



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 February 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- WUSA 9 reports the failure of thousands of wireless 911 calls during a snowstorm in the Washington D.C. area could be a problem occurring nationwide, and is a major weakness that could be exploited by terrorists, according to a federal communications official, and an anti-terrorism expert. (See item [49](#))
- According to the Associated Press, gusty winds led to more than 100 wildfires across Virginia, damaging federal and state land and other homes and property, and closing major highways. (See item [63](#))

### 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 22, WLTX 19 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **1,000 gallons of gas have spilled in Lexington.** A gasoline spill at a major intersection in Lexington, South Carolina, has been contained. Police set up a detour near the intersection of North Lake Drive and Sunset Boulevard after an 18-wheeler overturned February 22. Officials with the Town of Lexington Police Department said no one was injured. A Department of Health and

Environmental Control (DHEC) spokesman estimated 1,000 gallons of gas spilled from five separate leaks on the tank. Crews built a sand dike to keep the spill from becoming an environmental concern. DHEC officials said the truck was carrying 8,000 gallons of gasoline, and the truck was leaking gas at a rate of about 2 gallons per minute. The truck's gas tank was not punctured. DHEC contacted a contractor to offload the remaining gasoline, so officials could upright the vehicle. The spokesman said firefighters with the Lexington County Fire Service, Lexington County EMS, Troopers with the South Carolina Highway Patrol, South Carolina Transport Police, and officials with DHEC responded.

Source: <http://www.wltx.com/news/article/123926/2/Update-1000-Gallons-of-Gas-Have-Spilled-in-Lexington->

2. *February 22, Reuters* – (Texas) **Fog halts ships at Houston-Texas City; 74 wait.** Fog halted ships piloting to and from the key oil ports of Houston, Texas, and Texas City, Texas, building a queue of 74 vessels inbound and outbound on the Houston Ship Channel, the U.S. Coast Guard said February 22. Pilots on February 21 stopped boarding vessels for transit into and out of Houston, Galveston and Texas City, a Coast Guard spokesman said. By February 22, 44 vessels were waiting to enter Houston, and 16 were waiting to leave. Another 11 were waiting to enter Galveston or Texas City, and 3 were waiting to leave, the spokesman said. Most of the ship traffic into the area is crude oil, petrochemical and petroleum product tankers calling on Houston and Texas City. Galveston has cruise ship, container and offshore oilfield service traffic. The fog was expected to lift by midday February 22, but then return late in the afternoon, the Coast Guard spokesman said. Usually, the Coast Guard keeps the ports officially open, but private pilots associations control when ships move by deciding when it is safe to board vessels for transit.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/22/shipping-houston-fog-idUSN2231565420110222>

3. *February 21, Qatar Peninsula* – (International) **Major oil companies evacuate employees.** Global oil companies said February 21 that they were making plans to evacuate employees in Libya after some operations there were disrupted by political unrest. Eni of Italy, said in a statement that it had begun repatriating “nonessential personnel” and the families of its employees. The Norwegian energy company Statoil, which operates in Libya in partnership with Repsol of Spain and Total of France, said it would close its office in Tripoli, and that a handful of foreign workers were leaving. OMV of Austria, which produces about 34,000 barrels of oil per day in Libya, said it planned to evacuate 11 workers and their families, leaving only essential staff. The British oil company BP, which has only exploration operations in Libya, said it was planning to evacuate some of its 40 foreign workers, mostly from Tripoli. It also said it had suspended preparations for a drilling project because employees of a contractor had been evacuated.

Source: <http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/latest-news/143358-major-oil-companies-evacuate-employees-.html>

4. *February 20, Associated Press* – (California) **Increased pressure on pipeline that exploded violated rules.** The pressure increases that Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) acknowledged occurred on the natural gas pipeline that exploded in San Bruno, California last fall violated federal regulations, according to a report in the San Francisco Chronicle. Natural gas safety rules provided to the newspaper, at its request, by federal regulators said the utility would have had to inspect the pipeline in San Bruno for weak welds after spiking the pressure on the line in 2003 and 2008, the newspaper reported in its February 20 edition. A seam in the pipeline has been cited in federal reports as the source of the September 9 blast that killed 8 people and destroyed about 38 houses. The seam would have most likely been discovered during inspections, but PG&E conducted a less expensive test in 2009 that would have detected only corrosion in the pipeline, the newspaper said. Safety experts interviewed by the Chronicle said the spikes may have weakened the lines and made them more prone to rupture. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued a statement to the Chronicle that concluded that any intentional boost that pushes an urban gas transmission line beyond legal limits requires the operator to inspect for weakness in the line. A pipeline operator “may not intentionally exceed (maximum allowable operating pressure) for any reason,” the agency said in its statement. But the increases in pressure on the San Bruno pipeline were necessary to continue operations on the pipeline, according to a PG&E spokesman.  
Source: [http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci\\_17440355](http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_17440355)
  
5. *February 19, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Windy weather leaves thousands without power in N.J.** Strong winds that gusted up to 60 mph February 19, left thousands of utility customers in New Jersey without electricity. The winds snapped utility poles and knocked down power lines across the state. They also uprooted many trees, some of which brought down wires or damaged homes and vehicles. The strong gusts also had pedestrians dodging flying debris, while homeowners worked to secure lawn furniture and other loose objects on their property. Atlantic Electric reported more than 11,000 customers were without power, while roughly 3,000 Jersey Central Power and Light customers had no service. PSE&G, the state’s largest utility, said about 8,000 customers were without electricity.  
Source:  
[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/windy\\_weather\\_leaves\\_thousands.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/windy_weather_leaves_thousands.html)
  
6. *February 18, Danbury News-Times* – (Connecticut) **Greenpeace 7 released pending arraignment.** A group of Greenpeace activists who hung a protest banner from a coal elevator at the harbor side United Illuminating plant in Bridgeport, Connecticut February 17, were released on bond February 19 pending arraignment March 4 in state superior court. The 7 protesters were all released after posting \$25,000 bonds. They were charged with first-degree criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, first-degree reckless endangerment, and breach of peace. Police said that while two small boats waited below, the defendants climbed onto a coal elevator and hung a 40-by 20-foot banner from the structure that proclaimed: “Shut It Down Quit Coal.” State and national homeland security officials said the banner-hanging event at the Bridgeport Harbor Generating Station did not require a response from DHS. A

spokesman said U.S. Coast Guard officers remained on the scene to review security measures with power plant officials. The shoreline plant is owned and operated by PSEG. The banner was hung on the superstructure of the plant's coal elevator, which brings coal from barges.

Source: <http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/Greenpeace-7-released-pending-arraignment-1020925.php>

For another story, see item [58](#)

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

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *February 21, Bluffton Island Packet* – (South Carolina) **Chemical spill closes part of U.S. 278 in Hardeeville.** Fire crews needed nearly 3 hours February 21 to clean up a chemical spill that closed eastbound lanes of U.S. 278 near the Tradition Hilton Head community in South Carolina, according to the Hardeeville Fire chief. He said 21, 1-gallon bottles of muriatic acid likely fell from a passing vehicle onto the road at about 7:30 a.m. Several bottles broke open, releasing a white vapor. The vehicle did not stop, and fire crews were unable to identify it. Muriatic acid is a solution of hydrogen chloride gas often used locally to balance pH in swimming pools and clean masonry work. The Bluffton/Hilton Head Hazardous Material Team cleared the road, while the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control responded to oversee cleanup and disposal.

Source: <http://www.islandpacket.com/2011/02/21/1556038/chemical-spill-closes-part-of.html>

8. *February 20, WSET 13 Lynchburg* – (Virginia) **Three people injured during hazmat spill in Roanoke.** Three contractors were in the hospital after a hazmat spill in Roanoke, Virginia, February 20. Roanoke EMS officials said the contractors were working on a Norfolk Southern railcar on 24th Street and Shenandoah Avenue when molten sulfur started to leak. Officials said the contractors were being treated for respiratory and chemical burns at the Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. One person was listed in critical condition, and the other two were listed in serious condition. Roanoke Police closed roads from 17th Street to Shenandoah Avenue during the clean-up. The hazmat spill was contained, and the roads were back open the evening of February 20.

Source: <http://www.wset.com/Global/story.asp?S=14066979>

9. *February 18, Associated Press* – (New York) **Chemical spill site reopens.** An intersection in the Love Canal area of the city of Niagara Falls, New York, which was shut down when a chemical compound was found in the ground has reopened, the Niagara Falls mayor said. According to a release sent out by the mayor on February 18, Glenn Springs Holdings Inc., an Occidental Chemical Corp. affiliate has replaced the sewage pipe at Colvin Boulevard and 96th Street where a toxic chlorine chemical stemming from the Love Canal-era was found by a city water department contractor.

He said the sediment and debris in the road was removed and the construction barriers were removed allowing for the free flow of traffic. A temporary asphalt patch has been put in place until a permanent repair can be made in the spring.

Source: <http://niagara-gazette.com/local/x740790758/Chemical-spill-site-reopens>

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

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

10. *February 22, Quincy Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Plymouth’s Pilgrim nuclear plant shut down due to leakage of cooling water.** The Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts was idle for a third consecutive day February 22 as repairs were being made to a cooling system, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in a report. Operators started a controlled shutdown of the 685-megawatt plant at the beginning of February 20 and notified the NRC. A plant spokesman said February 22 monitors detected a leak in a tube that carries salt water and is used in a cooling system. He said the shutdown is not expected to be “lengthy” but could not say when the plant would be back online. The plant was operating at 100 percent capacity when the shutdown occurred. It had been on line for 634 consecutive days — “a record for us,” the spokesman said — when the shutdown was ordered. Entergy, which operates the facility, said “this event had no impact on the health and/or safety of the public.” The report said a section of a reactor building was “declared inoperable” February 18, and could not be repaired within 72 hours, prompting the shutdown.

Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/features/x678656094/Pilgrim-nuclear-plant-shut-down-due-to-leakage>

11. *February 22, New London Day* – (Connecticut) **NRC to investigate unexpected power spike at Millstone.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) sent a special team to the Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut, February 22 to investigate an accidental spike in power that occurred at a reactor there more than a week before. Earlier in February, a reactor operator at Unit 2 caused a spike in power that his control room crew failed to prevent from escalating as soon as they should have, the federal regulator and company said. Such special inspections are rare and occur a handful of times a year across the country, an NRC spokesman said. “There are enough questions about the way the operators performed and the oversight that was present that we want to take a closer look at it. We want to learn more about decision-making by control room operators, as well as the oversight of those operators.” The operators at the Dominion-owned nuclear complex still had all the safety systems available to shut down the reactor, and did not need to, the spokesman said, but the mistakes, once reviewed, could result in fines, violations, orders or actions against individual operators.

Source: <http://www.theday.com/article/20110222/NWS01/302229934/1019&town=>

For another story, see item [44](#)

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

## Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *February 20, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **10-car cargo train derails in Gurnee.** No injuries were reported February 20 in the derailment in Gurnee, Illinois of a train carrying lumber, steel, and railroad track rail, a spokesman for the railroad said. The incident happened about 10:15 a.m. on a stretch of track between Grandville Avenue and Blanchard Road. The train had 10 cars and was on its way from Chicago to St. Paul, Minnesota, a Union Pacific Railroad spokesman said. No ambulances responded to the scene, and there was no hazardous materials response, local officials said. The cause of the derailment is under investigation. As of noon February 20, ComEd workers were on the scene turning off power to what police said were live wires in the area behind the building. A pile of wood spilled out of one train car, and it appeared that another train car had run into the back of a nearby building, a food company facility.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-10car-cargo-train-derails-in-gurnee-20110220,0,7961469.story?track=rss>

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

## Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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

## Banking and Finance Sector

13. *February 22, Help Net Security* – (International) **New type of financial malware hijacks online banking sessions.** A new type of financial malware has the ability to hijack customers' online banking sessions in real time using their session ID tokens. OddJob, which is the name Trusteer gave to this trojan, keeps sessions open after customers think they have "logged off," enabling criminals to extract money and commit fraud unnoticed. This is a completely new piece of malware that pushes the hacking envelope through the evolution of existing attack methodologies. It shows how hacker ingenuity can side-step many commercial IT security applications traditionally used to defend users' digital and online monetary assets. Trusteer has been monitoring OddJob for a few months, but had not been able to report on its activities until now due to ongoing investigations by law enforcement agencies. These have just been completed. Trusteer's research team reverse engineered and dissected OddJob's code methodology, right down to the banks it targets and its attack methods. Financial institutions have been warned OddJob is being used by criminals based in Eastern Europe to attack their customers in several countries including the United States, Poland, and Denmark.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1636](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1636)

14. *February 22, Help Net Security* – (International) **New type of financial malware hijacks online banking sessions.** A new type of financial malware has the ability to hijack customers' online banking sessions in real time using their session ID tokens. OddJob, which is the name Trusteer gave to this Trojan, keeps sessions open after customers think they have "logged off", enabling criminals to extract money and commit fraud unnoticed. This is a completely new piece of malware that pushes the hacking envelope through the evolution of existing attack methodologies. It shows how hacker ingenuity can side-step many commercial IT security applications traditionally used to defend users' digital - and online monetary - assets. Trusteer have been monitoring OddJob for a few months, but have not been able to report on its activities until now due to ongoing investigations by law enforcement agencies. These have just been completed. Trusteer's research team has reverse engineered and dissected OddJob's code methodology, right down to the banks it targets and its attack methods. Financial institutions have been warned that OddJob is being used by criminals based in Eastern Europe to attack their customers in several countries including the USA, Poland and Denmark.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1636](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1636)
  
15. *February 21, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **Hacking creates chaos for Snow Creek and its customers.** Snow Creek ski resort in Weston, Missouri and many of its credit card customers appear to be victims of an attack by Internet hackers that first came to light the morning of February 18. By midday the Platte County business had cut its on-site credit card processing system from the Internet and was warning customers to keep close track of their bills. The resort was told by credit card processing companies, banks, and the Secret Service that a large number of dubious credit card transactions appeared to be linked to customers who had done business at Snow Creek. "The Secret Service thinks we got hacked in that nanosecond before the information is encrypted," said Snow Creek's general manager February 21. "It's still not clear what happened." The fraud, he said, does not appear to have taken place at Snow Creek. The credit card theft does not apply to people who bought lift tickets or other passes online. Fraudulent charges to credit cards belonging to customers and employees of Snow Creek came from around the world, the general manager said. The numbers reported February 18 seemed to grow exponentially in the following days, he said.  
Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/02/21/2672504/hacking-creates-chaos-for-snow.html>
  
16. *February 19, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Maryland; National) **Three convicted in Maryland in \$78 Mmillion mortgage fraud scheme.** A federal jury convicted three individuals February 19 in district court in Greenbelt, Maryland, of fraud conspiracy, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering in connection with their participation in a massive mortgage fraud scheme which promised to pay off homeowners' mortgages on their "Dream Homes," but left them to fend for themselves. In addition to the above described convictions, one of the individuals, chief financial officer of Metro Dream Homes (MDH), was also convicted of making a false statement in a federal court proceeding. According to evidence presented at the 6-week trial, beginning in 2005, the defendants targeted homeowners and home purchasers to

participate in the Dream Homes Program. In exchange for a minimum of \$50,000 initial investment and an “administrative fee” of up to \$5,000, the conspirators promised to make the homeowners’ future monthly mortgage payments and pay off the homeowners’ mortgage within 5 to 7 years. To give investors the impression that the program was successful, MDH spent hundreds of thousands of dollars making presentations at luxury hotels, and set up offices in several states, including Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, New York, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, and California.

Source:

[http://7thspace.com/headlines/373359/three\\_convicted\\_in\\_maryland\\_in\\_78\\_million\\_mortgage\\_fraud\\_scheme.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/373359/three_convicted_in_maryland_in_78_million_mortgage_fraud_scheme.html)

17. *February 19, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Anchorage woman charged with \$7M Ponzi scheme.** An Anchorage, Alaska woman is facing federal charges she operated a Ponzi scheme that defrauded investors of \$7 million, the U.S. attorney’s office said February 18. The 64-year-old woman was named in a 26-count indictment. A grand jury in Anchorage indicted her for securities fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, bankruptcy fraud and bank fraud. She was arrested February 18, said a special agent and spokesman for the IRS Criminal Investigation’s Seattle field office. Prosecutors said the suspect carried out the scheme from 1996 to 2009, guaranteeing investors a high-rate of return and making false claims regarding how she was going to invest the victims’ money. They said she told victims she would invest their money in a global investment fund, European subprime loans, and an investment banking company. Prosecutors said she used the victims’ money for her personal expenses and to pay out early investors. The indictment alleges she fraudulently obtained money, ranging from \$25,000 to around \$3.7 million, from 14 victims.  
Source: <http://www.adn.com/2011/02/19/1711330/anchorage-woman-charged-with-7m.html>
  
18. *February 18, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (International) **Rising global payments and emerging tech pose new fraud concerns.** Global payment schemes are converging, but the convergence has been more by necessity than design. Payments instruments vary widely in various global markets, and those differences pose challenges for payments providers, and growing fraud opportunities for criminals. At the top of the list of growing fraud is money laundering; it’s the fraud that most-often gets through cross-border security gaps said an official who heads up banking and corporate strategy in the Americas for SWIFT, The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication. The official said security is a top concern for any payments processor. But unique risks must be addressed in unique markets, and that’s making standardization and sweeping regulatory guidance aimed at fraud prevention next-to impossible. “Globalization will continue to bring new issues to bear, and compliance is something all institutions try to balance,” the official said. “We always want to think about security and maintaining integrity across the payments chain; sometimes it’s a difficult balance bringing innovation to market and security.” The year ahead, she said, will mark a tipping point for innovation, as well as cultural challenges. While the use of payment cards continues to grow or remains steady in the United States, usage in other

parts of the world, even Europe, is not quite so accelerated. So, developing innovative solutions that enhance security to meet the demands of all markets is not easy. From a money-laundering perspective and overall fraud perspective, cultural differences create opportunity for fraudsters. Fake payments cards, created with account details from European account holders, can easily be used in the United States, where cards are widely accepted and card technology is not so secure.

Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=3365](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3365)

19. *February 17, KSTP 5 St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **FBI Says Robbery Suspect Hits 4th Metro Bank.** With a mask and a small knife in hand, a man robbed a bank in Orono, Minnesota February 17, and FBI Agents said they believe it may be the same person who robbed three or four other banks in the metro area the past few weeks. FBI Agents said the First National Bank of the Lakes branch at 2445 Shadywood Road was robbed around 7:15 a.m. A bank employee arrived for work, and officials said the robber approached her from behind, told her he had a gun and to go into the bank. The employee told authorities she gave an undisclosed amount of money out of the night deposit safe to the man. She said the suspect left the bank through the front door. She was not hurt. The suspect is described as a white male, about 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a medium build. He was wearing dark clothing, along with a dark mask and gloves, white sneakers and carried a small blue, zippered bank bag.

Source: <http://kstp.com/article/stories/s1979532.shtml>

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

## **Transportation Sector**

20. *February 21, KSFY 13 Sioux Falls* – (South Dakota) **Interstate closure leaves dozens of drivers stranded.** A winter storm forced dozens of truck drivers to stay overnight February 20 into February 21 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, truck stops. The drivers were kept off the road with nothing to do but wait after the South Dakota Department of Transportation closed Interstate 29 to all drivers during the afternoon of February 20. Parts of the highway were reopened at 11 a.m. February 21 between Sioux Falls and Brookings, but did not open all the way to the North Dakota border until 4 hours later.

Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=14071000>

21. *February 21, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Corporate Air hit with second FAA citation.** For the second time in 4 months, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) fined Corporate Air of Billings, Montana, for failing to repair problems with its airplanes. Corporate Air, which started business in Billings 30 years ago, faces total fines of about \$1 million for failing to follow FAA regulations. The week of February 14, FAA fined Corporate \$585,725 for allegedly flying a twin-turboprop cargo airplane at least 81 times between December 21, 2009 and February 4, 2010 when the plane had exterior corrosion. The company has 30 days to respond to the proposed fine. FAA said Corporate failed to detect the corrosion even though regulations require inspections of the aircraft after each flight. The company also failed to run required structural inspections for 4 years from March 2006 to February 2010, FAA said. A previous

penalty in October involved a \$455,000 FAA fine for failing to fix a serious engine oil leak on a passenger airplane.

Source: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article\\_b8f73c32-16d8-565d-9af5-1e052ac02ec7.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_b8f73c32-16d8-565d-9af5-1e052ac02ec7.html)

22. *February 21, KXAS 5 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **TSA Source: armed agent slips past DFW body scanner.** An undercover Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agent was able to get through security at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in Texas with a handgun during testing of the enhanced-imaging body scanners, according to a high-ranking, inside TSA source. The source said the agent carried a pistol in her undergarments when she put the body scanners to the test. The officer successfully made it through the airport's body scanners every time she tried, the source said. The TSA insider who blew the whistle on the test also said that none of the TSA agents who failed to spot the gun on the scanned image were disciplined. The source said the agents continue to work the body scanner. TSA agents who spoke to a reporter agreed the body-imaging scanners are effective — but only if the officers monitoring them are paying attention.

Source: <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local-beat/TSA-Agent-Slips-Through-DFW-Body-Scanner-With-a-Gun-116497568.html>

23. *February 21, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Milan airport terminal evacuated after shooting.** A terminal at Milan, Italy's Malpensa airport was evacuated February 21 when a man smashed his car into the terminal building and was shot by a police officer after trying to stab him, a security source said. "A Tunisian man ... who was in a car with his wife and three children tried to smash into the terminal," the source told Agence France-Presse. "He then got out of the car with a knife in his hand and threatened a police officer," the source said. "The officer tried to calm him and escort him out of the terminal. When the man threw his knife at the officer, the officer shot him in the foot." All flights departing from Malpensa were suspended after the incident, while arrivals continued as normal, ANSA news agency reported.

Source: <http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest+News/Relax/Story/A1Story20110221-264705.html>

24. *February 20, Associated Press* – (National) **Odor diverts Ireland-bound plane to Boston.** A New Jersey flight bound for Ireland was diverted to Boston, Massachusetts after a burning odor was detected onboard. A Massachusetts Port Authority spokeswoman said the plane landed without incident at 9:40 p.m. February 20 at Boston's Logan International Airport. None of the 191 people on board were injured. The spokeswoman said Continental Flight 24 had left Newark, N.J., and was headed for Shannon, Ireland. She did not know if the flight would resume its trip February 20.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41686849/ns/travel-news/>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [2](#), [4](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [12](#), [26](#), and [63](#)

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

## Postal and Shipping Sector

25. *February 19, Nevada Appeal* – (Nevada) **Suspicious package evacuates printing office.** The bomb squad and haz-mat teams were called February 18 after a suspicious package was found at the Nevada state printing office in Carson City. The legislative counsel bureau director said the package forced the evacuation of the printing office, legislative general services staff and several computer programmers housed in the building at Stewart and Fifth streets. Between 35 and 40 people were evacuated at about 11:30 a.m. He said the mailroom X-rays all mail coming to the Nevada Legislature. “The X-ray was enough to arouse suspicion so, out of an abundance of caution, we evacuated the building,” he said. It took the bomb squad and haz-mat teams about two and a half hours to determine the contents of the package were harmless.

Source:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20110219/NEWS/110219588/1001&parentprofile=1058>

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

## Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *February 22, Belgrade News* – (Montana) **Nobody hurt as train derails near Belgrade.** Seventeen cars in a westbound grain train jumped the tracks early February 20 near Belgrade, Montana, some tipping over and spilling their loads on the snow-covered ground. The derailment grounded nearly two dozen trains on Montana Rail Link’s main line for about 24 hours. No one was injured and no cause has been determined for the 12 a.m., derailment along Frontage Road, a Rail Link spokeswoman said. No hazardous materials were involved. Workers spent February 20 replacing tracks that were damaged in the incident, and the line reopened at 1 a.m. February 21, she said. Twenty-one trains that had been sidelined along the route from east of Billings to Sandpoint, Idaho, began running again shortly thereafter, she said. With the line back in working order, crews turned their attention to salvaging grain from 14 cars that overturned, the spokeswoman said. Some of the cars were badly damaged and will have to be scrapped.

Source: [http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article\\_5e4446ae-3e34-11e0-9663-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article_5e4446ae-3e34-11e0-9663-001cc4c03286.html)

27. *February 21, Associated Press* – (Maryland; Vermont; Alaska) **Footwear blamed for ‘rock snot’ invasion of Md. streams.** Felt-soled fishing boots, of all things, are apparently the latest threat to local fish populations, prompting Maryland to ban the shoes in hopes of stopping an invasive form of algae — appropriately dubbed “rock snot” for its resemblance to yellow-brown mucous — from hurting pristine trout streams, the Associated Press reports. Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources plans to prohibit wading with felt soles starting March 21 after discovering that “rock snot,” or didymo — a type of algae that coats riverbeds in thick mats — thrives in the shoes’ damp fibers and hitches a ride from one body of water to another. Rock snot has found its way across the United States, and as of March 21, Maryland will become the

first state to enforce a felt boot ban. It was found in 2008 in Gunpowder Falls north of Baltimore. A western Maryland stream, the Savage River, also has tested positive for the organism, but has not had a rock snot bloom. Similar bans will take effect in Vermont April 1, and in Alaska in 2012.

Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-buzz/2011/02/footwear-blamed-for-rock-snot.html?hpid=newswell>

28. *February 21, Tennessee Journalist* – (Tennessee; National) **Professor lectures on threat of food terrorism.** At present, roughly 15 percent of the U.S. food supply by volume is imported, but it can spike to 60 percent at times. The director of the Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness at the University of Tennessee (UT), College of Veterinary Medicine spoke on “The Potential for Food Terrorism” at the UT Science Forum. Over the course of the lecture, she explained the U.S. food supply is vulnerable to attack and contamination. To secure it, “we need to look at the food supply as a whole.” As it is, the food industry is “diverse and constantly changing,” While the globalization of the U.S. food supply allows for greater variety, it also makes for increased risk of terrorism and there are “numerous possibilities for contamination.” Only 1 to 3 percent of containers are inspected coming into the 300 U.S. ports from 150 countries, she said, and only shipping records are being inspected. She cited several examples of intentional contamination in single locations. In Michigan in 2003, ground beef was laced with nicotine. One hundred and eleven people became ill and 45 required hospitalization. In 1984, a single salad bar contaminated with salmonella resulted in 751 people becoming sick.
- Source: <http://tnjn.com/2011/feb/21/professor-lectures-on-threat-o/>

29. *February 20, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **No injuries reported in explosion at Iowa plant.** An explosion February 20 at a feed plant north of Oelwein, Iowa, was likely sparked by a lightning strike, a fire official said. No injuries were reported in the blast at the International Ingredient Corp. facility. Oelwein’s fire chief said six people were inside the plant but got out safely before firefighters arrived. There was stormy weather in the area at the time, and it is believed a lightning strike ignited a pile of agricultural dust, causing the explosion. When firefighters arrived at the plant, its roof had collapsed and there was extensive structural damage. The company mainly makes ingredients used in animal feed and pet food.
- Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-iowaplantexplosio,0,5944551.story>

30. *February 18, Gannett* – (National) **Massive stink bug invasion predicted.** As the weather warms, scientists billions of stink bugs — far worse than in 2010 — will be awakening and reproducing by the end of February. As the temperatures rise, stink bugs crawl toward nearby farm fields and orchards to devour millions, maybe billions of dollars in fruit and vegetables. They lay their eggs on the foliage of fruit trees and other crops. They were first collected in 1998 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, but the National Wildlife Federation thinks they probably arrived in the United States a few years earlier in shipping crates, hitchhikers in global commerce. They have now spread throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Northwest and are making their way into

the Midwest and South — about two dozen states, Pennsylvania State University researchers said. The bugs have no natural predators, and every year their population has climbed exponentially. An entomologist at the University of Maryland who has been studying the bugs predicted 2011 would be the worst yet.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20110218/NEWS01/102180347/Massive-stink-bug-invasion-predicted>

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

## Water Sector

31. *February 21, KENS 5 San Antonio* – (Texas) **SAWS containing 100,000 gallons of wastewater that leaked into dry creekbed.** San Antonio Water System (SAWS) crews were repairing a pipe on the northeast side February 21 after more than 100,000 gallons of wastewater leaked into a dry creekbed near Morgan’s Circle. Most of the spill has been contained and cleaned up. SAWS said it had not found any adverse impacts, but noted workers will continue to monitor the area.  
Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/SAWS-containing-100000-gallons-of-wastewater-that-leaked-into-dry-creekbed-116628038.html>
  
32. *February 19, WHTC 1450 AM Holland* – (Michigan) **Sewage spill contained at Holland BPW plant.** Holland, Michigan, Board of Public Works officials said a spill from the water treatment plant on West Second Street February 17 was fully contained. Around 720 gallons of untreated sewage flowed out of a 12-inch hole in a 20-inch pipe. A contractor digging an electrical vault out of the ground apparently struck the pipe, causing the damage. It took about an hour to clean up the spilled liquid. State and county officials were notified. None of the sewage flowed out of the facility.  
Source: <http://whtc.com/news/articles/2011/feb/19/sewage-spill-contained-holland-bpw-plant/>
  
33. *February 17, Decatur Daily* – (Alabama) **Firm hired to study DU water failure.** Decatur Utilities (DU) in Decatur, Alabama will pay an outside engineering and consultant firm \$37,000 to conduct a water treatment study to determine what caused the utility’s plant failure last month. The three-member Municipal Utilities Board of Decatur approved the expenditure February 16 to hire HDR Engineering Inc., which is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. The DU general manager said DU will work with consultants from the company’s Raleigh, North Carolina, branch. The firm should finish the study within 2 months. DU will review the findings, and a final report could be ready for board review in May or June. The manager said money for the consultants will come out of DU’s operating expenses budget and should not affect rates. On January 3, all of DU’s customers had little to no water pressure, forcing the closures of industry, businesses, and local government offices for a day. The problems occurred when the water treatment plant failed to adequately treat cold, turbid water from the Tennessee River the night before.  
Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4901496>

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

34. *February 22, msnbc.com* – (National) **FDA knew of problems at plant that made tainted wipes.** The death of a 2-year-old Houston, Texas boy from a rare infection blamed on contaminated alcohol wipes may be only the first casualty tied to allegedly shoddy sterilization practices by the Triad Group of Hartland, Wisconsin. Since a February 15 report by msnbc.com, dozens of people have said they may have been sickened, too. At the same time, government documents obtained by msnbc.com showed U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors knew about problems with contamination and sterilization at a plant run by the firm as early as July 2009. “Procedures designed to prevent microbiological contamination of drug products purporting to be sterile are not followed,” officials wrote in inspection reports. But there is no record the FDA sent warning letters typically used to force firms to comply. During the week of February 14, more than 50 people contacted lawyers representing the boy’s parents, who are suing the Triad Group for gross negligence in their son’s December 1 death. “We’re seeing a wide spectrum of complaints,” said the lawyer representing the family. Reported injuries range from superficial skin infections to serious complications, and even one claim of another death. None of the new infections has been confirmed, he added. Another 100 reports of problems with alcohol prep pads have been logged by the FDA since the January 5 recall of Triad products because of potential contamination with the bacteria *Bacillus cereus*, an agency spokesman said. Triad’s recall covers all lots of its alcohol prep pads, wipes, and swabs, totaling perhaps hundreds of millions of products sold in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41694606/ns/health-infectious\\_diseases/?GT1=43001](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41694606/ns/health-infectious_diseases/?GT1=43001)
35. *February 21, WAGA 5 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Some Emory medical records compromised.** Emory Healthcare in Georgia alerted thousands of patients about a fraud scheme February 21. Hospital officials said someone stole personal patient data and used that information illegally. Emory officials said 77 people had their Social Security numbers stolen and used in a tax return scam. Officials said 2,400 other patients were given 12-month identity protection in case they are targeted in the future. According to officials, the fraud was discovered by the IRS, because they detected fraudulent tax returns. The IRS in turn, brought the situation to Emory’s attention. Source: <http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/some-emory-medical-records-compromised-022111>
36. *February 21, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Drug shortages cause hospitals to use older types of medicines.** Hospitals across the country are running out of key drugs used in surgeries and to treat some diseases, including cancer, causing doctors to turn to older treatments. In some cases, hospitals are paying higher prices to get patients necessary care because wholesalers are hoarding needed medicines. Part of the shortage has been caused by manufacturing issues and quality-control problems at a number of companies as they respond to a U.S. Food and Drug Administration crackdown on drug

safety. The issues range from finding toxins and “particulate matter” in medicines, to workers inaccurately filling out the required paperwork to verify drugs and medical devices are safe and effective. About 150 drugs are in short supply, according to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. About 60 of those are considered by federal health officials “medically necessary,” including medicines used to treat or prevent a serious disease or medical condition. The drug shortage has been exacerbated by consolidation in the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, some drug companies have exited the business of making older, generic injectable drugs, which typically are not as profitable as newer brand-name medicines.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-drug-shortage-20110221,0,1760241.story>

37. *February 20, Howard Brown Health Center* – (Illinois) **Donor database breach.** On February 19, Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago, Illinois identified a potential breach in its donor database, which contains personal phone numbers and e-mail addresses. There is no reason to believe that credit card information was compromised, Howard officials said. There is also no reason to believe that confidential patient records were inappropriately accessed, they added. Howard has alerted the appropriate authorities and is conducting an internal investigation. All parties, including current and former staff members, who played a role in the unlawful activity will be held accountable, Howard officials said. The incident came to the hospital’s attention after several concerned donors recently received an anonymous e-mail that said unflattering things about Howard Brown Health Center and its staff.

Source: [http://www.howardbrown.org/hb\\_news.asp?id=1695](http://www.howardbrown.org/hb_news.asp?id=1695)

38. *February 18, iHealthBeat* – (National) **Some physicians post inappropriate content on Twitter, review finds.** Some physicians write inappropriate and unethical posts on Twitter, highlighting the need for greater oversight of physicians’ social media use, according to a research letter published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, HealthDay reported. Researchers analyzed 5,156 Twitter posts from 260 U.S. physicians who each had 500 or more followers in May 2010. Researchers found that: About 49 percent of all posts were related to health or medicine; 20 percent were personal communications; 12 percent were self-promotional; and 1 percent recommended a medical service or product. Researchers deemed 3 percent of the posts unprofessional because the posts contained discriminatory statements, potential violations of patient privacy, profanity, or sexually explicit material. About 1 percent of posts included unsupported claims about a product or repeated promotions for health products. Ten of the tweets contradicted medical guidelines or knowledge.

Source: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2011/2/18/some-physicians-post-inappropriate-content-on-twitter-report-finds.aspx>

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

## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *February 22, Associated Press* – (International) **New York Air National Guard unit safe after New Zealand quake.** More than two dozen members of the New York Air National Guard deployed to support Antarctic research missions were reported safe after a deadly earthquake February 22 in New Zealand. The commander of the Schenectady County-based 109th Airlift Wing said 26 members of the unit remained in the capital of Christchurch February 22. He said they would begin returning home the week of February 21 on two of the unit's three C-130 cargo planes. The other C-130 will remain in New Zealand for planned maintenance. He said a C-5 based in Newburgh departed Christchurch after the earthquake struck February 22. The Guardsmen were either at the Christchurch airport or two hotels near the airport when the earthquake hit. The unit has not been asked to aid recovery efforts.

Source:

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/new\\_york\\_air\\_national\\_guard\\_un.ht ml](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/new_york_air_national_guard_un.ht ml)

40. *February 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Navy to conduct large-scale antiterrorism exercise.** Sailors at U.S. naval bases will participate in the nation's largest antiterrorism exercise starting February 22, officials said. Navy installations in the continental United States, Guam, and Hawaii will participate in Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield through February 25. The exercise is intended to give officials a snapshot of military readiness, as the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks approaches, by reviewing the response to multiple attacks. The Navy plans to simulate real-world threats, incorporating lessons learned from the 2000 bombing of the Navy destroyer USS Cole, and the 2009 Fort Hood shooting, among others. Security officials will track scores of potential threats and sailors' responses to them from a control room at Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval base. Army and Marine Corps officials also will observe the exercise, which is being coordinated by U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Scenarios could include an explosive detonating on a Navy base or a bomb threat at a recruiting center. Civilians might see service members in battle gear with guns and military dogs, and in fighting positions at some bases.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/21/AR2011022103919.html?wprss=rss\\_world&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+wp-dyn/rss/world/index\\_xml+\(washingtonpost.com++World\)](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/21/AR2011022103919.html?wprss=rss_world&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+wp-dyn/rss/world/index_xml+(washingtonpost.com++World))

41. *February 21, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Authorities to boost security at Wis. Capitol.** Authorities planned additional security precautions ensure Wisconsin lawmakers were not affected by protests at the capitol in Madison when they debated an anti-union bill February 22. A memo from the Wisconsin assembly's sergeant-at-arms said only legislators, staff, and credentialed media would have access to certain hallways that day. Assembly galleries would be open to the public, but spectators would need to empty their pockets and go through metal detectors to enter. The assembly was expected to meet at 11 a.m. to consider the governor's budget-repair bill, which includes deep cuts to public employees' benefits and collective bargaining rights. The memo said police officers will be available to assist lawmakers when they are moving around the building. The governor said all 132 members of the legislature

need “adequate protection” during the debate.

Source:

[http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/Authorities\\_to\\_boost\\_security\\_at\\_Wis\\_Capitol\\_116634993.html](http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/Authorities_to_boost_security_at_Wis_Capitol_116634993.html)

42. *February 21, Washington Times* – (International) **Iranians hack into VOA website.** Iranian computer hackers February 21 hijacked the Web site of the Voice of America (VOA), replacing its Internet home page with a banner bearing an Iranian flag and an image of an AK-47 assault rifle. The group called on the United States’ Secretary of State to “hear the voice of oppressed nations.” The banner stated “we have proven that we can.” The message called on the United States to “stop interfering in Islamic countries.” It then listed 90 more VOA Web sites it claimed also had been hacked. A State Department spokesman could not be reached for comment. An administration official said the group identified with the banner is known as the Iranian Cyber Army. VOA operates a global network of news and information outlets that reflect official U.S. foreign policies. It broadcasts, through radio, television, and the Internet to scores of nations around the world. Little is known about the hacking group. It was credited with hacking and defacing Twitter in December 2009, replacing the social networking site’s home page with a message the site was hacked by the Iranian Cyber Army.  
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/21/iranian-hackers-break-voa-deface-web-sites/>
43. *February 21, Associated Press* – (California) **President, governor threatened in Calif. graffiti.** Authorities are investigating graffiti messages threatening the U.S. President and the California governor in an Santa Ana, California near where threats to the governor were scrawled last month. A Santa Ana police commander said the spray-painted messages found February 21 stated both men “must die.” The President was identified using a racial slur. Swastikas and anti-Semitic and anti-Mexican slogans were spray-painted nearby. The graffiti was within 1 mile of the wall where death threats against the governor were spotted January 20. Police and California Highway Patrol officials are investigating the graffiti, and the U.S. Secret Service has been notified.  
Source: <http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=14070276>
44. *February 20, WKRC 12 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Haz-mat scare at UC.** Firefighters and haz-mat crews in Cincinnati, Ohio, rushed to the University of Cincinnati February 19 to clean up a radioactive chemical spill. School officials said Phosphorus-32 spilled in the Kettering Laboratory, just before 11 a.m. Phosphorus-32 is a radioactive chemical that actually becomes more radioactive as it dries. It is used in medical research. Only a few drops spilled and no one was hurt. Crews moved quickly, and the building was re-opened about 30 minutes after the spill.  
Source: <http://www.local12.com/news/local/story/Haz-Mat-Scare-at-UC/yKvmgFKvMEyTm3f8qQKceg.cspX>

For another story, see item [25](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

45. *February 22, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **911 procedures probed in crash fatal to 2 teens.** Columbus, Ohio police were investigating how 911 operators handled the initial call the morning of February 20 on a crash that killed two teenagers. More than 1 hour went by before officers responded. The victims were driving westbound on Johnson Road, east of Smartweed Drive near Bolton Field, when the car veered off the left side of the road and struck a tree, a Columbus police report said. A passing motorist spotted the car and called 911 about 5:15 a.m. It was not until 6:28 a.m. that officers responded, a Columbus police spokesman said. The fire division was called at 6:40 a.m. and arrived about 5 minutes later. The teens died at the scene. Later February 20, one of the radio-room supervisors called for the review after noticing the large discrepancy between the initial call and when officers responded. The first call came over a cell phone and was routed through the Franklin County sheriff's office to Columbus police. An official said the report initially came in as a hit-skip crash with property damage. After the first 911 call, there was another call from a motorist about the crash.  
Source: [http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2011/02/22/911-procedures-probed-in-crash-fatal-to-2-teens.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/02/22/911-procedures-probed-in-crash-fatal-to-2-teens.html?sid=101)
46. *February 22, New York Post* – (New York) **20 New York City firefighters injured at five-alarm blaze.** A raging five-alarm fire tore through a Brooklyn, New York apartment building February 19, leaving one person dead, about 100 residents homeless, and nearly two dozen firefighters injured. The fire, which erupted at around 6:40 p.m. on the fourth floor of the building on East 29th Street near Avenue D in East Flatbush, injured four residents and left one dead, officials said. None of the injuries to the firefighters were considered serious, but 15 of them were taken to New York and Maimonides hospitals. The fire, which was battled by 200 firefighters, was not brought under control until early in the morning February 22, with strong winds complicating firefighters' efforts. The building has about 70 apartments. A shelter for displaced residents was set up at a nearby school.  
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/firefighter-safety/20-new-york-city-firefighters-injured-five-alarm-blaze>
47. *February 22, Willoughby News-Herald* – (Ohio) **Video conferencing technology is making law enforcement's job easier.** All around the country, police agencies have had to cut their staffs during the recession. Courtrooms are increasingly using video conferencing, mainly for suspects in custody awaiting their initial appearance in municipal court. Video conferencing has become much easier to implement in recent years and much more cost-effective, a Painesville, Ohio clerk of court said. There are now five OHio cities utilizing it: Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Eastlake, Willowick, and Wickliffe. Each morning, Willoughby's bailiff checks in with the police departments to see whether there are any people in custody that day. Then officials build an arraignment list, any defendants who can be arraigned via video talk to the

judge right from their jail cell. Defense attorneys can participate at the jail or in court. Initially, some police officers were hesitant to participate in video arraignments because of the initial paperwork involved. “But that was quickly dispelled after they found out how much easier it was,” an official said. “The police officers are the ones who really make it work.”

Source: <http://news-herald.com/articles/2011/02/22/news/doc4d62843d44470830272864.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

48. *February 21, WTOV 9 Steubenville & Wheeling* – (Ohio) **Authorities say man broke into Ohio police station.** Police officers in Saline Township in Jefferson County, Ohio, discovered a break-in at the Saline Township Police Station February 19. “The officer on-duty came back from his patrols. He found that the front door had been broken into,” a Saline Township police patrolman said. “He found the lock pieces and pieces from the door scattered about the floor.” Police found the break-in suspect outside the building on township property and took him into custody. Police were reviewing surveillance video from at least eight cameras on the property they believe recorded the break-in. “Entry through the door was obviously made with bodily force,” a police spokesman said. Police said after a preliminary assessment, it does not look like anything was taken from the station. Township trustees were working to get a new door installed as quickly as possible to secure the station.

Source: <http://officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=56922>

49. *February 17, WUSA 9 District of Columbia* – (District of Columbia) **January snow storm exposes flaws ideal for terrorist attack.** After a January 26 snowstorm crippled much of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, 9-1-1 communications systems were being criticized by many, including officials with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Various jurisdictions, including the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, reported that during the height of the storm, thousands of 9-1-1 emergency calls made by cell phones went dead. The callers heard busy signals, and in other cases, nothing at all. Emergency officials said the disruption in communication was caused by Verizon wireless trunk lines that went down as a result of an extremely high call volume and snow damage to actual phone towers and lines. The chief of the FCC public safety and homeland security bureau said that problem may be occurring nationwide. In Washington, a local anti-terrorism expert said failed 9-1-1 calls are a clear weakness that could be exploited by those wanting to cause harm. “The system is going to go down if it gets overloaded. That’s just a fact,” he said. “We should be looking at snowstorms as an opportunity to test and perfect our systems. If we can’t handle a snowstorm, there is a very good likelihood that we can’t handle a terrorist attack, and that’s the problem.”

Source: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=136520&catid=189>

50. *February 17, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Gun threat to paramedics has some reflecting on job dangers.** An incident that occurred in San Antonio, Texas involving a Northwest side man who police said pointed a gun at paramedics trying to help him, has others in the lifesaving business reflecting on the dangers of the job. San Antonio

police arrested the suspect February 16 in connection with the February 9 incident. He was sent to the Bexar County Jail on a charge of aggravated assault of a public servant. According to the arrest warrant affidavit, the suspect, who uses an oxygen tank, called 911 when he began having medical trouble in his home. Two paramedics from San Antonio Fire Station #41 responded and, after treatment, recommended he be transported to a hospital. The suspect refused and paramedics told police that when they began sharing their concerns with his son, the suspect pulled a gun from his sofa, held it to the stomach of one of the medics, and ordered them to leave. Police negotiators later arrived and talked the suspect into leaving. Two days after the incident, detectives called the suspect, who they say admitted it happened. He told detectives he felt the paramedics were violating his rights by not leaving his home, and that he had the right to remove them at gunpoint.

Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/26902854/detail.html>

For another story, see item [56](#)

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

## **Information Technology Sector**

51. *February 22, Help Net Security* – (International) **Phishing scam and malware distribution scheme combined.** The Facebook phishing campaign spotted February 21 turned out not to be so unimaginative after all. F-Secure researchers decided to see it through and entered log-in credentials to a dummy account of theirs to see if it would be compromised. And immediately after having entered them and having pressed the “Login” button, a notice offering free laptops and iPads pops up. A click on any of the “Claim Now” buttons takes the victim to a page offering a free Smiley toolbar, but no free iPad. “No Spyware,” it says. “We take pride in our products!” But if the user falls for the claim and downloads the offered (dot)exe file, spyware is what they will get. It is a phishing scam combined with malware distribution. If the user does not have an AV solution installed on their computer, they might not notice the spyware is hard at work in the background.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1637](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1637)

52. *February 18, Darkreading* – (International) **New fast-flux botnet unmasked.** A researcher at the RSA Conference 2011 said February 17 he discovered a new botnet that uses the rare fast-flux method to stay alive and evade takedown. He showed a sample of the botnet’s malware he had reverse-engineered, with evidence the botnet uses fast-flux. Fast-flux is basically load-balancing with a twist. It is a round-robin method where infected bot machines serve as proxies or hosts for malicious sites and are constantly rotated, changing their DNS records to prevent discovery by researchers. The now-defunct Storm and WareZov/Stration botnets were the first major ones to use fast-flux, but despite worries by researchers this method would catch on, it has remained rare. Avalanche/RockPhish and WareZov also used fast-flux to keep a low profile. “When fast-flux first came out, it was thought everybody was going to use it. That never materialized,” the researcher said. That is because an extra level of expertise

and effort is required to design the botnet this way, he said.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/insider-threat/167801100/security/vulnerabilities/229218915/new-fast-flux-botnet-unmasked.html>

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

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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

## Communications Sector

53. *February 19, PC Magazine* – (International) **Libya cuts internet access for several hours.** Internet access in Libya was severed for several hours the weekend of February 19 and 20, as protestors took to the streets to demand an end to the 40-year reign of their ruler. On February 19, Internet monitoring firm Renesys said in a blog post “Libya is off the Internet.” By February 20, Renesys said Internet access in Libya had been restored. “At the moment, spot checks of Libyan domains and traceroutes into affected networks indicate that connectivity has been restored, and Libya is back on the Internet,” the company wrote.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2380677,00.asp>

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

## Commercial Facilities Sector

54. *February 21, Keokuk's Daily Gate City* – (Iowa) **Fire forces mall's evacuation.** Traffic was rerouted around the River City Mall in Keokuk, Iowa February 21 as firefighters responded to a fire that started in a store at the southeast side of the building. All off-duty firefighters were called to the scene. Keokuk police officers had the mall evacuated by 9 a.m. The owner of a mall business said the fire started in Sue's Quilts and Stitches. Smoke was not visible from the outside of the building, but the smell of smoke was strong inside and outside the mall. The cause of the fire had not been determined before press time.

Source:

<http://www.dailygate.com/articles/2011/02/21/news/doc4d62c5af53b1e322189267.txt>

55. *February 21, Associated Press* – (International) **12 taxi drivers, fares killed in Mexican resort.** A spate of attacks on taxis in the Mexican resort city of Acapulco has left 12 taxi drivers or passengers dead, police said February 20, just hours before the

Mexican Open tennis tournament began. Taxi drivers have often been targeted for extortion or recruited by drug cartels to act as lookouts or transport drugs. The organizers of the largest tennis tournament in Latin America said in a statement the Mexican government has assured them that appropriate security measures have been taken for the event that started February 21. Police in Guerrero state, where Acapulco is located, said four suspects had been detained in relation to some of the attacks. The suspects had guns, a grenade, and a machete that police said may have been used to decapitate some of the victims. The attacks began February 18, when five taxi drivers were found dead in or near their vehicles. The murders continued February 19, when a driver was found bound and shot to death near his taxi, and two others were found dead of bullet wounds inside their vehicles. One of the drivers had been beheaded. On February 20, five cars were set afire and a man's body was found outside an apartment building.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41699216/ns/world\\_news-americas/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41699216/ns/world_news-americas/)

56. *February 20, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (Ohio) **Fire damages 22 apartments in Woodlawn.** Fire crews battling a large fire at a 20-building apartment complex off Springfield Pike in Woodlawn, Ohio, February 20 encountered hydrants that had not been properly turned back on after a repair job, a Woodlawn fire official said February 21. Firefighters were forced to use water carried on their trucks. They suspect the hydrants, which are maintained by the operators of Fieldstone Apartments, were never turned back on properly after they were shut off about a month ago. Just small amounts of water, about 50 gallons per minute, dripped from the hydrants. Normal water flow is 3,000 gallons per minute, the Woodlawn Fire Department chief explained. Indianapolis-based Buckingham Companies, which owns and operates the 354-unit complex, spoke February 21 with the plumbing contractor and Woodlawn fire officials to find out what happened. A spokesman for Buckingham Companies confirmed a water main break occurred December 15, and another roughly in early February, but said the hydrants were properly and fully functioning after the repairs were completed. The fire damaged about 22 apartments in one building. Damage is expected to be close to \$1 million.

Source: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20110220/NEWS01/302210015/Fire-damages-22-apartments-Woodlawn>

57. *February 20, WNCN 17 Goldsboro* – (North Carolina) **Wakefield Plantation Golf Course open after wildfire damages course, 3 homes.** The TPC Wakefield Golf Course in Raleigh, North Carolina, was open February 20 after a wildfire damaged the course and three homes located in the development February 19. The Falls Volunteer Fire Department chief said the fire broke out about 3:15 p.m. and three homes had minor damage, but the fire was out about 5 p.m. Firefighters worked into the evening to soak hot spots. Roads into the development were closed off as firefighters worked to control the flames. Major roads were open by 7 p.m.. About 75 firefighters and 40 fire trucks responded.

Source: <http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2011/feb/20/fire-reported-wakefield-plantation-golf-course-ar-797845/>

58. *February 18, Newton TAB* – (Massachusetts) **Chestnut Hill Towers evacuated in Newton.** A transformer fire in the basement of 250 Chestnut Hill Towers in Newton, Massachusetts, led to the evacuation of 500 people, most of them elderly residents February 18. The fire caused the transformer to blow at about 1:20 p.m., shutting down the building’s power. NStar crews and the Newton Fire Department were working to restore power to the building. The building has more than 400 units and houses many elderly residents. People were allowed to go to their apartments to get medication but otherwise had to stay on the building’s first floor. EMTs were on scene to treat ill residents.  
Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/newton/news/x2089516622/Chestnut-Hill-Towers-evacuated-in-Newton>
59. *February 18, Brownsville Herald* – (International) **Grenade explodes in Matamoros.** Sources have confirmed a grenade attack in the parking lot of a Walmart store in Matamoros, Mexico, February 18. The grenade reportedly went off between 7:10 and 7:20 p.m. at the parking lot of the store on Manuel Cavazos Boulevard, a Mexican law enforcement official said. Authorities sealed off the parking lot. No significant injuries were reported. The attack at the Walmart comes days after a grenade was thrown on Valentine’s Day at a shopping area in downtown Matamoros known as La Peatonal. In that attack, shrapnel from the explosive device injured nine bystanders, some seriously.  
Source: <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/grenade-122993-parking-lot.html>

For more stories, see items [15](#) and [46](#)

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

## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

60. *February 20, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Forest fire service puts out wind-related fires across southern New Jersey.** Warm and windy weather helped dozens of fires spread across southern New Jersey the weekend of February 19 and 20, most of which were minor and in secluded areas. About 20 acres of marsh and forest burned February 19 in Little Egg Harbor Township, and the state forest fire service responded to an estimated 33 fires in the southern and central parts of the state. Several smaller fires burned February 20 in parts of Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, and Ocean counties as well, fire officials said. The fire service also lit several prescribed burns throughout the weekend, including about 105 total acres in the Ocean County areas of Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, Double Trouble State Park, and Ocean County Park.  
Source: [http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/forest-fire-service-puts-out-wind-related-fires-across-southern/article\\_13de3682-3d63-11e0-a956-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/breaking/forest-fire-service-puts-out-wind-related-fires-across-southern/article_13de3682-3d63-11e0-a956-001cc4c03286.html)
61. *February 20, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Couple repay government for causing forest fire.** A Mono County, California, couple have paid the government \$1 million

for damages from a fire they accidentally caused that scorched 7,435 acres of the Inyo National Forest, according to a U.S. attorney. The Sawmill fire ignited September 14, 2006, after the couple burned brush in a fire pit on their private property that was not fully extinguished, leading embers to blow into dry fuel. The U.S. attorney said it cost the government more than \$1 million to suppress the blaze.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/02/19/3415233/couple-repay-government-for-causing.html>

62. *February 20, WNCN 17 Goldsboro* – (North Carolina) **Warrenton wildfire burns 1,600 acres.** Fire officials said the wildfire that sparked February 19 in Warren County, North Carolina, has burned about 1,600 acres of pine, brush, and grass along a 5-mile stretch of US Highway 401 and Parktown Road just south of Warrenton. Authorities said the fire started when the wheel of a junk car fell off, throwing sparks into the land. The fire generated a smoke plume 3 to 4 miles wide and 30 to 40 miles long February 21, according to the North Carolina Forest Service. It said the fire was about 90 percent contained during the day February 20, and they hoped to have it all contained by nightfall. More than 80 firefighters, with the help of a forestry service plane above, worked more than 24 hours to control the blaze. Some crews dug lines to stop the fire while others stood by homes to protect them. The Warren County fire was the largest wildfire in eastern North Carolina. The forest service said February 19 it battled 288 fires statewide.

Source: <http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2011/feb/20/13/wildfire-evacuation-order-lifted-warren-county-ar-798971/>

63. *February 19, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Va. officials battling 100-plus wildfires.** State and local officials were fighting more than 100 wildfires February 19 across Virginia. The Virginia Department of Forestry said firefighters in at least 50 localities were battling outdoor fires for much of the day. The department also said it is working two significant fires in Rockingham and Warren counties. The National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service are working fires in western Virginia. Fires temporarily closed several roads in Virginia, including Interstate 64 in New Kent County and Interstate 95 ramps in Prince William County. The Virginia Department of Transportation and Virginia State Police have been handling traffic control and detours. Officials said about 100 Louisa County residents were evacuated because their homes were threatened.

Source: <http://www.wset.com/Global/story.asp?S=14064262>

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

## **Dams Sector**

64. *February 22, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Dam demolition begins on Twelve Mile River.** Crews begin demolition of a dam across the Twelve Mile River in Pickens County, South Carolina, February 22. A judge ordered the dam removal in a 2006 court settlement where the former Sangamo-Weston Capacitor Plant was found guilty of dumping contaminants in the water from 1955 to 1977. The contaminants

flowed downstream into Lake Hartwell, the judge found. The idea behind removing the dam is to allow the release of clean sediments to cover the contaminated lake bottom. There are two dams that will be removed, Woodside I and Woodside 2 dams. Woodside 2 is slated to be removed later in the year. Signs warning of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, can be seen along the river near the dam. The company responsible for the clean-up has already paid \$65 million. The removal of the dams is expected to add an additional \$22 million to that total.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/26949154/detail.html>

65. *February 22, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Levee improvements keep Redwood Shores off flood plain map.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently concluded that \$2.7 million worth of levee improvements Redwood City, California, completed are enough to keep the area from being added to a flood plain map. Redwood City did the levee work after learning in 2008 that FEMA was updating maps to determine which areas should be considered flood plains. Property owners who live in flood plains must secure insurance because the levees that are supposed to protect them are not deemed sturdy enough by FEMA, which analyzes such factors as height, width, and stability. FEMA had alerted the city that two Redwood Shores levees did not meet federal standards — one that surrounds a new 156-townhouse and public school development called “The Preserve” and another that abuts the San Carlos Airport. Redwood City added 1 to 2 feet of “earthen” material to about 8 miles of levees to make them comply with minimum federal standards, the city’s building department director said. The project cost a total of about \$2.7 million.  
Source:  
[http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci\\_17445214?source=rss&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_17445214?source=rss&nclick_check=1)
66. *February 21, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **St. Charles Parish to spend \$1.6 million to mitigate proposed levee wetlands damage.** The St. Charles Parish, Louisiana Council voted February 21 to spend \$1.6 million on wetland mitigation as it seeks a permit to build the second phase of its west bank hurricane protection levee. The vote allows the parish to pay for damage the levee would cause to existing wetlands. The parish has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a permit to build the 10-mile-long levee, which would begin south of the Willow Ridge community. The parish does not have the \$150 million needed to build the levee, but hopes to get federal funding at some point. Officials expect the money the parish spends on planning will be credited toward a local match of a federal grant. The project is not currently in the federal levee system, but parish officials hope to change that.  
Source:  
[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/02/st\\_charles\\_parish\\_to\\_spend\\_16.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/02/st_charles_parish_to_spend_16.html)
67. *February 19, Mid Columbia Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **West Richland’s levee system barely passes latest rating.** The West Richland levee system in Washington, which includes more than a mile of right-bank levee embankment along the Yakima River, received an overall system rating of “minimally acceptable” after its most recent Army Corps of Engineers periodic inspection. The levee system’s rating means it remains eligible to apply for federal rehabilitation assistance if it is damaged in a flood

or storm. The system is operated and maintained by Benton County Diking District No. 1. The system was completed in 1963, and protects numerous residential homes and properties west of the Yakima River. Army Corps project ratings do not determine final eligibility under the National Flood Insurance Program. Certification documentation is the responsibility of the levee sponsor. For information concerning the National Flood Insurance Program in relation to this levee system, contact the levee sponsor or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/02/19/1377005/west-richlands-levee-system-barely.html>

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

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

**About the reports** - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

#### **Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to [cikr.productfeedback@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:cikr.productfeedback@hq.dhs.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703)387-2267

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to [support@govdelivery.com](mailto:support@govdelivery.com).

---

#### **Contact DHS**

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

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

#### **Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.