



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 February 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Associated Press reports a South African man was arrested on suspicion of threatening to attack Great Britain and the United States with foot and mouth disease. (See item [35](#))
- The U.S. Coast Guard does not have enough working icebreakers to respond to a major oil spill in Alaskan waters, the top official who oversaw containment of the BP oil spill warned Congress February 11. (See item [45](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

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

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

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

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

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

FEDERAL and STATE

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

Energy Sector

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

1. *February 13, Associated Press* – (California) **PG&E may have lost data with new computer.** A move nearly two decades ago by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) to computerize its pipeline records may have led to the company missing crucial information about its pipeline system. The San Francisco Chronicle reported February 13 that since acquiring what was considered a highly rated computer program in 1993, PG&E has struggled with the information compiled in its database. After installing the system, information had to be entered from paper documents, some dating back to the

1930s. A review of records and interviews with individuals by the Chronicle found some key information was sometimes unavailable or difficult to interpret, possibly explaining why PG&E officials were not aware the pipeline in San Bruno that exploded September 9 had been built with a seam, according to the newspaper. Federal investigators have determined the blast originated at a poorly installed weld on the seam. As part of its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board is scrutinizing PG&E's data system.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_17379219?nclick_check=1

2. *February 13, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pipe ‘imperfection’ found after fatal blast in Pennsylvania.** Investigators looking into the cause of a gas explosion that killed five people in Allentown, Pennsylvania the week of February 7 are focusing on an “imperfection” in a pipe near the blast site. The February 9 explosion flattened a pair of row houses and set fire to a block of homes, killing five people. On February 12, investigators told the Morning Call of Allentown they were zeroing in on an abnormality in a section of pipe. An area fire chief said workers were to dig up the section of pipe February 13 and take a closer look. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission will then send the pipe to a forensics expert. A spokesman for UGI Utilities Inc. said the commission is running the inspection and will report to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Source:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/02/pipe_imperfection_found_after.html

3. *February 12, Christian Science Monitor* – (National) **Alaska oil pipeline has safety and environmental risks.** The U.S. Department of Transportation's pipeline safety division said the trans-Alaska pipeline is corroded and poses a severe public safety and environmental risk. The 800-mile pipeline ships 12 percent of the domestic oil supply. In a letter sent earlier in February to the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., a coalition of oil companies that control the pipe, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration [PHMSA] said “multiple conditions pose a pipeline integrity risk.” A reason for the increased corrosion is limited use. At its peak, the pipeline carried 2.1 million barrels per day, crossing three mountain ranges, from the North Slope of Alaska to Valdez, the state's northernmost port. The decrease in oil flow is accompanied by a drop in crude oil temperatures, which leads to corrosion. The lower temperatures also create the risk the water mixed with crude oil may freeze in case the pipeline needs to be temporarily shut down. The PHMSA letter said, “the water itself is another corrosion hazard” that could damage all components of the pipeline including instrumentation and valves.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2011/0212/Alaska-oil-pipeline-has-safety-and-environmental-risks>

4. *February 11, KXAN 36 Austin* – (Texas) **Oil leak shuts down Lake Bastrop.** Lake Bastrop in Bastrop, Texas, is closed to recreation while the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) cleans up a 450 gallon oil spill. An LCRA spokesperson said a tube in the cooling system at the Sim Gideon power plant broke February 10, causing the

leak of lubricating oil. The oil is used to grease a turbine at the power plant. The agency is now using booms in the water and absorbent materials along the shore to try to contain the oil that spilled. The spokeswoman said LCRA does not anticipate any negative impact to wildlife or plants in the lake. Lake Bastrop is closed to swimmers, boaters and fishermen until LCRA is satisfied with the clean-up results. The parks surrounding the lake, however, are still open for recreation.

Source: <http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/local/oil-leak-shuts-down-lake-bastrop>

5. *February 11, Ottawa Times* – (Illinois) **Train derails, coal spills.** Train crossings were blocked February 11 after part of a train derailed in Mendota, Illinois. The 122-car train, pulled by two engines, was on a flat, straight stretch when about a dozen of the cars on the end went off the track at about 1:13 p.m. Several of the derailed cars remained standing, but most turned over, spilling their cargo of coal. There were no injuries. The derailment occurred across the street from the Mendota Fire Station. “The whole building shook. We saw black smoke, but it turned out to be coal dust,” a Mendota firefighter said. He noted it was fortunate the derailment happened where it did — along an empty lot. As of late February 11, the cause was unknown, but there were reports the cars had been swaying before they tipped. Three crossings were initially blocked, but later only the crossing at Fifth Street remained closed.

Source: <http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=424317>

For more stories, see items [22](#) and [45](#)

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

Chemical Industry Sector

6. *February 13, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Idaho) **Two injured in semi crash on I-84.** Idaho State Police (ISP) dealt with a HAZMAT scare February 13 when a semi pulling three trailers overturned on Interstate 84 near milepost 98. “This truck pulling three trailers was headed westbound,” a senior trooper with ISP said. “For a reason that’s under investigation, [it] went off the road on the right shoulder, and then over-corrected, coming back on to the road and overturned, blocking both lanes of westbound traffic for approximately four hours this morning.” The incident occurred at about 7 a.m. The driver and his passenger were taken to Elmore Medical Center with minor injuries. The big worry for police was the bottles of Class-2 gas (a classification which applies to anything from propane to aerosols) that were in one of the trailers. “It was one of our main concerns this morning as far as what hazardous materials we were possibly dealing with,” the trooper said. “There was no spill or leakage.”

Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/home/I-84-blocked-after-semi-crash-116112369.html>

7. *February 12, KHOU 11 Houston; KFDM 6 Beaumont* – (Texas) **Tanker truck carrying hydrogen catches fire on I-10.** A portion of I-10 was closed February 8 after a truck carrying hydrogen gas overturned and exploded near Winnie, Texas. Authorities said the driver, who was hauling 10 tubes filled with hydrogen gas to a distributor, was heading east on I-10 near FM 1410 around 4 a.m. The trucker said he heard a tire blow

out at the back of the trailer, then saw flames shooting from the back of the truck. The driver pulled over and tried to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher, but the flames quickly spread to some of the hydrogen tubes. The man called 911, and authorities quickly responded. The highway was going to be closed for several hours. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.khou.com/home/Tanker-truck-carrying-hydrogen-catches-fire-on-I-10-116080684.html>

8. *February 11, KMOV 4 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **I-44 reopens after hazardous chemical spill near St. Clair.** Interstate 44 has reopened after a chemical spill near St. Clair, Missouri, shut down a portion of the highway February 11. At least eight fire department hazardous material units were called to the scene around 4 p.m. to assist in cleaning up the mess. According to officials, a large quantity of hydrofluoric acid and ammonia started leaking from a semi truck trailer. It started with the truck driver stopping at the rest area and being overcome by the fumes. His 911 call triggered a massive response from fire departments across Franklin and Jefferson counties. Officials said the truck was legally hauling the ammonia and hydrofluoric acid. The chemicals were stored in containers and were being taken to an unknown company for disposal. The driver of the truck suffered minor chemical inhalation injuries. He seemed to be fine once he got to the hospital, officials said.

Source: <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Chemical-spill-shuts-down-Hwy-44-near-St-Clair-115975029.html>

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

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *February 14, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **VY to begin testing two more pipes.** Representatives of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont, told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) February 10 it will be testing two more of the five target pipes that were identified as possible sources of tritium found in samples taken from groundwater monitoring wells. The notification came during the NRC's weekly update regarding the investigation into the source of the contamination, which was found in wells near the plant's radioactive waste building. The most recent sample of the well closest to the waste building had a tritium level of 4,460 picocuries per liter (ppl). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safe-drinking water limit for tritium is 20,000 ppl. Two of the identified pipes were cleared earlier the week of February 7 as being the source of the tritiated water after they were pressure tested and found to still have "appropriate structural integrity." The testing involves the use of a crawler device equipped with inflatable bladders, an NRC spokesman said. He said the date for the testing of the fifth line has not been determined.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17380576

10. *February 14, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star* – (Virginia) **Panel to hear reactor objections.** An Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing panel will hear

arguments on an environmental group's latest objections to a planned third reactor at North Anna Power Station in Louisa County, Virginia. An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel (ASLB) meets March 3 at the Louisa County Office Building. The ASLB is the NRC's independent adjudicatory body. It conducts public hearings on contested issues that arise during nuclear reactor licensing and enforcement. Officials with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) and Dominion power, which has an application for Unit 3 pending before the NRC, and NRC staff will be on hand. The session is open to the public, but only representatives of BREDL, Dominion, and the NRC will be allowed to make presentations. BREDL, a longtime opponent of expanding the North Anna plant raised two new objections last year. Those are tied to Dominion's announcement last summer it would use a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries reactor design, rather than its initial choice of a General Electric-Hitachi design. Both designs are still in the federal certification process. BREDL, based in North Carolina, contends water requirements for Mitsubishi's Advanced Boiling Water Reactor need more review. The second point involves seismic studies and whether the North Anna site is suitable for nuclear reactors. The plant sits within the central Virginia seismic zone, one of two earthquake-prone spots in the state. Seismic studies were done prior to the construction of its two existing reactors in the 1970s, and were revisited when Dominion applied for its initial early site permit for Unit 3.

Source: <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2011/022011/02142011/605749>

11. *February 14, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Tight budgets threaten pace of cleanup at Paducah nuclear fuel plant.** The “moon suits” and radioactivity monitors workers wear while decontaminating long-idle buildings speak to the dangers that remain at the nuclear fuel factory outside Paducah, Kentucky. And the worries about radiation, toxic gases in old pipes, and asbestos in building materials extend beyond the 5.5-square-mile Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant property. While a cleanup that began in 1988 has made progress, buoyed by \$79 million in 2009 economic stimulus funds, that temporary money is running out, and the U.S. Department of Energy is warning future budget cuts could dramatically slow the project. A 2019 deadline set 8 years ago for the first phase of the massive remediation will need to be pushed back to at least 2032, the federal agency said — and as many as 350 clean-up workers are in jeopardy of layoffs this year. That's a huge disappointment to residents and to state regulators, who said that while workers have taken stop-gap steps to reduce pollution threats, only a full cleanup will protect people and the environment over the long term. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified nearly 50 serious contaminants on or near the plant, including pollutants that can cause liver, lung, thyroid, and kidney damage, and various cancers. The short-term measures, such as taking a limited number of people off their wells and posting warning signs near a polluted stream, were never intended to be a permanent solution, said the official who oversees the cleanup for the Kentucky Division of Waste Management.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110213/NEWS01/302130030/1003/BUSINESS/Tight-budgets-threaten-pace-cleanup-Paducah-nuclear-fuel-plant?odyssey=nav/head>

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

Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *February 14, Paw Paw Courier-Leader* – (Michigan) **EPA begins cleanup of former Paw Paw Plating site.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 began cleaning up hazardous materials the week of February 13 at the site of the former Paw Paw Plating facility in Paw Paw, Michigan. An abandoned building on the site contains chemicals used in the electroplating process. The EPA expects contractors to complete the cleanup within 90 days. Paw Paw Plating began custom electroplating in the 1950s and stopped operating in December 2009. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment referred the site to the EPA for cleanup. Heavy metals, including cadmium, chromium, copper, and cyanide, were used in the electroplating process. The company also performed metal processing such as machining, polishing and painting, using trichloroethylene as a metal degreaser. There are a variety of hazardous materials remaining in the building. EPA will inventory and evaluate the hazardous substances on site; consolidate and package hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants and transport them off-site for disposal in accordance with EPA rules; and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the property for contamination. Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20456030&BRD=2188&PAG=461&dept_id=414962&rft=6

13. *February 11, American Metal Market* – (International) **Aluminum tight on Venezuela unrest.** Primary aluminum production at Venezuela’s two state-owned producers has been hit hard by weeks of labor protests, sources said, disrupting shipments to South America and intensifying concerns about metal availability in parts of the United States and Mexico. Union workers have been blockading entrances at CVG Alcasa for weeks, disrupting operations at the 200,000-ton-per-year smelter, according to official government news reports. Fewer than 200 of the 680 electrolytic cells at Alcasa have been operating. Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2766183/Aluminum-tight-on-Venezuela-unrest.html>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *February 14, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **U.S. to replace nuke delivery platforms.** The U.S. Presidential administration’s fiscal 2012 budget request calls for the United States to replace the land-, air-, and sea-based components of its nuclear deterrent, potentially setting the nation on a course that could cost hundreds of billions of dollars over 5 decades, Time magazine reported. The administration rolled out its budget February 14 for the fiscal year that begins October 1. The move toward replacing all three components of the nation’s nuclear “triad” stems from the conclusions of the administration’s Nuclear Posture Review, which asserted “retaining all three triad legs will best maintain strategic stability at reasonable cost, while

hedging against potential technical problems or vulnerabilities.”

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110214_1414.php

15. *February 13, Florida Today* – (Texas) **Report says NASA underestimated shuttle dangers.** NASA seriously underestimated the dangers astronauts faced when the shuttle fleet began flying in the early 1980s, an internal safety study shows. At the time, managers thought there was only a 1-in-100,000 chance of losing a shuttle and its crew. Engineers thought the probability was closer to 1 in 100. But in reality, the odds of a disaster were much higher. On each of the shuttle’s first nine missions, there was a 1-in-9 chance of a catastrophic accident, according to the new risk analysis. On the next 16 flights that led up to and included the January 1986 Challenger disaster, the odds were 1 in 10. NASA lost 14 astronauts in 2 shuttle tragedies, and saw near misses on a dozen other flights. NASA’s Shuttle Program Safety and Mission Assurance Office at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, performed the assessment to gauge the progression of risk — increases and decreases — over 3 decades of fleet operations. Doing so could help next-generation rocket and spaceship operators better understand the real level of risk involved in flying astronauts on inherently dangerous missions.
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/02/gannett-nasa-report-says-shuttle-dangers-underestimated-021311w/>

16. *February 11, Military Times* – (National) **Budget impasse delays scheduled ship repairs.** Operating without an approved budget, the U.S. Navy is cutting upcoming shipyard repairs and warning of looming cuts to new ship construction such as Virginia-class submarines and littoral combat ships. Since Congress has not passed a budget for fiscal 2011, the Navy is operating under the previous year’s funding levels, which amounts to a \$5.7 billion cut. “We are in the process now, regrettably, with having to cancel some maintenance availabilities because I can’t exceed the budget limits that have been placed on us because of the continuing resolution,” the Chief of Naval Operations said February 10. Under the continuing resolution, short-changed Navy officials are forced to make budget decisions month-to-month.
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/02/navy-budget-impasse-delays-ship-repairs-021111w/>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

17. *February 14, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Authorities release photo of suspect in multiple Howell bank robberies.** Federal authorities February 14 released security camera photos of a man who held up a Howell, New Jersey, bank February 12 and threatened a teller with a gun. He is believed responsible for other violent bank robberies in which people were injured, authorities said. At 9:19 a.m. the man entered the PNC Bank, 4620 Route 9 South, and handed the teller a note demanding money and threatening the worker, the FBI said in a statement. The man also stated the threat verbally and pulled out a handgun, believed to be a black revolver, authorities said. The man was described as an African-American, about 30- to 40-years-old, with a stocky

build and clean shaven except for chin hairs. He was wearing a dark knit hat and one black glove with white writing on it. “The robber is considered armed and dangerous and believed to be connected with several armed holdups in the Howell area that resulted in violence with injuries,” the FBI said in its statement.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/authorities_release_photo_of_s_1.html

18. *February 11, KSAZ 10 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **FBI agents search for ‘Thou Shalt Not Steal’ bandit.** A serial bank robber is still on the loose in the Phoenix, Arizona area, and FBI agents recently revealed new details about him. He is concealed in dark clothing and authorities have named him the “Thou Shalt Not Steal” bandit. He got the name after breaking into a Christian book store to get access to a nearby bank. “Thou Shalt Not Steal does his homework more than most bank robbers, he plans, does surveillance.” an FBI Special Agent said. The suspect has robbed four banks. The break-ins were 6 months apart, which tells agents he studies each bank carefully. In October, agents said the suspect robbed a Johnson Bank in Scottsdale. Police said he cut a hole in the roof — an unconventional break-in, now his trademark. “First three, he tunneled through a wall ... adjoining wall with another business,” thSpecial Agent said. Once inside, the robber terrorizes employees. The Special Agent said “He is very violent when he gets inside the bank..confronts employees at gunpoint,” and he handcuffs bank workers, then flees with stolen money. “Based on his preparation and how meticulous he is, we suspect some type of military background,” the FBI Special Agent said. The suspect seems to understand how bank security works and may have been a former banker. FBI agents are searching for a man who is white or Hispanic, 5’ 6” to 5’ 10” inches tall, 25 to 45 years old, and athletic.

Source: <http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/local/phoenix/fbi-agents-search-for-thou-shalt-not-steal-bandit-02112011>

19. *February 11, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **3 men charged in Chicago area bank robberies.** Three men have been charged with robbing several banks in Chicago and Waukegan, Illinois, FBI officials said February 11. All three appeared in U.S. District Court and were ordered held in connection with the robberies, FBI officials said in a press release. Waukegan police and Illinois State police investigators arrested the 21-year-old suspect, who hails from Kenosha, during a February 10 robbery. The suspect was arrested after he and two others committed a “take-over style” robbery of the Associated Bank, 1 South Genesse Street. On February 11, FBI officials arrested a 45-year-old suspect from Chicago. He was charged in connection with a bank robbery that occurred February 9 at the Chase Bank branch, 5715 N. Broadway. He is also suspected in the May 5, 2010 bank robbery of a North Community Bank branch, 5342 N. Broadway, FBI officials said. Also arrested and charged with bank robbery was a 53-year-old male from Chicago, officials said. He was charged in connection with the January 21 robbery of a Bank of America branch, 9233 S. Commercial Ave. in Chicago. He is also suspected in the attempted January 21 robbery of the Bank of America branch, 1651 E. 95th St., and/or the December 28 bank robbery of the Bank of America bank branch, 9233 S. Commercial Ave. He appeared in U.S. District Court in Chicago before a U.S. Magistrate Judge February 10.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-3-men-charged-in-chicago-area-bank-robberies-20110211,0,4939436.story>

20. *February 10, Department of Treasury* – (International) **Treasury identifies Lebanese Canadian bank SAL as a ‘primary money laundering concern’**. The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced February 10 the identification of The Lebanese Canadian Bank SAL together with its subsidiaries (LCB) as a financial institution of primary money laundering concern under Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act (Section 311) for the bank’s role in facilitating activities of an international narcotics trafficking and money laundering network. This network moves illegal drugs from South America to Europe and the Middle East via West Africa and launders hundreds of millions of dollars monthly through accounts held at LCB, as well as through trade-based money laundering involving consumer goods throughout the world, including used car dealerships in the United States. Treasury has reason to believe LCB managers are complicit in the network’s money laundering. The action also exposes the terrorist organization Hezbollah’s links to LCB and the international narcotics trafficking and money laundering network. “This action seeks to protect the U.S. financial system from the illicit proceeds flowing through LCB and to deprive this international narcotics trafficking and money laundering network of its preferred access point into the formal financial system,” said the Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. “Any financial institution that collaborates in illicit conduct on this scale risks losing its access to the United States.”

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1057.aspx>

21. *February 9, The Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Albany man pleads guilty to fraud**. The former chief financial officer for Willamette Development Services, an Albany-based real estate company with residential projects in Lane County, pleaded guilty February 8 to conspiring to commit securities fraud. The 36-year-old male admitted he helped facilitate financial improprieties and made false statements that caused investors to lose more than \$5.25 million in WDS securities, according to a statement by the U.S. Attorney in Portland. The Albany man is scheduled to be sentenced August 9 before a U.S. District Judge in Eugene. The maximum penalty for conspiring to commit securities fraud is 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The collapse of WDS in 2008 left hanging at least two half-built subdivisions in Lane County — Lenore Estates, a 23-home subdivision in Eugene’s Santa Clara neighborhood, and Wisteria Estates, 10 high-end homes near the Sandpines Golf Course in Florence. WDS had sought \$1.2 million from investors for the Santa Clara project, and \$300,000 for the Florence project, according to a 2008 Register-Guard story about the company.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/25870170-41/company-financial-fraud-investors-securities.csp>

For another story, see item [50](#)

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

Transportation Sector

22. *February 13, CNN* – (National) **Fuel truck, Delta jet collide at LaGuardia.** A fuel truck collided with a parked Delta Air Lines jet at LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York February 13, according to officials for the airline and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. No one was seriously injured, they said. The incident occurred at 12:05 p.m. when the truck ran into the stationary Delta MD-88 aircraft on the tarmac. None of the 106 passengers or 5 crew members aboard flight 2879 was injured. The driver of the fuel truck suffered cuts on his head and was taken to an area hospital. The collision damaged the truck and one of the aircraft's wings. The Fort Lauderdale, Florida-bound flight was canceled. Officials refused to comment on how fast the fuel truck was moving when it collided with Delta aircraft until after an investigation of the incident is completed.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/02/13/laguardia.airport.collision/index.html>
23. *February 13, Associated Press* – (International) **Mob arrests raise issues of crime, port security.** A recent federal sweep netted more than 120 defendants, among them several dockworkers and longshoremen union officials. The FBI called it one of the largest Mafia takedowns in history. The indictments seem to indicate that organized crime elements persists in the ports, despite decades of law enforcement efforts to root them out. Some experts said it is a troubling trend because the ports are considered extremely sensitive homeland security targets in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. They said that although the indictments do not indicate direct threats to port security, having criminal elements in the ports could pose a danger. Others said a badly diminished mob no longer wields the influence among dockworkers it once did, and that changes in the way ports operate have made them safer.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9LC14F81.htm>
24. *February 13, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Locomotive catches fire in Wilmerding.** A Norfolk Southern locomotive caught fire February 12 east of Wilmerding, Pennsylvania, forcing fire officials to halt train traffic for about an hour. Wilmerding's volunteer fire chief said crews "encountered heavy black smoke" when they arrived at the scene off Westinghouse Avenue about 4 p.m. Firefighters used hand-held dry chemical extinguishers to put out the flames, which were contained inside the locomotive. The fire chief said it appeared an oil pump blew a fitting and spilled oil onto the floor. The cause of the fire is under investigation. A spokesman for Norfolk Southern said the problem was minor.
Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_722649.html
25. *February 12, California Beat* – (California) **Pepper spray release hospitalizes passengers at Powell St. station.** San Francisco, California Police officers and firefighters briefly cleared the Powell Street Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI) Metro Station February 12 after numerous people were overcome by pepper spray, a fire dispatcher said. Emergency personnel received a call about an unknown irritant disturbing passengers shortly after 6 p.m., according to the fire department. Four of the affected victims — including two

passengers and two MUNI Metro station agents — were sent to the hospital for treatment. All are expected to recover, an agency spokesman said. Other bystanders, including two children were also sprayed but did not need to be transported to the hospital. The station was partially cleared while the fire department’s Hazardous Materials squad determined what the irritant was. A witness told the Beat the release occurred at the MUNI Metro fare gates. The station was fully reopened after 6:30 p.m. Service on BART and MUNI Metro was not delayed because of the emergency response. The person who released the pepper spray had not been identified and is still at-large, police said.

Source: <http://www.californiabeat.org/2011/02/12/pepper-spray-release-hospitalizes-passengers-at-powell-st-station>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), and [26](#)

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *February 11, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Jackknifed trucks snarls I-15 traffic.** A jackknifed FedEx semitrailer truck leaking diesel fuel created a commuting nightmare February 11 for northbound drivers on Interstate 15. The accident occurred about 3 p.m. just north of Rancho Bernardo Road. By the time the truck was towed off the freeway and all lanes were open about 3 hours later, traffic was backed up miles to the Miramar area. The truck driver, who was alone in the cab, was taken to a hospital “for observation,” a FedEx spokeswoman said. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) was investigating and it was unclear what caused it, a CHP officer said February 11. He said the initial accident appeared to involve the semi and at least one other vehicle, and that possibly “seven or eight” vehicles were damaged in total.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/feb/11/jackknifed-trucks-snarls-i-15-traffic/>

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

Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *February 14, Associated Press* – (New York) **Fire at Jefferson County barn kills 150 dairy cows.** Authorities said 150 cows were killed February 13 in a barn fire on a northern New York dairy farm. Officials told Watertown media outlets the fire started around 8:30 p.m. in a barn in the Jefferson County hamlet of LaFargeville, 80 miles north of Syracuse. Family members said they had finished milking cows earlier in the evening and believe a milk pump may have caused the fire, which killed all of the animals in the barn. Firefighters from more than a dozen departments responded to the blaze, which destroyed the 276-foot-long metal siding barn. Tankers had to be used to ferry water to the scene. The cause remains under investigation.

Source:

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/fire_at_jefferson_county_barn.html

28. *February 13, Associated Press* – (International) **Mexican club attack kills 6.** Armed men opened fire and hurled a grenade into a crowded nightclub February 12, killing 6 people and wounding at least 37 in Guadalajara, Mexico, whose former tranquility has been shattered by escalating battles among drug cartels. The attack in Mexico's second-largest municipality took place just hours after a shootout between soldiers and presumed cartel gunmen left eight people, including an innocent driver, dead in the northeastern city of Monterrey. In the Guadalajara attack, assailants in a Jeep Cherokee and a taxi drove up to the Butter Club, located in a bar and restaurant district popular with young people, and sprayed it with bullets. Some of the men got out of the taxi and threw a grenade into the nightclub entrance, a police official said. The gunmen fled after the predawn attack.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/nationworld/ci_17374997
29. *February 11, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Birds poisoned to curb dairy threat.** Dozens of poisoned European starlings fell out of the sky onto the ground and into trees February 9 in Kinderhook, New York, the result of a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sanctioned controlled killing of birds considered a threat to specific dairy farms. The dark, lightly spotted birds that travel in enormous flocks consume massive amounts of cattle feed, according to a sanitarian with the Columbia County Health Department. The USDA went to two farms the week of February 7, one in Kinderhook and one in Millerton, where the starlings were congregating. At each location, they laid down a large mat laced with poisonous bird seed. The mats were spread out for a few hours at a time and observed closely by USDA officials. The sanitarian noted the poison is specific to attract only European starlings. The poison take less than 24 hours to kill the birds. Several Kinderhook residents called the health department February 9 and 10 after spotting dead birds on town farms. Some people even reported seeing them fall out of the sky. The poisoned birds do not pose a health threat to humans, but officials warned that anyone who finds a dead bird should not pick it up with bare hands because of potential diseases.
Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Birds-poisoned-to-curb-dairy-threat-1009182.php>
30. *February 11, Southeast AgNet* – (Florida) **Mediterranean fruit flies found in Pompano Beach.** The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has positively identified the presence of two Mediterranean fruit flies, *Ceratitis capitata*, collected during routine fruit fly monitoring. The origin of these flies, collected in Pompano Beach residential area of Broward County, has not been determined. The department is placing 2,000 additional traps in a 50-square-mile area around the positive find and with the U.S. Department of Agriculture will check the traps daily. In addition, the department will set up a certification process for host materials to move in and out of the quarantine zone. The Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) is considered the most serious of the world's fruit fly pests due to its potential economic harm and threat. It attacks more than 250 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including oranges, grapefruit, lemons, apples, guava, mango, tomatoes, and peppers.

Source: <http://southeastagnet.com/2011/02/11/mediterranean-fruit-flies-found-in-pompano-beach/>

31. *February 11, Associated Press* – (International) **Gunmen kill 8 in violent north Mexico border city.** Gunmen barged into a bar in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and opened fire February 10, killing seven women and one man, authorities said. Three other people were wounded at the “Las Torres” bar and were in critical condition, a spokesman for Chihuahua state prosecutors said. The attack is under investigation. More than 3,000 people were killed last year in Ciudad Juarez, the city of 1.3 million residents across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g1jzxkq4eN6VQ_9_DPpwyWi0HMIA?docId=780770f73e6b4d8690ca467fee4df15e

For another story, see item [35](#)

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

Water Sector

32. *February 14, KOB 4 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Crews work to restore water in Ruidoso.** Ruidoso, New Mexico, residents were on day eight with no water but families should start seeing some relief starting February 14, officials said. The governor sent 100 troops with the National Guard to help restore water. A Ruidoso spokesperson said that of the 1,400 homes with no water, 750 of those belong to full time residents and the rest are vacation homes. Emergency crews have divided the affected areas into five zones. Beginning February 14 at 6 a.m., crews were said to begin restoring service to homes in zones one and two, which include Brady and Perk Canyon. Restoration in zones three, four, and five which include the north and south side of Upper Canyon and Black Forest was expected to begin around noon. Emergency officials said the entire effort would last through February 15.
Source: <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/s1972525.shtml#>
33. *February 13, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **Fuel spill in North Fork of Kentucky leads to water advisory in Letcher.** Some Letcher County, Kentucky, residents have been advised not to drink or bathe in their water because of a fuel spill in the North Fork of the Kentucky River, officials said February 12. State division of water and county officials were testing water between Mayking and Whitesburg, and had not determined what was causing problems. The spill smelled and looked like diesel fuel. Any Letcher County residents on the city of Whitesburg’s water supply, including residents of Cowan, Little Cowan, Dry Fork, and Mayking, are under the advisory. Officials were distributing bottled water at the Cowan recycling center and at Whitesburg City Hall.
Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2011/02/13/1633015/fuel-spill-in-north-fork-of-kentucky.html>

34. *February 11, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Crews locate Warwick sewer-line break.** Warwick, Rhode Island, Sewer Authority officials have located a sewer-line break that almost shut down the city's largest pump station and caused wastewater to back up into the basements of five homes February 9. The executive director of the Warwick Sewer Authority said crews, which began digging around the Cedar Swamp Road pump station February 11, now know the location of the break, and were about halfway to the 25-foot depth of the pipe's location as of late that afternoon. She said the break apparently occurred in a 48-inch, reinforced-concrete main installed in 1976. The pump station is crucial to the Warwick sewer system, she said, because the flow from several other stations is funneled through it, and it ends up handling about 50 percent of the system's sewage, about 2 million gallons of wastewater per day. The sewer authority is working with the state department of environmental management to monitor Buckeye Brook, which cuts behind the station and was affected by the spillage from the broken pipe. Water samples will be taken as work progresses and after repairs are completed.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/WARWICK_SEWER_FOLO_11_02-11-11_TCMEMOQ_v7.1a1dda7.html

For more stories, see items [9](#) and [11](#)

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

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *February 14, Associated Press* – (International) **South African appears in court on terror charges.** A South African businessman accused of threatening to unleash biological weapons on Great Britain and the United States may have been driven by concern over the plight of white farmers in neighboring Zimbabwe, a spokesman for the prosecution said February 14. The suspect did not have the means to carry out his threats to spread foot and mouth disease. The 64-year-old man, who owns an engineering firm outside Johannesburg, South Africa, appeared in a Johannesburg court after his arrest February 12 on terror charges. He threatened in letters and e-mails sent to the British government to spread the disease in Britain and the United States unless he was given \$4 million. "We have the expertise and resources to do this very effectively and will be able to devastate the industry in the U.K. which will cost billions to the economy," he wrote in an e-mail to the British government. "We will devastate your farms and then we will then take the problem to your coconspirator the USA." South African police said a 6-month terror investigation by South African, British, and U.S. officials culminated with his arrest. U.S. and British officials confirmed they had worked closely with the South Africans. Police charged the man with terrorist activity and money laundering.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110214/ap_on_re_af/af_south_africa_terror_arrest

36. *February 11, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Computer with patient information stolen from St. Francis.** A computer containing diagnostic records, Social Security numbers,

and other information for 84,000 patients was stolen from St. Francis Health System in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, January 14, company officials said February 11. The records were for patients treated before 2004, and anyone affected will receive a letter from the hospital. Officials have not heard any reports of identity theft and police speculated the hardware may have been stolen for parts and the copper and gold it contains. The Broken Arrow Police Department is investigating. The large, mainframe computer system was stolen from an imaging center in what was formerly Broken Arrow Medical Center. The computer was in storage. Federal law mandates that medical records be kept for at 7 years, a hospital official said. The number of patients affected represents about 5 percent of total former patients.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=17&articleid=20110211_17_0_Acompu197135

37. *February 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Report: Medicare drug program vulnerable to fraud.** Crooks are taking advantage of lax oversight in Medicare's Part D prescription drug program to obtain highly addictive drugs including oxycodone, Ritalin, and methadone, according to results of a federal probe. The report by an independent inspector said Medicare cannot verify all the prescriptions it pays for, leaving the system open to exploitation by criminals using fake medical ID numbers and the identities of dead doctors. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which administer the federally funded health insurance program, is not adequately confirming prescriptions are actually written by physicians, according to the investigation by the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services. Pharmacies and other Medicare contractors are supposed to enter a number that identifies prescribers. In many cases, that data is left blank or assigned a dummy number, the report found. The missing information does not always indicate fraud and could include clerical errors, but without prescriber identifiers, it is hard for investigators to determine. The report showed CMS paid \$20.6 million for 228,000 prescriptions for so-called schedule II drugs with invalid prescriber IDs in 2007. Investigators recommended that contractors not be paid for Schedule II prescriptions that have an invalid doctor ID number, but Medicare officials worried stricter oversight could hamper legitimate patients' access to medications.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/02/11/2062052/report-medicare-drug-program-vulnerable.html>

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

Government Facilities Sector

38. *February 14, Associated Press* – (National) **Federal official threats lead to few charges.** Only a few dozen threats a year against federal officials result in prosecutions, often because it is impossible to identify a suspect, Justice Department (DOJ) officials said. A review of threat prosecutions by the Associated Press following the shootings of a Democratic U.S. Representative and a U.S. District Judge in January in Tucson, Arizona, showed it typically takes much more than posting warnings on obscure

Internet sites to lead authorities to act. The people actually charged with threatening federal officials have taken the time to write, call, e-mail or appear in person to put their names behind their warnings. Each year, hundreds of threats make their way to the DOJ, according to government data compiled by Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a private, nonpartisan group based at Syracuse University in New York. Justice officials said many cases reach them before a suspect has been identified because investigators need subpoenas or other legal help in trying to trace a threat to its source. Often a suspect is never identified, so no prosecution is possible.
Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/14/federal-official-threats-n_822732.html

39. *February 14, CNN* – (Tennessee) **Shooting suspect on Tennessee university campus captured.** A suspect is in custody about an hour after one person was shot February 14 on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a school spokesman said. Officials called off a lockdown, which had been in effect as SWAT teams and other law enforcement authorities converged on the campus, after the suspect was detained about 12:45 p.m., the university’s media relations director said. A gun said to have been used in the incident has also been confiscated. Authorities were alerted at 11:51 a.m. about a shooting in a basic and applied science building located in a cluster of university structures. “From what I understand, there were two men who got into an argument over by some of our buildings,” the media relations director said. “One shot the other in the hand, then took off.” The victim, whose condition was not immediately known, was taken to a nearby medical facility. It was not confirmed whether those involved were students.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/02/14/tennessee.school.shooting/index.html?hpt=T2>

40. *February 12, WHMI 93.5 FM Howell* – (Michigan) **Local man enters plea in bomb incident at Howell library.** A 29-year-old Howell, Michigan man charged in connection with a bomb incident at a local library entered a plea in the case February 12. The suspect pleaded guilty to a felony count of manufacturing a bomb or bomb shell and being a habitual offender – second offense. In exchange, prosecutors will recommend a 1-year jail cap when he is sentenced April 14. The man was charged in connection with a December 7 incident where the state police bomb squad had to disarm and detonate a small explosive device that had been left by his ex-girlfriend inside her car outside the Howell Carnegie District Library. The suspect’s girlfriend had been in the process of transporting it to the Howell Police station when she stopped at the library and then decided it would be best to just have police come get the bomb, which turned out to be a black powder explosive.

Source: <http://whmi.com/news/article/11736>

41. *February 11, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Firefighters: KC high school evacuated twice after blazes were started in lockers, break room.** Students were evacuated twice from a troubled Kansas City, Missouri, high school and eventually sent home an hour early February 11 after blazes were started and a fight broke out. A police spokesman said eight students were detained after the disturbances at the Southwest

Early College Campus. The damage from the blazes included burned ceiling tiles. The school had been one of the district's most successful until a consolidation plan more than doubled its enrollment. Since the start of the school year, two principals have resigned and firefighters have been called to the school 50 times. A battalion fire chief told the Kansas City Star that 14 of the calls were for fires, and six for medical emergencies. He said the rest were false alarms or were canceled before firefighters arrived.

Source: <http://www.fox4kc.com/news/sns-ap-mo--schoolchaosevacuation,0,3205876.story>

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

Emergency Services Sector

42. *February 14, Softpedia* – (International) **Virus outbreak causes serious downtime for NSW ambulance service systems.** The computer system coordinating ambulances in three New South Wales, Australia regions was offline for more than 24 hours following a malware outbreak. Dispatchers were forced to revert back to the old pen and paper-based method that has not been used since the computer-assisted system was put in place over 10 years ago. “There’s been a complete failure of the computer aided dispatch system that allows ambulances to respond, sometimes to critically ill patients,” a NSW Opposition Health spokesperson told ZDNet Australia. The virus hit the system at around 1 p.m. February 12, forcing IT technicians to shut it down and initiate manual cleaning procedures. The time it took for all computers to be cleaned exceeded the expectations of the NSW Ambulance Service’s management. The malware responsible for the incident and the source of infection have not been revealed.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Virus-Outbreak-Causes-Serious-Downtime-for-NSW-Ambulance-Service-Systems-184129.shtml>

43. *February 13, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Covington’s small fire station destroyed by fire.** A fire that was still under investigation February 13 destroyed the small fire station in Covington, Texas, February 12, and caused light damage to the town’s city hall. The blaze destroyed the department’s fire rescue truck and two brush trucks; a third brush truck also was heavily damaged, a Covington fire captain said. No injuries were reported in the blaze that took firefighters almost 1 hour to extinguish. At least six nearby volunteer fire departments and a fire engine from Hillsboro responded.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/02/13/2845378/covingtons-small-fire-station.html>

44. *February 13, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Fire forces evacuation of 200 Hillsboro inmates.** A smoky fire forced the evacuation of more than 200 inmates at the Washington County Corrections Center in Hillsboro, Oregon, and 14 of them were hospitalized. Hillsboro fire officials said a small fire broke out February 13 in the facility’s laundry room which created a great deal of smoke. Firefighters quickly put out the blaze and inmates were evacuated to the front yard of the sheriff’s office across the street. Officials said there were no serious injuries but 14 people complained of

nausea and vomiting and were treated at area hospitals. The evacuees were later moved indoors to the Washington County Jail. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/feb/13/fire-forces-evacuation-of-200-hillsboro-inmates/>

45. *February 11, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. icebreakers can't handle Alaska oil spills: official.** The U.S. Coast Guard does not have enough working icebreakers to respond to a major oil spill in Alaskan waters, the top official who oversaw the containment of the BP oil spill warned Congress February 11. “The current condition of the Coast Guard icebreaker fleet should be of great concern to the senior leaders of this nation,” the general testified at a House Transportation subcommittee hearing on the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He said two of the three ice breakers do not work, and decisions on future funding for the fleet continued to be delayed. Similar concerns about icebreakers were raised by the special presidential commission that looked into the BP oil spill and government offshore drilling regulations. He said current infrastructure is inadequate to support extensive response and recovery operations off Alaska’s North Slope, except for oil industry facilities at Dead Horse and Prudhoe Bay. “Point Barrow, the only location close to the new Beaufort and Chukchi Sea lease areas, has limited access and no ability to support large-scale operations,” he said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/11/us-arctic-oil-vessels-idUSTRE71A5RM20110211?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>

46. *February 11, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **New policing strategies creating challenges.** Radical changes in methods, strategies, and technologies of policing necessitate the forging of new relationships between police and communities, according to a new study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), *The Changing Environment for Policing, 1985-2008*. “Not only are changes occurring in the environment that may affect the structure of policing but police themselves are in the process of changing the way they work,” the report explained, noting the factors driving this are the threat of terrorism, intelligence-led policing, and DNA analysis. While these developments have helped drive a significant decrease in violent crime over the past 2 decades, according to the report, each has also transferred initiative in directing operations to specialists who collect and analyze data and away from both general-duties police and the public. “These changes could undo the signature contribution of the 1980s — community policing,” the report noted. A focus on counterterrorism, for example, centralizes decision making, shifting it upward in police organizations. Intelligence-led policing, which utilizes crime mapping, data mining, and the widespread use of closed-circuit television monitoring, “empowers senior commanders to develop their own agendas for law enforcement rather than consulting with affected communities.” DNA analysis also further weakens community ties to law enforcement by allowing crimes to be solved without witnesses or confessions.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/new-policing-strategies-creating-challenges/c78bc9b15de7307ccd6cbe4e579f5443.html>

For another story, see item [53](#)

Information Technology Sector

47. *February 14, Help Net Security* – (International) **SMS trojan masquerading as Valentine-sending mobile application.** Microsoft researchers have detected a mobile trojan masquerading as an MMS-sending application that is currently available online. The file in question is named love_mm(dot)rar, and contains a JAR installer named jimm2010(dot)jar, which is actually the trojan. The file also contains a number of Valentine-themed pictures which, by the look of it, indicate the trojan is targeting Russian mobile users. While the messages are being sent, the trojan sends a message to a Russian premium SMS short code number. “Note that the JAR installer runs on any mobile platform that supports Java, such as Symbian and Windows CE operating systems,” experts warned.
Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1630
48. *February 14, Softpedia* – (International) **Rootkit.com compromise poses risks to other sites.** People who analyzed the recently leaked rootkit(dot)com user database warned the compromise also has implications for accounts on other sites due to password reuse. The week of February 6, the Anonymous collective hacked into the systems of a security firm called HBGary, which threatened to expose its high-ranking members. The group leaked tens of thousands of corporate e-mails and other confidential information, along with the user database of rootkit.com, a research Web site maintained by HBGary’s founder and CEO. Because the passwords in the database were hashed with the vulnerable RC5 algorithm, they were relatively trivial to crack. Dazzlepod managed to recover the passwords for 64,489 accounts out of the nearly 81,000 in the database using the popular John the Ripper password cracking software.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Rootkit-com-Compromise-Poses-Risks-to-Other-Sites-184099.shtml>
49. *February 14, Softpedia* – (International) **Microsoft accuses former employee of stealing confidential data.** Microsoft is accusing one of its former managers of breaking a non-competition agreement and leaving the company with around 600 MB in confidential information. In January, the software giant sued a former market development manager with its customer relations management (CRM) and online services division in order to prevent him from accepting a position at Salesforce.com. Salesforce is one of Microsoft’s primary competitors on the hosted CRM solutions market and the Windows maker claims the employee had signed an agreement preventing him from accepting a job from a rival company. The judge sided with Microsoft and issued a temporary restraining order preventing the former manager from starting work at Salesforce. Microsoft now wants to make that decision permanent. They filed a motion the week of February 6 alleging that, despite claiming otherwise, when he left the company December 31, the employee took with him over 900 files consisting of business plans for 2011. Microsoft claims allowing its former manager to go work for Salesforce would cause it significant damages because of the knowledge he has about Microsoft’s operations.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Microsoft-Accuses-Former-Employee-of-Stealing-Confidential-Data-184043.shtml>

50. *February 11, Help Net Security* – (International) **Fake scanned documents lead to Zeus infection.** A new spam e-mail campaign is currently underway, and takes the form of a document scanned and sent by a Xerox WorkCentre Pro scanner. The attachment is a specially crafted PDF document, BitDefender warned, and it is able to exploit four Adobe Acrobat Reader vulnerabilities — all of which can be used by an attacker to remotely execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system. In this case, the ultimate goal of the people behind this spam campaign is to spread the credentials-stealing Zeus trojan.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1629

51. *February 11, Softpedia* – (International) **Security experts fear iframes on Facebook pages could spell trouble.** Security experts fear the introduction of iframes for Facebook pages will open the door to abuse and will make the job of attackers on the social network much easier. Facebook announced February 10 Page administrators could start creating Page Tabs that load apps inside iframes instead of the more restrictive Facebook Markup Language. “While this is no doubt great news for legitimate developers, it will undoubtedly make life for those with malicious intent much easier too,” a senior security advisor at antivirus vendor Trend Micro said. “No more likejacking required, no more having to persuade users to install your app, if a criminal can make the bait sweet enough just to get you to visit the page, that is all they will require to start the chain that leads to your computer being compromised and used for criminal purposes,” he explained.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Security-Experts-Fear-IFrames-on-Facebook-Pages-Could-Spell-Trouble-183981.shtml>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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

Communications Sector

52. *February 13, Network World* – (International) **Reports conflict on Internet, Facebook blackout in Algeria.** Reports said Algeria has shut down Internet access and eliminated Facebook accounts as pro-democracy protesters seek to topple the government much as Egyptians did in their nation the week of February 7. Reports of the international hacking group Anonymous blocking an Algerian government Web site have also surfaced. An Internet monitoring company that closely tracked the Egyptian Internet shutdown, said in a blog post February 12 that it was not seeing an Internet

shutdown in Algeria: “Algeria typically has about 135 routed network prefixes in the global routing table, and our data show that they are all still routed and relatively stable.” Protesters against the Algerian president’s regime have been encouraged by the success of anti-government movements in Egypt and Tunisia, which were organized to a great extent via the Internet and social media. The protests and Internet crackdowns in these countries have revived talk in the United States of giving the U.S. President an Internet kill switch.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9209238/Update_Reports_conflict_on_Internet_Facebook_blackout_in_Algeria

53. *February 12, Associated Press* – (National) **FCC acts against cell phone jamming.** The enforcement arm of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a new effort to crack down on cell phone and GPS jamming devices. The FCC Enforcement Bureau warned consumers, manufacturers, and retailers, including online and Web-only companies, that the marketing, sale, or use of cell, GPS, and other jamming devices is illegal. The Enforcement Bureau chief said plans include education, outreach, and aggressive enforcement. Jamming devices are radio frequency transmitters that intentionally block, jam, or interfere with wireless communications. Increasingly, online retailers tout small, inexpensive jammers as the solution for noisy classrooms, theaters, restaurants, or business meetings. But jammers are indiscriminate and can block critical public safety and other emergency communications.
Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/business/wsbt-fcc-acts-against-cell-phone-jamming-20110212,0,4312719.story?>
54. *February 11, New Scientist* – (National) **The cyberweapon that could take down the Internet.** A new cyberweapon could take down the entire Internet – and there is not much current defenses can do to stop it. So say a student at the University of Minnesota (UM) in Minneapolis and his colleagues, the masterminds who have created the digital ordinance. They are suggesting improvements to its defenses. The students’ new attack pits the structure of the Internet against itself. Hundreds of connection points in the net fall offline every minute, but it goes unnoticed because the net routes around them. It can do this because the smaller networks that make up the Internet, known as autonomous systems, communicate with each other through routers. When a communication path changes, nearby routers inform their neighbors through a system known as the border gateway protocol (BGP). These routers inform other neighbors in turn, eventually spreading knowledge of the new path throughout the Internet. A previously discovered method of attack, dubbed ZMW – after its three creators, U.S. researchers who came up with their version 4 years ago – disrupts the connection between two routers by interfering with BGP to make it appear the link is offline. The UM student and his colleagues worked out how to spread this disruption to the entire Internet and simulated its effects.
Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn20113-the-cyberweapon-that-could-take-down-the-internet.html>

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

Commercial Facilities Sector

55. *February 14, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Taliban suicide bomber strikes Kabul mall.** A Taliban suicide bombing February 14 ripped apart the entrance to the sole Western-style shopping mall in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing at least two security guards. The Taliban quickly took credit for the strike at the City Center mall, which adjoins a four-star hotel popular with foreigners. The attack targeted the same demographic groups as last month's bombing in a high-end Kabul supermarket: Western civilians and the Afghan elite with whom they most often mix. While Kabul's expatriate community and prominent Afghans have been attacked by the Taliban in the past, the capital had enjoyed months of calm in the second half of 2010 even as violence spiked up elsewhere in the country. The bombings also appear to be signaling a strategy shift by the Taliban, who in early January said they planned to focus more on Kabul. The entrance to the City Center mall was a crush of broken glass and mangled aluminum siding. Windows were blown out of nearby shops and some parts of the hotel's glass facade.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703584804576144084115745532.htm?mod=googlenews_wsj
56. *February 13, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **50 evacuated in Portland apartment blaze.** A fire in a Portland, Oregon apartment building forced the evacuation of 50 people. Firefighters rushed residents from the 36-unit building after arriving around 3 p.m. February 13, and finding a fire burning on the third floor. Officials said no one was injured. Firefighters also rescued several pets, but one dog was killed. The blaze was declared under control after about 45 minutes. Fire officials said the blaze has left the building on NW Glisan Street temporarily uninhabitable.
Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/feb/13/50-evacuated-in-portland-apartment-blaze/>
57. *February 11, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Cleaning product fumes lead to evacuation of Hyattsville office building.** About 300 employees evacuated a University Town Center office building in Hyattsville, Maryland, February 11, after two workers complained of smelling a strange odor and feeling sick. Prince George's County firefighters were alerted to the strange smell in the building, around 10 a.m. The smell turned out to be from a restaurant on the first floor of the building, which was using an industrial strength product to clean its cooking equipment, a fire/EMS department spokesman said. The entire building was ventilated and the two workers who became ill reported feeling better after getting fresh air, he said.
Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/02112011/prinnew125225_32556.php

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [28](#)

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

National Monuments and Icons Sector

58. *February 13, Hendersonville Times-News* – (North Carolina) **Forest fire burning near Sunny View.** Fire crews February 12 monitored a forest fire burning in steep, rugged terrain that they could only reach on foot at Judes Gap near the Sunny View community in North Carolina. About 10 acres were ablaze on a mountain between Sunny View and Edneyville, and the Sunny View fire chief said firefighters were pulled back at 8 p.m. because conditions were too dangerous to continue. The fire was reported at about 4 p.m. The U.S. Forest Service had two crews on the scene February 13 to fight the blaze, the fire chief said, and the hope was to get a helicopter to drop water on the fire. The cause of the wildfire has not yet been determined. Firefighters had limited access to the fire and had to walk in on old hiking trails and logging roads. Crews dug a fire line and hoped the wildfire would burn to the line and go out. Crews were caught off guard by the blaze because forest fires are not common at this time of year, especially with all the snow the region has received. Firefighters from Sunny View, Edneyville, and Mill Spring departments responded, along with U.S. Forest Service crews from Henderson and Polk counties.

Source:

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20110213/ARTICLES/102131015/1008/SPORTS?Title=Forest-fire-burning-near-Sunny-View&tc=ar>

59. *February 10, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Ozarks man charged in soldier memorial scam.** Police in Harrison, Arkansas, have arrested a 42-year-old man for allegedly raising money for a memorial to the city's fallen soldiers but keeping it for himself. The suspect was arrested February 8 on three counts of theft. He's being held on \$100,000 bond. Investigators said the man traded on a legitimate effort to collect donations for such a memorial begun by the father of a soldier who was killed last year in Afghanistan. The man is accused of placing donation buckets in stores in north Arkansas and the Missouri cities of Branson, Hollister, and Springfield. The father of a late Army specialist alerted police. The Boone County Jail said the suspect was still in custody February 9. He did not have a court appearance set or an attorney listed.

Source: <http://www.kspr.com/news/local/kspr-soldier-memorial-scam-harrison-ar-man-arrested-for-keeping-money-raised-for-soldier-memorial-20110210,0,6513182.story>

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

Dams Sector

60. *February 13, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Jamestown won't pay for flood damage.** The city of Jamestown, North Dakota, will no longer pay for damage to private property from flooding, dikes, or levees. The city administrator said that after spring flooding in 2009, the city paid about \$500,000 to cover damage. The mayor said it was a financial burden. The city council recently approved a policy denying city liability.

Source: http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_806eba74-37fa-11e0-a874-001cc4c03286.html

61. *February 13, Riverside Press-Enterprise* – (California) **San Jacinto River: Levee design, environmental work move ahead.** A quarter-century after the last major San Jacinto River levee project, the city of San Jacinto, California, is about a year away from a new project to fortify the riverbanks and make it possible to build in the city's Gateway area. A draft environmental report is due in the spring. The Riverside County Flood Control District has agreed to pay half of the estimated \$25 million cost. The city manager said the week of February 6 the city is looking at a combination of grants, redevelopment funds, drainage plan fees, and possibly creation of a community facilities improvement district in the area affected by the project. About \$1 million is committed to the preliminary work. The work will free up about 2,000 acres from floodplain status so it can be developed north of the Ramona Expressway from State Street about 6 miles west to the Gateway near the Ramona Expressway and Sanderson Avenue. An earthen levee will be capped by concrete on the south side of the riverbed, similar to the upstream levee. Another levee on the north side of the river protects the Golden Era studios area along Gilman Springs Road. The terminus of the project downstream from Sanderson would widen into a fan shape, where runoff would continue to Mystic Lake. A city engineer told the council the levee project should be ready to advertise for construction bids within a year.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_elevee14.2196a7a.html

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

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