



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 27 September 2011

Top Stories

- Torrential rain September 26 piled water 8-feet high in streets and basements in Colerain Township, Ohio, and led to the rescue of scores of stranded motorists. – *Cincinnati Enquirer* (See item [20](#))
- The mayor of Sparks, Nevada, declared a state of emergency and canceled a road rally after a huge brawl September 23 outside a casino led to shootings, one death, and several injuries. – *CNN* (See item [59](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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 25, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Fire at oil well destroys 7 trucks.** A fire outside an oil well on the Atascosa and Frio County, Texas, line September 25, destroyed 7 trucks, at a cost close to \$7 million, the Atascosa County fire marshal said. He said the fire started shortly after 3:30 pm at a well on the R.H. Pickens "B" Lease, which is near County Road 350 and Hindes Road. Workers reported seeing a flash, then the fire spreading quickly down a line of trucks used in the fracturing process, which removes shale oil and natural gas from deep deposits. The fire marshal said the

trucks were considered a total loss, but noted no one was injured during the fire.
Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/29298266/detail.html>

2. *September 24, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **Sabine gas pipeline leak under control.** A leaking natural gas pipeline off state Highway 482 near Toledo Bend Reservoir is under control near Ebarb, Louisiana, allowing residents in the rural area to return home, the Shreveport Times reported late September 24. All roadways also have re-opened to traffic. The scene has been rendered safe and turned over to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Investigators expected the leak to be completely sealed within a few hours September 24, a state police spokesman said. The pipeline leak was reported around 9 p.m. and prompted precautionary evacuations of households. Preliminary investigation indicates a small amount of hydrogen sulfide began leaking from the pipeline, but the cause was unknown. Air quality was monitored, but no contamination was reported.

Source:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20110924/NEWS01/110924006/UPDATE-Sabine-gas-pipeline-leak-under-control?odyssey=nav|hea>><http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20110924/NEWS01/110924006/UPDATE-Sabine-gas-pipeline-leak-under-control?odyssey=nav|head>
<<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20110924/NEWS01/110924006/UPDATE-Sabine-gas-pipeline-leak-under-control?odyssey=nav|hea>

3. *September 24, Middletown Press* – (Connecticut) **Connecticut delegation to announce new safety standards for power plants.** State and federal leaders were scheduled to be in Middletown, Connecticut September 27 to announce the development of a new safety standard designed to prevent the type of explosion that occurred at the Kleen Energy Plant last year. Two U.S. Representatives from Connecticut will be at city hall, along with the mayor to announce the release of a new National Fire Protection standard. Also expected to be on hand is the Chemical Safety Board chairman. The new standard, NFPA 56, covers the cleaning and purging of flammable gas piping systems. The explosion at the Kleen Energy Power plant February 7, 2010 killed six workers and injured at nearly 50 others. It was determined by investigators the explosion was caused by a process known as a “gas blow,” in which highly pressurized natural gas is used to clean debris from pipes. The gas was discharged into the atmosphere without the proper controls, and something ignited 400,000 cubic feet of gas and air that had accumulated. The new standard will also address a broad range of gas process activities such as pipe cleaning, repair, replacement and removal procedures conducted at power plants, and industrial, institutional and commercial applications.

Source:

<http://middletownpress.com/articles/2011/09/24/news/doc4e7d413202ab3764564739.txt>

4. *September 23, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Steelworkers leader says strike possible over refinery safety.** The lead negotiator for the United Steelworkers (USW) said the union representing employees at 69 U.S. oil refineries is prepared to strike if companies do not agree to stricter safety procedures at plants and pipelines. The USW, which

failed during contract negotiations in 2009 to get companies to agree to have a USW-trained safety specialist at each refinery, will make a similar demand during talks that begin in January for a new 3-year pact, a USW vice president said September 23. About 300 delegates to the union's annual oil bargaining conference in Dallas September 23 approved a bargaining policy. Refinery and pipeline union members, which number about 30,000, have not struck since 1980, when a work stoppage lasted 3 months. A strike would affect almost two-thirds of U.S. refining capacity, according to union research. During the last contract talks in 2009, the union accepted higher wages while relenting on new safety provisions after 12 days of negotiations in Austin, Texas. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-23/steelworkers-union-approves-bargaining-policy-with-oil-industry.html>

5. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Exxon Mobil to restart Mont. pipeline.** A failed Exxon Mobil pipeline that spilled an estimated 42,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River in Montana was expected to restart operations September 24 after federal officials approved repairs meant to prevent another accident. A quarter-mile segment of the 12-inch pipeline was replaced by drilling a new passage about 60 to 70 feet beneath the riverbed. That change makes it far less likely the Silvertip pipeline will fail a second time, the Montana Department of Environmental quality director said. The 20-year-old line broke near Laurel July 1 after flooding scoured the river bottom and exposed the pipe, which had been buried just 5 feet deep in some areas. Released oil fouled dozens of miles of riverbank, contaminated crops and pastureland, and was blamed for killing birds, reptiles and other wildlife. An investigation is pending into whether Exxon Mobil violated safety rules before the accident. Officials in Laurel had notified the company and federal regulators that they were worried about a potential failure of the line due to erosion. Federal pipeline safety officials said they had conducted an extensive review of the repairs made by Exxon Mobil to ensure the line could be operated in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The flow of oil will resume once integrity checks have been completed, a company spokeswoman said. Federal regulators also required that two more of the pipeline's river crossings be replaced, at Rock Creek, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9PUKCI00.htm>
6. *September 23, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **2 are injured in oil rig blast on Eagle Ford.** Two people were hospitalized after an oil rig explosion in Karnes County, Texas, September 23. The blast rocked a rig owned by Amerril Energy Co. on the Eagle Ford shale just before noon, near FM 887 and County Road 229, in Falls City, officials said. A Karnes County judge said one person was taken to an area hospital via ambulance, and another was flown to a San Antonio hospital. A truck driver who was transferring 45 barrels of hot oil into the well was injured when backflow set the truck on fire and ignited the explosion, said a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety. The driver, whose truck also carried two propane tanks, received second- and third-degree burns. Hot oil is pumped into the well during the oil production process. Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/state/article/2-are-injured-in-oil-rig-blast-on-Eagle-Ford-2183743.php>

For more stories, see items [8](#), [20](#), and [64](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

7. *September 26, Associated Press; The Pueblo Chieftain* – (Colorado) **Pueblo Chemical Depot says safety still a concern.** Federal officials said safety is still a concern at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Pueblo, Colorado, because of leaking weapons. A quality assurance specialist said more than 100 of the 780,000 chemical weapons stored at the depot have leaked since 1973. She told the Pueblo Chieftain that is a small percentage, but safety is still a concern. Authorities said no one goes in without gas masks or other breathing equipment, and storage facilities are constantly monitored for any leaks. The Pueblo weapons are scheduled to be dismantled by 2017 under an international treaty. Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/Pueblo-Chemical-Depot-says-safety-still-a-concern-2189089.php>
8. *September 24, Associated Press* – (Wyoming; National) **Wyoming gas plant shutdown crimps U.S. helium supply.** A shutdown of a natural gas plant in Wyoming that caused a significant shortage in helium supply has ended, and production of the lighter-than-air gas used for everything from medical imaging to rocket launches to party balloons has resumed, an Exxon Mobil spokesman said September 23. The Shute Creek Gas Plant separates helium from natural gas pumped out of wells and is the world's largest helium facility, producing more than 20 percent of U.S. helium. Recent maintenance at the plant took longer than expected — about 6 weeks instead of 4. Production resumed in mid-September, but the delay had a negative effect on a global supply already tight from disruptions overseas, said a U.S. Bureau of Land Management spokesman. Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/09/24/3934951/wyoming-gas-plant-shutdown-crimps.html>
9. *September 23, NBC Chicago* – (Illinois) **Dixmoor residents return after hazmat fire.** Residents in Dixmoor, Illinois, woke up September 23 back at home after a chemical fire forced them out of the area. A fire in a chemical plant storage tank sent sulfur dioxide fumes into the air around 4:30 p.m. September 22. Sulfur in the outdoor tank caught fire at the Rhodia plant, and the fumes were so bad that around 6 p.m., the fire department ordered some residents to leave their homes. Breathing in sulfur dioxide can cause respiratory problems. The plant, which makes soaps, detergents and shampoos, employs about 45 people, but was closed for maintenance when the fire started. A nearby mobile home park and another business were evacuated as a precaution. The fire department said early September 23 the toxic vapors were gone, and neighbors were allowed back into their homes. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Source: <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Dixmoor-Residents-Return-After-Hazmat-Fire-130414588.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), and [37](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *September 26, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Breaker fault causes shutdown of Palisades nuclear plant near South Haven.** The Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Covert, Michigan, shut down September 25 because of a breaker fault in the plant's electrical system. The affected DC electrical system powers lights and other indicators in the plant's control room and elsewhere in the plant, according to a plant spokesman. He said it is a redundant system with another DC power supply, so the control room never lost power though one circuit was interrupted. The plant was slated to return to full service once components were tested and replaced or repaired. The cause is under investigation. No energy is being produced during the shutdown, but customers will not see an interruption in service as the company has brought other generators online.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/09/breaker_fault_causes_palises.html

11. *September 25, Asahi Shimbun* – (International) **Hydrogen accumulates in pipes at Fukushima's No. 1 reactor.** Hydrogen has accumulated to a level higher than previously thought in pipes connected to Japan's Fukushima No. 1 reactor containment vessel, the plant's operator said September 23. But Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) officials said an explosion was unlikely because nonflammable nitrogen was being pumped in to prevent oxygen from entering the containment vessel and triggering a blast. TEPCO said it is investigating the possibility hydrogen has also accumulated in a similar manner at the plant's No. 2 and No. 3 reactors. However, the company noted there was no way to tell whether the hydrogen in the pipes had been generated immediately after the onset of the crisis on March 11 or in later stages. Nor could TEPCO measure how much hydrogen may have been generated in the vessel. The nitrogen injections are believed to have lowered the hydrogen concentration considerably, but some hydrogen, being lighter than nitrogen, may be accumulating near the top of the vessel without being driven out. The hydrogen concentration was found to exceed 1 percent, the threshold of the measurement device. TEPCO said it was conducting a more detailed analysis on the concentration level. An explosion can occur in a gas containing more than 4 percent hydrogen, and more than 5 percent oxygen.

Source: <http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201109240257.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *September 23, Composites World* – (National) **FAA fines Cessna \$2.4 million for composite part failure.** The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported September 22 that it is proposing a \$2,425,000 civil penalty against Cessna Aircraft Co. after carbon composite parts of the wing of one of its Corvalis aircraft came apart during flight. On December 6, 2010, an FAA test pilot performing a production audit test flight in a Cessna Corvalis experienced a failure of the skin on the left wing. About

7 feet of the left wing skin separated from the forward spar and damaged a fuel tank. The pilot made an emergency landing. Subsequently, the FAA issued emergency airworthiness directives grounding 13 specific Corvalis aircraft that used wings and parts produced in Cessna's Chihuahua, Mexico, plant between December 17, 2009, and December 16, 2010. FAA investigators determined the wing skin separated from the spar due to excessive humidity in the factory that prevented the bonded materials from curing properly. The FAA alleges Cessna failed to follow its FAA-approved quality control system when it manufactured the wings on the damaged airplane, as well as 82 additional parts, in the Chihuahua factory. The manufacturer has since made improvements to the plant.

Source: <http://www.compositesworld.com/news/faa-fines-cessna-24-million-for-composite-part-failure>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *September 26, Associated Press* – (International) **DoD extends program to defend cyber networks.** As hackers and hostile nations launch increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks against U.S. defense contractors, the Pentagon is extending a pilot program to help protect its prime suppliers, the Associated Press reported September 26. The program could possibly serve as a model for other government agencies. It is being evaluated by the DHS, as part of a potential effort to extend similar protections to power plants, the electric grid, and other critical infrastructure. Efforts to better harden the networks of defense contractors come as Pentagon analysts investigate a growing number of cases involving the mishandling or removal of classified data from military and corporate systems. Intrusions into defense networks are now close to 30 percent of the Pentagon's Cyber Crime Center's workload, according to senior defense officials. They said it continues to increase. The Pentagon's pilot program is part of the U.S. Presidential administration's push to make critical networks more secure by sharing intelligence with the private sector, and helping firms better protect systems. In many cases, particularly for defense contractors, the corporate systems carry data tied to sensitive government programs and weapons. So far, the trial program involves at least 20 defense companies. It will be extended through mid-November, amid ongoing discussions about how to expand it to more companies and subcontractors.

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/09/ap-pentagon-extends-program-defend-cyber-networks-092611/>

For another story, see item [8](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

14. *September 24, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Two bay area men charged in \$8 million fraud scheme.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) September 23 charged two Bay Area men with fraud in California, claiming they promised investors

up to a 6,300 percent return but instead spent millions of dollars on themselves, including luxurious parties and cars. The two are accused of defrauding more than 35 investors out of nearly \$8 million, according to SEC documents. The agency's complaint seeks to force the two men to return the money as well as pay civil penalties. The scheme began in 2007 when one of the men, who previously worked in real estate, raised about \$4.5 million with the promise of "financial freedom" and "maximum results with minimum risk" in a brochure to investors, the SEC said. In 2008, he teamed up with the second man, an unemployed construction worker with no experience in investing, and continued to promise investors an astronomical return. An additional \$3.2 million was raised over the next few years. Instead of investing the money, the SEC claims, the man with real estate experience spent \$360,000 on a surprise party for his wife as well as several Mercedes-Benz automobiles, jewelry, and basketball season tickets. He also spent about \$2.6 million of investors' funds to make improvements on his 8,000-square-foot Alamo home.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_18971213

15. *September 24, Associated Press* – (Arizona; Colorado) **Tucson man pleads guilty in investment scheme.** A Tucson, Arizona man accused of bilking investors out of millions of dollars pleaded guilty September 24 to two felonies, ending 8 years of litigation. Pima County prosecutors said the 70-year-old man pleaded guilty to fraud and illegally conducting an enterprise, and agreed to pay up to \$5 million in restitution. He could be placed on probation or be sentenced to between 7 and 21.25 years in prison. The Arizona Daily Star said the man and two other defendants originally were indicted in 2003 on charges they illegally sold promissory notes for a Colorado shopping center north of Denver. By the time the Dacono Mall project collapsed, authorities said about 110 investors had put up more than \$5 million between 1995 and 2000.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Tucson-man-pleads-guilty-in-investment-scheme-2187081.php>

16. *September 24, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Bomb threats called in to Mansfield, Coventry bank branches.** A woman called in bomb threats to First Niagara bank branches in Mansfield and Coventry, Connecticut September 24, police said. The woman said "an explosion" would occur in the buildings, police said. The state police bomb squad and K-9 teams responded and searched the banks, but found nothing, police said. Coventry police were working with state police and said they had developed leads in the case. They said they are searching for a woman wearing a light-colored top and a ponytail, and released a video showing her talking on the phone in a store. Investigators said she may be driving a green sport utility vehicle, but they did not call her a suspect.

Source: http://articles.courant.com/2011-09-24/community/hc-bank-threat-0925-20110924_1_coventry-police-state-police-bomb-threats

17. *September 24, DNAinfo.com* – (New York) **Bomb threat bank robber arrested for string of heists, police say.** A Harlem, New York ex-con who threatened bank tellers with bomb threats and claimed to have a gun was arrested for a string of heists around the borough beginning in July, DNAinfo.com reported September 24. The 33-year-old

was hit with seven counts of robbery and one count of attempted robbery for the alleged 2-month spree, which included hitting two banks in one day and even trying to rob the same bank twice just days apart. The suspect, who has done stints in state prison for robbery and drug sale, first struck at a Chase Bank at 2030 Broadway, near West 70th Street claiming to have a bomb, police said. But the teller refused to fork over cash and he fled empty handed. Less than 2 hours later, the man, who was released from prison in April, allegedly pulled the same stunt at a Sovereign Bank branch at 250 Lexington Avenue, near East 35th Street. This time, the teller gave him money, although the amount was not clear. On August 15, he returned to the same branch and again made off with cash, police said. During the series of heists, the suspect robbed a Sovereign Bank at 1350 Broadway, near 36th Street, a Sovereign Bank at 1062 Third Avenue, near 63rd Street, an HSBC Bank at 885 Eighth Avenue, near 53rd Street, and a Sovereign Bank at 2275 Broadway, near 82nd Street, police said. He last struck September 19, claiming to have a gun at the Capital One Bank on 1536 Third Avenue, near 87th Street.

Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/2011/09/24/upper-west-side/bomb-threat-bank-robber-arrested-for-string-of-heists-police-say>

18. *September 24, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Well-dressed bandit hits 10th bank in San Diego area.** The FBI in San Diego is asking the public for information about a bank robber with an apparent taste for nice clothing and luxury automobiles. Dubbed the Well-Dressed Bandit, the robber has hit 10 banks and credit unions in San Diego County since May 2010. His latest job was September 23 when he robbed a Chase Bank in the Sorrento Valley area of San Diego — the third time he has robbed the same branch, according to authorities. Witnesses reported seeing him leave in a Lexus or Mercedes. He prefers dark clothing and sometimes wears a cap to cover a balding or shaved head. He is described as black, in his mid-30s, about 6-foot-2 and weighing 220 pounds.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/09/well-dressed-bandit-hits-10-banks-in-san-diego-area.html>

19. *September 23, Financial Advisor* – (California) **SEC bars former California securities dealer.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has permanently barred a former California-based broker from the securities industry on charges he fraudulently raised \$14.1 million from over 100 investors in a Ponzi scheme disguised as a futures investment, according to a ruling issued by an administrative law judge September 22. The SEC said the man and his firm Axxcess Automation LLC devised a scheme in which he solicited friends, neighbors, and business acquaintances to wire transfer funds into bank accounts over which he had sole discretionary authority. The SEC alleged the man prepared and provided false statements to certain investors and misappropriated about \$10.7 million from new investors to pay old investors and about \$1.1 million for personal use.

Source: <http://www.fa-mag.com/fa-news/8627-sec-bars-former-california-securities-dealer.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

20. *September 26, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (Ohio) **Torrential rain, flooding prompts evacuation in Colerain Twp.** Torrential rain early September 26 dumped more than 3 inches across Greater Cincinnati, Ohio, and led to flooding and evacuations in a section of Colerain Township. The Colerain Township Fire Department began rescuing and evacuating residents at Blanchetta and Sheldon about 7 a.m. Motorists were pulled from cars after becoming trapped while driving into high water. The water spilled into the street from a flooded creek, a fire spokesman said. Water as high as 8 feet also flooded basements. One person was taken to a hospital for minor injuries. A tornado watch and flood advisory were in effect September 26 as heavy showers and thunderstorms that started falling overnight continued. More than 3.5 inches of rain was recorded between midnight and 6:30 a.m. at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, a meteorologist said. The storms knocked out power to more than 7,400 Duke Energy customers, mostly in Hamilton County, according to the utility's Web site. North College Hill schools were on a 2-hour delay due to power outages.
Source: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20110926/NEWS01/110926015>
21. *September 26, Truckinginfo.com* – (Iowa, Missouri) **I-29 in Iowa reopened between Council Bluffs and Loveland.** The Iowa Department of Transportation reopened Interstate 29 from milepost 55 in Council Bluffs, Iowa to milepost 71 near Loveland (I-680 interchange) September 23. The 16-mile stretch of interstate has been closed since June 9 due to Missouri River flooding. Significant work has been accomplished over the last few weeks to quickly reopen the road, including removal of tons of debris and hazardous materials, scraping the sludge from the roadway surface and hauling it away, power washing the pavement, testing the subsoil for stability, checking for voids under the pavement, and making repairs. As the Omaha World-Herald reports, much of I-680 is still closed, and officials expect repairs to take much of the rest of the year. Interstate 29 remains closed south of Pacific Junction almost to St. Joseph, Missouri.
Source: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=74801&news_category_id=19
22. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vt.'s 2 railroads back in operation after flooding.** Trains from two railroads that operate in Vermont are rolling again after extensive repairs of damage to tracks and bridges caused by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene. Flooding caused by Irene eroded miles of rail, pummeled bridges, and dropped trees on tracks. Both passenger and freight traffic was disrupted by the storm. A spokesman of Vermont Rail System said there were over 60 large washouts and any bridges had significant structural failures. A spokesman of New England Central's parent company RailAmerica said it took 90 people and 15,000 tons of ballast to restore service. The Burlington Free Press said the only significant remaining repair is a bridge over the White River. It is expected to reopen by October 10.
Source: <http://www.wggb.com/story/15547344/vts-2-railroads-back-in-operation-after-flooding>
23. *September 25, The Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Union Station, Metro station evacuated for electrical room fire that's quickly put out.** Washington D.C.'s

Union Station and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit train stop it houses have reopened after being temporarily evacuated because of an electrical fire. A District of Columbia fire department spokesman said crews responded to a report of an electrical panel fire at the Metro station at about 6:30 p.m. September 25. The fire sent smoke billowing from the ventilation shafts in front of historic Union Station. Both were evacuated and about 65 firefighters responded. The fire was put out by 7:30 p.m., and the train station was then reopened. A Metro spokesman said trains were held up in both directions for about 25 minutes. By 8 p.m., both Metro station entrances were open. He said Metro electricians were on the scene. The spokesman said water from Union Station apparently infiltrated a Metro electrical room, causing the sparks and smoke.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/union-station-metro-station-evacuated-for-electrical-panel-fire-blaze-is-quickly-put-out/2011/09/25/gIQAFGJNxK_story.html

24. *September 24, New York Post* – (New York) **Saudi man arrested at New York airport with bag full of weapons.** A Saudi man was arrested at New York's John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport after Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials spotted a stun gun and four other weapons in his checked bag, the New York Post reported September 24. The man, age 54, was arrested in a first-class lounge at JFK at 4 p.m. September 22 after agents found the contraband in his luggage before he boarded a Saudi Airlines flight to Riyadh, authorities said. A TSA agent initially spotted the outline of weapons inside a black bag that the man had checked — and a peek inside the luggage by another TSA agent revealed a fully operable battery-powered electric stun gun. Also found were three “electric stun batons,” an “electric stun pen,” and a large can of pepper spray, authorities said.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/09/24/saudi-man-arrested-at-new-york-airport-with-bag-full-weapons/>

25. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Man jailed in Utah for smuggling knife onto flight.** A Utah man held on charges he smuggled a knife onto an airplane, then threatened to kill a passenger, police and an FBI agent, has been ordered jailed pending a psychiatric evaluation, the Associated Press reported September 23. The man, age 60, was removed from a Delta Airlines plane in Salt Lake City before it left for Las Vegas September 18 after he threatened to slit the throat of a passenger during an argument over the armrest, according to court records. Authorities later found a knife in his carry-on bag, and the man was arrested. A federal judge in Salt Lake City ordered the man to undergo a mental health evaluation. He is charged with possessing a dangerous weapon on an aircraft, and retaliation against a federal officer by threat of murder. The officer who was working the X-ray machine when the man came through with the knife was sent for further training, the Transportation Security Administration said.

Source: http://www.heraldextra.com/news/state-and-regional/utah/article_b2b7e74a-21c7-57f3-a367-6f131398dc1a.html

For more stories, see items [2](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [12](#), [43](#), [59](#), [62](#), and [64](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *September 26, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (Ohio) **Fifth pipe bomb found in mailbox.** A crudely made pipe bomb was found September 25 in a mailbox in the 8000 block of Licking Pike in Alexandria, Ohio, the fifth such device found recently in unincorporated Campbell County. County police said all five bombs appear similar and were found in mailboxes in the same area. The Cincinnati Bomb Squad responded September 25 and detonated the device. The fourth was found September 25 in the 8900 block of Licking Pike. The bomb squad dismantled the explosive without having to detonate it, Campbell County police said. Police said three other crudely made bombs were found September 23 in the same area. Campbell County police said investigators believe the bombs are random acts of vandalism.

Source:

<http://communitypress.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20110925/NEWS010703/309270001/Fifth-pipe-bomb-found-mailbox?odyssey=nav|head>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *September 26, valleynewslive.com* – (North Dakota) **Fire destroys Minto potato plant.** A potato processing plant in Minto, North Dakota, was destroyed by a fire September 25. Authorities said workers were inside the Lone Wolf Farms plant when the fire started, but no one was hurt. The owner of the plant said the fire started in the packaging section of the plant as employees were just getting ready to ship potatoes. The family-owned plant cleans and ships potatoes to supermarkets and wholesalers around the country. The cause of the fire was not determined.
Source: <http://www.kfgo.com/fm-headline-news.php?ID=0000005496>
28. *September 26, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Night blaze damages pair of iconic eateries.** Two historic Spokane, Washington Garland District restaurants — one a Depression-era icon and the other a popular diner featured in several Hollywood films — were heavily damaged by fire September 25. Spokane firefighters initially tried battling the three-alarm fire inside Mary Lou’s Milk Bottle, but they had to pull back as heavy flames spread around them and over to Ferguson’s Cafe next door, authorities said. Crews began spraying protective foam in an effort to keep the flames contained. “Our concern was stopping it from spreading down the whole block,” a Spokane fire chief said. Mary Lou’s Milk Bottle, with its iconic milk bottle shape, is one of Spokane’s most recognizable commercial district landmarks. The fire is under investigation. Witnesses said they saw a downed power line arcing between the buildings.
Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/sep/26/night-blaze-damages-pair-of-iconic-eateries/>
29. *September 25, NorthJersey.com* – (New Jersey; National) **Pumpkin shortage anticipated in New Jersey; culprit is two tropical storms and a mold.** Farmers throughout New Jersey and nearby states are reporting the effects of Hurricane Irene

and Tropical Storm Lee have contributed to either a partial or total loss of their yearly pumpkin harvest. According to a New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) spokesperson, the pumpkin patches are being affected by a mold called phytophthora, which causes plants to rot. Plants affected by phytophthora have generally been exposed to standing water for an extended period of time. The NJDA has been tracking the pumpkin loss since the week of September 19, with farmers' reports from throughout the state claiming either a partial or total loss of their pumpkins.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/130544573_Inclement_weather_makes_local_pumpkins_a_rare_commodity.html

30. *September 24, Iowa City Press-Citizen* – (Iowa) **Fire damages downtown.** Firefighters remained on the scene of a four-alarm fire September 24 that caused extensive damage to several downtown buildings and destroyed the Bruegger's Bagels building in Iowa City, Iowa. Fire officials said it might be several days before a cause is determined, though they think the fire might have started somewhere in the Bruegger's building. The fire also spread to the Van Patten House, causing significant damage, said a captain from the Iowa City Fire Department. One resident of an affected apartment was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, fire officials said. The Iowa State Fire Marshal is investigating. The Van Patten House, which backs up to the Bruegger's building, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983 and dates back to 1873, according to the national register's Web site. Like the Bruegger's building, its second story and roof were gutted. The fire also caused some damage to the Vogel House, an 8-story apartment building at the corner of Linn Street and Iowa Avenue, the Iowa City Yacht Club building at 13 S. Linn Street, which also houses the nightclub, Studio 13, and the building that houses Takanami restaurant at 219-221 Iowa Avenue.

Source: <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20110925/NEWS01/109250316/Fire-damages-downtown>

31. *September 24, CNN* – (Georgia; Texas) **USDA recalls beef headed for Ga. school lunches.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a Class I recall for 40,000 pounds of ground beef products intended for Georgia school lunches, due to possible E. coli contamination. The beef was produced by Palo Duro Meat in Amarillo, Texas, by September 9, according to a statement released September 23 by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. It was shipped to two Georgia warehouses, where it was to be distributed to a variety of institutions, including six school districts associated with the National School Lunch Program. However, USDA authorities said they are not aware of the beef having been served as part of any school lunches, adding that the bulk of the beef products have not left the warehouses. The beef was shipped in 40-pound boxes. The contaminated products may have gotten mixed in with commercial products due to a sample tracking error, according to the USDA statement. Neither the company nor the USDA has received any reports of illnesses related to consumption of the beef.

Source: <http://www.koat.com/health/29292485/detail.html>

32. *September 24, Great Falls Tribune* – (Montana) **Park County livestock infected.** Results of disease tests received September 23 for a cattle herd in Montana's

Park County have confirmed some of the animals were infected with brucellosis. The tests were done on milk samples collected from six cows in the 150-head herd, Montana livestock officials said. Those animals were slaughtered September 22 after previous blood tests indicated the animals might be infected. Brucellosis has been largely eradicated nationwide but persists in wildlife in parts of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming around Yellowstone National Park. The remainder of the unidentified Park County herd has been quarantined. The infection marks the region's 15th found in cattle or domestic bison since 2004.

Source: <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20110924/NEWS01/109240312/Park-County-livestock-infected>

33. *September 24, Pine-Richland Patch* – (Ohio) **Pepperidge Farm recalls baked naturals sesame sticks.** Pepperidge Farm has recalled about 13,000 cases of its Baked Naturals Sesame Sticks manufactured at a plant in Willard, Ohio, because they may contain small thin pieces of wire, the Pine-Richland Patch reported September 24. The company, in a statement, said it would voluntarily recall the 10.2-ounce boxes of sesame sticks as a precaution because a few customers reported scrapes in or around their mouths after eating the sesame sticks. The sesame sticks were manufactured and shipped from the Pepperidge Farm plant in Willard, Ohio, and bear sell-by dates between November 20 and January 1. No other Pepperidge Farm items are involved in the recall. Boxes subject to the recall are marked with a yellow banner across the top of the package that reads "20% More!"

Source: <http://pine-richland.patch.com/articles/pepperidge-farm-recalls-baked-naturals-sesame-sticks>

34. *September 24, Sevierville Mountain Press* – (International) **Horse disease spreads at Dixie Stampede attraction remains open.** It appears the outbreak of a life-threatening illness among the horses at Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, is bigger than was first thought, and staffers at the theater are dealing with a full-on crisis, Sevierville Mountain Press reported September 24. A spokesman for Dixie Stampede discussing the spreading Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1), said six of the horses that regularly perform have been diagnosed with the disease. He said handlers were taking precautions to prevent further spread. The number of infected includes Sandy Jo, the first horse to exhibit symptoms. She had to be euthanized by doctors at the University of Tennessee Veterinary Medical Center September 23. Measures have been taking to protect the rest of the animals. "All five are separate from the herd in an isolation area and are being treated," the spokesman said. "They are not performing. All are responding to the treatment and their prognosis is good. The USDA [U.S. Department of Agriculture] has inspected Dixie Stampede and commended the facility on its disinfection and treatment protocol." EHV-1 can cause several different types of illness in horses, but most often it presents as a respiratory disease somewhat similar to the Rhinovirus in humans that starts with a fever and can progress quickly.

Source: http://themountainpress.com/view/full_story/15647863/article--Horse-disease-spreads-at-Dixie-Stampede--attraction-remains-open-?instance=homeleftlocal_top_stories

For more stories, see items [5](#) and [61](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

35. *September 25, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Septic pollution woes divide Kent Island.** According to an estimate by Queen Anne's County, Maryland, health officials, four out of five homes in the county are pumping water-fouling nitrogen into the bay every time they flush, while some leak raw sewage into their yards or drainage ditches during wet weather. County officials see a potential solution: linking more of the island to a sewage treatment plan. The county is seeking state funding to connect 1,500 homes on southern Kent Island to the county's wastewater treatment plant, which was upgraded years ago to take out the nitrogen contributing to the bay's "dead zone." Extending a sewer line nearly 8 miles down the island to reach them all could cost upwards of \$70 million — up to \$40,000 per existing household if they had to pay for it, far more than many residents are willing or able to spend. So county officials want help with the project. A task force appointed by the governor is studying the future of septic-based development in Maryland, and is expected to make a recommendation by December.
Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-09-25/features/bs-gr-shore-septic-20110924_1_septic-systems-sewer-line-kent-island
36. *September 24, Pottstown Mercury* – (Pennsylvania) **Pottstown official: High turbidity, not fecal matter, caused earlier shutdown of water plant.** Testing at the Pottstown, Pennsylvania water plant September 24 revealed that it was high turbidity levels, not fecal matter, that caused a shutdown of the water plant and a subsequent order to conserve water, borough officials confirmed. The borough manager said through monitoring the water at the plant during heavy rains, officials "saw high turbidity levels," meaning a lot of cloudiness, "some solids and just debris" in the water. Given the recent sewage leaks from Reading into the Schuylkill River, officials decided to act cautiously, and made the decision to "dump" the reserves at the water plant.
Source: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/articles/2011/09/24/news/doc4e7dcd8f96e6a518931208.txt?viewmode=fullstory>
37. *September 23, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Chemical found in Ipswich water.** Levels of the chemical perchlorate were found in the public drinking water supply of Ipswich, Massachusetts tap water September 23, Salem News reported. Ipswich switched to drawing the public water supply from a system of wells, which are "100 percent fine" according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a police sergeant said. DEP representatives were expected to be in Ipswich continuing to test the water supply over the weekend of September 24-25.
Source: <http://www.salemnews.com/local/x1126801533/Chemical-found-in-Ipswich-water>

38. *September 22, WebMD Health News* – (National) **Illnesses from contaminated swimming water increasing.** Eight people died and about 14,000 people in 38 states and Puerto Rico were sickened by bacteria and other bugs picked up during recreational swimming activities in a 2-year period ending in December 2008, a new U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report shows. In addition, more than 4,000 people were sickened and 3 died due to drinking dirty water in the same January 2007-December 2008 period, according to a separate CDC study of data from 23 states and Puerto Rico. Both reports were published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) for September 23. CDC researchers said there were 134 outbreaks of recreational water illness, the highest number ever reported in a 2-year period, and a 72 percent increase since 2005-2006. Of the 134 outbreaks, 60.4 percent caused gastrointestinal illness, 17.9 percent skin problems, and 12.7 percent acute respiratory disease. In the second report on illnesses due to drinking water, CDC researchers counted 36 outbreaks in 23 states and Puerto Rico that led to 4,128 illnesses and 3 deaths. More than half of the episodes were associated with untreated or inadequately treated ground water, an indication, according to the researchers, that ground water contamination remains a significant public health problem. Tye CDC said additional efforts are needed to monitor and protect sources of ground water.
Source: <http://www.webmd.com/news/20110922/illness-increasing-from-contaminated-swimming-water>

For more stories, see items [5](#) and [47](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

See item [8](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

39. *September 25, Boston Globe* – (International) **Official Providence, R.I. Web site server hacked.** The server that hosts the City of Providence, Rhode Island's Web site was hacked September 25, according to the mayor's office. "The hacker conducted a website defacement attack that affected a large number of customers of the company that hosts the city's website," said an updated statement from the press secretary for the Providence's mayor. It said the hack was not a targeted attack on the city's Web domains. The City of Providence's Web site allows Rhode Island residents access to online services such as making property tax payments, city jobs searches, and to submit construction plans for review. The computer hack happened around 5:30 a.m. September 25, and the city's information technology staff was alerted around 8:30 a.m., according to the statement. The Web site was restored by 9:30 a.m. September 25 after a remote backup. The statement said the city's internal servers, data, or e-mails were not compromised during the attack.

Source: <http://www.boston.com/Boston/metrodesk/2011/09/official-providence-website-hacked/0vVXQUwjFQVCsiG5jTncqJ/index.html>

40. *September 24, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **White powder prompts evacuation in Anchorage.** An envelope containing white powder prompted the evacuation of the federal building in Anchorage, Alaska, September 23. An FBI spokesman said the evidence has been delivered to the state lab in Anchorage for analysis, but initial field testing turned up negative for toxins. Further results might be released as early as September 24. The envelope was opened in the U.S. district court clerk's office. Besides the powder, there was a note inside. However, authorities didn't release the note's contents or any additional details.
Source: <http://www.lakewyलिएpilot.com/2011/09/24/1270140/white-powder-prompts-evacuation.html>
41. *September 24, CNN* – (Washington) **Police: Man who opened fire near school field dies in gunfight.** A 51-year-old man started firing several rifles as he approached a Washington high school athletic field, before being killed in a subsequent gunfight with police, authorities said. The incident occurred September 24 in Issaquah, a town about 17 miles east of Seattle. A King County Sheriff's Office sergeant told CNN the man was driving through the town when he stopped "and got out with a couple of rifles." The man then walked down a street, towards the field, and began shooting. He was then "confronted by police," the sergeant said.
Source: http://articles.cnn.com/2011-09-24/justice/justice_washington-shooting_1_gunfight-rifles-authorities?_s=PM:JUSTICE
42. *September 23, Lawrence Journal-World* – (Kansas) **Power failure affects Internet, phone and TV service at KU.** A power failure at Kansas University (KU) September 23 led to disruptions of Internet and telephone service in residence halls, as well as disruptions to cable television service. Power has since been restored to Daisy Hill residence halls, but the lack of power at the Ellsworth Annex, home to several KU IT systems, continued to hinder some services. KU Information Technology staff members ordered a generator to be delivered to the annex, and campus services were restored around 4:30 p.m. A Westar Energy spokeswoman said the power outage began around 8:45 a.m. Power was restored to the residence halls around 11:15 a.m., but she said crews were still working to restore power to the annex. She said she did not have an estimate on when power would be restored. The outage was caused by an underground line that failed, but the cause of the failure is still unknown, the spokeswoman said.
Source: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2011/sep/23/power-failure-affecting-internet-phone-and-tv-serv/>

For more stories, see items [7](#), [13](#), [20](#), and [31](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

43. *September 25, Jersey City Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Fire prompts evacuation of Port Authority building in Weehawken near Lincoln Tunnel.** A Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police building was evacuated September 25 after a pickup truck caught fire in a garage located near the mouth of the Lincoln Tunnel in Weehawken, New Jersey. North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue (NHRF&R) firefighters and members of the Port Authority Emergency Services Unit responded to the one-alarm fire at 500 Boulevard East at around 6:45 a.m., officials said. The main administrative building, located adjacent to the Port Authority garage, was evacuated, an NHRF&R official said September 25. Emergency services workers had to break into the garage to reach the Ford pickup truck that was on fire. The fire sprinkler system activated automatically and the fire was brought under control at 7:15 a.m., officials said. There was no disruption to traffic entering or leaving the tunnel, officials said, adding the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/09/fire_prompts_evacuation_of_por.html

44. *September 24, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Arizona prison safety lacking, report says.** Arizona's Department of Corrections needs to do more to improve security at private-contract and state-run prisons, a report released September 23 by the state's auditor general concluded. The audit called for further steps to address ongoing security problems. On their visits to several state prisons between December and May, auditors noted instances of correctional officers failing to pat down inmates properly when they were being moved, failing to inspect personal property and food items that were brought into prisons by employees and contractors, failing to adequately inventory tools, and failing to require inmates to wear their IDs. These issues also had been noted by the department's own inspectors, as previously reported by the Arizona Republic.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2011/09/24/20110924arizona-prison-security-lacking-report-says.html>

45. *September 24, Lake City Reporter* – (Florida) **3 police officers shot; assailant dead.** A Lake City, Florida man who shot three police officers then barricaded himself in a Northwest Irma Street home and held off law enforcement officers for 7 hours, was found dead in the home last night, officials confirmed at 9:18 p.m. September 23. "He had a self-inflicted injury," said the Columbia County Sheriff's Office public information officer. The man held authorities at bay by sporadically firing shots, shifting his position in the home, and utilizing a homemade tear gas device to keep them from entering the home. An investigator, sergeant, and officer all were shot as they approached the home September 23. The three were airlifted from the scene to Shands at the University of Florida hospital. None of the injuries were life threatening. SWAT team officers as well as Columbia County Sheriff's deputies, Lake City Police officers, and Florida Highway Patrol troopers answered an "all call" page and swarmed to the scene where the shooter was barricaded inside a house. Deputies from Alachua and Suwannee counties also responded.

Source:

<http://www.lakecityreporter.com/articles/2011/09/24/news/doc4e7de70d01e87053903302.txt>

46. *September 23, Washington Informer* – (District of Columbia) **DC fire station closed after chief discovers beer.** The entire fire station in the 1600 block of U St. in Northwest Washington, DC was shut down September 22 after a case of beer was found in a refrigerator on the premises. After the fire chief walked into the station and found the beer, he ordered its 15 firefighters and other staff to undergo alcohol testing at the department's clinic, according to reports. "I was a bit dismayed, shocked, surprised." he said in an interview "Our older members (command staff) should have known better." The fire chief said later that none of the staff members -- including the firefighters -- tested positive for alcohol and have been allowed to resume their duties. But the station's command staff still faces disciplinary action. "There will be some consequences for this." he added during the interview. "We want to send a strong message we take public safety very seriously."

Source:

http://www.washingtoninformer.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7068:dc-fire-station-closed-after-chief-discovers-beer&catid=1:latest&Itemid=219

47. *September 23, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. prison without water after main break.** The largest medium-security prison in Massachusetts is without water one day after a water main break, the Boston Globe reported September 23. Officials at MCI Norfolk shut off water to the facility after a water main break September 22. Contractors were working to identify and repair the problem September 23. A state spokeswoman said the facility's 1,597 inmates were given drinking water and hand sanitizer, and portable toilets were being used. An alternate menu was served, and three inmates with medical needs were transferred to the other facilities. The prison has been isolated from the water system that services surrounding facilities, including MCI Cedar Junction, Bay State Correctional Center, and Pondville Correctional Center. Those facilities were conserving water.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/09/23/mass_prison_without_water_after_main_break/

For more stories, see items [41](#) and [67](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

48. *September 26, Softpedia* – (International) **Data stealing apps released on Android Market.** Five new tools have hit the Android Market, which can be used by app developers who want to make a profit. Bitdefender has identified the threat as Android.Spyware(dot)GoneSixty.Gen. The stealer has to be downloaded and installed to the victim's device first, but after this job is done, the rest of the operation is straightforward. The tool is then capable of uploading to an Internet location all the information found on the phone, such as messages, contact lists, and browser history. The stolen data can be accessed by entering a code on the developer's site and while contact lists are free, the more sensitive information is made available if a \$5 fee is paid.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Data-Stealing-Apps-Released-on-Android-Market-223660.shtml>

49. *September 26, Softpedia* – (International) **700,000 InMotion Websites hacked by TiGER-M@TE.** InMotion's data center was hit by the hacker that calls himself TiGER-M@TE, leaving a few hundred thousand Web site owners with nonfunctional pages. “At around 4 a.m. EST, our system administration team identified a website defacement attack affecting a large number of customers. We are still investigating, but it appears that files named index.php have been defaced,” InMotion representatives said. The hacker claims to be working alone, his modus operandi narrowing to private exploits and zero-day attacks. It appears he did not do much harm to the sites, only replacing the index file on each with his own. The hosting company already started the repair process, guiding members who possess the necessary knowledge to make the repairs themselves. After a few hours, the company successfully restored 65 percent of the affected pages, urging users to refresh their browsers if they were still viewing the hacked site.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/700-000-InMotion-Websites-Hacked-by-TiGER-M-TE-223607.shtml>

50. *September 26, Softpedia* – (International) **Alureon trojan uses steganography techniques.** A version of the Alureon trojan was discovered hiding command and control (C&C) backup locations in regular jpeg files. The images were posted on random domains so in case the virus could not contact the primary servers, it would make use of these encrypted addresses. Microsoft researchers came across this form of the malware after a period of monitoring in which they determined exactly the way the new Alureon does its job. Win32/Alureon is part of the data-stealing family of trojans. Its multiple functionality allows its master to intercept private data, send destructive commands to the infected device, leaving behind a trail of damaged DNS settings. Keyboard and other drivers might malfunction after an attack from this specific malware. A closer investigation revealed the new variant downloads an extra component file called com32. The new element tries to communicate with many image files hosted on a few blogs. The images contain a string of data interpreted by com32, allowing Alureon to obtain a list of C&C servers it would seek to retrieve in the event the primary hosts' become unavailable. This technique of embedding a hidden code inside a message is called steganography. It appears hackers are using it more often to strengthen their malicious programs. According to the TechNet blog, the configuration files are masqueraded as pictures representing an old woman, a young man, and a bowl of Chinese herbs, and they are posted on Livejournal and Wordpress sites.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Alureon-Trojan-Uses-Steganography-Techniques-223587.shtml>

51. *September 24, Softpedia* – (International) **Malware spreads as browser update.** A worm has been discovered that when unleashed, takes over DHCP and DNS servers, sending undesired requests to more malware containing locations. Identified by the name of Worm(dot)Ropian.E, it immediately seizes the DNS and DHCP servers. Because these are some of the most important services that control Internet connections, the virus can make sure users are redirected to a single place, no matter

what URL they type in the address bar of their Web application. According to Malware City, the malicious destination looks like an error page that alerts “Your browser is no longer supported. Please upgrade to a modern software.” Users might be tempted to believe this message and click on the “Browser update” button at the bottom of the screen because every single request goes to the same site. If the update button is clicked, the device will be infected even further, acting as a DHCP server for the entire network of computers. To make everything more credible, the worm downloads a file called upbrowsers[date].exe, where the date is a variable that always matches the current date. Once executed, the infection spreads even further, installing a TDSS rootkit that does even more damage.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Malware-Spreads-as-Browser-Update-223486.shtml>

52. *September 23, Computerworld* – (International) **Facebook's Timeline will be boon for hackers.** Facebook's new Timeline will make it easier for criminals and others to mine the social network for personal data they can use to launch malicious attacks and steal passwords, a researcher said September 23. Timeline, which Facebook unveiled September 22 at a developer conference and plans to roll out in a few weeks, summarizes important past events in a 1-page display. The change has experts at England-based Sophos concerned. "Timeline makes it a heck of a lot easier to collect information on people," said a Sophos security researcher. "It's not that the data isn't already there on Facebook, but it's currently not in an easy-to-use format." Cyber criminals often unearth personal details from social networking sites to craft targeted attacks, he noted, and Timeline will make their job simpler. "And Facebook encourages people to fill in the blanks [in the Timeline]," he said, referring to the tool prompting users to add details to blank sections. Because people often use personal data to craft passwords or security questions and answers, the more someone adds to Timeline, the more they may put themselves at risk, the researcher said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9220240/Facebook_s_Timeline_will_be_boon_for_hackers

53. *September 23, The Register* – (International) **Experts suggest SSL changes to keep BEAST at bay.** Cryptographers have described a simple way Web site operators can insulate themselves against a new attack that decrypts sensitive Web traffic protected by secure sockets layer protocol. The suggestions published September 23 by two-factor authentication service PhoneFactor suggest Web sites use the RC4 cipher to encrypt SSL traffic instead of newer, and cryptographically stronger, algorithms such as AES and DES. Google Web servers are already configured to favor RC4, according to this analysis tool from security firm Qualys. A Google spokesman said the company used those settings "for years." In stark contrast, eBay's PayPal payment service favors AES, making the site at least theoretically vulnerable to BEAST, an attack toolscheduled to be demonstrated September 23. Short for Browser Exploit Against SSL/TLS, its creators said it targets a long-documented vulnerability in some encryption algorithms that cryptographers previously believed was not practical to exploit. The researches said they refined the attack enough to decrypt SSL-protected Web traffic using a piece of JavaScript that injects plaintext into the encrypted request

stream. They said they plan to prove the attack is practical by using it to recover an encrypted cookie used to access a user account on PayPal. The chosen plaintext-recovery at the heart of BEAST attacks algorithms that use a mode known as CBC, or cipher block chaining, in which information from a previously encrypted block of data is used to encode the next block. CBC is present in both AES and DES, but not in RC4. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/09/23/google_ssl_not_vulnerable_to_beast/

54. *September 23, Softpedia* – (International) **Internet Explorer malware plugin also infects Firefox.** A new malware threat has been discovered that, after infecting Internet Explorer, drops a piece of spyware onto a user's Firefox. With the aid of Bitdefender, MalwareCity identified the virus as being Trojan.Tracur.C. When Internet Explorer users decide to update their Flash Player, the rogue plug-in that compromises the browser also infects Mozilla Firefox by snapping a malicious add-on to it. Trojan.JS.Redirector.KY monitors all the Web pages loaded in Mozilla's browser. Once the unsuspecting user types the URL address of a search engine, a piece of Java Script code gets injected into the resulting pages, making sure the first link points to a malware containing location. From here on, the infection process continues, victims being subjected to attacks coming from all sorts of threats. According to Sophos, Trojan.Tracur.C affects Windows platforms and it runs automatically in an attempt to establish a communication channel with a remote server via HTTP. It changes Internet Explorer settings by creating registries Trojan.JS.Redirector viruses operate by launching a SQL injection attack that inserts JavaScript into the HTML pages they target. They can also be contained in HTML-based e-mail messages that embed the script or malevolent Web sites and redirect to unwanted locations. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Internet-Explorer-Malware-Plugin-Infects-Firefox-223449.shtml>

For more stories, see items [13](#), [56](#), and [60](#)

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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

55. *September 26, TG Daily* – (California) **AT&T restores service after California outage.** AT&T customers in southern California experienced a service outage lasting from the afternoon of September 24 through to September 25. The problem, which at its height affected about 1,000 cell towers, is said to have been caused by mechanical problems with the switching equipment that routes calls through the network. Most of the affected towers handled calls to and from Los Angeles County and Orange County. The problem started about 3 p.m. Six hours later, the company confirmed on Twitter:

"Los Angeles area AT&T customers may have issues with wireless service. We are working now to resolve. We apologize for any inconvenience." It is not known how many users were affected. Data and text services continued to function normally. Service was restored for most customers by the morning of September 25.

Source: <http://www.tgdaily.com/mobility-features/58680-att-restores-service-after-california-outage>

56. *September 26, ARLnow.com* – (Virginia) **Clarendon/Courthouse Verizon outage continues.** Hundreds of Verizon landline phone and DSL Internet customers in the Clarendon and Courthouse area of Arlington, Virginia were still without service September 26, a week after a contractor taking a soil sample struck several cables buried under Rocky Run Park. "Our restoral efforts continue," a Verizon spokesman told ARLnow.com. "We've replaced and completed work on one of the damaged cables, and we're at work on the second cable. We also found that a third cable was damaged, and we'll be replacing a section of that one as well." The cables contain thousands of individual copper lines, which carry phone conversations and Internet service to hundreds of Verizon customers in the area. Each copper line must be painstakingly spliced together to restore service.

Source: <http://www.arlnow.com/2011/09/26/clarendoncourthouse-verizon-outage-continues/>

For more stories, see items [42](#), [48](#), and [52](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

57. *September 26, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Fire evacuates Aurora apartment on Saturday; asbestos test keeps residents away for now.** Almost 300 residents who were evacuated from a burning and smoke-filled Aurora, Colorado apartment complex waited September 25 to see whether asbestos contamination will keep them from retrieving their possessions. The fire forced the evacuation of three buildings at the Fairways at Lowry complex September 24. Fire department officials think an arsonist used an accelerant to cause the fire that began in the hallway of one building. Smoke from the fire poured through breezeways that had been left open into two other buildings. All three buildings were locked down as tests were taken to determine if hazardous materials were present. Alarms in the buildings did not work, residents said. Aurora firefighters had to use ladders to rescue many residents in the 3-story buildings, said the Aurora Fire Department captain. He said the management company, Apartment Management Consultants, was performing air-quality tests to determine whether the buildings were contaminated with asbestos.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_18976778

58. *September 26, WSVN 7 Fort Lauderdale* – (Florida) **3 killed in apartment shooting.** Police are investigating a shooting in Sunrise, Florida that left three people dead late September 25. Shots were fired inside an apartment unit. According to police, two people died at the scene. The third victim was transported to the hospital and later

died. Authorities said, a 5-year-old child was inside the apartment when police arrived at the scene. Investigators believe the fatal shooting may have started as a domestic dispute.

Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21005469973368/>

59. *September 25, CNN* – (Nevada) **Hell's Angels motorcycle club member facing charges in deadly casino brawl.** A member of the Hell's Angels motorcycle club was facing charges including assault with a deadly weapon September 25 after a brawl between club members devolved into a gunfight that left one person dead in Sparks, Nevada. Police said the victim of the shooting at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort was a 51-year-old man who was president of the San Jose, California, chapter of the Hell's Angels. Two other people, both members of the Vagos motorcycle club, were in stable condition at hospitals after being shot in the abdomen and the leg, respectively. A 36-year-old was arrested after surveillance video showed him "shooting into the crowd" during the late September 23 melee, Sparks police said in a statement. The riot occurred during the Street Vibrations Fall Rally, an event that began September 21 and was expected to continue into September 25. After the shootings, however, the Sparks portion of the event was canceled through the weekend, the city announced September 24. The mayor of Sparks also declared a state of emergency. Besides assault with a deadly weapon, the shooting suspect also faces charges of carrying a concealed weapon; aiming a firearm at another; aiming or discharging a firearm where a person is endangered; and possession of stolen property/firearm, jail records show. His bail was set at \$500,000 cash only. Authorities reported that as many as 30 people took part in the casino brawl. Police responded with assistance from overhead helicopters.
Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2011/09/25/justice/nevada-casino-brawl/index.html?eref=rss_topstories&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+rss/cnn_topstories+\(RSS:+Top+Stories\)](http://www.cnn.com/2011/09/25/justice/nevada-casino-brawl/index.html?eref=rss_topstories&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+rss/cnn_topstories+(RSS:+Top+Stories))
60. *September 25, CNET* – (International) **USA Today's Twitter account falls victim to hackers.** The same group that hacked NBC News' Twitter account September 9 and sent tweets about a bogus attack on Ground Zero apparently grabbed hold of USA Today's Twitter feed September 25 and fired off a clutch of messages. The taunting tweets from someone claiming to be The Script Kiddies asked if Twitter had the courage to suspend the group again, and encouraged Twitter users to vote for the next account to be hacked. It appeared that by early evening September 25, USA Today had regained control of its feed. It is unclear who the Script Kiddies — a term used to describe novice hackers — are.
Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-20111422-83/usa-todays-twitter-account-falls-victim-to-hackers/
61. *September 24, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **25 evacuated following hotel fire.** Firefighters in Marysville, California spent the morning of September 24 fighting a large fire that forced 25 people to be evacuated. Firefighters said the fire started just before 2 a.m. in Knockouts Sports Bar and Grill. The fire spread to the Travelers Hotel above the bar. One person was trapped upstairs and had to be rescued, firefighters said. The residential manager of the hotel said 25 of 27 residents were home at the time of the fire. Firefighters said they had the fire contained by 6 a.m., but hot spots flared up,

causing flames to resurge again just before 9 a.m.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/r/29290382/detail.html>

62. *September 23, Wired* – (Nevada) **Report suggests mechanical failure in Reno air crash.** Federal investigators have released a preliminary report into the crash that killed 11 people at the Reno Air Races in Reno, Nevada, and although it does not offer a specific cause of the crash, it suggests a mechanical failure as the most likely cause, *Wired* reported September 23. The National Transportation Safety Board’s (NTSB) initial finding mentions part of the airframe “departed” from the highly modified North American P-51D. The NTSB’s report is mostly a summary of the September 16 incident, confirming many details already surmised about the crash, and providing further information about pictures, video, and data collected from the scene. Though investigators offered no conclusions in the NTSB report, the consensus within the aviation community is the pilot most likely was unconscious at the time of the crash at Reno Stead Airport. It could be another year before the NTSB releases a final report on the crash.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/autopia/2011/09/ntsb-report-reno-air-crash/>

63. *September 24, KNSS 1330 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Bomb left beside Wichita church.** Wichita, Kansas police were looking for one or more suspects who left a backpack full of homemade explosives next to a church in north Wichita September 24. A police official said members of the Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness Church were doing yard work when they came across a suspicious backpack next to the building that contained five homemade explosives. The bomb squad was called out and the explosives were properly disposed of.

Source: <http://www.knssradio.com/Bomb-Left-Beside-Wichita-Church/11018992>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [8](#), [9](#), [13](#), [20](#), [23](#), [30](#), [35](#), [38](#), [53](#), [56](#), and [64](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

64. *September 25, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Fire burns 1,300 acres in forest area near Mad River, cuts power to town.** A fire that started September 23 near the town of Ruth, California, has charred 1,300 acres in the Mad River area of the Six Rivers National Forest. The fire, which destroyed at least one house and other structures, forced most residents to evacuate when flames ignited grass and brush a few miles south of the tiny community. The cause is under investigation, an information assistant for the Mad River Ranger District said. Many homes in Ruth remained without power September 24. PG&E crews were working to restore lines. An evacuation center was open in Mad River. Highway 36 was open, but the county road branching off it and leading to Ruth was closed to all but emergency vehicles. According to forest officials, some 300 personnel were fighting the fire. No injuries have been reported.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/09/25/3936900/fire-burns-1300-acres-in-forest.html>

65. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **BWCA fire now 45 percent contained.** Firefighters continue to make progress on the wildfire burning in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) Wilderness in northeastern Minnesota. Fire information officials said September 25 that the fire was 45 percent contained and was burning over 146 square miles as nearly 880 firefighters worked on it. Crews were dousing spot fires with the help of helicopters dropping water. Some entry points into the protected wilderness remained closed. Campers were advised to check with the U.S. Forest Service for more details.
Source: http://www.twincities.com/ci_18974737
66. *September 23, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **3 buildings destroyed in Summit County fire.** Three buildings on property deemed historically significant by the National Register of Historic Places, burned down September 23 in Woodland, Utah. The South Summit Fire assistant chief said the fire that started at about 7:30 a.m. at 2590 E. State Road 35, destroyed a hay barn, a small milking room, and a shop, all adjacent to each other. No one was injured and no livestock was lost. The barn was being used for storage. The cause of the fire was not determined. The National Register of Historic Places lists the ranch house as an agricultural historic site. The property is privately owned.
Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/52631690-78/fire-buildings-historic-summit.html.csp>

For more stories, see items [23](#), [28](#), and [30](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

67. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **TVA installs new warning system at Watauga Dam and changes 11 others.** The Tennessee Valley Authority installed a new safety warning system at Watauga Dam in Carter County, Tennessee, and is changing alerts of water discharges that can cause rising waters below 11 others, the Associated Press reported September 26. Warning systems at 11 other dams are being changed by October 30 to activate only strobe light warning systems at night. Those dams are Appalachia, Blue Ridge, Cherokee, Douglas, Fort Patrick Henry, Great Falls, Norris, Ocoee No. 1, South Holston, Tims Ford, and Wilbur. Warning systems at the other eight tributary dams and the nine dams on the Tennessee River will not change.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e8f96b9b14454789ae1a036044937e02/TN--TVA-Dam-Warnings/>
68. *September 24, Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Man charged in trespass at dam.** A 21-year-old Eugene, Oregon man is facing federal charges alleging he entered into and took pictures from a restricted area atop Lookout Point Dam in Lane County, Oregon, but it appears that the incursion was not part of any plot to sabotage the dam, the Eugene Register-Guard reported September 24. He was charged with one count of entering a restricted area and one count of entering a military area for unlawful

purposes in connection with a March 2 incident. The dam is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Security cameras captured images of a white male inside the fenced perimeter of the dam dressed in camouflage clothing. He also appeared to be carrying a camera and taking photographs. The Corps issued a news release soon after the incident.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/web/updates/26924723-46/dam-corps-area-nelson-case.html.csp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to cikr.productfeedback@hq.dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703)387-2267

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.