



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 6 September 2011

### Top Stories

- Tropical Storm Lee threatened the Louisiana coast with torrential rains and flooding September 2, as offshore energy platforms and refineries braced for high winds and rising waters. – *Reuters* (See item [1](#))
- The Poesten Kill Dam in Troy, New York, shifted forward on the northern corner, compromising the spillway and threatening to inundate the city of 50,000. – *Albany Times-Union* (See item [58](#))

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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 2, Reuters* – (National) **Oil companies brace for Tropical Storm Lee.** Tropical Storm Lee threatened the Louisiana coast with torrential rains and flooding September 2, as offshore energy platforms and refineries along the coast braced for high winds and rising waters. The slow-moving storm is expected to reach the Louisiana coast early September 4 and bring 10 to 15 inches of rain to southeast Louisiana over the weekend, including the low-lying city of New Orleans, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. Lee was about 200 miles southeast of Cameron,

Louisiana, with maximum winds of 40 miles-per-hour, the hurricane center said. It issued tropical storm warnings stretching from Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Sabine Pass, Texas. Louisiana's governor warned that heavy rains, substantial winds and tidal surges from the Gulf of Mexico could produce flash flooding in parts of New Orleans throughout the Labor Day holiday weekend. Offshore oil and natural gas producers began shutting down platforms and evacuating staff earlier this week. About half the region's oil production and a third of its gas production was shut September 2, according to the U.S. government. Most of that output should quickly return once the storm passes. Lee is expected to have a minimal long-term impact on the Gulf of Mexico oil patch, which provides about a third of the nation's oil production, and about 12 percent of its natural gas. The Gulf Coast is home to 40 percent of U.S. refining capacity, and 30 percent of natural gas processing plant capacity. Much of that infrastructure is in southeast Texas, and near the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/02/storm-usa-gulf-idUSN1E7810KA20110902>

2. *September 2, Reuters* – (National) **Oil companies brace for possible U.S. Gulf storm.** A tropical depression hovering over the central Gulf of Mexico on September 2 threatened to bring heavy flooding to the energy infrastructure-heavy U.S. Gulf Coast in the coming days. Tropical depression 13, which could become Tropical Storm Lee later on September 2, has already prompted oil and gas producers to shut down platforms and evacuate workers from the offshore oil patch that provides about a third of the nation's oil production and about 12 percent of its natural gas. The slow-moving system that has essentially parked about 210 miles south of the mouth of the Mississippi River could bring up to 20 inches of rain over southern Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama through September 4, the National Hurricane Center said. Heavy, prolonged rains could pose a severe test to low-lying New Orleans and its protective levee system. The Gulf Coast is home to 40 percent of U.S. refining capacity and 30 percent of natural gas processing plant capacity. Much of that infrastructure is in southeast Texas and near the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi. Major Gulf producer Royal Dutch Shell spokeswoman said on the company had "minimal" production impacts, but had evacuated 500 workers and may evacuate more. Shell operates six oil and gas platforms in the Gulf. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/02/storm-usa-gulf-idUSN1E7810KA20110902>
3. *September 2, Glenwood Springs Post Independent* – (Colorado) **Hydrogen sulfide gas found at near-fatal levels south of Parachute.** State regulators confirmed in a public meeting September 1 that near-fatal levels of hydrogen sulfide gas were detected at a Noble Energy drilling pad earlier this year in Rifle, Colorado. A report from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) revealed hydrogen sulfide had been detected at levels of up to 450 parts per million (ppm) at four separate well pads south of Parachute. The gas is considered lethal at 500 ppm, and can cause sickness, respiratory distress and irritation of the eyes at lesser levels, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and other sources. None of the wells are venting hydrogen sulfide gas into the atmosphere, said a COGCC engineering manager. He also reported the closest occupied structure to any of the four wells is 980 feet away.

COGCC data indicated the gas would not spread beyond a 60-foot radius from its source. In March 2009, Noble notified the state regulatory agency it had found the gas at 312 of its 353 gas wells in the area south of Parachute. Further investigation by the COGCC, showed “Noble has reported hydrogen sulfide in the neighborhood of 100 parts per million,” a level considered hazardous enough for federal and state regulators to require companies to have a special operations plan to deal with the gas.

Source:

<http://www.postindependent.com/article/20110902/VALLEYNEWS/110909997/1083&ParentProfile=1074>

4. *September 2, CBS and Associated Press* – (National) **Frustrations for 900K still without power.** With Hurricane Irene’s floodwaters receding across much of the East Coast, frustrations were rising as the wait for power drags on, with an estimated 895,000 homes and businesses still without electricity as of September 1. And criticism of utility companies was mounting. In Rhode Island, a state senator called for an investigation, and a Massachusetts lawmaker plans to file legislation the week of September 5 that would require utilities to rebate customers 2 days of service for every day they are without power. In North Carolina, a councilman was accused of threatening an electricity repair worker because the councilman was angry about which neighborhoods were being restored first. The industry has defended its efforts, noting it warned the public that a storm like Irene was bound to cause prolonged outages and pointing out that flooding and toppled trees caused severe damage to utility poles, substations, and other equipment. The National Grid president for Rhode Island said crews from as far as Kansas and Idaho were working 16-hour shifts, and “we’re committed to getting this resolved as soon as possible.”

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/02/national/main20100873.shtml>

5. *September 1, WKRG 5 Mobile* – (Alabama) **Oil spill closes shipping channel.** Heavy crude spilled into the Mobile River in Mobile, Alabama, September 1, forcing officials to close the shipping channel from the Cochrane Africatown USA Bridge to the McDuffie Coal Terminal. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) identified Gulf Coast Asphalt as the responsible party, saying the oil spilled during a tank-to-tank transfer. The container receiving the oil was a 50,000-barrel tank, according to a USCG commander. Ditches along the Cochrane Causeway were coated in a thick layer of oil. Cleanup crews spread absorbent boom across the ditches as they used vacuum trucks to try to suck up the oil. A thick sheen was evident in the water from the Cochran Bridge to the Alabama Cruise Terminal, and a thick oil smell permeated downtown Mobile.

Source: <http://www2.wkrg.com/news/2011/sep/01/19/barge-spill-closes-mobile-shipping-channel-ar-2350566/>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *September 2, Framingham MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **State may close General Chemical over cleanup costs.** The state of Massachusetts said August 31 it will shut down a Framingham firm's hazardous waste operation because it failed to secure \$1.3 million in credit to cover the cost of cleaning up contaminated groundwater. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said it is partially suspending General Chemical Corp.'s operating license, effective September 9. On May 27, the state gave General 60 days to come up with financial assurance, which documents show it hasn't done. The firm must show it has \$1.27 million to pay for cleanup of an underground plume of toxic chemicals that surrounds its site and has encroached on a residential neighborhood. If General doesn't line up credit by the week of September 5, it won't be allowed to truck in hazardous waste effective September 9, and it must ship out any hazardous materials kept there by September 21. The firm was fined twice last year by DEP for violating hazardous waste management regulations. The firm is licensed to handle halogenated and chlorinated solvents, oil and oil-contaminated debris, PCBs, and wastewater treatment sludges, as well as acids and alkalines, metal-bearing wastes, and pesticides. In January 2010, town officials, engineers, and General reported cleanup was at a standstill as the decontamination method being used had shifted the contaminated water table closer to homes, and a school.  
Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/features/x948303228/State-may-close-General-Chemical-over-cleanup-costs>
7. *September 2, Pueblo Chieftan* – (Colorado) **Chemical leak forces evacuation.** Businesses throughout the Pueblo Municipal Airport Industrial Park in Pueblo, Colorado were evacuated September 1 after Pueblo firefighters were called to a leaking hydrogen tank at a BF Goodrich facility. The evacuation area was later increased to 1 mile east of the plant after the tank began to vent and the wind started to blow. At least 77 residents were also evacuated from their homes, the assistant chief said. U.S. 50 East was closed during the evacuation, though flights at the airport were allowed to land and take off as normal. William White Boulevard and Pete Jimenez Parkway also were closed while crews worked to solve the problem. Firefighters and BF Goodrich experts were able to shut the tank's valves off about 8:30 p.m., and the evacuation orders were lifted and roads reopened by 9:30 p.m.  
Source: [http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/chemical-leak-forces-evacuation/article\\_5f9e07be-d52a-11e0-9ae3-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/chemical-leak-forces-evacuation/article_5f9e07be-d52a-11e0-9ae3-001cc4c03286.html)
8. *September 2, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Newell company slows operations to clean up chemical spill.** The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported September 2 that a Newell, Pennsylvania, company whose leak resulted in a chemical spill August 31 will stop most of its production until at least after the Labor Day holiday weekend to focus on cleanup efforts. Henwil Corp., which blends chemicals for water treatment plants, leaked an alcohol-based biodegradable material that spilled into the Monongahela River. The plant's manager said 2,620 gallons of an ethoxylate detergent spilled and filled a containment pit, but some leaked through a crack in the wall. That leak was repaired September 1. The nontoxic material did not threaten any people. However, the product can coat the gills of and smother fish, and about 50 died as a result of the spill. Representatives from the state department of environmental

protection and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission responded to the spill.  
Source: [http://pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/regional/fayette/s\\_754682.html](http://pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/regional/fayette/s_754682.html)

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

9. *September 2, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Nuclear operators told to reassess quake risk.** Nuclear regulators said September 1 they want the operators of all 104 U.S. commercial reactors to conduct new assessments of their facilities' vulnerability to earthquake damage. The decision was motivated by the increased awareness that seismic risks may have been underestimated by nuclear-power industry and regulators in the past, especially for the central and eastern United States. A draft requirement for the new assessments has been in the works for 6 years, but gained urgency with the nuclear accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear installation in March, and smaller earthquakes in Virginia in the past 2 weeks that sidelined two reactors. The proposal would give plant operators up to 2 years to finish their work. Once the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has updated seismic reports in hand, the agency will decide whether to order upgrades.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904583204576544870054511938.htm?mod=rss\\_US\\_News](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904583204576544870054511938.htm?mod=rss_US_News)

10. *September 2, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **NRC critical of Mass. nuke plant post-shutdown.** Federal nuclear regulators issued a critical report September 1 following the unplanned shutdown of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts, during May. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) criticized Pilgrim's owners for inadequate training and enforcement of its standards following the automatic shutdown that occurred as the reactor was being returned to service after a refueling and maintenance outage. The shutdown was blamed on human error. Although there was no danger to the public, the incident was serious enough for the NRC to send an inspection team.

Source: <http://moneywatch.bnet.com/economic-news/news/nrc-critical-of-mass-uke-plant-post-shutdown/6290008/>

11. *September 1, Las Cruces Sun-News* – (National) **First shipment using new waste shipping package arrives at WIPP.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the week of August 29 that the first shipment of transuranic waste using the newly approved shipping package known as the TRUPACT-III safely arrived at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The shipment, which originated at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, arrived at WIPP August 25. The new shipping package allows the DOE to package and ship large-sized transuranic waste in a single box that would otherwise have to be broken down into smaller waste boxes. The new package will help accelerate the pace of cleanup at sites across the country, while reducing risk to worker safety. In the future, the TRUPACT-III may also

be used at other sites around the country that have large transuranic box waste.  
Source: [http://www.lcsun-news.com/las\\_cruces-news/ci\\_18801786](http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_18801786)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

12. *September 2, CNN* – (National) **Report: Manufacturers lost track of more than 16,000 guns since 2009.** Thousands of firearms have gone missing from manufacturers’ inventories since 2009 “without a record of being legally sold,” according to a report released September 1 by a gun control advocacy group. The report by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence put the number of missing weapons at 16,485. The report suggests some guns may never have had serial numbers stamped into them, making them virtually impossible to trace. The group said the missing guns are often used by criminals because they are hard to trace. The report does not mention which manufacturers are reported to having missing firearms. The Brady Center said the data was collected from a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) report presented to the gun industry in August. The study states ATF conducts compliance examinations at only about 20 percent of gun dealers and manufacturers each year, and said as a result, “The 16,485 ‘missing’ guns are likely a vast undercount of the total number of guns that disappeared from gun manufacturers in the last two and a half years.” The Publisher of American Firearms Industry Magazine slammed the report, saying “The Brady spin and implication that some manufacturers, whose names are not mentioned so we can’t check the charges, are knowingly selling guns before they are logged into the manufacturer’s records is absolutely ridiculous.”  
Source: [http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/09/01/missing\\_guns.report/index.html](http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/09/01/missing_guns.report/index.html)

13. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Hawaii; National) **Intercept fails in Hawaii missile defense test.** The military said an interceptor missile failed to shoot down its intended target during a test off Hawaii. The Missile Defense Agency said September 1 a SM-3 missile fired from the guided-missile cruiser Lake Erie off Kauai failed to shoot down a short-range ballistic missile that had been launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the island. The test took place just before 4 a.m. local time September 1. The agency said in a statement that officials would conduct an “extensive investigation” to determine the cause of the failure. The test was the first of a new version of the SM-3 interceptor missile called Block 1B. It has small rockets that adjust the interceptor depending on where the target is, enabling it to more precisely hone in on its target.  
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/09/ap-intercept-fails-in-hawaii-missile-defense-test-090111/>

14. *September 1, Military Times* – (National) **F-35 program finds, corrects wing problem.** Technicians with the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program found and corrected a problem with part of the aircraft’s wing structure. As part of the fifth-generation stealth fighter’s test program, the jet’s structure must be tested to ensure it meets its fatigue life requirement, a standard requirement for all new aircraft. “During this analysis, a shortfall in the predicted durability life of the Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) and Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) wing forward root rib was identified,” according to a statement by a JSF program spokesman. The root rib is an aluminum part located where the leading edge of the aircraft’s wing meets the jet’s fuselage. It is required to have a life of 8,000 flight hours, and was slated to be tested to twice that, or 16,000 hours. However, during testing, the root rib developed cracks at just 2,800 hours. Program officials suspected the problem, the spokesman said, but proceeded with testing, in coordination with the Air Force, to gather more data. He said the JSF program developed retrofit plans and a redesigned full-life forward root rib for both variants. In the meantime, the affected F-35s will be inspected regularly until they are retrofitted with the fix.  
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/09/defense-f35-program-corrects-wing-problem-090111/>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

15. *September 1, Cliffview Pilot* – (New Jersey) **Arrest in \$5 million Paragon mortgage scam.** Detectives from the Bergen County, New Jersey, prosecutor’s office have cracked a \$5 million swindle with the arrest of a Bloomfield man who they said schemed with a loan officer and mortgage brokers to defraud Paragon Federal Credit Union in Montvale. The man is accused of submitting bogus information to qualify for 13 real estate loans for 11 multi-family houses in Bergen and Essex counties, with the help of a loan coordinator at Paragon, two Union City mortgage brokers, and the owner of a Jersey shore appraisal company. “These fraudulent leases combined with inflated property appraisals and a fraudulent Paragon Federal Credit Union membership application were all used to aid [the man] in meeting the loan criteria and ultimately being approved for a real estate loan,” a Bergen County prosecutor said. Two years ago, the defendant registered CNS Enterprises LLC. His sole purpose, the prosecutor said, was for “supplying fictitious invoices to be added to the seller side of the settlement statements,” showing a debt to the company -- even though he was the buyer. He then collected at closing. The suspect used the ill-gotten gains “for down payments on the next purchase,” the prosecutor said. The properties all eventually defaulted, and Paragon investigators began a review. Charges will be brought separately against the man’s alleged accomplices: a Paragon loan officer; two men who work for AOR Consultants in Union City; and the owner of Lighthouse Appraisers in Toms River.  
Source: <http://www.cliffviewpilot.com/bergen/2747-arrest-in-5-million-paragon-mortgage-loan-scam>

16. *September 1, Bloomberg* – (National) **Unauthorized workers in U.S. claimed \$4.2 billion in tax credits last year.** Tax filers who were not authorized to work in the United States collected \$4.2 billion in tax credits in 2010, a Treasury Department watchdog reported September 1. Although federal law prohibits people residing illegally in the United States from receiving most public benefits, an increasing number filed tax returns claiming the additional child tax credit intended for working families, according to the September 1 report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. “The payment of federal funds through this tax benefit appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the United States without authorization, which contradicts federal law and policy to remove such incentives,” the report said. The recipients did not qualify for Social Security numbers, and filed tax returns using individual taxpayer identification numbers supplied by the Internal Revenue Service.  
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-01/tax-credits-of-4-2-billion-claimed-by-unauthorized-u-s-workers.html>
17. *August 31, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (National) **SEC charges hedge fund manager and company insiders in \$3.9 million insider trading scheme.** On August 31, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) charged a man and his New Jersey-based hedge fund firm Clay Capital Management, LLC with engaging in an insider trading scheme that involved the securities of three companies — Moldflow Corporation, Autodesk, Inc., and Salesforce.com, Inc. The SEC also charged the man’s brother-in-law, his friend, and the brother-in-law’s neighbor for their roles in the scheme. In total, the scheme generated illicit gains of nearly \$3.9 million. Filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, the SEC’s complaint alleges the brother-in-law was a director of business development for Autodesk and tipped two of the men with inside information about Autodesk’s planned tender offer for Moldflow in advance of Autodesk’s public merger announcement May 1, 2008. In total, the traders made illicit gains of \$2.3 million from trading in Moldflow stock. According to the complaint, the brother-in-law also gave inside data about Autodesk’s fourth quarter 2008 earnings in advance of Autodesk’s public earnings announcement February 26, 2008. In total, the traders made illicit gains of \$1.1 million. The complaint further alleges a recruiting technology manager for Salesforce tipped one of the men with confidential data about Salesforce’s performance in advance of the company’s public earnings announcement February 27, 2008. In total, the traders made illicit gains of nearly \$500,000 from trading in Salesforce securities.  
Source: <http://www.sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/2011/lr22080.htm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *September 2, NJ.com* – (New Jersey) **Interstate 287 North reopens after emergency repairs.** All three northbound lanes re-opened on Interstate 287 in Boonton, New Jersey, September 1. A portion of the road collapsed into the Rockaway River August

28 after Hurricane Irene pushed through the region. Closing down the portion of the highway pushed traffic onto Interstate 80 and other area roads, forcing motorists to find other ways around the region.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/09/your\\_comments\\_interstate\\_287\\_n.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/09/your_comments_interstate_287_n.html)

19. *September 2, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Key bridge on Vt. Route 9 could reopen next week.** A key bridge on Vermont Route 9, the east-west highway just north of the Massachusetts line, closed by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Irene could reopen the week of September 5. The loss of the bridge in Woodford cut off the highway east of Bennington. A spokesman for the Vermont Transportation Agency told the Bennington Banner the fix will be temporary, but it will get traffic on the bridge once again. Construction crews that had been working on the Bennington Bypass highway project are now working to repair the bridge. It could still be some time, though, before Route 9 is reopened between Bennington and Brattleboro. The work crews from the bypass project are also helping to replace a water main from Bennington's water treatment facility.  
Source: <http://www.wptz.com/r/29060048/detail.html>
20. *September 2, Buffalo Business First* – (New York; International) **Amtrak operational again in upstate NY.** Amtrak said it will again operate full schedules for the Maple Leaf — from New York City to and from Toronto — and Empire Service (between New York City and Albany/Rensselaer) starting September 2. Additional Empire Service will operate between New York City and Niagara Falls September 3, with full Empire Service (New York City to and from Buffalo/Niagara Falls) starting September 4. With the operation of these two services, Amtrak has restored most service to much of the East Coast affected by Hurricane Irene.  
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2011/09/02/amtrak-operational-again-in-upstate-ny.html>
21. *September 2, Examiner.com* – (National) **Amtrak restarts western half of California Zephyr.** Flooding and an accident in Nebraska caused Amtrak to cancel service on the California Zephyr since August 26. Daily service by the Amtrak California Zephyr between the San Francisco bay area and Denver, will resume, effective with the departure of eastbound Train 6 from Emeryville, California, September 3, and the westbound Train 5 from Denver September 4. Direct train service between Denver and Chicago will continue to be suspended between Fort Morgan, Colorado, and Burlington, Iowa, until a date to be announced later in September. The BNSF Railway Co. continues to make repairs to massive flood damage near Omaha that led to a detour route resulting in lengthy delays to Amtrak service across Nebraska and Iowa. Amtrak service for the full California Zephyr route has been suspended since August 26, when a portion of a construction crane at a grain elevator obstructed the BNSF Railway Co., tracks and caused an Amtrak train to become disabled near Benkelman, Nebraska.  
Source: <http://www.examiner.com/train-travel-in-national/amtrak-restarts-western-half-of-california-zephyr>

22. *September 1, WTTG 5 Washington, D.C.* – (Maryland) **Overtaken tractor trailer causes delays on I-95 in Howard County.** A tractor trailer accident caused major evening rush hour delays on northbound I-95 at Route 100 in Howard County, Maryland, September 1. Police said the tractor trailer carrying junked vehicles overturned just before 3 p.m. Some of the junked vehicles fell into the roadway and caused two other minor crashes. Police said I-95 would be closed through the evening rush for cleanup of the vehicles, debris, and fuel spilled on the roadway. State highway administration personnel were detouring northbound traffic onto Route 100. Drivers were advised to avoid the area for several hours.  
Source: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/maryland/overtaken-tractor-trailer-causes-delays-on-i-95-in-howard-county-090111>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. *September 1, WCVB 5 Boston* – (New Hampshire) **High CO levels found in post office; 17 report illness.** Seventeen workers became ill September 1 at the post office in Exeter, New Hampshire, after a contractor removing asbestos caused elevated levels of carbon monoxide inside the building, a fire official said. Employees reported a strange smell, and the building was evacuated as a precaution. After employees were allowed to enter the building again, one of the employees called the fire department, according to a post office spokesman. Firefighters arrived and found high carbon monoxide levels in the building. Ambulances from several departments were called to the Front Street building, and several people were taken to the hospital as a precaution. Symptoms included nausea and headaches. The smell and high carbon monoxide levels were caused by a solvent the contractor was using, according to firefighters. The post office remained closed September 1.  
Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/r/29048941/detail.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

24. *September 2, Associated Press* – (North Dakota; National) **Pasta prices rise after North Dakota loses million acres of wheat to heavy rain, flooding.** Consumers are paying more for pasta after heavy spring rain and record flooding prevented planting on more than 1 million acres in one of the nation's best durum wheat-growing areas, the Associated Press reported September 2. North Dakota typically grows almost three-fourths of the nation's durum, and its crop is prized for its golden color and high protein. This year's crop is expected to be only about 24.6 million bushels, or about two-fifths of last year's. Total U.S. production is pegged at 59 million bushels, a little more than half of last year's and the least since 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. Arizona, California, Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota also produce durum. In northwest North Dakota, fields normally flush with wheat are full of

frogs. That, combined with a smaller-than-usual stockpile, has pushed up prices on everything from alphabet noodles to ziti. The cost of pasta jumped about 20 cents in the past few months to an average of \$1.48 a pound nationwide, said the president of Kansas City, Missouri-based American Italian Pasta Co., the nation's largest maker of dry pasta.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/pasta-prices-rise-after-north-dakota-loses-million-acres-of-wheat-to-heavy-rain-flooding/2011/09/02/gIQAHzHyvJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/pasta-prices-rise-after-north-dakota-loses-million-acres-of-wheat-to-heavy-rain-flooding/2011/09/02/gIQAHzHyvJ_story.html)

25. *September 2, Food Safety News* – (California; International) **Another Canada recall of U.S. walnuts.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Johnvince Foods issued a warning September 1 about certain prepackaged raw shelled walnuts that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7. Johnvince Foods, based in Downsview, Ontario, said it has recalled the following raw shelled walnut products, which were imported from the United States, packaged in Canada, and distributed nationally. The recall includes: President's Choice Raw California Walnut Halves Unsalted, 250 g packages, UPC code 0 60383 87185 7, Best Before 2012 OC 07; and Reddi Snack Hand Selected California Walnuts, 350 g packages, UPC code 0 64777 28695 1 16581. In April, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported 14 cases of E. coli illness linked to walnuts imported from the United States, and distributed by Quebec-based Amira Enterprises, which recalled the nuts. Health officials said 10 people were hospitalized and three people developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, an illness associated with E. coli infections that can result in kidney failure.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/09/another-recall-in-canada-of-us-walnuts/>

26. *September 2, Medford Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **Less sodium sulfite in fish-egg bait will save young salmon.** Fewer young salmon and steelhead will die after eating cured roe now that Oregon fish managers and Northwest industries have worked out an agreement to reduce toxic sodium sulfite in cures used to prepare roe for bait. At a meeting September 1 in Seaside, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission opted not to impose a ban on the use of sodium sulfite, which has been added to commercial egg cures since 1980 as a mold-inhibitor. Recent studies showed the cures kill young fish that eat it. The panel accepted a deal brokered between state fish biologists and industry leaders that will lead to reductions in sodium sulfite to levels research suggests will kill far fewer than 10 percent of the young salmon that eat it — a level deemed to be an acceptable risk. Under the agreement, by October 1 all cured roe, as well as compounds used to cure sport-caught eggs at home, must meet the new threshold. The eggs and cure also will be labeled "For Use in Oregon" when sold in stores. Officials from the state department of environmental quality and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife support this approach, which includes a requirement that bait companies certify their cures meet these new thresholds.

Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110902/NEWS/109020336>

27. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **8 cattle shot on eastern Idaho grazing allotment.** Police in Idaho said eight cattle were shot in the head and neck while they

were grazing on a Targhee National Forest allotment. The animals were at a watering hole near a frequently-traveled dirt road when they were shot, the owner of the cattle said. A Fremont County sheriff's deputy discovered the animals August 31, within about 24 hours of the shooting. The owner said two of his calves and two of his cows were killed, and another two of his animals were injured and will likely need to be put down. His business partners owned the other two slain cows. A deputy said law enforcement officers were trying to recover the bullets from the carcasses as part of their investigation. The cows are estimated to be worth between \$10,000 and \$12,000. Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/8-cattle-shot-on-eastern-Idaho-grazing-allotment-2151352.php>

28. *September 1, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Explosion, 3-alarm fire at McDonald's restaurant in Encinitas.** A three-alarm fire reportedly caused by a natural-gas explosion destroyed a McDonald's restaurant about 8:25 p.m. September 1 in Encinitas, California, a fire official said. Employees called 911 to report the explosion, the Encinitas fire marshal said. Four customers and at least four employees were inside at the time, he said. Employees in the kitchen reported smelling natural gas and told customers to leave, the fire marshal said. One person who was in the restaurant at the time reported hearing a "really loud bang," and thought a car had driven into the building, he said. When firefighters arrived, the restaurant was filled with smoke and part of the roof had collapsed, and the rest of the roof later caved in. San Diego Gas & Electric crews shut off gas to the building. Ladder trucks from Encinitas and Carlsbad fire departments were used to stream water on the fire, which "progressed very fast" and took about an hour to control, the fire marshal said. About 50 firefighters responded from Encinitas, Carlsbad, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Vista, and San Marcos. The restaurant is in a shopping center anchored by a Henry's Farmers Market. Damage was estimated at \$500,000 to \$700,000. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/sep/01/roof-collapse-fire-mcdonalds-restaurant-encinitas/>
29. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Low asbestos levels in wood chips in Libby, Mont.** Initial test results show low levels of asbestos contamination in piles of wood chips and bark that were widely used for landscaping in Libby, Montana, a small town where hundreds of people have died from asbestos exposure, federal regulators said September 1. Low levels of asbestos were found in two of six wood chip samples taken from an abandoned sawmill, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) toxicologist said. She described the initial results as promising, but said more testing was needed to determine the human health risk. The Associated Press reported in July that more than 15,000 tons of the chips and bark were sold or distributed, and much of that material shipped across the country despite evidence it contained an unknown level of asbestos. Samples of the chips and bark were first collected in 2007, and subsequent tests found asbestos in 4 of 20 samples analyzed under an electron microscope. But the EPA at the time did not attempt to quantify how much asbestos was present. Until the spring of 2011, residents and city officials in Libby routinely used the chips and bark for landscaping projects, and erosion control. The material was also shipped out of Libby for use as fuel pellets and decorative bark that was packaged and sold by major retailers. The EPA stopped the sales in March after local residents raised concerns.

Health officials said the asbestos in Libby is more potent than asbestos found elsewhere. A draft EPA risk assessment released in August said the slightest trace of fibers can cause illness if inhaled.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/09/01/national/a105333D15.DTL&type=business>

30. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Maryland; Delaware) **Md. officials say Irene caused no poultry deaths in Md. after all; deaths were in Delaware.** Maryland agriculture officials said there were no poultry deaths in Maryland due to Hurricane Irene after all. A spokeswoman for the Maryland Department of Agriculture said September 1 that an earlier report from the department of about 30,000 chicken deaths in Maryland was a mix up that resulted after a conference call with a large number of people about storm damage with Delaware officials. The Maryland Department of Agriculture had reported the deaths in Maryland August 30. The department issued a statement August 31, saying the deaths had occurred in Delaware, not Maryland. A spokeswoman with the Delaware Department of Agriculture said September 1 the Delaware State Veterinarian's Office has received reports of 57,000 poultry deaths due to Irene.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/0b25544f267e44e59d1c104cf3c9ee6d/MD--Poultry-Deaths/>

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## **Water Sector**

31. *September 2, Pottstown Mercury* – (Pennsylvania) **River sewage pollution worse than thought.** As much as four times more raw sewage poured into the Schuylkill River from a sewer main break in Reading, Pennsylvania, than originally believed. Officials with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would not commit to an exact number — saying calculations from Reading City officials had not yet been provided — but they said the amount was larger than the 12 million gallons initially estimated. As a result of heavy rainfall that infiltrated the aging sewer system, as much as 52 million gallons of fluid flowed through that pipe in a 4-hour period, a spokesperson said. “The city still has a number of flow meters they need to get readings for and because of the additional flow from the substantial rainfall from Irene, it’s complicating the estimate,” he said, adding the water quality tests looking at aquatic life “show no environmental impacts at this time.”

Source: <http://pottsmmerc.com/articles/2011/09/02/news/srv0000013559820.txt>

32. *September 2, Great Falls Tribune* – (Montana) **Blackfoot Tribe eases restrictions on water system in Browning.** Favorable chemical tests of the Browning, Montana water system allowed the Blackfoot Tribe to partially lift a day-old, “do not use” order on water September 1. Officials still recommended residents boil water thoroughly before using it for cooking, however, said the tribal communications director. The tribe bought and distributed drinking water to residents. A city water operator discovered August 31 someone had broken the lock on the 1 million-gallon tank that holds drinking water for Browning residents. Federal Environmental Protection Agency and state health

officials advised the city in a telephone conference call to enact the “do not use” order until tests were completed. Officials were hoping for bacteria testing to be completed soon.

Source:

<http://www.greatfallsribune.com/article/20110902/NEWS01/109020319/Blackfeet-Tribe-eases-restrictions-water-system-Browning?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>

33. *September 1, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Mo. coal ash pond leaking since 1992.** The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported September 1 state records show a coal ash pond next to an Ameren Corp. power plant in Labadie, Missouri, has been leaking toxic coal waste since 1992. There is no evidence the leak has made its way into groundwater or affected drinking water, but critics said neither the state nor the utility has tested the area for contamination. Information provided by Ameren to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicated the 154-acre ash pond has two leaks. One flows at a rate of up to 5 gallons a minute and leaks into Labadie Creek, while the other releases up to 30 gallons a minute. Combined, it is the equivalent of more than 50,000 gallons of water escaping the ponds each day — nearly 350 million gallons over 19 years. A DNR spokesman said the agency has not monitored the site because the law does not require it. The DNR required groundwater monitoring at ash disposal sites since 1997, and is revisiting how it regulates older coal waste impoundments. Ameren believes there is no environmental threat.

Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/Mo-coal-ash-pond-leaking-since-1992-2150855.php>

34. *September 1, 95.9 WATD-FM Norwell* – (Massachusetts) **Major water facilities continue to run on generator, high sodium levels found in town.** Norwell, Massachusetts, lost power August 28 after Hurricane Irene. However, their two high capacity water tanks, master computer, and water treatment plant on South Street had yet to regain power September 1, and were running on an industrial generator since the storm. The board of water commissioners discussed elevated sodium levels in Norwell and Hanover’s public water supplies found in recent years. The sodium concentration currently exceeds state department of environmental protection guidelines, and could have long term impacts on public health, especially for residents with hypertension. “The sodium levels are through the roof. We’re pumping about 2 tons of sodium a day out of the ground that’s basically road salt,” said one official.

Source: <http://959watd.com/blog/2011/09/norwell-major-water-facilities-continue-to-run-on-generator-high-sodium-levels-found-in-town/>

For more stories, see items [5](#), [6](#), [8](#), and [19](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

35. *September 1, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **UT Southwestern must pay \$1.4 million in settlement with federal, state officials.** University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) and Parkland Memorial Hospital failed to adequately

supervise surgeons in residency training and improperly billed Medicare and Medicaid for services they never provided, the federal and state governments contended in a \$1.4 million settlement made public September 1. UTSW and Parkland agreed to the settlement but denied the government's claims. They said the agreement was "to avoid the delay, uncertainty, inconvenience and expense of protracted litigation." The U.S. Justice Department and the Texas attorney general led a nearly 4-year investigation into allegations of billing fraud by the two Dallas institutions. In addition to lax supervision, they contended that UTSW and Parkland failed to comply with Medicare's informed consent requirements for patient care.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/investigations/headlines/20110901-ut-southwestern-must-pay-1.4-million-in-settlement-with-federal-state-officials.ece>

36. *August 30, Johns Hopkins Medicine* – (National) **Kids carrying MRSA germ prone to serious infection.** Hospitalized children who carry the bacteria methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) but show no signs of illness are still at high risk for developing full-blown infections, a new study finds. Researchers at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore examined the medical records of 3,140 children admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit between 2007 and 2010. Of those children, 153 arrived at the hospital already colonized with MRSA; the bacteria was living in the nose or on the skin but not causing infection. The antibiotic-resistant bacteria is linked to more than 18,600 deaths a year in the United States. Compared to non-carriers, the children who carried MRSA before they arrived at the hospital were nearly six times more likely to develop invasive MRSA infections after discharge, and eight times more likely to develop them while still in the hospital. Invasive MRSA infections are serious infections that affect the whole body, and they can be life-threatening.

Source: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_115989.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_115989.html)

For more stories, see items [29](#), [34](#), and [39](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

37. *September 2, Dexter Daily Statesman* – (Missouri) **Dexter School District reports financial data hacked.** The Dexter School District in Dexter, Missouri, reported a security breach dealing with school funds. A two-line news release sent out August 31 by a Dexter Police Department lieutenant said only that a complaint had been filed "to report that money was missing externally." In a statement September 1, the district superintendent said there is "no evidence to indicate any corruption of the school district's database, indicating the breach comes within the banking industry." The superintendent said the district's technology personnel have not detected any breach of the district's firewalls. The amount of funds stolen through hacking has not been released. The superintendent said September 1 that about one-third of the funds that were "stolen by means of a falsified electronic transfer request created by an outside source" have been retrieved. No banking facility has been named in relation to the hacking incident, either by police or by school authorities.

Source: <http://www.semissourian.com/story/1758845.html?response=no>

38. *September 2, Glenwood Springs Post-Independent* – (Colorado) **23 sent to hospital after Rifle school evacuated.** Twenty-two students and one staff member from Graham Mesa Elementary School in Rifle, Colorado, were treated at local hospitals September 1 after they became ill as a result of an unidentified odor. The incident resulted in the evacuation of the school, which was to remain closed September 2 as the Rifle Fire Department continued its investigation into the cause. The odor was detected in a single classroom at the school September 1. Over the course of the morning, several students began to feel ill, according to the Garfield School District re-2 director of districtwide services. The school began notifying parents through an autodialer or personal phone calls at 1:30 p.m., she said. A total of 16 students and one teacher were transported to Grand River Hospital District in Rifle. As of late afternoon, all 17 had been treated and released, according to a hospital spokeswoman. She said the students and teacher experienced symptoms including dizziness and difficulty breathing. In addition, six students were transported to Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs. All of those students were eventually released after treatment, according to the director. “The initial findings from Rifle Fire Department’s investigation showed no indication of carbon monoxide or natural gas,” she said. Food poisoning was also investigated, but does not appear to be a likely cause either.

Source:

<http://www.postindependent.com/article/20110902/VALLEYNEWS/110909998/1083&ParentProfile=1074>

39. *September 1, Nextgov* – (Texas) **Identity thieves increasingly target children.** A recent investigation into illegal immigrants who were hired by a Texas nursing home after they bought Social Security cards revealed that seven of the identification numbers on the fake cards belonged to children, a Social Security Administration special agent said September 1. Increasingly, identity thieves are hacking computers at schools and pediatric centers to retrieve this lucrative personal information, experts said. More than 140,000 American children each year become victims of identity theft, experts said at a July child-centric fraud forum sponsored by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). That number includes kids whose relatives, when in a financial bind, applied for new credit with their young family member’s name and Social Security number (SSN). Reports of child identity theft increased nearly 200 percent between 2003 and 2009, when 19,000 cases were filed, according to FTC figures. A special agent in-charge at the same Texas division said child identity theft “allows for the potential long-term undetected abuse of a genuine SSN — and the potential long-term harm to a young person’s financial future.” It usually is not until about 18 years later that the adult victim discovers a mysterious history of unpaid bills or loan defaults. All the suspects questioned during the nursing home incident were Mexican nationals who are undergoing deportation and removal proceedings, he said.

Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20110901\\_8644.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110901_8644.php)

40. *September 1, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **3 Appalachian State University students faint in class, building evacuated for inspection.** Three Appalachian State University students in Boone, North Carolina, fainted in class September 1, and officials evacuated the building to inspect it. The three women were taken to Watauga Medical Center where they were treated and released. The women had been in

Katherine Harper Hall around 8:30 a.m. where they were taking a digital photography class. A professor said no chemicals were being used. A dozen other students in the class were not affected. The Boone Fire Department checked the building for a possible gas leak. All but three classrooms in the building were cleared for classes to resume later that afternoon.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3473df8212c94b49a5f3f04697a9afd4/NC--Students-Faint/>

41. *September 1, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **2 Birdville students hack into school district’s network.** Two students from Birdville schools in Texas hacked into a school district network server and accessed a file with 14,500 student names and Social Security numbers, a Birdville spokesman said September 1, in Haltom City. The Birdville superintendent September 1 mailed a letter to families of all students from the 2008-2009 school year. The security breach discovered August 30 involved a network server that was no longer in use. The file has been removed and the server is no longer operational, the Birdville spokesman said. The students, a junior and senior, face discipline from the school district, he said.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/09/01/3329502/2-birdville-students-hack-into.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

42. *September 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Post-9/11, emergency radios still not connected.** Amid the chaos of the September 11 attacks in 2001, emergency responders found they could not communicate with each other. That problem persists 10 years later, according to a review of the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations. A National Preparedness Group report released August 31 concludes the recommendation that a nationwide broadband network for emergency responders be created “continues to languish.” Law enforcement and emergency responders around the country have long supported the creation of the communication network. In January, the U.S. President announced his support for allocating the radio space, known as the D-block spectrum, to police and other emergency workers. Several big wireless carriers have supported auctioning off the airwaves to the wireless industry, a move the government has estimated would raise about \$3.1 billion. That could help pay to build a public safety communications network. The National Preparedness Group report said statewide communications interoperability plans and the creation of a national emergency communications plan have improved emergency coordination across different jurisdictions. But more work needs to be done and the ultimate solution, the report said, is to follow the 9/11 Commission’s recommendation and create a nationwide communications network.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/post-911-emergency-radios-still-not-connected>

## **Information Technology Sector**

43. *September 2, Help Net Security* – (International) **Morto worm surprises again.** The recently discovered Morto worm that has been spreading in the wild has more than one never-before-seen characteristic. Not only does it spread by using the Remote Desktop Protocol, but it also uses a novel way to contact its command and control in search for instructions: via DNS (Domain Name System) TXT records. “While examining W32.Morto, we noticed that it would attempt to request a DNS record for a number of URLs that were hard-coded into the binary,” according to a Symantec security response engineer. “This is by no means unusual or unique, but when we examined the URLs, we noticed that there were no associated DNS A records returned from our own DNS requests. On further investigation, we determined the malware was actually querying for a DNS TXT record only — not for a domain to IP lookup — and the values that were returned were quite unexpected.” The information provided was a binary signature and an IP address from which the worm can download further malware — the same information that most threats receive using more established communication channels.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1827](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1827)
44. *September 1, Associated Press* – (International) **US cybersecurity officials warn of malicious email scams links to 9/11 or Hurricane Irene.** DHS officials are warning the public to beware of e-mail scams and possible cyberattacks related to Hurricane Irene and the upcoming 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the Associated Press reported September 1. New bulletins issued in recent days by the DHS’s cybersecurity center said computer users should be wary of e-mails with subject lines referring to the recent hurricane or the September 11th attacks, even if they appear to come from reputable sources. The e-mails could be phishing scams that masquerade as legitimate requests for personal information or fund-raising pleas and may include innocent-looking links to video or photos. Clicking on the links could download harmful viruses or take users to malicious Web sites.  
Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts-law/us-cybersecurity-officials-warn-of-malicious-e-mail-scams-links-to-911-or-hurricane-irene/2011/09/01/gIQAu5J2uJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts-law/us-cybersecurity-officials-warn-of-malicious-e-mail-scams-links-to-911-or-hurricane-irene/2011/09/01/gIQAu5J2uJ_story.html)
45. *September 1, Softpedia* – (International) **Thunderbird 6.0.1. and Thunderbird 3.1.13 fix compromised root CA issue.** Mozilla updated its two supported Thunderbird versions to remove the root certificate of DigiNotar from the list of authorized Certificate Authorities (CA). The CA was the victim of a successful attack and several rogue certificates were issued, signed by it. Mozilla provided updates for Thunderbird 6, the latest stable version of the popular e-mail suite, and for the older Thunderbird 3.1, which is still being supported with security patches.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Thunderbird-6-0-1-and-Thunderbird-3-1-13-Fix-Compromised-Root-CA-Issue-219790.shtml>

46. *September 1, Associated Press* – (International) **UK arrests 2 suspected computer hackers.** British police September 1 arrested two men as part of a trans-Atlantic investigation into attacks carried out by the hacking groups Anonymous and Lulz Security. Scotland Yard said a 24-year-old and a 20-year-old were arrested at two separate U.K. addresses as part of a continuing investigation in collaboration with the FBI and other law-enforcement agencies. “The arrests relate to our inquiries into a series of serious computer intrusions and online denial-of-service attacks recently suffered by a number of multi-national companies, public institutions and government and law enforcement agencies in Great Britain and the United States,” said a detective inspector from the Metropolitan Police’s Central e-Crime Unit. Police said the two men arrested remain in custody, and a computer seized in the investigation is being examined.  
Source: <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=140129430>

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### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

47. *September 2, Northescambia.com* – (Florida) **Frontier Internet fails again; company plans big fix.** Officials with Frontier Communications said September 1 they were taking steps to prevent hundreds of North Escambia, Florida area residents from losing their Internet service for hours at a time. During the summer, Frontier high speed DSL and dialup Internet customers in Walnut Hill, Bratt, Molino, and Atmore lost their Internet connection for as long as 12 hours at a time. The company has experienced at least 6 major outages since June, including an 8-hour period September 1. Frontier said most of the outages were not their fault, blaming the downtime on AT&T, which provides the Internet connections. A Frontier spokeswoman said the September 1 outage was the result of an AT&T fiber line cut near Bay Minette, interrupting the connection between Atmore and Atlanta. All of the Walnut Hill, Bratt, Molino and Atmore DSL and dial-up services provided by Frontier are connected to the rest of the Internet by a single fiber optic line between Atmore and Atlanta. The spokeswoman said Frontier is working to install a second independent route to the Internet from Atmore, preventing a single fiber cut from cutting the North Escambia area off from the Internet.  
Source: <http://www.northescambia.com/?p=66262>
48. *September 2, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **TV, phone, Internet steadily returning in R.I.** Rhode Island’s cable television, phone, and Internet providers, said

September 1 they were making progress restoring service interrupted by Tropical Storm Irene, but that customers are still cut off across the state. Full Channel, which provides TV, Internet, and phone service in Barrington, Warren, and Bristol, appears to have been hit hardest. The company's chief executive said more than 90 percent of the company's customers in Barrington lost service, more than 80 percent in Bristol and somewhat less in Warren. The main issue as of September 1 was Full Channel's service area was waiting for National Grid to restore the electricity that powers distribution equipment. Downed wires also presented a problem initially, the chief executive said, but most of that has been resolved. A spokeswoman for Cox Communications, which provides TV, Internet, and phone service statewide, said 25 percent of the company's customers lost connection to Cox's network, though many more were unable to use those services because power was out in their area. As of September 1, about 94 percent of those who had lost services had been restored. She said Cox's network has been repaired, but the lack of electricity in some areas and downed wires leading to customers' homes were lingering issues.

Source: [http://www.projo.com/news/content/IRENE\\_TELECOM\\_09-02-11\\_9DQ3QU1\\_v31.76ace.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/IRENE_TELECOM_09-02-11_9DQ3QU1_v31.76ace.html)

49. *September 1, Greenwich Time* – (Connecticut) **Major disconnect: growing discontent over extended cable outage in Greenwich.** From homebound residents with special needs to people who telecommute for a living, frustration was mounting September 1 among those reliant on Cablevision for phone, Internet, and TV service because of extended storm-related outages in Greenwich, Connecticut. A Cablevision spokesman released a statement September 1 attributing the disruption to widespread power outages caused by Tropical Storm Irene, at the height of which one out of every two Connecticut Light & Power Co. customers in town lost electricity. The New York-based cable giant would not reveal how many of its local customers lost service or the number of Cablevision crews it deployed to Greenwich. To add insult to injury for Cablevision, a police report was filed at 1 a.m. August 31, stating one of the company's emergency generators was stolen from Marshall Street, which runs parallel to Havemeyer Lane near the Stamford border. Cablevision had no information about the incident.

Source: <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Major-disconnect-Growing-discontent-over-2151781.php>

50. *September 1, The Hill* – (National) **FCC fines calling card companies for deceptive marketing.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced September 1 \$20 million in fines against 4 prepaid calling card companies for allegedly using deceptive marketing practices. According to the FCC, STi Telecom, Lyca Tel, Touch-Tel USA, and Locus Telecommunications scammed consumers by claiming they could make hundreds of minutes of calls to foreign countries for only a few dollars. In fact, because of hidden fees and surcharges, consumers could only use a fraction of those minutes, the FCC said. The FCC fined the companies \$5 million each. In one case the FCC investigated, consumers would have to make a single 13-hour phone call to receive the advertised number of minutes. If the consumers made more than one call, they would receive a smaller fraction of the card value. In another case, a card that promised 1,000 minutes was exhausted after a single 60-minute phone call. According

to investigators, the companies targeted low-income and minority communities. The FCC also released an enforcement advisory September 1 to raise awareness about deceptive prepaid calling cards.

Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/hillicon-valley/technology/179301-fcc-fines-calling-card-companies-for-deceptive-marketing>

51. *September 1, Washington Post* – (International) **Report says space debris past ‘tipping point,’ NASA needs to step up action.** Space debris has passed the “tipping point,” according to a report released September 1 by the National Research Council, which called on NASA to find ways to better monitor and clean up the orbiting junk threatening active satellites, and manned spacecraft. “We’re going to have a lot more [debris] collisions, and at an increasingly frequent rate,” said a former NASA scientist who chaired the committee that prepared the report. The orbiting objects include ejected rockets and broken satellites. Recent data underscore the growing problem. Two collisions since January 2007 helped at least double the number of trackable debris fragments that are in Earth’s orbit, according to the report. U.S. Strategic Command said there are more than 22,000 such pieces in orbit. NASA estimates there could be hundreds of thousands — or even millions — of smaller, non-trackable pieces of debris also in space. Active satellites are at risk of damage and “as the amount of debris increases, there will be increases in the cost of operating” satellites, said a technical adviser with the Secure World Foundation.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/reports-says-space-debris-past-tipping-point-nasa-needs-to-step-up-action/2011/08/31/gIQAo6WTuJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/reports-says-space-debris-past-tipping-point-nasa-needs-to-step-up-action/2011/08/31/gIQAo6WTuJ_story.html)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

52. *September 2, Huber Heights Chronicle* – (Ohio) **Explosive devices detonated at business and residence.** Huber Heights, Ohio police officers were dispatched to The Element Salon at 7220 Taylorville Road September 1 on the complaint of an explosion. Initial investigation revealed that someone intentionally detonated an explosive device in front of the business causing significant damage. While investigating the Taylorsville call, someone detonated an explosive device in front of 4941 Wakeview Court. The explosion caused significant damage to the front of the residence. The business and the residence were occupied at the time of the incidents; however, no one was injured. The Huber Heights Police and Fire Departments are currently handling the investigation with the assistance of the state fire marshal’s office.

Source:

<http://www.tcnewsnet.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=3&ArticleID=156419>

53. *September 1, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Glass balcony panels shatter to sidewalk outside Four Seasons.** Pieces of a shattered glass balcony panel fell 18 stories from

one of Seattle's most exclusive addresses, September 1. It happened again August 28, the third time in a year that glass has rained down from condominium balconies at the Four Seasons Hotel and Private Residences just south of Pike Place Market. Now the owners are taking out all 300 tempered-glass panels in the building, panels similar to those that fractured and fell this summer at high-rise condos in Austin and Toronto. The balconies, all on the condo levels between the 11th and 21st floors, will be closed until new panels or a new railing system are installed. No one was injured in the three incidents. Falling pieces of glass cracked, but did not break, five large sections of the glass awning that covers the sidewalk outside the hotel entrance. A car was slightly damaged in the July incident, a spokesman said. The August 28 incident was reported to the police and fire departments shortly after 6 a.m., when few people were on the street. Glass fragments covered Union Street all the way to the entrance of 98 Union, a nearby resident said. City building officials were not aware of any of the incidents until August 30, a department of planning and development spokesman said. Inspectors learned of the two earlier accidents when they went to the Four Seasons to inspect damage the week of August 29, he said.

Source: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016085463\\_glass02m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016085463_glass02m.html)

54. *September 1, Connecticut Mirror* – (Connecticut) **Irene destroyed or significantly damaged 132 homes.** Tropical Storm Irene destroyed or significantly damaged 132 homes in Connecticut in the judgment of federal damage assessment teams, the governor said September 1. But the state still is awaiting a federal disaster declaration that would provide assistance, such as expedited Small Business Administration loans. Businesses in Litchfield and Fairfield counties already are eligible for disaster aid, since their counties adjoin counties in New York that already have been declared disaster areas. Power outages were reduced September 1 to 243,000 customers from a high of more than 800,000, with 210,000 Connecticut Light & Power and 33,000 United Illuminating clients still in the dark. The governor faced angry residents August 31 as he toured heavily wooded communities in eastern Connecticut, where the winds were strongest and the number of outages the highest.

Source: <http://www.ctmirror.org/story/13796/irene-destroyed-or-significantly-damaged-132-homes-connecticut>

55. *September 1, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Fire crews evacuate high-rise after water leak.** The Boston Fire Department evacuated residents of a 23-story apartment complex due to a large water leak the afternoon of September 1. The fire department said they received call reporting a water leak on the 22nd floor of an apartment complex on Nassau Street. Fire crews said the leak was large enough to cause damage to areas between the 22nd and 11th floors, forcing them to evacuate residents. Most of the residents have been allowed back into their apartments, but the fire department said several of the apartments directly under the leak will remain uninhabitable.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/mostpopular/29055739/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [6](#), [7](#), [28](#), [57](#), and [58](#)

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## National Monuments and Icons Sector

56. *September 1, KOAT 7 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Massive pot farm found in national park.** National park leaders ripped out thousands of marijuana plants in a large pot farm in the Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. Authorities found the marijuana in a part of the national forest just northeast of Jemez Springs that had no roads, trails, or easy points of access. Leaders said they may have never even found the pot if the area hadn't flooded last week. The superintendent of Bandelier National Monument said the chief ranger was flying over the area the week of August 22, surveying flood damage, when he noticed a huge, elaborate marijuana plantation. A number of federal, state, and local law enforcement agents swept into the area September 1 and found at least three fields of mature marijuana plants growing in very steep, rugged terrain. "(They're) anywhere from six to 10 feet in height, and have an approximate street value of \$5 million," the superintendent said. The Bandelier National Monument is more than 30,000 acres, and has a number of areas that are isolated and unpopulated.

Source: <http://www.koat.com/news/29057151/detail.html>

57. *September 1, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Possum Kingdom Lake wildfire is more than halfway contained.** Firefighters September 1 continued to make progress on the wildfire at Possum Kingdom Lake, Texas, and with more than half of it contained, they were optimistic that the worst is behind them. Flames ate a lot of trees and brush August 30 and 31, leaving less to support fires September 1, fire officials said. About 135 firefighters remain on a day shift, and 125 more are on a night shift. Since the 101 Ranch fire started September 30, it has burned 6,500 acres and has destroyed 39 homes and nine recreational vehicles, according to the Forest Service.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/09/01/3331100/possum-kingdom-lake-wildfire-is.html>

For another story, see item [27](#)

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## Dams Sector

58. *September 2, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Fears over dam shift.** The Poesten Kill Dam in Troy, New York, shifted forward on the northern corner, compromising the spillway, the Albany Times-Union reported September 2. Water was coming over the top of the spillway as it should, but the damage from the heavy flow of water and blows from debris after Tropical Storm Irene caused the spillway to leak from underneath. A strong impact, such as from a runaway tree, boulder, or other storm debris could cause the dam to burst, potentially endanger homes and property in Troy, which has a population of about 50,000. A city engineer said the city built a temporary structure along the dam to divert the water from the damaged section. Part of the planned repair efforts were aimed at protecting the concrete abutment at the dam's north end, and the building that is immediately west of the dam. The dam is located to

the east of a populated part of the city. No evacuations or street closures were ordered.  
Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Fears-over-dam-shift-2151438.php>

59. *September 1, The Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **Two lakes expected to release close to 1 million acre feet of water in 2011.** The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers estimates the total releases from the Pipestem and Jamestown dams to be between 800,000 and 900,000 acre feet this year. The amount of water that will pass through Jamestown on the James River in 2011 more than doubles any year's flow but 2009, which was about 530,000 acre feet, according to information from the Corps. "The levels started deviating from the normal in June. The Pipestem is about three months behind schedule," one official said adding, "the Jamestown Dam is about three-and-a-half months behind. We just have more water behind the dams than we should have this time of year." Combined releases of 1,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) began in May. The Corps maintained that release level until late in August when releases were increased to 2,100 cfs with plans to reach 2,400 cfs by September 3.  
Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/143250/>

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