



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 February 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*  
For information, click here:  
<http://www.dhs.gov>

### Top Stories

- Agence France-Presse reports a 36-year-old Iranian man has been charged with exporting specialized metals to his homeland for potential use in nuclear and ballistic missile programs, in violation of a U.S. embargo. The man remains at large and is believed to be in Iran, the Justice Department said. (See Item [11](#))
- Techworld reports that the rising tide of distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS) is being made worse by a tendency to mis-deploy firewalls and intrusion prevention systems in front of servers, a report by Arbor Networks has found. A survey of 111 global service providers revealed a major jump in DDoS attack size in the company’s 2010 Infrastructure Security Report. (See Item [55](#))

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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. *February 2, WCMH 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Power restoration could take days, AEP says.** It is estimated more than 100,000 Central Ohio households were without power

February 2, and American Electric Power (AEP) said those outages had not yet peaked. The outages included more than 49,000 in Franklin County and more than 21,000 in Delaware County. About 4,200 AEP-serviced households in Knox County had outages, and Madison and Licking counties each reported outages at about 2,500 households. Line crews are expected to have a difficult time restoring power because of high winds and the ice that remains on branches and wires. An AEP spokesperson said it would be a difficult restoration process that could take 4 to 6 days total. The spokesperson said AEP brought in hundreds of line workers from southern states, and the company has at least 800 workers available in Central Ohio. Many of those workers already are trying to fix the lines in Columbus and Central Ohio, but many also have been dispatched to the Canton area.

Source: <http://www2.nbc4i.com/weather/2011/feb/02/power-restoration-could-take-days-aep-says-ar-384281/>

2. *February 2, Platts* – (International) **Oil drilling activity in Egypt halted; gas exports normal.** Oil drilling activity has been halted in Egypt after several foreign oil companies evacuated staff from the country, which has been rocked by more than 8 days of anti-government protests, but gas production and exports have not yet been affected, Barclays Capital Research said in a note to clients February 2. The report noted that around 14 percent of the world’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade transits the Suez Canal each day with the vast majority of cargoes originating in the Middle East and heading towards Atlantic Basin markets. “We believe the Canal is not under immediate threat from the current political crisis in Egypt,” Barclays Capital said. Oil prices have shot up to above \$100 per barrel in reaction to the Egyptian unrest due to fears that tanker traffic through the Suez Canal, a key oil and LNG transit route, might be disrupted and over concerns of turmoil elsewhere in the oil-rich Middle East. Experts say the likelihood that Egypt would close the canal is low.  
Source: <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/8488622>
3. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Indiana feels power of major winter storm.** After a strong second winter storm, at least seven Indiana counties declared states of emergency February 1, a spokeswoman of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security said. Power companies reported outages February 1 affecting about 50,000 homes and businesses. State officials said more than 850 National Guard soldiers and airmen were positioned around Indiana to help with storm-related problems along roadways and emergencies like transporting stranded people to hospitals. The American Red Cross had 26 shelters across Indiana on standby. The Indiana Department of Transportation mobilized 760 trucks statewide working to clear highways. Numerous flights in and out of Indianapolis International Airport were canceled February 1. The airport has been using just one of its runways since about 9 p.m. January 31, an airport spokeswoman said.  
Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20110201/News/110209922/-1/googleNews>
4. *February 1, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Oil flowing again in Chevron’s pipeline.** Chevron’s accident-prone oil pipeline was turned on February 1 in Salt Lake

City, Utah, and, with an army of employees keeping watch, a company spokesman reported everything going “as planned.” The spokesman said crews first used nitrogen to purge the pipeline and keep it stable and pressurized. They then released oil from eastern Utah’s Hanna pump station to run down through the pipeline, which ends at Chevron’s Salt Lake City refinery. Cameras, upgraded surveillance protocol, and roving human patrols all are in place to monitor the line that leaked 54,600 gallons of crude last year in two spills that occurred 6 months apart near Red Butte Garden along Salt Lake City’s east bench. The pipeline capacity is 45,000 barrels a day, though the line averages 21,000 to 24,000. The spokesman noted it would not be until “sometime” February 2 before the oil flow was back to regular strength.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/51169550-76/pipeline-oil-chevron-driver.html.csp>

5. *February 1, Platts* – (California) **US senators renew call for more pipeline inspectors, shutoff valves.** Two of California’s U.S. senators have renewed legislative efforts to tighten the U.S. pipeline inspection regime in response to the September 2010 fatal Pacific Gas and Electric explosion. The two congressmen have reintroduced the “Strengthening Pipeline Safety and Enforcement Act,” which matches legislation the pair introduced in 2010, except for a new section ordering pipeline operators to comply with National Transportation Safety Board recommendations issued in January 2011. The new provision would require pipeline operators to establish records of all pipe components to verify that the “maximum allowable operating pressure” is calibrated for the weakest section. Pipelines with incomplete records must be pressure-tested or replaced and must operate at reduced pressure until testing is completed, the bill says. The bill, introduced January 31, proposes doubling the inspector staff at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, requiring automatic shutoff valves, mandating “smart pig” devices and prohibiting high-pressure lines from operating if they do not use up-to-date inspection technology.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/6794992>

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

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *February 1, Salem Sunbeam* – (New Jersey) **HazMat crews respond to Siegfried USA plant after line breaks, releases bleach vapors.** Police and hazardous materials emergency units responded February 1 to Siegfried USA in Pennsville Township, New Jersey, after a vent line containing bleach vapors broke. The incident took place at 11:55 a.m. during the process of making a drug substance, according to the director of Human Resources at Siegfried. The leak was quickly contained, and members of Siegfried’s site emergency response team responded to the building where the incident took place. All three operators who were in the building when the incident took place were evacuated safely. Two of the workers were sent to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Siegfried makes compounds used in the manufacture of a wide

variety of pharmaceuticals by other companies. An official said there was no emergency to the general public. The Pennsville Office of Emergency Management, Pennsville Fire and Rescue, the county HazMat team, the HazMat unit of Siegfried USA, Deepwater Fire Company, Washington Fire Company, Salem County HazMat Team, Penns Grove Ambulance, Carneys Point Amnulance, Fenwik Ambulance, and Life Support 4 responded to the incident. Fire and rescue crews were on the scene for about two hours. No materials released left the site. That the company is investigating the incident.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/02/hazmat\\_crews\\_respond\\_to\\_siegfr.html](http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/02/hazmat_crews_respond_to_siegfr.html)

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

7. *February 2, Bloomberg* – (Illinois) **Exelon shuts LaSalle 1 nuclear reactor in Illinois.** Exelon Corp. shut its 1,118-megawatt LaSalle 1 reactor in Illinois, according to a report from the NRC. The unit was placed in “hot shutdown” after the main power transformer tripped, causing reactor feed pumps to go offline, according to a filing with the commission. “The plant is experiencing severe weather which may have influenced” the transformer trip, according to the filing. The reactor is located about 70 miles southwest of Chicago.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/exelon-shuts-lasalle-1-nuclear-reactor-in-illinois-update1-.html>

8. *February 2, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Shumlin calls for VY oversight panel.** The Vermont governor elect instructed the Department of Public Service on February 1 to appoint a Vermont Yankee Reliability Oversight Committee. Citing the on-going discovery of tritiated groundwater at the plant, the governor elect stated in a press release that he was deeply concerned with Yankee’s “lack of transparency about serious problems that continue to be discovered around the plant.” The governor elect also stated he was concerned that Yankee technicians were unable to immediately test groundwater samples taken from wells that turned out to have positive readings for tritium because a piece of equipment was broken. Shumlin noted that no investigation occurred while the equipment was broken. The Governor has asked Yankee officials to disclose the investigation plan they have developed to ensure they are taking adequate steps to deal with the escalating situation.

Source: [http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci\\_17262654](http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17262654)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *February 1, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Briggs and Stratton recalls Model 40 V-Twin Engine due to injury hazard.** The Briggs and Stratton Corporation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has issued a recall February 1 for about

50 Model 40 V-Twin Engines used on riding mowers. Wear on misrouted wiring may cause it to disconnect from the shut-off device, allowing the engine to continue running when the key is in the "OFF" position or when the operator gets off the seat while the mower is engaged, posing an injury hazard to consumers. The engines were sold by Sears, under the Craftsman brand; The Home Depot, under the Husqvarna brand; and Tractor Supply Company, under the Bad Boy brand. The mowers were sold in February 2010 and March 2010.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11719.html>

10. *February 1, Detroit News* – (National) **Storm causes GM, Ford to cut shifts.** The winter storm sweeping through much of the country prompted General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. to scale back production at some plants February 1. Workers at GM's Wentzville plant in Missouri got the day off and shifts were affected at GM's Flint Assembly plant, the Arlington factory in Texas, the Fairfax facility in Kansas City, Kansas, and Fort Wayne Assembly in Indiana, a spokeswoman said. GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly also canceled its one shift February 2 because of the approaching snowstorm, a GM spokesman said. Ford canceled the February 1 night shift at its Claycomo factory near Kansas City, which affects production of the Escape sport utility vehicle. The F-150 line operates on a single shift during the day. Chrysler Group LLC wants its workers to report for work February 2, but the company will be monitoring the situation. GM and Ford are making decisions on a plant-by-plant basis. Subaru of America Inc. canceled the second shift February 2 at its plant in Lafayette, Indiana, because a supplier could not deliver seats needed for vehicle assembly. No decision has been made about whether to run the early shift February 2, said Subaru a spokesman. Toyota and Honda plants ran normally February 1. Honda Motor Co. said its Greensburg, Indiana, plant would not be running February 2 because of the storm. Honda produces natural gas Civics and Civic sedans on one shift at the plant.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110201/AUTO01/102010407/1361/Storm-causes-GM--Ford-to-cut-shifts>

11. *February 1, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **U.S. charges Iranian with illegal metals exports.** U.S. authorities said February 1 an Iranian man has been charged with exporting specialized metals to his homeland for potential use in nuclear and ballistic missile programs, in violation of a U.S. embargo. The man, 36, was indicted on 11 charges for "illegally exporting and attempting to export specialized metals from the United States through companies in Turkey to several entities in Iran, including some entities that have been sanctioned for involvement in ballistic missile activities," the Justice Department said. The man remains at large and is believed to be in Iran, the Justice Department said. U.S. authorities detailed data that showed the man and associates operated "a procurement network that provides direct support to Iran's missile program by securing metal products, including steel and aluminum alloys, for subordinates of Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO)." From 2004 to 2007 he allegedly conspired to export the goods to Iran in violation of a U.S. embargo, including to Sanam Industrial Group, a firm "sanctioned by the United States and United Nations for involvement in nuclear and ballistic missile activities," the Justice

Department said.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=5593193&c=MID&s=TOP>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *February 2, York Dispatch* – (Pennsylvania) **Police: Pair involved in multiple bank robberies in York County.** Two Baltimore, Maryland, residents who allegedly robbed a bank — then led police on a high-speed chase while tossing cash and a gun from the getaway car — are facing more bank robbery charges. The suspects were captured January 5 after allegedly robbing a Sovereign Bank in York Township, Pennsylvania. Once in custody after the chase, both told police they had been involved in other bank robberies, police said. In all, the male suspect is charged in five York County bank robberies, while the female suspect is charged in four, according to court records. Source: [http://www.yorkdispatch.com/ci\\_17270210](http://www.yorkdispatch.com/ci_17270210)

13. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **Internationalized PayPal phishing attacks spotted in the wild.** Security researchers from Avira have spotted an e-mail PayPal phishing attack currently hitting people's inboxes which has both an English and a French version. A data security expert at Avira points out that the two e-mails are almost identical, except for the language, even down to the Reference Number mentioned in the text. The only other difference is that the English version advertises a link to the phishing page, while the French variant has a button. The lure is a common one and tries to scare users into believing their accounts have been limited due to unusual credit card activity. To increase the credibility of the e-mail, the phishers included legitimate anti-phishing advices for users. Another noteworthy aspect of this attack is that the message is very well formulated compared to the majority of phishing scams. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Internationalized-PayPal-Phishing-Attacks-Spotted-in-the-Wild-181983.shtml>

14. *February 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Apple Stores hit by crime spree using identity theft, thousands of stolen credit cards.** Dozens of people have been charged with forming a prolific identity theft ring that used thousands of stolen credit card numbers to shop at Apple stores around the country, according to a court document and a law enforcement official. The group obtained stolen account numbers, forged credit cards and used them to buy laptops, iPhones, and other merchandise at Apple stores in locales ranging from New York to Los Angeles to Wauwatosa, Wisconsin — with a ringleader steering the scheme even while behind bars, according to an indictment

charging 18 people with grand larceny. A law enforcement official said the allegations ultimately involved 27 people and roughly \$1 million in merchandise. The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment February 1. The New York district attorney and the U.S. Secret Service were expected to unveil a major cybercrime case February 3; the Secret Service did not immediately return a telephone call about the matter February 1. It was not immediately clear how the group is accused of getting the credit card numbers. But leaders created phony cards, provided them to associates, and contrived to send the associates "to locations in (Manhattan) and elsewhere to purchase goods, such as laptop computers, iPods, iPhones, other electronic devices, gift cards, and clothing products" starting in May 2009, the indictment said.

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/01/apple-identity-theft-credit-card\\_n\\_817267.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/01/apple-identity-theft-credit-card_n_817267.html)

15. *February 1, NBC Miami* – (Florida) **Shopping center evacuated over stinky box.** A package at a Southwest Miami-Dade bank triggered a response by the bomb disposal team. An entire shopping center was evacuated February 1 after a suspicious package, which turned out to be a box full of chicken and goat parts, was discovered near a Bank of America. The box was swarming with flies, officials said. The incident happened around 10 a.m. near the Shoppes at Quail Roost shopping center, CBS4 reported. A bomb-detection robot tried to detonate the potentially explosive device, but nothing happened. When bomb squad members got closer to the box, they realized how strong the odor was. It is unclear who left the package at the bank.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41374722/ns/us\\_news-weird\\_news/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41374722/ns/us_news-weird_news/)

For another story, see item [60](#)

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## **Transportation Sector**

16. *February 2, Associated Press* – (National) **Colossal storm roars through nation's heartland, warnings from Texas to Maine.** A winter weather storm roared into the nation's heartland February 1, leaving dangerous ice and whiteout snow that has affected areas from Texas to Maine. Ice-covered streets were deserted in Dallas, Texas. Whiteouts shut down Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Chicago expected 2 feet of snow, Indianapolis an inch of ice, and the Northeast still more ice and snow in what is shaping up to be a record winter for the region. The system stretched more than 2,000 miles across a third of the country. Winds topped 60 mph in Texas. The newspaper in Tulsa, Oklahoma, canceled its print edition for the first time in more than a century. In Chicago, public schools called a snow day for the first time in 12 years, and both major airports gave up flying until at least the afternoon of February 2. Chicago officials closed the city's Lake Shore Drive while crews tried to plow snow February 1. City officials said the move was temporary but that they could have to close it again if high winds push 25-foot waves from nearby Lake Michigan onto the roadway. Cities across middle America shut down hours ahead of the snow. Large sections of busy Midwest interstates were closed, and 9,000 flights had been canceled across the nation.

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/01/colossal-storm-roars-thro\\_n\\_817257.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/01/colossal-storm-roars-thro_n_817257.html)

17. *February 2, New England Cable News* – (Connecticut; New York) **Metro North train derailed in Connecticut as winter storm continues in state.** The 8:07 p.m. Metro North train derailed February 1, on its way from Grand Central Station in New York, New York, to Union Station in New Haven, Connecticut. This happened in Cos Cob, right outside of Greenwich, Connecticut. This partial derailment occurred around 9 p.m. The 500 plus passengers on board the train were not hurt, according to New England Cable News. It took about 90 minutes to transfer the passengers to another train. The derailment occurred when the train was changing tracks. Although the Metro North train derailed during the storm, a spokesman for the Metro North does not believe the derailment was due to the weather.  
Source: <http://www.examiner.com/pop-culture-in-hartford/metro-north-train-derails-connecticut-as-winter-storm-continues-state>
18. *February 2, The Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **DART: Rolling blackouts stall light rail trains, buses are running.** Some mechanical problems on light rail cars, coupled with the blackouts, causing longer-than the 15 minute delays announced earlier. Passengers planning to ride DART February 2 were encouraged to dress warmly for a wait at the stations. A day after DART’s first weather-related suspension of light rail service, the transit agency is back on its tracks — but a new problem is adding to delays. Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the statewide power grid operator, is implementing rolling power outages February 2. The rolling blackouts are knocking out some DART trains, too. A DART spokesman said the light rail trains got out of the yards February 2 but were delayed by power outages. The DART site is advising riders that the trains, already on reduced 20-minute frequencies, are running another 15 minutes or so behind. The blackouts are affecting folks statewide.  
Source: <http://transportationblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2011/02/dart-rolling-blackouts-stall-1.html>
19. *February 2, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **U.K. prosecutors tie BA employee to Awlaki.** A U.S.-born radical cleric directed a U.K.-based employee of British Airways PLC to cause “chaos” by attacking the airline’s computer systems and to help ship a “package” on board a U.S.-bound plane, prosecutors alleged in a London court February 1. The Bangladeshi man is charged with four counts of engaging in conduct in preparation of terrorist acts related to his work at BA and his contact with the radical cleric. The case is a rare instance in which a major terrorist group, the radical cleric’s al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, allegedly pierced post-9/11 security measures to place someone inside a major airline.  
Source:  
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703445904576118233375420762.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703445904576118233375420762.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)
20. *February 1, Cleveland Plain Dealer* – (Ohio) **RTA riders say they smelled something burning before rush hour evacuation of rapid train.** Several Greater Cleveland,

Ohio Regional Transit Authority (RTA) passengers said they smelled something burning two stops before their Green Line train car turned smoky, forcing an emergency exit during morning rush hour on February 1. About 100 passengers evacuated the two-car train at 8:25 a.m. They hoofed it several hundred yards along RTA tracks through snow, to another RTA station. One woman was taken to a hospital, though it was unclear how she was injured, said a spokeswoman for the RTA. The cause of the mishap is under investigation.

Source: [http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/02/rta\\_riders\\_say\\_they\\_smelled\\_so.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/02/rta_riders_say_they_smelled_so.html)

For more stories, see items [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), and [49](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

21. *February 2, United Press International* – (International) **Package explodes in Swedish mail center.** A package exploded at a mail facility in Borlange, Sweden, February 2 injuring several people, Swedish security officials said. The Swedish Security Services was investigating the incident, which officials said caused minimal damage, The Local newspaper in Stockholm reported. “We don’t yet know what type of explosion it is. I can say that damages are minimal but there is some spread of a white powder and several people have had to be sanitized,” a spokesperson with the Dalarna County police department said. Smoke and the white powder filled the air in the facility, the spokesperson said. Although several people were treated for injuries at the scene, no one was taken to a hospital. Police said they have not determined the package’s destination.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2011/02/02/Package-explodes-in-Swedish-mail-center/UPI-62411296655356/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/02/02/Package-explodes-in-Swedish-mail-center/UPI-62411296655356/)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *February 2, Bloomberg* – (International) **Sugar rises to 30-year high as storm heads for Australian crop.** Sugar rose to a 30-year high in New York and reached the highest price since 1989 in London on speculation Cyclone Yasi will damage the crop in Australia, the world’s third-largest exporter. Sugar-industry losses from Yasi may start at \$506 million including crop losses and damage to sheds and machinery, growers group Canegrowers said February 2. Sugar gained 18 percent in the past year in New York on crop damage in Brazil, Pakistan, and parts of Europe. The cyclone is due to make landfall in Australia’s Queensland state February 2. It would be the first category 5 cyclone to hit the state since 1918. Queensland already suffered floods caused by almost two months of torrential rains. Australia is expected to produce 4.8 million tons of sugar in the 2010-11 season, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast in November.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/sugar-rises-to-30-year-high-on-speculation-storm-to-damage-australian-crop.html>

23. *February 2, Oklahoma City Oklahoman* – (National) **U.S. cattle supply lowest in 60 years.** The United States' calf crop has been depleted to its lowest level in 60 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and it could take several years to replenish supply. Industry experts say high market prices for cattle have persuaded many ranchers to sell rather than maintain heifers for breeding. The 2010 calf crop was estimated at 35.7 million head, 99 percent of 2009 and the smallest since 1950. "Cattle are bringing more money on the market than they ever have before. It has created an incentive to sell," said a spokesman for the state Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. "The good news is they [ranchers] are getting more money for their cattle today. But tomorrow, they won't have any to sell." An Oklahoma State University agricultural economics professor said U.S. cattle ranchers have been liquidating since about 2006 and are at a point where they critically need to rebuild inventories.  
Source: <http://newsok.com/cattle-supply-hits-new-low/article/3537417>
  
24. *February 1, Southwest Farm Press* – (Texas) **Texas discovers cattle brucellosis infected herd.** For the first time in more than 5 years, a cattle herd in Texas has been diagnosed with bovine brucellosis. Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) officials said a small beef herd in South Texas (Starr County) has been determined to be infected. Routine surveillance at a livestock market led to the discovery of the infected herd. TAHC rules require all adult sexually intact cattle to be tested negative for the disease prior to change of ownership.  
Source: <http://southwestfarmpress.com/livestock/texas-discovers-cattle-brucellosis-infected-herd>
  
25. *February 1, Mid Columbia Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Hazard: KFD respond to gas leak.** Kennewick Fire Department in Washington responded February 1 to a report of a hazardous materials leak at Kennewick's Oak Street Industrial Park at 4:20 p.m. The leak of sulfur dioxide, a gas used in processing wine corks, happened at CorkTec, which uses the gas when sealing bags of wine corks. The fire department called in a Hazmat team which has better protective equipment than that carried on the fire trucks. "They arrived and were successful in shutting off the gas and ventilated the building," the battalion chief said. The gas had dissipated by 7 p.m.  
Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/02/01/1350999/hazard-kfd-respond-to-gas-leak.html>
  
26. *February 1, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Nestle shuts down plants in Egypt.** Nestle said that it had "temporarily halted" operations in Egypt "due to the political unrest underway in the country." About 20 expatriate staff and their families were evacuated from the country. The food giant employs 3,000 people there in three plants. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians rallied on February 1 for the biggest day of protests yet in their campaign to oust the country's president.  
Source:  
[http://www.industryweek.com/articles/nestle\\_shuts\\_down\\_plants\\_in\\_egypt\\_23793.aspx](http://www.industryweek.com/articles/nestle_shuts_down_plants_in_egypt_23793.aspx)

27. *February 1, St. Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Explosion levels shed, damages pig barns near Sauk Centre.** A maintenance storage shed was destroyed and several pig barns damaged February 1 after an explosion on a farm west of Sauk Centre, Minnesota. The Stearns County Sheriff's Office received a call of an explosion and fire at 5:37 p.m. at Paul Fiedler Pig Farms. Sauk Centre, Melrose, and Villard fire departments responded, along with Sauk Centre Ambulance and Stearns County Sheriff's personnel. No injuries to people or livestock were reported, according to a release from the Sheriff's Office. The explosion remains under investigation.  
Source: <http://www.sctimes.com/article/20110201/NEWS01/102010049/1009>
28. *February 1, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **6,000 pounds of illegally caught rockfish found in Chesapeake Bay.** Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Police officers stumbled upon a poacher's net bulging with more than three tons of rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay, the largest haul seized by a single patrol in at least 25 years, the police said. They retrieved about 6,000 pounds of rockfish February 1 near the Bloody Point Lighthouse, between Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. A DNR police spokesman said the 900-yard gill net was likely in freezing waters for several days. A pair of officers on patrol spotted the net at about 2 p.m. January 31 and returned to base for a third officer. The three staked out the net overnight in freezing rain, waiting for someone to retrieve it, but no one came. They started to pull the net early February 1 but had to call for help when they feared the weight would sink their boat. An investigation is pending, but the unsuccessful stakeout made it unlikely that the poacher will be caught. The state had placed a temporary moratorium on commercial rockfish fishing when the monthly 327,000 pound quota was reached January 12, according to the Department of Natural Resources.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/01/AR2011020105531.html?hpid=newswell>

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## **Water Sector**

29. *February 1, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Pipe fails; wastewater finds stream in southeast Des Moines.** A sewer pipe failure led to more than 100,000 gallons of untreated wastewater being discharged January 31 where the pipe crosses a southeast Des Moines stream, Iowa Department of Natural Resources officials said. The stream runs into the Des Moines River. Temporary repairs on the 12-inch pipe were finished that afternoon, and work was under way to get the discharge completely stopped.  
Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110201/NEWS/110131061/Pipe-fails-wastewater-finds-stream-in-southeast-Des-Moines?Register+Staff+Blogs>
30. *February 1, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Lake Balboa water-main break forces evacs.** A water-main break forced nearly 60 people from their homes in the San Fernando Valley in California early February 1. The break flooded 10 buildings, including an apartment complex. Crews worked all morning to fix the water main on Vanowen Street near Woodley Avenue. Workers from the Los Angeles Department of

Water and Power were able to shut off the water after a few hours, but not before thousands of gallons of water flowed onto the streets and into homes. A massive hole was seen where all the pressure collapsed the street. The water then spilled onto the roadway and flooded 10 buildings. Officials said the water reached a 3-foot wall, and nearly 60 residents had to be evacuated. The cause of the break remained under investigation. The Red Cross is working with displaced residents to try to get them to a shelter.

Source:

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los\\_angeles&id=7932250](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=7932250)

31. *January 31, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **DHL pays \$80,000 water pollution fine to Ohio EPA.** DHL Express has agreed to pay an \$80,000 fine to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to resolve illegal water pollution discharges from Wilmington Air Park, 145 Hunter Drive, to Lytle and Cowen creeks and Indian Run, the state agency announced January 31. In 2003, Wilmington Air Park LLC (an affiliate of DHL Express) purchased the airport from Airborne Express. ABX Air then served as a contractor for DHL Express and provided DHL services at the airport. Until January 2009, the airport served as a hub for DHL Express' cargo handling, air transportation services and day-to-day operations, OEPA said. Storm water management was a service ABX Air provided DHL Express. The storm water system collected and treated rain water, snow melt and liquids generated when aircraft and runways were de-iced during winter months. The treatment system at the airport was not properly sized for the amount and concentration of wastewater it received and violated its discharge permit in 2007 and 2008. Biological surveys of the affected streams showed impacts from the pollution. In May 2008, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio EPA investigated a fish/wildlife kill and chemical water quality standards violations in Cowan Creek. State officials believe that the fish kill and water quality standard violations resulted from the discharge of inadequately treated storm water.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dhl-pays-80-000-water-pollution-fine-to-ohio-epa-1069095.html>

32. *January 31, Water Technology Online* – (International) **Study: Amoebas in drinking water carry deadly diseases.** Recent studies have unveiled amoebas in drinking water all over the world harboring detrimental, and sometimes deadly, diseases, Science News reported. While amoebas are known to trigger diseases, it has recently been discovered that many amoebas carry around harmful bacteria, not only protecting them from the disinfecting process in water treatment facilities, but allowing them to multiply at an exponential rate, according to the story. Though these studies are emerging, the U.S. is not required to screen for the amoebas, according to a researcher at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Exposure Research Laboratory in Cincinnati. The researcher recently conducted a study with a professor of the University of South Wales in Sydney to analyze data from 26 studies in 18 countries. All of these studies confirmed harmful amoebas in the drinking water, according to the article.

Source: [http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N\\_ID=75715](http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=75715)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *February 2, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Rockland Psychiatric Center fires under investigation.** The staff at Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York, is on alert after two fires were apparently set February 1 in two bathrooms of a patient ward, officials said. Firefighters were called to the state-run psychiatric hospital in Orangeburg shortly after midnight. They found the two fires in bathrooms at opposite ends of a hall on the fifth floor of Building 58, one of the main structures on the sprawling campus. It was unclear how the fires were set, but a pile of plastic, including chairs, appeared to have been involved, the Orangeburg Fire Department chief said. “There was a lot of thick, black, stringy smoke,” he said. Firefighters used air bottles so they would not have to breathe the smoke, he said. The two blazes set off sprinkler systems at the complex. Patients in four wards had to be moved to other areas of the hospital because of smoke and water damage. No one was injured. State police are investigating the fires, which they have classified as suspicious.  
Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20110202/NEWS03/102020340/-1/newsfront/Rockland-Psychiatric-Center-fires-under-investigation>
  
34. *February 2, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **HAZMAT crew investigates package found outside Phoenix hospital.** A hazmat crew and bomb squad were called in to investigate after a suspicious package was found outside a Phoenix, Arizona hospital February 1. A Phoenix Police Department spokesman said officers located the package near the Out Patient Imaging area of St. Joseph’s Hospital around 8 p.m. No evacuations were made, but access to the hospital was limited as crews were called in to evaluate the package. A spokesman for the Phoenix Fire Department said bomb squad experts X-rayed the parcel and determined no explosives were inside. They did find an undetermined liquid inside the package and called in a hazmat crew to investigate at the scene. The scene was reportedly cleared around 9:30 p.m. The fire department spokesman said a threat against the hospital was received February 1, which is why crews took the incident very seriously.  
Source:  
[http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region\\_phoenix\\_metro/central\\_phoenix/hazmat-crew-investigates-package-found-outside-phoenix-hospital](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/central_phoenix/hazmat-crew-investigates-package-found-outside-phoenix-hospital)
  
35. *February 1, Healthcare IT News* – (National) **Survey: Majority of organizations don’t protect patient data during software development.** Serious risks to patient data exist in the development and testing of healthcare software, according to survey findings published January 25 in a report by the Ponemon Institute. The report calls for data masking – transforming the data so that is not available outside of its authorized environment – in order to mitigate this risk. The survey, which was sponsored by Informatica Corporation, polled more than 450 IT professionals in U.S. healthcare organizations. The findings were published in Ponemon Institute’s new report, Health

Data at Risk in Development: A Call for Data Masking. Examining the widespread use of real patient data in healthcare application development and test environments, the report details how this is exposing healthcare organizations to the risk of non-compliance to various regulations such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Some key findings of the survey are: Fifty-one percent of those surveyed do not protect patient data used in software development and testing; Seventy-eight percent are not confident or else are undecided as to whether their organization could even detect the theft or accidental loss of real data in development or testing; Thirty-eight percent have had a breach involving data in a development and test environment and 12 percent are unsure if they have had a breach or not.

Source: <http://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/survey-majority-organizations-dont-protect-patient-data-during-software-development>

36. *February 1, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Man pleads guilty to disclosing UMC patient records for personal gain.** A Las Vegas, Nevada man pleaded guilty February 1 to participating in a conspiracy to receive and disclose University Medical Center hospital patient records in order to solicit business and clients for personal injury attorneys, Nevada's U.S. Attorney said. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to illegally disclose personal health information in violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, and is scheduled to be sentenced May 4.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/feb/01/man-pleads-guilty-disclosing-umc-patient-records-p/>

37. *February 1, Global Security Newswire* – (Maryland) **Airborne disease tests not a threat, says Army biodefense lab.** Representatives of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) in Fort Detrick, Maryland, last week sought to dispel fears over tests involving the release of lethal pathogens in aerosolized form, Frederick News-Post reported. The need for the tests was a major point of uncertainty for the Containment Lab Community Advisory Committee, a group of local residents organized last September, a member said at a meeting with USAMRIID officials. "Do you have to create an offensive capability to test a defensive measure?" asked a committee member. The U.S. creation of biological arms was made illegal in 1969, but the group believed diseases released in a spray are usable as weapons, she said. To test the effectiveness of countermeasures against disease agents released into the air through a potential bioterrorism attack, scientists must disperse samples of disease agents in aerosolized form for inhalation by animal test subjects, a head viral therapeutics investigator said.

Source: [http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110201\\_4893.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110201_4893.php)

38. *January 31, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **1 in custody after hospital threats.** One person was taken into custody after threats were called in January 31 at San Joaquin General Hospital in Stockton, California, the Sheriff's Department said. A sheriff's deputy said the threats were reported at about 11:35 a.m. He said the person who apparently made the calls did not receive the kind of service at the hospital that he wanted. The threats were left on a hospital answering machine. He said one message

claimed that an employee was going to be shot. Another said a bomb would go off on the hospital grounds at 2 p.m. Officials brought in a bomb robot, but no explosives were found.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/r/26682840/detail.html>

39. *January 29, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Iowa hospital investigating possible breach of players’ records.** An investigation is underway into whether the medical records of 13 University of Iowa football players hospitalized have been accessed inappropriately. Officials at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City announced January 28 that they had notified the players and families that some of their medical records may have been accessed in unauthorized ways. The football players were hospitalized on January 24 with a muscle injury syndrome known as rhabdomyolysis. The syndrome, which can be caused by extreme workouts and other factors, can cause severe and sometimes permanent kidney damage. Hospital officials said a routine screening of the players’ electronic medical records showed the possible violations. The investigation could take up to two weeks. A hospital official said employees access computerized medical records through individual personal identification codes as well as individual passwords. He said that officials can track which employees have accessed records through the passwords.

Source: <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/campusrivalry/post/2011/01/iowa-hospital-investigating-possible-breach-of-football-players-records/1>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

40. *February 2, Horry Independent* – (South Carolina) **Horry County bomb squad investigating suspicious package at the Social Security office in Conway.** The suspicious package February 1 at the Social Security Office in Conway, South Carolina, was identified as a three ring binder with miscellaneous papers inside, officials said. A spokeswoman for Conway Police said the Horry County bomb squad began investigating the package after a call was made to Conway Police around 12:10 p.m. the building was evacuated for the bomb squad who arrived on scene around 1 p.m. The squad used a bomb-sniffing dog and a robot to inspect the package. The robot took an x-ray which police reviewed before allowing the robot to open the package. No injuries were reported and traffic on Third Avenue continued to flow while investigators were on scene. The incident marks the second time in two days the Horry County bomb squad has been called to investigate a suspicious device. Officers were called January 31 to the recycling center in Socastee behind the high school after a device exploded in a container in the back of the center.

Source:

<http://www.horryindependent.com/v2/content.aspx?ID=28741&MemberID=1805>

41. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Northern Michigan University closed due to threat.** Northern Michigan University and Marquette’s public schools have closed because of a threat to the university. A spokeswoman said February 2 that an online threat was made to harm students, faculty, staff, and administrators at Northern Michigan. The spokeswoman said an emergency notice was transmitted on laptop computers that were provided to all 9,400 students. Text messages were sent on cell phones. It is uncertain whether the closure will extend beyond February 2. The spokeswoman said the message did not mention the public schools. But the interim superintendent said they also were closed as a precaution. Marquette Senior High School is next door to the university campus. The public schools have 3,000 students. Source: <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110202/NEWS02/302020015/-1/NEWSHOME/Northern-Michigan-University-closed-due-to-threat>
42. *February 2, KSAX 42 Alexandria* – (Minnesota) **Wadena man allegedly threatens to blow up Main Street; calls Tucson gunman a hero.** A 39-year-old Wadena, Minnesota, man was arrested January 13 after he allegedly threatened to blow up several city buildings and churches after losing Medicare benefits, according to the Wadena Police chief. The suspect was charged with five felony counts of terroristic threats in Wadena County Court. According to the police chief, the suspect said that the Arizona gunman who shot a congress woman was his hero. The suspect allegedly told family members he was going to turn small gas tanks in his brother’s garage into bombs. He allegedly told others he would use those bombs to burn down the Wadena Courthouse, Social Security office, and several churches. The suspect also threatened to ignite the gas line on Main Street in Wadena to start a major fire downtown. The suspect has a history of starting small fires, the police chief said. Police contacted the FBI and the Secret Service. The suspect will have to go under psychological exam before he is tried. Source: <http://ksax.com/article/stories/s1953496.shtml>
43. *February 1, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **County Courthouse area reopens after bomb threat found to be false.** An area around the Whatcom County Courthouse rotunda in Washington was blocked off for nearly 3 hours February 1 after a man allegedly made threats that his backpack might contain a bomb. The man left the backpack near a bicycle in front of the rotunda. When told by security personnel that he could not leave it unattended, he made threats about a bomb, a Whatcom County undersheriff said. The 24-year-old suspect of Bellingham was arrested on suspicion of making threats to bomb or injure property, a felony. Authorities then blocked off the area and called in the Bellingham Police bomb squad. The courthouse was not evacuated, and people came and went through the south entrance. The bomb squad determined the backpack was not dangerous, and the area was reopened. The courthouse was similarly blocked off January 12 when a suspicious briefcase with wires was found inside. That turned out to be a prank. Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/02/01/1846084/man-arrested-after-making-threats.html>

44. *February 1, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida; Massachusetts) **Man arrested in threat made against Stuart’s Rep. William Snyder shortly after Arizona shootings.** A self-described “political activist” from Massachusetts was arrested January 31 and charged with sending a threatening e-mail to a Florida Representative an hour after the Arizona shooting that killed six and critically injured U.S. Representative. The unsigned e-mail, sent to the Florida Representatives state House of Representatives address January 8 told the legislator to “stop that ridiculous law if you value your and your familie’s lives.” The Representative has proposed a bill cracking down on illegal immigration for Florida in a manner similar to what Arizona has done. The Representative said February 1 he reported the e-mail to the Martin County Sheriff’s Office and state Capitol security officials in Tallahassee. According to TCPalm.com and other published reports, the Martin County Sheriff’s Office said February 1 that the 47-year-old suspect from Northampton, Massachusetts, used a public access wireless connection at a Starbucks a few blocks from his home to send the e-mail. The suspect was being held in a Massachusetts jail pending his transfer to face charges in Martin County. He is under a \$450,000 bail on charges of corruption by threat and sending a written threat to kill or do bodily harm. The charges are second- and third-degree felonies.  
Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/crime/man-arrested-in-threat-made-against-stuarts-rep-1226131.html>
45. *February 1, VHeadline.com* – (International) **U.S. consulate in Caracas closed on Monday after receiving threats.** The U.S. consulate in Venezuela did not open January 31 allegedly because of threats of an attack. The embassy press secretary confirmed the report that appeared February 1 in several Venezuela newspapers. He said threats had been received, and embassy officials had contacted Venezuelan authorities. The press secretary declared that the Venezuelan authorities had replied that they would be taking “appropriate measures.” The Embassy Web site informed that all interviews and other appointments for January 31 would be rescheduled.  
Source: <http://www.vheadline.com/readnews.asp?id=100732>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

46. *February 2, Frederick News-Post* – (Ohio) **Homeland Security lab assists FBI with ricin case.** The FBI got a helpful assist from Frederick researchers in January during its investigation of an Ohio man accused of producing a biohazardous substance in his home. When an initial search of a Coventry Township, Ohio home turned up unidentified material, the Bureau sent the evidence to be analyzed at the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC), the Department of Homeland Security’s lab at Fort Detrick. NBACC sent back tentative results on January 25 and a final report on January 26 concluding the material was ricin, a toxin produced from castor beans that is lethal when inhaled, injected or ingested.  
Source:  
<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=116132>

47. *February 1, Reuters* – (National) **Watchdog: U.S. security on Canada border lacking.** Less than one in every 100 miles of the U.S. border with Canada is adequately secured, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said February 1. The GAO study said just 32 miles of the nearly 4,000-mile northern border “reached an acceptable level of security” last year, according to the Border Patrol’s assessment. The GAO, which is the investigative arm of Congress, also noted “a high reliance on law enforcement support from outside the border zone.” The Presidential Administration has been under intense pressure to beef up security on the nearly 2,000-mile southwest border with Mexico, to prevent spillover from raging drug cartel violence in Mexico and to stem an influx of illegal immigrants. However, the report flagged what it said was a higher “terrorist threat” on the northern border “given the large expanse of area with limited law enforcement coverage.” It also noted drug, cash, weapons, and human smuggling networks operating across the northern frontier. The study urged greater government oversight and coordination between the Department of Homeland Security and its partnering agencies on the border.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41378701/ns/world\\_news/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41378701/ns/world_news/)

48. *February 1, USA Today* – (National) **Program targeting dangerous illegal immigrants falls short.** An immigration enforcement program that trains local police officers to enforce federal immigration laws has not been used to target illegal immigrants who commit the most serious crimes, according to a report released January 31. The Department of Homeland Security Secretary said the federal government will focus on catching and deporting dangerous illegal immigrants. Yet half of the roughly 27,000 illegal immigrants deported in fiscal year 2010 through the 287(g) program, where federal immigration agents train and supervise local police officers, were initially arrested on misdemeanor or traffic offenses, according to the report published by the Migration Policy Institute. Some viewed those figures as proof that the program is being abused by local authorities who are simply trying to rid their communities of growing numbers of legal and illegal immigrants. The director of policy studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates lower levels of immigration, said it is unfair to criticize the program without understanding how it’s being used in each area. She said the program is used to target smuggling routes along Colorado highways, and many people involved initially face minor charges. The same goes for gang activity in Southern California, where 287(g) officers can identify and deport illegal immigrants charged with minor crimes, but are tied with violent gangs. The report also found that law enforcement agencies in the Southeast had the highest percentage of deportations that started out as traffic arrests.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-02-01-Enforce01\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-02-01-Enforce01_ST_N.htm)

49. *January 31, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **San Jose: DA seeks third-strike conviction for man charged with shining laser at helicopter.** A San Jose, California man accused of flashing a red beam at a sheriff’s department helicopter is being prosecuted under California’s three-strikes law. The 57-year-old man allegedly pointed a laser at the helicopter 25 times and later said he did not care if it crashed. If convicted of the felony charge, the man — who has a lengthy criminal history and has suffered from mental illness — could be sentenced to life in prison. Prosecutors have the

discretion to file misdemeanor or felony charges against people accused of discharging a laser at an aircraft. In making that determination, prosecutors review only the current case. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office reviewed his rap sheet and found that he has been convicted of six serious or violent felony crimes. People who have two or more serious or violent felony convictions and are charged with a new felony may be prosecuted under the state's three-strikes law and face a minimum sentence of 25 years to life if convicted. On February 17, 2010, a sheriff's deputy and civilian pilot were on routine patrol when they were struck by a red laser light. As the helicopter began circling above the house, it was struck by the red laser during each orbit. It was struck about 25 times during a 10-minute span.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_17246792](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17246792)

For another story, see item [57](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

50. *February 2, Help Net Security* – (International) **VLC 1.1.7 fixes security issue.** VideoLAN unveiled VLC 1.1.7, a security update on 1.1.6. When parsing an invalid MKV (Matroska or WebM) file, input validation are insufficient. If successful, a malicious third party will be able to trigger execution of arbitrary code. Exploitation of this issue requires the user to explicitly open a specially crafted file. As a workaround the user should refrain from opening files from untrusted third parties or accessing untrusted remote sites (or disable the VLC browser plugins), until the patch is applied. Alternatively, the MKV demuxer plugin (libmkv\_plugin.\*) can be removed manually from the VLC plugin installation directory.  
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10522>
51. *February 2, The Register* – (International) **Facebook plugs gnarly authentication flaw.** Security researchers have discovered a flaw that creates a means for a malicious website to grab hold of a Facebook user's private data without their consent as well as to post messages impersonating the user on the social networking Web site. The authentication-related bug was discovered by two researchers who reported the flaw to Facebook the week of January 23. The social networking site responded to the report by patching the hole the weekend of January 30. The vulnerability only worked if a user had visited a malicious Web site while logged into Facebook and only in social network profiles that allow applications to run, a feature that the vast majority of Facebook users enable. "If the user has ever allowed a Web site – YouTube, Farmville, or ESPN, etc. – to connect to Facebook, she will lose her private data to the malicious website, or even enable the Web site to post phishing messages on Facebook on her behalf," one of the researchers explained.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/02/facebook\\_plugs\\_authentication\\_flaw/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/02/facebook_plugs_authentication_flaw/)
52. *February 2, Softpedia* – (International) **Waledac uses almost 500,000 stolen email credentials to spam.** Security researchers from LastLine have analyzed the new

Waledac botnet, which appeared at the beginning of 2011, and found a cache of 489,528 stolen POP3 e-mail credentials. In addition, a number of 123,920 FTP login credentials stolen from victims were also found. These are used to upload so called doorway pages on legitimate websites, which then redirect visitors to malware distribution servers or rogue online pharmacies. A total number of 9,447 such pages were discovered in January on 222 websites. The file names contain randomly generated numbers and letters. The command and control server has so far registered 12,249 unique node IDs and 13,070 router IDs. These form Waledac's peer-to-peer fallback update mechanism.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Waledac-Uses-Almost-500-000-Stolen-Email-Credentials-to-Spam-182071.shtml>

53. *February 2, Help Net Security* – (International) **Expanding phishing vector: Classified ads.** The online classified advertisement services sector has been increasingly exploited as a phishing attack vector by crime gangs, a trend confirmed by the growth of attacks abusing classified companies in the first half of 2010, accounting for 6.6 percent of phishing attacks in Q2 2010 alone, according to the APWG. Though the online payment services sector remained the most targeted industry with 38 percent of detected attacks in Q2, up from 37 percent in Q1, the classified advertisement services sector exhibited the most rapid growth in phishing attacks of all sectors in the half. Meanwhile, the growth of detected samples of rogueware – malicious crimeware disguised as anti-virus or anti-spyware software – rose some 13 percent from quarter to quarter, up from 183,781 in Q1 to 207,322 in Q2, 2010.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1613](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1613)

54. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **Phishers spoof Facebook security to hijack accounts.** Phishers have begun spoofing Facebook Security within rogue private messages in order to trick users into exposing their login credentials. The Facebook Security page is used by the social networking site to issue important security-related announcements and advices to users. According to researchers from antivirus vendor Trend Micro, recent phishing attacks do just that via fake private messages sent in the name of the Facebook Security team. These messages inform people their accounts were accessed from another location and ask them to review their activity immediately. In addition to Facebook Security's popularity and credibility, the phishers are piggybacking on a legitimate feature introduced by the social networking site in 2010 to protect accounts. The site allows users to register devices they commonly use to log in with and opt to be alerted when someone attempts to authenticate from a device that is not on the list. The rogue private messages generated by the phishing attack advertise an URL that takes users to a fake login page asking them for both their Facebook and e-mail login credentials. Security researchers note that the fake profiles used to send the phishing messages use the Facebook Security name written with diacritics.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Phishers-Spoof-Facebook-Security-to-Hijack-Accounts-181892.shtml>

55. *February 1, Techworld* – (International) **DDoS attacks made worse by firewalls, report finds.** The rising tide of distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS) is being made much worse by a tendency to mis-deploy firewalls and intrusion prevention systems in front of servers, a report by Arbor Networks has found. The company surveyed 111 global service providers across fixed and mobile sectors for its 2010 Infrastructure Security Report and uncovered a huge jump in DDoS attack size during the year. Maximum attack sizes reached 100Gbit/s for the first time, double that for 2009, and 10 times the peak size seen as recently as 2005, increasingly in the form application attacks rather than simple packet flooding. Attack frequency also appears to be increasing, with 25 percent of respondents seeing 10 or more DDoS attacks per month, and 69 percent experiencing at least 1. But according to Arbor, service providers and corporate could significantly reduce their DDoS vulnerability by designing their security infrastructure to better locate policy-based security devices such as firewalls. During 2010, nearly half of all respondents had experienced a failure of their firewall or IPS due to DDoS, something that could have been avoided in many cases using better router security configuration.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9207623/DDoS\\_attacks\\_made\\_worse\\_by\\_firewalls\\_report\\_finds](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9207623/DDoS_attacks_made_worse_by_firewalls_report_finds)

56. *February 1, The Register* – (International) **Newest PS3 firmware hacked in less than 24 hours.** Hackers say they unlocked the latest firmware for the PlayStation 3 game console, less than 24 hours after Sony released it. Sony announced the release of Version 3.56 February 2. That same day, game console hacker KaKaRoToKS tweeted that he had released the tools to unpack the files, allowing him to uncover the new version's signing keys. So far, he hacker has released only the signing keys for 3.56, which have since been removed from Github.com following copyright take-down demands. Determined gamers can still find the data in underground sites, including on Gitorious.org. It is now a matter of someone using the key to create a customized version of the firmware and releasing it. According to unconfirmed reports, Version 3.56 contains hidden functionality that allows Sony to scan PS3 consoles for custom firmware and other unauthorized software and report the results back to the company. Sony reportedly can modify the scanner anytime it wants to, without having to update the firmware. Version 3.56 also introduces a significantly re-engineered private encryption key that makes it next to impossible to roll back the update.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/01/ps3\\_hacked\\_again/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/01/ps3_hacked_again/)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

57. *February 2, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Companies rally against DHS endorsement of granting spectrum to first responders.** A coalition of companies protested February 1 the Presidential Administration's move to grant directly a segment of radio spectrum to first responders, criticizing the move to deny them the opportunity to bid on those wavelengths. Under a plan floated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the federal government would auction off the 700 MHz spectrum to commercial companies, using the profits to build out first responder capabilities nationally. The commercial companies could use the spectrum for commercial purposes, selling the airwaves to the private sector, but must grant first responders priority access under the proposal.  
Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/companies-rally-against-dhs-endorsement-of-granting-spectrum-to-first-responders/163529f97aceabab15364c7d9b87aa92.html>
58. *February 2, Ars Technica* – (International) **US Customs begins pre-Super Bowl online mole-whack.** With the Super Bowl less than a week away, U.S. Customs has shut down a new set of Internet domain names for sites that linked to live sports broadcasts on the Web. As usual, the underlying servers were not affected and many sites are already running at new, non-U.S.-controlled addresses. Readers began notifying people this afternoon that sites like ATDHE.net were down, replaced with a U.S. government warning page instead. U.S. Customs has been running Operation In Our Sites for months now, making crackdowns in waves against sites accused of copyright infringement and counterfeiting. Sites like the popular Spanish Rojadirecta were hit. The sites make it possible to view just about every sporting event live online, even exclusive pay-per-view events, and the US Congress has taken notice.  
Source: <http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2011/02/us-customs-begins-pre-super-bowl-mole-whacking.ars>
59. *February 1, Palo Alto Online* – (California) **Powerline catches fire in Palo Alto, people evacuate.** A fire on a transmission pole temporarily shut down Cambridge Avenue in Palo Alto, California, February 1, and severed phone and Internet service to some Comcast and AT&T customers into the afternoon. The blaze began at about 9:50 a.m. in communications equipment and wiring attached to a pole, the Palo Alto Fire Department battalion chief said. Firefighters evacuated employees from 376 to 410 Cambridge as chunks of insulation and other debris dropped to the ground. The fire emitted an acrid, sulfur smell. The buildings and adjacent electrical transformers were not in danger. Inspectors do not yet know what caused the fire, he said. Utilities workers checked the lines after firefighters extinguished the flames. The fire did not effect electricity to any city customers, communications manager for the city's utilities administration, he said. The problem appeared to be in AT&T's lines.  
Source: [http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show\\_story.php?id=19905](http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=19905)
60. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **BT customers targeted by phishers.** Security researchers from GFI Software warn that BT customers are currently targeted by

phishers in attacks spoofing the company's website and trying to steal their financial details. The researchers only analyzed the phishing page, which mimics the BT customer login site and takes users to a fake form to update their billing information. The form asks for a wealth of financial information, including full credit card details, billing address, and bank account number. After submitting the information users are told the data will be verified by BT's Billing Department within 24 hours, which is a method of buying time until the victim realizes what happened. Even though the GFI researchers have not detailed the method in which the fake page is advertised to users, they said it is probably being done via e-mail.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/BT-Customers-Targeted-by-Phishers-181974.shtml>

61. *January 31, Washington Times* – (National) **Pirated content almost 25% of Internet traffic.** The illegal downloading and sharing on the Internet of copyrighted material such as pirated movies, music, and games accounts for almost one-quarter of all global traffic on the World Wide Web, according to a study conducted by British anti-piracy consultants Envisional. Information Technology and Innovation Foundation released the study January 31. The authors analyzed data from several previous studies of Internet traffic and looked in detail at the material being shared in several samples of thousands of transactions on different peer-to-peer (P2P) networks and other content-sharing services. The copyrighted content being shared illegally included films, television episodes, music, and computer games and software, the report said. Other content-sharing services illegally making copyrighted material available accounted for another 12 percent, the report stated, meaning a total of 23 percent of global Internet traffic was copyrighted material being shared illegally.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jan/31/pirated-content-almost-25-of-internet-traffic/>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

62. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Wrigley Field press box damaged by storm.** Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois, has been damaged by a severe storm that caused tiles to fall from the top of the press box at the 97-year-old ballpark. An Emergency Management spokesman said high winds from the snowstorm battering Chicago February 1 sent the tiles flying. Two streets near the Chicago Cubs' famous stadium were closed to cars and pedestrians. The spokesman said Clark Street between Grace and Roscoe streets and Addison Street between Sheffield and Racine avenues were closed until further notice. High winds were keeping maintenance crews from repairing the tiles, he said. Crews from the city's building department were also on the site monitoring the situation.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/02/AR2011020200801.html>

63. *February 2, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **Gas explosion injures at least 2 at church.** Emergency crews are on the scene of a reported gas explosion that injured at least two people January 31 at the Life Church in Tobyhanna Township, Pennsylvania. Emergency dispatchers were unable to provide further information, but initial reports from the scene were that a propane space heater exploded and that the two victims were burned.  
Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/poconosnews/26676096/detail.html>
64. *February 1, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **5 Pa. apartments evacuated due to carbon monoxide.** Five units on the top floor of a six-story Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania apartment building have been evacuated due to high levels of carbon monoxide. The city public safety director said at least one person was reportedly being treated after crews responded to the building on Centre Avenue in the city's Hill District about 1 p.m. Dominion Peoples crews have been dispatched to the scene to find the source of the poisonous gas. It was not immediately clear who owns the building or how many people lived in the apartments that have been evacuated.  
Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/2011/02/01/2491895/5-pa-apartments-evacuated-due.html>
65. *February 1, Associated Press and Salon* – (National) **Mosque bomb suspect placed '85 airport explosive.** A California man accused of threatening to blow up a popular Detroit-area mosque has had several violent, unpredictable run-ins with the law dating back to the 1970s, including one in which he kidnapped his son from a foster home and crashed a plane while trying to get away. The 63-year-old man has twice been committed for psychiatric treatment by the courts, and his attorney told The Associated Press February 1 that after meeting with the suspect, he came away worried about his client's mental state. The suspect's first serious brush with the law occurred in 1977, when according to a 1985 report in the Los Angeles Times, he held a psychiatrist hostage in a Century City office building using two bombs and a pistol. In August 1979, after undergoing treatment for mental illness, he abducted his 9-year-old son from a foster home and took off in a rented Cessna airplane. He radioed the control tower and said he had a bomb, a gun, and a boy and wanted to land his plane and transfer to a larger aircraft to leave the country. He crashed the plane about two miles away and was found hiding in nearby bushes with his son. Subsequent AP reports said he had a rifle. While he was out on bail, prosecutors said he set fire to several Union Oil Co. storage facilities in Lompoc, California. In June 1985, he planted a bomb in a Reno, Nevada airport garbage can then called the Reno Gazette-Journal and the FBI to tell them about it.  
Source:  
[http://www.salon.com/news/terrorism/?story=/news/feature/2011/02/01/us\\_mosque\\_terror\\_threat](http://www.salon.com/news/terrorism/?story=/news/feature/2011/02/01/us_mosque_terror_threat)
66. *February 1, Record-Journal* – (Connecticut) **Fear of roof collapse evacuates some buildings.** The weight of ice and snow strained more roofs February 1, with buildings evacuated in Wallingford and Southington, Connecticut. A dozen businesses in Wallingford were shut down because of dangerous snow and ice buildup on their roofs.

Two buildings in a plaza at 69-71 N. Turnpike Road were deemed uninhabitable by a building official, according to Fire Department captain. After water was reported leaking from the roof, firefighters arrived and found cracks in exterior walls. Also, doors were tight, according to the captain. “That showed the roof was stressed,” he said. After the roof is cleared, the building must be inspected before tenants are allowed back in. In Southington, the Home Depot store on Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike was evacuated around 2:45 p.m. after employees reported an unusual popping sound coming from the roof, according to police spokesman. The popping noise is believed to come from breaking welds in the roof. Police and fire officials, Home Depot employees, and the building inspector were conducting a roof inspection February 1 to make sure everything is safe.

Source: [http://www.myrecordjournal.com/state/article\\_72e353f8-2e75-11e0-802d-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.myrecordjournal.com/state/article_72e353f8-2e75-11e0-802d-001cc4c002e0.html)

For another story, see item [42](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

67. *February 2, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Cleanup to close park.** Parts of Plumas-Eureka State Park in California will be closed this summer to allow for a cleanup of hazardous materials. The campground, museum area, and other selected sites throughout the park will temporarily be closed for the cleanup. Toxic materials from the days when the site was a working gold mine have been found. Soils in areas of the park were found to be contaminated with arsenic, lead, and mercury at levels above federal standards. The work will begin immediately after the spring thaw and will likely proceed into the fall. The campground will be the first site treated, in an effort to allow camping to resume as soon as possible. Plumas-Eureka State Park is the site of a historic hard-rock gold mining operation and was a major producer of gold in the late 1800s.

Source: [http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci\\_17268102](http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_17268102)

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## **Dams Sector**

68. *February 2, Merced Sun-Star* – (California) **MID board approves construction contract at New Exchequer Dam and powerhouse.** The Merced Irrigation District (MID) said its board approved a construction contract that will result in increased protection to the penstock at the New Exchequer Dam and powerhouse in California. The concrete-encased steel penstock, measuring 982 feet long and 16 feet in diameter, delivers water from the base of Lake McClure, providing for MID irrigation water releases and generation of hydroelectric power, MID said in a news release. The penstock is located at the base of a steep canyon with a potential for falling rocks and other debris. The MID board unanimously approved a \$170,000 contract with SRC

Contractors of Folsom which submitted the lowest bid. The contractor will install a steel cover to protect the penstock from potential rock-fall damage. The funds will be reimbursed to MID by PG&E, which receives the hydroelectric power through June 30, 2014.

Source: <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/02/02/1754209/mid-board-approves-construction.html>

69. *February 2, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (National) **Report says fly ash sites leak chromium into water.** Two southwestern Pennsylvania fly ash disposal sites are among 28 such sites in 17 states that have contaminated groundwater by leaking toxic, cancer-causing hexavalent chromium, according to a new report by Earthjustice and two other environmental groups. Unsafe hexavalent chromium levels were found in groundwater near a landfill used by Allegheny Energy's 1,710-megawatt Hatfield's Ferry power plant in Greene County, Pennsylvania; and around an unlined pond and landfill near the GenOn's Seward power plant in New Florence, Indiana County, the report found. Another Pennsylvania fly ash disposal site, an unlined pond used by PPL's Martins Creek power plant in Northampton County, in the eastern end of the state, was also on the report's list. The report released February 1 calls for tighter drinking water limits for chromium and federal regulations designating coal fly ash as a hazardous waste. The report was released on the eve of scheduled Senate testimony by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator about the public health concerns of contaminated drinking water and hexavalent chromium exposure. Studies by the EPA, the state of California and the agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry have found that exposure in drinking water to small amounts of hexavalent chromium can increase human cancer risk.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11033/1122250-455.stm>

70. *February 1, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Parish may extend Concord Road levee.** A levee to protect Houma, Louisiana, residents threatened by flooding from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway will go to construction this year, and could be extended to shield homes along Country Club Drive, as well as the Barrios subdivision. The parish plans to spend \$1.5 million to raise the Concord Road levee to 10 feet along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from the pump station to Country Club Drive, said the Terrebonne Capital Projects administrator. Designs are nearly halfway complete, and the levee could go to construction later this spring. A levee is needed because rapid erosion of Terrebonne's marshes and the banks of the ever-widening Houma Navigation Canal have brought flooding problems to Houma. The Houma Navigation Canal works as a huge funnel during storms, sending waters charging northward into the city, said the Terrebonne levee director. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Houma Navigation Canal intersect just below Houma, and surges are pushed up that navigation canal too.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20110201/HURBLOG/110209879/-1/APWORLD?p=all&tc=pgall>

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