



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
26 September 2011

Top Stories

- The former manager of the Milford, Massachusetts, Water Co. was indicted by a grand jury for tampering with water samples so the state would lift a boil order on the contaminated public water supply. – *Milford Daily News* (See item [32](#))
- Police in Toledo, Ohio, are investigating after bullets were fired at two fire stations, and a suspicious package was planted at another fire station over the course of two days. – *WTOL 11 Toledo* (See item [40](#))

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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 23, Galveston County Daily News* – (Texas) **Substation fire knocks out power to refineries.** The Valero, Marathon, and BP refineries activated their flare systems after a power outage and reported fire at a power substation disrupted electricity in the city's industrial sector September 22 in Texas City, Texas. The extra flaring could be seen across the county. The power disruption happened at 6:50 p.m. Texas City fire crews conducted street-by-street air monitoring, but no dangerous readings were detected, a spokesman said. Officials also warned the fire department in

La Marque to check air quality as a plume of dark smoke drifted toward that city. A Valero spokesman said power was knocked out to most of the Texas City refinery on Loop 197 as well as its steam boilers. The lack of boilers meant the company was unable to send steam to the flares, so heavy black smoke was being released as part of the flaring. Valero officials were not able to confirm if any units or equipment were damaged by the sudden outage. A BP Texas City spokesman said the company's refinery experienced a minimal power blip when the substation caught fire, but there were no major impact on operations. A Dow Chemical spokeswoman said the plant experienced a blip like the other facilities, but was not impacted by the outage. The fire happened at the Texas-New Mexico Power Co.'s Cherokee substation, which is on 14th Street between the BP and Marathon refineries. Power company crews shut power off to the substation. The refineries were working on backup power. The cause of the fire could not be confirmed.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story/259682>

2. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Police: Someone damaged Pa. well site pit liner.** A drilling company said someone used a shotgun to blast holes in the lining of a containment pit at a western Pennsylvania natural gas well just over a week after it gained permission to resume operations inside a nature conservation zone. State police said the damage to the MDS Energy well near Indiana County's Yellow Creek State Park happened September 20 or September 21. The damage to the lining of a pit meant to hold drill cuttings was estimated at \$3,500. The driller's public liaison said six holes were apparently made with a shotgun, and six others were stabbed with a safety fence stake. Earlier in September, MDS was granted a variance to continue drilling in a conservation zone, ending 7 months of public debate.
Source: http://www.timesonline.com/news/state/police-someone-damaged-pa-well-site-pit-liner/article_c84f0d81-f00b-506c-beba-ea3dd42144e4.html
3. *September 22, Reuters* – (Alabama) **Exxon says Mobile Bay leak caused by salt water line.** A salt water pipeline leak off the coast of Alabama forced ExxonMobil to halt gas production in the Mobile Bay area of the Gulf of Mexico, the company said September 22. A sheen was detected on the water September 20, 1 mile south of Dauphin Island where ExxonMobil runs a number of subsea natural gas pipelines, prompting the company to shut in 280 million cubic feet per day of natural gas production. The leaking substance is made up of silt, sand, and salt water, with traces of hydrocarbons, a spokesman said. Exxon is developing plans to repair the pipe, and natural gas production will remain shut until it is fixed. There is no timeline for resumption of supply.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/22/us-exxon-leak-idUSTRE78L5XS20110922>
4. *September 22, WALA 10 Mobile* – (Alabama) **Coast Guard still recovering oil from Mobile River.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) does not know how much oil is left in the Mobile River in Alabama after the spill September 2, but they do have a better idea of how much oil seeped into the waterway, WALA 10 Mobile reported September 22. "Roughly 4,500 barrels were released from the tank," said a USCG spokesman. "Some of it seeped into the containment area, some seeped into the ditch. Roughly a fifth of

that seeped into the river." The 4,500 barrels released equals about 189,000 gallons of oil. The USCG said they have since recovered 160,000 gallons of an oily mixture. That is more than double the amount they first recovered 3 weeks ago. The agency said it is working with O'Brien's Response Management to clean up the oil. The Alabama Port Authority said there are no oiled ships in the port, and the few vessels that got oil on them were cleaned during the initial days of the spill.

Source: http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/local_news/mobile_county/oil-left-in-the-mobile-river-still-unknown

5. *September 21, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California; Arizona; International)
Investigation: massive outage took 11 minutes. An investigation by the California Independent System Operator (ISO) revealed there was not enough coordination between the five power system operators impacted by the September 8 outage, which left several million people without power in Orange, San Diego, and Imperial Counties in California, as well as part of Mexico and Arizona. "There were 23 major events that occurred within an 11-minute time period within five different power grids," an ISO spokeswoman said. The outage began September 8 at 3:27 p.m. when a worker in Arizona accidentally shorted the Southwest Powerlink, which feeds power to Imperial and San Diego Counties. To compensate for the loss, Imperial County started pulling power from the north, which shut down a line when it overloaded. Then, automated systems began pulling power from the San Diego area. At the same time, a power plant in Mexicali shut down and forced Baja, Mexico, to pull power from the San Diego area as well. Since San Diego was losing power to the east, it started pulling power from Orange County lines. When those lines overloaded, they shut down too. A San Diego State University professor said there should have been a barrier in place to prevent Imperial County from tapping into San Diego's power. There was no barrier or if there was, it was not working, so the entire area went black. The entire sequence of events took less than 11 minutes. The ISO spokeswoman said there are five different power operators that were impacted by the power outage. She admitted the cooperation and communication between the five needs to be improved.
Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/29261019/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *September 23, WLS 7 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Chemical fire causes evacuations at Dixmoor plant.** An evacuation order for parts of south Dixmoor, Illinois, was lifted late September 22 after a chemical fire was put out at a specialty chemical manufacturing plant. The fire started around 4:30 p.m. in an outdoor storage tank at the Rhodia plant. The plant was shut down for scheduled maintenance and no injuries were reported. The fire generated sulfur dioxide vapor which can irritate the lungs if inhaled, so nearby businesses and a mobile home park were evacuated. Firefighters managed to put the fire out, and the evacuation was lifted around 10:15 p.m.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8365300>

7. *September 23, Anniston Star* – (Alabama) **International observers others watch chemical weapon burn process.** Several officials were on hand September 22, when the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility incinerated the last of the chemical weapons — 72 mustard munitions — on site. They included the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), which confirmed operations complied with environmental standards. Also in attendance were inspectors from the global Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons — the international oversight group that came out of a 1997 treaty signed by 188 countries — who made certain the facility destroyed all 661,529 chemical weapons. Although all the munitions have been destroyed, ADEM workers will stay on site around the clock for the next 2.5 years to oversee cleanup and dismantling of the incinerator, an ADEM spokesman said. International representatives will be released from their Anniston duty next month, said the government project manager.
Source: <http://annistonstar.com/bookmark/15640303-International-observers-others-watch-chemical-weapon-burn-process>
8. *September 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Scores sick from bedbug chemicals.** A report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) September 22 found that dozens of Americans have fallen ill from the insecticides used to kill bedbugs. One North Carolina woman died after using 18 cans of chemical. The report counted 80 illnesses and one death linked to the insecticides over 3 years. Most of the cases were in New York City, the apparent epicenter of a recent U.S. bedbug comeback. The CDC was able to get data from 12 states, and only seven had reports of such illnesses. In the CDC study, researchers reviewed reports from California, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, New York, Texas, and Washington. They counted 111 cases from 2003 through 2010. Most occurred in the last few years, and more than half were in New York City. Because many of the cases, including the lone death, were do-it-yourselfers who misused the chemicals or applied the wrong product, federal health officials are warning consumers to be careful. In recent national surveys of exterminators, bedbugs were named the toughest pest to eliminate.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/09/23/20110923bedbug-chemicals-scores-sick.html>
9. *September 22, Iowa City Press-Citizen* – (Iowa) **Crews respond to possible chemical leak.** One Iowa City, Iowa, railroad worker was hospitalized after a possible chemical leak at the Iowa Interstate rail yard. Railroad employees detected a chemical smell and contacted the Iowa City Fire Department, which responded at 8:21 a.m. September 22. One Iowa Interstate employee was decontaminated and transported to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics with chest pains. Five others at the scene were treated and released. "He was exhibiting symptoms of possibly being exposed," said the Iowa City Fire Battalion Chief. "But we can't really confirm that is true." He said officials searched for a leak of an industrial chemical called chlorosulfonic acid in two cars, but no leak was found. The cars were bound for the Iowa City Procter & Gamble plant. The fire chief said a larger leak of such a chemical would have been a disaster, and forced a massive evacuation. Officials had Paige Street, just south of the rail yard, blocked off for almost 3 hours with responder vehicles from the Iowa City Police Department, Iowa City Fire Department, Johnson County Ambulance Service, and a haz-mat team.

Source: <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20110923/NEWS01/109230308/Crews-respond-possible-chemical-leak?odyssey=nav/head>

10. *September 22, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Rhode Island) **Cranston R.I. company to pay fine for chemical reporting violations.** A chemical-processing facility in Cranston, Rhode Island, agreed to pay a penalty of \$23,400 to settle claims by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the firm failed to appropriately report chemicals used on site in violation of federal right-to-know laws. The EPA said John R. Hess & Company failed to file Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Forms listing chemicals processed, manufactured, or used at its facility at 400 Station Street. The inventory forms are required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The alleged violations took place in 2008 and 2009. The agreement stems from an EPA inspection of the facility in 2010. According to the EPA complaint, Hess processed more than the established thresholds of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, ethylene glycol, and other regulated chemicals, but did not report these during the time period required. Hess submitted these forms after the due dates, resulting in five violations of EPCRA.
Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/fd64fe390d8cbd3d85257913006d9793?OpenDocument>
11. *September 22, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Semi hauling liquid nitrogen overturns on northbound I-5.** A series of semi truck crashes near Bellingham, Washington closed portions of Interstate 5 in both directions for several hours September 22, creating a mess of the morning commute. A semi hauling liquid nitrogen overturned on northbound Interstate 5 about 7:45 a.m., spewing a white vapor cloud across both sides of the freeway. The truck was carrying 2,000 gallons of liquid nitrogen, prompting a response from firefighters and a hazardous materials team. Officials said the spill did not pose an immediate health risk to the general public. Liquid nitrogen dissipates quickly unless it is kept at very low temperatures, and does not present a hazard to people unless they are exposed to the initial vapor cloud. The spill did not cause any lasting damage to the road, but the guardrail in the area will need to be repaired, said a state department of transportation spokesman. The driver of the overturned semi was taken to St. Joseph hospital with a broken right arm. He told officers his brakes did not work as he tried to slow down for traffic in front of him, said a state patrol trooper. Troopers are investigating whether there was a mechanical failure in the brakes, but the Washington trooper said it also appeared that the semi driver was going too fast as he came over the hill and was unable to slow down in time to stop for traffic. Two other accidents near the same stretch as the semi crash occurred soon after that incident, resulting in both directions of freeway traffic being halted for many hours.
Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/09/22/2196411/semi-rollover-blocking-both-lanes.html>
12. *September 22, WSB 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Woman sold live explosive to Army Navy store.** A military explosive squad and Gwinnett police removed a live Japanese mortar round from a Snellville, Georgia store September 22. The U.S. Air Force Explosive

Ordinance Disposal team from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Cobb County was also involved in the removal of the device, which dates to World War II. A woman sold the mortar to the Army Navy Store on Highway 78 the night of September 21, police said. The store owner did some research and realized it was completely intact. The owner called Snellville police, who immediately called Gwinnett County police. Gwinnett County police determined through an X-ray the device was live and called military experts. The store owner said he paid the woman \$50 for the relic.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/29267952/detail.html>

13. *September 21, Legal Newsline* – (Kansas) **Chemical company paying \$51K in Kansas.** The Kansas attorney general announced a settlement September 20 with a New York-based chemical product company to settle a false claims case. Royal Chemical Inc. allegedly billed treatment plants in Kansas for products they did not order. The company has agreed to pay \$50,155, which will be distributed to seven Kansas municipalities. Kansas alleged sales representatives from Royal contacted city offices, making sales pitches for large quantities of product. When the cities denied the sales pitch, saying their treatment plants were small and would never need that much product, the sales representative allegedly convinced the cities to agree to a small order or a free sample to test the product. After receiving the small order, Royal would allegedly ship large quantities of the product and aggressively try to collect for the product, even though the cities disputed the order. The settlement is one of the first to be reached under the Kansas False Claims Act, which gives the attorney general the authority to file suit against entities or individuals that submit false or fraudulent claims for payment to the state of Kansas, or any of its political subdivisions.

Source: <http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/233870-chemical-company-paying-51k-in-kansas>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

14. *September 23, U.S. Department of Transportation* – (National) **NHTSA recall notice - Daimler trucks fuel line leaks.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced September 23 that Daimler Trucks North America is recalling 73,500 model year 2004 through 2008 Freightliner, Sterling, and Western Star model heavy trucks manufactured from July 11, 2003 through September 28, 2007 equipped with EPA04 model MBE4000 engines built with plastic low-pressure fuel lines and fuel filters mounted near the center of the engine on the left-hand side. The plastic low pressure fuel line between the engine mounted fuel filter and engine block may develop a

substantial diesel fuel leak. This could create a road hazard increasing the risk of a crash. Fuel leakage, in the presence of an ignition source, could result in a fire. Daimler Trucks will notify owners and the remedy will be performed by Detroit Diesel Corporation authorized repair facilities. Vehicles will be inspected and the plastic low-pressure fuel line will be replaced with a steel low-pressure fuel line.

Source: <http://www->

odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallresults.cfm?start=1&SearchType=QuickSearch&rel_ID=11V478000&summary=true&prod_id=205702&PrintVersion=YES

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *September 23, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (International) **SEC accuses woman of huge Ponzi scheme.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) September 22 accused the owner of a bankrupt Spokane, Washington-based payday loan business with conducting a massive Ponzi scheme. The SEC alleges she defrauded investors in her company, Little Loan Shoppe, by misrepresenting the profitability and safety of investments, and giving them the false impression their money was being used to grow her business. Millions of dollars also were misappropriated for personal use, the agency alleged. According to the complaint filed in federal court, she raised about \$135 million between 1999 and 2008 from at least 650 investors in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. She misled investors by telling them Little Loan was financially sound, the SEC said. The complaint alleges she sold promissory notes assuring investors of annual returns of 40 to 60 percent she claimed would be paid through Little Loan's profits. She also told investors their money was safe because she had insurance or a separate account to pay back investors. As the scheme neared collapse in mid-2008, the complaint alleges she made a last-ditch effort to attract new investments by announcing a “window to invest” and falsely telling investors Little Loan had “defied financial gravity” in the deteriorating economy. Investors responded by pouring millions more into Little Loan. The business soon buckled, payments were cut and missed, and investors dragged the company into bankruptcy in 2009. The SEC charged her with violating the antifraud and registration provisions of the federal securities laws. In seeking bankruptcy protection, the company claimed it owed more than \$100 million to more than 1,300 creditors.

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/sep/23/sec-accuses-woman-of-huge-ponzi-scheme/>

16. *September 23, Softpedia* – (International) **Millions stolen through Internet retail scam.** Approximately \$450 million was illegally obtained by a man who allegedly sold products and services on the Internet and took advantage of hidden charge clauses to

con people. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) heard of his operation and immediately shut it down. By hiding behind 10 company names, the head of the scheme commercialized all sorts of products from personal care items to acai berry weight-loss pills, and even health supplements. He offered users in the United States and other countries free product trials that were actually charged with up to \$80 even if the customer did not at any time agree to pay the amount. After freezing the man's assets, the court stated "Not only has [the FTC] shown a likelihood that Defendants have engaged in misleading marketing practices, but it has also shown that Defendants have moved substantial funds to offshore companies and bank accounts. . ." To better hide his income, the man opened bank accounts in Cyprus, where he also established several holding companies to facilitate international merchant banking. A woman and her company, Mobile Web Media LLC, were also charged for aiding the man by offering credit and debit card processing services. During the trial, the accused parties are banned from selling or offering any products as free trial or as bonus, and they're also forbidden from making any sort of Internet transactions that might be misinterpreted or misleading.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Millions-Stolen-Through-Internet-Retail-Scam-223303.shtml>

17. *September 22, Twin Cities Business* – (Minnesota) **Former MN bank executives face new fraud charges.** Two former officers of a St. Paul, Minnesota bank and a customer are facing additional charges in an alleged \$1.9 million "check-kiting" scheme that led to the closure of Pinehurst Bank, Minnesota's U.S. attorney's office said September 22. The 57-year-old former president of Pinehurst and the bank's 43-year-old former chief credit officer and senior vice president were each charged with five counts of misapplication of bank funds in June. A 71-year-old customer, was charged with the same counts. The 57-year-old now also faces one count of bank fraud, and one count of making a false statement. The 43-year-old has now been charged with one count of bank fraud, and two counts of making false statements, and the customer has been charged with two counts of bank fraud, and one count of theft from an employee benefit plan. The customer is accused of kiting increasingly large sums between Pinehurst and a second bank from March 2006 until February 2009, when the second bank discovered his insufficient funds and returned more than \$1.8 million in bad checks to Pinehurst. The Pinehurst employees then allegedly recruited five straw borrowers to get \$1.9 million in loans from Pinehurst for the customer, and the three defendants concealed the scheme from the bank's board and regulators. Each defendant faces up to 30 years in prison for each bank fraud and misapplication count. The bank employees also face a maximum of 5 years on each false statements count, while the customer faces up to 5 years for his count of theft from an employee benefit plan.
Source: http://tcbmag.blogs.com/daily_developments/2011/09/former-mn-bank-executives-face-new-fraud-charges.html
18. *September 22, Bloomberg* – (National) **Investment club manager pleads guilty to \$40 million fraud.** A Michigan man who ran an "investment club" pleaded guilty September 22 in federal court in Virginia to defrauding more than 750 members out of almost \$40 million. The 46-year-old entered his guilty plea in U.S. district court in Alexandria to one count of wire fraud. He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in

prison, according to court documents. "[He] took huge risks with others' money and lost big," a U.S. attorney in Alexandria said. "He covered up his massive losses through lies and deceit to members of his investment club." From 2006 through July 2009, the man solicited about \$40 million from investors who were members of a club he created that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in a lawsuit described as a "commodity pool." He told them their money was being invested through an equities-trading system developed by an expert consultant, Trade LLC, with a promised return on investment of 10 percent per month, according to court papers filed in Alexandria and in a related lawsuit in Michigan. Trade LLC, which is no longer in business, was sued separately by the commission over activities related to the club, according to the CFTC. Only \$6 million was invested with Trade LLC, prosecutors said. The rest was "secretly invested" in more than 25 other "high-risk" ventures, losing almost \$34 million, the government said. In 2009, the man stopped investing in Trade LLC and "re-deposited" that money in other losing ventures, according to court documents. He also created false monthly statements for his investors showing they were making money, prosecutors said.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-09-22/investment-club-manager-pleads-guilty-to-40-million-fraud.html>

19. *September 22, Charleston State Journal* – (West Virginia; Michigan) **Man arrested after 126 fraudulent credit cards found in vehicle.** One man was behind bars September 22 after 126 fraudulent credit cards were found in his vehicle in West Virginia. According to a U.S. attorney, the 25-year-old Michigan man was arrested after a nearly hour-long search September 21 on the bridge over I-70 near Cabela Drive. The stop was made by the Mountaineer Highway Interdiction Team, and the FBI and Secret Service are assisting with the case. An officer with the West Virginia State Police said suspicion was gained during the traffic stop, that led officers to search the vehicle. "We're dealing with multiple jurisdictions, tying a criminal organization from the Detroit, Michigan area to their destination travels of Morgantown, West Virginia, to try and uncover just what it was they were doing, coming to West Virginia and why they had 126 fraudulent cards that represent 126 potential bank accounts ... on them," the officer said.

Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=108502>

20. *September 22, WTAM 1100 AM Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Indictments handed-up in mortgage scam.** Investigators September 22 announced the indictment of 32 defendants for fraudulently obtaining \$5.1 million in loans to purchase 44 houses in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. According to the Cuyahoga County Mortgage Fraud Task Force, a 40-year-old Cleveland man, a 50-year-old Cleveland man, and a 49-year-old Parma man, were the key members of the enterprise. They and 29 other defendants were indicted by a Cuyahoga County grand jury for engaging in a scheme that involved buyers, sellers, mortgage brokers, loan officers, title agents and processors, private investors, and appraisers. According to an assistant prosecutor, the scam involved houses purchased at sheriff's sales or other sources for meager amounts, with mortgages taken out on those properties simultaneously, with an open-end loan allowing their values to be artificially inflated. Authorities contend most of the properties were purchased without any of the buyers' personal money. They also claim

many of the title company files contained invoices for rehabilitation work done by one company in particular, when in fact no work had been done to the property. Officials site fraudulent invoices they believe show most of the buyers were paid for lending their names and credit to the transactions. Investigators maintain some buyers were duped into participating in the scheme on the pretense they would become investors and reap the benefits when they sold the houses after owning them for a few years, while others knowingly participated by buying the properties, never intending to occupy, lease, or maintain them. They said most of those buyers received payments of several thousand dollars after the properties sold.

Source: <http://www.wtam.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=122520&article=9150240>

21. *September 22, Crain's Detroit Business* – (Michigan) **Injunction sought against couple, attorney accused of preparing fraudulent tax returns.** The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) September 22 was seeking an injunction against a Sterling Heights couple and their Oakland County attorney to stop them from preparing allegedly fraudulent income tax returns for Southeast Michigan residents. The DOJ brought civil action against a minister at Perfecting Church in Detroit and his wife along with their company, Diamond & Associates Enterprises LLC, and an attorney and owner of Southfield-based T. Daniels & Associates PLLC. The civil complaint alleges the minister, his wife, and their company prepared more than 180 income tax returns for taxpayers on income in 2009 and 2010, and sought more than \$29 million in fraudulent refunds. In 2010, Diamond Tax Services allegedly began filing false returns as a paid preparer of returns for taxpayers under the federal Filing Information Returns Electronically system of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Under the scheme, the couple allegedly told taxpayers they had a secret account within the U.S. Department of Treasury that could hold up to millions of dollars and which they could access to pay debts, as a credit against tax liabilities or to draw upon for refunds. The preparers then filed an IRS form, usually a 1099-OID or Original Issue Discount form, claiming the taxpayer was an issuer or purchaser of a debt instrument for which income was previously withheld for taxes. This increased the taxpayer's tax liability, but also used the phony withholding as a credit or deduction. The DOJ estimates the IRS has paid out nearly \$1.7 million in "erroneous refunds because of [their] fabricated withholding claims." Returns prepared through Diamond Tax Services allegedly have sought fraudulent refunds for tax years going back to 2006, and the couple allegedly sought \$2.5 million in bogus refunds on their own returns.

Source: <http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20110922/FREE/110929954#>

22. *September 22, IDG News Service* – (National) **FTC targets mortgage and debt relief Web sites.** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) September 22 asked a court to shut down Web sites that falsely suggested they were federal consumer assistance agencies or affiliated with government agencies focused on mortgage or debt relief. Web sites operated by a man from San Antonio allegedly misled consumers about their connection to the U.S. government, the FTC said in a press release. The man conducted business as the Department of Consumer Services Protection Commission, U.S. Debt Care, and World Law Debt. The Web sites had no government connection, but instead referred customers with financial problems to companies selling mortgage, tax and debt

relief services, with promises that consumers' debts would be substantially reduced or eliminated, according to the complaint. The FTC asked the court to permanently shut down the man's operation. The FTC charged the man with multiple violations of the FTC Act for allegedly misrepresenting his affiliations with federal agencies, misrepresenting that the services advertised on his Web sites were government-approved, and making deceptive debt relief claims. His businesses also violated rules governing telemarketing and mortgage relief, the agency said. The man, a lead generator for other businesses, impersonated the FTC and other agencies, the FTC said. His Department of Consumer Services Protection Commission appears to combine two real government agencies, the FTC and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the agency said. His Web sites used the FTC's official seal and copied language about the fictitious agency's consumer protection mission almost verbatim from the FTC site.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9220203/FTC_targets_mortgage_and_debt_relief_websites

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Transportation Sector

23. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Coast Guard: grounded cargo ship in Columbia River.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) said a 584-foot cargo vessel ran aground in the Columbia River near Cathlamet, Washington, but there were no visible signs of pollution. No injuries were reported from the September 22 mishap at Puget Island. The USCG said the Luminous Ace grounded after an electrical outage caused the vessel to lose its steering. Tug boats were sent to assist, and it is not blocking the waterway. The ship has regained power and propulsion. The USCG said the tugs planned to help move the vessel at high tide September 23 about 20 miles west to an anchoring spot near Astoria, Oregon.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Coast-Guard-grounded-cargo-ship-in-Columbia-River-2184862.php>
24. *September 22, Riverside Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Suicidal driver guilty of ramming school bus.** A Riverside County, California man who rammed his car into a school bus carrying students pleaded guilty September 22 to eight counts of assault with a deadly weapon, and was sentenced to 2 years in prison on each count. The man was given credit for 336 days he has been in jail plus 168 days for good behavior for a total of 504 days. The incident happened in what was then the unincorporated Riverside County community of Jurupa. Moments before the wreck, California Highway Patrol dispatchers had notified the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that a man was attempting to climb the Highway 60 overpass at Pedley Road in an apparent attempt to leap from the span and commit suicide. When that did not work, the man climbed into a Chevrolet HHR and drove the wrong way onto the Pedley Road off ramp of westbound Highway 60 and slammed into the Jurupa school bus. The bus was carrying seven passengers, all of them students at Nueva Vista Continuation High School. Three of the

students and the driver suffered minor injuries in the crash.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_wcrash23.3a9ac58.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

25. *September 22, Charlottesville Daily Progress* – (Virginia) **Mysterious package seals off Palmyra post office.** Traffic was rerouted around Palmyra, Virginia, for more than 6 hours September 22 after a package containing floor sealant broke open at a post office. Officials sealed off the area around the post office after a postal worker delivering mail from Richmond around 6 a.m. heard a “pop” inside a package and then liquid leaked on him from inside the box, the Fluvanna County sheriff said. Five postal workers were kept inside the post office for several hours while federal, state, and local officials tried to determine what was inside the box, he said. Investigators with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service determined the box contained a plastic bottle of liquid floor sealer, a Special Agent with the inspection service said. The package was bound for a home in the area, he said. More than a dozen federal, state and local investigators and emergency crews worked the scene September 22, and officers blocked traffic on both sides of U.S. 15 into Palmyra. All lanes were opened after 9 hours, officials said. By late in the afternoon, the post office was open and mail was being delivered throughout the county.

Source: <http://www2.dailyprogress.com/news/2011/sep/22/mysterious-package-seals-palmyra-post-office-ar-1330172/>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *September 23, Cedar Rapids Gazette* – (Iowa) **Waterloo Tyson plant reopens after USDA-ordered closure.** Tyson meat plant in Waterloo, Iowa, was running normally September 23, after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ordered part of the plant to stop production early September 22. The reason for the plant’s closure is unclear. The USDA said at 6:35 a.m. September 22, the Food Safety and Inspections Service (FSIS) shut down operations at the swine slaughter/processing facility. A Tyson spokesperson told KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids it was because of a concern in procedure, calling the situation a “humane handling violation.” Authorities would not describe the specific nature of the violation. But according to official descriptions, the violation can involve a range of issues, from how livestock is handled to livestock pen and ramp standards. The section of the plant that was closed made necessary changes and was able to resume operations at 11:30 a.m. The USDA temporarily halted production at the same Tyson plant in September 2010 over concerns about how hogs were herded.

Source: <http://thegazette.com/2011/09/23/waterloo-tyson-plant-reopens-after-usda-orders-to-close/>

27. *September 22, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (California) **California firm recalls tongue and blood sausage product due to mislabeling and undeclared allergen.** Mattern Sausage, of Orange, California, recalled about 72 pounds of tongue and blood sausage because of mislabeling and an undeclared allergen. The product contains hydrolyzed soy protein, which is not declared on the label, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced September 22. The product subject to recall includes: 4-pound to 8-pound chubs of “Mattern Sausage Tongue and blood sausage.” It bears the establishment number “EST. 7696” inside the USDA mark of inspection on the label. The product was produced September 6 and was shipped to sandwich shops near Orange. The problem was discovered during a routine label assessment by FSIS personnel, and may have occurred because of a change in ingredient formulation by the company.

Source:

http://www.foodconsumer.org/newsite/Shopping/Alerts/california_firm_recalls_tongue_and_blood_sausage_product_0923110.html

28. *September 22, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Wildfire damaged \$12.8 million worth of timber, Forest Service says.** The Texas Forest Service (TFS) the week of September 19 estimated the recent wildfire damaged 20.8 million cubic feet of timber as it burnt 18,960 acres across Montgomery, Grimes, and Waller Counties. That timber would have been worth \$12.8 million alone, and might have spurred \$420 million in economic activity, the TFS said in a release. The agency estimates wildfires have destroyed \$97 million worth of timber in East Texas this year. In its release this week, the TFS said forest industries, including logging and mills, funneled \$116 million into the collective economies of Grimes, Waller, and Montgomery Counties in 2007, employing 550 people with a payroll of about \$24 million.

Source: <http://www.ultimatewoodlands.com/stories/270365-events-wildfire-damaged-12-8-million-worth-of-timber-forest-service-says>

29. *September 22, Virginia Farm Bureau* – (National) **New tool helps farmers prepare for natural disasters.** A team of extension professionals from across the United States developed an educational tool to assist farm and ranch managers become better prepared for any disaster. The tool is called ReadyAG: Disaster and Defense Preparedness for Production Agriculture. Before disaster strikes, ReadyAG can help farmers and ranchers plan and prepare to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all types of damaging incidents. ReadyAG is designed to help identify vulnerabilities and prioritize actions to make agricultural operations more resilient and sustainable in the face of adversity. ReadyAG begins with a general preparedness assessment then has commodity-specific sections including cattle, crops, dairy, fruit and vegetable, swine, and poultry. The assessments can be filled out online and will automatically populate a customized action plan to address items identified as high priority vulnerabilities.

Source: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/management/new-tool-helps-farmers-prepare-natural-disasters>

30. *September 21, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas cattle survey: Most ranchers culling herd.** No Texas ranchers plan to leave the cattle business as the state's worst 1-year drought on record persists, but 8 percent said they will not have any animals next year, according to a survey published September 20 by Texas' largest livestock group. The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association got responses from fewer than 10 percent of the 8,995 ranchers in the nation's leading production state contacted in late August for the online survey. The U.S. herd is at its lowest level since the 1950s, and officials said the low number will mean higher beef prices over the next few years. The drought and blistering triple-digit heat has left pastures and grazing lands brown and crispy, forcing ranchers to severely cull herds. So far crop and livestock losses from the drought are estimated at a record \$5.2 billion. Ag officials expect that amount to rise. The La Nina weather pattern that led to the drought has re-emerged, meaning a drier than normal winter. The association's Drought Impact Survey showed 16 percent of the 872 ranchers who responded had made no adjustment to their herd because of the drought. Eighty-four percent indicated they have cut their herd size from their 3-year average.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9PSUIM80.htm>

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Water Sector

31. *September 23, Boonville Daily News* – (Missouri) **Wastewater spills into Boonville stream.** The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is overseeing the cleanup from the estimated release of 400,000 gallons of wastewater into a Boonville stream September 23. Boonville city officials discovered the release of wastewater from manholes near Lift Station #2 September 21. Officials noticed the flow to the wastewater treatment plant was significantly lower than normal. The bypass was believed to be caused by an electrical system failure at the lift station. The department dispatched an investigator to the site to determine the extent of the release and gauge any environmental damage. In addition to sampling the water, the investigator discovered a fish kill in Rames Branch about 250 yards from the Missouri River. The Missouri Department of Conservation has been called in to document the extent of the fish kill. City crews have begun a cleanup by placing lime in the ground in the affected areas around manholes believed to have overflowed. The city posted warning signs and planned to post more as cleanup continued. It also recommended pumping the wastewater from the creek.
- Source: <http://www.boonvilledailynews.com/news/x438808602/Wastewater-spills-into-Boonville-stream>
32. *September 22, Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **AG: Former Milford Water Co. manager tampered with samples.** The former manager of the Milford, Massachusetts-based Milford Water Co. was indicted by a Worcester County grand jury on six counts of tampering with an environmental-monitoring device or method, and two counts of making false statements, the attorney general's office said September

21. Investigators allege the manager added chlorine to samples in August 2009 so the state would lift an order for the public to boil the contaminated public water supply. The boil order was in place for almost 2 weeks because the water tested positive for E. coli, with the town distributing 167,000 gallons of bottled water — an average of 18,000 gallons a day — during the ban. Authorities traced the problem to the corroded roof of a water tank. According to the attorney general's office, the manager submitted tampered samples to a lab for testing. During tests, the samples immediately turned black. Lab technicians found the chlorine level was so high it exceeded the limits of the test. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the inter-agency Massachusetts Environmental Strike Force later tested the suspicious samples and found levels of chlorine in some samples that were 700 times greater than the acceptable level for drinking water. The privately owned Milford Water Co. has made improvements since the boil-water order, including changing its manager and, as required by a DEP consent order issued after the boil water incident, making plans to build a new treatment plant by 2013, an official said. The former manager retired from the company in December 2009.

Source: <http://www.milforddailynews.com/newsnow/x985873051/AG-Former-Milford-Water-Co-manager-tampered-with-contaminated-samples>

33. *September 22, Hagerstown Herald-Mail* – (Maryland) **Sewage spill causes part of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to close.** A "significant" amount of sewage spilled onto the towpath of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Williamsport, Maryland, September 21 or September 22, forcing part of the canal to be closed for 10 days, according to the Washington County Health Department and park officials. The spill happened because of a "triple failure" in a sewage system, according to the deputy superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. At the time of the spill, an overhaul was being conducted on a Williamsport sewage pumping station, and until that work was completed, sewage was diverted to a backup pump, the town's mayor said. The spill occurred when a primary pump, a backup pump, and telemetry that monitors functionality failed, according to an e-mail from a health department spokesman. Officials said it was unclear how much sewage spilled before the leak was stopped September 22. Because the sewage went into a watered section of the canal, that water must be pumped from the canal and treated. Signs have been posted in the area telling people not to fish. Maryland Department of the Environment officials arrived at the site September 22 to assess the situation.

Source: <http://www.herald-mail.com/news/hm-sewage-spill-causes-part-of-the-chesapeake-and-ohio-canal-to-close-20110922,0,7279114.story>

For more stories, see items [3](#), [4](#), and [13](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

34. *September 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Hospital drug shortages deadly, costly.** An Associated Press review of industry reports and interviews with nearly two dozen experts found at least 15 deaths in the past 15 months blamed on drug shortages,

either because the right drug was not available or because of dosing errors or other problems in administering or preparing alternative medications. A hearing on the issue was set for September 23 before the health subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The Food and Drug Administration is holding a meeting September 26 with medical and consumer groups, researchers, and industry representatives to discuss the shortages and strategies to fight them. Just over half of the 549 U.S. hospitals responding to a survey this summer by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices, a patient safety group, said they had purchased one or more prescription drugs from so-called "gray market vendors" — companies other than their normal wholesalers. These vendors buy scarce drugs from small regional wholesalers, pharmacies or other sources and then market them to hospitals, often at many times the normal price. These sellers may not be licensed, authorized distributors.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/23/health-specialized-consumer-services-us-hospitals-drug-shortages_8696656.html

35. *September 22, Florence Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Man unknowingly buys medical records.** A man discovered 20 boxes filled with personal medical records from Digital Diagnostic Imaging Inc. September 10 after he placed a bid of more than \$1,000 for the contents of a delinquent storage unit in Florence, Alabama. Included on those records were medical details, patients' Social Security numbers, addresses, phone numbers, insurance information, and driver's licenses. Some were from as recently as 2009, while others dated to 2002. He said he thought he was buying medical equipment and maybe old office files; he did not know he was buying private information.
Source: <http://www.timesdaily.com/stories/Man-unknowingly-buys-medical-records,182269>

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Government Facilities Sector

36. *September 22, DefenseNews* – (International) **U.S. intel software crashes during Korea exercise.** Intelligence software the United States would rely on in a war with North Korea froze up repeatedly during a joint military exercise in South Korea in August, hampering the ability of U.S. and South Korean commanders to watch the movements of simulated enemy forces, a senior intelligence official said. The Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A) software is designed to link intelligence analysts to processed communications intercepts, imagery and radar collections stored in massive databases. When American intelligence analysts tried to use the software to track simulated North Korean troop movements, the screens on their DCGS-A workstations sometimes went black, forcing them to reboot the software, the senior intelligence official said. Analysts could not always feed the latest enemy positions into the Command Post of the Future, the large computer displays U.S. commanders would rely on to view troop positions and orchestrate defenses with their South Korean counterparts. The problem was discovered during the 10-day Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, a computer-generated North Korean attack in which tens

of thousands of American and South Korean troops were mobilized in and around Seoul. U.S. intelligence officials have lately expressed concern the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have honed their ability to untangle insurgent networks and track people, but at the expense of practicing the more traditional military intelligence role of tracking forces during high-intensity conflicts involving artillery, tanks and fast-moving troop formations. The goal of Freedom Guardian was to show DCGS-A, which is used by analysts and troops in Afghanistan, could perform well in a conventional war. Software engineers will need to explore whether the greater volume of data stored in the conventional warfare database caused DCGS-A to lock up, the official said. In a related problem, the DCGS-A system took 2 to 2.5 minutes to nominate targets for bombing, a process that should take seconds.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=7757455&c=ASI&s=LAN>

37. *September 22, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Navy to destroy two missiles dropped in ocean off Camp Pendleton.** The U.S. Navy the week of September 25 is set to conduct an underwater demolition in the Pacific Ocean off of Camp Pendleton in San Diego County, California to destroy two missiles lodged in about 60 feet of water. The Sea Sparrow missiles were jettisoned for safety purposes by a helicopter taking them to the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard August 30, the Navy said. The missiles dropped 400 feet to the ocean's surface about 1.7 miles from Camp Pendleton. During the flight to the ship, the missiles began to "swing excessively" and were a threat to the safety of the helicopter and its crew, the Navy said. In advance of the demolition, the Coast Guard will enforce a 2,000-yard safety zone and broadcast a warning to civilian craft to stay clear. Sea Sparrow experts at the Naval Air Systems Command have determined it is not safe to attempt to move the missiles ashore, the Navy said. The detonation may produce a plume of water visible from land. The Sea Sparrow is a surface-to-air missile used primarily as defense against anti-ship missiles. Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/09/navy-to-destroy-two-missiles-on-ocean-bottom-off-camp-pendleton.html>
38. *September 22, Victoria Advocate* – (Texas) **Victoria fined \$36,000 for methane-gas exposure.** Under a settlement with a state agency, the city of Victoria, Texas, will be fined \$36,000 for methane-gas exposure measured above allowable levels at its landfill. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has limits on methane-gas exposure to prevent the exposure from reaching explosive levels. The exposures remained at the landfill and never reached explosive levels, said the city's environmental services director. At no time did the exposures pose a public health danger. The city reported the methane gas levels to TCEQ, the director of environmental services said. The violations occurred from 2007 to 2011. The Victoria City Council is scheduled to vote on the agreement on October 4. The environmental services director said the city has addressed the problem, and that gas exposure is below required levels at all but one of the ports. He said aging infrastructure and the ongoing drought were to blame for the higher exposure levels. Source: http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/sep/22/bc_victoria_landfill_092311_152916/?business&local-business

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Emergency Services Sector

39. *September 22, Washington Times* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. temporarily halts fire, EMS Twitter account.** The Washington D.C. government has temporarily halted use of one of its most popular Twitter accounts to get a tighter handle on information disseminated about emergency operations. The District's Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Twitter account has been on hiatus since August 30, when the communications officer who ran it went on vacation, officials said. The account, which provided real-time information on emergency incidents in the city ranging from traffic accidents to fatal shootings, has been suspended as officials decide what data is safe to put online. Declining to elaborate on specific incidents that led officials to freeze the account, the communications director would only say it was recently brought to the department's attention that "incorrect or inappropriate" information was published. Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/dc-temporarily-halts-fire-ems-twitter-account>

40. *September 22, WTOL 11 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Three threats in two days against Toledo fire stations.** Police are investigating two shootings and a bomb threat at three fire stations in Toledo, Ohio. Around noon September 22, firefighters at Fire Station 18, located at 5221 Lewis, discovered a suspicious package outside the station. The Toledo Police called in their bomb squad, which dismantled the package. Inside was found a propane tank and a bag of charcoal. On September 21, sometime between 4 and 4:30 p.m., firefighters at Fire Station 6, located at 642 Starr Avenue, heard five shots fired. Two of the bullets made it inside the fire department. One of the bullets ricocheted off of one of the fire trucks, and one bullet lodged itself in a back wall. The shots were fired at an area frequently used by firefighters. No spent shells were found outside the station. Also on September 21, bullets were fired at Fire Station 9 at 900 South Street. Source: <http://www.wtol.com/story/15526586/two-threats-in-two-days-against-toledo-firestations>

41. *September 22, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC moves toward texting, video for emergency calls.** The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) September 22 took the first step toward updating the nation's 911 emergency dialing system so it can receive text messages, pictures, and videos, in addition to voice calls. The FCC voted to launch a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to create a next-generation 911 system that would allow mobile phone users to send text messages, pictures and videos to emergency response agencies by dialing 911. An updated 911 system will help police and fire departments better respond to emergencies, the chief of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau said. In response to the U.S. East Coast earthquake August 23, the FCC's NPRM also will seek comment on whether to prioritize 911 calls during emergencies, when mobile phone networks are often overloaded. In an NPRM, the FCC seeks comment on possible changes to agency policy. Many people are not aware that the 911 system cannot handle text or pictures,

the FCC chairman said.

Source: <http://www.csoonline.com/article/690298/fcc-moves-toward-texting-video-for-emergency-calls>

42. *September 22, WSAZ 3 Huntington/Charleston* – (West Virginia) **Nicholas-Clay County 911 phone outage fixed.** Frontier Communications crews have repaired a phone outage disrupting calls to the Nicholas-Clay County, West Virginia 911 center September 22. The deputy director said the circuits are working, test calls have been made from various locations in Clay and Nicholas Counties. and all were successful. Residents were able return to normal methods of contacting 911 for assistance.
Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Nicholas-Clay-County-911-Center-130386593.html>

43. *September 21, Emergency Management* – (Georgia) **Georgia app uses geo-location to deliver emergency-related information.** To provide emergency-related information directly to the public, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA) and the state's health department launched an app September 21, that not only provides a place for people to get updates, but also for them to store pertinent information. The app, called Ready Georgia, allows users to create a profile that includes information such as emergency contact phone numbers, an out-of-town meeting place, and work and school details. It also provides real-time hazard and weather alerts as well as a place for Georgians to track what emergency supplies they have on hand. The profile creation and disaster plan features are meant to increase preparedness before a disaster. But in the event of an emergency, the app uses geo-location technology, which determines a user's location, to provide the location of open shelters and show the flow of traffic on evacuation maps. Currently local agencies are unable to add alerts to the app, but a GEMA spokeswoman said the agency will work with them to get their messaging out.
Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Georgia-Emergency-App-Uses-Geo-Location.html>

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Information Technology Sector

44. *September 23, Softpedia* – (International) **Browser vendors prepare for SSL attacks.** Soon, SSL BEAST research will be revealed and Web browser vendors will have to devise new ways of protecting their products from attack. The easiest way to fix the problem would be to upgrade to the newer versions of the security protocols implemented so far. For example, TLS 1.1 and 1.2 are unsusceptible to the attack, but the problem is most Web sites do not support these types of encryption protocols. Opera has already successfully incorporated the improved protocols and they are activated by default. Internet Explorer 9 has the ability to protect users against SSL attacks, but only if they activate the later versions manually. Google officials are patching up Chrome, their only fear being they might have to make a forced release of the product because of hacking activities. Mozilla's Firefox only support SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0, which are highly vulnerable to the BEAST's attack.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Browser-Vendors-Prepare-for-SSL-Attacks-223424.shtml>

45. *September 23, threatpost* – (International) **New Mac OS X trojan Imuler hides inside malicious PDF.** Malware that targets Mac OS X is not anywhere near catching up to Windows-based malware in terms of volume and variety, but it appears OS X malware may be adopting some of the more successful tactics Windows viruses have been using to trick users. Researchers have come across a sample of an OS X-based trojan that disguises itself as a PDF file, a technique in favor among Windows malware authors for several years now. The new piece of malware hides inside a PDF file and delivers a backdoor that hides on the user's machine once the malicious file is opened. Once the user executes the malware, it puts the malicious PDF on the machine and then opens it as a way to hide the malicious activity going on in the background, according to an analysis by researchers at F-Secure. The trojan then installs the backdoor, which is named Imuler.A, which attempts to communicate with a command-and-control server. That server is not capable of communicating with the malware, however, the researchers found, so the malware is on its own once it is installed on a victim's machine.

Source: https://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/new-mac-os-x-trojan-imuler-hides-inside-malicious-pdf-092311?utm_source=Recent+Articles&utm_medium=Left+Sidebar+Blogs&utm_campaign=Dennis+Fisher

46. *September 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **'Lurid' malware hits Russia, CIS countries.** Researchers from Trend Micro said September 22 they discovered a series of hacking attacks targeting space-related government agencies, diplomatic missions, research institutions, and companies located mostly in Russia but also Vietnam and Commonwealth of Independent States countries. In total, the attacks targeted 1,465 computers in 61 countries. The attacks, which Trend Micro dubbed "Lurid," are not particularly unusual compared to other stealthy, long-range hacking campaigns publicized recently, according to Trend Micro's director of security research and communication for Europe. Targeted e-mails were sent to employees that were engineered to attack unpatched software and sought to steal spreadsheets, Word documents, and other data. The pilfered documents were then uploaded to Web sites hosted on command-and-control servers in the United States and the United Kingdom, the director said. The location of the servers in these attacks shows hackers can choose servers anywhere in the world to collect stolen data, which is not an indication of where the hackers may be located, he said.

Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9220226/_Lurid_malware_hits_Russia_CIS_countries

47. *September 22, CNET News* – (Arizona; California; International) **Alleged LulzSec, Anonymous hackers arrested in Ariz., Calif.** An 23-year-old man from Phoenix, Arizona, was arrested September 22 for allegedly stealing data from Sony Pictures Entertainment earlier in 2011, and two others were indicted on charges of participating in a denial-of-service (DoS) attack that temporarily shut down Santa Cruz County,

California servers in late 2010. The 23-year-old was indicted September 2 by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy and unauthorized impairment of a protected computer, the FBI said in a statement. Separately, a 47-year-old man from Mountain View, California, was arrested and appeared before a magistrate judge in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in San Jose, said a U.S. Department of Justice statement released September 22. The judge ordered a bail study be done, and set a court appearance for September 29. The 47-year-old, who allegedly uses the alias "Commander X," and a 26-year-old from Ohio, were indicted on charges of conspiracy to cause intentional damage to a protected computer, causing intentional damage to a protected computer, and aiding and abetting by participating in a distributed DoS attack on Santa Cruz County servers December 16, 2010, shutting down the Web site. A criminal summons was issued to the 26-year-old, aka "Absolem" or "Toxic," to appear before a magistrate in San Jose November 1.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-20110264-83/alleged-lulzsec-anonymous-hackers-arrested-in-ariz-calif/

48. *September 21, Computer Weekly* – (International) **Hackers turn to online games to target victims.** Scammers and hackers are increasingly using online games to trick victims into installing malicious software onto computers, warns security firm BitDefender. Children are the most obvious target with simple games being laced with botnet infections and malware targeting financial data. The problem is only set to grow, said BitDefender, with a recent online survey revealing that about 47 percent of children in the United Kingdom and the United States have their own social network accounts, and a quarter of parents do not monitor their children's online activity. In the past week, BitDefender researchers have discovered more than half a dozen samples of games rigged with trojans that could steer children to Web pages that install malicious software potentially capable of stealing financial data or injecting spyware. Cyber criminals are also targeting children through educational and entertainment sites. In all cases, researchers found the malicious code was planted on legitimate, high-traffic Web sites.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2011/09/21/247961/Hackers-turn-to-online-games-to-target-victims.htm>

49. *September 20, threatpost* – (International) **Nation-state attackers are Adobe's biggest worry.** Attackers have made Adobe's products key targets for the last several years, routinely going after bugs in Reader, Flash, and Acrobat in targeted attacks and widespread campaigns alike. However, it is not just the rank-and-file miscreants who are making Adobe a priority; it is more often nation-states, the company's top security official said. Adobe, like many other large software companies, has contacts in the big defense contractors, government agencies, and other organizations that are most often the targets of state-sponsored attacks. So when a new attack begins, the company typically hears about it within hours as customers begin to call and report a new threat involving an Adobe product. Since the company began its software security program several years ago, the sophistication level of the people finding and exploiting new bugs in Flash or Reader has gone up significantly. Now, according to the senior director of product security and privacy at Adobe, it is at a point where the company's main adversaries are state-sponsored actors.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/nation-state-attackers-are-adobes-biggest-worry-092011

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *September 23, WRTV 6 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **3-alarm apartment blaze leaves families without homes.** Crews battled a three-alarm fire at an apartment complex in Speedway, Indiana September 22 that left dozens of families without homes. The fire broke out just before 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Landing Apartments. Witnesses said there was heavy smoke and fire coming from one of the buildings. A firefighter said the flames were already out of control when Speedway engines arrived. Crews worked for more than an hour to get the fire under control. Red Cross officials said that 42 families were displaced. Apartment officials said 25 apartments were destroyed in the fire. Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/29272089/detail.html>
51. *September 23, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Jefferson County girl, 13, accused of setting fires meant to kill family.** A 13-year-old girl is facing attempted-murder, arson, and other charges in a series of fires meant to kill her family, the Denver Post reported September 23. The girl was arrested after her fourth attempt, a Jefferson County, Colorado, sheriff's spokeswoman said September 22. The teen is suspected of starting the Meyer Ranch fire near Conifer in April 2011, which forced the evacuation of 80 homes before firefighters contained the 40-acre wildfire. At the time, investigators found evidence of arson but could not determine who set the fire. They also suspected arson in two other fires that broke out at the teen's family's home within the next 24 hours, the second of which burned the home to the ground. After losing their home to fire, the family moved to the Evergreen area. The week of September 12, a grass fire was intentionally set near their new home, but it did not burn any structures. The sheriff's spokeswoman said the teen faces "a laundry list" of charges. Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_18959386
52. *September 22, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **Bomb scare forces mall evacuation.** The Los Angeles Police Department's bomb squad was called to the

Sherman Oaks Westfield Fashion Square Mall September 22 after reports of a suspicious package. Management evacuated the mall after the threat was reported around 3:23 p.m. A robot was used to investigate the package, which was reportedly found at the south end of the mall in a parking structure.

Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Bomb-Scare-Forces-Mall-Evacuation-130392733.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

53. *September 22, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Mission San Juan hit by vandals.** National Park Service rangers announced they discovered several carvings at Mission San Juan in Texas late the week of September 12. Rangers said vandals carved their initials and other bits of text in an 18th century stone wall. "From time to time, we may get some vandalism in the park, but this is easily the most concentrated and most destructive we've seen," the chief ranger with the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park said. Some carvings are a quarter- to a half-inch deep.

Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/29268129/detail.html>

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Dams Sector

54. *September 23, Madison Capital Times* – (Wisconsin) **Metal gates stolen from lock and dam levee on Mississippi River.** Thieves in Grant County, Wisconsin, broke through concrete to get metal gates out of a levee that is part of a lock and dam on the Mississippi River, authorities reported September 23. The Grant County Sheriff's Department said the theft of the gates, valued at about \$3,000, took place between September 19 and 21, and was reported by the lock master of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The metal gates have the words "Lock and Dam 11" and "USACE" welded on them.

Source: http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/crime_and_courts/article_7778e78c-e542-11e0-b4e8-001cc4c03286.html?mode=more

55. *September 22, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **County levels the levee to limit flood threat.** A section of a century-old levee along the Yakima River north of Wapato, Washington, is being removed under a county project that will reduce the threat of flood damage to Interstate 82, the Yakima Herald reported September 22. The project involves cutting a 300-foot breach in the levee originally placed to protect some of the earliest farmed land below Union Gap. That land is now state-owned and no longer farmed, but the threat to the freeway continues. A project coordinator in the county's surface water division said breaching the levee will allow high water to flow

back into the river and away from the freeway. Water had been getting behind the deteriorating levee system and had no place to go but against the freeway road bed. A county fish and wildlife biologist said the soil under the freeway contains clay and could fail from prolonged contact with water.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2011/09/22/county-levels-the-levee-to-limit-flood-threat>

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