



# Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report  
9 September 2011

## Top Stories

- In a nationwide crackdown, authorities charged 91 people, including doctors and other medical professionals, with participating in Medicare fraud schemes involving \$295 million in false billing. – *Associated Press* (See item [32](#))
- The rising Susquehanna River forced the evacuation September 8 of about 100,000 people from New York to Maryland as flooding from heavy rains closed major highways and destroyed bridges and homes. – *Associated Press and NBC News* (See item [53](#))

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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 7, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vt. utility: Lights on, but safety in question.** Vermont's largest electric company said all of its customers who could have their power restored safely after last week's flooding have the lights back on. But officials at Central Vermont Public Service Corp. said they have a lot of work yet to do. A company vice president said crews will remain out in force for several weeks making the temporary repairs they made last week more permanent. He also said homes that were flooded must be inspected by a state inspector or licensed electrician before power

can be turned back on, and that any electrical appliances that went under water must be thrown out.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/07/business-multiutilities-us-utility-safety-vermont\\_8662801.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/07/business-multiutilities-us-utility-safety-vermont_8662801.html)

2. *September 7, Gannett Albany Bureau* – (New York) **DEC releases hydrofracking report, will hold hearings.** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will host four public hearings across the state and will lengthen a comment period on its latest review of hydraulic fracturing, the agency announced September 7. The hearings will be held in Broome, Steuben and Sullivan counties, as well as New York City, and will take place in November. The public will have 97 days to have its say on the DEC report, 37 days longer than originally planned. Environmental and conservation groups had been calling for 180 days to comment. The DEC also announced it will begin in October the process of developing the recommendations in its review into official regulations, which will require a separate comment period that will take place simultaneously. If approved, the rules would have the same force as state law. The agency posted a new draft of its 3-year review — dubbed the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement — September 6, weighing in at 1,537 pages. The draft has a new chapter on the economic and community impacts of natural gas drilling and hydrofracking, a controversial technique that involves the use of a mixture of water, sand and chemicals to break up shale formations — such as the Marcellus Shale — and release natural gas.  
Source: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/article/133871/37/DEC-Releases-Hydrofracking-Report-Will-Hold-Hearings-->

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## Chemical Industry Sector

3. *September 8, Worcester Telegram & Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **No serious injuries in ‘dangerous’ chemical spill.** The Millbury, Massachusetts fire chief said September 7 it is fortunate the September 6 chemical spill at a Providence Road firm did not have more serious repercussions. He said 6,000 or 7,000 gallons of dangerous phenolic resin leaked through a three-fourths-inch hole in piping connected to a tank. Two Barrday Composite Solutions employees, nine firefighters and a police officer were treated for chemical exposure at UMass Memorial Medical Center University Campus in Worcester. Barrday's president said Clean Harbors removed the chemical from the containment area, and noted a licensed environmental professional was expected on site September 8 to guide the rest of the cleanup, which will include an evaluation and possible removal of the compromised tank. He estimated that “a few thousand gallons” of phenol leaked from the tank. The state fire marshal's office, state department of environmental protection, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are investigating.  
Source: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20110908/NEWS/109089414/1003/NEWS03>

4. *September 8, Warren Tribune Chronicle* – (Ohio) **Crash closes I-80.** A commercial truck hauling two trailers with propane, ethanol, petroleum oil, and other flammable and hazardous material crashed into a bridge guardrail, exploding on impact and shutting down a westbound portion of Interstate 80 in Ohio September 7. An Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) spokesman said one lane was reopened around 7 p.m. September 7. He said crews were working overnight to make bridge rail, guardrail, and pavement repairs, and the second lane should be open by mid- to late morning September 8. ODOT bridge engineers spent September 7 assessing damage to the bridge over Mount Everett Road about a mile west of the Route 62 exit. The Eagle Joint Fire District chief said when he arrived shortly after the 4:40 a.m. crash, he saw the trailer fall into a field and then heard two explosions. Trumbull County Hazardous Materials crews used dirt and bags to form dikes to divert leaking material into a quickly formed retention pond that also held fuel and melted tires. A tanker was brought in later to suck the liquid from the pond. Other material evaporated. Trains on a nearby section of track were alerted to the crash at first, but tracks were open and trains were allowed to pass under the bridge by 11 a.m., September 8, according to the hazmat chief.  
Source: <http://www.tribtoday.com/page/content.detail/id/561424/Crash-closes-I-80.html?nav=5021>
5. *September 7, CBS; Associated Press* – (National) **DEA to ban so-called 'bath salts' drugs.** Under mounting pressure from states, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said September 7 it will temporarily outlaw possession and sale of three synthetic stimulants — often marketed as "bath salts" — as dangerous chemicals that pose an imminent hazard to public health. A CBS News correspondent reported that at least 27 states have already banned the stimulants, and the DEA ban will take effect in 30 days. Sometimes packaged as bath salts or plant food and marketed under names such as "Purple Wave," "Vanilla Sky" and "Bliss," the stimulants are especially popular among teens and young adults and are perceived as mimics of cocaine, LSD, and methamphetamine. Bath salts are lab-produced stimulants called "synthetic cathinones" that mimic the effect of marijuana but are more powerful, and can cause users to hallucinate and become extremely violent. The DEA said users have reported disorientation, extreme paranoia and violent episodes after ingesting the chemicals. They are sold on the Internet and in head shops and other retail outlets. The ban will last at least a year, during which the government will determine whether it should permanently control the stimulants — Mephedrone, MDPV, and Methylone.  
Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/07/national/main20103062.shtml>
6. *September 7, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Hazmat crews shut down Highway 105 to remove acid containers.** Hazardous material workers were forced to shut down Highway 105 in Montgomery, Texas, to remove 200-gallon containers of acid, stuck between a truck and its trailer. Montgomery County sheriff's investigators said the load an 18-wheeler was carrying shifted around 10 a.m. September 7 at Highway 105 and Walden Road. Eleven containers of hydrofluoric acid ripped through the trailer and were wedged between the truck and trailer. Crews shut down Highway 105 and Walden Road for about 5 hours and evacuated a few businesses in the area while they cleared away the containers.

Source: <http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/110907-acid-spill-shuts-down-highway-delays-montgomery-isd-buses>

7. *September 7, Hazleton Standard Speaker* – (Pennsylvania) **Tractor-trailer carrying ammonia crashes near I-81.** A tractor-trailer hauling liquefied anhydrous ammonia crashed September 7 on the Interstate 81 on-ramp from Route 309 in Kline Township, closing the roadway for several hours. Firefighters said the truck driver was getting on I-81 south about 1:30 p.m. when he lost control while rounding a sharp curve. Both the tractor and trailer went off the road and flipped onto their right sides along the berm. The McAdoo assistant fire chief said firefighters shut down both southbound on- and off-ramps to I-81 in case there was a leak. However, Air Products and Chemicals employees responded and examined the trailer and determined none of the 54,000 pounds of ammonia had leaked. The ramps were reopened after the anhydrous ammonia container was placed upright and then hauled away on another trailer. State police at Frackville are investigating the crash.

Source: <http://standardspeaker.com/news/tractor-trailer-carrying-ammonia-crashes-near-i-81-1.1199401#axzz1XMzAH6jw>

8. *September 7, Associated Press* – (National) **DuPont starts Imprelis claims process.** Facing a rash of lawsuits over damage to trees by its weedkiller Imprelis, DuPont Co. September 6 sent e-mails to lawn care professionals and golf course superintendents outlining details of a claims resolution process. DuPont offered to compensate landscapers for removal and replacement of trees destroyed by Imprelis, with a 2-year warranty on all replacement trees. The company also offered to pay for efforts to save other trees affected by Imprelis, and to pay to replace those that do not recover satisfactorily by June 2012. Property owners with validated damage claims would be eligible for additional direct payments, but only if they waive their rights to sue. A DuPont official said it has not determined final program costs. Imprelis was registered in October and marketed to professionals treating residential and commercial lawns, golf courses, and sod farms. But shortly after it hit the market, complaints surfaced about damage to trees, particularly evergreens such as Norway spruce and white pine. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered DuPont last month to halt sales of Imprelis, noting it believes the weedkiller may have been mislabeled. So far 40 lawsuits seeking class-action status have been filed in more than a dozen states. A federal panel meeting Sept. 27 in Philadelphia will consider whether to centralize those lawsuits in a single district.

Source:

[http://hosted2.ap.org/WBNSTV/54828a5e8d9d48b7ba8b94ba38a9ef22/Article\\_2011-09-07-DuPont-Imprelis/id-6704c3bd812041ee97105bfa79920123](http://hosted2.ap.org/WBNSTV/54828a5e8d9d48b7ba8b94ba38a9ef22/Article_2011-09-07-DuPont-Imprelis/id-6704c3bd812041ee97105bfa79920123)

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

9. *September 8, Kennewick Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Temporary storage proposed for vit plant waste.** Contractor officials at the Hanford site in Washington are proposing a temporary storage system for Hanford's treated high-level radioactive waste that can easily be expanded, given uncertainties about the nation's plans for a national waste repository. The Tri-City Herald reported September 8 that Washington River Protection Solutions formed an independent review team that suggested a new Hanford building large enough to store as much high-level radioactive waste as the Hanford vitrification plant is expected to treat in a decade. But if needed, more vaults could be added. Hanford has 56 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous chemical waste in underground tanks awaiting treatment. That includes high-level radioactive waste the Department of Energy (DOE) plans to turn into a stable glass form at the vitrification plant starting in 2019. The treated high-level waste then was planned to be shipped to the proposed Yucca Mountain, Nevada, repository, but DOE has shut down work on the project, and the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future is considering what the nation should do with its high-level radioactive waste.  
Source: <http://www.thenewtribune.com/2011/09/08/1814192/temporary-storage-proposed-for.html>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *September 7, Dow Jones* – (International) **Former L-3 employee indicted for allegedly exporting military tech.** A former employee of defense contractor L-3 Communications Holdings Inc. was indicted September 7 for allegedly misappropriating and exporting sensitive military technology to China, the U.S. Department of Justice said. The indictment charges the man with eight counts of exporting defense-related technical data without a license, one count of transporting stolen goods across state lines, and two counts of making false statements to law enforcement agents. An earlier indictment filed in April against the man included one export-control charge, and two false-statements charges. The arraignment has been scheduled for September 14 in Newark, New Jersey federal court. The man was arrested in March at his residence by the FBI and DHS and was released on bond. According to the indictment, the man worked for L-3's space and navigation unit from March 2009 to November 2010 as a senior staff engineer. His team worked on navigation and positioning devices used in artillery and missile systems by the Department of Defense. After he returned from China, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in November 2010 found him in possession of a non-work-issued computer that was later found to contain numerous L-3 Communications documents relating to those systems.  
Source:

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CBsQqQIwAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FBT-CO-20110907-715091.html&rct=j&q=Former%20L-3%20employee%20indicted%20for%20allegedly%20exporting%20military%20tech&ei>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *September 7, Seattle Times* – (National) **3 charged in credit-card-skimming operations.** Three Seattle-area men were charged September 7 by federal prosecutors in connection with a pair of credit-card "skimming" operations that resulted in losses of nearly \$500,000 from unsuspecting ATM users in at least 6 states. Two of the men appeared in U.S. district court in Seattle September 7. The third man is being held in Franklin County on state charges. The men were charged in two separate complaints in connection with conspiracies to place tiny electronic "skimming" devices on ATMs to steal credit-card information. According to the complaints, one of the men is believed to have compromised as many as 1,900 bank accounts and stolen as much as \$390,000. He was arrested at a Chase bank in Seattle when security determined he had attempted to access a compromised account, the complaint said. At the time of his arrest, he was in possession of 22 gift cards agents said had been converted to counterfeit ATM debit cards. He's suspected of running skimming operations in Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and California. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison, and fines of \$250,000. The other two men, according to the U.S. attorney's office, have been known to law enforcement since 2009 and are suspected in skimming operations in Idaho, Washington, and Arizona. They are suspected of thefts exceeding \$160,000 and face conspiracy charges that carry prison penalties of up to 30 years.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016139062\\_skimming08m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016139062_skimming08m.html)

12. *September 7, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Minnesota) **Man charged in \$20 million mortgage fraud scheme.** A 52-year-old man was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud September 7 in federal court in Minnesota for his role in a \$20 million mortgage fraud scheme that involved 57 properties. Allegedly, between 2004 and 2007, the man conspired with others to obtain mortgage loan proceeds based on fraudulent documentation. His unnamed co-conspirators identified residential properties available for purchase and recruited buyers. Two of the co-conspirators allegedly told buyers they would receive payments after the transactions closed, and that they could put the payments toward the mortgages or use them to improve the properties. The scheme involved submitting false mortgage loan applications, which misrepresented the buyers' true financial situation. Based on those fraudulent documents, however, loans were approved, and loan proceeds were disbursed by wire transfer into the accounts of various title companies. The man and his co-conspirators then allegedly caused those title companies to disburse part of the proceeds from each transaction into bank accounts not associated with the property buyers, the purpose being to conceal the undisclosed kickbacks. The man received

about \$580,000 in concealed payments from the loan proceeds for the six residential properties he purchased. If convicted, he faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/minneapolis/press-releases/2011/man-charged-in-20-million-mortgage-fraud-scheme>

13. *September 7, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (National) **FBI releases bank crime statistics for second quarter of 2011.** During the second quarter of 2011, there were 1,023 reported violations of the Federal Bank Robbery and Incidental Crimes Statute, a decrease from the 1,146 reported violations in the same quarter of 2010. According to statistics released September 7 by the FBI, there were 1,007 robberies, 15 burglaries, one larceny, and two extortions of financial institutions reported between April 1 and June 30.  
Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-bank-crime-statistics-for-second-quarter-of-2011>
14. *September 6, CBS 2 New York* – (New York) **Coalition of groups plan to 'occupy Wall Street' on September 17, looking for an American Tahrir Square-moment.** A coalition of groups who said they've been inspired by the Arab Spring protests against despots abroad is calling for a large, Tahrir Square-like protest in New York City September 17. But what their demand will be is not yet clear. An online group dubbed "Occupy Wall Street" is calling for 20,000 people to "flood into lower Manhattan, set up tents, kitchens, peaceful barricades and occupy Wall Street for a few months," according to the Web site occupywallst.org. The site says "We also encourage the use of nonviolence to achieve our ends and maximize the safety of all participants." The original call to occupy Wall Street was put out by a group called Adbusters, which describes itself as a "global network of culture jammers and creatives working to change the way information flows, the ways corporations wield power, and the way meaning is produced in our society." The hacker/protest group Anonymous has also reportedly thrown its support behind the September 17 protest.  
Source: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2011/09/06/groups-plan-to-occupy-wall-street-but-their-goal-is-not-yet-set/>

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## Transportation Sector

15. *September 8, WAGA 5 Atlanta* – (Texas) **2 men removed from plane at DFW Airport.** Something suspicious about two passengers boarding a plane at Dallas- Ft. Worth (DFW) Airport in Texas September 7, made the pilot call the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and eventually led American Airlines to cancel the flight. Two men were removed from the flight and questioned, then eventually allowed to continue on to their destination. Flight #1316 from DFW to Ronald Reagan Washington Airport in Arlington, Virginia was originally scheduled to depart at 11:40 a.m. But according to several sources, crew members became suspicious when two men

put their carry-on luggage in the first-class overhead bins and sat in coach seats. When flight attendants looked inside the carry-ons, they saw what appeared to be a printer cartridge. In October 2010, British authorities uncovered two bombs hidden in printer ink cartridges shipped from Yemen, ultimately bound for the United States. The flight crew immediately informed the TSA. "All of a sudden, a couple of police officers come in and escort a couple of young men in loose-fitting track attire off the plane," said a U.S. Representative who was on the plane. "Then the pilot comes on and says there's been a security breach and we need to get everybody off the plane and rescreen through TSA and we're going to taxi the plane out and search it at a remote location." Because the search was taking so long, American Airlines canceled the flight and rerouted all of the passengers on other flights. One of the security checkpoints inside the airport was also closed for a time during the investigation, but reopened within 90 minutes. Source: [http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpps/news/090711-2-Men-Removed-from-Plane-at-DFW-Airport\\_14907025](http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpps/news/090711-2-Men-Removed-from-Plane-at-DFW-Airport_14907025)

16. *September 8, WHTM 27 Harrisburg* – (Pennsylvania) **Interstate 81 North closed at Lickdale.** The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) September 8 closed northbound Interstate 81 to all traffic at Exit 90 in northern Lebanon County. A PennDOT spokesman said the closure at the Lickdale Exit was necessary due to flooding further north on I-81 in the area near Exit 100 for Pine Grove in Schuylkill County. Traffic was being turned around and directed to alternate routes. Source: <http://www.abc27.com/story/15416819/interstate-81-north-closed-at-lickdale>
17. *September 8, North Country Now* – (New York) **Two Hannawa men charged with stealing scrap metal from CSX railroad in Potsdam; more arrests expected.** Two Hannawa Falls, New York men were arrested September 7 for allegedly stealing metal from CSX railroad property along Lower Elderkin Street in Potsdam, according to village police. Police charged one suspect, age 19, with fourth degree grand larceny, trespassing, and unlawful possession of marijuana. The other man, age 20, was cited with petit larceny, trespassing, and unlawful possession of marijuana, police said. They said their investigation indicates the larceny was part of an ongoing theft involving many other people. The suspects were charged at 12:37 p.m. after police responded to a report of two males in a Dodge pick-up truck picking up scrap metal along the railroad tracks and loading the pieces into the truck. Police said the investigation is continuing and other arrests are pending. Source: <http://northcountrynow.com/news/two-hannawa-men-charged-stealing-scrap-metal-csx-railroad-potsdam-more-arrests-expected-037328>
18. *September 8, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Flooding prompts water rescues in Maryland.** Emergency crews in Maryland performed overnight water rescues September 7 night into the early morning hours September 8. At about 5:45 a.m., September 8, Montgomery County fire crews responded to Brighton Dam between Boardly Road and New Hampshire Avenue, where a driver needed to be pulled from a vehicle caught in flood waters. Overnight, the bulk of water rescues took place in Prince George's County, with multiple rescues in Bowie and Upper Marlboro. The driver and two passengers of one vehicle huddled on the roof of their car as they waited for assistance on Croom Road. In Baltimore County September 7, six firefighters in



two separate swift water rescue boats had to be rescued while responding to emergency calls near the Howard County line, the Associated Press reported. One of the boats, carrying two of the firefighters, capsized. The other four firefighters were forced to bail out of a boat that got stuck. All six were saved without injury. Officials in Prince George's and Montgomery counties report that everyone requiring assistance the night of September 7 and early September 8 has been rescued.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post\\_now/post/flooding-prompts-water-rescues-in-maryland/2011/09/08/gIQAxaqnBK\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/flooding-prompts-water-rescues-in-maryland/2011/09/08/gIQAxaqnBK_blog.html)

19. *September 8, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Ship collision investigation ongoing.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) said malfunctions on Omega Protein's fishing boat Sandy Point may have led to its collision with a 660-foot container ship in the Mississippi Sound channel near Pascagoula, Mississippi, May 18 that resulted in the death of three men. The sector commander for the USCG's Mobile, Alabama sector, said the investigation is not complete. The 163-foot Sandy Point sank after a collision with the outbound 660-foot Eurus London that was loaded with bananas. Thirteen Omega Protein employees were rescued. "Our sense is that there were probably some failures in the Sandy Point," the sector commander said September 7. "Its propulsion and navigation systems, rudder systems, contributed to their inability to maintain control." A study of the engine room and engine control system has not been completed, he said. Completing the investigation may take several months as it is reviewed at various levels, he said. The Sandy Point was cut in two and raised from the bottom of the Mississippi Sound in June. The vessel operated out of Omega Protein's Moss Point, Mississippi plant.  
Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Ship-collision-investigation-ongoing-2160709.php>
20. *September 7, KREM 2 Spokane* – (Washington) **WA Longshoremen protest blocks train tracks.** Longshoremen kicked off Port of Longview property by a federal judge after reports of violence and death threats resumed their protest September 7 in Vancouver, Washington, blocking a Burlington Northern (BNSF) railroad track. Local 21 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union believe they have the right to continue working while negotiations continue with the Port of Longview in a dispute over which union works at the site. A grain company, EGT, has hired workers from a different union to work the port. An October hearing has been scheduled. Protests at the Longview port had interrupted rail shipments at the new \$200 million export terminal. The dispute escalated, with authorities arresting aggressive protesters. The National Labor Relations board concluded Local 21 engaged in unfair labor practices, and a federal judge last week ordered union members off the site. The NLRB complaint said on July 11, the union tore down a gate, trespassed onto EGT property, pushed rail cars out of a shed, and climbed on them. Workers at the site were physically and verbally attacked, the report said. On July 25, union protesters spit on vehicles of competing union workers and threatened them with death, the NLRB said. They also placed plastic bags filled with feces on the administration building of the EGT facility, according to the complaint. That same day, protesters assaulted the shop steward from Operating Engineers International Union, Local 701, which is now handling the work at the terminal. The September 7 protest, watched by Vancouver police, was at 8th and

Jefferson and appeared peaceful.

Source: [http://www.krem.com/news/129395683.html?hpt=us\\_bn7](http://www.krem.com/news/129395683.html?hpt=us_bn7)

21. *September 7, Northhampton Patch* – (Pennsylvania) **First student bus company fined \$120,000 by DEP for diesel spill.** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced September 7 it has fined First Student, the company that provides transportation services for the Council Rock School District, more than \$120,000 for a diesel fuel spill that occurred at its school bus terminal in Newtown last year. On November 8, 2010, a First Student employee opened a valve to drain rainwater from a containment tank that housed a 10,000-gallon leaking fuel tank, according to DEP data. The valve remained open overnight and allowed a mixture of water and diesel fuel to run from the terminal into Newtown Creek and, eventually, into the Neshaminy Creek, upstream from a public water system operated by Aqua Pennsylvania Inc. Despite corrective actions by First Student, including use of absorbent booms, vacuuming, and excavation of contaminated soil and gravel, Aqua PA had to shut down its plant intake November 9. This required the utility to maintain a drinking water supply for more than 100,000 people through interconnection, increased production, and the purchase of additional water, the DEP said. The incident resulted in violations of Pennsylvania’s Storage Tank Act, Clean Streams Law, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Fish and Boat Code. Inspections of the facility after the incident revealed an ongoing lack of a required tank. The company has also reimbursed DEP for \$7,600 of expenses incurred in response to the release, and paid \$2,500 in civil damages to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Source: <http://northampton.patch.com/articles/first-student-bus-company-fined-120000-by-dep-for-diesel-spill>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

22. *September 7, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **Fireworks damage mailbox in Monrovia; deputies investigate.** The Frederick County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a September 4 incident where fireworks were ignited inside a mailbox in Monrovia, Maryland, the Frederick News-Post reported September 7. Deputies responded to the 3000 block of Will-Mill Terrace at 1:23 p.m. after a homeowner reported his mailbox had been damaged, a sheriff’s office spokeswoman said in a news release. An investigation revealed M80’s, which are powerful commercial explosive fireworks, were placed inside the mailbox and lit. She said similar incidents have occurred in the neighborhood over the last week.

Source:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/displayUpdate.htm?StoryID=125792>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

23. *September 8, WXIA 11 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Ammonia spill forces evacuation of Atlanta warehouse.** An ammonia spill at Americold Logistics warehouse in Atlanta, Georgia, shortly after midnight September 8 forced 40 employees to evacuate. Fulton County fire crews and a hazmat team from Atlanta worked to contain the spill. The location is listed as a training center for Americold, a cold storage company. The spill's cause was not disclosed.  
Source: <http://www.11alive.com/news/article/204645/40/Ammonia-spill-forces-evacuation-of-Atlanta-warehouse>
24. *September 8, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (National) **Costly cattle diseases found to have a genetic link.** The origins of three costly cattle diseases are genetically linked, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) researchers, the Kalamazoo Gazette reported September 8. A USDA news release said scientists at the Agricultural Research Service have discovered the incidence of the most prevalent bacterial diseases in feedlot cattle — pinkeye, foot rot, and pneumonia — is tied to a specific location on a specific bovine chromosome. Pneumonia in cattle accounts for 75 percent of feedlot illnesses and up to 70 percent of all deaths, with economic losses to cattle producers exceeding \$1 billion annually, the agency said. The estimated costs for pinkeye amount to about \$150 million yearly, and losses to dairy producers due to foot rot range from \$120 to \$350 per animal, according to the USDA. Results from the research were published in the Journal of Animal Science.  
Source: [http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/09/costly\\_cattle\\_diseases\\_found\\_t.html](http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/09/costly_cattle_diseases_found_t.html)
25. *September 7, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **After Irene, NC warns farmers to have corn tested.** North Carolina agriculture officials warned farmers to have their corn tested for a potentially harmful byproduct of mold, Associated Press reported September 7. An agriculture commissioner said the risk of aflatoxin in corn has sharply increased because of the hot, dry summer and heavy rains of Hurricane Irene. The substance aflatoxin is especially common after drought-like conditions. It can be harmful to animals and humans. Farmers who need to test their crops for insurance purposes can have samples of corn tested in Raleigh and Elizabeth City. Farmers who use bulk corn to feed their own animals can have it tested for free by a laboratory at the state department of agriculture and consumer services.  
Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/10098926/>
26. *September 7, New Bedford Standard-Times* – (Massachusetts) **Ammonia leak sealed at Foley Fish.** An ammonia leak September 7 that forced the evacuation of the Foley Fish building near the waterfront in New Bedford, Massachusetts, has been sealed. The New Bedford fire chief said at about 5 p.m., an open valve that was allowing ammonia to escape was closed, and officials were allowing the building to ventilate while they combed it for areas that might still have come high concentrations. He said the leak resulted from a worker who was working on refrigeration system who opened a valve too far. Realizing it was a dangerous situation, the employee left the area. Some employees initially reported feeling lightheaded and having some difficulty breathing, the district chief said. The leak was reported at about 1:45 p.m. The department could not enter the engine room with conventional firefighting gear, so a hazardous materials

team was called, the district chief said. In addition to employees at the fish plant, workers from two nearby businesses — Maaco auto body and Brodeur Machine — also were evacuated.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110907/NEWS/110909947/-1/NEWS10>

27. *September 7, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Fumes at Ga. McDonald's send 10 to hospital.** Ten people were taken to the hospital September 7 after firefighters found two customers unconscious inside a bathroom and others struggling to breathe at a McDonald's restaurant in Pooler, Georgia, authorities said. One of the customers found unconscious was in critical condition, the fire chief said. A second person was also admitted to the hospital in nearby Savannah, while the other eight were treated and released, a Memorial University Medical Center spokeswoman said. Firefighters smelled an unusual odor, and the restaurant was evacuated, the fire chief said. People were complaining of difficulty breathing. At least 20 people, including three Pooler firefighters, were decontaminated by a hazardous materials team as a precaution, he said. Authorities suspect cleaning chemicals in the restroom are to blame, but a specific cause had not been determined. Firefighters ventilated the building and took air samples to make certain the restaurant was safe, the Pooler fire captain said September 7. A statement issued by McDonald's said the restaurant reopened after authorities deemed it safe.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/fumes-ga-mcdonalds-send-10-hospital-220214333.html>

For more stories, see items [8](#), [19](#), [20](#), and [50](#)

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## **Water Sector**

28. *September 8, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **EPA says Aberdeen site is spreading toxins to area wells.** A decades-old chemical spill is likely spreading cancer-causing industrial solvents into the groundwater for 5,000 people outside of Aberdeen, North Carolina, at levels as much as 86 times federal maximum standards, the Fayetteville Observer reported September 8. The leak is contaminating dozens of wells south of the city, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials said. Two wells that pump water into the town water supply are among the sites that have seen elevated levels of trichloroethene (TCE). In 2010, one well registered 7.8 parts per billion (ppb). Federal maximum standards are 5 ppb. State water quality restrictions are even more stringent at 3 ppb. An EPA project manager said at a town meeting, drinking water is safe. Any water from the two wells is mixed with water from other wells, meaning, contaminants are diluted to safe levels before they ever reach customer taps, a town commissioner said. However, the water in private wells remains at unsafe levels. Nonetheless, 35 of 55 wells in the area have picked up levels of TCE. This led the EPA to conclude there is no single source of the chemical, but it likely comes from a TCE spill decades ago slowly leeching into groundwater.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2011/09/08/1121242?sac=Home>

29. *September 7, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Maine town without water after main breaks.** Residents in Canton, Maine, have been short on water since the community's reservoir drained after a water main broke September 6. The Canton assistant fire chief said firefighters flushed hydrants when the 8-inch main broke. The main was shut down until repairs could be completed September 7. The fire chief said it would take 10 to 12 hours to refill the reservoir. He added that until the reservoir is full again, residents could expect only a trickle of water from their taps.  
Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Maine-town-without-water-after-main-breaks-2158672.php>
30. *September 7, Your Houston News* – (Texas) **Water, money down the drain due to leak.** A massive water leak was discovered in the subdivision of Kirbywood in Cleveland, Texas, which has apparently been leaking for months, leading to a loss of hundreds of thousands of gallons of water, Your Houston News reported September 7. A 4-foot deep, half-a-mile long, drainage ditch filled with clear water behind the subdivision is not a spring-fed creek, but a water leak, said the Cleveland public works director. "It was reported on September 5 and we started fixing it the following day." Residents are concerned about the city's water rationing and how the city could enter the third stage of emergency water rationing. From the roadway under Kirbywood, the water travels several hundred yards through a culvert underground before going into the drainage ditch which eventually empties into the Tarkington Bayou. However, the city, which uses about 1.7 to 1.9 million gallons per day, is about 700,000 gallons per day above annual average usage amounts.  
Source: [http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/cleveland/news/massive-water-leak-found-in-kirbywood-subdivision/article\\_a91cbd7f-308a-5afb-b4f0-75c12f4d5d6a.html](http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/cleveland/news/massive-water-leak-found-in-kirbywood-subdivision/article_a91cbd7f-308a-5afb-b4f0-75c12f4d5d6a.html)
31. *September 7, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Lull in winds gives firefighters more time to protect Portland drinking water supply.** Crews battling a fire on Mount Hood escaped strong winds forecast to whip up the flames September 7 and instead bolstered lines protecting the watershed that provides most of the water for the city of Portland, Oregon. Winds gusting to 35 miles-per-hour were originally forecast, but they missed the head of the fire within the Mount Hood Wilderness, where crews worked in the face of the flames to build containment lines. As a result, the fire remained 3 miles from the top of the Bull Run Watershed, which supplies most of the water to Portland. With hot, dry weather lingering, Clackamas County declared a state of emergency in case the 4,500-acre fire moved closer to inhabited areas, particularly Lolo Pass, where roads and trails remained closed. The fire was 9 miles away, the spokesman reported. Battling the blaze were more than 700 firefighters, a half-dozen helicopters dropping water on hot spots, and bulldozers carving out fire lines. The fire was about 20 percent contained.  
Source:  
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/2735a795e6444a9e935b03e062f2550a/OR--Oregon-Wildfires/>

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [21](#)

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## Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *September 8, Associated Press* – (National) **91 charged in \$295M Medicare fraud crackdown.** A nationwide law enforcement crackdown has charged 91 people, including doctors and other medical professionals, with participating in Medicare fraud schemes involving \$295 million in false billing. Charges were filed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Brooklyn, New York; Chicago; Dallas and Houston; Detroit; Los Angeles; and Miami. Eleven of the people charged were doctors, three were nurses, and 10 were licensed health professionals. Forty-six defendants and \$160 million of the total claims came from South Florida. In Miami, a U.S. attorney said investigators noticed people who were already receiving Medicare disability checks were recruited with promises they could live in a halfway house in South Florida as long as they agreed to receive mental health services they did not need. Many were addicted to drugs or alcohol, and some were homeless, and they would be threatened with eviction if they did not participate in the fraud scheme. That particular scheme and other frauds, operated out of an entity called Biscayne Milieu, accounted for \$50 million of the fraudulent Medicare claims, prosecutors said. It provided no legitimate services. In Houston, two people were charged with fraud schemes involving \$62 million in false claims for home health care and medical equipment. One defendant allegedly sold beneficiary information to 100 Houston-area home health care agencies. The home agencies used the information to bill Medicare for services that were unnecessary or never provided. In Baton Rouge, a doctor, nurse, and five other co-conspirators were charged with billing Medicare more than \$19 million for skilled nursing and other home health services that were not necessary or never provided.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/91-charged-295m-medicare-fraud-crackdown-042537318.html>

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## Government Facilities Sector

33. *September 8, Associated Press* – (California) **Navy corpsman linked to bomb threat surrenders.** An AWOL U.S. Navy corpsman turned himself in September 7 after leaving a threatening note claiming he planted bombs at a Southern California high school in an incident that prompted administrators to order students out of the building on the first day of classes in San Clemente, California. The Navy corpsman, 22, surrendered at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base at around 1 p.m. September 7, a Master Sergeant said. The corpsman wrote he had placed explosive devices in and around San Clemente High School, which is located just a few miles from one of the gates to Camp Pendleton. Soon after the note was found, about 3,200 students and 180 faculty members were told to leave. They waited on the football field — and later in the gymnasium, auditorium, and other rooms — as bomb squads searched. After about 4 hours, everyone was sent home. Later September 7, a Marine spokesman said no military-grade explosives were missing from the base. A sheriff's lieutenant said no explosives or suspicious devices were found at the school during a five and a half hour search.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/AWOL-Navy-medic-linked-to-bomb-threat-surrenders-2159579.php>

34. *September 8, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Navy sailor facing gun charges due in Conn. court.** A U.S. Navy sailor arrested on weapons charges at Connecticut's submarine base is facing a court hearing in New London, Connecticut. The Petty Officer 3rd Class has been held on \$200,000 bail since he was charged last month with illegally possessing an AK-47 assault rifle and transporting it across state lines. He is due to appear September 8 in New London Superior Court. He was represented by a public defender at his arraignment August 23, and it was unclear whether he had an attorney. The 24-year-old became the target of an investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service after an informant said he had made remarks that were anti-government, and anti-military. Police said they were concerned about potential violence, but there was no evidence the suspect planned to harm anyone.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Navy-sailor-facing-gun-charges-due-in-Conn-court-2160453.php>

For more stories, see items [10](#), [50](#), and [53](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

35. *September 6, PC Magazine* – (Texas) **Anonymous hack of Texas Police contains huge amount of private data.** Private data belonging to 26 Texas law enforcement agencies that was published online by the hacking group Anonymous earlier this month contains hundreds of Social Security numbers, scores of passwords, and loads of other sensitive data, according to a leading developer of data loss prevention software. Anonymous hackers released a 3GB file containing e-mails and documents from Texas law enforcement agencies September 2, claiming the data dump was done in retaliation for recent arrests of alleged members of the loosely affiliated hacking group. Identity Finder, a developer of identity protection and data loss prevention software, combed through the 3GB file with its DLP software tool, which analyzes files and e-mails to determine whether sensitive information exists in them. As with the earlier AntiSec breach, the Texas data dump contains a staggering amount of sensitive information, including passwords, street addresses, credit card numbers, personal identification numbers, and other information. Identity Finder broke down the particular of just what was published, which includes: 418 Social Security numbers; 26 credit card and bank account numbers; 83 drivers license numbers; 14,701 phone numbers; 4,631 personal postal addresses; 39,419 e-mail addresses.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2392522,00.asp>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

36. *September 8, The Register* – (International) **Cybercrooks aiming to cash in on 9/11 anniversary.** Cybercrooks are preparing to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks with a range of malware traps and hacking attempts on social networks and the wider Internet, net security firm BitDefender warned. The first wave of these attacks comes in the form of the newly established Web sites offering supposed content such as "Bin Laden alive," "in depth details about the terrorist attack," "police investigation results," and "towers going down" to attract the curious. The sites are filled with links to scareware and phishing sites. Others have created fraudulent charity donation sites. In addition, fraudsters are running fake auctions and sales of items supposedly linked to the attacks such as shards of metal from the twin tower or even "commemorative coins" supposedly minted from silver collected at the attack site.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/08/9\\_11\\_anniversary\\_scams/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/08/9_11_anniversary_scams/)
37. *September 7, Computerworld* – (International) **Hackers flip characters to disguise malware.** Hackers are using a new trick to cloak malicious files by disguising their Windows file extensions to make them appear safe to download, Avast Software warned September 7. The exploit, dubbed "Unitrix" Avast, abuses Unicode for right-to-left languages — such as Arabic or Hebrew — to mask Windows executable files (.exe) as innocuous graphic images (.jpg) or Word documents (.doc). Unicode is the computer industry standard for representing text with alpha-numeric codes. The Unitrix exploit uses a hidden code that overrides right-to-left characters to display an executable file as something entirely different. Using that ploy, hackers can disguise a malicious file that ends with gpj.exe as a supposedly safer photo\_D18727\_Collexe.jpg. Avast said malware using the Unitrix tactic — primarily a trojan downloader that acts as a door-opener and a rootkit that hides the malicious code — increased in volume in August, hitting a peak of 25,000 detections daily. The pattern of detections shows the attackers are targeting business users, according to the head of Avast's lab.  
Source:  
[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219808/Hackers\\_flip\\_characters\\_to\\_disguise\\_malware](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219808/Hackers_flip_characters_to_disguise_malware)
38. *September 7, The Register* – (Washington) **Ex-Microsoft accountant jailed for \$1.1m Redmond theft.** A former Microsoft accountant was sentenced September 7 to 2 years in prison and ordered to repay over \$1 million after pleading guilty to theft and money laundering. The former accountant stole the money from Microsoft after working in the company's accounting department for nearly a decade. He said the thefts were initially carried out to highlight a flaw in the company's accounting systems, but his bosses ignored the problem when he informed them, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported. However, after the man was laid off in 2004, he took the money, and it was only in 2009 that the authorities caught up with him. In addition to 2 years in prison, he will have to pay back around \$1.1 million.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/07/microsoft\\_accountant\\_jailed\\_theft/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/07/microsoft_accountant_jailed_theft/)

For more stories, see items [35](#)

## 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**

39. *September 7, Anniston Star* – (Alabama) **Phones down at Calhoun County offices for second day.** Telephones at the Calhoun County Administration Building in Anniston, Alabama, and the county courthouse were down for a second day September 7, and county officials said Tropical Storm Lee is to blame. The county technology manager said the outage happened because Tropical Storm Lee saturated the ground and shorted out the underground telephone cables that connect the county to the rest of the world. “When it’s dry, like it has been this summer, the cables can crack,” he was told by representatives of EarthLink, the county’s phone service provider. He said EarthLink representatives told him a technician was in the area at 7 a.m. September 7, working on the problem. Officials have no estimate of when the problem will be fixed. County offices were still open September 7.

Source: <http://annistonstar.com/bookmark/15421012-Phones-down-at-Calhoun-County-offices-for-second-day>

40. *September 7, Radio-info.com* – (Florida) **Florida LPFM accused of causing aircraft interference has a bigger problem.** Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agents waiting for Power Ministries’ WRLE-LP, Dunellon, Florida (94.9) to comply with their request to power down also found the station was using a transmitter that wasn’t FCC-certified, Radio-info.com reported September 7. During a June 11, 2010 inspection that was triggered by a complaint from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), both the operator on duty and the owner failed to immediately turn off the power. The owner wouldn’t do the signoff until the station’s engineer showed up. When the station finally did shut down, the FCC said “the spurious emissions and interference to the FAA ceased.” The complaint had come from the FAA facility in Jacksonville. WRLE-LP said it now has a legal transmitter, and had come into compliance within a month of the visit. The usual FCC fine for using an uncertified transmitter is \$5,000, but the FCC increased this case’s to \$12,000.

Source: <http://www.radio-info.com/news/florida-lpfm-accused-of-causing-aircraft-interference-has-a-bigger-problem>

41. *September 7, Joplin Globe* – (Kansas) **Two radio stations knocked off air by theft.** Two Pittsburg, Kansas, radio stations were knocked off the air September 7 by the theft of copper wiring from a radio tower near Weir. The Cherokee County Sheriff’s Department arrested a suspect, who was being held at gunpoint by a homeowner north of Columbus who reported a possible theft in progress at his house. Copper wiring suspected of being from the radio tower was found in the suspect’s vehicle. KRPS 89.9 FM was broadcasting at partial power, and KKOW 96.3 FM was

off the air late in the afternoon of September 7, according to management at the stations. KRPS owns the tower. The sheriff said he was seeking felony theft, and felony property damage charges.

Source: <http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/x1642543064/Two-radio-stations-knocked-off-air-by-theft>

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

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

42. *September 8, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Arsonist suspected in 4 nearby fires in Noblesville.** Noblesville, Indiana police and fire officials suspect someone intentionally set four fires September 7, all within blocks of the Old Town area, and all reported in less than 3 hours. The fires caused about \$300,000 in damage, the fire department said. The first call was at 3:20 a.m. at a vacant structure. A second call came about 3:48 a.m. about a detached garage on fire, while crews were still fighting the first fire. The third fire was reported at 4:45 a.m. and was also a detached garage. The Cicero Fire Department and Noblesville's next-day crew also were called in. The last fire, another detached garage, was reported just before 6 a.m.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110908/LOCAL0104/109080357/Arsonist-suspected-4-nearby-fires-Noblesville>

43. *September 7, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **PD: Bomb squad destroys explosive device.** Chandler, Arizona police said a bomb squad detonated an explosive device found at a Chandler apartment complex September 7. A Chandler police official said a landscaper found the device in some bushes. It was described as a pipe 4 to 6 inches long and 1.5 inches in diameter with a fuse sticking out. Investigators said it was a real device, but it did not appear to be targeting anyone. They believe it was just tossed there.

Source: [http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region\\_southeast\\_valley/chandler/chandler-police-checking-possible-pipe-bomb](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_southeast_valley/chandler/chandler-police-checking-possible-pipe-bomb)

44. *September 7, WTSP 10 Tampa Bay* – (Florida) **Madeira Beach storm damage: Thunderstorm winds tear off hotel roof, ruled not tornado damage.** Wooden beams were thrown dozens of feet through the air as a blast of wind tore the roof off a hotel during thunderstorms September 7 in Madeira Beach, Florida. More than a dozen rooms at the Holiday Isle Resort were opened up to the driving rain as the storm front moved through around 1 a.m. Wooden beams as long as telephone poles and sheets of black roofing material landed on top of, up against, and all around a neighboring hotel, the Palms of Madeira Beach. Pinellas County sheriff's deputies said 28 people from the two hotels had to find somewhere else to stay. After an inspection, two government agencies labeled the event the result of "thunderstorm wind damage", and not a tornado.

Source: [http://www.wtsp.com/news/topstories/article/209413/250/Storm-tosses-hotel-roof-onto-building-next-door?hpt=us\\_bn5](http://www.wtsp.com/news/topstories/article/209413/250/Storm-tosses-hotel-roof-onto-building-next-door?hpt=us_bn5)

45. *September 7, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **Old military ordnance leads to evacuation in San Francisco's Mission district.** An antique artillery shell led police to evacuate buildings in the Mission district of San Francisco, September 7, after someone left the item at a Salvation Army donation site. The bomb squad was called to the site about 10:30 a.m., a police official said. Police cleared nearby streets and evacuated buildings as a precaution. The police official said the bomb squad took the shell to a deserted area near Ocean Beach to “render it safe.” Authorities temporarily closed Great Highway from Lincoln to Sloat while the weapon was disarmed.  
Source: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2011/09/old-military-ordnance-leads-evacuation-san-franciscos-mission-district>
46. *September 7, USA Today* – (Washington) **Wash. Army vet pleads guilty to planting MLK parade bomb.** A U.S. Army veteran tied to white supremacists pleaded guilty to planting a pipe bomb along the Martin Luther King Day parade route in Spokane, Washington, in January, the Associated Press reported September 7. The backpack containing the bomb was found beforehand, and the explosive was defused. Authorities said the bomb, which was loaded with lead fishing weights coated in a chemical, could have caused mass casualties. Days before his trial, the 37-year-old suspect pleaded guilty to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and to an attempted hate crime. He faces 27 to 32 years in prison when sentenced November 30.  
Source: <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/ondeadline/post/2011/09/wash-man-pleads-guilty-to-planting-mlk-parade-bomb/1>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [2](#), [6](#), [8](#), [14](#), [26](#), [36](#), [37](#), [47](#), [48](#), [50](#), [52](#), [53](#),

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

47. *September 8, CNN* – (Texas) **Texas wildfire's toll makes big jump.** A huge wildfire raging near Austin, Texas, has destroyed nearly 1,400 homes and is still spreading, officials said September 8. A spokeswoman for the Texas Forest Service (TFS) said the Bastrop County fire has destroyed 1,368 homes — more than double the estimate officials gave September 7. Despite hopes the fire would be largely contained by late September 7, it remained 30 percent contained early September 8, she said. About 34,000 acres have been destroyed. The fire has killed at least two people. An elite search team is helping local officials scour the area for other potential victims. At least 5,000 people evacuated the area, officials said. The Bastrop fire is one of scores burning across the drought-stricken state. Wildfires have been scorching Texas for nearly 300 days. In the past week, the TFS has responded to 181 fires, the governor said. The U.S. President assured the governor “that requests for additional assistance, including as recovery begins, would be quickly assessed,” according to a White House statement. Officials are expected to enlist the help of a DC-10 tanker to fight the blaze, but it cannot be used until September 9, CNN affiliate KXAN 21 Austin reported. The plane, which can hold 12,000 gallons of retardant, has been fighting fires in California and has to take mandatory days off before it can be used, the affiliate reported. The cause of the fire is unknown. Officials in Leander, Texas, about 60 miles northwest of

Bastrop, believe four teen arsonists were responsible for a smaller fire there this week that destroyed 11 homes, and caused \$1.4 million in damage.

Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/09/08/texas.fires/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/09/08/texas.fires/index.html?hpt=hp_t2)

48. *September 7, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Wildfire in south-central Washington closes U.S. 97, forces evacuations.** A wildfire threatening several dozen homes in south-central Washington also disrupted traffic September 7 on U.S. 97 between Goldendale and Toppenish. A 6-mile stretch of highway was closed for more than 2 hours before traffic flow resumed, initially with pilot cars to lead vehicles through the area. A representative for the state department of natural resources told the Yakima Herald-Republic the fire was burning in a forested area near Brooks Memorial State Park, about 3 miles west of the Satus Pass summit. The Klickitat County sheriff's office said 38 homes were in a mandatory evacuation area while residents of another 21 homes were put on alert for possible evacuation. By late September 7, the fire was reported to have burned about 1,100 acres.

Source: [http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/09/wildfire\\_in\\_south-central\\_washington\\_closes\\_us\\_97\\_forces\\_evacuations.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/09/wildfire_in_south-central_washington_closes_us_97_forces_evacuations.html)

49. *September 7, Kalispell Daily Inter Lake* – (Montana) **Riverside shooter arrested for criminal endangerment.** U.S. Forest Service officers September 4 arrested a man who allegedly fired guns across the surface of the Flathead River in Montana while shooting at cans on a tree stump. The suspect faces a charge of felony criminal endangerment, carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$50,000. He is incarcerated in the Flathead County Jail. According to a document from the county attorney's office, officers responded to a 3 p.m. report made to Glacier National Park dispatch that there were men shooting across the Middle Fork of the river. When they arrived at the scene, officers located the man, who was in possession of a live 10-millimeter round of ammunition. He admitted he had a 10mm Glock handgun and a .22 caliber Ruger handgun in his backpack. Upon further investigation, officers found 10mm ammunition, .22 caliber ammunition and 7.62 x 39mm ammunition in the backpack, along with empty rifle magazines. A search of the area located an Elk River ERTD rifle and a Ruger .22 caliber rifle, as well as roughly 50 shell casings. Officers found cans sitting on a tree stump on a gravel beach, which based on the line of fire, would have traveled just above the water level. Thick vegetation would have made the shooter unable to see rafts approaching on the river, the document said.

Source: [http://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/local\\_montana/article\\_85ab8e52-d9cd-11e0-b3b8-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/local_montana/article_85ab8e52-d9cd-11e0-b3b8-001cc4c002e0.html)

50. *September 7, Reuters* – (Idaho) **Idaho wildfire forces evacuation of homes, ranches.** A 15,000-acre wildfire in forested peaks in Idaho forced the evacuation of 100 people and halted construction work on a planned strategic metal mine, officials said September 7. About 600 firefighters battled the lightning-caused fire, which has burned largely unchecked for two weeks in steep, rugged terrain littered with beetle-killed lodgepole pines in the Salmon-Challis National Forest in east-central Idaho. Salmon, Idaho, a town of 3,100 people, lies to the northeast of the fire. Fire crews worked September 7 to aid ranchers removing cattle from grazing allotments threatened

by the fire as some property owners scrambled to protect structures, and truck out belongings. The evacuation centered on outlying cabins, a U.S. Forest Service field office, and the Idaho Cobalt Project, a mine due next year to begin yielding cobalt, a metal in high demand for rechargeable hybrid car batteries, jet turbines, and artificial hips. The fire has been burning since August 25. Towering flames, falling ash, and columns of smoke have blanketed portions of three counties across more than 150 miles. Crews used bulldozers to establish firebreaks by clearing brush and debris on the perimeter of the so-called Salt fire.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/idaho-wildfire-forces-evacuation-homes-ranches-212600608.html>

51. *September 7, KAYU 28 Spokane* – (Washington) **Fires continue to rage in Olympic National Forest.** The fire raging in the Olympic National Forest in Washington State grew to nearly 400 acres September 7. Firefighters said the fire was not close to being contained. Flames were burning up steep hills, and burning debris was rolling downhill. New fires were igniting along the way. More than 100 firefighters continued to clear brush from roads and trails. But, conditions were so dangerous on the slopes where the fire was burning, firefighters could only fight it directly with water drops from helicopters above. The Washington Department of Natural Resources was trying to come up with a plan to keep the fire from spreading to any structures or occupied land. Source: <http://www.myfoxspokane.com/news/kcpq-fires-continue-to-rage-in-olympic-national-forest-20110907,0,3120285.story>

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## **Dams Sector**

52. *September 8, WMAR 2 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Conowingo Dam flood gates opened.** Major flooding is forecast along the Susquehanna River over the next several days, WMAR 2 Baltimore reported September 8. The mayor of Port Deposit, Maryland, issued a state of emergency. He also issued a voluntary evacuation for all businesses and residents for 4 p.m. September 8. At 10 p.m., September 7, Exelon Corporation reported 17 spill gates on the dam were open, and anywhere from 15 to 21 more gates were expected to be opened by 6 a.m. September 8. MD 222, Susquehanna River Road is currently closed from the Conowingo Dam to the Town of Port Deposit. The emergency operations center has been activated. Flows have been on the rise since early September 5, and were predicted to continue for the next several days. By September 8 at 6 p.m., officials expect to have up to 28 gates open with all units running. The river is expected to peak on the morning of September 10. At that time, officials may have to open additional gates. Source: [http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/cecil\\_county/conowingo-dam-flood-gates-opened](http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/cecil_county/conowingo-dam-flood-gates-opened)
53. *September 8, Associated Press and NBC News* – (National) **Nearly 100,000 told to flee Northeast flooding.** Nearly 100,000 people from New York to Maryland were ordered

to flee the rising Susquehanna River September 8 as the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dumped more rain across the Northeast, closing major highways, and socking areas still recovering from Hurricane Irene. At Binghamton, New York, the wide river broke a flood record and flowed over retaining walls as more than 8 inches of rain fell in some areas. Road closures effectively sealed the city off to outside traffic as emergency responders scrambled to evacuate holdouts who didn't heed warnings to leave. Most of the people ordered to evacuate were about 80 miles downstream in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where the river was projected to crest later Thursday at 41 feet — the same height as the levee system, officials said. Residents were ordered to leave by 4 p.m. In Port Deposit, Maryland, rising water levels at the Conowingo Dam forced officials to open the floodgates and order the evacuation of most of the town's 1,000 residents. There was also flooding upstream from Binghamton in Oneonta, New York. Roads and highways closed around the region, including sections of New York's Interstate 88, which follows the Susquehanna's path. In Philadelphia, flooding and a rock slide closed the eastbound lanes of the Schuylkill Expressway, a major artery into the city, and it could take hours for the road to reopen. The high waters were being blamed for the partial collapse of the Slabtown Bridge in Montoursville, Pennsylvania. A bridge spanning the Delaware River between New Hope, Pennsylvania, and Lambertville, New Jersey, closed September 8 as flood waters carried debris downriver. New York's Thruway Authority expected to close a 105-mile stretch of its busiest east-west highway, Interstate 90, because the Mohawk River had overflowed its banks in some areas. Wet weather followed by Hurricane Irene and its remnants have saturated the soil across the Northeast, leaving water no place to go but into already swollen creeks and rivers. The National Weather Service predicted 4 to 10 inches of rain across the mid-Atlantic and Northeast through September 8. At least nine deaths have been blamed on Lee and its aftermath.

Source: <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/44436279/ns/weather/#.TmjAgexQhDg>

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