



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 February 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to Reuters, gunmen claiming to represent a powerful drug cartel have threatened to attack isolated natural gas well drillers unless they pay to operate in parts of northern Mexico. (See item [5](#))
- Ruidoso News reports subzero temperatures damaged pipes causing Ruidoso, New Mexico, to lose 15 million gallons of water and suffer about \$1.7 million in infrastructure damage. (See item [37](#))

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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 18, Dow Jones Newswires* – (Utah) **Tesoro refinery in Utah reports power outage.** Tesoro Corp. said February 17 a power outage at its Salt Lake City, Utah, refinery February 16 caused a release of sulfur dioxide from the refinery’s flare stacks, according to a government filing. The 58,000 barrel-per-day refinery, the largest in Utah, produces gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel and liquified petroleum gas, according to Tesoro’s Web site.

Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201102171100dowjonesdjonline000432&title=tesoro-refinery-in-utah-reports-power-outage>

2. *February 18, Houma Today* – (Louisiana) **Oil-spill investigators: ‘This was an entirely preventable disaster.** BP failed to keep a close watch on work done by the cement contractor at its doomed Macondo oil well, even though an audit had spotlighted problems with the firm, Halliburton Co., 3 years before the Deepwater Horizon disaster, according to the Presidential oil spill commission. The inadequate oversight may have proved deadly, the panel’s chief investigator concluded February 17, because the “root technical cause” of the blowout in the well in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana that killed 11 workers and unleashed the spill April 20 was a failure of “the cement that BP and Halliburton pumped to the bottom of the well.” In a 357-page report that expands on the panel’s earlier accounts of the disaster, the commission’s chief counsel, also said workers accepted implausible explanations for errant test readings that could have revealed problems with the cement. The chief counsel’s report underscores the commission’s January 11 conclusions that a series of technical failures contributed to the blowout, but all of them can be traced back to “an overarching failure of management.” For instance, the commissioner faulted BP for “inadequately” supervising the cement job done by Halliburton, since the British oil giant had long raised concerns about the contractor’s work performance. The commission previously documented concerns about the stability of the nitrogen-injected foam cement used to seal the Macondo well before BP temporarily stopped work at the site. A faulty cement job could allow channels or vulnerabilities for natural gas and oil to escape a well during the time between when it is drilled and when it is later hooked up to a production facility.
Source: <http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20110218/WIRE/110219464/-1/sports?Title=Oil-spill-investigators-This-was-an-entirely-preven-table-disaster->
3. *February 18, WPXI 11 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Gas line with 2 leaks sickens teachers at Chartiers Valley school.** More than 800 students at Chartiers Valley Primary School in Collier Township, Pennsylvania, were sent to the middle school after reports of a natural gas odor in the area. School officials said the smell permeated the area around Thoms Run Road and the school February 17. Authorities said no students became sick because of the smell, but two teachers had to be taken to nearby hospitals for treatment. Gas officials said a line in the area had two leaks in it about a quarter-mile from the school. Crews ventilated the building and gave the all-clear, but school officials kept all the kids at the middle school all day just to be safe. Firefighters have since completed readings that showed the levels of gas to be normal in the area.
Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/26899603/detail.html>
4. *February 17, KTVX 4 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Weather causes power outages along Wasatch Front.** Rocky Mountain Power has reported there were many areas along the Wasatch Front and Northern Utah that suffered power outages caused by snow and strong winds February 16. As of 8:30 p.m., there were 19,200 homes with confirmed power outages. About 17,000 of these homes were in Salt Lake County, 250 homes

south of Salt Lake, and 2,000 homes north of Salt Lake including Davis County, Northern Utah, and South East Idaho.

Source: <http://www.abc4.com/content/news/state/story/Weather-causes-power-outages-along-Wasatch-Front/58FZjE8Gbkq2lsG28A-GNQ.csp>

5. *February 15, Reuters* – (International) **Mexican drug gangsters menace natural gas drillers.** Gunmen claiming to represent a powerful drug cartel have threatened to attack isolated natural gas well drillers unless they pay to operate in parts of northern Mexico, two industry sources said February 15. The gunmen warned workers they would be killed unless their employer paid protection money to Zetas, a feared drug gang, a senior executive of the company overseeing the construction of the wells told Reuters. The threats are a new twist in Mexico's bloody drug war, which is hitting businesses near the United States-Mexico border. In one case, the suspected drug gang demanded 10 percent of what Pemex was paying for the gas contract, the company executive said. Security at the well sites is under review, but no drilling has gone ahead there, the executive said. An external consultant employed at Pemex's Mexico City headquarters confirmed the events. There are believed to be other gangs threatening gas fields, but only the instances involving gunmen identifying themselves as Zetas have been confirmed by company sources.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20110215/wl_nm/us_mexico_drugs_energy

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *February 17, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Metro to honor MARC tickets.** The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) agreed to honor Maryland Area Regional Commuter Brunswick Line tickets February 17, following massive morning delays that stretched some riders' commutes by an hour. Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) officials said the delays were due to a CSX freight train that had a braking emergency west of Germantown. The train was a mile and a half long, and carried hazardous materials. Protocol required all train traffic to stop while the conductor walked "the entire length of the train to ensure that the train had not derailed and that no hazardous chemicals had been released," MTA said. Once the train resumed, it had a second emergency braking between Rockville and Garret Park, requiring a second inspection and suspension of train traffic. MTA said the train had cleared the MARC area and would not affect afternoon service.

Source: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dr-gridlock/2011/02/metro_to_honor_marc_tickets_2.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *February 18, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **Extra Diablo Canyon plant scrutiny rebuffed.** A federal court has rejected a nearly decade-long effort by the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (SLOMFP) for greater public oversight of safety issues surrounding Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant's above-ground storage facility for highly radioactive used reactor fuel. This week, a panel of three judges of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied requests by the watchdog group to require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to prepare a full review of the environmental impacts of a terrorist attack on the dry cask facility in Avila Beach, California, along with a closed-door hearing on the subject with the group's attorney. "The NRC's refusal to grant SLOMFP a closed hearing and access to sensitive information was not arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion or otherwise contrary to the law," the judges wrote. Spokesmen for the NRC and plant owner PG&E said they were pleased with the ruling. A Mothers for Peace spokeswoman said the group is deciding whether to pursue further appeals. The group had asked that its attorney, who has security clearance, be given a closed hearing where she could challenge the NRC's assertion no credible attack on the dry cask facility could do significant damage to the environment. Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/02/17/1488106/extra-diablo-canyon-plant-scrutiny.html>

8. *February 18, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (National) **NRC releases redacted draft of Yucca safety report.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) released draft staff reports February 18 on the proposed Yucca Mountain repository but omitted any conclusions about whether the Las Vegas, Nevada site would be safe for storing radioactive waste. Agency officials delivered two volumes to Capitol Hill and made them public in response to a Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. One of the documents was a 700-page volume where NRC scientists set out to evaluate the controversial question of whether tunnels carved in the mountain might safely hold radioactive particles from decaying nuclear fuel for up to a million years. The staff's findings and conclusions were whited-out in that volume, and in an accompanying 655-page volume. A NRC spokesman said the reports were "predecisional draft documents," and the redactions were justified by a FOIA exemption that excludes material that could affect a legal process. Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/nrc-releases-redacted-draft-of-yucca-safety-report-116460713.html>

9. *February 18, St. Paul Pioneer Press* – (Minnesota) **House agrees to lift ban on new nuclear power plants.** Minnesota took a big step toward removing a ban on new nuclear power plants February 17 when the state house followed the senate's lead and voted to dump the 17-year-old moratorium. It marked the first time both houses had passed the controversial proposal in the same year. Still, the Republican-led effort has a ways to go. The governor has opposed it, demanding three criteria for his support. The house met one of them by adding a restriction against reprocessing spent fuel into weapons-grade plutonium. But the bill still lacks ratepayer protections and a lid on more nuclear-waste storage. While Republicans got some Democratic-Farmer-Labor

support, the 81-50 vote fell short of the 90 supporters Republicans would need to override a veto by the governor. The senate passed a similar bill this month on a veto-proof 50-14 vote.

Source: http://www.twincities.com/ci_17418021?nclink_check=1

10. *February 18, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Dominion restarting Surry nuclear reactor.** Dominion Virginia Power is restarting a nuclear reactor at its Surry County, Virginia power station after the unit was idled for more than 2 weeks for repairs. Surry's Unit 2, which automatically shut down February 2 because of a coolant-flow problem, was operating at 59 percent of capacity the morning of February 18, according to figures provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Dominion told the NRC the Unit 2 reactor tripped when a valve in the reactor coolant system closed inadvertently and reduced the flow in the cooling system. There was no release of radiation.

Source: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/2011/feb/18/dominion-restarting-surry-nuclear-reactor-ar-852456/>

11. *February 18, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **San Onofre back online after biggest upgrade ever.** The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Southern California's largest power plant located near San Clemente, returned to full power February 18 following a big retrofit that involved cutting holes in its twin containment domes. The southern reactor, Unit 3, resumed making electricity at 2:56 a.m. after an outage that involved refueling and replacing its biggest component, a pair of steam generators used to boil water that drive a 1,100 megawatt steam turbine. The northern reactor, Unit 2, returned to power last year after a similar retrofit. The generators allow the plant to run its electric turbines without using radioactive steam. Nuclear reactors heat water that runs at high pressure and temperatures through the generators, where its heat is used to boil non-radioactive water for steam to spin the turbines.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/feb/18/san-onofre-back-online-after-biggest-upgrade-ever/>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *February 18, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (New York) **Metal smelting company fire requires special firefighting techniques.** A fire in a large filtration system February 17 at Eastern Alloys in Maybrook, New York, required the use of dry chemical agents to put it out. The 35-foot-high tower, which contains cotton filters, caught fire while it was shut down for maintenance, the Maybrook fire chief said. Because of the presence of zinc dust, firefighters could not use water to fight the flames. Consequently, the Stewart Airport Air National Guard's Fire Department was called in with its dry chemical extinguishing agents. No one was injured and all employees were evacuated.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2011/February/18/Mayb_fire-18Feb11.html

13. *February 18, WGRZ 2 Buffalo* – (New York) **Lackawanna plant shut down; “explosive” dangers.** A code enforcement officer in Lackawanna, New York, was shocked at what he saw on the old Bethlehem Steel site February 17 — a newly-constructed building that never received permits and four 1,000-gallon propane tanks haphazardly installed. “If those were to blow up, I think we’d probably lose a quarter of the city,” the code enforcement officer said. “We’d have an explosion that they would probably feel in Pennsylvania. Plus, there are also other chemicals on site that could ignite, being very toxic to other people and to residents.” The building was constructed over railroad tracks, and the propane was used to heat rail cars as they passed through. The heat warms the coke inside the cars, allowing it to be dumped as part of the transport process, Lackawanna officials said. The property in question is now owned by Mittal Steel but is being leased to a company called Coltera. The company that supplied the propane, NOCO, shut down the tanks as soon as it was informed of the problems. The code enforcement officer said the operation will remain closed until all parties involved work out a solution.
Source: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/article/109918/1/Lackawanna-Plant-Shut-Down-Explosive-Dangers>
14. *February 17, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Sno-Tek snow blowers recalled by Liquid Combustion Technology Due to laceration hazard.** Liquid Combustion Technology, LLC (LCT), of Travelers Rest, South Carolina, issued a recall February 17 of about 1,500 Sno-Tek snow blowers. The manufacturer was Ariens, of Brillion, Wisconsin. The snow blower’s engine is missing a safety shield above the side mounted electric starter, posing a laceration hazard to consumer’s fingers. No injuries/incidents have been reported. The snow blowers were sold at Home Depot and Ariens authorized dealers nationwide from August 2010 through September 2010.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11137.html>
15. *February 16, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **LEM Products recalls food dehydrators due to fire hazard.** LEM Products, of Harrison, Ohio, issued a recall February 16 of about 3,500 food dehydrators with digital timers. The screws that secure the motor to the back panel can come loose, causing the motor to fall on the heating element. This poses a fire hazard. LEM has received five reports of motors falling on the unit’s heating element resulting in smoke or fire contained in the unit. No injuries have been reported. The food dehydrators were sold at mass merchandisers and retailers nationwide and online at [www\(dot\)lemproducts\(dot\)com](http://www.lemproducts.com) from August 2010 through December 2010.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11131.html>
16. *February 16, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Atico International USA recalls heaters due to fire hazard.** Atico International USA, Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, issued a recall February 16 of about 92,000 TrueLiving Heater Fans and Portable Quartz Radiant Heaters. The importer/retailer was Dollar General Stores of Goodlettsville, Tennessee. The heaters have caught fire, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Atico has received 8 reports of the A14B1053 Heater Fan

overheating and 21 reports of the A14B0979 Quartz Heater overheating. Reports for the A14B1053 Heater Fan included one report of damage to an electrical outlet and wall, and one report of flames coming out of the front of the unit. Reports for the A14B0979 Quartz Heater included damage to the heater's plug, one report of flames coming from a control knob, and one report of a consumer receiving minor burns to the hand. For both products, reports included incidents of smoke and melting of the plastic casing. The heaters were sold exclusively at Dollar General Stores from September 2010 to December 2010.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11130.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

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Banking and Finance Sector

17. *February 18, New York Daily News* – (New York) **NYPD Commissioner Kelly urges banks to ramp up security against ‘Holiday Bandit’ Marat Mikhaylich.** The New York City Police Department (NYPD) police commissioner urged banks to ramp up security with bigger partitions around tellers as authorities intensified their hunt February 17 for the 6-foot-5 “Holiday Bandit.” The robber has pulled seven stickups since early December — including two heists the week of February 14 alone, officials said. He has been hitting branches in Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island where the barriers around tellers are barely chest-level. “Some of them have bandit barriers, but they are not fully extended to the ceiling and he is tall ... and he can sort of tower over it,” the NYPD commissioner said. The partitions can be a deterrent if they are extended higher, the commissioner added. Two years ago he pushed for a bill to mandate better bank partitions in every bank branch in the city, but city council lawmakers — worried the barriers would scare off customers — nixed the plan.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2011/02/18/2011-02-18_raise_bank_walls_to_deter_goon_kelly_sez.html

18. *February 17, Bakersfield Now* – (California) **FBI arrest man accused of Bakersfield bank robberies.** The FBI has arrested a man accused of robbing 12 banks in California and Arizona, including two in Bakersfield, California. Federal agents informed Bakersfield police February 17 that a 49-year-old male was arrested in Fresno, California. The man will face charges in Arizona first, then face charges in California, police said. The suspect is accused of robbing the Kern Schools Federal Credit Union branch on Ming Avenue December 6 and the Chevron Valley Credit Union on Granite Falls Drive and Coffee Road January 31. It is unknown if he was armed during either robbery, but police said he threatened a teller at Chevron Valley Credit Union.

Source: <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/116443964.html>

19. *February 17, Freedom Communications, Inc.* – (Florida) **Bomb threat note left in Wachovia bank drive-through.** A bomb threat note was found stuffed in the drive-through window of the Wachovia bank near Destin Commons in Destin, Florida February 17. The threat was reported to the Okaloosa County deputies around 6 p.m, a spokesman with the sheriff’s office said. Deputies did not find any signs of explosives when they checked the premises, the spokesman said. Bomb squads were not called to the scene, he said.
Source: <http://www.thedestinlog.com/news/bomb-16829-through-destin.html>
20. *February 17, Softpedia* – (National) **Fake FDIC emails distribute trojan.** M86 Security warned of a new spam run that generates malware-carrying e-mails purporting to come from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). M86 said the e-mails are sent by Cutwail, a spam botnet, which at its peak accounted for more than 40 percent of the daily junk mail traffic. The rogue notifications bear a subject of “Important information for depositors of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation” and carry an attachment called FDIC_Document(dot)zip. The message contained within reads: “Attention! Dear Depositor, this message was sent to you as you had indicated this e-mail address as a contact, by opening an account in your bank department. In order to inform you about the news concerning current business activity of the Company on a timely basis, please, look through the last important changes in current regulations of endowment insurance procedure. Please, refer to more detailed information in the attached document.” One giveaway the e-mails are fake is the From field lists a (at)ups(dot)com address, a remnant from a fake UPS campaign the spammers forgot to change. The malicious executable found inside the attached archive is a variant of SpyEye, a sophisticated banking trojan used to steal financial and personal data from victims.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Fake-FDIC-Emails-Distribute-Trojan-184761.shtml>
21. *February 17, IDG News Service* – (International) **Romanian pleads guilty to role in \$2.7M eBay scam.** A Romanian man has pleaded guilty February 17 to participating in a well-organized scam that took in about \$2.7 million from unsuspecting users of online marketplaces such as eBay, Craigslist, and AutoTrader(dot)com. The man, from Bucharest, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, bank fraud, and money laundering charges in U.S. District Court for the District of Illinois, the Department of Justice said February 17. Prosecutors said the man was a money mule whose job was to pick up cash wired to him by online buyers who thought they were purchasing cars, RVs, and motorcycles from legitimate sellers. He is one of 11 people charged in the scam, which dates back to November 2004. The man and his crew used a variety of tricks to fool people into sending their money, typically via Western Union. They hijacked legitimate eBay accounts, sent buyers fake “second chance” offers, or pretended people’s money would be held in escrow until the goods they bought were delivered.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9210158/Romanian_pleads_guilty_to_role_in_2.7M_eBay_scam?taxonomyId=18

Transportation Sector

22. *February 18, CNN* – (New York) **More than \$9 million in opium seized at JFK airport.** Authorities in New York seized more than \$9 million worth of opium hidden inside a shipment of porcelain figurines last month at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced February 17. The seizure happened January 21, the agency said in a press release. More than 30 porcelain cats were discovered in a shipment from Thailand, labeled “plastic samples” and despite an X-ray scan that yielded nothing suspicious, authorities chose to open the cargo and crack one of the figurines open, according to a CBP spokesman. During the inspection, authorities discovered 205 pounds of a brown, tar-like substance that turned out to be raw opium, mostly used to make heroin, the spokesman said. The agency estimated the value of the opium at more than \$9 million. The spokesman couldn’t comment on the exact source of the package but did say it was intended for an address in the greater New York area. “Most times we find cocaine and heroin,” the spokesman said. “Opium was kind of unusual to find, especially in that quantity.” Federal authorities said there have been no arrests, and the investigation is continuing. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/02/17/new.york.opium.seized/index.html>
23. *February 18, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **Hazmat incident ties up I-71 near Polaris for 3 hours.** All lanes of I-71 in Delaware County, Ohio, were closed for nearly 3 hours February 17 after a deputy stopped a vehicle authorities said contained hazardous chemicals. The car’s two suspects, of Mansfield, were charged with possession of dangerous drugs, a fifth-degree felony. The charge stems from their possession of lidocaine, a painkiller, a news release from the Delaware County sheriff’s office said. A search of the car also revealed bulk amounts of magnesium carbonate, a white, powdery compound used in a variety of manufactured products, and mannitol, which is sometimes used as a cutting agent in illicit drugs. When a deputy stopped the vehicle for a traffic violation at 12:47 p.m. yesterday, a strong odor was detected, authorities said. A hazardous-materials crew was called to the scene. Four law-enforcement officers were taken to Ohio State University Medical Center as a precaution after possibly being exposed to some substance. The three deputies and a Genoa Township officer were examined and released. Source: http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/02/18/hazmat-incident-ties-up-freeway.html?sid=101
24. *February 17, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Delta fined \$2 million for failing to help disabled passengers.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) February 17 fined Delta Air Lines \$2 million for violating rules that protect disabled passengers. The fine is the largest non-safety-related penalty ever imposed on an airline by DOT. In response to complaints by disabled passengers, DOT’s Aviation Enforcement Office investigated and found Delta failed to offer disabled passengers the help required under federal rules to get on and off the plane. The incidents that led to the fine occurred in 2007 and 2008 and involved passengers in wheelchairs who were left unattended for up

to 30 minutes either on the plane after other passengers had departed, or in a terminal or jetway, according to federal records. The Aviation Enforcement Office also found Delta failed to respond adequately to disability complaints and didn't properly report each complaint. In response to the fine, Delta issued a statement saying the airline takes "the responsibility of serving customers with disabilities seriously and has made significant investments in technology, feedback assessment, and training since the issues in 2007 and 2008." Of the \$2-million penalty, \$750,000 must be paid by the carrier, and up to \$1.25 million may be used to improve its service to disabled passengers.

Source: http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/money_co/2011/02/delta-fined-2-million-for-failing-to-help-disabled-passengers.html

25. *February 17, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Derailed train spills fuel.** Hazardous materials crews February 17 cleaned up a 1,600-gallon fuel spill that followed an Eastside train derailment in Indianapolis, Indiana. The derailment was reported just after 7 p.m. in rail switching yards north of the 200 block of South Trowbridge Street. No one was hurt. An engine was pulling hopper cars filled with plastic pellets when the train was switched to the wrong track, causing the derailment, according to an Indianapolis Fire Department spokeswoman. The engine stopped in muddy gravel and the fuel spill did not contaminate groundwater or sewer lines, the spokeswoman said. Because the derailment happened in the switching yards, road traffic was not affected. The Indiana State Board of Health and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management responded.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110217/LOCAL18/102170494/1001/BUSINESS02/Derailed-train-spills-fuel?odyssey=nav|head>

26. *February 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Senate passes broad aviation bill.** A broad aviation bill that would advance modernization of the nation's air traffic control system and boost airport construction was approved February 17 by the U.S. Senate. The bill was approved 87-8. Congress has been struggling for more than 3 years to pass an aviation bill that renews Federal Aviation Administration programs and speeds up the transition from an air traffic control system based on World War II-era radar technology to GPS technology. The new air traffic system would allow planes to fly more precise routes between airports, saving time, money and fuel. The satellite technology would update the location of planes every second instead of radar's every 6 to 12 seconds. Pilots would be able to tell not only the location of their plane, but other planes equipped with the new technology as well — something they can't do now.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gTjjzCZ2TvCXsWcDIg3c7DxmY5oQ?docId=70f38871133142569d91a7ae3d5fc259>

27. *February 17, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Police: Man opened fire on passing cars in Vegas.** Police said a man parked a red sport utility vehicle near a Las Vegas, Nevada freeway and opened fire on passing cars, wounding one person before being shot by officers and arrested. A police officer said the shooting happened about 2:30 p.m. February 17 on Interstate 15 just south of the Las Vegas Strip. The Las Vegas police

officer said a police officer shot the gunman, described as a man in his 30s. She said the suspect's injuries aren't life-threatening, and that two other people were in police custody. The police officer said the person wounded by the gunman also has non-life threatening injuries. A Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper said southbound I-15 was briefly shut down, but quickly reopened with exits and entrances closed near the scene at Blue Diamond Road.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/wire-feeds/24-hour-national-news/article344853.ece>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *February 18, Murfreesboro Daily News Journal* – (National) **Feds probe ties between shootout, USPS slayings.** Federal investigators are looking into a possible link between a police shootout in western Tennessee that killed a teenage suspect the week of February 14, and the fatal shooting of two U.S. postal workers in Henning in October, authorities said February 17. The Mason police chief told the Associated Press that U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigators are checking to see if the gun that police said the 18-year-old male fired at officers before he was shot and killed February 14 was also used in the post office crime. The link between the two cases was reported earlier by WMC-TV.

Source: <http://www.dnj.com/article/20110218/NEWS01/102180318>

29. *February 17, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Dry-ice bombs explode in Placer Co. rural mail boxes.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is warning customers in Placer County, California, that someone has exploded dry-ice bombs in mailboxes. The bombs exploded February 16 in two mailboxes in a rural area of Sheridan, which is north of Lincoln near Wheatland. A third dry-ice fueled bomb was also placed in a mailbox. Nobody was injured in the incidents but USPS urged customers and mail employees to take caution. The explosions where two boxes were destroyed were on Riosa Road and Karchner Road, a USPS spokesman said. In all three incidents, dry-ice bombs were placed in curbside boxes. A dry-ice bomb can be dangerously unpredictable, explosive experts warn.

Source: <http://blogs.sacbee.com/crime/archives/2011/02/dry-ice-bombs-1.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *February 17, Associated Press* – (International) **China on alert for leather protein in milk supply.** China warned dairy producers that inspectors are on alert for fresh milk tainted with the industrial chemical melamine and another toxic substance extracted from leather scraps. Both additives — melamine and hydrolyzed leather protein —

would make dairy products made with watered-down milk appear to have normal amounts of protein. Infant formula tainted with melamine killed 6 children in China in 2008 and sickened more than 300,000. The ministry of agriculture said in a undated notice posted to the Web site of the state council, China's cabinet, that authorities will carry out 6,450 random checks on fresh milk in 2011 — underscoring official concerns dairy producers may still be trying to use illegal and dangerous methods to boost the protein content of their milk. All the tests will check for melamine, and 30 percent will look for hydrolyzed leather protein. To find out if the substance has been added to dairy, authorities look for telltale leather-curing residues. The protein extracted from cow leather is not known to be dangerous to human health, but the curing chemicals are. The China Daily newspaper said the chemicals could be fatal for children in high doses and put adults at risk for osteoporosis.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j0e-HWmR3eVzrkhHz8ZG6PRfVL5Q?docId=161fccd8368b476c9ffec82200fbfea2>

31. *February 17, KTUL 8 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Ammonia leak causes plant evacuation.** An ammonia leak February 17 led to the evacuation of a large plant in east Tulsa, Oklahoma. Haz-mat crews were called in around 2 p.m. at the Tulsa Cold Storage plant. Employees smelled a strong odor and several reported “feeling funny.” The building was quickly evacuated until the leaking valve could be shut off. Strong winds helped disperse the ammonia, so nearby homes were never in any danger.
Source: <http://www.ktul.com/Global/story.asp?S=14054619>
32. *February 17, McDowell News* – (North Carolina) **Suspicious package.** Local, state, and federal authorities became involved in an investigation about a suspicious package that was left February 17 for the owner of the restaurant Open Flame in Marion, North Carolina. An investigative sergeant of the Marion Police Department said a 42-year-old Marion man left a bowlful of some substance at the restaurant's front door. The suspect told officers it was a bowl of vanilla pudding, but tests by agents with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) indicated it might be something more. The police chief said testing was ongoing, but preliminary results showed the substance was not just pudding. An investigative lieutenant stated an agent was scheduled to take the substance February 17 to the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia, for further testing. On the scene February 17 were members of Marion Police Department, Marion Fire Department, McDowell County Emergency Medical Services, NCSBI, McDowell County Emergency Management, Asheville Fire & Rescue, and North Carolina Emergency Management.
Source: <http://www2.mcdowellnews.com/news/2011/feb/17/suspicious-package-ar-792932/>
33. *February 17, Moultrie Observer* – (Georgia) **Arrest in Sanderson Farms bomb threat.** A 38-year-old Moultrie, Georgia, man is accused of making a bomb threat at Sanderson Farms February 16, but police said they have no motive for the threatening call. The man was charged with making terroristic threats and acts and being a fugitive from justice. He was wanted in Miller County, Arkansas, according to Colquitt County Jail documents, but the charges there were not available. A Moultrie police investigator

said the Colquitt County E-911 Center received a call about 7 a.m. February 16 about three bombs that would be detonated at Sanderson that day. Police said the caller disguised his voice to sound like an Asian Indian. Sanderson was also called and received the same threat from the same person, police said. Sanderson was evacuated for many hours before the threat was found to be false. E-911 told investigators the call was made from a pay phone at the Stop and Shop. Investigators went there and obtained video footage of the suspect pulling up and making a phone call at about 7 a.m. No other people were seen making a phone call from the pay phones around that time. The video was taken to Sanderson, and management and employees stated the caller may have been the suspect, an employee there. A relative who worked at Sanderson confirmed it was the suspect.

Source: <http://moultrieobserver.com/local/x2016388335/Arrest-in-Sanderson-Farms-bomb-threat>

For another story, see item [36](#)

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Water Sector

34. *February 18, Richmond County Daily Journal* – (North Carolina) **Richmond County in severe drought.** A lack of significant rainfall in recent months has resulted in below normal groundwater levels and stream-flows and less water than needed to replenish reservoirs in parts of North Carolina. Parts of central North Carolina have been thrust into severe drought, including Richmond County. “Richmond County has been in drought since February 1,” the public information officer for the division of water resources. “Severe drought is the second worst out of four categories. It means conditions are getting worse, and it could go into extreme drought,” she said. “If dry conditions continue to occur, widespread impacts could quickly surface in the next few months as the temperatures begin to gradually increase and the growing season begins,” the chairman of the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council said. In the Piedmont, 27 counties are in severe drought, and 38 mountain and eastern counties are abnormally dry, according to the North Carolina drought map. Abnormally dry is not a drought category, but means drought could emerge without adequate rainfall.

Source: http://www.yourdailyjournal.com/view/full_story/11464973/article-Richmond-County-in-severe-drought?instance=home_news_lead

35. *February 17, Coal Geology* – (National) **EPA and U.S. Coast Guard step up efforts to protect U.S. waters.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together to protect people’s health and the environment. The MOU outlines steps the agencies will take to better coordinate efforts to prevent and enforce against illegal discharges of pollutants from vessels, such as cruise ships and oil tankers. Under the MOU, USCG has agreed to incorporate components of EPA’s vessel general permit program into its existing inspection protocols and procedures to help the United States address vessel pollution in U.S. waters. The MOU creates a framework for improving

EPA and USCG cooperation on data tracking, training, monitoring, enforcement, and industry outreach. The agencies have also agreed to improve existing data requirements so that information on potential violations observed during inspections can be sent to EPA for evaluation and follow-up.

Source: <http://coalgeology.com/epa-and-u-s-coast-guard-step-up-efforts-to-protect-u-s-waters/13904/>

36. *February 17, Daily Herd Network* – (Wyoming) **Calcium from Idaho dairy spill clogs sewer.** MagicValley(dot)com reports calcium from milk spilled into the Jerome, Idaho city sewer system December 30 has shut down the facility for 6 weeks, turning a canal system into a sewer. Calcium from the milk spilled into the city sewer system clogging filter membranes. It has taken 6 weeks to strip the membranes of the calcium buildup, and the city plans to have wastewater treatment under control the week of February 13. The North Side Canal system absorbed excess sewer buildup while the treatment facility was shut down. The city received approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to run treated wastewater down the canal, eventually discharging into the Snake River. The city sent chlorine wash down the canals February 15, and plans to send treated wastewater through the canals, but officials believe it will not be enough to clean up 6 weeks of contamination. The city will work with the EPA. The canals must be clean before the canal water will be turned on in March.

Source: <http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/latest/Calcium-from-Idaho-dairy-spill-clogs-sewer.html?ref=439>

37. *February 15, Ruidoso News* – (New Mexico) **Water losses amount to \$1.7 million; village working with FEMA.** Over the week from February 8 to 15, Ruidoso, New Mexico, lost 15 million gallons of water and suffered about \$1.7 million in infrastructure damage, the village's top administrative official said. "We're working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and (the village's total) puts the state over the \$2.3 million threshold, so they will request a national disaster declaration," the village manager said February 15. By 10:30 a.m. February 15, members of the New Mexico National Guard were on the road back to their bases in Hobbs, Las Cruces, Roswell, and Carlsbad, having completed several days of duty helping the village detect water leaks, shut-off service and reestablish service. While water was turned back on to the Upper Canyon, Black Forest, Flume, Brady, Perk, and Johnson Canyon area, some homes across the entire village will not have service until absentee owners return and request it. As a precaution, water was turned off at homes that appeared to be seasonally occupied. The total water loss estimated for the past week since sub-zero record low temperatures damaged pipes stands at 15 million gallons. The 5 million gallon water storage tanks stayed steady at 38.5 feet depth, as village officials watched for a climb back to the normal 50-foot depth. The village will send out a letter in monthly utility bills informing customers that water was turned off in unoccupied houses because of the freezing temperatures.

Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4896611>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *February 17, Associated Press* – (National) **111 charged in Medicare scams worth \$225 million.** Federal authorities charged more than 100 doctors, nurses, and physical therapists in nine cities with Medicare fraud February 17, part of a massive nationwide bust that snared more suspects than any other in history. More than 700 law enforcement agents arrested dozens of people accused of illegally billing Medicare more than \$225 million. The arrests are the latest in a string of major busts in the past 2 years as authorities have struggled to pare the fraud believed to cost the government between \$60 billion and \$90 billion each year. Stopping Medicare's budget from hemorrhaging that money will be key to paying for the Presidential administration's health care overhaul. The Health and Human Services Secretary and Attorney General partnered in 2009 to allocate more money and manpower in fraud hot spots. The February 17 indictments were for suspects in Miami, Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston, Detroit, Chicago, Brooklyn, Tampa, and Baton Rouge. Authorities also announced they were adding strike forces in Chicago and Dallas.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110217/ap_on_bi_ge/us_medicare_fraud_bust
39. *February 17, Iowa City Press-Citizen* – (Iowa) **Pellet gun causes minor scare at hospital.** University of Iowa Police said they responded to reports of someone carrying a rifle on the top of Ramp 4 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. After receiving numerous calls, officers responded to the ramp at 11:22 a.m. and told a male subject to go to the ground. Police said the subject, a 14-year-old boy, attempted to hide the weapon, which was later determined to be a pellet gun. Police determined the boy and his mother were visiting a relative who is a patient at the hospital. The pellet gun was placed in the trunk of their vehicle for the remainder of the visit.
Source: <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20110217/NEWS01/110217007/Pellet-gun-causes-minor-scare-at-hospital>
40. *February 17, Science Magazine* – (Illinois) **First U.S. cowpox infection: Acquired from lab contamination.** A student laboratory worker at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is the first person in the United States to come down with cowpox, a less dangerous relative of smallpox, and the culprit is lab contamination. Researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the week of February 7 at the International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance in Vienna that the unvaccinated patient was infected by a genetically modified cowpox virus strain in her research lab, one she had never even worked with, by inadvertently handling contaminated materials. Cowpox exists in the wild in Europe and Asia, but is not found in the United States except in research labs. The cowpox patient had declined vaccination since she had no intention of handling the virus, and the lab had not worked on cowpox for 5 years previous to the incident. However, CDC investigators found cowpox DNA in many locations around the lab and in stocks of purportedly harmless virus, although no live poxvirus was found on surfaces.
Source: <http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/02/first-us-cowpox-infection-acquired.html?ref=ra>

41. *February 17, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon; Washington) **Inoculations recommended for 50 exposed to Vancouver boy sickened by measles.** Clark County, Washington health officials have recommended that upward of 50 people get inoculated against measles days after being exposed to a 7-month-old boy sickened by the disease. The baby, too young to receive a routine measles vaccination, flew home to Washington state from India February 13, and may have spread measles to others at Portland International Airport in Portland, Oregon, and two Vancouver, Washington medical offices. “We’re continuing to receive calls from people about exposure to measles,” said the Clark County Public Health’s incident commander. In all, authorities believe about 130 people may have come into the vicinity of the boy at the Evergreen Pediatric Clinic and in the pharmacy/outpatient lab at the Southwest Washington Medical Center February 14. The infant was in the Horizon Airlines terminal, in Concourse A — gates six through 12, and in baggage claim area 2 — between 7:20 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.
Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/clark-county/index.ssf/2011/02/inoculations_recommended_for_50_exposed_to_boy_sickened_by_measles.html

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Government Facilities Sector

42. *February 17, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Man suspected of making bomb threats arrested.** A 22-year-old Gold River, California, man was arrested after he allegedly made bomb threats February 17 that led to the evacuation of a community college building in Placerville. The suspect was taken into custody about 1:20 p.m. by campus police after he entered the El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College and was seen with a gun, according to a release from the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department. Information gathered by law enforcement personnel led them to believe the man may have planted several possibly explosive devices around the campus, the release states. Deputies searched the campus and found several suspicious packages, according to the release. It was determined that none of them contained explosive material or devices. The suspect, who had an “airsoft” rifle, was arrested and booked into the El Dorado County Jail on suspicion of falsely reporting a bomb and possession of a weapon on school grounds, the release said. His bail was set at \$45,000. The college’s Placerville location was evacuated and classes were canceled for the day following the bomb threat. Classes at Folsom Lake’s main campus in Folsom and its center in Rancho Cordova were not affected.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/02/17/3412110/bomb-threat-evacuates-college.html>
43. *February 17, WIVB 4 Buffalo* – (New York) **Explosive detonates in county building.** A homemade explosive device went off about 9:45 a.m. February 17 at the Erie County Board of Elections building in Buffalo, New York. No one was hurt, but everyone inside evacuated. The device was set off on the same floors that house the Erie County Sheriff’s Professional Standards Unit, and it prompted a 1-hour evacuation

and closure of West Eagle Street and Delaware. Investigators believe someone deliberately set off some type of a paper-wrapped explosive. A lieutenant from the Erie County Sheriff's office said, "We believe it is a device something in the neighborhood of an M-80, along that nature, slightly bigger than people may be accustomed to consumer fireworks." A mark on the wall shows where it went off in the stairwell between the fourth and fifth floors. The explosion did not do much damage. The halls are already in a state of disrepair. The building was originally supposed to be demolished soon, but that plan is on hold.

Source: <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/crime/Explosive-detonates-in-county-building>

44. *February 17, Portland Tribune* – (Oregon) **Chemical spill closes OHSU lab building.** An Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) building is closed after a small chemical spill February 17 sent four people to the emergency room for evaluation. OHSU officials said the spill happened at about 5:30 p.m. in a research lab on the Marquam Hill campus. The chemical that spilled is acrolein, a gas that can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, mouth, and lungs. Two OHSU public safety officers who were helping evacuate the building, and two lab employees were taken to the OHSU emergency department for evaluation. No one was seriously injured. The lab is used by researchers to study brain regulation of metabolism and body heat. OHSU public safety officers, Portland Fire and Rescue, and hazmat teams from Portland and Gresham responded to the campus to contain the spill. OHSU officials said the lab building will remain closed until further notice.

Source: http://portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=129801072680283500

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Emergency Services Sector

45. *February 18, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Fairfax, Arlington having 911 problems.** Officials with the Arlington County, Virginia, Office of Emergency Management said the 911 system was back in operation after being down for several hours, February 18.s back in operation. Arlington County officials said they were working with Verizon officials to determine what caused problems with the 911 systems in the county and in neighboring jurisdictions. The 911 system for Arlington, the city of Falls Church, and Fairfax County, began having issues around 9 a.m., with wire and wireless phone calls. "Some folks can get through and some folks can't," a Fairfax County spokesman said. All calls still came through though, during the problem and staff dispatched emergency personnel. Fairfax's Public Safety Answer Point handles all 911 calls in Fairfax County, the towns of Vienna and Herndon and the City of Fairfax.

Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-breaking-news/crime-and-public-safety/fairfax-co-experiencing-911-pr.html>

46. *February 17, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **Bomb squad detonates grenade in front of Arcadia Police Department.** The bomb squad detonated a live World War I and II-era grenade on the lawn in front of the Arcadia Police Department in Arcadia, California February 16, after a woman brought the explosive to the police station, authorities said. A woman found the grenade in the garage of her former residence in Los Angeles, an Arcadia police sergeant said. She brought it to the Arcadia police station about 3 p.m. Police called in the Los Angeles County sheriff’s bomb squad, who removed the grenade from the woman’s car and decided the safest move would be to detonate it right there. “They ended up asking public works to come out and they dug a hole on the lawn outside the police department — several feet deep with sandbags,” he said. Bomb squad members placed the grenade in the hole, covered it and set it off, police said. The Arcadia resident said she found the British grenade in her deceased father’s possessions.

Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_17415269

47. *February 17, Silicon Valley Mercury News* – (California) **San Jose officials warn of massive police and fire layoffs.** San Jose, California city officials warned the week of February 14 that they could lay off as many as 349 police officers and 145 firefighters, slashing close to a quarter of the city’s public safety employees. The city is also looking at millions of dollars in other cuts, including shutting off neighborhood streetlights for much of the night and eliminating some gang-prevention programs. Last year, San Jose laid off 49 firefighters, and this is the second year in a row the police department has faced layoffs. The scenarios presented at preliminary budget sessions were based on the assumption the city would not extract concessions from public employee unions. But it is now clear that even with concessions, the layoffs will be severe. City officials said the looming \$110 million deficit projection must be made up through a combination of layoffs, concessions, program cuts, and pension reform. A spokesman for the city manager’s office said that even if all 11 unions agree to 10 percent concessions in total compensation, the police department could still lose 237 positions, while firefighters could lose 82. Citywide, nearly 60 positions are potentially on the chopping block, he said. The final decisions on layoffs are expected to be made during council budget sessions in June.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_17397188

48. *February 17, New York Daily News* – (New York) **City hopes NASA department can fix lousy emergency 911 system, and for cheaper.** New York City wants to hire a NASA lab to evaluate its over budget and behind-schedule Emergency Communications Transformation Program. NASA’s Independent Verification and Validation office in West Virginia usually tests systems for the space program. “NASA calls it ‘the third check’ or the ‘third set of eyes,’ “ a NASA spokeswoman said. In New York, the city wants NASA to troubleshoot software for dispatching police cars, fire trucks, and ambulances — part of a \$2 billion upgrade that has stymied the city for years. The Daily News revealed in 2009 how software problems, agency infighting, and poor planning left the 911 project years behind schedule and \$700 million over budget. Operators handle both police and fire emergencies instead of transferring 911 calls between the departments, which the city says has lowered response times. Firefighters

complain the new system has sent them to bad addresses and jeopardized lives. And firefighters, cops, and emergency management service workers still do not work from the same database of street names and addresses.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/02/17/2011-02-17_city_hopes_nasa_department_can_fix_lousy_emergency_911_system_and_for_cheaper.html#ixzz1EEwA3Ti9

49. *February 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **FBI: Web-based services hurting wiretapping efforts.** Web-based e-mail, social-networking, and peer-to-peer services are frustrating law enforcement wiretapping efforts, a lawyer for the FBI told lawmakers February 17, but she did not offer concrete ideas on how to fix the problem. The President's administration is debating ways to deal with Web-based services not covered by traditional wiretap laws, including incentives for companies to build in surveillance capabilities, the general counsel at the FBI said. Many Internet services are not covered by the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA), which requires traditional telecom carriers to allow law enforcement agencies real-time access to communications after a court has issued a wiretap order, she told members of a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. The FBI is concerned law enforcement investigations are being compromised by the lack of wiretap capability on some Web-based services and encrypted mobile telephone traffic, the FBI general counsel said. The American Civil Liberties Union has argued that expanding wiretapping capabilities would harm the Internet.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/219984/fbi_webbased_services_hurting_wiretapping_efforts.html

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Information Technology Sector

50. *February 18, Softpedia* – (International) **Security researchers find VoIP account cracking botnet.** Security researchers from Symantec have identified a piece of malware designed to brute force the password of VoIP accounts in a distributed manner. The trojan, which Symantec describes as a SIP cracker, after the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) used by VoIP systems, is being installed on computers by Sality. Sality is a family of file infectors with botnet capability that spread by appending their malicious code to executable files, sometimes corrupting them in the process. The Sality botnet is commonly used as a malware distribution platform in a pay-per-install style operation where other cybercriminals pay to have their creations spread. The SIP cracker has been distributed by Sality for months now with few people noticing, and it is noteworthy because it is the first such malware to be found in the wild. The SIP crackers contact their command and control (C&C) server and ask for an IP range to probe. It then performs some checks on IP addresses in that range to determine if any correspond to a SIP server. When a server is identified, the bot tries to

register an account on it using a list of usernames and passwords received from the C&C. If any of the attempts is successful, it reports back with the information.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Security-Researchers-Find-VoIP-Account-Cracking-Botnet-184990.shtml>

51. *February 17, Softpedia* – (International) **New Steam phishing campaign spotted.** Security researchers from Sophos warned that Steam users were being targeted in a new phishing attack that produces fake e-mails threatening them with account suspension. The e-mails bear a subject of “Warning! Your steam account will be suspended?” and have a forged “From” field to appear as if they originate from support(at)steampowered(dot)com. The attackers are probably abusing a legit Steam e-mail template, because the body has a well designed header and footer, displaying the Steam and Valve logos. The lure used in this phishing attack is a traditional one, the threat of something happening with the recipient’s account. The link included to “reconfirm” the account appears to point to a location on the support(dot)steampowered(dot)com Web site, but in reality take users to a phishing page that tries to steal log-in credentials. Steam is the largest gaming digital distribution platform with more than 30 million monthly active users and more than 1,200 games available for purchase and download. Steam accounts can be valuable to cybercriminals because they can be associated with payment information.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-Steam-Phishing-Campaign-Spotted-184984.shtml>
52. *February 17, Softpedia* – (International) **Java security update fixes critical vulnerabilities.** Oracle has released security updates for Java SE and Java for Business to address multiple vulnerabilities, some of which allow attackers to take control over computers. The update addresses a total of 21 vulnerabilities in JDK and JRE 6 Update 23 and earlier, JDK 5.0 Update 27 and earlier, and SDK 1.4.2_29 and earlier. Nineteen of the flaws can be exploited remotely without any need for authentication and can affect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data to various degrees. Eight vulnerabilities carry the highest possible CVSS base score of 10.0, which means they have a critical impact and can be exploited to execute arbitrary code. The impact is higher on Windows than on Linux or Solaris, because by default Java runs with administrative privileges on the former. Vulnerabilities normally rated with 10.0, have a 7.5 score if Java runs under a non-admin user. By exploiting lower impact flaws that do not allow for arbitrary code execution, attackers can still access sensitive information, bypass restrictions, or trigger denial of service conditions. The vulnerabilities are caused by errors in a wide array of components, including Deployment, Sound, Swing, HotSpot, Install, JAXP, 2D, JDBC, Launcher, Networking, XML Digital Signature, and Security.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Java-Security-Update-Fixes-Critical-Vulnerabilities-184935.shtml>
53. *February 17, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft downplays threat of new Windows zero-day.** Microsoft February 16 downplayed the threat posed to Windows users by a recently-revealed vulnerability, saying that it was unlikely the bug could be

exploited to compromise a computer. The flaw in the Windows Server Message Block network and file-sharing protocol was disclosed February 14 by someone identified only as “Cupidon-3005” on the Full Disclosure security mailing list. Cupidon-3005 posted proof-of-concept code to the list. French and Danish researchers later said hackers might be able to exploit the bug to hijack Windows PCs. Microsoft said February 16 this was not so. “Based on our initial investigation, this vulnerability cannot be leveraged for remote code execution on 32-bit platforms,” a general manager in the Microsoft Security Response Center said. “We are still investigating the possibility of code execution on 64-bit platforms, but so far have not found a likely scenario that would result in reliable code execution.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9210058/Microsoft_downplays_threat_of_new_Windows_zero_day

54. *February 17, Help Net Security* – (International) **Moderately critical MS Windows vulnerability revealed.** Information about a critical Microsoft Windows SMB browser election request parsing vulnerability turned up February 15 on the Full Disclosure mailing list and further investigation into the matter led Secunia to rate it as “moderately critical”. According to the company’s security advisory, the vulnerability affects various editions of Windows Server 2003 and Windows Storage Server 2003, and can be used by malicious users to orchestrate a denial of service or even compromise a vulnerable system. “The vulnerability is caused due to an integer underflow error when processing a Browser Election request. This can be exploited to cause a buffer overflow via an overly long Server Name string sent in a specially crafted packet,” explains Secunia. The flaw can be exploited from a local network, but requires the target system to be a Master Browser. There is currently no patch available, so users are advised to restrict access within a broadcast domain to trusted hosts only.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10622>

For another story, see item [21](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

55. *February 18, Denver Post* – (National) **Powerful solar flare disrupts ground communications.** A powerful solar flare that has triggered one of the largest space weather storms in at least 4 years has disrupted some ground communications,

University of Colorado-Boulder (CU) scientists said. Solar coronal mass ejections, such as February 15's Class X flare, can cause a variety of socioeconomic and safety issues such as disruption of airline navigation systems, satellite operations, power grids and safety of airline crews and astronauts. "The sun is coming back to life," the director of CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics said. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said several more strong ejections may reach Earth's atmosphere by the end of the week of February 14. "We understand much more about what is happening and can build more robust systems to withstand the effects," the director said. "It will be interesting to see how well our technological systems will withstand the rigors of space weather as the sun gets back to higher activity levels." Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_17422606

56. *February 17, DoD Buzz* – (National) **New wireless tech jams GPS.** The Deputy Secretary of Defense has raised concerns with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about a new technology used by a company called LightSquared that jams military and civilian Global Positioning System (GPS) signals. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shares the Pentagon's worries. The head of Air Force Space Command disclosed these concerns at the Air Force Association winter conference February 17. He told reporters an unnamed GPS company had tested its gear and found that LightSquared's towers built to generate a 4G wireless network completely jammed reception. FCC recently granted a conditional license to the company to begin building its network using L-band spectrum, "right next to" the GPS signal, he said. The conditional license requires Light Squared to prove it does not jam other signals. The company would operate only in the United States. FCC has told the company to work with the federal government and the GPS industry in a working group to find answers to the jamming problems. The members and goals of the working group are to be presented to FCC by February 25. Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2011/02/17/new-wireless-tech-jams-gps/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

57. *February 17, Arlington Heights Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Gas leak that forced Des Plaines hotel evacuation sealed.** A leak in a gas main in Des Plaines, Illinois that forced the evacuation of a hotel near River Road and Touhy Avenue has been fixed, fire officials said February 17. A construction crew working near the intersection broke a 2-inch natural gas main right in front of the hotel at approximately 5:45 a.m., a Nicor spokesman said. Firefighters went door-to-door in the hotel at 9:45 a.m. to evacuate between 60 and 70 people as the source of the leak was facing the building where air conditioners could have sucked the gas indoors, the manager of the Comfort Inn O'Hare said. Touhy Avenue was shut down in both directions just west of River Road from about 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Power to the hotel was cut and the hotel was ventilated, fire officials said. The gas main leaked until about 1:30 p.m., when crews

were able to dig down on both sides of the pipe and pinch the leak.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20110217/news/702179891/>

58. *February 17, KETK 56 Tyler* – (Texas) **Kilgore hotel evacuates after meth lab fire.** A Kilgore, Texas hotel was evacuated February 16 after a meth lab caught fire, resulting in three Kilgore residents behind bars, and the seizure of drugs, counterfeiting equipment, counterfeit checks, money, and forged identification. Kilgore fire and police officials were dispatched to America's Best Value Inn and Suites in the 3200 block of U.S. 259 at midnight in connection with a fire that started in one of the rooms, a Kilgore police spokesman said. "After the hotel was evacuated and the fire was extinguished within the room, the cause of the fire was soon discovered to be a methamphetamine lab," he said. Two suspects were arrested at the scene and charged with possession of a controlled substance; the third was charged with manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance. The spokesman said 4.1 grams of methamphetamine were found in the room along with lab equipment and chemicals commonly used in manufacturing the drug. A total of 16 grams of meth was found on the suspects.

Source: <http://www.ketknbc.com/news/kilgore-hotel-evacuates-after-meth-lab-fire>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

59. *February 17, KION 46 Monterey* – (California) **Tree topples onto trailers; campground evacuated.** A tree fell over February 17 onto two camping trailers at the campground at New Brighton State Beach in Capitola, California. No injuries were reported but the campground was evacuated due to continued rain and the potential for more downed trees. About 1 inch of water ran through the gutters and spilled over into the street and rushed down hillsides all across Santa Cruz County. Because of the storms, the National Weather Service issued a high surf advisory. The campground at the state beach will stay closed until it is deemed safe to return.

Source: <http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=14054353>

60. *February 17, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Fire near Chimney Rock grows to 980 acres.** A wildfire burning near Chimney Rock was about 30 percent contained as of February 17, according to the North Carolina Forest Service. The fire started burning February 12 near Jude's Gap, but it jumped fire breaks that had been plowed around the blaze February 14. Forestry officials said about 980 acres were charred by the blaze, but that number is expected to increase by another 200 to 700 acres before the fire is 100 percent contained. The forest service said much of the increase in the fire's size was due to burnout operations by firefighters. Dozens of firefighters have been placed around the fire to take action if the blaze moves toward homes. Forestry officials said the intensity of the fire will likely increase February 18 and 19 as temperatures warm and winds increase. More than 100 firefighters have been assigned to the blaze. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/news/26898378/detail.html>

Dams Sector

61. *February 18, KPCC 89.3 FM Pasadena* – (California) **Engineers postpone high-pressure testing of Inland Empire dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has postponed further testing of the Seven Oaks Dam near San Bernardino, California. The dam was to undergo a series of high pressure releases throughout the week of February 14. Engineers closed the floodgates because of rain. Floodgates opened February 14 at the 10-year-old dam, pouring millions of gallons of water into the Santa Ana River. The releases began what was supposed to be a week of exercises to test the dam's durability. But with heavy rain in the forecast, engineers decided to close the spigots. December's rain caused erosion on two levees along the Santa Ana River, and a previous test 6 years ago damaged the dam's concrete channel. The decision to postpone the final phase of testing at Seven Oaks Dam will stop about 45,000 gallons of water per second from surging into the rising waterway. Testing could resume at the end of February, officials said.

Source: <http://www.scpr.org/news/2011/02/18/engineers-postpone-high-pressure-testing-inland-em/>

62. *February 17, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – (North Dakota) **Corps of Engineers statement on James River flows.** Due to abnormally high snow pack conditions in North Dakota, the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) expects high inflows into Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs this spring. Pipestem Dam is a USACE project, while Jamestown Dam is a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) project regulated by the Corps when the reservoir pool level reaches the flood control zone. The dams are located on the James River and Pipestem Creek just north of Jamestown. Current snow pack conditions are similar to previous high runoff years in 1997 and 2010, when the total runoff volume was 420,000 acre-feet and 350,000 acre-feet, respectively. USACE expects a similar runoff volume in 2011, although the runoff volume could be substantially altered, depending on additional snowfall or rainfall. USACE, Reclamation, and National Weather Service will continue to monitor snow pack conditions and will provide updated forecasts as conditions change.

Source: http://www.ksjbam.com/artman/publish/article_2973.shtml

63. *February 16, Smoky Mountain News* – (North Carolina) **Better safe than sorry unscours new dam safety protocols.** New protocols for the unlikely event that one of Duke Energy's dams shows a sign of weakness could speed evacuation of residents downstream in North Carolina. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission wants power companies such as Duke to cut the amount of time between workers suspecting a problem with a dam and the evacuation of people at risk, a job carried out by local emergency responders. An analysis completed this past year indicates "we're in pretty good shape" on detecting dam-integrity issues, the chief dam safety engineer for Charlotte-based Duke said during an annual meeting of regional emergency response workers and Duke employees. Sixty-five attended the meeting, the week of February 7. Verification of a problem is where Duke can shave extra time off, he said. An on-call

technician will be dispatched, as always, to evaluate the situation firsthand. Duke is adding technology — in this case, on-site cameras — so that a dam failure can be declared more quickly. Additionally, the safety engineer told those at the meeting that a siren will be added to at least one Western North Carolina dam: the dam on Nantahala Lake at the confluence of Queens Creek and the Nantahala River in northwestern Macon County. A cluster of houses lies directly below the remote location, and a siren would warn the residents there more quickly if there were any danger.

Source: <http://www.smokymountainnews.com/news/item/3248-better-safe-than-sorry-unscores-new-dam-safety-protocols>

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