



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 14 September 2011

### Top Stories

- The Federal Aviation Administration has proposed a \$1.1 million fine against a Southwest Airlines contractor for improperly inspecting and repairing fuselages on 44 planes. – *USA Today* (See item [13](#))
- Three Transportation Security Administration agents and at least two police officers were arrested in connection with a massive oxycodone trafficking operation between Connecticut, New York, and Florida. – *NBC Connecticut* (See item [30](#))

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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 13, Fort Collins Coloradoan* – (Colorado) **Man dies in gasoline tanker crash, fire.** A Greeley, Colorado, man died when the gasoline tanker he was driving overturned near the Centerra shopping center and burst into flames. The man was driving the tanker from northbound Interstate 25 onto U.S. Highway 34 about 9 p.m. September 11 when he lost control and crashed, according to the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). The Petroleum Products LLC tanker and its contents burst into flames that took firefighters several hours to control. "He was going too fast for that curve in that

vehicle," a CSP trooper said. The intense fire forced Colorado Department of Transportation to close the road for about 12 hours while crews made emergency repairs. It reopened about 9 a.m. September 10.

Source: <http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20110913/NEWS01/109130322/Man-dies-gasoline-tanker-crash-fire?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

2. *September 13, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Tropical Storm Lee exposes old oil from BP spill.** BP PLC will send cleanup crews to Fourchon Beach, Louisiana, because erosion from Tropical Storm Lee unearthed miles of tar balls, tar mats and abandoned cleanup equipment left from last year's oil spill. Six task forces — 90 workers and 17 technicians — will work a 7-day-a-week schedule to clean up the beach, a BP spokesman said. The cleanup will be phased in over the week of September 12. He said tar balls were reported on other beaches, but not to the extent they appeared on Fourchon Beach. In addition to the old oil, the erosion uncovered PVC pipes used to secure boom and snares used to absorb oil. A field inspector for the Edward Wisner Donation — a private land trust that owns about 9.5 miles of Fourchon Beach — said he found the oil September 11 while checking for damage from Tropical Storm Lee. About 8 miles of the beach are affected, he said. The degraded oil is not as toxic as fresh oil, but still has some toxicity, a spokesman said. And buried oil does not degrade as fast as oil that is exposed to oxygen and sunlight, so it may retain more of its toxic components for a longer time.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/09/13/2404693/tropical-storm-lee-exposes-old.html>

3. *September 12, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Coast Guard: Pipeline leaks in Bayou Dupont.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) said crews were cleaning up a leak of crude oil in Bayou Dupont and Barataria Bay from a pipeline in Louisiana. It said a pipeline leak from a platform owned by Houston-based Cedyco Corp. was reported September 11. A second leak was discovered too at the wellhead, the USCG noted. It said September 12 it is monitoring the cleanup operations, which are being led by Oil Mop, a cleanup company. Federal officials said no wildlife has been hurt by the spill, and that crews were working to fix the pipeline and stop the leaks.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/2042fdb90df6430d8c6a86551317ae27/LA--Pipeline-Leak/>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *September 13, Kingsport Times-News* – (Virginia) **Spill closes U.S. Route 23 in Gate City.** Both lanes of U.S. Route 23 in Gate City, Virginia, were closed September 12 after a tractor-trailer wreck dumped thousands of pounds of fertilizer onto the highway. The Scott County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) director said the accident caused 23,800 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer to be spilled. Virginia State

Police (VSP) said the incident occurred shortly before 7 p.m. at mile marker 6.4 on the Gate City bypass. The EMA director said the truck, owned by Clinch Valley Trucking, was driving north on 23 when its dump trailer came loose and rolled across the median into the southbound lane. He said the trailer ended on its side after it dumped its entire load. Traffic was detoured through Gate City. The shutdown was expected to last until the morning of September 13, the EMA director said. Besides the EMA, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Hazardous Materials Office was on site. Hepaco removed the fertilizer. The VSP, Gate City Police Department, Gate City Fire Department, and Virginia Department of Transportation also responded to the crash. The EMA director said the spill did not pose an immediate risk to nearby water supplies.

Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article/9035783/spill-closes-us-route-23-in-gate-city>

5. *September 12, Gaithersburg Patch* – (Maryland) **Man receives chemical burns at haz-mat safety lab.** One man was transported to a hospital September 12 after receiving chemical burns at a Gaithersburg, Maryland, lab facility, fire and rescue officials said. A spokeswoman for county fire and rescue service said rescue workers were called to the scene in the 8500 block of Atlas Drive at 1:21 p.m. for a possible chemical burn. The lab is owned by Geomet Technologies, which is based in Germantown and specializes in making haz-mat suits and ensuring chemical safety, according to its Web site. The county fire spokeswoman said the victim was burned by a flash fire and was in stable condition when he was transported to Medstar for treatment.

Source: <http://gaithersburg.patch.com/articles/man-receives-chemical-burns-at-haz-mat-safety-lab>

6. *September 12, Associated Press and Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **NJ judge: 2nd chemical company must help pay for cleanup of lower Passaic River.** Another major chemical company has been ordered to help pay for cleaning up part of the Passaic River polluted by a Newark, New Jersey pesticide manufacturing facility. In a ruling issued late last month but not made public until September 12, a state judge found Tierra Solutions liable under the state's spill compensation and control act. State environmental officials said the firm now owns the site of the former Diamond Alkali/Diamond Shamrock plant. The ruling came weeks after the same judge ruled Occidental Chemical Corp. was also liable for cleanup costs. But the amount those firms will have to pay will likely not be determined until at least 2013 due to ongoing legal actions. Tierra has argued it's shouldering too much of the burden to clean the river. Diamond manufactured pesticides and herbicides from 1951 to 1969, polluting the river with a highly toxic form of dioxin left over from the production of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the United States in Vietnam, DDT, and other chemicals. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is overseeing the river's restoration, estimates it will cost \$1 billion to \$4 billion to clean up the most heavily polluted 8-mile portion of the waterway nearest to the plant.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/d7e51424b7474734bc475656badbd23c/NJ--Passaic-River-Cleanup/>

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

7. *September 13, WSB 750 AM/95.5 FM Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Haz-mat spill blocks lanes on I-20 in Cobb.** A hazardous materials spill closed several eastbound lanes of Interstate 20 west of Six Flags Parkway in Cobb County, Georgia, for about 5 hours the night of September 12, and the morning of September 13. A tractor-trailer carrying low-level radioactive medical waste flipped on its side September 12, according to a Cobb County Fire Department spokeswoman. The fire department's hazardous materials team and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division responded, and all lanes were open by 5 a.m. September 13. No injuries were reported.  
Source: <http://www.wsbradio.com/news/news/haz-mat-spill-blocks-lanes-i-20-cobb/nDmK5/>
8. *September 13, Reuters* – (International) **IAEA states adopt nuclear safety action plan.** The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-nation board adopted an action plan September 13 to strengthen global nuclear safety following Japan's Fukushima accident 6 months ago, despite criticism from several countries that the proposals had been watered down. The board of governors approved the document by consensus, setting out a series of voluntary steps meant to enhance standards worldwide. The document that was adopted placed more emphasis on the voluntary nature of the measures than earlier versions.  
Source: [http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/09/13/uk-nuclear-safety-iaea-idUKTRE78C29F20110913?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+Reuters/UKWorldNews+\(News+UK+World+News\)](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/09/13/uk-nuclear-safety-iaea-idUKTRE78C29F20110913?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+Reuters/UKWorldNews+(News+UK+World+News))
9. *September 12, Bloomberg* – (New Jersey) **PSEG cuts Salem reactor output due to river debris.** Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) said September 12 it slowed the Salem 1 reactor in Lower Alloways Township, New Jersey, because water intake pipes were clogged by debris in the Delaware River churned up by rains the week of September 5. Unit 1 was operating at 44 percent of capacity, down from 94 percent September 9, as the plant draws in less from the river, according to a spokesman for PSEG. Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee the week of September 5 caused flooding in rivers across the Northeast already swelled by Hurricane Irene.  
Source:  
[http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2011/09/pseg\\_cuts\\_salem\\_reactor\\_output.html](http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2011/09/pseg_cuts_salem_reactor_output.html)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

10. *September 13, Newport News Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Fire at Norfolk welding shop affects light rail service in area.** Buildings were evacuated the morning of September

13 within a half-mile of an acetylene-fueled industrial fire at a marine welding shop in Norfolk, Virginia. The fire was reported just before 8 a.m. at East Coast Repair and Fabrication. The area was evacuated, and streets were closed. Hampton Roads Transit's light rail service was disrupted, and buses were being employed to transport rail passengers from one station to the next in the affected area. A firefighting battalion chief said four acetylene tanks were venting fire, and several others were being kept cool by firefighters to prevent explosions. The cause for the fire has not been determined.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/breaking/dp-nws-acetylene-fire,0,7308160.story>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *September 13, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island; Georgia) **Ga. man to plead guilty in RI Navy kickbacks case.** A Georgia man is scheduled to plead guilty and cooperate with federal investigators probing a kickbacks scheme that prosecutors said cost the Navy \$7 million to \$20 million. The man is scheduled to plead guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery at a change-of-plea hearing scheduled for September 13 in U.S. District Court in Providence, Rhode Island. The 50-year-old Marietta, Georgia, resident is a former executive at Advanced Solutions for Tomorrow, a defunct company with offices in Rhode Island and Georgia that had Navy contracts. He is accused of making payments on invoices that were inflated by two subcontractors given Navy work by his firm over an 11-year period. The man faces up to 5 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000, and up to 3 years of supervised release.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Ga-man-to-plead-guilty-in-RI-Navy-kickbacks-case-2167704.php>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *September 12, Computerworld* – (National) **Vending machine company announces major data breach.** Vacationland Vendors, a company that supplies vending machines and games to entertainment venues, has disclosed a data breach affecting about 40,000 people who visited waterpark resorts in Wisconsin and Tennessee between December 2008 and May 2011. In a statement, Vacationland Vendors said an unknown intruder had broken into parts of its point-of-sale systems used to process payment-card transactions at Wilderness Resorts locations in Tennessee, and in the city of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. The statement does not specify how many people were affected by the breach, but a report in The Credit Union Times Web site pegged the number at 40,000 victims. The company's investigations show that, "a computer hacker improperly acquired credit card and debit information," the vendor said on its Web site. The company did not disclose how it discovered the breach or when. The statement did not say if those affected by the breach have been notified. It said the breach had not resulted from any internal security weakness at either of the Wilderness Resorts.

"Vacationland Vendors has learned that other businesses just like its own have been affected by this computer hacker," the statement said. Breaches of point-of-sale networks have typically involved the use of malicious software to sniff out and intercept payment card data as the information is transmitted to the bank for authorization.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219945/Vending\\_machine\\_company\\_announces\\_major\\_data\\_breach?taxonomyId=82](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9219945/Vending_machine_company_announces_major_data_breach?taxonomyId=82)

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## **Transportation Sector**

13. *September 13, USA Today* – (National) **FAA: \$1.1M fine for Southwest maintenance.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has proposed a \$1.1 million fine against a company for alleged maintenance violations involving 44 Southwest Airlines planes. The fine proposed September 12 against Aviation Technical Services of Everett, Washington, was for improperly inspecting and repairing the fuselages on Southwest's Boeing 737-300 aircraft. The Southwest jet whose roof was ripped open in April 2011 with 118 people aboard was not among the planes in the FAA complaint. That plane landed safely in Yuma, Arizona. A Southwest spokesman said the airline has improved maintenance since the problems alleged in the complaint, which were from December 2006 to September 2009. FAA fines are typically negotiated with companies as they remedy any violations. The company has 30 days to reply. The complaint said Aviation Technical Services failed to accomplish five repetitive inspections, and a one-time inspection to find and repair cracks in the planes' skins. After the inspections, it allegedly failed to install fasteners in rivet holes in the time specified as sealant dried. This is the second proposed fine against the company in the past year. The FAA proposed a \$530,250 fine in November 2010 for improper work to detect skin cracks while maintaining 14 Southwest planes.

Source: <http://www.wltx.com/news/article/151325/2/FAA-11M-Fine-For-Southwest-Maintenance>

14. *September 13, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Man says charges in KC airport bomb hoax 'absurd'.** The suspect professed his love for America and at one point mumbled the word "lies" as he was charged with trying to take a fake bomb through a security checkpoint at Kansas City International Airport in Missouri on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. The 47-year-old is charged with making false statements to federal agents, and trying to bring items simulating an explosive device through security, then making statements that led agents to believe it was a bomb. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison on each count. Prosecutors said security screeners at the airport discovered suspicious items in a carry-on bag as it was X-rayed. Among the items were a laptop computer and severally individually wrapped packages investigators said were "over-taped," which often is the case with homemade bombs. The suspect told officers he did not give permission to open the packages,

which investigators believed contained components for making a bomb. Police brought in a bomb-sniffing dog. "During the K-9 sweep ... he began to chant Bible verses and began to appear to pray, saying, 'Father God America is going to go down,'" the U.S. magistrate judge read. "He continued to say words similar to, "You guys are going to be sorry if you open those packages."

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/09/12/1821301/man-47-charged-after-kc-airport.html>

15. *September 13, Hampton Roads Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Barge strikes Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel; traffic congested.** A barge struck the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel in Virginia September 12, causing traffic to be congested while maintenance crews assess the damage. The police chief for the bridge-tunnel said the incident occurred around 3 a.m. at the southbound span between the two tunnels. The entire bridge-tunnel was closed for about an hour. It is now open to all traffic, using alternating lane closures to avoid the section of the bridge that is being assessed and repaired. The police chief said he hoped to have the bridge fully open again by 10:30 a.m. No charges have been filed.  
Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/traffic/dp-barge-strikes-bay-bridge,0,2491934.story>
16. *September 12, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **FAA to increase checks of glider flights in Hawaii.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is stepping up enforcement of flight regulations in Hawaii of powered hang gliders. FAA officials announced September 9 a stricter surveillance plan in the wake of several recent crashes. A FAA western-Pacific flight standards manager said some operators of the aircraft, also known as "trikes," have ignored federal rules banning their use for air tours. According to federal standards, pilots are only allowed to carry passengers who are flight students. There have been five crashes of trikes in the islands in the past year-and-a-half. Two of them were fatal and involved operators carrying visitors for commercial tours. The crashes remain under investigation. The manager said the plan will call for more unannounced visits, and record examinations of aircraft operators.  
Source: <http://www.kpua.net/news.php?id=23780>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

17. *September 13, Reuters* – (International) **China detains 32 for selling cooking oil made from waste.** Chinese authorities detained 32 people for making and selling tons of

cooking oil dredged from gutters, the ministry of public security said September 13, in the latest food safety scandal to hit the country. Police confiscated more than 100 tons of the "gutter oil" — used cooking oil fished from drains behind restaurants — in a crackdown on a criminal network that operated in 14 provinces, the ministry said on its Web site. The suspects were detained as part of an investigation that began in March in China's rich eastern province of Zhejiang, the ministry's statement said, further pledging to eliminate China's "gutter oil" market. China has struggled to rein in the health safety violations in the unruly and vast food sector despite tough punishments and repeated vows to crackdown on the problem.

Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/44497136>

18. *September 13, Food Safety News* – (National) **USDA to ban six more deadly strains of E. Coli.** Six dangerous strains of E. coli — dubbed "the Big Six" — will soon be banned from the beef supply, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials said September 12. The proposal, which will be outlined in more detail by top USDA officials September 13, will declare six additional strains of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STECs), beyond well-known E. coli O157:H7, as adulterants in beef, making product contaminated with these pathogens illegal to sell in commerce. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service will soon test ground beef, beef trim that goes into ground beef, and machine-tenderized steaks for these pathogens. E. coli O157:H7 has been illegal in beef products since 1994, a policy that was put in place in response to the historic outbreak that sickened hundreds and killed four children in the Pacific Northwest. The new policy, which will extend to E coli O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, and O145, is expected to kick in in March. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the six strains addressed under the new regulation cause about 113,000 illnesses and 300 hospitalizations annually in the United States.  
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/09/usda-to-ban-six-deadly-strains-of-e-coli/>
19. *September 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Corn harvest feared down.** Food prices could rise in 2012 because an unseasonably hot summer likely damaged much of this year's corn crop. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimated September 12 that a surplus of 672 million bushels of corn will be left over at the end of next summer. The estimated surplus is down from last month's forecast, and well below levels considered healthy. This spring, farmers planted the second-largest crop since World War II. But high temperatures stunted the plants. The price of corn was relatively unchanged at \$7.33 a bushel September 12. While that's down from its peak of \$7.99 reached in June, it is almost twice the price paid in the summer of 2010. More expensive corn drives food prices higher because corn is an ingredient in everything from animal feed to cereal to soft drinks. It takes about 6 months for corn prices to trickle down to products at the grocery store. But many food producers are already being squeezed by higher prices. Chicken producer Sanderson Farms Inc. reported its third straight quarterly loss late in August, in part, because of increased costs for feed. Smithfield Foods Inc., the world's largest hog producer, said high feed costs would remain a problem. Farmers are expected to have a surplus of 920 million bushels when the harvest begins this month, the USDA said. That is roughly a 26-day supply of corn, slightly less than the previous month's estimate. But the USDA said the corn surplus

could dwindle next fall to a 19-day supply. A 30-day supply is considered healthy.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20110913/BUSINESS/309130022/Corn-harvest-feared-down>

20. *September 13, Denver Post* – (Colorado; National) **Listeria outbreak linked to Rocky Ford cantaloupe.** The Colorado health department said cantaloupe from the Rocky Ford area is the likely culprit in the latest listeria outbreak, and cautioned some consumers to avoid the fruit, the Denver Post reported September 13. People at high risk for listeria infection should not eat cantaloupe from the Rocky Ford growing region," the director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said. "The department expects additional test results that may help identify the specific source of the cantaloupe linked to the multistate outbreak," he said. Eleven of the 13 Colorado listeria cases in 2011 have been linked to the outbreak, and state officials announced September 9 that cantaloupe appeared to be the source. Two people in Colorado have died in the recent round of cases. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is coordinating the investigation. Rocky Ford growers said most of the fruit has already been shipped to grocery stores in many states. In New Mexico, three people have died, and six others are ill with listeria infections linked to the fruit. Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_18881264](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_18881264)

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## Water Sector

21. *September 13, Middletown Record* – (New York) **Aqueduct woes continue.** The Middle Record reported September 13 that new floodwaters were pouring into homes around Route 209 in Wawarsing, New York. Sump pumps have been working in the city for 18 consecutive days battling a mix of natural and man-made flooding. Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee contributed to the problem, but homeowners claim their water woes continue to come from cracks in New York City's Delaware Aqueduct tunnel. The tunnel sits below houses and leaks as much as 36 million gallons each day through cracks in Wawarsing and Newburgh. Many homes reportedly began flooding August 26 when New York City began pushing hundreds of millions of gallons of water through the tunnel to make room for stormwater in the Rondout Reservoir. Flooding continued as New York City diverted an average of 400 million daily gallons down the tunnel. That flooding was made worse when Hurricane Irene knocked out electricity. Homeowners have depended on electric pumps to bail out their basements. New York City is expected to seal the leaks as part of a huge tunnel-fix project that will be completed in 2021. Source: <http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110913/NEWS/109130336>

22. *September 13, Pottstown Mercury* – (Pennsylvania) **Broken sewage pipe sealed off for now.** A sewage main in Reading, Pennsylvania, that broke twice in the past 2

weeks during flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee has sealed itself, according to an official with the Reading Public Works Department (RPWD). The public works director said the pipe carries 80 percent of the city's sewage flow to its treatment plant along the Schuylkill River, the Pottstown Mercury reported September 13. "Whatever debris carried in the force main clogged it shut" the weekend of September 10 and 11, the director said. He said the initial break caused the sewage to spill onto the banks where most of it was contained, but there is a possibility some entered the Schuylkill River during the recent flooding. The river is a source of drinking water for several downstream communities, including Pottstown, Royersford, Limerick, and Spring City, as the river snakes its way to Philadelphia. The break in the pipe is located in a very level area, the director said, and the sewage was easy to contain. "There is no estimate at this time" of how much sewage may have entered the river after the break September 9, the director said. The pipe cannot be fixed until the river's water level recedes several more feet, which is not likely to be before September 14 because Blue Marsh dam is releasing water "at maximum level" due to flooding in the area of the lake. If the repairs were made while the river is at flood level, the RPWD reported, the sewage would likely back up into the sewage treatment plant. "A total of 159 water and sewage treatment plants have been affected, some to the point of overflow, causing sewage to leak into streams and rivers in some areas.

Source:

<http://pottsmmerc.com/articles/2011/09/13/news/srv0000013819541.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

23. *September 13, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Thousands receive letters about a chemical in their water.** A spokesman for Tucson Water in Tucson, Arizona, said there are 40,000 customers in the area that receive 1,4-dioxane in their water, a cancer-causing chemical left from decades ago on the far south side, KOLD 13 reported September 13. He said the utility continues to dilute water from those sources with water from other locations so it stays at levels safe for drinking. "This is not a chemical that can be eliminated through a home water treatment system so this is something we need to take care of at a larger scale though one of our treatment facilities," he said. Now federal standards permit an even smaller amount than before. He said the utility will continue to dilute to safe levels and eventually have a new treatment facility online in 2013. Right now, Tucson Water is sending letters to everyone in the area who receives water that contains 1,4-dioxane.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/story/15446725/thousands-receive-letters-about-a-chemical-in-their-water>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *September 13, WSYX 6 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Kroger pharmacy robberies.** Police were searching for a gunman who has been robbing Central Ohio Kroger pharmacies. Four stores have been robbed since mid-August. The most recent heist was September 10 in

Westerville. A surveillance video taken during a robbery September 5 shows the suspect displayed a gun before demanding prescription drugs. Three different police agencies are investigating the thefts. Officers said they believe the same man is responsible for all four crimes.

Source:

[http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top\\_stories/videos/wsyx\\_vid\\_13348.shtml](http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wsyx_vid_13348.shtml)

25. *September 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Maryland co. to pay \$150M in health fraud probe.** Maxim Healthcare Systems, a health care staffing agency based in Columbia, Maryland, will pay \$150 million in a settlement announced September 12 after being accused of defrauding Medicaid and other federal programs. Under the agreement, Maxim will pay a criminal penalty of \$20 million, and civil penalties totaling about \$130 million to Medicaid programs, and the Veterans Affairs program. About \$70 million will go to the federal government, and \$60 million will go to 42 states where false claims were made. An assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's civil division said it was the largest civil settlement in a home health care fraud case. Authorities had investigated the company for the past 5 years and charged it with conspiracy to commit health care fraud for submitting claims for services that were never provided, and operating offices that were not properly licensed. The investigation began after a New Jersey man notified authorities that Maxim submitted invoices for services he never received. Nine Maxim employees, including three regional account managers, a supervising nurse and a home health aide, have pled guilty to either health care fraud or making false statements since December 2009 and face maximum prison sentences of between five and 10 years. According to the criminal complaint, Maxim submitted false bills from 2003 to 2009, a period during which it received more than \$2 billion in reimbursements from government health programs.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/maryland-co-pay-150m-health-fraud-probe-150208696.html>

26. *September 12, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA warns of battery issue with Medtronic pumps.** Federal health officials warned patients that drug pumps recalled by Medtronic may fail to deliver drugs used to treat chronic pain, spasms, and other conditions. The recall affects SynchroMed II implantable pump models 8637-20 and 8637-40, distributed between 2004 and July 2011. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration classified the action as a class-one recall September 12, meaning the defective devices could cause serious harm. The agency said the malfunction is caused by a film that forms on the battery. As with most implantable device recalls, the manufacturer is not recommending patients have the pumps removed. Instead patients should contact their doctor if they experience symptoms or hear the device alarm.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/fda-warns-battery-issue-medtronic-pumps-195903703.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

27. *September 13, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **University of Missouri library to reopen after weekend fire; arrest made in suspected arson.** A University of Missouri library in Columbia, Missouri, is reopening after a weekend fire caused smoke and water damage. The small fire broke out at 3:30 a.m. September 10 in Ellis Library's first floor and was contained by the building's sprinkler system before firefighters arrived. The library was set to reopen September 13. Library employees said the damage was limited to fewer than 100 books in the reserve and circulation areas. The state historical society office in the library's basement also had smoke and water damage. Campus police arrested a 25-year-old man September 10 on suspicion of second-degree arson, second-degree burglary, tampering, and property damage. He was released later on bond. Campus police identified him as a part-time employee of the university police department who works special events.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/1cefe815ebed43ba94b88fdf5f1fed80/MO--Library-Fire/>

28. *September 12, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Man arrested in Hawaii over threat to VP.** A former U.S. service member was arrested in Honolulu, Hawaii, after he sent e-mails from Thailand that threatened to kill the U.S. Vice President, authorities said September 12. The U.S. Secret Service arrested the man when he arrived at Honolulu International Airport September 9 via a Delta Airlines flight from Bangkok, according to the criminal complaint filed in federal court in Honolulu. He has been jailed awaiting a detention hearing September 14. The man admitted to agents the wrote the threatening messages, including one sent to the White House Web site June 22. The Royal Thai Police traced the e-mail's IP address to a public Wi-Fi access point in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In an interview with a U.S. Consulate official in Thailand, the man said he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2002 and served as an infantryman until he was medically discharged for bi-polar disorder 2 years later. He said he served 6 months in Iraq, and has been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/12/national/main20105180.shtml>

For more stories, see items [11](#), [25](#), [31](#), and [44](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *September 13, San Francisco Bay City News* – (California) **Four teens escape Contra Costa youth detention facility.** Four juveniles escaped from the Byron Boys Ranch, a youth detention center in Contra Costa County, California September 12, and one of the teens is considered dangerous, sheriff's officials said. They advised residents in the Byron and Discovery Bay areas to take shelter in the nearest place of safety. Residents were urged to stay indoors and lock their doors and windows. Law enforcement officials are searching for four teens. The first boy is described as a 15-year-old black child. He is 6 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 300 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He is considered mentally challenged, sheriff's officials said. The second suspect is described as a 14-year-old Hispanic boy with black hair and brown eyes. He is 5 feet

tall and weighs 110 pounds. Authorities are also searching for a black 15-year-old boy with black hair and brown eyes. He is 6 feet 4 inches and weighs 170 pounds. The final suspect is a Hispanic 14-year-old boy with black hair and brown eyes. He is 5 feet tall and weighs 125 pounds.

Source: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci\\_18882918](http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_18882918)

30. *September 13, NBC Connecticut* – (National) **TSA agents, cops arrested for drug trafficking.** Three Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agents and at least two police officers have been arrested, accused of being involved in a massive oxycodone trafficking operation between Connecticut, New York, and Florida, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The arrested officers include three TSA officers based at airports in Florida and New York, a Westchester County, New York, police officer, and a Florida State Trooper. Officials said the suspects are accused of receiving cash to help move tens of thousands of oxycodone pills from Florida to New York and Connecticut as well as transport cash proceeds from the sale of the drugs back to Florida. A U.S. attorney, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, and Stamford police chief were scheduled to participate in a news conference September 13 in Stamford to discuss the arrests.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44502230/ns/local\\_news-hartford\\_ct/#.Tm9\\_S-yzpbB](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44502230/ns/local_news-hartford_ct/#.Tm9_S-yzpbB)

31. *September 12, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **NC courthouse, jail evacuated; robot tears into package that turns out not to be bomb.** A U.S. Air Force bomb squad robot tore into a suspicious package that turned out not to be a bomb outside a North Carolina courthouse and jail that were evacuated as a precaution. The Wayne County sheriff said a suspicious package was left outside an entrance to the Goldsboro building that houses the courts, county offices, and the jail. He said some downtown businesses within about 2 blocks of the building were also closed. The package found September 12 was made to look like a bomb, the sheriff said. He said jail inmates were moved to safety, and hundreds of courthouse employees were not allowed to enter.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/nc-courthouse-jail-evacuated-as-air-force-bomb-robot-tears-into-package-left-at-entrance/2011/09/12/gIQA6JwrMK\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/nc-courthouse-jail-evacuated-as-air-force-bomb-robot-tears-into-package-left-at-entrance/2011/09/12/gIQA6JwrMK_story.html)

For more stories, see items [27](#), [39](#), and [40](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

32. *September 13, Help Net Security* – (International) **Improved SpyEye variant actively attacking Android devices.** Help Net Security reported September 13 the first SpyEye variant, called SPITMO, has been spotted attacking Android devices in the wild. According to Trusteer's chief technology officer, the threat posed by Driodos/Spitmo has escalated the danger of SpyEye now that this malicious software has been able to shift its delivery and infection methods. Looking at the attack vector in action, he explained, "When a user browses to the targeted bank, a message is injected presenting

a 'new' mandatory security measure, enforced by the bank, in order to use its online banking service. The initiative pretends to be an Android application that protects the phone's SMS messages from being intercepted and will protect the user against fraud." Once the user clicks on "set the application" he is given further instructions to walk him through downloading and installing the application. To complete the installation, the user is instructed to dial a certain number, the call is intercepted by the Android malware and an alleged activation code is presented, to be submitted later into the "bank's site." Besides concealing the true nature of the application, this "activation code" does not serve any legitimate purpose. Once the trojan has successfully installed, all incoming SMS messages are intercepted and transferred to the attacker's Command and Control server. A code snippet is run when an SMS is received, creating a string, which will later be appended as a query string to a GET HTTP request, to be sent to the attacker's drop zone.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1835](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1835)

33. *September 13, Help Net Security* – (International) **Facebook tool automates syphoning of user data.** Help Net Security reported September 13 a group of security researchers has developed a proof-of-concept Java-based tool, called Facebook Pwn, that could allow malicious individuals to automatize the syphoning of information from a target's Facebook profile that would otherwise be inaccessible to them. To do that, the attacker must only create a new Facebook account, and the tool practically does the rest of the work. The "friending" plugin tries to befriend the target's friends. Once it has managed to do that, the "cloning" plugin asks the user to choose one of those friends, whose displayed picture and name will be replicated on the newly opened Facebook account. After that, a friend request is sent to the victim's account. "As soon as the victim accepts the friend request, the 'dumper' starts to save all accessible HTML pages (info, images, tags, etc.) for offline examining," explain the developers. Even if the target realizes the scam after a few minutes and un-friends the fake account, the action is completed and the information is stolen, and can be misused to mount spearphishing or other attacks that rely on social engineering to gain a foothold into computer systems.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=11613>

34. *September 13, H Security* – (International) **Return of the BIOS trojans.** Chinese AV vendor 360 has discovered a virus in the wild that makes its home in a computer's BIOS, where it remains hidden from conventional virus scanners, H Security reported September 13. The contaminant, called Mebromi, first checks to see whether the victim's computer uses an Award BIOS. If so, it uses the CBROM command-line tool to hook its extension into the BIOS. The next time the system boots, the BIOS extension adds additional code to the hard drive's master boot record (MBR) to infect the winlogon.exe/winnt.exe processes on Windows XP and 2003 / Windows 2000 before Windows boots. The next time Windows launches, the malicious code downloads a rootkit to prevent the drive's MBR from being cleaned by a virus scanner. But even if the drive is cleaned, the whole infection routine is repeated the next time the BIOS module is booted. Mebromi can also survive a change of hard drive. If the computer does not use an Award BIOS, the contaminant simply infects the MBR.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Return-of-the-BIOS-trojans-1341421.html>

35. *September 12, The Register* – (International) **MS inadvertently offers early peep at September patches.** Microsoft inadvertently published details of the patches it plans to publish September 13 following a slip-up by its security personnel the week of September 5. Patch Tuesday pre-alerts normally reveal little more than the applications Microsoft intends to update, and the severity of the vulnerabilities addressed. However, this month, the software giant leaked details of the security holes it plans to close: five ordinary updates that affect Office and Windows and have a maximum severity rating of "important." Vulnerability management experts and Microsoft downplayed the significance of the leak.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/12/ms\\_spills\\_patch\\_tuesday\\_low\\_down/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/12/ms_spills_patch_tuesday_low_down/)
36. *September 12, threatpost* – (International) **QR tags can hide malicious links, experts warn.** Quick Response (QR) tags have become the next big thing in interactive marketing. But as smart phone users flock to the trendy, postage-stamp sized bar codes, researchers are warning that they could be used to hijack mobile phones by directing them to malicious Web pages. In a September 10 post on the mobile security blog Kaotic Neutral, a researcher demonstrated a practical attack that would link a malicious QR tag to an Internet based attack server running an instance of the Metasploit penetration testing. Similar attacks could be used to push malicious programs to vulnerable mobile devices that scan the QR tag, he said.  
Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/qr-tags-can-hide-malicious-links-experts-warn-091211](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/qr-tags-can-hide-malicious-links-experts-warn-091211)
37. *September 12, Infosecurity* – (International) **Reverse engineering specialist dissects the Morto worm.** A reverse engineering specialist with Imperva has successfully dissected the operation of the Morto worm, a malware executable notable for being the only worm seen to date that exploits Microsoft's remote desktop protocol (RDP). Infosecurity reported September 12 that according to the researcher, the code does not exploit any specific vulnerability, but simply relies on people installing the worm and then uses a brute force password attack to gain access to systems. This is, he said, the first time he and his team have seen a worm like this, and the malware itself is sophisticated — even if the method of proliferation is not. "Blocking the spread of this worm relies on using a sophisticated password that isn't on the worm's dictionary list", he said in his latest security posting. Nearly 2 years after being published, he notes, the RockYou password list continues to be used by hackers in brute force password dictionaries. "One thing we determined from looking at the worm was origin. Looking at DNS information, the worm seems to have originated from China, Hong Kong, and Australia," he said. After dumping the code from Morto using the MoonSols win32dd.exe utility, he said RDP port 3389 with PID 1064 are one of the attack vectors used by the worm. In addition, what is also notable about the malware, he said, is that during the infection process, Morto creates four new files on the infected system and then deletes itself. This may, Infosecurity notes, be one of the reasons why the Morto worm — which appeared on the malware scene earlier this summer — has infected so many systems. Once executed, it attempts to propagate itself to additional computers

via the RDP and spreads by forcing infected systems to scan for servers allowing an RDP login. Once Morto finds an RDP-accessible system, it attempts to log in to a domain or local system account named Administrator using a number of common passwords.

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-us.com/view/20686>

38. *September 8, CNET News* – (International) **DIY flying robo hacker threatens wireless networks.** Researchers created a device dubbed SkyNET, which combines a toy helicopter and a computer configured to attack Wi-Fi networks. The result is a drone that can compromise computers on wireless networks and turn them into botnets. Botnets are widely used for hacking, denial-of-service attacks, and spamming. By controlling the botnet from a drone rather than an Internet connection, the botmaster is harder to track down. To catch the miscreant, someone would have to figure out a drone is involved, spot the drone, and follow it back to its owner. The prototype SkyNET drone is a Parrot AR.Drone quadcopter modded with a lightweight Linux computer, 3G mobile broadband connection, GPS receiver, and a pair of Wi-Fi cards — one for controlling the drone and one for attacking wireless networks. SkyNET was developed by researchers at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938\\_105-20103599-1/diy-flying-robo-hacker-threatens-wireless-networks/?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1\\_3-0-20](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20103599-1/diy-flying-robo-hacker-threatens-wireless-networks/?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20)

For another story, see item [12](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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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 13, WJAR 10 Providence* – (Rhode Island) **Fire knocks out phone service to businesses.** Many businesses in Rhode Island lost their phone service for a time September 13, including quite a few police departments around the state. A spokesperson for Cox Communications told NBC 10 there was a fire over the weekend that damaged equipment in Warwick. When crews began working on it at about 1 a.m. September 13, phone and data services for businesses were knocked out across the state. Full service has now been restored.

Source: <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/sep/13/fire-knocks-out-phone-service-businesses-ar-736111/>

40. *September 12, Ravalli Republic* – (Montana) **Bitterroot phone, Internet service restored after daylong outage.** A damaged fiber-optic cable caused a massive cellphone, landline, and Internet outage in Montana's Bitterroot Valley September 12,

affecting everything from 9-1-1 calls to credit card machines for more than 8 hours. A contractor working in Victor accidentally cut the CenturyLink cable about 8:30 a.m., according to a company spokesman. "From Stevensville all the way to Darby, most long distance was affected on landlines," he said. Cell phone users with a wide variety of service providers found they could no longer make calls, and Internet access was also affected. The company had repaired the cable by about 4:30 p.m., but the Ravalli County sheriff said the accident created a lot of problems. "You cut a fiber-optic cable in Victor and it shut down business in the Bitterroot for a day," he said. "We still had radio communications, but this affected more than just us obviously. Banks couldn't do business, and I think everybody had a hectic day with this." The Missoula County 9-1-1 Center took calls from Ravalli County during the outage, and the company spokesman said there were other contingency plans in place to keep emergency services going. "Since local calling was primarily not affected, we rerouted the 9-1-1 number to different local emergency services," he said.

Source: [http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_07900098-dd60-11e0-ba24-001cc4c002e0.html](http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/article_07900098-dd60-11e0-ba24-001cc4c002e0.html)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

41. *September 13, Fargo Inforum* – (North Dakota) **Horace apartments evacuated as fire destroys garages.** A September 13 fire in Horace, North Dakota, destroyed a row of apartment garages and several vehicles, and caused damage to the nearby apartment building, which had to be evacuated, the Horace fire chief said. Five of the 12 garage units were engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived at 201 Southwood Drive shortly after getting the call at about 3:40 a.m., he said. Residents were safely evacuated from all 10 occupied units in the 12-unit apartment building, he said. Propane tanks inside some of the garages helped fuel the fire, which spread from the detached row of garages to the apartment building about 12 feet away, he said. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. A state fire marshal will investigate, he said.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/333746/group/News/>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [12](#), [21](#), [24](#), [31](#), [39](#), [40](#), [42](#), [43](#), [44](#), [45](#), [46](#),

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

42. *September 13, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Wash. officials warn about unhealthy air from fire.** Firefighters made progress September 12 against a Washington State wildfire that has destroyed more than 100 structures near Satus Pass. Still, health authorities warned residents in Eastern Washington about poor air quality. The wildfire burning about 10 miles north of Goldendale was 70 percent contained by that evening, a fire incident spokesman said, despite hot, dry weather in the region. A

new assessment puts the area burned since September 7 at more than 5.5 square miles, or about 3,600 acres, he said. A lack of wind has aided firefighters, but those light winds also mean smoke tends to hang over the region. Air quality was rated unhealthy for everyone September 12 in Goldendale and Toppenish, a city north of the wildfire on the Yakima Indian Reservation, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The agency warned residents in those areas to limit outdoor activities. Structures burned in the fire, which started along U.S. Highway 97, include 18 homes, 5 cabins, 56 outbuildings, and 1 bridge. There were 1,016 firefighters and support personnel assigned to the fire September 12. Fire managers were expected to begin reassigning some of those people to other wildfires beginning September 14. West of the Cascades, helicopters continued to dump water on a wildfire burning in the Brothers Wilderness Area on the Olympic Peninsula.  
Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/wash-officials-warn-unhealthy-air-fire-195317419.html>

43. *September 12, Lake County News-Chronicle* – (Minnesota) **Evacuations ordered as Boundary Waters fire spreads outside park.** The Pagami Creek forest fire in Minnesota exploded in size September 12 to cover more than 16,000 acres, spreading outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for the first time and heading closer to homes and cabins. The fire, which more than tripled from the 4,500-acre estimate September 11, forced Lake County and Superior National Forest officials to close several county and Forest Service roads north of Minnesota Highway 1 between Ely and Isabella, and some residents and campers were asked to evacuate the area. More than 60 firefighters from multi-agency fire crews continue to battle the fire on the ground, and five more 20-person teams from the national system of wildland fire crews are on the way, a spokeswoman for the interagency team battling the fire said. Officials said it has been difficult putting together the usual “overhead team” of national fire experts because so many fires are burning in Texas and elsewhere. It is also harder to get firefighting aircraft. Two large state-owned water-dropping CL-215 airplanes continue to fight the fire, along with one smaller water-scooping plane and a small helicopter, and a large water-dropping helicopter has been ordered from outside the state.  
Source: <http://www.twoharborsmn.com/event/article/id/22669/>
44. *September 12, Reuters* – (Texas) **Texas fires coming under control, schools reopen.** As armies of firefighters descend on Texas to fight back massive brush fires that have destroyed more than 1,500 homes, the sensitive work of helping the victims deal with loss is swinging into high gear. Local schools reopened September 12 after being shuttered since the fire broke out Labor Day weekend, and every one of the 5,000 residents who were displaced by the fire burning southeast of Austin should be able to see their property by September 14. The Bastrop County Complex Fire is about 60 percent contained, a spokesman for the Texas Forest Service (TFS) said September 11. Some 1,554 homes are confirmed to have been destroyed by the Bastrop fire — the worst fire in terms of property loss in Texas history — and two people are confirmed dead. Firefighting resources across the state have been stretched in recent weeks by more than 200 fires that have flared up since the start of September. Calmer winds and higher humidity helped firefighters get a handle on all the fires, including a blaze outside Houston that has destroyed nearly 60 homes. With more than 3,000 firefighters

battling the fires, crews have been able to put specialized resources where they will do the most good, the TFS spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-rt-us-texas-wildfire78b6ys-20110912,0,7641255.story>

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## **Dams Sector**

45. *September 13, North Andover Eagle-Tribune* – (Massachusetts) **Hampstead dam breached to prevent flooding.** The state of New Hampshire recently ordered a resident who owns a dam near Johnson's Pond and surrounding property of Hampsted to breach it. Residents argued over the dam for more than 2 years, since the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) determined it caused flooding across Route 11 into the Marilyn Park Drive neighborhood for more than 30 years. The matter was finally resolved this month, and the owner hired an excavation firm to breach the dam. Since then, water levels have dropped more than 3 feet. The entire project should be finished the week of September 12, according to a DES dam safety engineer, who is overseeing the project. He said the state gave the owner the option of keeping a portion of the dam or removing it entirely. "He chose to retain a portion," he said. "The water depth is much less than it was. The pipe is flowing freely under Route 111 and appears to be working like it should be." But, the engineer added, there is no guarantee that breaching the dam fixed the flooding problem entirely. "If there's some large enough storm event, it could create flooding again," he said. "The goal is to make it much less severe and have less of a probability to having a problem in the future."

Source: <http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x1078458355/Hampstead-dam-breached-to-prevent-flooding>

46. *September 13, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Corps delays Trinity River levee fixes for 'new risk assessment process.** Dallas City Hall has come upon a twist in its quest to restore the Trinity River levees before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) creates new flood maps. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers asked Dallas to "pause" on fixing the levees as it considers another approach to resolving levee issues, city officials said September 12. City officials said the change could provide good news for residents and businesses hoping to stay out of a flood plain, as well as for the city's pocketbook. A Corps spokesman added the pause would allow Dallas to "to take advantage of early implementation of a new risk assessment process. Since early 2009, when the Corps rated the levees unacceptable, Dallas faced the threat of FEMA drawing new flood maps as if no levees existed at all. Property owners along the river have grown increasingly concerned about the effect of the levee uncertainty on their property values. Getting drawn into a flood plain would depress property values, lead to increased insurance rates, and make it difficult or impossible to obtain building permits and certificates of occupancy. The city spent more than \$25 million to test the levees and devise a plan to upgrade them with more than \$100 million worth of fixes. While FEMA's schedule for redrawing the maps has been a moving target, city officials remained focused on completing fixes by an original deadline of December.

Source:

[http://www.rr.com/local/topic/article/rr/4473267/51012997/Corps\\_delays\\_Trinity\\_River\\_levee\\_fixes\\_for\\_new/2](http://www.rr.com/local/topic/article/rr/4473267/51012997/Corps_delays_Trinity_River_levee_fixes_for_new/2)

47. *September 12, Associated Press* – (International) **Report: Myanmar to proceed with controversial dam.** Myanmar has decided to go ahead with construction of a major dam along its main river despite opposition from ethnic minorities and environmentalists, reports said September 12. Ethnic Kachin people and environmental groups say the Myanmar-China Myitsone Hydroelectric Project in Kachin state will damage the Irrawaddy River, and submerge a culturally important site where the Malikha and Maykha rivers meet. The weekly Eleven journal and other media reported the electric power minister said construction of the dam, to be built by China, would proceed despite objections. He was quoted saying the dam will take 8 years to construct, and Myanmar will receive 10 percent of the electricity it generates. The \$3.6 billion dam would flood an area the size of Singapore. Kachin and environmental groups have formed a "Save the Irrawaddy" movement to stop the dam. They said in August that about 12,000 people from 63 villages had been relocated because of the dam. The government said only 2,146 people from 5 villages had been relocated. For decades, several ethnic groups have waged guerrilla wars for greater autonomy, including more control over resources in their regions. In March, fighting broke out between the 8,000-strong Kachin militia and the government. That fighting was related to dams and other large projects being built by China, the Environmental Working Group, a coalition of 10 exile groups, said in a report in July. Two months before the fighting erupted, the Kachin Independence Organization issued a strong protest against the Myitsone dam.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44485078#.Tm4aoOxQhDg>

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