Top Stories

- Workers mixing chemicals sparked a massive blaze October 3 at a plant south of Dallas,
 Texas, that led to thousands of people being evacuated from homes and schools. –
 Associated Press (See item 5)
- A huge fire in downtown San Antonio destroyed a historic building housing two restaurants, and severely damaged a building containing several city offices, forcing the relocation of at least 300 city employees. *KSAT 12 San Antonio* (See item 45)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical:</u> LOW, <u>Cyber:</u> LOW Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]

1. October 2, Associated Press – (West Virginia) W.Va. issues violation notices in oilwell spill. State regulators have issued four violation notices against a Georgia company for an oil spill near Elkview, West Virginia, the Associated Press reported October 2. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection officials told the Charleston Gazette that Atlanta-based Black Crow Oil is cleaning up after last week's spill in which up to 50 barrels of oil leaked from a faulty line at a holding tank. The oil entered an Indian Creek tributary, then traveled into the creek to the Elk River. The

agency's office of oil and gas and its homeland security and emergency response unit responded to the September 29 spill, which has been contained. Black Crow faces two violations for polluting waters, as well as failing to report the spill in a timely manner, and failing to have a correct American Petroleum Institute identification number on its well.

Source: http://www.chron.com/news/article/W-Va-issues-violation-notices-in-oil-well-spill-2199096.php

2. October 2, WKYC 3 Cleveland – (Ohio) Power restored after substation

failure. Crews have made repairs to a substation that caused thousands to lose power in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Power was restored to FirstEnergy customers around 5:15 p.m, October 2. As many as 15,000 people had lost power. Customers in Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, and University Heights, among others, were without power. Crews slowly restored power to customers throughout the afternoon. But as of 5 p.m., many were still without power as workers continued to restore the rest of the customers.

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \underline{\text{http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/209388/15/Power-restored-after-substation-failure} \\$

3. September 30, Associated Press – (Wyoming) Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission abandons proposed rules for methane farming. The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission decided to abandon adopting rules for methane farming. The commission made the decision September 29 in Casper, Wyoming, after receiving guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others. The decision allows two Colorado companies to proceed with methane farming in Wyoming under existing oil and gas rules. Methane farming involves encouraging coal-eating microbes that are naturally present in underground coal seams to multiply and produce methane gas. The technique is targeted at getting depleted coal-bed methane wells to resume producing small but steady volumes of natural gas.

 $\frac{http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/8b60107c9ead4d5385e3a49735048de7/WY--Methane-Farming/}{}$

4. September 29, Greenwire – (Louisiana) Federal oil spill probe finds U.S. regulations lacking. An ongoing federal investigation into last year's massive rig explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has found that a particularly lax U.S. regulatory regime was a significant factor in the events leading up to the disaster. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) is conducting an extensive examination at the request of Congress of the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident, which killed 11 workers. Its probe, which will likely take another year to complete, will analyze all factors that may have contributed to the accident. The CSB has already found one issue to be particularly worrisome: how U.S. regulations stack up to those of other countries where offshore drilling occurs. In particular, CSB is raising questions about why the United States does not adopt the "safety case" hazard system used internationally. The safety case requires oil companies to submit a set of documents outlining the potential hazards posed by their rigs. Those documents must include an analysis of the complexity of various risks, the safety measures the company has put in place to

address them, and what protocols have been established in case an accident occurs. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/09/29/29greenwire-federal-oil-spill-probe-finds-us-regulations-l-88637.html

For more stories, see items $\underline{4}$, $\underline{5}$, and $\underline{33}$

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Chemical Industry Sector

- 5. October 3, Associated Press (Texas) Texas plant fire sparked as chemicals were mixed. A fire official said a massive blaze at a plant south of Dallas, Texas, was sparked as workers mixed chemicals. A fire chief said he is not sure what chemicals were involved in the fire that broke out before 11 a.m. October 3 at a Magnablend, Inc., facility in Waxahachie. No serious injuries were reported. The chief said the fire should be brought under control by late afternoon October 3, and that about 1,000 evacuated residents should be allowed to return to their homes. The blaze sent massive plumes of black smoke and bright orange flames into the sky, forcing schoolchildren and residents to evacuate or take cover indoors to avoid possible exposure to dangerous gases. A Magnablend spokesman said 25 to 30 employees who were inside a 100,000-squarefoot warehouse at the plant evacuated safely when the fire broke out before 11 a.m. He said the company manufactures about 200 products, including some that are hazardous when ignited. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were setting equipment to monitor air quality in the area. Ellis County emergency management officials issued a mandatory evacuation order for an apartment complex, an elementary school, and a junior college. Sheriff's officials urged residents not to drive toward the area of the fire. A Waxahachie Independent School District spokeswoman said Wedgeworth Elementary School students were safely bused to another school's gymnasium by 12:25 p.m. Navarro College cancelled all classes for its 2,500 or so students. Magnablend makes, blends, and packages chemicals. Much of its business revolves around energy production, including chemicals used to stimulate oil and gas wells, and hydraulic fracturing. The company employs about 250 people, and has operations in four states. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44759380/ns/us_news-life/#.Tonw93KHNGo
- 6. October 3, Long Beach Press-Telegram (California) Tanker truck overturns, spills 2,000 gallons of oil in Lynwood. A tanker truck loaded with used motor oil overturned October 3, spilling 2,000 gallons onto Imperial Highway in Lynwood, California, authorities said. The accident was reported at 1:44 a.m., a Los Angeles Fire Department dispatch supervisor said. Imperial Highway was closed in both directions between Atlantic Avenue and the Long Beach (710) Freeway, said a lieutenant of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's Century station. When the road would reopen was not immediately clear. Firefighters first installed a dirt dike around the oil to keep it from running into storm drains, then hazardous materials specialists set about the time-consuming clean-up, the dispatch supervisor said.

Source: http://www.presstelegram.com/breakingnews/ci 19029071

- 7. October 3, WDTN 2 Dayton (Ohio) Tanker ignites, temporarily shuts down portion of I-75. A portion of I-75 north in Harrison Township, Ohio, near the Needmore exit was temporarily shut down after a tanker caught on fire. It happened at about 8 p.m. October 2. According to fire officials, the passenger side tire caught on fire where the truck bed meets its load. An official cause is still under investigation; however, officials believe the brakes ignited the blaze. According to officials, the tanker was carrying a flammable paint material used on aircraft. The chemical did not leak onto the roadway. Traffic reopened around 10 p.m.

 Source: http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/tanker-catches-fire,-temporarily-shuts-down-portion-of-75
- 8. October 2, Chicago Tribune (Illinois) Fire, explosions hit Chicago chemical plant. Tanks used to ship chemicals blew up at an industrial plant on the South Side of Chicago just before 10:30 p.m. October 1, creating a 200-foot-wide debris field, and prompting a still-and-box alarm and level 2 hazmat response from the Chicago Fire Department. The plant is located in the 12000 block of South Doty Avenue. A Chicago Fire Department spokesman said the department delayed using water because it was not immediately clear exactly what was burning. Firefighters eventually suppressed the fire using foam. The still-and-box alarm was struck out about 11:40 p.m., but the hazmat response remained in effect until about midnight, according to fire officials. During the fire, a ramp for the Bishop Ford Freeway at 115th Street was closed, but it since has been reopened.

Source: http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fire-explosions-hit-chicago-chemical-plant

9. October 1, Assoicated Press – (Hawaii) Labor officials blame working conditions for blast that killed 5 at storage bunker. Hawaii labor officials are blaming what they termed "unsafe working conditions" for an explosion that killed five men at a fireworks storage bunker earlier this year. The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations said in a report released September 30 that it was seeking fines of \$415,000 from Donaldson Enterprises Inc. for the blast in April. Investigators said the explosion happened as the workers were taking apart commercial grade fireworks. The blast was so powerful it scorched trees 40 feet away. Investigators said the company failed to provide a "hazard assessment on the dangers of disassembling pyrotechnic materials" and failed to store flammable liquids away from exits. Donaldson had a contract with a federal agency to destroy illegal fireworks that had been confiscated, a Honolulu Fire Department captain said shortly after the blast. The bunker it leased housed large aerial fireworks of the kind often used in public displays on holidays and special occasions. Though state labor officials have finished their investigation, other agencies including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration — are waiting for tests results.

Source:

 $\frac{http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/49098f3fa986430ab2d4987beabf0869/HI-Hawaii-Fireworks-Explosion/}{}$

10. September 30, KVUE 24 Austin – (Texas) Crews battle crude oil fire at Pasadena chemical plant. Authorities were battling a crude oil fire at a chemical plant in Pasadena, Texas, September 30. Firefighters said they responded to the blaze at the Pasadena Refining System at 111 Red Bluff Road around 1:40 p.m. The Houston Fire Department assisted Pasadena in putting out the fire, which authorities said was fully contained. As a precaution, shelter in place orders were issued for several northern Pasadena Independent School District schools, including Pasadena High, Jackson Intermediate, Gardens Elementary, Kruse Elementary, De Zavala 5th Grade, and Richey Elementary. The orders have since been lifted. The cause of the fire was unknown.

Source: http://www.kvue.com/news/state/130873123.html

For more stories, see items 14, 21, and 35

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

11. October 3, Yomiuri Shimbun – (International) No explosion at No. 2 reactor / **TEPCO:** Only 3 hydrogen blasts occurred at Fukushima N-plant. The Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) panel investigating the nuclear crisis at Japan's Fukushima No. 1 power plant has concluded a hydrogen explosion did not occur at the plant's No. 2 reactor, overturning its previous conclusion an explosion took place March 15, according to a draft of the panel's interim report October 3. According to TEPCO, the first hydrogen explosion took place in the No. 1 reactor building March 12, followed by an explosion at the No. 3 reactor March 14. Early on the morning of March 15, TEPCO confirmed the sound of an explosion, and then found damage in the No. 4 reactor building as well as significantly lower pressure at the No. 2 reactor's pressure suppression pool. This led them to conclude in June that explosions occurred almost simultaneously. However, the panel studied a seismometer at the plant and found only one explosion tremor was recorded, at the No. 4 reactor. Due to the fact the pressure at the No. 2 reactor's pressure suppression pool dropped around that time, the panel said the reactor's containment vessel may have sustained other damage. The interim report also referred to a possible reason why hydrogen explosions occurred at the Nos. 1 and 3 reactors. The report said silicon rubber used to seal the spaces between doors and wall, and between the containment vessels and their lids, may have not functioned properly due to the high temperatures, opening gaps that allowed the release of hydrogen into the reactor building.

Source: http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T111002003221.htm

12. October 2, Associated Press – (Michigan) Palisades nuke plant restarts after week shutdown. Operators of the Palisades nuclear plant in Covert, Michigan, October 2 resumed power generation after a one-week shutdown following a mechanical problem, utility officials said. The plant shut down automatically September 25 when two small pieces of metal inside the breaker panel touched, causing a short circuit. Steam containing "a tiny amount" of tritium, a radioactive isotope, escaped after the shutdown but caused no safety risk and was far below regulatory limits, a Nuclear Regulatory

Commission spokeswoman said. She said the steam quickly dissipated in the atmosphere.

Source: http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/pnr-palisades-nuke-plant-restarts-after-week-shutdown-20111002,0,4923048.story

13. September 30, Associated Press – (Georgia) Radioactive water found under Ga. nuke plant. Radioactive water was found underneath a Southern Co. nuclear power plant in southeast Georgia, the Associated Press reported September 30. Atlanta-based Southern Co. learned of the leak beneath Plant Hatch in Baxley September 28 when it identified radioactive tritium in two test wells about 25 feet below the ground, said the utility vice president who oversees the plant. Workers guided by ground-penetrating radar planned to dig September 30 to identify leak's source. The vice president and state environmental officials said it is unlikely plant workers or residents will be exposed to radiation because it is confined to an area within the facility, and was not headed toward drinking water supplies. So far, testing by the utility shows no signs that tritium from the leak has gotten into aquifers that supply drinking water or into the Altamaha River, which provides cooling water for the nuclear plant. The contours of the ground would tend to move the tritium away from the nearest private well, which is roughly a mile from the site, and toward the river, said the manager of the state's environmental radiation program.

Source: http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9Q32L4G0.htm

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

14. October 2, KKTV 11 Colorado Springs – (Colorado) Fire out at Colorado Springs business. A fire at a Colorado Springs, Colorado company is out after burning late into October 2. Workers were assessing the damage October 3. Officials said the fire at Western Forge was burning in an oil-filled pit that is used to cool the temperature of tools after they are manufactured. The main level of the business was reportedly filled with smoke. There were 44 firefighters on scene fighting the fire, and there was a major concern about hazardous materials posing a threat.

Source:

http://www.kktv.com/news/headlines/Fire At Western Forge 130953603.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. October 2, Cybercast News Service – (California) FBI seeks public's help IDing 'Mr. Magoo Bandit'. FBI agents asked for the public's help October 2 in identifying and arresting a bald-headed bank robber believed responsible for 6 local holdups. The "Mr. Magoo Bandit" struck in San Diego September 7 at a U.S. Bank branch at 3201 University Avenue, and, by releasing video of him, FBI agents hope someone will recognize him. He is also wanted for bank robberies in Camarillo, South San Francisco, and Novato. The most recent holdup was at a Chase branch in Camarillo September 27. He wears prescription glasses and typically uses demand notes. No weapon has been used so far. The robber is white, believed to be in his 40s,and weighs about 200 pounds.

Source: http://www.760kfmb.com/story/15597540/fbi-seeks-publics-help-in-iding-mr-magoo-bandit

- 16. October 2, Miami Herald (Florida) Fire official, 2 others from Broward convicted of \$7M mortgage fraud. A federal jury October 2 found a Miami assistant fire chief guilty on three counts of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud in a mortgage scheme that cost lenders \$7 million. The 44-year-old and her co-defendants were charged in February 2010 in a multi-million-dollar mortgage-fraud scheme involving condos in Aventura, Florida. A licensed mortgage broker, the woman was the department's first black female firefighter. She went on paid administrative leave after the indictment. It accused the woman and her co-defendants of using straw buyers, submitting false mortgage-application paperwork to lenders, and profiting from money made on the deals. She had been earning \$184,336 a year to oversee the fire department's payroll, and entered the deferred retirement option program in September 2010, with a \$166,687 pension. According to the U.S. sttorney's office, she netted about \$317,000 "in fraud proceeds in less than a month" from phony deals involving the Hidden Bay Condominium Complex at 3370 NE 190th Street. As the conspiracy progressed about \$11 million in fraudulent loans were issued, resulting in a loss to lenders of about \$7 million, a press release said. All three defendants were taken into custody after the verdict. They face up to 20 years in prison on each count. Source: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/mh-miami-fire-official-fraud-20111002,0,5218699.story
- 17. October 2, Houston Chronicle (Texas) Man accused of stealing ATM with forklift. A 40-year-old wore a ski mask as he apparently worked alone October 2 to unbolt an ATM from Bank of America at 18505 Champion Forest in Spring, Texas, the Harris County Precinct 4 constable assistant chief said. He said the suspect then used a stolen forklift to load the machine into a stolen U-Haul. A witness called authorities, who arrived seconds after the man pulled away. He was arrested less than a mile from the bank. The suspect's criminal history already included two jail stints for felony theft, and criminal mischief charges. He now faces charges for felony theft of over \$200,000, and criminal mischief. Each charge could result in jail time of between 5 and 99 years in prison, police said. Because the targeted bank property is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the incident may result in federal charges, police said. Source: http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Man-caught-after-stealing-ATM-with-forklift-2199315.php

18. September 30, Associated Press – (National) FTC: Debit card scheme defrauded merchants. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said September 30 it is paying \$350,000 in refunds to 100 small U.S. merchants defrauded in a debit and credit card scheme. The scheme involved several firms that falsely promised they would save small businesses money in credit and debit card processing fees by offering lower rates than those of other card-processing services. However, the firms failed to disclose fees and concealed pages of fine print until after the merchants had signed contracts for their services, the FTC said. The FTC identified the firms that perpetrated the scheme as Merchant Processing Inc., Direct Merchant Processing Inc., Vequity Financial Group Inc., and PPI Services Inc. The agency reached settlements with two defendants that banned them from marketing card processing goods or services for sale or lease. Merchants due to receive refunds were to get between \$100 and more than \$25,000, depending on how much the merchant paid, the FTC said. Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/30/business-us-debit-card-

fraud 8710414.html

19. September 30, Reuters – (National) SEC finds failures at credit raters. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) staff found "apparent failures" at each of the 10 credit rating agencies they examined, including Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch, the agency said September 30 in its first annual report on credit raters. The SEC sent letters outlining concerns to each ratings firm and demanded a remediation plan with 30 days, an agency official said in a conference call with reporters. SEC staff said concerns include failures to follow ratings methodologies, failures in making timely and accurate disclosures, and failures to manage conflicts of interest. The report was required by last year's Dodd-Frank financial oversight law. The staff report did not single out by name any credit-rating agency for questionable actions, but it did describe specific problems it found. Two of the three largest firms, for example, did not have specific policies in place to manage conflicts of interest when rating an offering from an issuer who is also a large shareholder of the firm. One of the large firms, the report said, did not have effective procedures in place to prevent leaks of ratings before they are published, the report said. One of the three firms also failed to follow its methodology in rating certain asset-backed securities, was slow to discover, disclose and fix the errors, and may have let business interests influence its mistakes, the report said. It said the SEC has not determined that any of the findings constituted a "material regulatory deficiency", but said it might do so in the future.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/30/us-sec-ratersidUSTRE78S50920110930?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

For another story, see item 41

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Transportation Sector

20. October 3, Associated Press – (Texas) Freight train hits stopped train in **Arlington.** A Union Pacific spokeswoman said cleanup may take several days after a freight train rear-ended a stopped train in Arlington, Texas, October 3. The

spokeswoman said the cleanup was taking longer than expected along the track near the Arlington-Fort Worth city line. The heavy equipment being used was blocking the highway next to the track, Texas 180. The Arlington Fire Battalion chief saidthree locomotives derailed, and three to five cargo containers were crushed when an eastbound train hit another train that was stopped.

Source: http://www.news-journal.com/news/state/freight-train-hits-stopped-train-in-arlington/article b8952bf0-52dc-5245-af70-67f46a2db58f.html

21. October 1, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star – (Virginia) Violations found in truck **checks.** Fifteen commercial trucks failed federal inspections and 4 were overweight at a checking detail conducted September 30 at Dixon Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Officers from several area jurisdictions along with state authorities inspected 51 trucks, which were pulled from the Blue and Gray Parkway, Routes 2/17, and State Route 3 (Kings Highway), according to Fredericksburg police. A Fredericksburg officer said 27 vehicles underwent federal inspections, and 18 were weighed. Of those trucks that underwent federal inspections, 15, including 3 carrying hazardous materials, "were declared out-of-service under federal criteria due to either unsafe equipment or unqualified drivers. Nine summonses were issued for safety or traffic violations," according to the officer. The operation, conducted from shortly after 8 a.m. until early afternoon, involved officers from Fredericksburg police, Stafford County Sheriff's Office, Stafford County Fire Marshal, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and special agents from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Trucks that were issued out-of-service orders had to be repaired at the park or were towed away. Source:

http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2011/102011/10012011/655666/mobile

22. October 1, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – (Pennsylvania) FAA investigates after airplanes launch from closed runway. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating an incident September 27 during which five airplanes took off from a closed runway at Pittsburgh International Airport in Pittsburgh. In a statement September 30, the FAA said runway 28 Right closed at 4:02 a.m. September 27 after multiple lightning strikes damaged the runway's lights. Nonetheless, between 7:20 a.m. and 7:28 a.m. that day, air traffic controllers in the Pittsburgh tower cleared the five planes, including three commercial flights and a private jet, to take off, the FAA said. A visual aid in the tower had been damaged and did not display the closed runway information. However, an FAA spokesman said the controllers were aware the runway was closed. All of the flights departed safely. There was no one working on the runway at the time, and no injuries were reported. According to the FAA statement, once the Allegheny County Airport Authority told the tower the runway was closed, controllers immediately stopped the departures. The runway reopened a little later that morning. The airport authority will meet with the FAA to discuss the issue. The episode is not the only one in 2011 involving takeoffs from a closed runway at the Findlay airport. On January 26, a controller cleared a Republic Airlines flight for departure on runway 10C at Pittsburgh International even though the runway had closed 5 hours earlier for maintenance. No one was injured, but controllers were required to take refresher training as a result of the incident.

Source: http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11274/1178967-147.stm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. October 2, Associated Press – (Florida) Suspicious package probed on Biden brother's road. On October 1, the FBI investigated a suspicious package containing a powdery substance that was delivered to a home on a Florida street where the U.S. Vice President's brother lives in Ocean Ridge. Two residents of Ridge Boulevard were taken to the hospital as a precaution after the package was delivered to their home. It was not clear if the Vice President's brother was affected. The Boynton Beach Fire-Rescue spokesman said the Palm Beach County sheriff's bomb squad and the county fire-rescue hazardous materials team responded. The bomb squad determined the package was not explosive. The package was later taken to Miami for FBI lab testing. The spokesman said the U.S. Postal Service and Secret Service were also on the scene. The FBI issued a statement saying, "Preliminary tests indicate the contents of the package were deemed not to be threatening in nature."

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gl3tOU7DV8-j6mS_SU3Gp8k0zpFA?docId=b2dee8d5bf224168a6f20ba7d262d715

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. October 3, Springfield Republican – (Massachusetts) Whately Diner fire causes about \$100,000 in damages. A fire that started in the kitchen of the Fillin' Station diner in Whately, Massachusetts October 2 caused about \$100,000 in damages, and is expected to keep the restaurant closed for at least a month. The fire started when cooks were working in the kitchen and several customers were in the dining room. The restaurant's manager, who arrived after the fire broke out, said the fire appeared to have started in an area between two grills. He said it could take weeks to repair the damage. The fire chief said the extinguishing system was activated, but did not put the fire out. The kitchen was mostly destroyed, and firefighters had to cut holes in the roof because the fire extended above the ceiling. There was no fire damage to the dining room, but there was smoke damage, the fire chief said. Fire departments from a many communities were called under mutual assistance partly because there are no hydrants in the area. It took firefighters about 3 hours to put out the fire.

Source:

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/10/whately_diner_fire_causes_abou.ht ml

25. October 2, State Column – (California; Arizona; Nebraska) E. Coli contamination prompts beef recall. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Manning Beef is issuing a voluntary recall on its beef cuts, including top-round, tri-tip, and trimmings, due to unsanitary conditions and the discovery of E. Coli bacteria contamination at its Los Angeles manufacturing plant, the State Column reported October 2. Officials said

80,000 pounds of beef have been recalled. This tainted meat was shipped to retail establishments and food services in Arizona, California, and Nebraska. There have been no reported illnesses related to the consumption of the taint beef.

Source: http://www.thestatecolumn.com/health/e-coli-contamination-prompts-beef-recall/

26. October 2, Food Safety News – (National) Kraft recalls Velveeta Shells & Cheese **cups.** Kraft Foods Inc. is recalling three varieties of its Velveeta Shells & Cheese single-serve microwaveable cups because small, thin wire bristle pieces may be inside the cups, Food Safety News reported October 2. The recall includes 137,000 cases of the affected products shipped to customers across the United States. There have been no reports of consumer injuries or complaints, the company said September 30. The recall includes the: 2.39 ounce Velveeta Shells & Cheese original microwaveable cups with a best-when-used-by date of May 16, 2012 and UPC 2100002322; Velveeta Shells & Cheese original four-pack microwaveable 2.39-ounce cups that have best-whenused-by dates of April 24, 2012 to May 16, 2012 and a UPC of 2100002339; the 2.19ounce Velveeta Shells & Cheese made with 2% milk microwaveable cups with bestwhen-used-by dates of March 25, 2012 to March 30, 2012 and UPC of 2100002323; Velveeta Shells & Cheese made with 2% milk four-pack 2.19-ounce microwaveable cups with best-when-used-by dates of March 29, 2012 to April 12, 2012 and UPC 2100002946; and 2.44-ounce Velveeta Rotini & Cheese Broccoli microwaveable cups with best-when-used-by dates of April 29, 2012 to May 14, 2012 and UPC of 2100002318.

Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/10/kraft-recalls-velveeta-shell-cheese-cups/

- 27. October 1, Food Safety News (National) Cargill ground turkey outbreak toll climbs to 129. Ten more cases and two more states have been added to the Salmonella Heidelberg outbreak associated with Cargill ground turkey, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported September 29. The outbreak, which prompted the largest Class I recall in history, has so far spread over 34 states, sickening 129, and killing a California man. In its update on the outbreak, the CDC said the patients became sick between February 27 and September 13. Texas reported 17 cases; Illinois 16; Michigan and Ohio 12 each; Missouri 7; California and Pennsylvania 6 each; Colorado, North Carolina, and Wisconsin 4 each; Arizona, Kansas, Massachusetts, and South Dakota 3 each; Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, and Tennessee 2 each; and Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, and Vermont 1 each. The patients ranged in age from less than 1 year to 90. Among 88 people with information about treatment available, 33 were hospitalized. Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/10/cargill-ground-turkey-outbreak-tollclimbs-to-129/
- 28. October 1, Food Safety News (International) **UK traces a major outbreak to its roots.** A rare, slow-motion outbreak of toxic E. coli sickened at least 250 people and killed one across the United Kingdom (UK) over 8 months in 2011 before being traced to raw leeks and potatoes, British health authorities announced September 30. The

national health protection agency said it monitored the outbreak for 6 months as people continued to fall ill, but officials chose not to acknowledge the illnesses publicly because they had not identified a source. But September 30, the agency said investigators had linked the outbreak to people handling raw leeks and potatoes in home kitchens. Authorities said the victims were sickened by a rare form of E. coli O157 known as Phage Type 8, or PT8. Of the 250 reported case patients, 74 were hospitalized, 4 of them with kidney failure attributed to hemolytic uremic syndrome, and one died. The outbreak is believed to have begun in December 2010 and continued into July. Cases were scattered across the UK, with 193 in England, 44 in Scotland, and 14 in Wales.

Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/10/uk-traces-a-major-outbreak----to-its-roots/

29. October 1, Agence France-Presse – (International) Chemical-munching mussels contaminating Great Lakes. Zebra mussels from the Caspian Sea, introduced to North America by accident, are becoming a veritable plague releasing toxic chemicals into the Great Lakes, Canadian biologists said, according to PhysOrg.com October 1. The mussels hitch-hiked to Canada on the ballasts of cargo ships arriving on the continent in 1986. And in the past two decades, the thumbnail-sized creatures have spread and are found in more than a third of the Great Lakes. The mussels are sucking on toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) trapped in the lakes' sediment and releasing the chemicals into the freshwaters, a biologist at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario told Agence France-Presse. The concern is the mussels are releasing PCBs that had been trapped in sediment for decades in waters where they are then absorbed by algae and other animals up the food chain until they eventually reach fish eaten by humans. Health Canada said small amounts of PCBs are unlikely to cause adverse health effects. But an accumulation of the chemicals in the body can lead to problems of the nervous system, and liver and kidney cancer. The mussels blanket vast areas in clusters, interfering with and even suffocating indigenous mollusks and crustaceans, and cause billions of dollars in infrastructure damage.

Source: http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-10-chemical-munching-mussels-contaminating-great-lakes.html

30. September 30, FoxNews.com – (National) CDC: 84 infected, 15 dead from Listeria outbreak. New statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the recent listeria outbreak in 19 states has killed 15 people and sickened 84, according to FoxNews.com reported September 30. Infections have occurred in the following states: Alabama (1), Arkansas (1), California (1), Colorado (17), Illinois (1), Indiana (2), Kansas (5), Maryland (1), Missouri (3), Montana (1), Nebraska (6), New Mexico (13), North Dakota (1), Oklahoma (11), Texas (14), Virginia (1), West Virginia (1), Wisconsin (2), and Wyoming (2). Deaths have occurred in the following states: 3 in Colorado, 1 in Kansas, 1 in Maryland, 1 in Missouri, 1 in Nebraska, 5 in New Mexico, 1 in Oklahoma, and 2 in Texas. A California company said it was recalling 90 cartons of chopped romaine lettuce shipped to Oregon and then further distributed to Idaho, Washington, and perhaps elsewhere after the U.S, Food and Drug Administration found listeria in a sample. True Leaf Farms said there have been no illnesses linked to the lettuce. Listeria is very dangerous and is the bacteria behind an

ongoing outbreak that has sickened and killed people in several states who ate contaminated cantaloupes that were produced in Colorado.

 ${\bf Source:} \ \underline{http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/09/30/lettuce-recalled-after-listeria-found/}$

31. September 30, WPLG 10 Pembroke Park – (Florida) Officials work to stop spread of giant snails. State and federal agriculture officials are working to stop the spread of destructive giant snails whose population is exploding in South Florida, WPLG 10 Pembroke Park reported September 30. The giant African land snail, Achatina fulica, was found September 8. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services now has a crew of 70 people snail hunting. Thousands of snails have been collected on 85 properties in five areas in Miami-Dade County. "We've surveyed 8,000 properties. We've found 10,000 snails," an agriculture commissioner said. He noted the snail feeds on 500 different plants and can affect human health as it is a known carrier of meningitis. Officials said the snails also can cause structural damage to plaster and stucco. The last reported outbreak in Florida occurred in 1966 when a boy smuggled three giant African land snails into Miami as pets. The boy's grandmother released the snails into her garden, and 7 years later, more than 18,000 snails were found. It took \$1 million and 10 years to eradicate the pest from Florida. Experts said they do not know why the snails reappeared. State officials were working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine the extent of the infestation, and to create a strategy to stop the spread. Millions of dollars will be spent to eradicate the snails. Officials said people should not touch the snails with their bare hands and should wear rubber gloves if contact is necessary.

Source: http://www.local10.com/news/29350860/detail.html?hpt=us_bn5

For more stories, see items $\underline{4}$, $\underline{33}$, and $\underline{45}$

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Water Sector

32. October 3, Digtel Beaufort – (Georgia) 2,000 gallons of fuel spill into Savannah River. A fuel spill of some 2,000 gallons was released by a 965-foot container ship into the Savannah River between the Houlihan Bridge and the Talmadge Memorial Bridge in Georgia October 1. The vessel, Ever Diadem, overfilled a fuel tank at about 6:10 a.m., and No. 6 fuel oil spilled onto the vessel and into the waterway. The source of the spill was secured and about 6,000 feet of boom was placed in the river to minimize the spread of fuel. Another 2,080 feet of absorbent boom and a skimmer were also deployed to recover fuel. U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah conducted over flights to assess the environmental impact, and Coast Guard MSU Savannah personnel were on scene coordinating cleanup efforts and conducting shoreline assessments, as well as investigating the cause of the incident.

Source: http://beaufort.thedigitel.com/green/2000-gallons-fuel-spill-savannah-river-27548-1003

33. September 29, Associated Press – (New Hampshire) EPA wants major changes to PSNH plant in Bow. New Hampshire and federal environmental protection agencies want a coal burning power plant in Bow to overhaul its cooling system to restore the health of the Merrimack River, the Associated Press reported September 29. The draft permit released requests the plant convert to a closed cooling system. The Public Service of New Hampshire plant currently withdraws 287 million gallons of water a day from the Hooksett Pool segment of the river and returns it at much higher temperatures. The new system would reduce discharge into the river by 99 percent, the agencies say, adding the current system has substantially reduced fish life. Estimated cost of the project is \$112 million — which would increase customers' bills by about \$1.25 per month. Interested parties have until November 30 to comment on the proposed conditions.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2011/09/29/epa_wants_maj or changes to psnh plant in bow/

For more stories, see items 4, 6, and 13

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

See item 31

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Government Facilities Sector

- 34. September 30, Associated Press (California) 4 hurt in Calif. high school campus attack. A male student stabbed two fellow students and a dean at South East High School in South Gate, California, September 30, forcing the school to temporarily lock down. Five people were taken to area hospitals after the attack, including the assailant, a Los Angeles County Fire Department inspector said. A campus police officer hurt his back in the scuffle. A Los Angeles Unified School District police officer said the argument started with the male student arguing with and choking another female student. "The dean tried to intervene and during that, the dean realized the male had a knife and was attacking the female student," the officer said. Another student was injured while trying to intervene. The initial victim was initially in serious condition, but her injury, along with the others' injuries, appeared non-life threatening. Students told local television stations the attacker was the former boyfriend of the female student. It was not immediately clear what triggered the initial confrontation. The lockdown was lifted a few hours later, and classes resumed.
 - Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/30/national/main20114190.shtml
- 35. September 29, Chicago Sun-Times (Illinois) Freon leak empties Des Plaines City Hall. A contractor "took the wrong cap off the wrong pipe," causing a large vapor cloud of Freon to escape and force the evacuation of the Des Plaines, Illinois, City Hall

September 29. More than 200 people were evacuated, but no one was hurt. The first call came in about 11 a.m. of an "odor in the basement" of the 6-story building, according to the Des Plaines Fire Battalion chief. Fire companies found a "vapor cloud coming out of a basement staircase," he said. The contractor was assessed on the scene by paramedics, but no one was taken to a hospital. Everyone in the building, except staffers in the 911 center that serves several northwest suburbs, was evacuated. More than 200 people were allowed back inside after firefighters cleared the building of gas. Source: http://pioneerlocal.suntimes.com/7949734-584/freon-leak-empties-des-plaines-city-hall.html

For more stories, see items 5, 10, and 45

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Emergency Services Sector

36. October 3, Seacoastonline.com – (National) Airport disaster exercise tests local first **responders.** To maintain preparedness in case of a commercial airliner crash, emergency responders responded at Portsmouth International Airport in Pease, New Hampshire, October 2 to a simulated disaster exercise that tested communication skills, cooperation between departments, water supplies, and more. Incident command started at the airport, where an in-flight emergency was declared after a hypothetical incoming Boeing 737 carrying 103 people on board reported an engine fire, said an airport operations coordinator. This year, for the first time, the incident was located outside the airport perimeter, as the plane crash was simulated off Nimble Hill Road in Newington. The Newington fire chief said a major component of the exercise was testing new communications channels designed to make it easier to break up responders into different units focused on firefighting, EMS, and search and rescue. The fires gave participants a chance to test the water supplies, which differ vastly between the airport and rural Newington. The airport is lined with hydrants, but in Newington, the water was hauled in from elsewhere, officials said. Units from Newington, Portsmouth, Rochester, Somersworth, Madbury, Exeter, East Kingston, Greenland, New Castle, Newmarket, Stratham, Newfields, McGregor EMS, American Medical Response, and York and Kittery, Maine, all participated. Newington and state police were also involved

Source: http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20111003-NEWS-110030336

37. October 3, Chicago Sun-Times – (Illinois) Cops: He stole ambulance while drunk. A 36-year-old intoxicated Avondale, Illinois, man with no criminal history was accused of jumping behind the wheel of an ambulance and driving off with it, making it about a mile before crashing into four parked cars, and causing more than \$100,000 damage October 2, police said. He was charged with driving while under the influence, criminal damage to government property, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, reckless driving, and failure to carry a driver's license, according to a police news affairs statement. The incident unfolded about 1:40 a.m. as the Chicago Fire Department ambulance was parked at Norwegian American Hospital. One of two paramedics assigned to the ambulance was inside the hospital while the other was outside in back of the vehicle,

according to the Shakespeare District police lieutenant. "He had just shut its doors, and then he hears the transmission shifting gears he said. The paramedic called 911, and police arrested the suspect about a mile and a half north from where it was taken. He was taken back to Norwegian American Hospital in good condition, and was treated for minor injuries.

Source: http://www.suntimes.com/7993156-417/cops-he-stole-ambulance-while-drunk.html

For another story, see item 35

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Information Technology Sector

38. October 3, The Register – (International) Crazy square barcodes can point your phone to malware. Russian VXers have begun using QR codes as a launchpad for mobile malware. A recently identified malicious Quick Response code on a Russian Web site links through a series of redirections to a site punting a trojan version of the Jimm mobile ICQ client. Android users who follow the links and install the application will be infected with malware that sends text messages to premium-rate SMS numbers, net security firm Kaspersky warned.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/10/03/qr_code_mobile_malware_risk/

39. October 3, Help Net Security – (International) Symantec IM Manager multiple vulnerabilities. Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in Symantec IM Manager, which can be exploited by malicious users to compromise a vulnerable system and by malicious people to conduct cross-site scripting attacks, according to Secunia. Input passed to the "refreshRateSetting" parameter in IMManager/Admin/IMAdminSystemDashboard.asp, "nav" and "menuitem" parameters in IMManager/Admin/IMAdminTOC_simple.asp, and "action" parameter in IMManager/Admin/IMAdminEdituser.asp is not properly sanitized before being returned to the user. This can be exploited to execute arbitrary HTML and script code in a browser session in context of an affected site. Also, an input validation error exists within the Administrator Console. Successful exploitation of this vulnerability may allow execution of arbitrary code. The vulnerabilities are reported in version 8.4.17 and prior.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=11716

40. October 3, Help Net Security – (International) iPhone 5 spam emails lead to malware. Apple expects to unveil the next iteration of its popular iPhone during a press event scheduled for October 4. As the excitement regarding the release of the new iPhone slowly reaches its peak, malware peddlers are taking advantage of the hype. Emails containing an offer to preview the new device were hitting inboxes October 3, and were luring users into clicking on the link, which takes them to a Windows executable. The file — iphone5(dot)gif(dot)exe — is hosted on a compromised server. Once downloaded and executed, the file shows to the user a bogus "iPhone5" image while installing an IRC bot in the background, which connect to a remote server.

"Infected machines can be centrally controlled via this server and are exposed to things such as credit card theft," according to F-Secure.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1861

- 41. *October* 2, *H Security* (International) **Chrome updates to repair Microsoft false** alarm damage. A new version of Google Chrome is now available; the latest stable release has the version number 14.0.835.187 and the latest beta version, 15.0.874.58. The update stops Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) virus scanner from incorrectly classifying the browser as part of the banking trojan PWS:Win32/Zbot (Zeus). A bad patch for Microsoft Security Essentials, Microsoft Forefront, and Microsoft Defender meant the scanners were identifying chrome.exe as malware and proposing to delete the browser. Microsoft released an unscheduled signature update September 30 to halt the false detection. The Chrome update should assist those who have been affected by MSE's incorrect detection and deletion by repairing the installed versions of Chrome. Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Chrome-updates-to-repair-Microsoft-false-alarm-damage-1353162.html
- 42. October 1, Softpedia (International) Mobile malware masqueraded as Opera Mini. Cybercriminals are taking advantage of the fact that Opera Mini is one of the most popular mobile browsers and creating a fake Web site which stores a piece of malware that looks like a genuine installation file. Trend Micro discovered the site that resembles the official Opera page and that was specially made to be accessed from mobile devices. The content of the page is in Russian so that is the most likely origin of the hackers. The visitor is immediately alerted that "Your version of Opera Mini browser is out of date, further work may not be correct and lead to enexpected errors and crashes! You need to urgently upgrade Opera Mini to version 6.1!" The java file that is downloaded was detected as being J2ME_FAKEBROWS.A. Upon execution, the virus checks if the mobile device uses specific message service centers and if a match is found, it starts sending simple text messages to a phone number encoded in the data.res file. The string "424626 357 OX" is sent to specified premium numbers using the SMS service of the machine. Devices that support MIDlets are the ones vulnerable in front of this piece of malware.

Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Mobile-Malware-Masqueraded-as-Opera-Mini-224863.shtml

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

43. *October 3, Winter Haven News Chief* – (Florida) **Eloise man, 35, accused of stealing wire.** An Eloise, Florida man has been accused of climbing telephone poles in Bartow, Florida, to steal wire to sell as scrap. The 35-year-old cut the wire from atop poles in the area near Cox Road according to his arrest reports. The theft caused about \$13,000 in damage, and interrupted telephone service. He was booked September 29 into Polk County Jail on theft, criminal mischief, and dealing in stolen property. His arrest reports said he gave the stolen wire to another man to sell to a recycler and they then shared the profits. Online jail records show the accomplice was booked September 28 on charges of theft, and defrauding a second-hand metal dealer.

http://www.newschief.com/article/20111003/NEWS/110035001/1003/NEWS?Title=El oise-man-35-accused-of-stealing-wire

For more stories, see items 38, 40, and 42

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Commercial Facilities Sector

- 44. October 3, New York Daily News (New York) Fast-acting passerby saves Brooklyn synagogue from arsonist attack in broad daylight. A couple of quick-thinking people saved a Brooklyn, New York synagogue from burning down in the morning October 2 after an arsonist set fire to the wooden lectern. A 30-year-old man spotted smoke billowing out of the Krasna Bais Medrash. After a quick look inside, he stepped back to dial 911 and grabbed a fire extinguisher from a paper goods store across the street. The store's owner and the man both raced back inside. They searched for anyone trapped and worked to extinguish the flames shooting out of the synagogue's bimah, a wooden lectern used to hold the Torah during services. The cause of the fire is under investigation, a New York City Fire Department spokesman said.

 Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/10/03/2011-10-03 fastacting passerby saves bklyn synagogue.html
- 45. October 3, KSAT 12 San Antonio (Texas) Historic building gutted by fire to be demolished. City officials said the historic Wolfson building on East Commerce Street and North Main Avenue in downtown San Antonio will be demolished after a fire destroyed it October 1, according to KSAT 12 San Antonio, October 3. The emergency demolition will tie up the streets around Main Plaza for at least a week. As a result of the fire, West Commerce Street from Soledad to South Flores streets, and Main Street from Houston to West Commerce streets will be closed while the cleanup continues. The massive four-alarm fire also damaged the bottom seven floors of the Riverview Towers, a 21-story office building that contains several city offices. At least 300 city employees will have to temporarily relocate for work. Employees were asked to call their supervisors or the city hotline for more information. The fire chief said there were no injuries. No cause or damage cost has been determined. The charred Wolfson building opened in 1880, a conservation society official said. It was one of just two remaining structures surrounding Main Plaza from that period. The building served as a commercial operation since the 1880s. It housed the Bell's Furniture Store, and more

recently two restaurants and an upstairs ballroom for special events.

Source: http://www.ksat.com/news/29369261/detail.html

46. October 2, Associated Press – (California) 3 dead, 3 wounded in California party shooting. Three people were killed and three others wounded when at least two gunmen opened fire as partygoers left a San Leandro, California, warehouse October 2, authorities said. The gunmen started shooting as a group of people walked out of the building around 1:20 a.m., a San Leandro police sergeant said. Three people were pronounced dead at the scene. Police did not know the condition of the three who were wounded. At least 100 people attended the party, which had been advertised on the Internet, the sergeant said. As the shooting began, many of the partygoers fled. The gunmen were armed with semi-automatic handguns, but police have not determined how many shots were fired. Investigators were trying to establish if the gunmen had attended the party, or arrived as people left the party. It was not clear if the gunmen were in a vehicle or on foot when they opened fire. No arrests have been made, and police have not determined a motive.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44749449/ns/us_news/#.Tom0lOxQhDg

47. September 30, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal — (Texas) Apartment fire forces evacuation by Lubbock firefighters. Twenty-six people in 11 apartments were left homeless after an afternoon fire at the Somerset Apartments in Lubbock, Texas September 30. Most of the victims were adults, but four were children, according to the American Red Cross. Two families lost everything. Dozens of firefighters spent hours battling the fire that caused significant damage to the building. Two units were gutted, while the other apartments sustained significant smoke and water damage. Police blocked traffic on several nearby roadways as heavy black smoke filled surrounding neighborhoods and could be seen for miles away. The deputy fire marshal said officials believe the fire started in a stove in an apartment on the second floor. He said there were no working smoke detectors in any of the apartments damaged in the fire. Source: http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2011-09-30/apartment-fire-forces-evacuation-lubbock-firefighters#.Tomi2-xQhDg

For more stories, see items $\underline{5}$ and $\underline{48}$

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

48. October 3, KTLA 5 Los Angeles – (California) 'Great Fire' now 40% contained, evacuation advisories lifted. The "Great Fire," which continues to burn heavy brush east of Julian in northeast San Diego County is holding at 2,000 acres, and was 40 percent contained as of October 3, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. More than 1,000 residents were warned by telephone that they should be prepared to evacuate, but all evacuation advisories have since been lifted. The blaze, which broke out October 2, threatened 25 trailers in a Canyon east of Julian, and forced the closure of highway 78 between Wynola's Road crossing east of Julian and Scissor's Crossing.

Source: http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-great-fire-burning-near-julian,0,5236435.story

49. October 2, Visalia Times-Delta – (California) Sequoias falling in forest prompts closing of Trail of 100 Giants. Two giant Sequoia trees fell side by side October 1 in the Giant Sequoia National Monument, prompting the closure of the Trail of 100 Giants in the Sequoia National Forest in California. Sequoias in that area are 245 feet all with 18-foot diameters, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman said. The mile-long, paved trail is a popular tourist spot that allows people to see the giant sequoias up close. She said there were no reports of any injuries, but Forest Service crews were on their way to the area to check, as well as to ensure nobody still was in the area. Because of concerns that the falling tree knocked loose branches and other heavy debris that could fall from the branches of the trees still standing, the trail was closed while officials assessed the risks.

Source: http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20111003/NEWS01/110030305

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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