009.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/22/AR2010112207052.html)

[dyn/content/article/2010/11/22/AR2010112207052.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/22/AR2010112207052.html)

35. *November 22, East Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Homemade explosive found on campus.** A homemade bomb, made primarily from a bottle and drain cleaner, was found by an East Tennessee State University (ETSU) custodial staff member November 19 outside Lucille Clement Residence Hall near the recycling bins for plastics. The device was considered a homemade incendiary device. ETSU’s public safety chief said the device did not explode, but still posed a danger to students. Students received an ETSU GoldAlert message at 2:42 p.m. regarding the device. The safety chief

speculated that the bottle-bomb is similar to those found in Johnson City residential areas over the past several weeks. Once forensics are ran on the object, public safety will compare the results with that of the Johnson City Police Department to see if the device is linked with the others.

Source:

<http://media.www.easttennessean.com/media/storage/paper203/news/2010/11/22/News/Homemade.Explosive.Found.On.Campus-3962058.shtml>

36. *November 22, National Journal* – (District of Columbia; Virginia) **White House North Lawn evacuated briefly after pilot flies into restricted airspace.** The U.S. Secret Service briefly cleared the North Lawn of the White House in Washington D.C. November 22 after a student pilot entered restricted airspace near the capital. Two F-16 fighters intercepted the Cessna 182 at around 2:20 p.m., the Secret Service said. The plane landed at an airfield in Manassas, Virginia, 10 minutes later. The pilot was met on the ground by federal officials, who questioned and released him, according to a Secret Service spokesman. Whenever an aircraft violates flight restrictions around Washington, the Secret Service evacuates the North Lawn of the White House as a precaution. The Secret Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other government agencies maintain an open phone line called the Domestic Events Network to inform each other immediately when restricted airspace is breached.

Source: <http://www.nationaljournal.com/white-house-north-lawn-evacuated-briefly-after-pilot-flies-into-restricted-airspace-20101122>

37. *November 22, WFSB 3 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **Gas leak reported in New Haven; Yale buildings evacuated.** An entire block of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, was evacuated November 22 after construction crews hit a high-pressure gas line on Prospect Street. More than eight Yale buildings including Ingalls Arena were shut down for more than an hour. The Yale University women's hockey team was practicing at the time. Just before noon, construction crews working on Prospect Street hit the high-pressure gas line causing it to leak for nearly an hour. In addition to the building evacuations, outdoor vendors were told to leave their carts and evacuate the area. Once the gas was shut off, fire crews had to make sure all the buildings were gas-free. All of the buildings were deemed safe by mid-afternoon.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/news/25877436/detail.html>

38. *November 22, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Missouri) **Poplar Bluff city Internet service under cyber attack.** Local investigators and the FBI are trying to figure out why and who is launching a cyber attack against the Municipal Utilities Internet service in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Weekly attempts to disrupt the city-run system went from 500 to 45,000 per week back in July, and have remained at about that rate ever since. "It went from nothing to that number in a week," the city manager said. "That's when we got concerned." So far the hackers have not found any holes in the system. He said the city's internal security has been able to fight the so called "pings." Municipal Utilities serves 3,546 Onternet customers. The city manager said they decided to get the police and cyber crimes investigators involved to try and figure out why someone would try to overload the system in Poplar Bluff. A detective said Poplar Bluff

authorities are working with the FBI on the case.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=13552821>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [18](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

39. *November 22, WHBQ 13 Memphis* – (Mississippi) **Major north Mississippi phone outage: 911 services down from Tunica Co. to Lee County.** A major phone outage has left Tunica County to Lee County, Mississippi, without 911 services. A boring rife in Walls, Mississippi cut a cable around 9.5 feet underground. This cable belongs to Telepak Networks. Telepak crews have been dispatched out but were not expected to repair the cable until 3 a.m. November 23. This covers a large portion of North Mississippi.

Source: <http://www.myfoxmemphis.com/dpp/news/mississippi/112210-major-north-mississippi-phone-outage-911-services-down-from-tunica-co.-to-lee-county>

40. *November 22, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Copper thieves target radio transmission towers, endanger public.** A rash of break-ins at radio transmission towers in northern Harris and southern Montgomery counties in Texas have first responders worried about the impact on public safety. Thieves have broken into and stolen copper wiring from dozens of towers and, in at least one instance, disrupted the communications system dispatchers use to communicate with firefighters and paramedics. He said thieves broke into the fire department's transmission tower near Spring the week of November 15. They pointed the surveillance camera toward the sky and ripped apart a generator, he said. He said more than a quarter million people were put in danger because a communications outage triggered by the theft left dispatchers without a primary way to reach firefighters and paramedics for nearly 1 hour. According to sources inside various fire departments, thieves have targeted dozens of transmission towers in northern Harris and southern Montgomery counties for months. Thieves have also stolen copper pipes and copper wiring from a fire station under construction in Spring.

Source: <http://www.khou.com/news/Copper-thieves-target-radio-transmission-towers-endanger-public-109971859.html>

For another story, see item [9](#)

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Information Technology Sector

41. *November 23, PC World* – (International) **iOS 4.2 includes massive security update.** Apple has released iOS 4.2. The update fixes more than 80 vulnerabilities in the iPhone, iPod, and iPad. Apple policy dictates that the vulnerabilities not be publicly

disclosed until the patch is available. Many of the vulnerabilities had critical security implications. For example, viewing a PDF file was a potentially risky task on pre-iOS 4.2 devices. “A heap buffer overflow exists in FreeType’s handling of TrueType opcodes [CVE-2010-3814]. Viewing a PDF document with maliciously crafted embedded fonts may lead to an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution. This update addresses the issue through improved bounds checking,” Apple said. There is also a vulnerability which reveals surfing history. “A design issue exists in WebKit’s handling of the CSS :visited pseudo-class. A maliciously crafted website may be able to determine which sites a user has visited. This update limits the ability of web pages to style pages based on whether links are visited.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9197839/iOS_4.2_includes_massive_security_update

42. *November 23, Network World* – (International) **Facebook’s Christmas Tree virus only a hoax.** Security vendor Sophos said Facebook users can relax and stop warning each other about a supposed computer crashing Christmas tree-themed app disguised as a virus since the whole thing is just a hoax. Thousands of Facebook users have raced in recent days to rescue friends by posting warnings of “one of the WORST Trojan viruses” out there, but Sophos said it has seen no evidence that such a malware-bearing app exists (not that one could not be concocted). Sophos said the warnings of this non-existent app actually appear to have traveled faster than past warnings of real threats. Geek Squad is cited by Facebook users as a source warning of the Christmas Tree app. A senior technology consultant with Sophos noted there was a real Christmas tree virus back in the late 1980s that did infect machines on IBM’s internal network and other networks.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9197842/Facebook_s_Christmas_Tree_virus_only_a_hoax

43. *November 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Is SAP afraid of a Stuxnet-style attack?** Enterprise software provider SAP is stepping up its security stance as its once-isolated systems become increasingly connected to the Internet, posing new risks as hackers diversify their targets. “You can now have all your business information directly connected to the Internet,” said the director of research and development for Onapsis, which does SAP security evaluations for companies. With SAP, “it’s mostly now the concern is a direct attack, such as taking a system offline or modifying business information,” he said. The core of SAP is its Netweaver platform. If an attacker can get inside Netweaver, any of the other applications on top of it can be compromised, he said. SAP has also been evangelizing the importance of better security practices to its customers. In September, it published a white paper, “Secure Configuration SAP Netweaver Application Server ABAP,” that consolidated a set of its existing security recommendations into a succinct document. The recommendations cover SAP systems used on internal networks and are not Internet facing. “While some organizations already have made these configurations, we realized that other customers still underestimate the increased level of threat from inside a company,” an SAP

spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9197840/Is_SAP_afraid_of_a_Stuxnet_style_attack_?taxonomyId=18&pageNumber=1

44. *November 23, Help Net Security* – (International) **Multiply users urged to download disguised malware.** Users of the Multiply social networking site have lately been targeted with malicious personal messages coming from accounts opened by cybercriminals. The message implies that the sender and the recipient know each other from somewhere, and the potential victim is urged to see the attached movie in order to jog their memory. But, the movie is just a pretext to get him or her to install a codec that is supposedly needed to see the video. The offered codec is a dropper Trojan in disguise. It is detected by Trend Micro as TROJ_KATUSHA.F, and it is also often sent out as an attachment in bogus e-mails.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1542

45. *November 22, Help Net Security* – (International) **Are malware hybrids the next big threat?** Recent encounters with hybridized malware files have left Trend Micro researchers wondering if they have been designed that way or if they are just an undesirable side effect lurking from heavily infected systems. To demonstrate how both malware may benefit from the symbiosis, they took the recently detected attack involving an IRC bot (WORM_LAMIN.AC) infected by a mother file infector (PE_VIRUX.AA-O) as an example. Because of PE_VIRUX's polymorphic nature, WORM_LAMIN.AC might be harder to detect. WORM_LAMIN.AC returns the favor by spreading PE_VIRUX. Together they change user and system security settings in a way that makes it easier for them to remain undetected, and payloads carried by both are delivered. It is likely that its appearance will spark other malware developers to try that novel approach.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1540

For another story, see item [13](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

46. *November 22, Erictrix* – (National) **There goes Google Voice; down once again.** Google Voice was down again. The service has almost been suffering performance or downtime issues on a daily basis in November. When asked for

comment, Mountain View, California-based Google Inc. indicated a bug has caused issues. However, they did not elaborate further. Affected users November 22 appeared to be unable to place outbound calls. In addition, some reported seeing “This Call Cannot Be Completed” error messages. Inbound calls also appear to be affected, as they do not get through.

Source: <http://erictric.com/2010/11/22/there-goes-google-voice-down-again/>

47. *November 22, Charlotteville Hook* – (Virginia) **CenturyLink internet not working for many (or is it?)**. Many of CenturyLink’s high-speed Internet customers in Virginia were without service November 22, as the provider was experiencing a wide-spread outage. “We are currently working to resolve this issue,” said a recorded voice at the technical support number. “We apologize for the inconvenience.” A phone call seeking further information about the outage was promptly returned — with the information that there may not be any wide outage at all. “We feel like that [recording] may be in error,” said a spokeswoman. “We don’t have any widespread outages reported. Our load doesn’t show any kind of a spike.”

Source: <http://www.readthehook.com/blog/index.php/2010/11/22/centurylink-internet-not-working-for-many/>

For more stories, see items [25](#), [39](#), and [40](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

48. *November 23, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **Fire damages Greenwood Strip Mall**. Three shops were damaged during a fire at a strip mall in Seattle, Washington’s Greenwood neighborhood November 23. Most of the damage the shops suffered was from water or smoke. According to Phinneywood.com, fire officials said the blaze started at the discount convenience store Rite Zone at 4:15 a.m. Video from Chopper 7 showed contents of the store pulled out onto the street to be hosed down. While fighting the fire, one firefighter fell into a stairwell but was not injured. The fire was reported by a Seattle City Light crew that noticed smoke while responding to a power outage.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/25878662/detail.html>

49. *November 22, Pleasanton Patch* – (California) **Office buildings evacuated near Stoneridge Mall**. Four office buildings near Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton, California, were evacuated November 22 after smoke from a possible transformer failure prompted firefighters to tell dozens of employees to leave. The battalion chief for the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department said his agency received a call at 10 a.m. regarding smoke at the buildings in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Mall Drive. The battalion chief said inspectors believe an electrical transformer in an enclosed area near the buildings either exploded or caught fire. Initially, 12 customers were without power, said a utility spokeswoman. As of 8 p.m., three customers remained without electricity. The spokeswoman confirmed a failed

transformer caused the outages. There were no injuries reported.

Source: <http://pleasanton.patch.com/articles/office-buildings-evacuated-near-stoneridge-mall>

50. *November 22, WKTU 2 Utica* – (New York) **Three hospitalized after fire at Kennedy Plaza Apartments.** A firefighter, security guard, and a resident were taken to the hospital after a fire at Kennedy Plaza Apartments in Utica, New York, November 22. The fire started around 7 p.m. on the 16th floor. The Utica fire chief said a firefighter went into cardiac arrest while he was battling flames and was taken to the hospital. He also said a security guard attempted to put the flames out himself and suffered second degree burns on his hands and face. Both were taken to St. Elizabeth Medical Center for treatment. The chief said one of the most challenging things about this fire is the fact many of the people who live at the Kennedy Plaza Apartments have physical or emotional disabilities, which caused evacuation problems. One resident suffered a seizure in the lobby and was taken to the hospital. The chief said the fire was under control within about an hour. It may have started around an elevator in the building. Source: <http://www.wktv.com/news/local/Firefighter-among-three-hospitalized-after-fire-at-Kennedy-Plaza-Apartments--110023904.html>

For another story, see item [25](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

51. *November 23, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Man sentenced for woods arson.** A 33-year-old Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for setting fires on timber property owned by Hancock Forest Products and Crest Natural Resources. The suspect, of Starks, pleaded guilty to five counts of simple arson and was sentenced to 3 years on each count. Department of Agriculture and Forestry arson investigators made the arrest May 18. The fires burned 145 acres of timberland in Beauregard Parish, and caused an estimated \$42,000 in losses. Source: <http://www.klfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=13554143>
52. *November 23, Northern Virginia Daily* – (Virginia) **Forest fire fight nears completion.** Crews are all but finished fighting two fires within the George Washington National Forest in Page County, Virginia, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The fire on Burners Gap had reached 560 acres November 21 when firefighters worked on “mopping up” areas still smoldering, a report stated. Duncan Hollow Trail remains closed in that area, which is 5 miles northwest of Luray and 2 miles southwest of Camp Roosevelt. An interpretative specialist for the Lee Ranger District said a few crews will still be in the area November 23. The second fire, an 83-acre blaze on Kennedy Peak, had little fire activity and smoke November 21, the report stated. Trails to the area are now open. Source: <http://www.nvdaily.com/news/2010/11/forest-fire-fight-nears-completion.php>

53. *November 23, Lake County News* – (California) **Snow strands travelers in national forest.** Two cases of stranded travelers in Mendocino National Forest in California were reported November 21. Just after noon, three people were reported to be suffering from exposure to the new-fallen snow in the forest area above Upper Lake, according to radio reports. Two people of Northshore Fire Protection District tried to make their way up to assist. “We could not reach them,” one said November 22, noting, “We got as far as we could.” But U.S. Forest Service personnel were able to assist the three individuals. On the Mendocino County side of the forest, 12 people had to be rescued after becoming stuck in the snow, according to a captain of the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office. Shortly before 7 p.m., the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office was advised that 12 people had traveled from the Willits and North County area to the Anthony Peak Range. Once in the Anthony Peak Range area, the dozen individuals became stuck in the snow and called for help from their cell phones. Mendocino County Search and Rescue were dispatched to the location. At 11 p.m., four of the stranded subjects were able to walk to the location where a search and rescue group was staged, but the weather and road conditions were such that the remaining eight could not be reached safely until it was daylight and there was a break in the weather. The stranded subjects were advised to stay inside of their vehicle until help reached their location. At 7:30 a.m. November 22, deputies utilized Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office snowmobiles and were able to access the remaining eight individuals who had remained at their vehicles.

Source: <http://lakeconews.com/content/view/17106/919/>

54. *November 23, WRC 4 Washington D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **Fire damages Vietnam vet gathering spot on National Mall.** A popular gathering spot for veterans on the National Mall in Washington D.C. was badly damaged November 22 after it went up in flames. The fire started with a propane heater that was next to the small stand that sits between the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Wall. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is a place where veterans trade pins and other memorabilia. Investigators said it appears the propane tank overheated, causing it to catch on fire. It is not yet clear if and when the stand will reopen.

Source: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local-beat/Fire-Damages-Veteran-Gathering-Spot-On-National-Mall-110104419.html>

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Dams Sector

55. *November 23, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Safety concerns raised about major central Texas dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced November 22 it is implementing what it called “interim risk reduction measures” while launching a long-term study after a screening rated the Stillhouse Hollow Dam in Bell County, Texas, as “having very high risk characteristics.” The screening in 2008 evaluated how well the dam meets current design standards and the potential consequences of dam failure. The dam’s high-risk classification “is a result of confirmed and unconfirmed issues and downstream consequences,” the Corps of Engineers said in a press release. The Corps

did not identify the issues, but said the dam is now performing as intended. The Corps said interim measures include a review of emergency plans, stockpiling materials, and surveillance of the dam when flood pool levels are high. “Stillhouse-Hollow Dam is operating as designed but is over 40 years old and we continue to assess and ensure its safe operation,” said the commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Fort Worth District. Work began on the dam on the Lampasas River in 1962 and was finished in 1968.

Source:

http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Safety_Concerns_Raised_About_Major_Central_Texas_Dam_110150944.html

56. *November 22, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Lowering New Orleans floodwalls could improve canal safety, engineers say.** Regional levee commissioners in New Orleans, Louisiana, are floating a counterintuitive idea: After the Army Corps of Engineers makes the walls safe enough to hold 8 feet of water next year, consider reducing their height to make them even safer. Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East insisted professionals are obligated to ask and answer the question: Once the 12-foot walls are repaired to hold 8 feet of water, would removing the top 4 feet actually reduce the potential for a future breach? The supposition is if the walls were cut down to leave only their “safe” sections standing, water that exceeded 8 feet would simply cascade over like an overfilled bathtub. That is a far less damaging scenario than having high water climb the unsafe sections, rupture the wall, and send water exploding into the nearest neighborhood, said the levee authority commissioner. On the recommendation of his committee, the full authority agreed November 18 to initiate a four-way discussion of the concept with the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board, the state coastal protection and restoration authority, and the Corps.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2010/11/shorter_new_orleans_floodwalls.html

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