



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
2 September 2011

Top Stories

- Federal investigators blamed a utility's lax approach to pipeline safety and weak government oversight for a 2010 California natural gas explosion that destroyed a neighborhood and killed eight people. – *Reuters* (See item [2](#))
- Metro-North's Port Jervis, New York metro train line suffered such "catastrophic" damage from Hurricane Irene that large swaths will have to be completely rebuilt in a process expected to take months. – *New York Post* (See item [16](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW

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

1. *September 1, Battle Creek Enquirer* – (Michigan) **Oil spill work continues, despite expired deadline.** Enbridge Inc., the company responsible for the 843,000-gallon oil spill in Michigan last July, notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the week of August 29 that it would not comply with an oil cleanup deadline. The EPA had ordered Enbridge to remove by August 31 all submerged oil on the Kalamazoo River that had been identified in a spring re-assessment. But on August 29, the EPA received a letter from Enbridge announcing that all the submerged oil, surface oil, and

contaminated soil and sediments would not be removed by August 31, according to a statement from an EPA spokesman. “U.S. EPA will continue to evaluate Enbridge’s response work progress and the reasons identified for failing to complete the work by the August 31 deadline,” the statement read. About 800 people were working on the spill remediation.

Source:

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20110901/NEWS01/309010008/Oil-spill-work-continues-despite-expired-deadline?odyssey=nav|head>

2. *August 31, Reuters* – (California) **U.S. blames utility, regulators for pipeline blast.** Investigators August 30 blamed a utility’s lax approach to pipeline safety and weak government oversight for a California natural gas explosion that destroyed a neighborhood and killed eight people nearly a year ago. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said in a scathing report on the blast in San Bruno that Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) for years exploited regulatory weaknesses. “We also identified regulators that placed a blind trust in the companies that they were charged with overseeing to the detriment of public safety,” the NTSB Chairman said. The half-century-old gas transmission line ruptured September 9, 2010, ejecting a 28-foot section of pipe and igniting a ferocious fire that destroyed 38 homes and damaged 70 others. Eight people were killed and dozens of others were hurt. The safety board found the piping installed 4-feet underground in 1956 did not meet certain specifications and the welds were poorly constructed. Poor quality control and follow-up, the board said, resulted in the defective piping going undetected for decades. The blast, investigators said, was “clearly preventable.” Regulatory exemptions of certain rules by the California Public Utility Commission and the U.S. Transportation Department contributed to the explosion, the safety board said. The NTSB has issued a number of urgent safety recommendations to regulators and the pipeline industry to address the deficiencies it identified during its investigation.

Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1E77T1X620110831>

3. *August 31, Associated Press* – (National) **Nearly 2 million still without power after Irene.** Nearly 2 million homes and businesses were still without power 5 days after Hurricane Irene slammed into the East Coast. Utilities restored power to about 7.4 million customers by August 31, according to an Associated Press tally of company reports. Hundreds of communities were still without power. Flooding remains the main obstacle. Some communities along the North Carolina coast remained partially flooded, cutting off access to transmission lines and critical electrical equipment. Swollen rivers in New Jersey have washed out roads and bridges, dousing electrical substations and making it difficult for repair crews to reach neighborhoods. The flooding was so severe in Vermont that the National Guard air-dropped food and water to some areas that were cut off.

Source: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-record.com/content/2011/08/31/article/nearly_2_million_still_out_of_power_after_irene)

[record.com/content/2011/08/31/article/nearly_2_million_still_out_of_power_after_irene](http://www.news-record.com/content/2011/08/31/article/nearly_2_million_still_out_of_power_after_irene)

4. *August 31, U.S. Department of Labor* – (National) **OSHA issues hazard alert on the dangers to workers of incorrectly rebuilt circuit breakers.** The Occupational Safety

and Health Administration (OSHA) August 31 issued a hazard alert, warning workers and employers of the dangers of using certain Eaton/Cutler-Hammer molded-case circuit breakers that were incorrectly rebuilt. The third-party rebuilder may have altered the circuit breakers -- identified by model numbers E²K and E²KM -- by using incorrect parts that can cause the breakers to malfunction. The breakers were originally manufactured by Eaton/Cutler-Hammer as part of its E² mining series breakers, but may also be used in tunneling operations. At this time, the number of incorrectly rebuilt E²K and E²KM breakers or their locations are not known. The alert warns the rebuilt breakers have incorrect voltage ratings on the covers, and may lack proper safety features such as grounding and fault protection to prevent electrical shock, burns, and fires. Employers should have a qualified person shut off power to the breakers, follow proper lockout/tagout procedures, and remove any defective breaker from service and replace it with one that a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory has properly certified. Employers that find one of the defective breakers should notify the OSHA.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=20586

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *September 1, Environmental Leader* – (International) **Adidas becomes third sports brand to ban hazardous chemicals.** Adidas has become the third major sports brand to commit to having zero discharge of hazardous chemicals throughout its supply chain by 2020 in the wake of Greenpeace pressure. The sportswear chain has pledged to have an action plan in place within 7 weeks, setting out programs and initiatives for the eradication of hazardous chemicals from its supply chain, and disclosure of current chemical usage. Adidas said it hopes to use its influence to leverage other brands into eliminating chemicals in their supply chains. The news from the German brand follows similar announcements by Nike and Puma. All three companies responded to Greenpeace's Dirty Laundry campaign that named many clothing brands associated with importing materials from a Chinese conglomerate Greenpeace said is polluting rivers.
Source: <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2011/09/01/adidas-becomes-third-sports-brand-to-ban-hazardous-chemicals/>
6. *September 1, Waste Management World* – (California) **Chemical waste company fined for landfill breaches in California.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached a settlement with Chemical Waste Management requiring the company to pay a \$400,000 fine and spend about \$600,000 to comply with environmental laws after it failed to properly manage waste at its landfill near Kettleman City, California. The settlement is a result of a joint U.S. EPA and California Department of Toxic Substances Control investigation in February 2010, Waste Management World reported September 1. An analysis of the landfill's records showed its laboratory had not been

following proper quality control procedures since 2005. The EPA said it suggested the firm switch to using an outside lab, which it has done since May 2010. The investigation found records indicating waste that did not fully meet standards for treatment prior to disposal was disposed of at the site. Also, the facility disposed of hazardous waste leachate from the landfill without assuring it met treatment standards. However, the EPA said there was no evidence to suggest the landfill's violations posed a danger to nearby communities or workers. Under the terms of the settlement, the facility must use an outside lab at least 2 years to verify its hazardous wastes meet treatment standards prior to disposal. In addition, the EPA said the facility must install an advanced record management system, and purchase new equipment before it is allowed to perform all analyses in its own lab. It must also make physical and operational changes in its leachate management system.

Source: [http://www.waste-management-world.com/index/display/article-display/7818371525/articles/waste-management-world/landfill/2011/09/Chemical Waste Company Fined for Landfill Breaches in California.html](http://www.waste-management-world.com/index/display/article-display/7818371525/articles/waste-management-world/landfill/2011/09/Chemical+Waste+Company+Fined+for+Landfill+Breach+in+California.html)

7. *August 31, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Hurricane Irene floodwaters blamed for chemical waste spill in Bridgewater.** Floodwaters caused by Hurricane Irene may have freed chemical waste from the former American Cyanamid site in Bridgewater, New Jersey, but the breach is not considered an immediate threat, environmental authorities said August 31. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), water from a rising Raritan River spilled over a berm that protected an impoundment that stored the waste. A black tar-like substance similar to the stored waste was found on and around the berm when the water receded, an EPA spokesman said. Tests were conducted on the substance, ground water, and soil, and results were pending. The township's health and human services director said the substance is likely the chemical sludge, but added township officials are not overly concerned. The site's flood control system was built to trap floodwater that spills in, preventing chemicals from escaping the property, he said. A spokesman for the state department of environmental protection agreed the situation is under control. The property was the site of chemical manufacturing from 1915 to 1999, and is now owned by Pfizer. The most concentrated contaminant is benzene, according to Pfizer.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/hurricane_irene_floodwaters_bl.html

8. *August 31, Bio Prep Watch* – (International) **Syrian chemical weapons safe, U.S. and Israel say.** The United States recently announced it believes Syria has control over its chemical weapons stockpile after reports surfaced that it and Israel fear militants could seize them during anti-government protests, Bio Prep Watch reported August 31. The two countries have been monitoring the Syrian stockpile because they fear terrorist groups might take advantage of the chaos to obtain chemical agents as well as long-range missiles, according to the Wall Street Journal. Agence France Presse reported a State Department spokeswoman said the United States believes "Syria's chemical stockpile remains under government control" and that "there is no change in the lockdown status." She added, "Syria has a stockpile of nerve agent and some mustard gas, and we will continue to work closely with like-minded countries to ensure that

there is no proliferation of that material.” The Wall Street Journal cited unnamed sources who said U.S. intelligence services believe Syria maintains stockpiles of mustard agent, VX, and Sarin nerve gas, along with missile and artillery-based delivery systems. Current and former U.S. officials believe Syria maintains at least five sites where it produces chemical weapons, but the facilities are spread across the country and are very difficult to monitor, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Source: <http://bioprepwatch.com/news/263594-syrian-chemical-weapons-safe-us-and-israel-say>

9. *August 31, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Virginia) **Roanoke chemical distributor to pay \$44,000 penalty for safety violations.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced August 31 that chemical distributor Chemicals and Solvents, Inc. (doing business as Chemsolv, Inc.) in Roanoke, Virginia, has agreed to pay a \$43,967 penalty and complete more than \$200,000 in safety improvements to settle alleged violations of federal environmental laws. The settlement applies to Chemsolv and Austin Holdings-VA, LLC, owner of two of three properties that make up the facility. According to an EPA complaint, the violations include the facility’s lack of fire protection, inadequate secondary containment, and improper storage of incompatible chemicals. Other violations concern the firm’s failure to fully implement its risk management program, and the company’s failure to submit required documentation to state, county and local officials for many hazardous chemicals. The settlement follows up on a June 2008 EPA order for Chemsolv to take extensive measures to ensure its storage facilities complied with industry standards and risk management program regulations. As part of the settlement, Chemsolv agreed to implement two safety upgrades: installation of a nitrogen blanketing system on 20 storage tanks containing flammable materials; and installation of a dry disconnect system on hoses at the facility, which will eliminate drips and accidental spills during loading and unloading of chemicals. In the settlement documents, the company neither admitted nor denied liability for the alleged violations.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/efd43bb82dee1b97852578fd004e5135?OpenDocument>

For another story, see item [26](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *September 1, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Idled Plant Vogtle reactor readied for restart.** A nuclear power reactor at the Vogtle nuclear power plant idled after a valve malfunction August 31 is being readied for restart September 1. The reactor at the Burke County, Georgia, plant automatically shut itself down during maintenance work involving a valve that controls the flow of water into the unit’s steam generator. The shutdown was characterized as a “non emergency,” according to an incident report the plant operator filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The shutdown was the second such incident this year. The first one occurred April 21.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-09-01/idled-plant-vogtle-reactor-readied-restart>

11. *August 31, Salem Today's Sunbeam* – (New Jersey) **Power output cut at Salem 1, Salem 2 nuclear reactors as debris from Hurricane Irene clogs cooling water intakes.** Power output was reduced at the Salem 1 and 2 nuclear power plants in Lower Alloways Creek Township, New Jersey, due to debris washed downriver by Hurricane Irene's floodwaters clogging the plants' cooling water intakes, officials said August 31. Salem 1 was reduced to 62 percent power and Salem 2 to 90 percent, according to a plant spokesman. The debris included vegetation, larger pieces of wood, and trash which accumulated on protective screening over the water intakes, restricting the water flow. According to the plant spokesman, the larger amount of debris in the river became noticeable August 30, and continued to grow.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/08/power_output_reduced_at_salem.html

12. *August 31, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Earthquake caused massive nuclear storage casks to move.** An earthquake in central Virginia the week of August 22 caused 25 spent-fuel storage casks to move on their concrete pad at the North Anna nuclear power plant in Louisa County. The shifting of the TN-32 casks holding used nuclear fuel was the first caused by an earthquake in the United States., according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). None of the metal cylinders were damaged and no radiation was released, the plant's operator said. Federal regulators will examine data from the spent-fuel storage area as part of the inspection of the plant that the NRC began August 30.

Source: [http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/state-](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/state-news/2011/aug/31/6/earthquake-caused-massive-nuclear-storage-casks-to-ar-1277791/)

[news/2011/aug/31/6/earthquake-caused-massive-nuclear-storage-casks-to-ar-1277791/](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/business/state-news/2011/aug/31/6/earthquake-caused-massive-nuclear-storage-casks-to-ar-1277791/)

13. *August 31, Kennewick Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Highly radioactive material moved from Hanford to PNNL.** The Kennewick Tri-City Herald reported August 31 that highly radioactive material has been transferred from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Hanford, Washington, to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, Washington. The 222-S Laboratory in central Hanford had been storing californium 252 in an underground concrete pit covered with water to provide shielding. Californium 252 is a strong neutron emitter, which makes it extremely radioactive. The two containers were lifted out in separate operations with a crane operated by workers behind concrete shielding. Each container was placed in a 5,000-pound transport cask for the trip across Hanford to a PNNL facility. The PNNL will use the californium in dosimetry calibration studies, according to the contractor responsible for the effort.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/08/31/1623258/highly-radioactive-material-moved.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *September 1, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey; New York) **Dayton woman, N.Y. man arrested for bank fraud.** Residents of Princeton Orchards in South Brunswick, New Jersey, awoke to an unusual sight in their condominium complex August 31: Nearly a dozen FBI agents and police officers carting evidence out a neighbor’s home. One of the men, who lived in the home being searched, and a co-conspirator, of Hicksville, New York, were arrested and charged with one count of each of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, authorities said. They had opened more than 3,900 phony credit cards and racked up more than \$10 million in fraudulent charges, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court. The scam allegedly began in November 2006. The two men set up credit cards with more than 600 mostly fictitious names. They would make small purchases and pay them off, allowing them to raise credit limits. After raising the limits, authorities said, the pair would “bust out” the cards with extravagant purchases of jewelry, luxury cars, electronics, spa treatments, and clothing. The men face jail time of up to 30 years. Authorities said the two could be deported if they are found to be in the country illegally. “In light of immigration status and their ties to Pakistan, I’m inclined to hold them,” a U.S. magistrate judge said.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/two_men_charged_with_conspirac.html

15. *September 1, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **ATM skimmers arrested in Manteca might be part of an Armenian gang.** Two men were arraigned in Manteca, California superior court August 30, accused of being members of an Armenian gang that steals money by placing skimming devices on ATM machines. The men faced numerous felony counts, after being caught on surveillance video attaching the devices to an ATM machine by a bank employee. The bank worker notified the Tracy Police Department who staked out the bank in an unmarked car and arrested the men when they returned to the bank. A judge set bail at \$2 million each, saying the men are a flight risk.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/article/152641/2/Manteca-ATM-skimmers-could-be-part-of-large-ring>

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Transportation Sector

16. *September 1, New York Post* – (New York; New Jersey) **Metro-North line damage is ‘catastrophic’**. In New York, Metro-North’s Port Jervis line suffered such “catastrophic” damage from Hurricane Irene that large swaths will have to be completely rebuilt, a time-consuming and expensive process that will likely take months, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) said August 31. “There are sections of track literally suspended in the air, and in many places we will have to build a new railroad from scratch, from the foundation to the tracks to the signals,” said the MTA chairman, who toured damaged areas. He invoked emergency powers that will let the agency cut through red tape, allowing the waiver of procurement rules, and the immediate hiring of outside consultants. Still, it will likely take months to resume normal service, one official said. The MTA is using buses to accommodate customers on the line, which runs from Port Jervis to Suffern, New York, where trains continue to Hoboken, New Jersey, along New Jersey Transit tracks. Meanwhile, the Long Island Rail Road said it would restore full service September 1.

Source:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/metro_north_line_damage_is_catastrophic_56B0UUwRUsauWcAWrTAVjI

17. *September 1, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Bridge to NH resort damaged by Irene collapses**. One of the main bridges into a resort in Lincoln, New Hampshire, collapsed August 31, even as crews worked across northern New Hampshire to assess damage to roads from Tropical Storm Irene. The bridge to Loon Mountain had been damaged by high waters from the storm. Inspectors hoped to repair the damage within a few weeks. Meanwhile, the resort is open and can be reached using the “South Peak Resort” entrance in Lincoln. The state emergency operations center said 7 state routes, and 95 local roads remain damaged. Among them are Route 49 in Waterville Valley, and Thornton; Route 302 at the Sawyer’s River Bridge area; and the Kancamagus Highway from Lincoln to Bear Notch Road. Transportation crews were repairing roads or setting up detours and alternate routes where necessary. Federal Emergency Management Agency teams were expected to start assessing damage September 1. Meanwhile, the number of power outages continues to decrease. As of August 31, about 6,640 customers still were without power, down from a high of about 175,000 homes and businesses.

Source: [http://money.msn.com/business-](http://money.msn.com/business-news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20110901&id=14214973)

[news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20110901&id=14214973](http://money.msn.com/business-news/article.aspx?feed=AP&date=20110901&id=14214973)

18. *September 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Amtrak gets more trains moving following Irene**. Travelers were having an easier time making it up and down the East coast as Amtrak gets more trains back on line following Hurricane Irene. Amtrak’s Keystone Service was operating again September 1 between Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and New York, via Philadelphia. The Ethan Allen Express was ferrying riders again, although Amtrak was providing alternate transportation through the hardest-hit stretch of the route, between Albany and Rutland, Vermont. Routes connecting Chicago with New York and Boston were also running as scheduled. Earlier, Amtrak restored service in the Northeast Corridor, including Acela service between Washington, D.C. and Boston. Portions of some routes remained closed, including those connecting Albany to Buffalo, New York, and Niagara Falls in Canada, plus Northeast Regional trains

between Richmond and Newport News, Virginia.

Source: http://auburnpub.com/news/local/state-and-regional/article_344d148c-d49a-11e0-ac12-001cc4c002e0.html?mode=story

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *September 1, Belleville News-Democrat* – (Illinois) **3 hospitalized after suspicious package found at Scott Air Force Base.** Three people were taken to the hospital and 14 were decontaminated August 31 after workers in the Scott Air Force Base post office near Belleville, Illinois suffered almost simultaneous skin and respiratory reactions at 9:30 a.m. After what was termed an exhaustive investigation, investigators were not able to determine what caused the workers to become ill, a base spokeswoman said August 31. Investigators found nothing suspicious and no trace of a chemical or an odor, she said, noting whatever caused the workers' illnesses might have dissipated enough that it was not detected. FBI agents were investigating. Postal inspectors were also on site to offer help to Air Force personnel, said a U.S. Postal Service spokeswoman. The investigation was closed the night of August 31 after it was determined it was not a suspicious incident, the base spokeswoman said. All areas of the base that were closed August 31, except for the post office's mail center, were to be reopened September 1, including the areas where the clerks are stationed and where customers receive and send mail. The mail center — its distribution and processing area — was to remain closed another day for further monitoring and its functions moved to an alternative site. The mail was delivered on base August 31 with a 2-hour delay.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2011/09/01/1842243/three-hospitalized-after-mysterious.html>

20. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Empty briefcase causes 2-hour bomb scare.** An unattended briefcase caused a 2-hour bomb scare August 31 at a post office in Davenport, Iowa. Workers found the briefcase in the lobby and called authorities around 3:20 p.m. The building was closed down and evacuated. Television station KWQC 6 Davenport said a bomb squad was called in. The squad's dog checked out the area, but it detected nothing. The squad then X-rayed the briefcase before it was opened. It was empty.

Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/29047979/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *August 31, Warren Record* – (North Carolina) **Destruction: Irene topples trees, ruins crops.** Tobacco and cotton crops sustained what could be unrecoverable damage from Hurricane Irene in Warren County, North Carolina, the Warren Record reported August

31. An agricultural extension agent for Warren County said yield losses could range between 40 percent and 75 percent. Even a yield loss on the low end could be devastating since that might not leave farmers with enough to cover what has already been spent on raising crops, he said. Also, farmers will have increased costs because many have been sending crews through the fields to set tobacco plants upright, he said, and those who use mechanical harvesters may have to hand-harvest their crops at a higher, and unanticipated, cost. The executive director of the Warren County Farm Service Agency and her board held an emergency meeting August 29 to discuss the storm's aftermath. She said she will be filing a storm report, but noted that Warren County has currently not been declared an emergency disaster area.

Source: <http://www.vancnews.com/articles/2011/08/31/warrenton/news/news50.txt>

22. *August 31, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Nebraska) **US Department of Labor's OSHA cites DL Cattle Trading in Parks, Neb., after worker suffocates in grain.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited DL Cattle Trading LLC Co. for two willful, nine serious, and one other-than-serious alleged safety violation at the company's cattle feed lot and farming operation in Parks, Nebraska. The OSHA opened an inspection following the death of a worker who suffocated March 1 when engulfed in grain that he was walking on in a bin that had a running auger. "OSHA has found that deaths in grain bins and elevators generally occur because of employer negligence, failure to comply with OSHA standards or poor safety and health practices," said the agency's regional administrator in Kansas City, Missouri. The willful violations were cited for exposing employees to confined space hazards without having emergency rescue or medical care immediately available, and for allowing workers to stand on flowing grain without isolating power to the auger. The serious violations address electrical hazards as well as those associated with a lack of fall protection, compressed gas cylinder storage, machine and power transmission guarding, confined spaces and lockout/tagout of energy sources. The other-than-serious violation was cited for not reporting the fatality within 8 hours. The company did not report the death until March 14.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=20598

23. *August 31, Associated Press* – (National) **Suit could chill govt. efforts to keep food safe.** Florida-based Del Monte Fresh Product's lawsuit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) could have a chilling effect on regulators' efforts to get tainted food off the market. The company is striking back at the FDA with a lawsuit after the agency halted imports of its Guatemalan cantaloupes, saying they could be contaminated with salmonella. "If this case is successful from an industry perspective, it will change the attitude of regulators," said a former FDA assistant commissioner who is now a food safety consultant. The director for the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia who has advised the FDA on food safety issues said the lawsuit could set a dangerous precedent. "More often than not, the public health authorities and the epidemiologists are correct," he said. "If you start putting public health officials in the crosshairs of the lawyers, it's probably going to have a major dampening effect on whether foods are recalled in time to prevent a substantial amount of illnesses." The

case could also become a major test for the imperfect science of epidemiology that is used to trace outbreaks and determine what is causing a series of illnesses. Del Monte conducted a voluntary recall of the cantaloupes, imported from a farm in Guatemala, in March after the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and FDA determined they were linked to 12 cases of salmonella poisoning.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/suit-could-chill-govt-efforts-keep-food-safe-222646641.html>

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Water Sector

24. *September 1, KPTV 12 Portland* – (Oregon) **Water main break floods homes in Tigard.** A late-night water main break sent nearly 3-million gallons of water into the streets, and flooded about a half-dozen homes in Tigard, Oregon. Crews with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue were called to the area of Southwest Hall Boulevard near 91st Avenue around 12 a.m. September 1. Investigators calculated that about 2.9-million gallons of water streamed along the road and into neighboring homes and apartments for about two-and-a-half hours. At least five homes suffered water damage, and a nearby apartment complex lost water service, investigators said. Oregon Department of Transportation and Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) workers teamed up to search for the exact location of the breach, and examined the roadway to ensure safety. Crews blocked one lane of traffic on Hall Boulevard. Investigators discovered a 1-by-4-foot section from the bottom of the 12-inch cast iron water main had ruptured. TVWD crews managed to restore water service to area customers by later in the morning. One lane of Hall Boulevard was expected to stay closed until repaving crews can repair the damage.
Source: <http://www.kptv.com/story/15374496/water-main-break-damage>
25. *September 1, Hudson-Catskill Newspapers* – (New York) **Boil water orders persist.** Boil-water advisories in Catskill, Coxsackie, Prattsville, Windham, and other flood-stricken communities in New York remained in place August 31 and will likely continue as long as the threat of contamination exists. Extensive flooding in New York State due to Hurricane Irene prompted the state health department to advise residents whose private water well supplies have been impacted by the storm to take precautions to ensure their water is safe.
Source:
<http://www.thedailyemail.net/articles/2011/09/01/news/doc4e5f1432d3196741802458.txt>
26. *September 1, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Fatty substance spills into Mon River.** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection was investigating the spill of a chemical from a water treatment plant into the Monongahela River that may be to blame for a fish kill. Officials at Henwil Corporation in Newell released a statement September 1 saying the spill happened after workers finished unloading a

railcar around 5:30 p.m. August 31. “We discovered a sheen on the river. It appeared that we had overflowed a tank containing a cleaning material into a catch basin. Unknown to us, the basin had a leak near the top,” the statement said. The company said workers pumped the remaining material into another basin, but more than 2,600 gallons of the substance spilled into the river. Emergency officials reported the chemical is a fatty, alcohol-based substance that is biodegradable, but toxic to aquatic life. The company said the chemical is used as a component in the manufacturing of household cleaners. A few dead fish were found after the spill, but the extent of the damage was unclear. The company said repairs to the leaking tank will take several days.

Source: <http://www.wtae.com/r/29048311/detail.html>

27. *August 31, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Water main break leaves car-size hole in road.** A water main break caused significant damage to a street in Pittsburgh’s Beechview neighborhood August 31. The break in the 8-inch main near the intersection of Sebring and Kenberma avenues was reported at about 5 a.m. WTAE 4 Pittsburgh reported that Pennsylvania American Water crews were working to repair the break, which caused a collapse in the road. Residents said rocks and debris ended up blocking storm drains, leaving nowhere for the water to go. Six homes were damaged by the break, and 25 customers were without water. Pennsylvania American Water expected the repairs to be completed by 5 p.m. September 1.

Source: <http://www.wtae.com/r/29036131/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [7](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *September 1, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **State will cut free flu shots by over half.** Massachusetts will cut the number of free flu vaccines it distributes for adults this year by more than half, sharply limiting the supplies that will be available at local health departments, and community health centers. The cuts are prompted by budget constraints and mean the loss of thousands of doses that have been given in past years to pregnant women, who face higher risks from flu. Doctors said the reductions could make it harder for the uninsured and people who have relied on community flu clinics to get vaccinated. But state officials reason that, with a record number of Massachusetts residents covered by health insurers that will pay the cost of the vaccine, residents have other options. Last year the state department of public health provided 350,762 doses for adults at no cost, about 34,000 of which were distributed through the Boston commission. This year that supply will be cut to about 140,000.

Source: <http://www.boston.com/Boston/metro/2011/08/state-will-cut-free-flu-shots-over-half/kOoXqTdgQYWpnwaEE6VcpN/index.html>

29. *August 31, DarkReading* – (National) **Insiders behind most breaches of patient health data.** A new report published August 31 by Veriphyr found that employees peeking at other employees’ medical records was the most common source of hospital

record breaching (35 percent), followed by snooping into friends' and relatives' records (27 percent), loss or theft of physical records (25 percent), and loss/theft of equipment housing patient data (20 percent). It took anywhere from 1 to 3 days (30 percent) to 2 to 4 weeks (17 percent) for the healthcare organizations surveyed to detect a breach; 25 percent of them said they resolved it within 2 to 4 weeks, 18 percent in 1 week, and 16 percent in 1 to 3 days. Nearly 80 percent were concerned that their existing tools do not detect these breaches in a timely way. And more than half said they do not have tools for monitoring unauthorized or inappropriate access to their patient data.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/insider-threat/167801100/security/attacks-breaches/231600598/insiders-behind-most-breaches-of-patient-health-data.html>

30. *August 31, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **St. Louis encephalitis virus found in Pinellas County sentinel chickens.** For the first time in 6 years, St. Louis encephalitis has shown up in Pinellas County, Florida. The mosquito-transmitted disease that attacks the central nervous system disappeared in Pinellas when West Nile virus came to town in 2005. But August 30, county officials announced they had confirmed St. Louis encephalitis in four sentinel chickens. The chickens are kept in eight locations in the county, and are tested weekly to detect the presence of mosquitoes carrying diseases. In rare cases, the disease can be fatal, county officials said. There have been no cases reported in humans. The last reported death from the disease was in the Florida Panhandle in 2002.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/st-louis-encephalitis-virus-found-in-pinellas-county-sentinel-chickens/1188821>

31. *August 30, WTSP 10 St. Petersburg* – (Florida) **Regulators order closure of Sarasota nursing home.** Federal regulators ordered Harmony Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, a Sarasota, Florida, nursing home, to close by September 22 after repeated failures to fix problems were revealed after an incident where a patient on a ventilator died when she choked on a cookie she was not supposed to have. The for-profit home's owner filed for bankruptcy in 2010, and a series of negative inspections placed the nursing home in continual jeopardy of losing its license. Harmony has 120 beds and was operated for the last year by a trustee appointed by the bankruptcy court. The home received an involuntary termination notice August 26 from the federal government. Harmony's 83 current residents must now find new places to live, and state officials are trying to help them relocate.

Source: <http://sarasota.wtsp.com/news/news/77815-regulators-order-closure-sarasota-nursing-home>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *August 31, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **DPS, city announce steps to boost school security.** Detroit Public Schools (DPS) announced a district-wide safety initiative August 31 that will involve officers from multiple law enforcement groups to help keep children safe at school. One of the security measures DPS is taking this fall is adding security portals at each school, a \$534,000 investment. Metal detectors will also be

utilized. “You know all too well that the biggest challenge facing DPS is safety,” the district’s emergency manager, said at a press conference August 31. The DPS police department has 51 officers and operates out of a \$9 million command center off I-75 and Clay. The initiative is a collaboration with Detroit Police, Michigan State Police, and other security groups. Schools will also issue ID badges to all students to ensure staff members know who is coming to and from each building. Another goal with the security measures is to develop safe routes to and from school in three problem areas — around Osborn, Denby, and Cody high schools, officials said.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110831/SCHOOLS/108310416/1026/DPS--city-announce-steps-to-boost-school-security>

33. *August 31, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **State and local enforcement detonate bomb found in courthouse.** Authorities detonated a bomb August 31 in Claiborne County, Tennessee. The Claiborne County sheriff said a jail trustee discovered the bomb at about 10 a.m. August 31 while cleaning out the basement of the Claiborne County Courthouse on Main Street in Tazewell. “Our inmates have been spending time down there cleaning up and one of them found it buried,” he said. The sheriff said his department alerted the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Knox County Bomb Squad, which traveled to Tazewell to set the bomb off as a precautionary measure. Officials detonated the bomb at a farm near the courthouse, he said. The bomb had been recovered as evidence from a 15-year-old case involving a man who used it to hold his family hostage in the Shawnee community. Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/aug/31/state-and-local-enforcement-detonate-bomb-found/>

For another story, see item [19](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *September 1, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Police policy would put brakes on chases.** The chase that ended in the deaths August 30 of two suspected car thieves would have been banned under a new vehicle pursuit policy under review by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD). The police chief said August 31 the new policy would allow officers to chase only violent suspects who are an immediate threat. Currently, police can pursue any motorist who flees, regardless of what they did. Critics of chases say they put police officers, offenders, and innocent bystanders at risk. Police chases in Indiana have been controversial for years because of the potential for death or injury. A 2005 analysis of police chases by the Indianapolis Star found that 86 people died in chases in Indiana from 1993 through 2003. Under the current policy, IMPD officers are allowed to chase a motorist for any infraction. But they also have the option of giving up a chase if they think it is too dangerous. Supervisors also can call off a chase. Source: <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110901/LOCAL18/109010383/Policy-under-review-by-IMPD-would-put-brakes-chases-such-one-ended-fatal-crash?odyssey=nav|head>

35. *September 1, USA Today* – (New York; District of Columbia; National) **Suspicious packages swamp law enforcement.** An unrelenting stream of suspicious package reports — and the need to investigate all potential threats in the post-9/11 world — is stretching federal and local law enforcement agencies in New York and Washington, D.C. One of the many legacies of the September 11th terrorist attacks, police agencies depend more than ever on the public to vigilantly report suspicious activity, knowing their cooperation means authorities will be buried in reports, most of which turn out to be nothing. What’s more, the reports routinely force street closures and building evacuations in Washington, D.C., and New York at a cost of unknown millions of dollars, according to police estimates. Since the terrorist attacks in 2001, New York City police (NYPD) have fielded 83,749 such calls — the overwhelming majority resulting in the recovery of benign handbags, kids’ backpacks, suitcases, and trash bags discarded by the homeless, according to NYPD records. Last year, after 4 years of steady decline, the number of calls in New York surged to 10,567, up from 7,411 in 2009. In Washington, D.C., the numbers, though smaller, have been rising for the past 4 years, in part because of an aggressive national surveillance strategy called “If You See Something, Say Something” launched last year by the DHS, said the executive director of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department’s Intelligence Fusion Division. Federal and local officials said the calls are part of a new normal in law enforcement. Yet some acknowledge that maintaining the pace of response has been a daunting task in the 10 years since the United States suffered its last major terrorist attack.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-08-31/Suspicious-packages-swamp-law-enforcement/50206590/1>
36. *August 31, Bradenton Herald* – (Florida; National) **Verizon 9-1-1 issue repaired.** An issue with Automatic Number Information/Automatic Location Information reaching 9-1-1 dispatchers from Verizon cell phones was resolved August 31, according to the public safety director for Manatee County, Florida. At about 2 p.m., customers who dialed 9-1-1 did not have their location and number provided to dispatchers, he said. The outage affected the entire U.S. East Coast. Information about what the issue was or how it was resolved was not immediately available.
Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/2011/08/31/3459992/verizon-9-1-1-issue-repaired.html>
37. *August 31, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. security intensifying as Sept. 11 date nears.** As the United States prepares for the 10-year anniversary of the September 11th attacks — a date al-Qa’ida has cited as a potential opportunity to strike again — security is intensifying at airports, train stations, nuclear plants, and major sporting arenas. “At this point there is no specific credible threat, but that doesn’t mean we are relaxing at all in terms of our vigilance,” the U.S. President’s homeland security and counterterrorism adviser said August 31. There will be increased law enforcement presence on Los Angeles transit systems during the “threat window,” with bomb sniffing dogs, and random baggage searches. In Phoenix, Arizona, police will be doing more patrols around the region’s nuclear power plant, airports, and other critical sites that, if attacked, could affect the city, said a sergeant at the homeland defense bureau of the Phoenix Police Department. In Florida, there will be extended staffing at the state’s

fusion center — an intelligence-sharing operation established after the September 11th attacks that places law enforcement from around the state, as well as representatives from the FBI, DHS, and the Transportation Security Administration in one building, said the center's director. New Yorkers will see more police officers on patrol in and around ground zero, where the World Trade Center towers stood, said a police department spokesman. The department also plans an increased show of force in the subways, which are always considered a potential terror target.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/us-security-intensifying-as-1152804.html>

38. *August 30, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Guard choppers from Illinois to assist Vermont recovery effort.** Eight helicopters on loan from the Illinois National Guard were expected to arrive the night of August 31 in Vermont to help the Vermont National Guard deliver food, medicine, water, and other supplies to 13 Vermont towns cut off from the rest of the state in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. The outside helicopter support was needed because all six of the Vermont Guard's Black Hawk helicopters are still in Iraq, where they and 55 Vermont soldiers are wrapping up a year-long hospital transport mission, said a spokesman for the Vermont Guard. One of the Vermont Guard's missions in the aftermath of the Irene-related devastation is to get supplies to residents in about a dozen stranded cut-off towns. The Vermont Guard's captain said he was on one of the Lakota flights August 30 and managed to deliver two boxes of MREs, or ready-to-eat meals, to Rochester, one of the towns with no road access to the outside. Each box contained 24 of the meals. Rochester has about 1,100 residents.

Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110830/NEWS02/110830022/>

For another story, see item [17](#)

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Information Technology Sector

39. *August 31, IDG News Service* – (International) **Hackers break into Linux source code site.** IDG News Service reported hackers broke into the Kernel.org Web site that is home to the Linux project in August. They gained root access to a server known as Hera and ultimately compromised "a number of servers in the kernel.org infrastructure," according to a note on the Kernel site August 31. Site administrators learned of the problem August 29 and soon discovered many bad things were happening on servers. Files were modified, a malicious program was added to the server's start-up scripts, and some user data was logged. Kernel.org's owners contacted law enforcement in the United States and Europe, and are in the process of reinstalling the site's infrastructure and figuring out what happened. They think the hackers may have stolen a user's log-in credentials to break into the system, and the site is making each of its 448 users change their passwords and secure shell keys. The hack is problematic because Kernel.org is the place where Linux distributors download the source code for the widely used operating system's kernel. However, Kernel.org's note said that, even with root access, it would be difficult for a hacker to slip malicious

source code into the Linux kernel without it being noticed, because Linux's change-tracking system takes a cryptographic hash of each file at the time it is published.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219671/Hackers_break_into_Linux_source_code_site

40. *August 31, Computerworld* – (International) **Hackers may have stolen over 200 SSL certificates.** Hackers may have obtained more than 200 digital certificates from a Dutch company after breaking into its network, including ones for Mozilla, Yahoo, and the Tor project, a security researcher reported August 31. The count is considerably higher than DigiNotar first acknowledged. Earlier the week of August 29, a company spokesman said “several dozen” certificates had been acquired by the attackers. “About 200 certificates were generated by the attackers,” said the principal security consultant and founder of Madison Gurka, a Dutch security company, citing a source he said wished to remain confidential. Among the certificates acquired by the attackers in a mid-July hack of DigiNotar, the consultant's source said, were ones valid for mozilla.com, yahoo.com, and torproject.org. Mozilla confirmed a certificate for its add-on site had been obtained by the DigiNotar attackers. The consultant's number is similar to the tally of certificates that Google has blacklisted in Chrome. An entry in the Chromium bug-tracking database lists 247 certificates that the project blacklisted August 30.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219663/Hackers_may_have_stolen_over_200_SSL_certificates

41. *August 31, IDG News Service* – (International) **Mac OS X can't properly revoke dodgy digital certificates.** A programming glitch in Apple's OS X operating system has made it difficult for Mac users to tell their computers not to trust digital certificates, exacerbating an ongoing security problem with a Dutch certificate authority that was recently hacked. Mac users began reporting problems August 30 when they tried to revoke digital certificates issued by DigiNotar, a Dutch company whose servers were compromised in July and used to issue fraudulent digital certificates. Mac users revoked the certificates on their computers, but still saw some sites that used those certificates being marked as trustworthy.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219669/Mac_OS_X_can_t_properly_revoke_dodgy_digital_certificates

42. *August 31, H Security* – (International) **Opera 11.51 closes security holes.** Opera released version 11.51 of its Web browser, a maintenance and security update that addresses a high risk vulnerability. According to the developers, Opera 11.51 closes a hole that could have been exploited by an attacker to bypass certain security features. The issue is caused by an error when loading content that causes the browser to display the security information of a trusted site instead of the actual untrusted site. The update also adds support for the full-screen app mode in Mac OS X 10.7 Lion, and addresses a number of bugs on all supported platforms. The developers said the update also fixes a “low severity issue;” however, details of the vulnerability were not

disclosed.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Opera-11-51-closes-security-holes-1334216.html>

For another story, see item [46](#)

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

43. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Maine; New Hampshire; Vermont) **Internet restored by Time Warner in Maine, Vt, NH.** Time Warner Cable Inc. said it has restored Internet, digital phone, and TV services to about 350,000 homes and businesses in northern New England that had lost connection August 31 in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. A Time Warner spokeswoman said service was restored around 6:10 p.m., about three and-a-half hours after flooding and debris affected fiber-optic cable lines throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The company had been providing services on a backup network after damage to its main lines. August 31 was the first time customers actually saw service cut off.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/internet-restored-time-warner-maine-vt-nh-224820021.html>

44. *September 1, Middletown Times Herald-Record* – (New York) **Phone service affected by storm.** The rains and wind of Hurricane Irene gave telephone lines a beating in the Hudson Valley of New York the weekend of August 26. Frontier Communications found the majority of its 12,000 land-line customers in Goshen and Washingtonville were impacted by the storm. Most were expected to have service restored by September 1 or September 2, with some having to wait until September 4. “With hurricane damage like this, there were power outages as well,” said Frontier’s regional marketing manager. “If a (utility) pole goes down, our crews are not allowed to go in to assess the damage or repair the damage until it can be determined that the scene is safe.” Local offices in both villages sustained flood damage, a Frontier general manager said.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110901/NEWS/109010343/-1/BIZ>

45. *September 1, Vineland Daily Journal* – (New Jersey) **River flooding temporarily silences local radio stations.** Little more than a static hum rolled from the speakers when listeners tuned into September 1 two local Vineland, New Jersey radio stations that faced flooding problems from recent heavy storms. Cruisin’ 92.1 FM WVLT and

1270 AM WMIZ, the local Spanish station it shares a home with on Maurice River Parkway, went dark August 29 for the first time in decades on the air. A WVLT producer said they hope to return to regular programming September 2. The stations were broadcasting as usual when Hurricane Irene moved through the region, but heavy rainfall from multiple storms this month helped the Maurice River flood into the backyard of the stations' headquarters, the producer said. A small shed that houses the stations' transmitters sits about a foot off the ground, but still took on 5 inches of water, he said. That forced the FM station off the air at 7 a.m. August 29. The AM station and the facility's power were shut down an hour later as a safety precaution, the producer said. The staff needs replacement parts for the transformers that sustained water damage before broadcasts can resume, he said.

Source: <http://www.thedailyjournal.com/article/20110901/NEWS01/109010323>

46. *August 31, threatpost* – (International) **Hackers push Sipvicious VoIP tools in malicious attacks.** Researchers at NSS Labs claim they have spotted attacks that use Sipvicious, a common auditing tool for Voice over IP (VoIP) networks as part of malicious attacks aimed at taking control of vulnerable VoIP servers. The attacks are apparently aimed at taking control of VoIP servers to place unauthorized calls. A description of the attacks, posted on the NSS blog August 31, said researchers at NSS witnessed the sipvicious tool installed by a trojan downloader program on systems, most of which had first been compromised in drive-by Web site attacks. The attacks use a known trojan, jqs(dot)exe, and connect to command and control servers to receive instructions on downloading instructions as well as the sipvicious tool from a .cc domain. After installation, sipvicious is run to scan for Session Initiation Protocol devices on the compromised computer's network and then to launch brute force attacks to guess the administrative password on those systems.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/hackers-pushing-sipvicious-voip-tools-malicious-attacks-083111

47. *August 31, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Power outage leaves half-million N.J. residents without TV, phone and Internet.** As storm-related power outages continued for the third day August 31, at least a half-million New Jersey homes remained without cable, phone, Internet, and television service, according to the board of public utilities. Frustrated by the delays, many customers took to social media sites to vent their grievances with their providers. But, underscoring their dependency on commercial power, the region's major cable operators — Verizon FIOs, Cablevision, Comcast, and Time Warner Cable — all attributed the bulk of their service disruptions to the outages. In some cases, if the customer has power and is still without cable service, the problem may lie in damaged cable lines in the neighborhood, or at the individual's home, a Verizon spokesman said. Ironically, because cable service depends on power, it can actually be less reliable than traditional copper wire phones during events such as storms, some experts said. Since copper wire phone lines can conduct electricity, they can function as long as a provider's central facilities continue to operate — and most of these facilities have backup generators in the case of outages.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2011/08/massive_power_outage_leaves_nj.html

48. *August 31, New Hampshire Public Radio* – (New Hampshire; Vermont) **Phoneless Vermont residents in for longer wait.** Across northern New England, more than 1,800 Fairpoint customers were without telephone or Internet service August 31. Repair crews in Vermont face the greatest hurdles. A Fairpoint spokesman said the company knows of at least 514 New Hampshire customers who have lost service; the disruption in Vermont is much more extensive. He added roadway and telephone system damage from flooding often go hand in hand. When the bridge washes out,” he said, “the cable is severed and that means people will lose their power and their phone.” He said in each location, after electric crews restore power, phone company workers move in to get telecommunications back up. Full service in New Hampshire should be restored by September 3. Vermont residents will have a longer wait.

Source: <http://www.nhpr.org/phoneless-vermont-residents-longer-wait>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *September 1, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **4 hurt in roof collapse at S.F. construction site.** Four construction workers in San Francisco were injured August 31, three seriously, when a roof where they were pouring concrete collapsed, authorities and the construction company said. The crew was working on a 6-story apartment building when the accident happened at 8 a.m., said a fire department spokeswoman. Four workers, men in their 20s and 30s, were taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where three were in serious condition with broken bones and other injuries. The fourth suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was discharged. An official with the company the men work for said they had been doing a concrete pour when part of the roof collapsed over a stairwell. The men plunged two to three flights as wet concrete poured over them, he said. The cause of the collapse is under investigation. The side of the building where the collapse occurred has been closed and red tagged.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/08/31/BA4G1KU8BI.DTL&tsp=1>

50. *August 31, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Bellflower apartment building goes up in flames.** Authorities said no one was injured when an apartment building went up in flames in Bellflower, California August 31. Crews responded to the fire just before 10 a.m. Firefighters said the first and second floors were burning. A row of cypress trees next to the building also went up in flames, and power lines were in the path of the fire. Residents were able to get out safely. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Source:

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=8337070

51. *August 31, Seaside Signal* – (Oregon) **Small explosion, power outage forces evacuation of Sunset Pool.** Dozens of people were safely evacuated from the Sunset Parks and Recreation District offices and Sunset Pool in Seaside, Oregon August 31

after a small explosion and power outage at the site on Broadway. Seaside Fire and Rescue crews made certain there was no fire. The pool building's alarm alerted people inside to the event as district officials cleared the building. The incident caused authorities to briefly shut down Broadway during the investigation. Officials said the outage was triggered after a Broadway Field work crew hit a power line near the pool building. The incident also cut power to the Seaside Library for about 1 hour, but the facility remained open.

Source: http://www.seasidesignal.com/news/local_news/article_b508c9ea-d44f-11e0-9b04-001cc4c002e0.html

52. *August 31, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Man charged in Taylors apartment fire.** A Duncan, South Carolina man was arrested August 31 in connection with a fire that destroyed two apartment buildings in Taylors August 26. Greenville County deputies said the 23-year-old suspect was charged with third-degree arson in connection with the fire at Lake Crest Apartments. Firefighters said old building codes allowed the fire that started in building H to spread quickly to an adjacent building. Deputies said an investigation of the scene and interviews with witnesses led to the suspect's arrest. He was being held at the Greenville County Detention Center on \$25,000 bond.

Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/15367830/man-charged-with-arson-in-taylors-apartment-fire>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

53. *September 1, CNN* – (Texas; Oklahoma) **Residents evacuated as firefighters battle blaze in parched Texas.** High winds August 31 whipped up a spreading wildfire in northern Texas as firefighters battled several fires across the tinder-dry state. A raging grass fire in Oklahoma City, meanwhile, claimed several structures, including a barn, affiliate KFOR 4 Oklahoma City reported. Homes were evacuated. The 101 Ranch fire in Palo Pinto County grew to about 7,500 acres August 31, and it was unclear how much had been contained, the Texas Forest Service reported. The fire was centered around the south side of Possum Kingdom Lake outside Brad, about 50 miles west of the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. Observers on the opposite shore were forced to pull back when winds around 20 mph carried embers across the lake. The fire destroyed at least 39 homes, according to the Forest Service, and another 125 households were evacuated. Firefighters were getting support from aerial tankers and helicopters that were dropping water on the fire. Nine RVs were burned. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear. A record 3.5 million acres have burned in Texas since the start of the season last November as hot and dry weather, coupled with a historic drought, have made conditions ripe for rapid fire growth. Firefighters are battling nine wildfires, which have consumed about 16,000 acres, the Forest Service said.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/08/31/texas.fire/>

54. *September 1, Great Falls Tribune* – (Montana) **Unattended campfire blamed for Montana campground burn.** Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials believe an unattended campfire was responsible for an August 7 burn at the Hole in the Wall Campground in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana. The fire was one of four in the monument attributed to unattended campfires in the past 2 years. A river ranger found an unattended campfire in Eagle Creek campground about the same time as this year's Hole in the Wall fire. The fire damaged the drip irrigation system and some fence line, and scorched one wall of a shelter, according to an e-mail from a supervisory recreation planner for the monument.
Source: <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20110901/LIFESTYLE05/109010312>
55. *September 1, CNN* – (District of Columbia) **Irene reveals more cracks in quake-damaged Washington Monument.** Small pools of standing water were found in the Washington Monument in Washington D.C. during inspections following Hurricane Irene, the National Park Service said August 31, indicating undiscovered cracks. According to a spokeswoman, when crews entered the monument August 29, water was pooled in the observatory near the top, and in the monument's interior stairwell. Engineers had inspected the monument and tried to plug the holes before the hurricane, but the amount of water found means that some holes were missed, she said. "There were some leaks that we were not able to identify or able to plug," the spokeswoman said. "What happened was a lot of mortar popped out, so much so that you can see sunlight above 450 feet in the monument." The Washington Monument, built between 1848 and 1884, is just over 555 feet tall. Its walls are 15 feet thick at the base and 18 inches at the top, and are composed primarily of white marble blocks, according to the National Park Service.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/08/31/irene.washington.monument/>
56. *August 31, Associated Press* – (California) **Fire near Yosemite now 80 percent contained.** Firefighters in California have begun repairing ecological damage caused by the creation of fire lines as a fire near Yosemite National Park nears containment. An incident spokesman said August 31 the fire was 80 percent contained. Full containment was expected September 4. Crews have begun repairing damage caused by bulldozers and creating berms to prevent erosion, the spokesman said. The inferno has charred more than 5,200 acres since August 25, when a motor home traveling on Highway 140 in the Merced River Canyon caught fire. The fire quickly ran through the steep canyons of dried brush and pine trees. The fire threatened homes and structures in and around the community of El Portal earlier the week of August 29. Portions of the town were evacuated, and the highway was closed.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_18795992
57. *August 31, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Park visitors can now receive flood warnings via text message.** The National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey have partnered up to bring park visitors weather updates via e-mail or text message. Rangers and employees at the Coronado National Park in Arizona are eager about the new application since flooding this summer has caused major flood damage in the area. The automated, real-time flood gauge and rain sensors system is now complete and anyone can subscribe. The system will send out public alerts when

rain fall or flood levels exceed a specified amount so that park rangers and visitors no longer have to guess if thunderstorms will cause flood danger in the area. Users can sign up for the text or e-mail alerts at <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/>.
Source: <http://www.kold.com/story/15370272/park-visitors-can-now-receive-flood-warnings-via-text-message>

58. *August 31, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Fire spurs evacuations on Warm Springs reservation.** Wildfires burning on a Native American reservation in Central Oregon forced the mandatory evacuation of 18 homes and closed a highway again August 31, but a section of the Deschutes River reopened to rafters and campers as firefighters made progress despite gusting winds. The multiple fires on the High Cascades complex of fires that have burned more than 76,000 acres since lightning ignited them the week of August 22 remained on track to be fully contained by September 5, a fire spokesman said. The fire was 15 percent contained August 31, and firefighters reported making progress on containment lines despite afternoon winds gusting over 30 miles-per-hour. The 1,500 firefighters battling the blaze include eight task forces from city and rural fire departments from the west side of the Cascades stationed to protect homes. More crews were coming in, the spokesman said. Across Oregon, 11 large fires have burned a total of more than 143,000 acres, mostly rangeland in Eastern Oregon, since lightning storms started peppering the region the week of August 22.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700175311/Fire-spurs-evacuations-on-Warm-Springs-reservation.html>

59. *August 31, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Helicopters stamp out smaller New Orleans marsh fire.** A 2-day assault by Louisiana Air National Guard helicopters on a small fire in the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana was declared a success by state and city officials August 31, as buckets of water from a nearby canal apparently extinguished the 24-acre fire near Chef Menteur Highway. That freed the eight helicopters to attack an older and much larger marsh fire located on private property just west of the refuge in eastern New Orleans, as investigators from the office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service began investigating the cause of the smaller fire. Meanwhile, a tropical wave moving into the Gulf of Mexico is expected to develop into a low pressure system that will dump up to 6 inches of rain on the area from August 31 through September 4. From the air, the helicopters August 31 were dwarfed by the wall of white smoke rolling across the woody marshes, and fouling the air of southeastern Louisiana. The smoke clouds were being pushed north toward Lake Pontchartrain and then west to as far away as Baton Rouge by southerly winds. The particles in the smoke prompted air quality alerts August 31 from the state department of environmental quality that will last at least through September 1 for the New Orleans area and Baton Rouge.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/08/helicopters_stamp_out_smaller.html

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Dams Sector

60. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Corps of Engineers to release water from Perry, Milford and Tuttle Creek lakes.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it will increase water releases from Perry, Milford, and Tuttle Creek lakes in Kansas September 1. Missouri River floodwaters were expected to continue to decline even with additional water from the lakes. The Lawrence Journal-World reported that Perry Lake was 6.8 feet higher than the normal pool, Milford was 13.8 feet above normal, and Tuttle Creek was 17.25 feet above normal. The Kansas City District of the Corps will begin releasing 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Perry, 1,500 cfs from Milford, and 1,000 cfs from Tuttle Creek.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/0ff1f163e7004a0a8f7fa7253136d033/KS--Water-Releases-Lakes/>

61. *August 31, CNN* – (International) **102 die in Nigeria after dam collapse, flooding.** Flooding claimed the lives of 102 people in southwestern Nigeria, where a dam burst and a river overflowed near the city of Ibadan, officials said August 31. A rain deluge over the weekend of August 27 and 28 caused the Odo Ona River to overflow and the Eleyele dam to collapse, said the government's National Emergency Management Agency. The Nigerian Red Cross said that more victims could still be found in remote areas that rescue teams have not reached. Thousands of people have been displaced while the deputy governor of Oyo state called for more federal help to resettle those displaced, and to rebuild bridges and water channels destroyed by the flooding.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/31/nigeria.flooding/>

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