



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 4 February 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- A monstrous blizzard that cut across 30 states, brought subzero temperatures and knocked out power to more than 1.4 million people, according to msnbc.com. (See item [4](#))
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives whistleblowers charged the agency failed to adequately track guns sold across the southern border, including one found near where a U.S. Border Patrol agent was slain, the Los Angeles Times reports. (See item [52](#))

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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 3, Associated Press* – (California) **California utility told to cut gas pipeline pressures; prompted by fatal explosion probe.** California regulators discovered illegal pressure levels on four gas pipelines as part of the investigation into the September 9 explosion and fire that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes in San Bruno. It prompted the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to order Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) to cut natural gas pipeline pressures. The San Francisco Chronicle

reports two of the pipelines are buried under heavily populated areas in the San Francisco Bay area. PUC said it ordered PG&E to reduce pressure on the lines by 20 percent below legal limits. PG&E said February 3 that besides running the four lines above legal limits, it intentionally increased the pressure on a dozen pipelines temporarily.

Source:

[http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3e3e9c266ce04e1b88c2c3c7f7c50570/US--Pipeline\\_Explosion/](http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3e3e9c266ce04e1b88c2c3c7f7c50570/US--Pipeline_Explosion/)

2. *February 3, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **As plants falter, SRP cuts power to 65,000.** Cold weather created problems at several power plants February 2, prompting the Salt River Project (SRP) to take the unprecedented step of cutting power to 65,000 customers in Arizona. But officials said they did not expect more disruptions February 3. A series of mostly weather-related malfunctions took six power plants offline starting February 1 and into February 2. The problems that took generators offline in Gilbert, Page, St. Johns, and Springerville in Arizona; and Farmington, New Mexico, have been repaired, officials said. SRP officials described the problems as mechanical issues caused by cold weather. SRP took customers offline to avoid disruptions to neighboring utilities. Most customers had power restored in an hour. Problems started February 1 when the Navajo Generating Station in Page had one of its three generators stop sending power to the grid because of an unspecified problem.  
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2011/02/03/20110203srp-cuts-power-to-customers.html>
3. *February 2, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **ERCOT may initiate more blackouts Wednesday night, Thursday morning.** Texas' longest period of rolling blackouts ended around 1:30 p.m. February 2, 8 hours after the power outages began across the state. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which operates the state power grid, warned it may initiate more blackouts February 2 or February 3 during the peak demand hours. The planned outages, which lasted up to 45 minutes, were triggered when more than 50 power plants, including a few owned by Dallas-based Energy Future Holdings, stopped working February 1 because of the cold weather. The ERCOT said 7,000 megawatts of generating capacity tripped February 1, leaving the state without enough juice. That is enough capacity to power about 1.4 million homes. By rotating outages, ERCOT said it prevented total blackouts. A spokeswoman said the downtown areas of Dallas and Fort Worth are exempt, as are hospitals, fire stations, police stations and other emergency responders. The outages left thousands of homes in darkness starting at 5:30 a.m. and slowed or stopped Dallas Area Rapid Transit trains. A spokesman said the call center had been overwhelmed with about 60,000 calls per hour, with people reporting their outages.  
Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/dallas/headlines/20110202-brutal-cold-cripples-power-plants-triggering-blackouts-for-44000-across-dallas-fort-worth.ece>
4. *February 2, msnbc.com; NBC News; Associated Press; Reuters* – (National) **Blizzard cuts power as deep freeze sets in.** Blizzard conditions lifted across the Midwest by

February 3, but subzero temperatures into February 4 will test the hundreds of thousands still without power. In Ohio alone, more than 200,000 homes and businesses were without power as trees downed by snow, ice, and wind cut power lines. In the Chicago, Illinois area, 123,000 utility customers saw their electricity cut at the height of the blizzard. Crews had reduced that to 48,000 by February 3. In Texas, soaring electricity demand due to frigid cold forced the power grid operator to start rolling blackouts of up to an hour on 1 million homes. The monstrous storm, billed as the worst in decades, delivered knock-out after knock-out as it made its way from Texas to Maine, touching 30 states. The Red Cross said it opened more than 70 shelters across the Midwest. Around 2,430 National Guard troops provided winter storm support, NBC News reported.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41383879/ns/weather>

5. *February 2, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **Gas line rupture tears ‘big hole in the ground’**. Firefighters evacuated an area in Kansas City, Missouri, February 2 after a large gas line ruptured near 107th Street and Blue Ridge Boulevard. The rupture in the buried, high-pressure 16-inch pipe tore a “big hole in the ground,” about the size of a truck, a spokesman for Missouri Gas Energy said. The break occurred shortly before 2 p.m. in the parking lot of an automotive repair shop in the 7000 block of East 107th Street. More than an hour later, gas was still escaping into the air. There was no explosion and no fire, a Kansas City Fire Department spokesman said. No injuries were reported. The line is about 9 feet underground, he said, and the hole that workers dug kept collapsing. They had to bring in a shoring box. Police shut down 6 blocks of Blue Ridge, from 104th to 110th streets, and checked houses and businesses along 107th Street from Blue Ridge to Bennington Avenue. The pipeline is part of the utility’s distribution network and not an interstate transmission line.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/02/02/2628993/gas-line-rupture-tears-big-hole.html>

6. *February 2, Trenton Trentonian* – (New Jersey) **Princeton underground fire forces Palmer Square hotel evacuation**. A transformer fire under the Borough’s Palmer Square in Princeton, New Jersey, forced the evacuation of dozens of hotel rooms and had crews working for hours to restore power. The transformer blew up in the midst of a February 2 ice storm that knocked down many trees and power lines. Princeton police said they were called to the scene at about 6:11 a.m. and a fire was visible burning underground through a sewer grate in the sidewalk just north of the Nassau Inn. While police were on the scene, the transformer exploded, they said, and fire crews rushed in to extinguish the underground blaze. Utility workers from PSE&G arrived at about 7:30 a.m. to repair the damaged transformer, and they provided temporary power by way of generators. Crews were still working well into the afternoon. Smoke from the fire flooded into a part of the Nassau Inn and 48 rooms were evacuated as a result. No one was injured in the incident, and there were no significant power outages.

Source:

<http://www.trentonian.com/articles/2011/02/02/news/doc4d49ccda3dc57784935005.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *February 2, Cherry Hill Courier-Post* – (New Jersey) **Firm fined for pesticide use.** New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) fined a Newark company \$860,000 for using hazardous pesticides to combat bed bugs. The penalty against TVF Pest Control was announced January 31. The company can file a request for a hearing within 35 days. A DEP investigation found TVF used two chemicals that are not approved for indoor use and that can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, muscle twitching, and vomiting. The DEP also said the company falsified documents to hide its use of the chemicals. The spraying was done mostly in Essex, Hudson, and Union counties in the first 6 months of last year.  
Source: <http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20110202/NEWS01/102020356/Firm-fined-for-pesticide-use>
  
8. *February 1, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Chemical spill closes Highway 23 in Thousand Oaks; all lanes now reopened.** All lanes of Highway 23 in Thousand Oaks, California, were reopened by 10:10 a.m. February 1 after pool-cleaning acid spilled from a truck, creating a chemical cloud that stopped traffic in both directions, authorities said. A 1-gallon container of muriatic acid fell out of a southbound truck just before 7 a.m. on the southbound lanes between Janss Road and Hillcrest Avenue. The northbound lanes were reopened shortly after 8 a.m. Two southbound lanes were opened around 9:30 a.m. but two others remained closed until 10:10 a.m. as Caltrans finished the cleanup. The Ventura County Fire Department and the California Highway Patrol responded.  
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/02/chemical-spill-temporarily-closes-highway-23-in-thousand-oaks.html>
  
9. *February 1, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (New Jersey) **Workers evacuated after NJ chemical spill.** A handful of workers had to be evacuated after a chemical spill February 1 in Pennsville, New Jersey, at the Siegfried Chemical Company. Rescuers were dispatched around 12:30 p.m. A spokesperson for Siegfried said there was a release of a chemical inside a building, but was not yet certain exactly which chemical was released. The chemical was contained inside the building and the three employees inside the building were evacuated. One of those employees was transported to an area hospital for observation. The spokesperson said one employee was working on the manufacturing process and two others in the building were maintenance employees. According to the spokesperson, no chemical escaped outside the building. Siegfried's own response team worked on the incident.  
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=7933011>

For more stories, see items [34](#) and [50](#)

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## Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *February 3, San Luis Obispo New Times* – (California) **Reactor reaction.** As Pacific Gas & Electric rolls forward with its re-licensing efforts for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in Avila Beach, California, state regulators may have put a financial kink in the wheel. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decided concerns raised by a number of organizations regarding PG&E's intention to use ratepayer revenues to fund its re-licensing of the aging facility merit discussion. The utility filed a request in January 2010 with CPUC to use ratepayer money to recover all costs associated with renewing the 2,240-megawatt facility's operating license. The tab is expected to be about \$85 million. On January 28, CPUC's administrative law judge ruled objections raised by the ratepayer advocacy group the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, and co-interveners the Sierra Club, California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG), and Environment California, should be considered before signing off on the authorization. In November 2010, PG&E, along with the Division of Ratepayer Advocates and the Utility Reform Network, filed a joint motion with CPUC seeking a settlement on the latter two groups' concerns over re-licensing funding. The judge, however, questioned whether that settlement should be approved and ratepayer funding be authorized before geological studies of the region surrounding Diablo Canyon are completed and reviewed by state authorities.  
Source: <http://www.newtimeslo.com/news/5614/reactor-reaction/>
11. *February 3, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Surry nuclear reactor shut down for coolant problem.** One of the two nuclear reactors at Dominion Virginia Power's power station in Surry County, Virginia, along the James River automatically shut down February 2 because of a coolant problem. In a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Dominion said the Unit 2 reactor tripped at 5:33 a.m. February 3 because of a loss of coolant flow. "There were no radiation releases due to this event, nor were there any personnel injuries or contamination events," the utility's report to the NRC said. The utility said it was uncertain how long repairs would take.  
Source: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/2011/feb/03/surry-nuclear-reactor-shut-down-coolant-problem-ar-817867/>
12. *February 2, Associated Press* – (National) **NRC moving forward with closing out Yucca review.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is closing out its work on Yucca Mountain in Las Vegas, Nevada as a nuclear waste repository, even as the Presidential administration's decision to scrap the project faces challenges on two fronts, the agency's chairman said February 2. In 2010, the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board ruled the Energy Department (DOE) didn't have the authority to withdraw its application to build the site. The board said it was up to the NRC to issue a "merit-based" decision. But the NRC Chairman told reporters there is no timeframe to make a decision, and he declined to discuss the commission's internal deliberations on the matter. "If we have an order, we will produce it," he said at a Platts Energy Podium roundtable. Asked whether the issue would remain in limbo, he responded, "It is something that the commission has in front of us, and if we reach a decision, we'll release that." DOE's decision to abandon Yucca is also facing a court challenge from

South Carolina, Washington state, Aiken County, South Carolina, and three Washington state business owners, who claim the Presidential administration overstepped its authority in cutting project funding.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/feb/02/us-nuclear-dump/>

13. *February 2, Minnesota Public Radio* – (Minnesota) **Minn. Senate votes to repeal ban on new nuclear plants.** The Minnesota Senate voted February 2 to lift the state's ban on new nuclear power plants. Senators voted 50 to 14 in favor of a bill lifting the ban. The senate majority leader led the effort. One of the state's existing nuclear plants, in Monticello, is in her district. She said nuclear energy is part of the larger Republican agenda now that they control the legislature. The house has yet to vote on its version of the bill. Labor unions and business leaders support repealing the moratorium, but the governor has raised concerns about it.

Source: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/02/02/senate-nuke-ban-bill/>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

14. *February 3, Detroit Free Press* – (International) **Storm forces auto factories to close, shifts to be canceled.** The massive snowstorm that hit the Midwest caused GM, Ford, and Chrysler to close plants or cancel shifts at more than 30 plants across the Midwest February 2. Automakers closed plants and cut production as employees struggled to get to work and suppliers had problems delivering parts. Late February 2, automakers were still monitoring the weather and parts deliveries. However, they were planning to operate most plants normally February 3. Chrysler canceled its first shift at 13 plants in the Midwest and Ontario before resuming production the afternoon of February 2. GM, meanwhile, closed or canceled shifts at 11 plants. Ford canceled shifts at nine plants. Chrysler said it would resume production at all plants February 3.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110203/BUSINESS01/102030429/0/BUSINESS06/Storm-forces-auto-factories-close-shifts-canceled?odyssey=nav/head>

15. *February 2, WPSD 6 Paducah* – (Illinois) **Fire at southern Illinois plant stops work, destroys building.** Workers are picking up the pieces after firefighters battled a blaze at the Hutchens Bit Service plant south of Benton, Illinois, February 2. An employee was working in one of the manufacturing facilities when he noticed a fire. Area fire departments were notified, and first responders arrived shortly after 2 p.m. Hutchens provides custom industrial drill bits and service for oil, natural gas, water well, and other drilling needs. West Frankfort, Benton, and Christopher fire crews responded to the incident. The cause is not known. There are no injuries, but the building is gutted and production was halted.

Source: <http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/news/local/Fire-at-southern-Illinois-plant-stops-work-destroys-building-115137179.html>

16. *February 2, Metal Bulletin* – (National) **Midwest aluminum extruders idle presses as blizzard hits.** Aluminum extruders across the Midwest were forced to idle presses or run on skeleton crews February 1 and 2 as blizzard conditions left many semi-fabricators without employees, raw materials or, in some cases, power. Among those to temporarily close their doors were Bonnell Aluminum Inc.'s plant in Kentland, Indiana., and MidAmerica Extrusion Corp. in Indianapolis, Indiana, while dozens of other plants, including Hydro Aluminum's facility in North Liberty, Indiana, and Sapa Extrusions' Midwest locations, were running at reduced capacities because of the storm.  
Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2760927/AMM-Midwest-aluminum-extruders-idle-presses-as-blizzard-hits.html>
17. *February 2, Metal Bulletin* – (International) **Railroad bans Mexican shipments.** The Kansas City Southern Railway has stopped accepting ferrous scrap and certain steel product shipments on its Mexican rail line because of thefts from gondola cars. The Kansas City, Missouri-based railroad said its Mexican unit, Kansas City Southern de Mexico SA de CV, has issued a limited documentation restriction to the transportation services of scrap and other steel products, excluding steel coils and slab, on its F line route from the Mexican border town of Matamoros and Monterrey, Mexico. Matamoros is across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas. A spokeswoman for the railroad said its Mexican unit imposed the ban January 11 due to vandalism.  
Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2760800/Railroad-bans-Mexican-shipments.html>
18. *February 2, Metal Bulletin* – (National) **Blizzard slams steel mills, service centers.** The blizzard that slammed the Midwest February 2 and lingered for nearly 24 hours temporarily shut down or altered operations across a wide swath of steel mills, scrapyards, service centers, and major end-users. Mini-mill producers Nucor Corp. and Steel Dynamics Inc. were among those most affected, while integrated steelmakers U.S. Steel Corp. and ArcelorMittal USA Inc. were largely spared. "Our operations in (Crawfordsville) Indiana were the hardest hit," the president and chief operating officer of Nucor, told AMM February 2. "Our sheet mill, our Vulcraft operation and our Building System operation all lost about 24 hours of production." Given Nucor's nationwide coverage of the products, however, "it was relatively easy to shift our production to other Nucor facilities and meet all of our customers' needs without interruption," he said.  
Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2760939/AMM-Blizzard-slams-steel-mills-service-centers.html>
19. *February 2, Environmental Expert* – (New Hampshire) **OSHA seeks \$250,000 in fines for explosion at manufacturing plant.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited two New Hampshire companies for alleged violations of workplace safety standards following a January 23 explosion at a manufacturing plant in Nashua. Combined penalties against the two firms total \$257,500. The explosion occurred at Worthen Industries Inc. when flammable vapors ignited while workers were installing a new motor on a vessel used in the manufacturing process. OSHA

found Worthen had not cleaned the vessel thoroughly enough to ensure the absence of flammable materials or vapors, and had not vented it prior to allowing welding. S.L. Chasse was cited for inadequately training workers to recognize potential chemical, fire, explosion, or toxic release hazards and appropriate protective work practices, and allowing welding to be performed where a flammable atmosphere was present. Other citations addressed lack of fall protection and machine guarding, and incomplete injury and illness logs. These conditions resulted in eight serious and six other-than-serious citations, with \$32,100 in fines for Chasse.

Source: <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultEachPressRelease.aspx?cid=5969&codi=222756>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

20. *February 3, Pacific News Center* – (International) **Guam shipyard salvage not going as originally hoped.** The president of Guam Shipyard January 5 expressed confidence the problem of his partially sunken dry dock would be “resolved” before the month was out. Twenty-nine days later, it is not yet resolved. The dry dock, known as “Big Blue,” is still partially sunk. “It will be resolved in the next 15 days,” he said. But the salvage operation is not going as originally hoped. A U.S. Coast Guard officer told Pacific News Center News February 3 the salvage operations are “in a consultation phase.” He called it a “complex engineering project,” noting “Guam Shipyard has outside consultants coming in to basically assess the situation so they can follow through with the salvage operations.” He said the Coast Guard is “monitoring” the situation and being “kept abreast of developments but this is Guam Shipyard’s operation.” The waste oil and diesel fuel was all safely removed without a spill. Cranes then lifted some heavy equipment off the dry dock’s deck. But it remains mostly submerged. The Coast Guard officer declined to speculate on when or whether the dry dock would rise again.

Source:

[http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=11259:coast-guard-dry-dock&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156](http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11259:coast-guard-dry-dock&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156)

21. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Natural gas leak forces Space Center evacuation.** Hundreds of people were evacuated from several buildings at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, February 2 because of a natural gas leak. A NASA spokesman said the leak was caused when a backhoe struck a natural gas line. As a precaution, workers were evacuated from facilities including two orbiter processing facilities, which are the hangars for the space shuttles Atlantis and Endeavor. The spokesman said there were no injuries or damage, noting everyone was back at work. Crews are working on the natural gas line. Three more space shuttles missions are planned in 2011 before the program is retired. The shuttle Discovery is next, with a launch scheduled for February 24.

Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g\\_4kJ-tkkBLZ7k0KrmMQ5JsmfSMQ?docId=6d0cc0b98b8f4cbe8ddea218d2c0d1a0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g_4kJ-tkkBLZ7k0KrmMQ5JsmfSMQ?docId=6d0cc0b98b8f4cbe8ddea218d2c0d1a0)

For another story, see item [40](#)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

22. *February 3, Norristown Times Herald* – (Pennsylvania) **One man in custody, at least two still at large, robbers reportedly armed.** Downtown Main Street in Norristown, Pennsylvania, saw a swarm of police officers for several hours February 2, in hot pursuit of three masked robbers who attacked a Brinks security truck operator outside a bank. Reportedly armed with automatic weapons, the suspects assaulted the operator as he was delivering undisclosed sums of money to the Bank of America. Police escorted the injured Brinks driver from the bank. Bags of coins and boxes of cash were strewn about in front of the bank. Moments after police responded, they discovered the getaway vehicle – a navy blue Dodge Caravan – haphazardly parked in the snow bank behind the Regatta Apartment Homes complex. It was unclear February 2 whether the minivan had driven off-road for a short time to escape police. Responders from Norristown Police Department, Whitmarsh Police Department, Lower Providence Police Department, and Plymouth Police Department’s K-9 unit responded. Police were seen handcuffing a “person of interest” along West Main Street, but have not confirmed whether the man was involved in the robbery.

Source:

<http://www.timesherald.com/articles/2011/02/03/news/doc4d49af8e39659128286487.txt>

23. *February 3, IDG News Service* – (International) **Next-generation banking malware emerges after Zeus.** The rumored combination of two pieces of advanced online banking malware appears to be fully underway after several months of speculation. What appears to be a beta version of a piece of malware that has bits of both Zeus and SpyEye is now in circulation, albeit among just a few people, said the CTO and cofounder of Seculert. Seculert has published screen shots of the new malware, which has two versions of a control panel used for managing infected computers. One of those control panels resembles one in Zeus, and the other resembles that in SpyEye. Both of the control panels are connected to the same back-end command-and-control server, he said.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9207940/Next\\_generation\\_banking\\_malware\\_emerges\\_after\\_Zeus](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9207940/Next_generation_banking_malware_emerges_after_Zeus)

24. *February 2, South Florida Sun Sentinel* – (Florida) **9 charged in \$12 million bank fraud scheme.** Nine South Florida residents were charged February 2 by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Miami in a \$12 million bank fraud scheme. From September 2005 through September 2008, the defendants conspired to submit false loan applications to Wells Fargo Bank (formerly Wachovia Bank) to get about \$12 million in commercial lines of credit. This resulted in about \$10 million in losses to the bank, according to the charges.

Source: [http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2011-02-02/business/fl-bank-fraud-wachovia-20110202\\_1\\_ponzi-scheme-bank-fraud-luis-felipe-perez](http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2011-02-02/business/fl-bank-fraud-wachovia-20110202_1_ponzi-scheme-bank-fraud-luis-felipe-perez)

25. *February 2, North Canton Patch* – (Ohio) **North Canton Police, FBI investigate FirstMerit Bank thefts totaling \$500,000.** Police and FBI officials are investigating the theft of nearly \$500,000 from the accounts of five senior citizens who use the FirstMerit Bank in North Canton, Ohio. The police spokesman said the FBI joined the department in investigating soon after the first report on September 15, 2010. Since then, four more reports have come in, with the latest filed January 17. “The FBI and myself are investigating it,” said the spokesman, who heads the department’s detective bureau. “We’re continuing to follow up with bank records and interview people. And our intent is to eventually present our evidence to the federal grand jury.” The police spokesman said someone withdrew victims’ money from various kinds of accounts and he declined to comment on possible suspects. He said he also could not comment on why certain people were targeted, only, “So far, the investigation rules senior citizens have been the target.”

Source: <http://northcanton.patch.com/articles/north-canton-police-fbi-investigate-firstmerit-bank-thefts-totaling-500000>

26. *February 2, Securities and Exchange Commission* – (National) **SEC rules for security swap execution facilities.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) voted unanimously February 2 to propose rules defining security-based swap execution facilities (SEFs) and establishing their registration requirements, as well as their duties and core principles. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act authorized the SEC to implement a regulatory framework for security-based swaps, which currently trade exclusively in the over-the-counter markets with little transparency or oversight. The Dodd-Frank Act sought to move the trading of security-based swaps onto regulated trading markets, and therefore created security-based SEFs as a new category of market intended to provide more transparency and reduce systemic risk. “Our objective here is to provide a framework that allows the security-based swap market to continue to develop in a more transparent, efficient, and competitive manner,” the SEC Chairman said. “This is an important and complex undertaking that adds a significant new component to the regulatory framework for over-the-counter derivatives.”

Source: <http://www.futuresmag.com/News/2011/2/Pages/SEC-rules-for-securitybased-swap-execution-facilities.aspx>

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## **Transportation Sector**

27. *February 3, Sun-Times Media Wire and FOX Chicago News* – (Illinois) **City defends decision to leave lake shore drive open.** More than 200 abandoned cars were finally removed after being shrouded in snow on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, Illinois, for over 24 hours, and the roadway was reopened to traffic early February 3. A city streets and sanitation spokesman said although the road is reopened, drivers should use caution

when driving as conditions can still be treacherous. Crews worked through the night to clear what has become a sore spot for the mayor's administration. Hundreds of drivers and Chicago Transit Authority passengers were stranded for up to 12 hours February 2 on Lake Shore Drive after a perfect storm of white-out conditions, howling wind gusts, and a slew of vehicle accidents turned one of the city's main arteries into a car graveyard. As many as 900 cars had been stranded on the main thoroughfare. Tow trucks were pouring into several lots off Lake Shore Drive with a parade of cars. Some cars were also towed to Chicago Avenue. More than 130 firefighters were deployed, along with 30 firefighter medics on snow mobiles, and 100 Chicago police officers. Source: [http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpps/news/national/blizzard-snow-lake-shore-drive-chicago-closed-plows-road-20110201\\_11691564](http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpps/news/national/blizzard-snow-lake-shore-drive-chicago-closed-plows-road-20110201_11691564)

28. *February 3, Associated Press* – (National) **Interstate 29 closed from ND border to Watertown, SD.** Authorities have launched a rescue operation after a ground blizzard stranded more than 150 vehicles February 2 on Interstate 29 in northeast South Dakota. There are no immediate reports of injuries. The Codington County Search and Rescue commander told KWAT radio that five vehicles are out, including a snow cat, a large machine that runs on tracks like a military tank. He said motorists were taken to a casino at Sisseton, a rest area at Wilmot, and a truck stop in Summit. A truck stop worker said the stretch of interstate is roughly 16 miles, between the towns of Peever and Summit. She said it is a valley where snow gets blown in and packs on the interstate. The interstate is closed between Watertown and the North Dakota border. Source: [http://www.ksjbam.com/artman/publish/article\\_2926.shtml](http://www.ksjbam.com/artman/publish/article_2926.shtml)
29. *February 2, boston.com* – (Massachusetts) **Roof collapses at Norwood Memorial Airport hangar.** Snow weighted down by heavy rain caused the roof of a hangar at Norwood Memorial Airport in Norwood, Massachusetts to collapse February 2, according to fire officials. The hangar, owned by Swift Aviation Services, contained six aircraft and one helicopter. At least two of the aircraft appeared to be totaled, the Norwood fire chief told Channel 5 News. A gas leak from the damaged aircraft was contained by firefighters and the area was secured. The hangar contained two occupants at the time of the roof collapse, but no one was injured, according to fire officials. A couple of dozen collapses were reported, mainly in commercial buildings, around the state. But there were no reports of injury, said a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency spokesman. Source: [http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/norwood/2011/02/roof\\_collapses\\_at\\_norwood\\_memo.html](http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/norwood/2011/02/roof_collapses_at_norwood_memo.html)
30. *February 2, Riverside Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Santa Anas a timely tempest; trees, trucks topple.** High winds swept through the Inland, California area in force February 2, knocking big rigs on their sides and toppling trees onto area freeways. The gusts approached hurricane force at 63 mph and were strongest in the wind-prone areas of western San Bernardino County and northwestern Riverside County. The winds threw up dust clouds in Mira Loma and made just standing still difficult. Five big rigs went down in the area near the Interstates 10 and 15 interchange in Ontario, and one

crashed on Highway 60 near I-15, according to the California Highway Patrol. The wind also knocked over a motorcyclist and scattered trees onto freeway traffic lanes from Devore to Ontario. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/webwind.11505e742.html>

31. *February 2, msnbc.com; Associated Press* – (National) **Flight cancellations mount for 2nd straight day.** The decision by all major airline carriers to stop flying into Chicago, Illinois' O'Hare International Airport February 2, rippled out to airports around the country, because many travelers catch connecting flights there on United or American, which use O'Hare as a hub. And snow and ice hampered flights elsewhere, too, with Southwest Airlines Co. canceling some flights from Columbus, Ohio, and all February 2 morning flights from Dallas, Texas. American and regional partner American Eagle canceled 1,600 flights, or nearly half of their schedule, because of ice on runways in Dallas. According to FlightAware, 474 flights in and out of Boston were canceled and 639 at New York LaGuardia. Overall, 1,356 flights were scrubbed at the three big New York-area airports. United Airlines was planning to resume departures from O'Hare by mid-morning February 3. Airlines scratched more than 4 percent of all flights between November 2010 and January 2011. Once final January numbers are available, that's likely to be the highest rate of cancellations for that 3-month period since 1995-96, according to government data and flight-tracking firm FlightView. In all, airlines canceled more than 13,600 U.S. flights for February 1-3, topping the roughly 10,000 cancellations from the massive post-Christmas blizzard.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41388257/ns/travel-news/>

32. *January 29, CNN* – (International) **Russian police identify airport bomber.** The man who detonated a bomb at Domodedovo Airport in Moscow, Russia, January 24, killing 35 people, was a 20-year-old from the North Caucasus, the Russian Investigative Committee said January 29. The agency also said it was clear the bomb targeted foreigners. Although there has been no claim of responsibility for the bombing, suspicion has centered on the North Caucasus, where a jihadist insurgency has been fighting to establish an Islamic emirate. The bombing came less than 1 year after suicide bombers attacked subway stations in central Moscow during rush hour, killing nearly 40 people.

Source:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/01/29/russia.airport.bombing/?hpt=T2>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [3](#), [5](#), [8](#), and [17](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## Agriculture and Food Sector

33. *February 3, Saratoga Springs Sarotogian* – (New York) **Community rallies around Kings Ransom Farm family following barn collapse; 25 animals perish.** A barn collapsed at a dairy farm in Northumberland, New York, February 2, trapping dozens of cows. Area dairy farmers, along with local firefighters, arrived shortly after the evening collapse to assist the owners of Kings Ransom Farm on King Road. The entire back of the affected barn collapsed on top of the animals, a responder said. Around 250 cows were inside the barn at the time of the collapse. Although animals were being evacuated into the late evening, 25 cows and young stock perished. Fire department personnel from Schuyler Hose, Wilton, and Gansevoort responded.  
Source:  
<http://saratogian.com/articles/2011/02/03/news/doc4d4a2d35ad896281317463.txt>
34. *February 3, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Fire at Warrenton farm supply store still smolders.** A fire at Southern States, a farm supply store in Warrenton, North Carolina, was still smoldering February 3, more than 12 hours after it started, prompting the closure of schools and evacuation of homes and businesses. Firefighters let the fire burn itself out because of concerns spraying more water on the building would let chemicals run into the town's water supply, authorities said. The store sold hazardous and flammable materials, including fertilizer, aerosols, propane, and ammunition. Mariam Boyd Elementary and Warren County New Tech High School were closed February 3. Warren County High School, which served as an emergency shelter overnight, was open. The closings and evacuations could last until February 5. Initially, authorities evacuated about a dozen homes and businesses in a 3-block radius around the store. Some residents were allowed to go home, while other evacuees stayed at nearby hotels or with relatives. Fire crews and a hazardous-materials team from Raleigh monitored the fire and were on hand to keep it from spreading. Authorities said the fire started in the rear of the store, and foul play is not suspected. The state bureau of investigation arson team was helping local fire investigators. Crews from eight fire departments, including some from Virginia, battled the fire.  
Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/9050597/>
35. *February 3, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Longhorn Steakhouse at Bayonne Crossing evacuated after plow ruptures gas line.** The newly opened Longhorn Steakhouse was evacuated February 2 after a snow plow hit an ruptured a gas line in the Bayonne Crossing shopping center, in Bayonne, New Jersey. Firefighters and police responded at around noon and discovered a severed gas line spewing gas about 75 feet from the restaurant, officials said. The plow was found positioned just above the leak. The driver ran from the vehicle after turning the motor off, officials said. About 30 people were evacuated from the restaurant as a precaution. PSE&G stopped the gas leak by closing a supply valve at 12:30 p.m., the fire chief said.  
Source:  
[http://www.nj.com/bayonne/index.ssf/2011/02/longhorn\\_steakhouse\\_at\\_bayonne.html](http://www.nj.com/bayonne/index.ssf/2011/02/longhorn_steakhouse_at_bayonne.html)

36. *February 3, Associated Press* – (Virginia; National) **Virginia ag officials, FBI sponsor conference on terrorism aimed at US food supply.** The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is teaming up with the FBI to present a conference on terrorism aimed at the U.S. food supply. The Virginia Agroterrorism Conference is scheduled for February 4 in Blacksburg. It will bring together people who work in agriculture and law enforcement to discuss how state and federal agencies would respond to a terrorist incident aimed at dairy farms, food processors and veterinary medicine. The conference will discuss the profile of a terrorist, cyber security, and vulnerabilities in the food transportation sector. The Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is also sponsoring the event.  
Source: <http://www.wdbj7.com/sns-ap-va--agroterrorism,0,280455.story>
37. *February 3, Homeland Security News Wire* – (National) **Technology tracks produce from growth to delivery.** The recent federal food safety bill passed by Congress has set off a race among companies to provide technology to track individual items of produce from the field to the supermarket shelf. The new law contains a provision, dubbed “one step forward, one step back,” that requires every part of the complex U.S. food supply chain to be able to quickly trace where they received a food item from and where they sent it to. This provision is designed to aid in the speedy identification and recall of contaminated food items that have caused deadly food-borne outbreaks. A recently released CDC study showed roughly 3,000 people per year die from food-borne illnesses, while one in six Americans get sick from food every year. The increased call for greater accountability comes on the heels of a large national outbreak of salmonella food poisoning in 2008 that affected more than 1,300 people in more than 40 states and took months to identify.  
Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/technology-tracks-produce-growth-delivery>
38. *February 1, Associated Press* – (Louisiana; Mississippi; Alabama) **Gulf shrimping grounds reopened near BP oil spill well: NOAA.** A 4,200-square-mile area of the Gulf of Mexico near BP’s blown out well will reopen to deep water shrimping after federal scientists found the fishing grounds free of oil. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said it would reopen the area in federal waters off Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama February 2. The fishing grounds were initially closed after the April 20 Deepwater Horizon rig explosion but had reopened. They were closed again November 24 to royal red shrimping after a commercial shrimper found tar balls in his net. Tests to determine whether the material came from BP PLC’s well were inconclusive. Royal red shrimp are caught in waters deeper than 600 feet. NOAA said recent testing showed no oil or dispersant contamination in the area.  
Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/02/feds-reopen-shrimping-gro\\_n\\_817387.html?ir=Food](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/02/feds-reopen-shrimping-gro_n_817387.html?ir=Food)

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## **Water Sector**

39. *February 2, KTBS 3 Shreveport* – (Louisiana) **Water main break in Oil City repaired.** A break in a water main at Oil City’s water-treatment plant was fixed February 2, restoring water service to the north Caddo Parish, Louisiana, town. However, residents will remain under a boil advisory for at least 2 more days while state health officials test the water quality. The break happened in an old line of the water system and it was bypassed by repair crews.  
Source: <http://www.ktbs.com/news/26714325/detail.html>
40. *February 2, New York Times* – (National) **E.P.A. plans first rules ever on perchlorate in drinking water.** The U.S. Presidential Administration announced February 2 it planned to regulate toxic substances in drinking water more strictly and would issue the first limits ever on perchlorate, a dangerous chemical found in rocket fuel that has seeped into groundwater in at least 400 locations. The move, announced by the Environmental Protection Agency administrator is a major step toward modernizing the nation’s clean water laws, which have lagged behind environmental and health science for decades. Numerous studies have found hundreds of industrial and agricultural chemicals, including several known carcinogens, are present in municipal water systems around the country. The nation’s laws and enforcement programs have not kept pace, posing significant health risks to residents.  
Source: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/02/e-p-a-plans-strict-limits-on-toxic-chemicals-in-drinking-water/>
41. *January 31, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **NC city lowers fluoride levels because of concerns.** Asheville, North Carolina, has reduced the amount of fluoride in its regional water supply after new studies prompted the federal government to recommend smaller doses of the substance that has been promoted for decades as an aid against tooth decay. The Asheville Water Resources director said that fluoride in the regional water system is being reduced from 1 milligram per liter to 0.7 milligrams per liter, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/9030031/>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

42. *February 2, Associated Press* – (California) **Daughter seeks damages in slaying of Calif psychiatric hospital nurse, cites alarm failure.** The daughter of a psychiatric hospital nurse who was strangled has taken the first step toward suing the state over security lapses she claims led to the killing. The woman filed a claim with the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board. The claim filed February 2 said an alarm belt that the victim tried to activate did not work in an outdoor courtyard when a Napa State Hospital patient confronted her in October. The patient has pleaded not guilty to murder and robbery in the death. The claim alleged the 37-year-old suspect was given access to the Napa, California’s hospital grounds even

though he had threatened a fellow patient. A lawsuit could be filed if the claims board does not agree to a settlement.

Source:

[http://www.startribune.com/nation/115127284.html?elr=KArks:DCiUMEaPc:UiD3aPc:Yyc:aUoD3aPc:2yc:a\\_ncyD\\_MDCiU](http://www.startribune.com/nation/115127284.html?elr=KArks:DCiUMEaPc:UiD3aPc:Yyc:aUoD3aPc:2yc:a_ncyD_MDCiU)

43. *February 2, KATC 3 Lafayette* – (Louisiana) **Firefighters manage to save medical records during Evangeline Family Medicine fire.** A fire at Evangeline Family Medicine in Ville Platte, Louisiana, February 1 was determined to be arson. The state fire marshal was called and is now investigating. According to the Ville Platte Fire Department, a call came in at 8 p.m. regarding a fire at 110 E. Lincoln. The fire department said 26 firefighters fought the blaze. One firefighter was taken to the hospital with a cut on his hand but there were no other injuries. Responders were also able to save all of the medical records from the building. According to the fire department the attic of the building is damaged on one side but the building is not a total loss.

Source: <http://www.katc.com/news/firefighters-manage-to-save-medical-records-during-evangeline-family-medicine-fire/>

44. *February 1, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas* – (Texas) **Joint state and federal health care fraud probe leads to prison for Houston-area doctor.** A Kemah, Texas, man has been sentenced to 15 years for engaging in a conspiracy with his wife to commit health care fraud and committing health care fraud over a 10-year-period in the Southern District of Texas, a U.S. attorney announced February 1. A U.S. district judge further ordered the doctor to forfeit more than \$43 million. The doctor pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of health care fraud on April 26, 2010. He admitted that from January 1, 1998, through June 10, 2009, he and his wife fraudulently billed Medicare, Medicaid, and various private health care providers for medical procedures that were not performed.

Source:

[http://www.thecypresstimes.com/article/News/Local\\_News/JOINT\\_STATE\\_AND\\_FEDERAL\\_HEALTH\\_CARE\\_FRAUD\\_PROBE\\_LEADS\\_TO\\_PRISON\\_FOR\\_HOUSTONAREA\\_DOCTOR/39803](http://www.thecypresstimes.com/article/News/Local_News/JOINT_STATE_AND_FEDERAL_HEALTH_CARE_FRAUD_PROBE_LEADS_TO_PRISON_FOR_HOUSTONAREA_DOCTOR/39803)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

45. *February 3, Associated Press* – (Texas; National) **Senate report on shooting critical of FBI, Army.** A Senate report on the shooting on the Fort Hood military base near Killeen, Texas, was sharply critical of the FBI and its failure to adequately share information with the military about the alleged shooter's extremist views. It said the Pentagon failed to make necessary changes to identify violent Islamic extremism as a danger and discharge service members who express those views. According to portions of the report obtained by the Associated Press, military supervisors had the authority to discipline or discharge the psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people and wounding more

than 30 in the shootings. The FBI has said a special task force did not refer early information about the man to superiors because it concluded he was not linked to terrorism.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iVRUAnvU-VzZvihgD7bpMfXCeJPQ?docId=32f6040d3fb54c469e37eacae0d80a89>

46. *February 3, Owosso Argus-Press* – (Michigan) **Northern Michigan U. reopens after threat checked.** Classes resumed February 3 at Northern Michigan University and the public schools in Marquette, Michigan, which closed February 2 after the discovery of an online threat targeting the university. Officials said February 3 that Northern Michigan and the local schools were operating on normal schedules. Investigators have not disclosed the exact nature of the threat but said it was posted on a blog, and they were interviewing people who might know something about it. In a statement February 2, the university said the FBI and other agencies had found a similar blog post directed at other universities, and they did not believe the threat originated on campus.  
Source: [http://www.argus-press.com/news/national/article\\_05458e73-3a57-5973-8848-fe5c926a935a.html](http://www.argus-press.com/news/national/article_05458e73-3a57-5973-8848-fe5c926a935a.html)
47. *February 3, Hattiesburg American and Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **5 facing bomb threat charges.** Five Hattiesburg High School students in Hattiesburg, Mississippi face bomb threat charges following their arrest February 1. Hattiesburg Public School District (HPSD) police officers said a threat was called in to the school around 10 a.m. while school officials were dealing with weather issues. A 17- and an 18-year-old suspect were arrested as adults. Three other students were arrested and charged as juveniles. A HPSD spokesman said one of the suspects called in the threat as the others encouraged the first. After receiving the threat, the spokesman said administrators and police officers quickly searched the building. Following the search, administrators decided not to evacuate. One of the suspects admitted the threat was a prank when confronted by police. This is the latest in a string of bomb threats at Pine Belt high schools. The Lamar County School District police chief said a bomb threat at Oak Grove High School on January 14 is still under investigation. Forrest County Agricultural High School also received a bomb threat January 14. And January 20, a 17-year-old Columbia High School student was arrested and charged as an adult after allegedly sending a text-message bomb threat to one of her teachers.  
Source: <http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20110203/NEWS01/102030317>
48. *February 3, CNN* – (New Jersey) **3 found dead after car crashes into New Jersey school.** Three people were found dead in a car February 3 that crashed into an elementary school in Pine Beach, New Jersey, authorities said. The unidentified victims were found when police arrived at Pine Beach Elementary School, the media relations officer for the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office said. A call made by a school employee was received by the Pine Beach police department at 6:45 a.m. The vehicle was found nose down in a vertical position. “There appears as if there is a large hole in the side of the school building as a result of the car crash,” the media relations officer said. No school employees or students were injured. The crash is currently under

investigation.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/02/03/new.jersey.crash/index.html?hpt=T2>

49. *February 2, Associated Press* – (California) **Principal shot, killed at California elementary school.** A school janitor was arrested February 2 in the killing of a Northern California elementary school principal. No children were hurt in the late-morning shooting in the office at Louisiana Schnell Elementary School in Placerville, but one student may have witnessed the shooting, the police chief said. Authorities arrested the 44-year-old janitor at his home about an hour after launching a manhunt. Investigators were trying to determine a motive for the shooting about 50 miles east of Sacramento. The 50-year-old victim died at Marshall Medical Center. Police do not believe the janitor had a criminal history. Classes were canceled at all district schools February 3.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20110202/NJNEWS18/110202064/Principal-shot-killed-California-elementary-school?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

50. *February 2, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **5 leaking shells sealed at Pueblo Chemical Depot.** Army officials said they have found and sealed five artillery shells that had leaked mustard agent at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in southern Colorado. A depot spokesman said February 2 the leaks were detected in September when the air was tested in one of the storage bunkers. Crews installed a filter on the bunker's vent and began searching for the leak. Such searches can take weeks or months because each bunker can contain thousands of shells. Crews found five shells with dried mustard agent on them January 6. They were transferred to larger sealed containers the week of January 24. The depot contains 2,600 tons of mustard agent awaiting destruction under an international treaty. A plant to neutralize the agent is under construction and neutralization work is expected to start in 2015.

Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnewsold/ci\\_17274117](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnewsold/ci_17274117)

For another story, see item [34](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

51. *February 3, WHDH 7 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Ambulance goes up in flames in Jamaica Plain.** An ambulance went up in flames on the Jamaicaway in Boston, Massachusetts, February 2, sending smoke and flames shooting into the air. An oxygen tank exploded on-board, blowing the emergency lights off the roof of the vehicle. No one was hurt, but the explosion was so loud two firefighters had to have their hearing checked.

Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12003443378232/ambulance-goes-up-in-flames-in-jamaica-plain/>

52. *February 2, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Guns tracked by firearms bureau found at firefight scene.** Federal law enforcement sources have confirmed that two AK-47 assault rifles, part of a series of purchases that were being monitored by U.S. authorities, were found at the scene of the firefight that killed a U.S. Border Patrol agent in southern Arizona, December 14. Sources said U.S. authorities did not have the ability to adequately monitor the movement of the guns toward the southern border, in part because current laws and low levels of staffing. As a result, “the next time they became aware of those weapons was when they turned up at the crime scene,” one source said. The disclosure comes amid a widening congressional investigation into allegations lodged by whistleblowers within the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). They alleged the agency was aware of the purchase of assault weapons in the United States by buyers suspected of selling across the border, but failed to adequately track them. A U.S. Senator from Iowa has asked the bureau for detailed answers about its gun smuggling investigation, known as Project Gunrunner. In a letter, he said there are “serious concerns that the ATF may have become careless, if not negligent, in implementing the Gunrunner strategy.” He has focused on allegations two AK-47s purchased from a dealer in Glendale, Arizona January 16, 2010, were then used in the December 14 firefight that left a border patrol agent dead. Federal sources said agents were notified about the sale of the guns several days after the purchase.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-atf-guns-20110203,0,6169639.story>

53. *February 2, CNN* – (International) **14 die in 48 hours in Juarez.** At least 14 people were killed in 48 hours in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, including the February 1 deaths of a municipal police officer and a newspaper vendor who police believe was targeted because of her job. In a statement, federal police said they believed the female newspaper vendor was targeted by an area gang because she was seen as a threat to the gang’s control of street vendors. “La Linea thought she was discriminating against newspaper vendors they were extorting,” a municipal police spokesman said. The woman distributed the El Diario de Juarez newspaper, the most widely circulated paper in the city. Police said they had arrested a suspect who told them he was paid about \$250 for the killing. Also February 1, a municipal police officer was killed after armed gunmen shot him 15 times at a crowded intersection while his car stopped at a red light. The killing happened in front of dozens of people and caused panic, a journalist at the scene said.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/americas/02/02/mexico.violence/>

For more stories, see items [36](#) and [45](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

54. *February 2, Softpedia* – (International) **Two fraud gangs targeting Apple stores dismantled in US.** The Manhattan District Attorney announced that 27 people have

been indicted for offenses in connection to cybercriminal operations that involved purchasing electronic equipment from Apple Stores across the United States using counterfeit credit cards. One identity theft ring was allegedly ran as a family business by a man from Brooklyn, New York, and continued to operate even as he was serving time in prison for an unrelated offense. The gang's 17 members, who have all been charged, include the man's girlfriend and his brothers. According to prosecutors, the identity thieves were buying credit card magnetic strip data from cybercriminals overseas and were encoding it onto fake cards. They then imprinted their names onto the credit cards so that it seems as if they belong to them and went on a shopping spree at Apple stores in Manhattan in New York, and around the country. The fraudulently purchased Macbooks, iPods, iPhones, iPads, and other Apple products were being sold on the black market for considerable profits.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Fraud-Gang-Targeting-Apple-Stores-Dismantled-in-US-182219.shtml>

55. *February 2, Softpedia* – (International) **Hacker steals \$12 million-worth of Zynga virtual poker chips.** An IT expert pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the theft of virtual poker chips from social game developer Zynga and their reselling on the black market. The 29-year-old from Little Park Road in Paignton, United Kingdom, stands accused of four counts of converting criminal property and one count of obtaining unauthorized access to a computer with intent to commit an offense. He admitted to breaking into Zynga's systems by impersonating one of the company's online administrators and using the unauthorized access to send over 400 billion virtual poker chips to several Facebook accounts he set up in advance. He then sold the poker chips to other players at significantly discounted rates. The man earned around \$86,000 from selling a third of his capture. Had he managed to push all of the chips on the black market, the thief would have racked up \$298,000. Zynga estimated the value of the stolen poker chips at \$12 million at the normal rate charged by the company.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Hacker-Stole-12-Million-Worth-of-Zynga-Virtual-Poker-Chips-182214.shtml>

56. *February 2, IDG News Service* – (International) **PC makers scramble in wake of Intel's Sandy Bridge chip flaw.** Some PC makers are halting sales of PCs with Sandy Bridge processors as they try to work out issues related to Intel's faulty chipset, companies said February 2. Dell and Hewlett-Packard have removed from certain online stores desktops and laptops that paired Intel's latest Core i5 and i7 processors with a defective chipset that included a design flaw. Dell and HP are also providing remedies such as refunds or motherboard replacements to customers who have already purchased systems. Intel the week of January 30 said a design flaw prompted a halt in shipments of its 6-series chipset code-named Cougar Point, which was used with new Core processors announced in early January. Intel said the Serial-ATA (SATA) ports within the chipsets could degrade over time, which could impact performance or functionality of storage devices such as hard drives. The chip maker said that flaw could delay launches of laptops by a few weeks, as the chipset is closely paired with the new Core processors.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9207858/PC\\_makers\\_scramble\\_in\\_wake\\_of\\_Intel\\_s\\_Sandy\\_Bridge\\_chip\\_flaw](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9207858/PC_makers_scramble_in_wake_of_Intel_s_Sandy_Bridge_chip_flaw)

57. *February 2, Softpedia* – (International) **Anonymous resumes anti-government DDoS attacks as Internet access returns in Egypt.** As Internet connectivity was restored in Egypt, Anonymous announced its distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks against governmental Web sites also resumed. Before Egyptian ISPs were ordered to cut Internet service to consumers January 27, Anonymous was engaged in DDoS attacks against [www.moiegypt.gov\(dot\)eg](http://www.moiegypt.gov.eg), the Web site of the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, and [www.mcit.gov\(dot\)eg](http://www.mcit.gov.eg), the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology portal. The group of hacktivists was also distributing tools and manuals on how to avoid the Internet filters set up by the government to prevent citizens from reaching social media Web sites.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Anonymous-Resumes-Anti-Government-DDoS-Attacks-as-Internet-Returns-in-Egypt-182194.shtml>

### 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

58. *February 2, Reuters* – (National) **US seizes sports piracy websites before Super Bowl.** With the Super Bowl set for February 6, U.S. prosecutors said they have seized 10 popular Web sites that illegally streamed live sports and pay-per-view events on the Internet. Prosecutors said the Web sites provided links to give users easy access to other sites that host pirated, copyrighted telecasts from the National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, World Wrestling Entertainment Inc, and Ultimate Fighting Championship, which involves mixed martial arts. Prosecutors estimated that sports leagues and broadcasters lose millions of dollars annually from illegal streaming.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/02/website-seizures-sports-idUSN0224111520110202>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

59. *February 3, WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **Firefighters battling massive three-alarm fire at Dallas condos.** Fire investigators have not pinpointed the cause of a three-alarm fire February 3 in Dallas, Texas that destroyed 24 apartments at the

Tealwood on the Creek Condominium Complex, which is located just east of Greenville Avenue and north of East Northwest Highway. A large plume of black smoke was seen across the skyline as firefighters battled the blaze. Firefighters fought the fire in frigid temperatures and icy conditions. Since the winter storm blew through North Texas, firefighters have been sprinkling kitty litter on the ground to get a grip on the grounds. There has been no word on injuries or how the fire started.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Firefighters-battling-massive-three-alarm-apartment-building-fire-115178194.html>

60. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Fire causes \$1.2M in damages at gymnastics center.** Authorities said a pre-dawn fire in Aurora, Illinois, caused more than \$1.2 million in damages at a gymnastics center owned by the family of a former coach whose conviction in the molestation of students there was overturned on appeal. There were no injuries in the February 1 fire at American Institute of Gymnastics and Preschool. It took more than 3 hours for firefighters to get the extra-alarm blaze under control. The former coach was convicted in 2005 of molesting seven girls who took lessons at the gym. An appeals court threw out both the judgment and the man's 20-year sentence in 2008.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2011/02/02/1575558/fire-causes-12m-in-damages-at.html>

61. *February 2, Hartford Advocate* – (Connecticut) **100 residents evacuated in Middletown as building collapses.** One hundred people were displaced in Middletown, Connecticut, and a 3 block stretch of the city's main drag was evacuated after the collapse of a 120-year-old building at 505 Main St., February 2. Firefighters feared another building across the street might follow, and were monitoring a large crack visible in that structure's facade. The building that collapsed, which housed an accounting firm, was occupied as it began to buckle under the weight of accumulated snow and ice around 10:30 a.m. Occupants, including one of the firm's principles, heard cracking sounds and noticed that support beams on the top floor were fractured. The occupants fled the building and called the fire department, which is located just a few doors down the street. At a press conference February 2, the deputy fire marshal described a near miss when the building finally gave way. "Two of our firefighters were standing right on the sidewalk, right in front of the building. They heard a loud noise, and bricks starting to come away from the building, and within seconds everything was coming down on them."

Source: <http://www.hartfordadvocate.com/drive-by-media/100-residents-evacuated-in-middletown-as-building-collapses-057141>

62. *February 1, WTNH 8 New Haven* – (Connecticut) **Roof collapse at Trumbull tennis club.** The roof of the Trumbull Tennis Club in Trumbull, Connecticut collapsed at 7:30 p.m. February 1. No one was hurt because the club had closed around 3 p.m. due to the bad weather. The owner said normally the building is full of tennis players. Firefighters were on the scene February 1, securing gas leaks. The Trumbull fire chief said there was no danger to homes or businesses nearby. "It looks as though the roof had come in, the walls had fallen in in at least 50 percent of the building, the area out over the tennis courts," he said. With the weight of snow and ice, there have been several roof

collapses throughout the state.

Source: [http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/weather/winter\\_weather/roof-collapse-at-trumbull-tennis-club](http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/weather/winter_weather/roof-collapse-at-trumbull-tennis-club)

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## National Monuments and Icons Sector

63. *February 2, KXLF 4 Butte* – (Montana) **Dillon man sentenced for involvement in Birch Creek fires.** A 27-year-old Dillon, Montana, man was sentenced in federal court for his involvement in fires that were set in the Birch Creek area of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The man was sentenced to serve 2 years probation and pay \$1,110.97 restitution after pleading guilty to damaging government property. According to the U.S. Attorney's office, the suspect and two other people tried to light dead or dying pine beetle infested trees on fire in the Black Mountain area of the Dillon Ranger District in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest October 17, 2009. The following day, the two other people reportedly lit trees on fire in the Birch Creek area. When authorities questioned one of the other suspects, he said the 27-year-old man was present October 17. One of the other suspects is currently employed with the U.S. Forest Service as a firefighter. He was a temporary employee in October 2009 and was involved in the suppression effort for the Birch Creek fires, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. When interviewed about the fires, he reportedly said he had no involvement.

Source: <http://www.kbzk.com/news/dillon-man-sentenced-for-involvement-in-birch-creek-fires/>

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## Dams Sector

64. *February 2, MLive.com* – (Michigan) **Sanford Lake property owners begin spelling out options to fix dam, save lake.** The owner of Boyce Hydro which operates Sanford Lake Dam, in Sanford, Michigan, said he is ready to repair the seeping embankment around the dam and return the lake to its normal level, but he will not pay for the entire project. He said property owners and businesses that benefit from the recreational impoundment must pay for \$83,000 in improvements. The owner has threatened to shut down the dam and permanently drain the lake if they fail to do so. The water in the impoundment has been lowered about 4 feet until repairs are made. On February 1, the Sanford Lake Association met to discuss a plan of action to save the lake. Their first order of business may be to get federal legislators involved by putting pressure on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to see if Boyce is in compliance with its dam license. There is an active debate among readers on [mlive.com/midland](http://mlive.com/midland) on who should pay for the dam repairs. One reader suggested if all property owners chipped in \$75, they could raise enough funds. The owner said his Edenville-based company, which

operates four hydropower dams, spent \$153,000 in September to reinforce the Sanford Lake dam's existing structure. The additional \$83,000 repair project needed is the same type of work on a different part of the earthen embankment.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/midland/index.ssf/2011/02/sanford\\_lake\\_property\\_owners\\_begin\\_spelling\\_out\\_options\\_to\\_fix\\_dam\\_save\\_lake.html](http://www.mlive.com/midland/index.ssf/2011/02/sanford_lake_property_owners_begin_spelling_out_options_to_fix_dam_save_lake.html)

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