



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 February 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- According to NBC New York, Security officials are warning the leaders of major Wall Street banks that al Qaeda terrorists in Yemen may be trying to plan attacks against those financial institutions or their leading executives. Intelligence officials stress the threats are general in nature and there is “no indication of a targeted assassination plot” against any Wall Street executive. (See item [16](#))
- USA Today reported that U.S. airlines have collectively canceled nearly a quarter of all the nation’s flights February 1, the result of a major winter storm affecting an area stretching from New Mexico to New England. On February 1 alone airlines have canceled 6,364 flights as of 1 p.m. ET, said the CEO of the flight-tracking site FlightAware.com. (See item [23](#))

### Fast Jump Menu

#### PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

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

#### SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

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

#### SERVICE INDUSTRIES

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

#### FEDERAL and STATE

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

### Energy Sector

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

1. *February 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Drillers used diesel in ‘fracking,’ report says.** Oil and gas companies have injected more than 32 million gallons of fluids containing diesel fuel underground without first getting government approval, a report by congressional Democrats said February 1. Oklahoma was second on a list of states where the most diesel was injected from 2005 to 2009, according to the investigation. Of the total amount used, 3.3 million gallons was injected in Oklahoma, the report claimed. The investigation found that 12 of 14 companies hired to perform hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking,” used diesel alone or in a mixture during the 5-year period. Lawmakers said the use of diesel fuel by large companies, such as Halliburton and BJ Services Co., appears to violate the Safe Drinking Water Act, because the companies never obtained permission from state or federal authorities to use the diesel fuel. The probe found no evidence that the use of diesel fuel contaminated water supplies in the 19 states where it was injected. “The industry has been saying they stopped injecting toxic diesel fuel into wells. But our investigation showed this practice has been continuing in secret and in apparent violation” of the Safe Drinking Water Act, said the panel’s senior Democrat and a former chairman. Source: [http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20110201\\_49\\_E1\\_CUTLIN874862&allcom=1](http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20110201_49_E1_CUTLIN874862&allcom=1)
2. *February 1, Dow Jones* – (International) **Crude prices lose momentum as Suez worries ease.** Crude oil prices lost momentum February 1 as fears over oil supply disruptions at the Suez Canal eased, but attention remained fixed on events in Egypt, where massive antigovernment protests continued for another day. Despite port closures in Egypt, the Suez Canal, a key energy transit point, remained open to shipping February 1. Although massive protests continued to take place throughout the country, significant disruptions to oil flows appear to be looking less likely, analysts said. “There are still protests going on in Egypt, but the shipping through the canal appears to be continuing normally” said an energy analyst. Egypt is not a major oil supplier, but the Suez Canal and the nearby Sumed pipeline are key chokepoints for global oil supplies. In addition, fears persist that the antigovernment protests could spread to major oil producing countries elsewhere in the region. However, even if oil flows through the Suez were disrupted, shippers could easily re-route supplies bound for Europe around southern Africa “without too much of a headache,” analysts at JBC Energy said in a research report. Moreover, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has indicated it would raise production in the event of a supply disruption. Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110201-710344.html>
3. *February 1, Bloomberg* – (International) **Egypt’s military deploys along SuMed oil pipeline, official says.** Egypt deployed troops January 28 to help protect the SuMed pipeline transporting crude alongside the Suez Canal, while the facility’s own guards doubled their number of sentry posts, an official said February 1. SuMed added 16 guard posts to the 14 it already had in place along the 220-mile pipeline, according to the official. Oil companies use SuMed because the largest oil tankers, such as Very Large Crude Carriers, cannot navigate the Suez Canal fully loaded. They send part of their cargo via the pipeline at the canal’s Red Sea entrance and then re-load the oil at the Mediterranean end. Alternatively, they can transfer their entire cargoes into smaller

vessels that then transit the waterway. SuMed has a carrying capacity of 2.5 million barrels a day and a disruption there would have a bigger impact on oil and shipping markets than a shutdown of the canal itself, an Oslo-based analyst at Arctic Securities ASA, said in a report January 31.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-02-01/egypt-s-military-deploys-along-sumed-oil-pipeline-official-says.html>

4. *January 31, El Dorado Times* – (Kansas) **Investigation continues into car-train collision.** Butler County Sheriff's officers continue to look into a car-train collision that occurred January 28 in El Dorado, Kansas. Officers responded to the collision at 4:41 p.m. at Northeast Ellis Road and K-177 Highway. Upon arrival, officers found a passenger vehicle fully engulfed in fire, according to a sheriff. The sheriff said the vehicle was northbound on Price Road, where there is an unprotected railroad crossing, a mile north of the reported location when it collided with a southbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe train pulling ethanol tank cars. For unknown reasons after the collision the vehicle became entangled with the engine and was dragged to the Ellis and K-177 crossing where it was kicked out into the ditch and burned. The sheriff confirmed they recovered two burned bodies from the vehicle.  
Source: <http://www.eldoradotimes.com/topstories/x1145633155/Investigation-continues-into-car-train-collision>
5. *January 31, Houston Business Journal* – (Louisiana) **Apache plugs small Gulf well leak.** Apache Corporation has plugged the flow of natural gas from a platform leak in the Gulf of Mexico, according to a statement by federal energy regulators January 31. The leak occurred on a platform near East Cameron Block 278, about 93 miles offshore Louisiana, south of Lake Charles, in about 173 feet of water. The platform had not been in production for nearly 10 years and was being used to process natural gas and condensate from other facilities. All workers were evacuated after the leak was spotted. According to the statement on the The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) website, personnel with Houston, Texas-based Apache re-boarded the platform January 19 and began work to kill the leaking well. Bureau engineers approved the well control procedures, which were successful in stopping the flow of natural gas. Apache has begun work to permanently plug the well using approved procedures.  
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2011/01/31/apache-plugs-small-gulf-well-leak.html>
6. *January 31, Salida Mountain Mail* – (Colorado) **Semi-tanker explodes on U.S. 50.** A semi-tanker loaded with gasoline and diesel fuel rolled off U.S. 50 and exploded killing its driver at about 9 a.m. January 28, 5 miles east of Salida, Colorado, at mile marker 228. Colorado State Troopers reported no other vehicles were involved. A witness said after rounding a corner he could see the oncoming semi-tanker was out of control and saw a figure inside the cab fighting to regain control. U.S. 50 was closed at mile marker 223 east of Salida and at mile marker 229 east of the Chaffee-Fremont county line until about 5 p.m. A witness said Howard Volunteer Fire Department and Chaffee County Sheriff's Deputies were the first emergency responders on the scene. Other responders included South Arkansas Fire Protection District and Salida Fire Department, Chaffee

County Emergency Medical Services, and Chaffee County Fire Protection District. Troopers reported fuel from the truck and ruptured trailer ran to the south side of U.S. 50 away from the Arkansas River. It was addressed by a Colorado State Patrol Hazardous Materials team. Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area personnel monitored the river for contamination.

Source:

<http://www.themountainmail.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=4&ArticleID=21492>

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *January 31, KATC 3 Lafayette* – (Louisiana) **Hazardous situation off Pont Des Mouton cleared.** The all clear has been given after a chemical spill at AMCOL Health and Beauty Solutions on Laser street off West Pont des Mouton Road in Lafayette, Louisiana. Hazardous Materials crews were on the scene the afternoon of January 31 after a highly flammable chemical leak. A Lafayette Fire investigator says the chemical boiled over a tank and spread onto at least two floors. There is no word how much of the chemical leaked. State Police are investigating.

Source: <http://www.katc.com/news/update-hazardous-situation-off-pont-des-mouton-cleared/>

For another story, see item [37](#)

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

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

8. *February 1, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Richland firm gets nuke plant contract.** As Energy Northwest prepares to replace the main condenser at its nuclear power plant near Richland, it has awarded a contract to Perma-Fix Northwest to treat and dispose of the associated radioactive waste. Energy Northwest plans to spend \$113 million to replace the 25-year-old condenser, which turns steam generated by boiling water in the nuclear reactor back into water for re-use. It has become less reliable through the years, according to Energy Northwest. By making the cycle more efficient, the 1,150-megawatt Columbia Generating Station is expected to gain 12 megawatts of electricity generation, which is expected to pay for the new condenser over time. The contract award to Perma-Fix Northwest of Richland is worth \$4.1 million and will cover management of 3 million pounds of condenser tubes, piping, structural steel and related low-level radioactive waste.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/02/01/1349664/richland-firm-gets-nuke-plant.html>

9. *January 31, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **IAEA chief warns of terrorist access to nuclear material.** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief on January 27 said his organization receives new information nearly every other day

regarding smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials, Asian News International reported. The U.N. nuclear watchdog director general attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he warned that Iran and North Korea should not be the sole focus of nuclear proliferation fears, according to Fox News. “Another risk is nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists,” the IAEA chief said. “Some people do not believe this is a real risk. But the IAEA has a database and, on average, every two days we receive information about the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials or radioactive materials and this may only be the tip of the iceberg.” The IAEA head did not single out any geographical area as a locus point for nuclear trafficking but said extremists would seek to acquire atomic materials wherever security is the weakest. Source: [http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110131\\_1572.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110131_1572.php)

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

## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

10. *February 1, Syracuse Post-Standard* – (New York) **OSHA proposes \$220,000 fine for DeWitt foundry.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has accused Oberdorfer LLC of 28 health and safety violations at its aluminum castings foundry in DeWitt, New York, and proposed fining the company \$220,000. OSHA said January 31 it cited the company in 2006 for a variety of violations involving employee overexposure to airborne concentrations of silica, which has been classified as a lung carcinogen. The federal agency said a new inspection in 2010 found the company failed to implement engineering controls to reduce workers’ exposure to silica. The 136-year-old company makes a full range of aluminum castings for the aviation, aerospace, recreational, high performance engine, aluminum pump, and refrigeration industries, as well as the military.

Source:

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/osha\\_proposes\\_220000\\_fine\\_for.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/osha_proposes_220000_fine_for.html)

11. *February 1, Gallatin News Examiner* – (Tennessee) **2 injured in flash fire at Gallatin industrial business.** A flash fire at an industrial business in Gallatin, Tennessee, severely burned two people January 31. At approximately 4:50 a.m., the Gallatin Fire Department was dispatched to the Hoeganaes Corporation, a business that deals in powder metallurgy products, located on Airport Road. The flash fire was ignited by an electrical short that caused a reaction with some materials within the plant, injuring two, according to Gallatin fire marshal. The two workers were transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center. “They were burned over a considerable amount of their body,” the fire marshal said. Firefighters remain at the scene as of 8 a.m. because of smoldering material still at present.

Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/20110131/GALLATIN01/110131006/-1/NEWS01/2-injured-flash-fire-Gallatin-industrial-business>

12. *February 1, autoevolution* – (International) **Egypt’s march of millions closes GM plant.** GM has announced February 1 that it will halt its production in Egypt after a week of public unrest in the country. As Egypt braces for what is generally called the

“march of millions,” a huge anti-presidential rally currently in progress in Cairo, the American auto maker stated its decision to stop production at its plant near the capital. A GM team is on site, the car maker said, and is assessing when to restart operations. “All of our employees in Egypt as well as our plant property is safe and secure,” GM said following a query from just-auto.com. “Our local team in Cairo is assessing the situation and will decide to commence normal operations once the conditions permit. We are currently not building vehicles.”

Source: <http://www.autoevolution.com/news/egypt-s-march-of-millions-closes-gm-plant-30540.html>

13. *January 31, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Fire at United Taconite forces evacuation.** A fire broke out January 31 at Cliffs Natural Resources’ United Taconite in Forbes, Minnesota. No injuries are reported after the fire forced an evacuation of the taconite plant on northeastern Minnesota’s Iron Range. The company says the fire was contained to one of the operation’s fine crushers and was extinguished within an hour. Extent of the damage is unknown and the cause remains under investigation. The Mesabi Daily News reports fire departments from Virginia, Gilbert, Mountain Iron, Fayal, Eveleth, McDavitt, and Cherry responded. The fire did not interrupt pelletizing operations at the plant.  
Source: <http://www.kttc.com/Global/story.asp?S=13943303>

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

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

14. *February 1, Hudson County Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **38-year-old Union City man pleads guilty to theft of frequency generator.** A 38-year-old Union City, New Jersey man pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Trenton January 31 to stealing a frequency generator with military applications from IIT Corp. in Clifton and selling it on eBay, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The man faces up to 10 years in jail and a maximum fine of up to \$250,000 for interstate transportation and transmission of stolen property. The frequency generator can be used in the manufacturing process of other items to mimic radio frequencies of surface-to-air missiles and can be used in the testing of other items, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The man used his Department of Defense security clearance to steal the \$50,000-valued frequency generator July 25, officials said. Through an eBay account under the false name, the man offered the device to a company and sold it for \$20,000, shipping it July 26. The buyer became suspicious of the discounted price once it arrived August 9 and contacted the manufacturer, tracing it back to IIT Corp., according to the complaint.  
Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/unioncity/index.ssf?/base/news-0/129654512036530.xml&coll=3>
15. *January 28, Reuters* – (Massachusetts) **Woman sentenced for U.S. military sales to China.** A woman who managed a Massachusetts electronics company was sentenced January 8 to 3 years in prison for conspiring over 10 years to export U.S. military equipment to China, U.S. authorities said. The woman, 46, of Belmont, Massachusetts, was convicted in 2010 of illegally exporting various goods to China, including parts on

the U.S. munitions list and export-restricted technology and electronics, and for filing false shipping documents with the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Waltham, Massachusetts company she managed, Chitron Electronics Inc., known as Chitron-US, was fined \$15.5 million. A Chinese national, Chitron's owner and the woman's ex-husband, was sentenced January 26 to 97 months in prison for his role in the export conspiracy. The defendants' enterprise involved the use of Chitron-US as a front company for its parent, Chitron Electronics Co. Ltd., headquartered in Shenzhen, China, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said. The woman procured export-restricted equipment from U.S. suppliers and exported them to China through Hong Kong. The equipment is used in electronic warfare, military radar, fire control, military guidance and control equipment, missile systems, and satellite communications, the DOJ said. Chitron marketed electronics to Chinese military factories and military research institutes.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/28/china-chitron-sentencing-idUSN2823732820110128>

For another story, see item [10](#)

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

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

16. *February 1, NBC New York* – (International) **Wall Street execs on new terror threat info.** Security officials are warning the leaders of major Wall Street banks that al Qaeda terrorists in Yemen may be trying to plan attacks against those financial institutions or their leading executives. Intelligence officials stress the threats are general in nature and there is “no indication of a targeted assassination plot” against any Wall Street executive. But NBCNewYork.com has learned officials fear the names of some top banking executives have been discussed by terror operatives overseas. Intelligence analysts added they have a general but growing concern that operatives in Yemen may again try to send package bombs or biological or chemical agents through the mail to Wall Street bankers. In recent weeks, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and NYPD officials have been briefing bank executives and their security departments on the nature of the threat information. Much of it gleaned from al Qaeda writings like ‘Inspire’ magazine that recently warned of attacks targeting financial institutions. The latest “Inspire” issue also made reference to trying to use Anthrax in an attack, officials said. NBC terror consultants also point to the web writings of an al Qaeda blogger who recently wrote, “Rush my Muslim brothers to targeting financial sites and the program sites of financial institutions, stock markets and money markets.” Banks like Goldman Sachs, Citibank, JP Morgan Chase, Barclays and others have received updated security briefings from the FBI's JTTF, security officials told NBCNewYork.

Source: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local-beat/Exclusive-Wall-Street-Execs-On-New-Terror-Threat-Info-114985979.html>

17. *February 1, SC Magazine UK* – (International) **Stock exchanges in the UK and US come under advanced and persistent attack.** The British and United States stock exchanges have reportedly enlisted the help of the security services after finding out

they were the victims of cyber attacks. According to media reports, the London Stock Exchange (LSE) is investigating a terrorist cyber attack on its headquarters last year, while US officials have traced an attack on one of its exchanges to Russia. A report from The Times said that it had been told by ‘well-placed intelligence sources’ that the London Stock Exchange was trying to find the source of the attack, while a cyber security expert is reported as saying that the threat is ‘advanced and persistent’. The Associated Press said that officials suspect the attacks were designed to spread panic among markets and destabilize western financial institutions.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/stock-exchanges-in-the-uk-and-us-come-under-advanced-and-persistent-attack/article/195398/>

18. *January 31, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Foreign banks evacuate staff from Egypt.** A number of international banks with operations in Egypt have begun evacuating some foreign staff from the country, joining other firms that are beginning to ferry personnel out as the political turmoil continues. Citigroup Inc. said it evacuated some non-Egyptian employees from the country Sunday night, while Barclays PLC and HSBC Holdings Inc. also both said they had evacuated “a small number” of expatriates. Citigroup said it has about 600 employees in the country, the “vast majority” of whom are locals, a spokeswoman said Monday morning. Citi helped those foreign national employees who wanted to leave get out Sunday night, she said. Barclays said it pulled fewer than 10 employees. HSBC said about 10 of its 2,100 employees are foreign-born and that it has relocated some of those to Dubai. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. said it has about 10 employees in Cairo and that all are safe there. Branches of all banks in the country are closed Monday, at the recommendation of the Egyptian central bank.

Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/dispatch/2011/01/31/foreign-banks-evacuate-staff-from-egypt/>

19. *January 31, Canton Repository* – (Ohio) **FBI links four area bank robberies to same man.** FBI agents in Canton suspect a man who robbed the Chase Bank at 1207 W. State St. in Alliance January 28 robbed three other area banks. At 3:30 p.m. January 28, a man approached a Chase teller and demanded money. He was given undisclosed amount and ran west on State. The robber is described as a black man with a mustache, about 5-feet 7-inches to 5-feet-10-inches tall and weighing between 160 and 180 pounds. He appears to be in his 40s or 50s. Agents believe he is the same man who robbed the U.S. Bank branch in Giant Eagle at 3100 Cromer Ave. NW in Canton on December 4, Chase Bank on S. Arlington Road in Akron on January 3, and the Huntington National Bank branch at 4879 Portage St. NW in Jackson Township on January 12. The man who robbed the Alliance bank January 28 was wearing a gray shirt, blue jeans, a black floor length leather coat, and black baseball cap with embroidered lettering or a logo in the center. In the first three robberies, the man wore a black winter coat with a hood and toggle-type buttons and a Chicago White Sox baseball cap that had a white brim and lettering.

Source: <http://www.cantonrep.com/newsnow/x10542312/FBI-links-four-area-bank-robberies-to-same-man>

20. *January 31, Softpedia* – (International) **Phishers target Italian credit card provider CartaSi.** Security researchers from German antivirus vendor Avira warn of several

phishing scams targeting customers of CartaSi, an Italian credit card provider. There were a total of four attacks, all of them using different lures to trick users into clicking on the phishing URLs. According to a data security expert at Avira, the e-mails are being sent by botnets from around the world and bear fake headers to appear as coming from official-looking CartaSi addresses. Some of the messages use traditional tricks such as warning the recipients that they need to activate their accounts or re-confirm their information. Others inform potential victims that they qualify for a fidelity bonus. Recipients are asked to log into their accounts within 48 hours before the offer expires. All phishing e-mails lead customers to spoofed CartaSi pages designed to steal their personal data or online banking credentials. The number of phishing attacks has increased since the beginning of 2011, particularly because of the tax season starting in several countries. The week of January 23 there was a huge wave of tax refund-themed e-mails that spoofed taxation authorities in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Phishers-Target-Italian-Credit-Card-Provider-CartaSi-181533.shtml>

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

## **Transportation Sector**

21. *February 1, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota will see major floods in spring.** Emergency response officials in Minnesota are gearing up for a busy spring as forecasts predict another year of major flooding. According to a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, “Every river in the state of Minnesota is at risk of flooding this spring.” He said that a third consecutive rainy autumn season followed by twice the normal amount of snowfall across the entire state will swell rivers with melting snow. There is currently three to six inches of frozen snow on top of frozen ground all across Minnesota. “It’s alarming because we’ve still got two months of winter [ahead],” he said. He expects significant overland flooding and rivers to back up due to ice jams, in addition to flooding due to excessive snowmelt. Officials warned that the flooding will close roads, major highways, back up sewer systems, and hit basements. The Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management director is recommending that residents begin developing evacuation plans, take stock of their possessions, and raise appliances off of basement floors. Forecasts project that many major roadways and bridges that carry hundreds of thousands of cars a day will likely be closed due to flooding.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/minnesota-will-see-major-floods-spring>

22. *February 1, BBC News* – (International) **Egypt unrest leads to re-routing of container ships.** The unrest in Egypt has led to some container ships being re-routed as vessels look to bypass Egyptian ports and stop at other countries to refuel. South Korea’s Hanjin Shipping said it was re-routing some of its ships as its operations at Port Said and Alexandria were affected by a lack of staff. On January 31, DP World and Danish shipping firm Associated Press that both suspended their Egyptian port terminal operations because of the unrest. The Canal Authority said movement of traffic through the canal was unaffected. “The movement today is normal. The number

of ships passing through has increased to 65 today from 40 yesterday,” said a member of the canal’s board. “The major concern [for investors] right now is what will happen with the Suez Canal.” “Our operation is affected as Port Said and Alexandria are either partially open or entirely not operating due to a lack of labour and IT systems,” Hanjin’s president told the Reuters news agency in an e-mail. “We are arranging to discharge some trans-shipment boxes at the next port for the time being.” He did not say how many ships were affected or where they were being re-routed to. Although Suez has been one of the cities where anti-government protests have taken place, they have not spread to the canal, which is still functioning as normal.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-12332627>

23. *February 1, USA Today* – (National) **Flight chaos: Cancellations span USA, soar past 8,600.** U.S. airlines have collectively canceled nearly a quarter of all the nation’s flights February 1, the result of a major winter storm affecting an area stretching from New Mexico to New England. On February 1 alone airlines have canceled 6,364 flights as of 1 p.m. ET, the CEO of flight-tracking site FlightAware.com, tells USA TODAY reporter. The CEO of flight-tracking site says, accounts for roughly 21% of all flights in, to and from the United States. The February 1 cancellations are on top of 2,909 proactively canceled for February 2, CEO of flight-tracking site says. Earlier on February 1, FlightAware had said that airports in Newark, Chicago O’Hare and Chicago Midway had been among the hardest-hit airports. But it was in Texas where the storm delivered one of its first big blows to air travelers, with icy weather forcing busy Dallas/Fort Worth International to suspend flight operations for nearly an hour this February 1. That disruption came as the airport — the biggest hub for American Airlines — is in the midst of preparations for the influx of passengers heading to town for this weekend’s Super Bowl XLV. Flight disruptions appeared all but certain to spread across the nation as forecasts predicted a massive winter storm would bring poor weather to more than 30 states — stretching from New Mexico to New England.

Source: <http://travel.usatoday.com/flights/post/2011/02/dallas-airport-snow/141036/1?csp=tf>

24. *January 31, Truckinginfo.com* – (National) **FMCSA proposes EOBR mandate for all interstate drivers.** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is proposing that all interstate trucks and buses be equipped with electronic onboard recorders to track driver hours. The rule would apply to all carriers now required to maintain Records of Duty Status (aka logbooks), which amounts to 500,000 commercial carriers. The rule would not apply to short-haul interstate carriers that use timecards to document hours of service. The agency at the same time is proposing to relieve interstate carriers from certain supporting documents requirements for hours of service compliance. Motor carriers will be given 3 years from the effective date of the final rule to comply with these requirements. Under the proposal, violations of the EOBR requirement would face civil penalties of up to \$11,000 for each offense. Noncompliance would also negatively impact a carrier’s safety fitness rating and Department of Transportation operating authority, the agency said.

Source: [http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news\\_id=72842&news\\_category\\_id=3](http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=72842&news_category_id=3)

25. *January 31, Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs* – (International) **Travel Alert: United Kingdom and Gibraltar (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)**. The Department of State has issued this Travel Alert to inform U.S. citizens traveling to or resident in the United Kingdom (UK) of the continuing high level of terrorist threat, including the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems, aviation and other travel infrastructure in the UK. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This Travel Alert expires on April 30, 2011. In the past several years, extremists have targeted and attacked subway and rail systems, as well as the aviation sector in cities such as London, Madrid, Glasgow, and most recently, Moscow, demonstrating that terrorists continue to take an active interest in targeting these transport sectors across a variety of European cities.  
Source: [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_2561.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_2561.html)

26. *January 29, CNN* – (National) **TSA shuts door on private airport screening program**. A program that allows airports to replace government screeners with private screeners is being brought to a standstill, just a month after the Transportation Security Administration said it was “neutral” on the program. TSA chief said January 28 he has decided not to expand the program beyond the current 16 airports, saying he does not see any advantage to it. The push to “opt out” gained attention in December amid the fury over the TSA’s enhanced pat downs, which some travelers called intrusive. A union for Transportation Security Administration employees said it supported the decision to halt the program. “The nation is secure in the sense that the safety of our skies will not be left in the hands of the lowest-bidder contractor, as it was before 9/11,” said the president of the American Federation of Government Employees. “We applaud Administrator for recognizing the value in a cohesive federalized screening system and work force.”  
Source:  
[http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/01/29/tsa.private/index.html?eref=rss\\_travel&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+rss/cnn\\_travel+\(RSS:+Travel\)](http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/01/29/tsa.private/index.html?eref=rss_travel&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+rss/cnn_travel+(RSS:+Travel))

For more stories, see items [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [6](#), [50](#), and [63](#)

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

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

27. *January 31, WWL 4 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Series of bottle bomb explosions in Chalmette**. Three young men are being sought for using plastic bottles and chemicals to cause a series of small explosions in Chalmette, Louisiana. The incidents occurred on the night of January 30 and early January 31 in the 3500 block of Charles Drive, the 3300 block of Veronica Drive, the 3400 block of Chalona Drive and the 3800 block of Despau Drive. No one was injured in the incidents that caused damage to two mailboxes and a car. “It seems to be random acts at this point. We think it’s three young individuals who don’t know what they’re getting themselves into and how serious a nature of this type of thing can be. They can be charged with some very

serious crimes,” said a police spokesman. According to the police spokesman, a young white man in a camouflaged hooded sweatshirt was seen outside of a home on Veronica Drive, and shortly thereafter, there was a small explosion. Little damage was found. On Chalona, a witness saw a silver Jeep approach a mailbox and something was put inside before the box exploded. The police spokesman said the witness saw three young, white men in an older model Jeep before the Chalona incident.

Source: <http://www.wvltv.com/news/Series-of-bottle-bomb-explosions-in-Chalmette--114977249.html>

For another story, see item [16](#)

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

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

28. *February 1, Food Safety News* – (California; National) **Cilantro recalled due to Salmonella.** Sabor Farms, a Salinas, California, company, is recalling fresh cilantro after Salmonella was detected during a USDA Microbiology Data Program test. The company said the cilantro was sold in California and “several other states” from January 14-28 under the labels Nature’s Reward, Ocean Mist, Tanimura & Antle, and Queen Victoria. Consumers should note that the cilantro bunches do not contain identifying lot codes. Sabor Farms has contacted the four companies that received potentially affected lots of cilantro and confirmed that no product remains in their inventories. No illnesses have been reported.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/02/california-cilantro-recalled-over-salmonella-fears/>

29. *February 1, The Register* – (International) **DDoS bot infests food processing firms.** A new family of malware agents is attacking the Web sites of firms involved in the industrial food processing industry. Variants of the Darkshell botnet agent, circulating in China, turn infected Windows machines into attack drones. Infected machines regularly phone in to command and control nodes for instructions, periodically receiving instructions on sites to inundate with junk traffic. Arbor Networks, which has been tracking the activities of the cybercrime networks for the last three months, reports that Darkshell botnets have launched DDoS attacks against 97 unique victims, mostly in China (65) and the United States (23). Victims have included online merchants of baby products and jewelry as well as video game related sites. However, a big percentage of targets narrowly focused on the websites of small manufacturers of industrial food processing equipment and machinery. The attacks seem to focus on three or four URLs on a targeted website that refer to specific products. Darkshell is not technically sophisticated, but it stands out from the rogue’s gallery of botnet agents because of its particular (unusual) focus in attacking websites of industrial food processing firms, a sign of the increased diversification and specialization of the underground economy.

Source:

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/01/ddos\\_bot\\_targets\\_industrial\\_control\\_firms/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/01/ddos_bot_targets_industrial_control_firms/)

30. *February 1, KFGO 790 Fargo-Moorhead* – (Indiana) **Millions seized in livestock fraud case.** The FBI seized \$4.7 million dollars from a personal bank account of the owner of Eastern Livestock in New Albany, Indiana, January 20 and attempted to take \$1.2 million from the owner's commodity account, but those funds were already in the hands of a court-appointed bankruptcy trustee. Eastern Livestock Company wrote more than \$130 million of bad checks last fall to 743 producers across the country, according to USDA, the cattle brokerage, its owners and a trucking company under the same ownership are all in bankruptcy proceedings.  
Source: [http://www.kfgo.com/agnews\\_Detail.php?ID=8690](http://www.kfgo.com/agnews_Detail.php?ID=8690)
31. *January 31, National Ledger* – (Georgia; National) **Publix ice cream recall.** The Georgia Department of Agriculture has issued a recall for Publix brand ice cream because of unlisted almonds that could cause a fatal reaction for people allergic to almonds. "The product lot code on the bottom of the carton is 'Sep 12 2011 B7 PLT 12-444,'" the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. "The product is packaged with a Light Tiramisu Ice Cream carton and an Almond Fudge Light Ice Cream lid." According to Georgia's agriculture commissioner, the recall affects Publix stores in Georgia and four other states: Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, and Tennessee.  
Source: [http://www.nationaledger.com/lifestyle/article\\_272637583.shtml](http://www.nationaledger.com/lifestyle/article_272637583.shtml)
32. *January 31, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (Wisconsin) **Mystery of 200 dead Wisconsin cows solved.** Authorities investigating the deaths of 200 cows in Wisconsin have come up with an unlikely culprit: the sweet potato. The cows were found dead in a Stockton pasture 2 weeks ago. Investigators from the University of Wisconsin have determined that the animals were killed by a poison found in spoiled sweet potatoes that were part of the cattle's feed, Fox News reported. "It is likely that a mycotoxin from moldy sweet potato was a major factor in the disease and deaths of these steers," said the associate director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The farmer said that the toxic sweet potatoes were not in the human food supply chain, so there was no threat to people.  
Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/mystery-200-dead-wisconsin-cows-solved>
33. *January 27, Federal Bureau of Investigation Houston* – (Texas) **Beaumont residents arrested and charged with federal crimes related to eleven area robberies.** Three Beaumont, Texas, residents were indicted and arrested on January 27 in connection with a crime spree targeting area convenience stores and fast food restaurants in the Eastern District of Texas announced a U.S. Attorney. The three men were named in a 24-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on January 27. The defendants are each charged with 11 counts of brandishing a firearm in a crime of violence, 12 counts of Hobbs Act robbery and one count of Hobbs Act conspiracy. This case is being investigated by the FBI, the ATF, and the Beaumont Police Department.  
Source: <http://houston.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel11/ho013111.htm>

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

## **Water Sector**

34. *February 1, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **Lake Balboa residents evacuated after flooding.** Thousands of gallons of water flowed into multiple apartments, homes and businesses February 1 in Lake Balboa, California, due to a broken 20-inch water main, authorities said. The flooding was reported at 3:12 a.m. in the 16400 block of West Vanowen Street, a spokesman from of the Los Angeles Fire Department said. An estimated 60 people were displaced and the American Red Cross was called out to assist them. The water was flowing knee-deep in places and affecting multiple apartment buildings on the south side of Vanowen. Firefighters carried pets and children out of some of the flooded residences. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power workers were at the scene. Water in some residences was deep enough to float computer equipment and other belongings, according to reports from the scene. A spokesperson of the LADWP said about 100 customers were without water. Vanowen Street was closed between Balboa Boulevard and Woodley Avenue; and Hayvenhurst Avenue was closed between Victory Boulevard and Sherman Way, she said.  
Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local-beat/Major-Flooding-Causes-Dozens-of-Residents-to-Evacuate-in-Lake-Balboa-115003684.html>
35. *February 1, Delmarva Media Group* – (Maryland) **Fire destroys more than \$200K in equipment.** A fire at the wastewater treatment plant of Fruitland, Maryland, early January 31 caused significant damage, totaling more than \$200,000, according to the city manager. The plant superintendent said there will be no interruptions in service, but the city may need to rent a few pieces of equipment “until we get things straightened out.” Three fire departments — Allen Volunteer Fire Company, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company, and Salisbury Fire Department Station 1 — responded to the Public Works complex on Shady Lane at about 2 a.m. The city manager said the fire was limited to a storage shed in the garage area. A Fruitland police officer discovered the fire while he was fueling his cruiser, he said. The deputy chief of the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company said it took about 20 minutes to get the blaze under control. When the shed’s roof collapsed, he said, a natural gas main was damaged, which hampered firefighters’ efforts. “We had to keep a hose on it till [Chesapeake Utilities] located the pipe underground and shut it off,” he said. The incident is still under investigation by the state fire marshal, and the city has yet to place an exact dollar amount on the damage. Among equipment destroyed are two tractors, two large mowers, a diesel-powered water pump, and a utility vehicle.  
Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110201/NEWS01/102010366>
36. *January 31, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Missouri) **Pollutant reduction plans announced for Hinkson, Jordan, Pearson and Wilson Creeks in Missouri.** EPA is establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) or pollutant reduction plans for Hinkson Creek in Boone County and Jordan, Pearson and Wilson creeks in Christian and Greene County, Missouri. The TMDLs call for significant pollutant reductions to improve the streams’ water quality. The TMDLs are calculations of the maximum allowable load of pollutants that a water body can receive daily and still meet water quality standards. The TMDLs are established to identify the pollutant reductions necessary to meet water quality standards and restore the water bodies. For each of the four streams, the current biological impairments cannot be attributed to a single pollutant. The impairments are attributed to multiple pollutants.

EPA will work with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to ensure the impairments are addressed as required by the Clean Water Act. The Agency is working with the public, community leaders, local and state agencies to meet the growing needs and demands of water resources.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/66A39830F950B28485257829005C0F53>

37. *January 31, LancasterOnline.com* – (Pennsylvania) **Boil-water advisory for East Petersburg.** East Petersburg, Pennsylvania, water users were told January 31 to boil their water before using it after a mishap at the borough's nitrate plant. Borough officials said a pipe burst at the Graystone Road facility around 3 a.m. that morning, flooding the building and causing chlorine levels in the borough's water to drop. This led the state Department of Environmental Protection to tell East Petersburg to issue the boil-water advisory for the water system's 1,700 or so customers. Borough officials were working to correct the problem. A late-afternoon note on the borough's website said the advisory might last for at least 2 days.

Source: <http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/345306>

38. *January 31, Columbia County News-Times* – (Washington) **Lead found in some Columbia County drinking water.** Some Columbia County, Georgia, homes recently showed concentrations of lead in the water supply that exceeded the federal maximum. A water test conducted by Columbia County Water Utility on 30 homes showed seven had lead concentrations greater than the maximum of 15 parts per billion, said the Water Utility director. The tests were mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and targeted homes built before 1988. It is the first time since the EPA started requiring testing of lead concentrations in the 1990s that a Columbia County home failed. The director noted that the county's raw water supply – Savannah River and Thurmond Lake – and water treated by his department contain no lead. The contamination is caused by the lead solder leeching into water at rest inside pipes. The county faces no penalties by the EPA and can do nothing to force homeowners to eliminate the lead solder from their plumbing. Aside from new plumbing, the best advice he said he could give to homeowners is to run water in the taps for a few seconds before using it to flush out water that had been stilled in the pipes for several hours.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-01-31/lead-found-some-columbia-county-drinking-water>

39. *January 29, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **New possible cause of Kentfield sewage spill identified.** Ecoterrorism might not be to blame for last month's massive sewage spill in Kentfield, California, after all. Ross Valley Sanitary District officials say they have identified a new possible cause of the 842,000-gallon sewage spill that occurred near Kent Middle School on December 17. During the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing investigation into the cause of the spill, it was discovered that one of two pipes designed to convey sewage from the area of the spill is crushed in two spots. The district's general manager said the crushed sewage line is an old, 27-inch pipe that runs alongside a new, 30-inch pipe recently installed by JMB Construction of South San Francisco. "We are leaning away from ecoterrorism,"

the manager said. “But we are still firmly convinced that it was vandalism and, or, it could be negligence due to JMB’s work. I’m saying it’s one or the other or both.”

Source: [http://www.marini.com/rosskentfieldgreenbrae/ci\\_17231562](http://www.marini.com/rosskentfieldgreenbrae/ci_17231562)

40. *January 27, Imperial Beach Patch* – (California; International) **Broken Mexican sewage pipe repaired, work begins for more cross border collaboration.** Mexican officials notified the U.S. portion of the International Boundary and Water Commission January 27 that final repairs to a broken collector pipe just south of the border were completed the previous night around 10 p.m. Initial damage was thought to take place a few days before Christmas but did not become publicly known until January 18., during which time an estimated 31 million gallons of sewage was spilled into the ocean. An additional 11 million gallons, or 18.4 gallons a second, was released during repairs. “On the local level we can work with the local water authorities but by law they are not forced to communicate back, just by good will,” said a spokesman with California State Parks. He met with the director of Urban Control and Environmental Protection with the city of Tijuana and took a tour of the estuary and southern part of the estuary where much of the sediment trash and waste water flows come in. The three met to discuss ways to improve cross border cooperation, like a project to create sediment basins in Mexico to trap solid waste and Environmental Education Centers on both sides of the border.

Source: <http://imperialbeach.patch.com/articles/broken-mexican-sewage-pipe-repaired-work-begins-for-more-cross-border-collaboration>

For another story, see item [1](#)

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

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

41. *February 1, InformationWeek* – (Connecticut) **Health Net sued over data breach.** The Connecticut attorney general has sued Health Net, claiming the insurance company failed to adequately protect the medical records of 446,000 customers whose private data was contained in a computer disk drive that was found to be missing last spring. The lawsuit filed January 13 by the state attorney general also says that Health Net waited six months before notifying customers of the data breach. In a statement sent to InformationWeek January 31, Health Net said it had just received a copy of the lawsuit and was in the process of reviewing it. The insurance company said there is “no evidence that there has been any misuse of the data.” The company is offering people whose personal information was compromised two years of credit-monitoring services at no charge. The package includes \$1 million of identity theft insurance coverage and enrollment in fraud resolution services for two years. The missing disk contained health information, Social Security numbers, and bank account numbers for 446,000 past and present customers. The data was contained in 27.7 million scanned pages of more than 120 different types of documents, including insurance claim forms, membership forms, appeals and grievances, correspondence, and medical records. The data was not encrypted, the suit says.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/healthcare/security-privacy/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222600681>

42. *January 31, Infosecurity* – (National) **Lax compliance costs more than strict compliance with security rules.** Noncompliance costs organizations almost three times as much as compliance with information security regulations and standards, according to a new study by the Ponemon Institute and Tripwire. Based on a survey of 160 businesspeople at 46 multinational companies in a range of industries, the True Cost of Noncompliance report found that compliance with regulations and standards, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), costs companies \$3.5 million, while noncompliance costs a total of \$9.4 million. Noncompliance costs are broken down into four areas: fines and penalties, revenue loss, data breach costs, and lost productivity costs, explained the vice president of strategy at Tripwire. Total cost of compliance varies by industry, ranging from \$6.8 million for education and research to more than \$24 million for the energy sector. The cost of compliance versus noncompliance also varies by industry, with energy showing the smallest difference at (\$2 million) and technology showing the largest (\$9.4 million).

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-us.com/view/15566/lax-compliance-costs-more-than-strict-compliance-with-security-rules/>

43. *January 31, iHealthBeat* – (National) **Insurance companies offering data breach policies for providers.** A new kind of insurance is intended to protect health care organizations from large financial losses associated with data breaches, American Medical News reports. The HITECH Act, part of the 2009 economic stimulus package, strengthened HIPAA privacy and security rules in part by requiring notification of any breach that involves 500 patients or more to HHS. The new stand-alone policies could cover expenses resulting from a data breach. Health care providers still would have to comply with federal privacy and security rules. According to the vice president and global cyber security manager for the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, small group physician practices are a good target for data breach insurance because they might not have staff or resources specifically for security purposes. An insurance agent said premiums for a policy covering a practice of five or fewer doctors average \$5,000 annually for \$1 million worth of coverage. A senior policy adviser at the Medical Group Management Association said physician practices should consider if money could be spent more wisely on data security measures instead of on insurance. He added that a significant challenge for practices is determining how reputation damage would affect the finances of a practice.

Source: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2011/1/31/insurance-companies-offering-data-breach-policies-for-providers.aspx>

44. *January 26, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Malaysia releases GM mosquitoes in landmark trial.** Malaysia has released 6,000 genetically modified mosquitoes designed to combat dengue fever, in a landmark trial slammed January 26 by environmentalists who say the experiment is unsafe. In the first experiment of its kind in Asia, about 6,000 male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes were released at an uninhabited site in the central state of Pahang, the government-run Institute of Medical

Research (IMR) said. The IMR, which was tasked with carrying out the trial, said the experiment was conducted on December 21 to “study the dispersal and longevity of these mosquitoes in the field”. “The experiment was successfully concluded on January 5, 2011,” the institute said in a statement dated January 25, adding that no further releases are planned until the trial results are analyzed. The insects in the experiment have been engineered so that their offspring quickly die, curbing the growth of the population in a technique researchers hope could eventually eradicate the dengue mosquito altogether. The trial has sparked widespread concern among environmental groups and non-government organizations. Critics have said that too little is known about the Aedes mosquito, and how the genetically modified insects would interact with their cousins in the wild.

Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gU3tkCTe5PhnlCg-m-trAY58\\_Z\\_g?docId=CNG.f55f656a9f597ee071fe1ead97d63e4a.181](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gU3tkCTe5PhnlCg-m-trAY58_Z_g?docId=CNG.f55f656a9f597ee071fe1ead97d63e4a.181)

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

## **Government Facilities Sector**

45. *February 1, Central Florida News 13* – (Florida) **Suspicious device evacuates Volusia County Administration Center in Daytona Beach.** Authorities said a possible explosive was found outside the Volusia County Administration Center in Daytona Beach, Florida February 1 around 7:55 a.m. Daytona Beach police said the device was found near a trash can outside the building, on North Beach Street. The building was evacuated shortly after 8 a.m. Everyone was allowed back inside before 10:30 a.m. Investigators said the person who discovered the object said it was a rectangular device wrapped in tin foil, with wires attached to it. The Volusia County Sheriff’s Office bomb squad will take the device to an open field to detonate it.  
Source: <http://www.cfnews13.com/article/news/2011/february/203071/>
46. *February 1, Associated Press* – (International) **US orders evacuation of non-emergency US government personnel from Egypt.** The U.S. State Department said it has ordered all non-emergency U.S. government personnel and their families to leave Egypt. The Department said February 1 that it will continue to assist American citizens seeking to leave the country. The Cairo airport is open and operating but the department warned that flights may be disrupted due to protests against the Egyptian government.  
Source: <http://timesfreepress.com/news/2011/feb/01/us-orders-evacuation-non-emergency-us-government-p/>
47. *February 1, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **No gunman found at evacuated Oakland school.** A phone tip that a gunman had barged onto an Oakland, California, elementary school campus was apparently a prank, police said February 1 after evacuating the school and finding no gunman. About 250 students were removed classroom by classroom at La Escuelita Elementary School after someone phoned a non-emergency line at 12:45 p.m. and said a man with a gun had gone into a portable building on the campus. The caller said he was a custodian, according to school district officials. An Oakland police SWAT team, school district police, Alameda County

sheriff's deputies, and California Highway Patrol officers responded to the school, set up a perimeter and evacuated the students. After searching the school, they concluded shortly before 5 p.m. that there was no gunman.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/01/31/BA4U1HGRJC.DTL>

48. *January 31, WITI 6 Lake Geneva* – (Wisconsin) **Bomb threat forces Lake Geneva schools to close.** A high school, middle school, and three elementary schools were shut down January 31 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin after school officials got an e-mail chain claiming there were bombs in several schools. The Lake Geneva School District has received bomb threats before, but said this threat had more specifics. School officials decided to have class February 1.

Source: <http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-20110131-lake-geneva,0,1799176.story>

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

## Emergency Services Sector

49. *February 1, Port Clinton News Herald* – (Ohio) **Technical glitch causes county sirens to go off.** Ottawa County, Ohio's 82 emergency warning sirens wailed for three minutes January 31 for no apparent reason. The Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency director said the warning siren system activation was not the result of human error. "We have it narrowed down to equipment malfunction," he said about the siren that went off at about 9 a.m. He said the malfunction was traced to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office dispatch center at the courthouse. The sheriff's office received about 80 telephone calls from residents asking about the sirens, he said. The Ottawa County sheriff said he learned later it was a technical glitch.

Source: <http://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/article/20110201/NEWS01/102010304>

50. *February 1, Arizona Daily Star* – (Arizona) **Pilot with Sheriff Dept. is killed in copter crash.** A veteran pilot was killed and three passengers were injured January 31 when a Pima County Sheriff's Department helicopter crashed into the side of a mountain northwest of Tucson, Arizona, officials said. A civilian pilot for the Sheriff's Department was killed. He spent years flying for agencies such as the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, and Pima County. The four aboard the helicopter were scouting in the Ironwood Forest National Monument area for possible locations for radio communication towers. One of the occupants reported that the aircraft had crashed at about 11:30 a.m. The three surviving passengers were taken to University Medical Center. The first passenger was rescued by a Border Patrol agent who hiked up the mountain as helicopters from the Border Patrol and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base arrived. The crash location was difficult to reach on the ground, so authorities got help from two Air Force Reserve combat rescue helicopters that were training in the area. The military choppers, a pair of HH-60 Pave Hawks from the 943rd Rescue Group, made a quick stop at Davis-Monthan to pick up six pararescuers - or PJs - personnel who are trained to conduct rescues under tough conditions. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate what caused the crash.

Source: [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/article\\_5eae8269-15bd-5d5b-9511-b78dba9de4ce.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/article_5eae8269-15bd-5d5b-9511-b78dba9de4ce.html)

51. *February 1, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Elite cops from NYPD’s Emergency Service Unit fire three stray rounds in three months.** Police from the New York Police Department’s elite Emergency Service Unit (ESU) shot off three stray rounds in three months - including one in Rockefeller Center. A member of the ESU sniper team safeguarding the tree-lighting center accidentally let loose a rifle round on November 30. It happened about 90 minutes after the ceremony. The round hit a building and was found a block and a half away. Four days earlier, an ESU detective getting out of his vehicle to respond to a report of a barricaded gunman accidentally fired a shotgun in Harlem. The blast went through an apartment window. No one was injured. In the latest incident, a 76-year-old man was shot in the stomach during a January 22 drug raid in the Bronx. ESU cops were trying to arrest a suspect when a detective trying to activate the flashlight on his weapon accidentally fired it, hitting the suspect’s father. The NYPD has reviewed all the firings and found that none of the weapons malfunctioned. The ESU discharges represent a small percentage of accidental firings in the NYPD. There were 23 department-wide in 2009, only one of which involved a member of ESU. Last year there were 23 accidental discharges, including the two ESU incidents in November. ESU officers say the three incidents were the result of a cut in weapons training. Police brass said ESU training has not taken a hit.

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/02/01/2011-02-01 elite cops fire 3 stray rounds the nypd errant shot unit.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/02/01/2011-02-01 elite cops fire 3 stray rounds the nypd errant shot unit.html)

52. *February 1, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (National) **Handlers’ beliefs affect explosive- and drug-sniffing dog performance.** Drug- and explosives-sniffing dog/handler teams’ performance is affected by human handlers’ beliefs, possibly in response to subtle, unintentional handler cues, a study by researchers at University of California, Davis, has found. The study, published in the January issue of the journal *Animal Cognition*, found that detection-dog/handler teams erroneously “alerted,” or identified a scent, when there was no scent present more than 200 times — particularly when the handler believed that there was scent present. “It isn’t just about how sensitive a dog’s nose is or how well-trained a dog is. There are cognitive factors affecting the interaction between a dog and a handler that can impact the dog’s performance,” said a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Neurology and the study’s lead author. “These might be as important — or even more important — than the sensitivity of a dog’s nose.”

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/handlers-beliefs-affect-explosive-and-drug-sniffing-dog-performance>

53. *February 1, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Washington state to review guard’s death.** Washington state officials and others are searching for answers after a correctional officer was found strangled with a microphone cord in the prison chapel. The Governor said January 31 that she has asked the Department of Corrections’ secretary to review the death and look at safeguards in place. While the department routinely conducts internal reviews, the secretary said he is considering asking an

external agency to investigate. Union officials said the 34-year-old officer had raised concerns about being the only guard in the chapel. She was found dead January 29, an hour after a 52-year-old inmate was found in the chapel lobby. The inmate had been reported missing minutes earlier during a routine count. Police say he is the primary suspect in the woman's death. Officials said the officer was carrying a two-way radio equipped with a silent alarm, but there is no indication she triggered it. The chapel is in the medium-security reformatory unit at the Monroe Correctional Complex, about 30 miles northeast of Seattle.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/02/01/washington\\_state\\_to\\_review\\_prison\\_guard\\_death/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/02/01/washington_state_to_review_prison_guard_death/)

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

## **Information Technology Sector**

54. *February 1, Help Net Security* – (International) **Vulnerabilities in Cisco WebEx conferencing applications.** Core Security Technologies disclosed stack overflow vulnerabilities affecting the Cisco WebEx applications used to conduct Web-based video conferencing. They identified vulnerabilities that can compromise end-user machines and can cause the computers to crash. They discovered two separate vulnerabilities, each affecting a separate Cisco WebEx application. First, the research team manipulated a file created by the Cisco WebEx recorder (carrying the .WRF extension) and played by the WebEx player. A portion of the new file's execution pointed to a user call instruction and allowed a hacker to execute other functions on the machine. Second, the research team made a slight change to the XML code within a file that governs polling functionality within Cisco WebEx Meeting Center. The resulting code, when published as a poll during a presentation, crashed the machine and ultimately affected other machines connected to the WebEx meeting, causing the other participants' machines to crash.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10515>

55. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **Scammers spread account closure FUD on Facebook.** Facebook users are warned that claims of accounts being closed en masse are scams that trick them into installing rogue apps and participating in surveys. According to antivirus vendor Sophos, the rogue messages sent from the accounts of people who fell for these scams informs users that unless users update, their accounts will be shut down. The message contains a link that takes users to a rogue app called "Update your Acc Urgent" which asks for permission to post on users' walls. If the app is installed, users will unknowingly start spamming their friends and will be directed to a page asking them to verify their identity by filling out a survey. In the background, the page displays a fake message allegedly from Facebook's founder and CEO, which announces the introduction of an "active account verification process" due to the overpopulation of the website.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Scammers-Spread-Account-Closure-FUD-on-Facebook-181826.shtml>

56. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **PlentyOfFish resets user passwords following hack.** Online dating website PlentyOfFish has reset user passwords after hackers managed to extract people’s registration information by exploiting vulnerabilities in the platform. According to an independent security journalist, the compromise was first reported by an Argentinian hacker who demonstrated a proof-a-concept to him. The hacker claims that he is not the only one to have obtained unauthorized access to the PlentyOfFish database and that the site’s database is being circulated in the hacking community. “Plentyoffish was hacked last week and we believe e-mails usernames and passwords were downloaded,” the founder of PlentyOfFish wrote in a blog post. “We have reset all users passwords and closed the security hole that allowed them to enter,” he stressed. The dating site, which is popular in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, has over 145 million visitors a month and over 10 million registered users. In a later statement, the company noted that only 345 accounts had their password exposed, which would make it a relatively limited breach.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Plentyoffish-Resets-User-Passwords-Following-Hack-181789.shtml>
57. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **VLC media player hit by new critical vulnerability.** A new critical vulnerability has been identified in the popular VLC media player and can potentially be used by attackers to execute arbitrary code remotely. The vulnerability affects VLC 1.1.6, the latest stable version of the player, and is located in the MKV demuxer, the component used to parse Matroska or WebM video files. The flaw is the result of insufficient input validation and was reported by a member of VSR (Virtual Security Research). According to the advisory published by the VideoLAN Project, the VLC developers were first notified about the vulnerability January 26, which was too late to include a fix in VLC 1.1.6. The Matroska project contributed a patch to the VLC source code January 29, which consists of a single line that solves the input validation problem. Attackers can exploit the vulnerability by tricking users into opening a maliciously crafted .MKV or WebM files. This can also be done over the Web because of VLC’s ActiveX and Firefox plugins. The VLC ActiveX control is installed by default, but the VLC Netscape plugin needs to be manually selected during installation.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/VLC-Media-Player-Hit-by-New-Critical-Vulnerability-181754.shtml>
58. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **Fake failed package delivery notifications spread SpyEye.** Security researchers warn of a SpyEye distribution campaign which generates failed delivery notifications that purport to originate from a package delivery service. According to Belgian e-mail security provider MX Lab the rogue e-mails bear a subject of “Post Express Service. Package is available for pickup! NR1535” and come from a spoofed address. The message contained within is consistent with traditional package delivery failure alerts that have been used by malware distributors before. The e-mails are signed by “Post Express Service,” but the only service with that name that we could identify is located in Serbia.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Fake-Failed-Package-Delivery-Notifications-Spread-SpyEye-181733.shtml>

59. *January 31, Reuters* – (International) **Intel discovers chip flaw in midst of major launch.** Intel Corp. found a defect in its new Sandy Bridge chip, hurting its credibility during a major product launch and at a time when demand for microprocessors in PCs is being threatened. The company said January 31 it stopped shipments of the chip used in personal computers with its Sandy Bridge line of processors and has already started production of a new version. The Santa Clara, California, company said the defect was discovered after it shipped more than 100,000 of the chips to computer manufacturers getting ready to sell new PC models with the Sandy Bridge processor, which Intel touts as its biggest-ever leap in processing power. Had the problem gone undiscovered, about 5 percent of PCs using the new chipsets could have failed over a 3-year period, the vice president and director of PC Client Operations at Intel, said. Intel said its engineers zeroed in on the newest defect the week of January 23 after manufacturers stress-tested the chips with high voltage and temperatures. The flaw could have stopped computers from being able to communicate with their hard disk drives or DVD drives.  
Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/31/us-intel-idUSTRE70U4DH20110131?feedType=RSS&feedName=technologyNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+reuters/technologyNews+\(News+/+US+/+Technology\)](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/31/us-intel-idUSTRE70U4DH20110131?feedType=RSS&feedName=technologyNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+reuters/technologyNews+(News+/+US+/+Technology))
60. *January 31, Help Net Security* – (International) **New malware strains wreaking havoc on Facebook.** PandaLabs announced the discovery of security exploits via popular social media sites Facebook and Twitter. In the last several days, two new malware strains have been wreaking havoc on Facebook users. The first, Asprox.N, is a trojan delivered via e-mail informing users their Facebook account is being used to distribute spam and that, for security reasons, the login credentials have been changed. The second new malware strain, Lolbot.Q, is distributed across instant messaging applications such as AIM or Yahoo!, with a message displaying a malicious link. Clicking the link downloads a worm designed to hijack Facebook accounts, blocking users' access while informing that the account has been suspended.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1609](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1609)

### 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>

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

## Communications Sector

61. *January 31, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Thieves drive off with fiber-optic equipment.** Equipment meant to be used to install fiber optics near the Northway wound up in the hands of thieves, State Police said. The state Department of Transportation contracted with Control Network Communications to do the installation, and the firm's workers brought the equipment to the east side of the Northway just

north of the Twin Bridges on January 27. Sometime between 10:17 and 10:51 a.m., the equipment was stolen. The stolen equipment includes a rig for splicing fiber optic cable, two 50-foot extension cords, a tube splitter, a socket set and a five-gallon gas can. State Police in Clifton Park are seeking help from motorists who may have seen the equipment being loaded into a vehicle and driven away.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Thieves-steal-fiber-optic-equipment-988042.php>

62. *January 31, The News - Gazette* – (Illinois) **State fines AT&T for outage that hit Urbana.** Commerce Commission has found AT&T at fault for a days-long interruption in its own service in November that affected an undetermined number of customers in Urbana. Director of AT&T regulatory, said the communications company will not appeal a \$2,700 fine doled out by the ICC, which it learned of last week. The ICC sent the company a letter dated January 27, saying that AT&T was responsible because USIC Locating Services Inc., the subcontractor it hired to do the underground utilities location, had not properly marked the area on the University of Illinois Quadrangle being excavated. About 8:30 a.m. on November 18, Midwest Engineering and Testing Inc. of Champaign was digging for a core soil sample at the northwest corner of Noyes Lab on the UI Quad in Urbana, when an auger struck a duct system containing telecommunication cables owned and operated by AT&T. The hit resulted in interrupted phone, Internet and credit card service to many businesses and residences in Urbana – some for almost four days – and even caused some 911 phone lines at METCAD in east Urbana to have to be rerouted for several hours. It's not clear if anyone tried to make calls to 911 and couldn't get through. Employees there noticed the service interruption almost immediately and took steps to get back-up systems running within minutes. METCAD Deputy Director said the agency never received any complaints of lost calls. He expressed relief that the break happened at a time of day when calls for service are typically low.

Source: <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/politics-and-government/2011-01-31/state-fines-att-outage-hit-urbana.html>

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

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

63. *February 1, Associated Press* – (International) **Germany reduces terror security measures.** Germany's top security official February 1 said he will reduce the number of police officers patrolling railway stations and other public places since a terrorism warning last year, but made clear that a threat to the country still remains. Germany is a target for Islamic extremists, but the incidents that prompted the heightened security have been addressed, the interior minister said. Those included an unsuccessful attempt by al-Qaida's Yemeni offshoot to blow up two cargo planes over the United States, and a report that Islamic extremists were planning an attack within Germany by the end of November, he said. "We will gradually reduce the visible security measures, but I can't see an 'all clear' in the foreseeable future," he said. Germany has no color-coded or numbered system for measuring security levels, as Britain and France do. It tends to be far more cautious in publicly discussing the degrees of threat, saying it could endanger

efforts to prevent an attack. Though Germany has escaped any major terrorist attacks like the Madrid train bombings of 2004 and the London transit attacks of 2005, at least two major plots have been thwarted or failed before they could be carried out.

Source: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=133398423>

64. *January 31, WMBF 32 Myrtle Beach* – (South Carolina) **HCPD bomb squad finds homemade explosive device in Socastee.** The Horry County Police Department is investigating what it says is a homemade explosive device at the Horry County Recycling Center in Socastee, South Carolina, January 31. A spokesman for the Horry County Police Department said a small explosion was heard by workers at the center around 1 p.m. coming from one of the containers. The Horry County Bomb Squad was called out to investigate the explosion. He said officials located the source of the explosion, and said the device was found inside the bulk waste dumpster bin. No other devices were found. The recycling center is located behind Socastee High School. He said students at Socastee High School were not affected by the investigation; however, the recycling center was shut down and evacuated before opening to the public once the scene was clear.

Source: <http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/13940474/hcpd-investigate-possible-explosive-device-in-socastee>

65. *January 31, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Fans checked outside Super Bowl stadium, too.** At this year's Super Bowl, people located outside the stadium will get a pat-down from a security guard. The 5,000 fans paying to watch the game on big screens outside the Cowboys Stadium will be subjected to the same security searches as the 100,000-plus who will watch the game inside February 6. The attendance number presents the most unique challenge the NFL faces at the 10th Super Bowl since the September 11th attacks. For the first time, the NFL will set up a party plaza outside the stadium for people who cannot get tickets for the game but still want to be close to the action. "They'll be contained," said the NFL's vice president of security. For the second straight year, the Homeland Security Secretary visited the host city to tour the Super Bowl stadium and review the NFL's security plans. The federal government designates the Super Bowl as a Level One security event, which makes more money and resources available to secure the area. Temporary flight restrictions will be put in place across a wide swath of airspace surrounding the stadium. The NFL spends about \$6 million a year on the Super Bowl security effort on top of what local and federal government spends. The league has hired more than 1,200 employees from private security companies to augment support from military and law enforcement. More than 60 government agencies contribute to the Super Bowl effort.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iRB7ujBUXRMMb0hjjNOFPpQzEaSw?docId=491ba2245f814a52a004720b58b80284>

66. *January 31, Hamden Post-Chronicle* – (Connecticut) **Five Wallingford buildings evacuated as roofs buckle.** Town officials declared five buildings in Wallingford, Connecticut, uninhabitable January 31 after their roofs buckled, forcing the evacuation of at least 200 people. No injuries were reported. The buildings at 4, 6, 8, 10 and 11 Fairfield Boulevard contain offices and warehouses and included the David Doherty

Municipal Building.

Source:

<http://www.ctpostchronicle.com/articles/2011/01/31/news/doc4d47151fd7a44632325639.txt>

67. *January 30, KTRE 9 Lufkin* – (Texas) **East Texas law enforcement clears scenes from 2 bingo halls where bomb threats were received.** Less than 2 hours after sheriff's deputies in Nacogdoches County, Texas, declared a bomb threat at the Flamingo Bingo, January 30, Lufkin Police cleared a similar threat at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) bingo hall. The chairperson for the local DAV said a worker in the kitchen answered the phone to a female caller who said, "There's a bomb in the building. Evacuate everyone or nobody will be alive next week." Lufkin Police were on the scene by 4:30 p.m. They gave the go-ahead for normal operations around 5:15 p.m., after no suspicious device was found. Earlier deputies from the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office searched Flamingo Bingo hall and the surrounding area for any explosive devices or suspicious packages. They said nothing was found. The sheriff's office is still investigating who called in the false bomb threat.  
Source: <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=13935447>
68. *January 29, Associated Press* – (International) **US warns of terrorist threat in Azerbaijan.** The State Department is warning Americans of a terrorist threat to Western targets in Azerbaijan and urging U.S. citizens to be vigilant in the oil-rich former Soviet republic on the Caspian Sea. In a security alert issued January 29, the U.S. Embassy in Baku said there was a "potential for attacks in Azerbaijan, including against American interests." It said the warning was "based on terrorist threat information." It added that that U.S. citizens in Azerbaijan "should remain vigilant, particularly in public places associated with the Western community." The alert did not elaborate on the nature of the threat or who might be behind it.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110129/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/us\\_us\\_azerbaijan\\_threat](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110129/ap_on_re_us/us_us_azerbaijan_threat)
69. *January 28, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Chemical attack leaves church damages costing \$25,000.** On January 27, a secretary at the Christian Fellowship Ministry Church discovered a chemical had been poured throughout the church in Dickinson, Texas. The chemical had been poured on the carpet from the front door the pulpit, eating all the way through and into the concrete. The chemical was poured over the 20 pews, cutting through wood and upholstery, and in the kitchen. The church's three guitars, two keyboards, and amplifier were stolen. A Dickinson police detective estimated the damage caused at about \$25,000. The chemical still covers the church floor, said the assistant pastor, who suspects it is some sort of acid. "If you are in there for a period of time, you can feel it burning your eyes," he said. Dickinson firefighters and police do not have the resources to test the chemical, so next week the church plans to ask the Houston Fire Department's hazardous materials team to find out what it is.  
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7402932.html>

For another story, see item [51](#)

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

## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

70. *January 31, Boulder Daily Camera* – (Colorado) **Electrical problems cause fire in Eldorado Canyon ranger station.** An electrical problem likely started a fire January 30 in the ranger station at the entrance of Eldorado Canyon State Park south of Boulder, Colorado, according to the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's deputies and firefighters were called to the ranger station at about 8:15 a.m. after a passerby noticed a large amount of smoke coming from the structure, a news release said. The fire caused substantial damage to the structure, and investigators found nothing about the fire to be suspicious.

Source: [http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci\\_17245504](http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_17245504)

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

## **Dams Sector**

Nothing to report

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

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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