



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 17 November 2011

### Top Stories

- The cybersecurity of the North American power grid is “in a state of near chaos” and its industrial control systems can be easily infiltrated with inexpensive smart phone software, according to a new Pike Research report. – *Ottawa Citizen* (See item [5](#))
- Facebook users were bombarded with explicit and violent images in a malware campaign, the social networking site confirmed November 15. – *Computerworld* (See item [37](#))

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### Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW**

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

1. *November 16, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Witnesses: Flames shoot 300 feet into the air in gas pipeline explosion in SE Ohio.** Witnesses said flames shot 300 feet into the air the morning of November 16 from a gas pipeline explosion along the Athens County/Morgan County line in Ames Township, Ohio. An Athens emergency management officer reported the Athens County Emergency Operations Center was operational. Firefighters told local public television station, WOUB Athens, that the fire was completely knocked down after 3 hours at about 11:30 a.m., and a 2-mile evacuation order had been lifted, allowing residents to return to their homes. The

Morgan County sheriff's office reported three nearby structures had been destroyed by the fire. The manager of media relations at Tennessee Gas said the crew on the scene confirmed the line belongs to the company. He said there were no customer impacts because the company has multiple lines and alternate routes to move natural gas.

Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/state/witnesses:-flames-shoot-300-feet-into-the-air-on-possible-gas-pipeline-explosion-in-se-ohio>

2. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Montana; Wyoming; National) **Pipelines owned by Conoco, Exxon at risk of failing.** Federal safety regulators disclosed problems November 15 with oil and other hazardous liquid pipelines at seven major river crossings and hundreds of smaller crossings in Montana and northern Wyoming — problems that could put the lines at increased risk of failure. Problems found at the major river crossings must be fixed by spring 2012 or the companies that own them will face enforcement actions, according to an official from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). That includes pipelines crossing the Missouri, Musselshell, Gallatin, Tongue, and other rivers that are owned by three companies: Exxon Mobil, CHS, and ConocoPhillips. Some repairs are under way, company officials said. Many of the pipelines were installed decades ago in shallow trenches just a few feet beneath riverbottoms. Erosion caused in part by record flooding has since exposed the lines or left them buried under minimal cover. The consequences of a line failing was highlighted by an Exxon Mobil pipeline break in July that spilled 1,000 barrels of crude into the Yellowstone River, fouling dozens of miles of riverbank. The DOT official said he instructed his inspectors to take a similar look at pipelines elsewhere in the West. The most detailed information has been collected since the Yellowstone spill for Montana and portions of northern Wyoming within the Missouri River basin. More than 170,000 miles of pipelines carrying oil, refined petroleum, and other hazardous liquids crisscross the United States, crossing some 35,000 streams, rivers, and other water bodies, according to the DOT.  
Source: <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/11/16/pipelines-owned-by-conoco-exxon-at-risk-of-failing/>
3. *November 16, Farmington Daily Times* – (New Mexico) **Mine remains closed after fire.** The San Juan Mine in Waterflow, New Mexico, remained closed more than 2 months after a fire broke out underground and prompted an emergency evacuation, the Farmington Daily-Times reported November 16. The section of the mine where the September 9 fire began remained sealed. Mine workers were working on recovery efforts to get the mine running again, but officials could offer no timetable for when normal coal production would resume. The San Juan Generating Station relies on the mine as its sole supplier of coal. It has not been affected, according to a spokesman for plant operator Public Service Co. of New Mexico. The plant is currently using a reserve of coal to generate power.  
Source: [http://www.daily-times.com/ci\\_19345857](http://www.daily-times.com/ci_19345857)
4. *November 16, Fort Scott Tribune* – (Illinois) **Prairie Pride fire; four area departments respond to blaze.** The Prairie Pride Bio-Diesel Production Plant near Deerfield, Illinois, was scheduled to be back in production November 16 following a fire November 14 that company officials and firefighters said burned only crushed dry

soybeans on the first and third floors, and outside the complex. A spokeswoman for the parent firm, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Co., said the fire started in the plant's pellet cooler area associated with soybean crushing. "There may have been a spark smoldering in the dust and dry bean products that they didn't realize was there. The electric motor may have gotten it started in a hopper on the first floor and then some of the material went through ductwork to a hopper on the third floor," the Deerfield fire chief said. After the firefighters had extinguished those fires, some ADM personnel found fire in an outside bin and called the Deerfield fire department to put it out.  
Source: <http://www.fstribune.com/story/1784812.html>

5. *November 15, Ottawa Citizen* – (International) **Cyber-security of power grid in ‘near chaos,’ report says.** The cybersecurity of the North American power grid is “in a state of near chaos,” according to report by Pike Research, a consulting group monitoring the industry’s transition to wireless digital technologies, the Ottawa Citizen reported November 15. The group's white paper revealed a \$60 smart phone application can bypass security measures and allow direct communications between the phone and some industrial control systems (ICS) that regulate breakers, relays, feeders, and the flow of electricity. As the industry evolves from largely isolated systems to a grid built around interoperable, digital technologies, security jitters are rising. Many ICS have lifespans of 30 years, and mitigation and compensation measures to help them mesh with the newer technologies are creating additional weak links and vulnerabilities. The installation of "smart meters" to improve electricity distribution efficiency is also a potential gateway for attacks. In a rush to install a patchwork of fixes to address potential cybersecurity gaps and with some utilities investing in compliance minimums rather than full security, "the attackers clearly have the upper hand," said the report.  
Source:

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/Cyber+security+power+grid+near+chaos+report+says/5715327/story.html>

6. *November 15, KSPR 33 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Copper thieves blamed for knocking out power to thousands.** The Christian County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a copper theft that knocked out power and put a person of interest in the hospital, KSPR 33 Springfield reported November 15. Early November 15, the electricity that flows from the White River Cooperative Electric Substation between Highlandville and Spokane, Missouri, was reported out. Nearly 2,000 people were without power. The Christian County sheriff blamed copper thieves. Investigators think burglars cut a wire in fencing and tried to extract copper from the ground cable. A cable came in contact with a live wire causing an explosion and knocking out power. A burned body part, a seared knit hat, and tools were found at the site by electric crews and sheriff's office investigators. Although power was restored to residents and businesses in a few hours, the repairs to the substation were expected to be costly. A White River Cooperative official estimates it will cost the company between five to ten times more than the copper is worth to fix the substation. Until everything is in working order, a portable generator will be used.

Source: <http://www.kspr.com/news/local/kspr-copper-thieves-blamed-for-knocking-out-power-to-thousands-20111116,0,5956228.story>

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## Chemical Industry Sector

7. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **Wreck shuts down I-59.** A tanker truck carrying flammable fuel additive flipped on its side and caught fire after suffering a blowout November 15 in Poplarville, Mississippi. While the cab of the 18-wheeler was destroyed by the fire, the tanker carrying 7,000 to 8,000 gallons of methyl carbitol, which is added to aviation fuel to prevent icing of aircraft fuel lines, remained intact. The accident took place near the Millard exit on Interstate 59. A witness said a tire blowout caused the crash. After the blow-out, the truck struck the left concrete barrier of the bridge, crossed both lanes of traffic and collided with the right concrete barrier. It then tipped on its side and burst into flames. Both concrete barriers suffered major damage with concrete falling off the bridge onto Savannah Millard Road. The Pearl River County emergency management director said the injured driver was taken to the hospital. The clean up took more than 6 hours as the chemical had to be removed before the trailer was righted and removed. Traffic was diverted to the off ramp at Exit 19.  
Source: <http://leadercall.com/statenews/x1938314006/Wreck-shuts-down-I-59>
8. *November 16, Orange County Register* – (California) **1 dead, 1 hospitalized after chemical exposure at paint plant.** One man has died and another is in critical condition after being exposed to chemicals at a paint-manufacturing plant in Fullerton, California, November 15, authorities said. Fire crews responded to Vista Paints in the 2000 block of Orangethorpe Avenue before 2:30 p.m. found two men suffering from chemical exposure, said a division chief with the Fullerton Fire Department. She said the men were taken to a hospital. One man was pronounced dead at the hospital, and the second man, was in critical condition. Authorities believe the chemical involved was a paint stripper. The fumes were confined to the area where the men were working. A spokeswoman for the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/Osha) said the men were thought to be working inside a tank when they were overcome by the fumes.  
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/kunze-327149-paint-fire.html>
9. *November 15, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (California) **California man sentenced to five years in prison for illegally storing toxic and explosive hazardous waste in his backyard.** A Reseda, California man was sentenced to 5 years in federal prison November 14 for illegally storing toxic and explosive hazardous wastes in his backyard, materials that posed an imminent danger to nearby residents. The sentence is the longest handed down by a California federal judge in a hazardous waste case. The man was convicted of the environmental felony April 5 by a federal jury. Besides convicting the man for violating the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the jury made a special finding that his conduct knowingly placed another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. The convict was also ordered to pay \$800,000 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region

9 Emergency Response Office for costs associated with a 47-day clean-up. During the clean-up, EPA contractors were forced to call out the Los Angeles Police Department Bomb and Arson Squad seven times to deal with possible explosives mixed into the burned debris. The convict was initially charged in June 2009, after firefighters responded to a report of a fire and explosions at his residence. Because of the ammunition that was being “cooked off” in the fire, firefighters had to wear bulletproof vests. Investigators discovered a large cache of toxic materials, including thousands of rounds of corroded ammunition, highly reactive lead-contaminated waste from shooting ranges, hundreds of pounds of decades-old gunpowder and military M6 cannon powder, and industrial solvents that contained 1,1,1-trichloroethane and tetrachloroethylene, two chemicals listed as hazardous substances under federal law. The convict did not have a permit to store any of the materials.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/6D74730266F1C683852579490078C859>

10. *November 15, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* – (Iowa) **Highway 218 near downtown Waterloo blocked by semi-pickup crash.** A crash involving a semi carrying sulfuric acid shut down a portion of U.S. Highway 218 and some downtown roads near Waterloo, Iowa, the morning of November 15. The semi T-boned a pickup truck at the intersection of Highway 218 and West Ninth Street. The semi broke a trailer axle. Southbound Highway 218 traffic had to be re-routed down Highway 63 to Highway 20 for several hours while the damaged vehicles and sulfuric acid were removed. The driver of the pickup was taken to a hospital with numerous injuries. The driver of the semi was issued a ticket for a red light violation. The Iowa State Patrol and the Iowa Department of Transportation assisted with the investigation and traffic control.  
Source: [http://wfcourier.com/news/local/update-with-names-highway-near-downtown-waterloo-blocked-by-semi/article\\_bce82c08-0fac-11e1-a274-001cc4c03286.html](http://wfcourier.com/news/local/update-with-names-highway-near-downtown-waterloo-blocked-by-semi/article_bce82c08-0fac-11e1-a274-001cc4c03286.html)

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

11. *November 16, Nuclear Street* – (North Carolina) **Global Nuclear Fuel fined for near-critical amount of uranium in air filters.** Enough uranium accumulated in air filters at a Wilmington, North Carolina, nuclear fuel plant earlier in 2011 to pose a risk of criticality, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) determined. While no one was harmed, regulators announced a \$17,500 penalty for the incident November 15, a fine Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas has said it will accept. The consortium reported March 2 it discovered an excessive amount of uranium oxide in filter housing. “There was no actual criticality, though the quantity of material could have posed a criticality threat if other safety features had not been in place,” the NRC said. Had criticality occurred, the NRC noted, it would not have threatened public health but would have created a serious risk for workers.

Source:

[http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear\\_power\\_industry\\_news/b/nuclear\\_power\\_news/archive/2011/11/16/global-nuclear-fuel-fined-for-near\\_2d00\\_critical-amount-of-uranium-in-air-filters-111601.aspx](http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear_power_industry_news/b/nuclear_power_news/archive/2011/11/16/global-nuclear-fuel-fined-for-near_2d00_critical-amount-of-uranium-in-air-filters-111601.aspx)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

12. *November 16, WGCL 46 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Fire guts manufacturing plant in south Fulton County.** A fire was reported at a Fulton County, Georgia, manufacturing plant the night of November 15. The building housed a company called Tie Down Trailer Products, which manufactures after-market boat trailer parts and roofing parts, among other products. Explosions from oxygen and liquid propane (LP) tanks stored inside the facility made extinguishing the fire difficult. "We had some of the LP tanks discharging, so we pulled back, went defensive," said the Fulton County deputy fire chief. "The building itself is pretty much a total loss."  
Source: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/16051941/fire-guts>
  
13. *November 15, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Illinois) **U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA proposes more than \$150,000 in fines to Electronic Plating Co. in Cicero, Ill., for chemical and physical hazards.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) November 15 cited Electronic Plating Co. in Cicero, Illinois, for 22 health and safety violations. OSHA opened an inspection after receiving a report employees were performing small parts plating operations without protection against chemical and physical hazards. Two willful health violations involved failing to implement a hearing conservation program, and failing to provide eye wash stations for workers exposed to corrosive chemicals such as sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. Nine serious health violations involve failing to: provide periodic health examinations intended to detect overexposure to hazardous chemicals for employees working with chromic acid; provide and train employees in the use of protective clothing; provide and require the use of protective eye equipment; institute medical surveillance, as well as provide training, for employees potentially exposed to cadmium above the action level; properly label containers of hazardous materials and train employees on protection from hazardous chemicals; develop and implement a written hazard communication program. Seven serious safety violations involved failing to provide standard guardrails, implement an energy control program, provide workers with personal protective equipment to guard against electrical hazards, properly train forklift operators, and provide guarding on machinery.  
Source:

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=21318](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=21318)

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *November 16, Erie Times-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire officials: Spark set off blaze at Jamestown, Pa., munitions plant.** A spark from a machine in a building where tear gas and grenades are produced set off a fire at a Jamestown, Pennsylvania munitions plant November 15, fire officials said. The building, known as the "gas house," has a sprinkler system in place, but the system did not put out the fire at Combined Systems Inc., 388 Kinsman Road, officials said. Firefighters from seven departments in Mercer County, as well as departments from Crawford County and Trumbull County, Ohio, were sent to the facility shortly before 7:30 a.m. Seven employees in the building and about 163 others working elsewhere in the complex were evacuated. It took firefighters about an hour to put the fire out. The CEO of Combined Systems said he was not aware of any danger to the surrounding community, due to the type of material produced in the building. Combined System produces chemical munitions, impact munitions, and flash-bang devices, according to information on the company's Web site. It has 260 employees.

Source: <http://www.goerie.com/article/20111116/NEWS02/311169945/Fire-officials:-Spark-set-off-blaze-at-Jamestown-Pa-munitions-plant>

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## Banking and Finance Sector

15. *November 15, Everett Herald* – (Washington) **Suspect arrested in alleged ATM skimming at south Everett bank.** Police in Everett, Washington, arrested a man suspected of stealing \$185,000 in ATM skimming operations in three states, the Everett Herald reported November 15. The latest case involved stealing bank card information from more than 70 people in south Everett. Everett police are working on the case alongside the U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force, and Chase Bank investigators, a police sergeant said. Police believe the man attached a skimming device to an automated teller machine at the Silver Lake branch of Chase on 19th Avenue SE. The device captured account numbers and other information off of bank cards. The man was arrested November 13, when he came to the bank to collect the skimming device, the sergeant said. Investigators believe the man has skimmed more than 900 bank cards. He had been under surveillance for some time, the sergeant said. Chase officials were able to shut down many of the accounts affected before money could be taken from them.

Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20111115/NEWS01/711159832>

16. *November 14, Bloomberg* – (National) **Deutsche Bank, Citi pay to settle Credit Union claims.** Deutsche Bank AG and Citigroup Inc. agreed to pay \$165.5 million to resolve U.S. regulatory claims over sales of mortgage-backed securities to credit unions that later failed, the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) said November 14. The agreements are aimed at reducing losses stemming from the collapses of five federally insured credit unions. Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest lender, will pay \$145 million, and New York-based Citigroup reached a \$20.5 million settlement.

Neither bank admitted fault, the Alexandria, Virginia-based regulator said. The NCUA, which has filed four lawsuits alleging violations in the sale of mortgage-backed securities, said it is the first regulator to recover losses on behalf of failed firms. The payments from Deutsche Bank and Citigroup will be used to reduce assessments levied on credit unions to cover losses from the collapsed credit unions, the agency said.

Source: <http://news.businessweek.com/article.asp?documentKey=1376-LUO6190UQVI901-4T6643315VS7S24ALAC0JMP9AR>

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## **Transportation Sector**

17. *November 16, KXAS 5 Dallas-Fort Worth and Associated Press* – (Texas) **Crane collapses, beam narrowly misses highway.** In Texas, a crane used in the construction of state Highway 161 collapsed November 15, dropping a concrete beam inches away from open lanes on Interstate 20. The crane came to rest upon the partially-constructed lanes of an overpass, and suffered significant damage. The beam crushed a light-tower generator. It is not yet known what caused the crane to collapse. State Highway 161, which will be a toll road when completed, stretches north from I-20 to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, where it runs along the airport's east side until it merges with the President George Bush Turnpike north of state Highway 183.  
Source: <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Crane-Collapses-Beam-Narrowly-Misses-Highway-133957133.html>
18. *November 14, WSYR 9 Syracuse* – (New York) **Investigation continues into train derailment cause; foul play ruled out.** There is still no definitive word on what caused a train derailment November 11 that shut down a large part of Interstate 81 in New York, and caused the evacuation of several Syracuse neighborhoods. However, police do not suspect foul play. Two train cars, one carrying propane, and one carrying soybeans, derailed November 11 along Interstate 81, just south of Syracuse University. Officials initially thought it might take 2 days before things were cleaned up and residents were allowed to return to their homes, but it took just about 12 hours. The clean-up would have been quicker except the crew that righted the car carrying propane was not able to work on it until after the Syracuse University football game November 11. Federal investigations into what caused the derailment are underway.  
Source: <http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/Investigation-continues-into-train-derailment/gyZFOCHto0GCjELvAG8iJQ.cspX>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *November 14, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Piles of mail found in state forest; USPS investigates.** The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is investigating how piles of mail ended up in the Natchaug State Forest in Eastford, Connecticut. "It does not

appear to be an employee issue at this time," said a U.S. Postal Service spokeswoman. She said hikers found mail November 13 and contacted the park ranger, who recommended calling the postal service. The ranger found two piles of mail in the woods. One hiker who found the mail said there were about 150 pieces, including bills and bank statements, addressed to numerous people. Most of the mail was from Mansfield, some was from Chaplin and Hampton, she said.

Source: [http://www.ctnow.com/news/connecticut/tolland/hc-chaplin-dumped-mail-1115-2-20111114,0,1649592.story?hpt=us\\_bn4](http://www.ctnow.com/news/connecticut/tolland/hc-chaplin-dumped-mail-1115-2-20111114,0,1649592.story?hpt=us_bn4)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

20. *November 16, WNYW 5 New York* – (New York) **Deadly shooting inside Chelsea nightclub.** A popular night club in Manhattan, New York, was the scene of a deadly shooting early November 15, according to the New York Police Department. A man was shot multiple times and killed inside the Juliet Supper Club. He was one of three people shot multiple times inside the club on West 21st Street. Another man, and a woman were injured. The Juliet Super Club is part restaurant, part night club.  
Source: <http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/deadly-shooting-inside-chelsea-nightclub-juliet-supper-club-20111115-KC>
21. *November 16, Food Safety News* – (California) **Organic Pastures milk quarantined, recalled.** Organic Pastures raw dairy products are being recalled statewide in California, and are subject to a quarantine order by the California State Veterinarian, Food Safety News reported November 16. The quarantine order came following notification by the California Department of Public Health that five children were infected, from August through October, with the same strain of E. coli O157:H7, the state said. Under the recall, all Organic Pastures raw dairy products with the exception of cheese aged at least 60 days must be pulled immediately from retail shelves. Until further notice, Organic Pastures may not produce raw milk products for the retail market. The order also affects Organic Pastures raw butter, raw cream, raw colostrum, and a raw product labeled "Qephor," state public health officials said. The children who are ill are residents of Contra Costa, Kings, Sacramento, and San Diego counties.  
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/11/quarantine-order-against-organic-pastures-recall-underway/>
22. *November 15, Utica Observer-Dispatch* – (New York) **Harbor Point Mineral fined \$155,200 after employee death.** The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) fined Harbor Point Mineral Products Inc. of Utica, New York, \$155,200 for violations it found after a worker was killed while on the job earlier in 2011, the Utica Observer-Dispatch reported November 15. The worker suffocated May 11 after he was buried in several feet of cottonseed in a silo. It took firefighters and public works employees more than 5 hours to break through the silo's wall to remove the man's body. In November, tje OSHA cited Harbor Point with 21 violations, some of which have fines exceeding \$20,000 each, for offenses such as allowing employees to enter the silo without safety equipment, proper training or help from coworkers. The

agency said the worker was inside the silo without a safety harness, although he may have been wearing an unapproved lifeline at the time of the accident. The OSHA cited the company for other offenses that include not using proper ventilation equipment, and exposing employees to unhealthy levels of certain chemicals.

Source: <http://www.uticaod.com/m/news/x1401562719/Harbor-Point-Mineral-fined-in-employee-death>

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## **Water Sector**

23. *November 16, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **Six South Plains towns seek to curb arsenic levels in water.** During the summer, 49 Texas water systems received letters from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requiring them to curb arsenic levels. The systems included Wolfforth, Meadow, New Home, Opdyke West, Smyer, and Wellman. A compliance order attached to the letter ended with a notice telling recipients if the arsenic problem was not fixed within 18 months, the system could be assessed a penalty of a maximum of \$37,500 per day. Cities like Wolfforth and Smyer now have around 15 to 18 parts per billion of arsenic. Each town is treating the problem differently. Officials said Wolfforth must spend close to \$4.47 million to tie in the Ropesville well field and to build the treatment plant. For Meadow, a solution is already in place. The city administrator said the town began purchasing treated water from Brownfield and blending it with Meadow's groundwater to diffuse the amount of arsenic to acceptable levels. Meadow had a population of 593 in the 2010 census. In Smyer, about 20 miles west of Lubbock on Texas 114, the mayor said the town of 474 is working with Levelland to purchase enough water to blend its water to an acceptable rate. Because the city must build a 3-mile pipeline to transport that water, she said it will cost about \$200,000. Wellman, 13 miles southwest of Brownfield, participated in a study about 5 years ago with the EPA, which purchased two large vessels to filter out arsenic. The city was responsible for building fencing around it. Wellman officials were told the value of the vessels was about \$350,000, but the filters inside, or media, cost about \$30,000. Still, the town of about 200 people decided not to purchase the media replacements until the EPA sent them a notice last year.

Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2011-11-15/six-south-plains-towns-seek-curb-arsenic-levels-water#.TsPZQlbwm1c>

24. *November 16, Albuquerque Journal* – (New Mexico) **Sewer plant 'just awful,' in need of \$250M fix; facility built in 1960s; fixes will result in a fee increase.** Albuquerque, New Mexico's sewer treatment plant is "falling apart" and some of it is "just awful," top administrators at the water utility authority said, according to the Albuquerque Journal November 16. Fixing it will cost taxpayers up to \$250 million and require a fee increase in the next few years. In March, an equipment failure resulted in a discharge of wastewater into the Rio Grande that contained higher-than-allowed levels of chlorine, killing an unknown number of fish. In several other instances over the past few years, water leaving the plant contained too much ammonia.

Those violations of the federal Clean Water Act were among the reasons the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May issued an administrative order requiring the utility to present a plan to fix the problems. Fourteen other violations listed in the order included failures in equipment maintenance, emergency planning, and record keeping. The utility will be under the EPA order until it submits a plan to correct the problems and gets approval from the agency. If it does not, it could be subject to penalties under the Clean Water Act. Over the past 10 years, the utility has spent \$30 million to \$40 million a year on capital improvement projects, including one that allows it to provide water to city parks and golf courses with gray water, sewer water that has been treated but is not up to drinking water standards. A utility spokesman said the utility estimates it will cost \$200 million to \$250 million over 10 years to fix the rest of the problems, which include processes such as preliminary treatment and grit removal. The plant currently is planning to use about \$40 million to rebuild the headworks and dewatering processes, early steps in the processing of raw sewage. Construction will probably begin early next year. Concerns about working conditions also have plagued the plant. A New Mexico Occupational Safety and Health Bureau inspection in 2010 turned up several serious safety hazards at the plant that put employees in danger.

Source: <http://www.utilityproducts.com/news/2011/11/1541935669/sewer-plant-just-awful-in-need-of-250m-fix-facility-built-in-1960s-fixes-will-result-in-a-fee.html>

25. *November 15, Lebanon Daily News* – (Pennsylvania) **Chemical found in West Lebanon water system.** Above-standard levels of tetrachloroethylene were reported November 14 from a water sample sent for testing October 28, said the Lebanon Township, Pennsylvania commissioner, who is also a township employee in charge of the water department. The chemical, used primarily in dry cleaning has never been found in the water system before, he said. The incident is not an emergency, but as a precaution, the contaminated well was shut down and the system flushed, and all water is now being supplied by the City of Lebanon Authority, the commissioner said. A hydrogeologist was contracted and will look for the source of the chemical November 16. The commissioner said it is possible there was an illegal dump of the chemical around Lions Lake in neighboring North Lebanon Township, which is the source of West Lebanon's water. The standard level of tetrachloroethylene is .005 milligrams/liter (mg/L), according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The chemical was found at .0104 mg/L and .01722 mg/L at various locations in the township's system, according to a news release issued by the township. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found acute exposure to the chemical can potentially affect the liver, kidney, and central nervous system.
- Source: [http://www.ldnews.com/ci\\_19338855?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.ldnews.com/ci_19338855?source=most_viewed)

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## Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *November 15, Government Security News* – (Guam) **Guam mounts bio-terror attack response drill.** Guam Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) said it, the island nation's department of public health and social services, and other Guam government agencies began a 3-day Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Full Scale Exercise (FSE) it calls Operation Pa'ti November 16, testing its response to a bio-terror attack. The strategic national stockpile, run jointly by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the DHS, is the U.S. national repository of antibiotics, vaccines, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, and other critical medical equipment and supplies. The supplies are set aside in case of a bioterror attack or national pandemic. The stockpile can supplement and re-supply local health authorities in dire situations. The tabletop exercise is a simulation designed to test the government of Guam's public health response capabilities to an anthrax biological terrorist attack with emphasis on coordination with the CDC, and support from the local government's emergency management system.

Source:

[http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/24989?c=disaster\\_preparedness\\_emergency\\_response](http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/24989?c=disaster_preparedness_emergency_response)

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## Government Facilities Sector

27. *November 16, Associated Press* – (California) **Alleged gunman shot by cops at UC Berkeley is dead.** An alleged gunman who was shot by police on the University of California, Berkeley campus died. A campus spokesman said the man was an undergraduate transfer student who was attending classes at the Haas School of Business. Police officers tracked the suspect into a Haas computer room November 15 after an employee reported seeing a man with a gun. During the confrontation, the suspect was shot. He was taken to an Oakland hospital, where he later died, the campus spokesman said.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45314276/ns/us\\_news/#.TsO6hXJinus](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45314276/ns/us_news/#.TsO6hXJinus)

28. *November 16, CBS News; Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Suspect arrested in White House shooting.** The U.S. Secret Service said a man suspected of shooting the White House in Washington D.C. has been arrested at a Pennsylvania hotel. Pennsylvania State Police arrested the man at a hotel near Indiana. The arrest comes as authorities were investigating two bullets that hit the White House, one of them apparently cracking a window on the residential level while the U.S. President was traveling. The Secret Service was investigating whether the bullets are connected to reports of shots fired November 11 while the President was headed to a summit in Hawaii. It said it discovered the bullet holes November 15, and that the bullet that hit the window was stopped by ballistic glass. On November 16, officials could be seen

taking photographs of a window on the south face of the executive mansion. The window they were inspecting is in front of the so-called Yellow Oval Room, according to a White House Web site. The room is in the middle of their living quarters on the floor that includes the President's bedroom and the Lincoln Bedroom. The Secret Service said a second bullet was found on the exterior. The discovery of the bullet holes follows reports of gunfire near the White House November 11. Witnesses heard shots and saw two speeding vehicles. The Secret Service said it has not conclusively connected November 11's incident with the bullets found at the White House.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201\\_162-57326113/suspect-arrested-in-white-house-shooting/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57326113/suspect-arrested-in-white-house-shooting/)

29. *November 15, Nextgov* – (International) **Employees' Droids among biggest government cyber menaces.** In 2012, agencies should worry about hackers attacking the growing number of federal employees toting their own iPhones and Droids to work, according to a forecast of 2012's greatest cyber dangers compiled by M86 Security Labs. On November 15, the network security firm released its annual predictions of the top computer threats to business and government organizations. At federal agencies, the biggest targets are likely to be employee-owned devices, a department's own public Web site, and cloud services. Agencies without policies to manage security on an employee's smartphone or tablet may have no way of protecting government data from online viruses, according to the research. Even devices that are centrally managed could be vulnerable to intrusions in 2012 because mobile antivirus software has not yet matured, the report said.

Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20111115\\_9168.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20111115_9168.php)

For another story, see item [40](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

30. *November 16, Homeland Security Newswire* – (National) **Sprint customers first to receive wireless emergency alerts.** Thanks to Sprint, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will now be able to broadcast wireless emergency alerts to cell phones for the first time; the move allows FEMA, the U.S. President, the National Weather Service, or local and state emergency officials to broadcast warning messages and safety information through text messages. In addition, emergency officials can geo-target alerts so that only subscribers in a specific area receive messages. For instance, an emergency alert can be sent only to cell phones at a stadium event, or residents in specific neighborhoods can be targeted in the case of a wildfire or tornado. When the system is activated, targeted cell phones will receive a 90-character text alert with a distinct vibration cadence and audio tone similar to the sound of radio and television emergency alerts. Sprint is still testing the system, and later this year, the company will work with federal officials to conduct the first test of alerts to mobile phones in New York City.

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/sprint-customers-first-receive-wireless-emergency-alerts>

31. *November 16, East Hampton Press* – (New York) **Firefighters injured battling East Hampton fire.** Five firefighters were hospitalized November 15 with injuries from smoke inhalation and possible contact with noxious fumes from burning Freon, suffered while battling a fire that broke out at the Hampton Market Place in East Hampton Village, New York. Fire crews from the East Hampton, Amagansett, Springs, and Sag Harbor fire departments responded to the fire in the kitchen area of the high end market on Race Lane shortly after 7 p.m. Five firefighters were taken by ambulance to Southampton Hospital after being overcome while fighting the fire. Several others received medical attention from ambulance personnel at the scene of the fire. Department chiefs ordered all firefighters to wear respirator packs. The firefighters taken to the hospital were treated for minor injuries and released. A hazardous materials team responded and sprayed and scrubbed down the parking lot and firefighting equipment. Freon is a brand name for chlorofluorocarbons, a compound used as a coolant in large refrigeration units that can release toxic phosgene gas when burned. Phosgene can be noxious or deadly if ingested.  
Source: <http://www.27east.com/news/article.cfm/East-End/405915/Firefighters-Injured-Battling-East-Hampton-Fire>
32. *November 16, Southampton Press* – (New York) **Southampton Hospital ER cleaned up after attempted chemical suicide.** The entrance to the Southampton Hospital Emergency Department in Southampton, New York, was shut down for several hours November 16 as hazardous materials crews responded when a man tried to commit suicide by mixing dangerous chemicals in his car, to create deadly fumes, authorities said. The Bridgehampton man created a chemical fog in his closed Volkswagen convertible parked at the ER entrance sometime before 3 a.m., said the Southampton Village police chief. Hospital officials called police at 3:02 a.m. Police and fire officials locked down the scene and crews cleaned up. The scene was cleared by 7:20 a.m., police said. The chemicals appeared to be sulfuric acid and muriatic acid — the latter a chemical used to clean bricks and Gunitite pools — but they were being tested by the county crime lab, the police chief said. The man will be under observation for about 6 hours and then undergo a psychological evaluation, police said. Responders included the Southampton and North Sea fire departments, the Southampton haz-mat team and crews from Southampton Volunteer Ambulance and Southampton Village Volunteer Ambulance, according to a statement released by the hospital.  
Source: <http://www.27east.com/news/article.cfm/Southampton-Village-Surrounding-Areas/405927/Southampton-Hospital-ER-Cleaned-Up-After-Attempted-Chemical-Suicide>
33. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Former Houston police officer convicted.** A former Houston police officer has been convicted by a federal jury on corruption charges. A U.S. attorney said the 46-year-old officer was convicted November 15. The 19-year veteran of the Houston police force was charged with aiding and abetting possession of a controlled substance by providing an escort for drugs through the Houston area in his police vehicle. He was also charged with extortion for accepting a \$2,000 bribe to provide protection for the vehicle he believed to be transporting 7 kilograms of cocaine. The indictment was returned in June. The U.S. attorney said the jury found the officer guilty on all counts he was charged with.

He faces up to life in prison. He is set to be sentenced February 2.

Source: <http://www.kltv.com/story/16050180/former-houston-police-officer-convicted>

34. *November 14, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Mobile meth lab explodes in hospital parking lot.** A mobile meth lab exploded in Dickson, Tennessee with a man inside, and the car he was reportedly "cooking" in was sitting in a busy hospital parking lot. Seconds after the explosion, medics rushed to help, because it happened right outside of the emergency room at Dickson's Horizon Medical Center. Officers said the driver died November 13 at Vanderbilt Hospital with severe burns on 80 percent of his body. The car was also destroyed. Because the car had dangerous chemicals in a highly populated parking lot, agents with the 23rd Judicial Drug Task Force of Dickson County said the incident could have been much worse. An agent said officials shut the hospital ER to decontaminate it and staff, and also had to decontaminate firefighters. Police officers said the suspect bought meth making materials at a nearby drug store moments before the explosion.  
Source: <http://www.kctv5.com/story/16038801/mobile-meth-lab-explodes-in-hospital-parking-lot>

For more stories, see items [9](#) and [26](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

35. *November 15, threatpost* – (International) **Android malware, up 472 percent, seeing fastest growth ever.** As Android market share has shot up in recent months, so has the volume of malware designed for the mobile platform. There has been a 472 percent increase in Android malware samples in the last 3 months alone, according to research from Juniper Networks. While September saw a 28 percent jump in malware samples, the numbers for the months of October and November are trending upwards and might translate into the fastest growth of Android malware the platform has ever seen. October's numbers saw a 110 percent increase over September, a 171 percent increase from what was collected up to July 2011, the company said on its Global Threat Center blog. Juniper's research found the bulk of Android malware is behaving one of two ways: 55 percent was disguised as spyware while 44 percent hijacked phones and utilized a SMS trojan to send expensive messages without the user's knowledge.  
Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/android-malware-472-percent-seeing-fastest-growth-ever-111511](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/android-malware-472-percent-seeing-fastest-growth-ever-111511)
36. *November 15, threatpost* – (International) **Apple fixes man-in-the-middle bug in iTunes.** Apple issued a fix for a flaw in iTunes that could enable an attacker to perform man-in-the-middle attacks against users. The vulnerability is fixed in iTunes 10.5.1. The bug in iTunes relates to the way the application communicates with the iTunes server when it is checking for updates to the software. The problem was such that an attacker who had a man-in-the-middle position on a user's network could potentially give the user a fraudulent or malicious app that looks like iTunes.  
Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/apple-fixes-man-middle-bug-itunes-111511](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/apple-fixes-man-middle-bug-itunes-111511)

37. *November 15, Computerworld* – (International) **Facebook confirms nasty porn storm.** Facebook users were bombarded with explicit and violent images in the latest malware campaign aimed at the social networking site, a security researcher said November 15. The company confirmed the attack and said it "dramatically limited the damage" and was on the trail of those responsible. "For the last 24 hours, many people have reported seeing highly-offensive images on their Facebook news feeds," said a senior technology consultant at antivirus vendor Sophos. He speculated the attack may have been based on "clickjacking", a type of attack where hackers plant invisible "buttons" on a Web site page that are activated when users click on the overlaying page component. The researcher said it was possible previous-planted malware conducted the Facebook spam campaign. Later November 15, Facebook filled in some blanks. "We experienced a coordinated spam attack that exploited a browser vulnerability," a Facebook spokeswoman said. "Our efforts have drastically limited the damage ... and we are ... investigating to identify those responsible." The Facebook spokeswoman said the attack was based on a "self-XSS vulnerability in the browser," but did not identify which browser(s) contained the bug. While XSS stands for "cross-site scripting," the Facebook description reads more like clickjacking, the term coined by researchers in 2008 to describe a variant of cross-site scripting. "Users were tricked into pasting and executing malicious JavaScript in their browser URL bar causing them to unknowingly share this offensive content," Facebook said. Earlier in the day, researchers pointed to a specific piece of malware that may have been responsible. According to security vendor BitDefender, the hacker collective Anonymous crafted a Facebook worm, codenamed "Fawkes Virus" last July, and pledged to use it to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day, November 5, a promise that was unfulfilled.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9221862/Update\\_Facebook\\_confirms\\_nasty\\_porn\\_storm](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9221862/Update_Facebook_confirms_nasty_porn_storm)

For more stories, see items [5](#) and [29](#)

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

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

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

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## **Communications Sector**

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *November 16, WPBF 25 Tequesta* – (Florida) **Off-duty firefighter arrested after South Palm Beach bomb scare.** An off-duty firefighter was arrested after a bomb scare forced the evacuation of a South Palm Beach, Florida, condominium November 15. The bomb scare occurred at the Palmsea condominium. Someone in the building called 911 to report gunshots. When police arrived, they found an off-duty Palm Beach County firefighter incoherent and talking about a bomb. The police chief said the suspect had fired between 15 and 20 shots at a neighbor's door and through his own unit. The bomb squad was called, and the building was evacuated. About 4 hours later, authorities cleared the building and began letting people back inside.  
Source: <http://www.wpbfl.com/news/29774421/detail.html>
39. *November 16, KFGO 790 AM Fargo* – (North Dakota) **Bond set for man charged with starting two apartment fires.** A judge set bond at \$100,000 for a Fort Totten, North Dakota, man charged with setting fires at two apartment buildings in south Fargo November 13. The suspect is charged with two counts of attempted murder, aggravated assault, and endangering by fire. He is accused of injuring his cousin's two children before setting a fire in a bedroom. Police said he then started a fire at another apartment building a block away.  
Source: <http://www.kfgo.com/fm-headline-news.php?ID=0000005966>
40. *November 16, CNN* – (National) **Suspected tornadoes, storms sweep South.** Severe weather — including suspected tornadoes — swept through the South November 16, killing one person and injuring at least four others, and causing structural damage in some areas, officials said. One person died in jury and four people were injured in Mississippi, according to National Weather Service reports. A possible tornado caused "major damage" to a mobile home park near Opelika, Alabama, with homes and vehicles demolished, the weather service said, citing an emergency manager in Lee County. Downed trees, damaged homes and buildings, and power outages were reported across north, central, and west Alabama, and Georgia, including in metro Atlanta, from high winds and possible twisters. Georgia Power said it had about 2,000 customers without power. A high school in Harris County, Georgia, was also reported damaged. In Demopolis, Alabama, damage was reported to roofs, and a boat at a dealership. A suspected tornado in Louisiana's Tangipahoa Parish moved a home with four people inside off its foundation. In Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, damage was reported from a suspected tornado at the Houma-Terrebonne Airport. Shingles were blown off a home, and a shed was blown out of a residential yard and onto the grounds of a nearby school. Windows at the school were blown out. Homes were also reported damaged near Jones, Mississippi. In Laurel, Mississippi, three homes were reported damaged with people trapped inside.  
Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/16/us/severe-weather/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t3](http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/16/us/severe-weather/index.html?hpt=hp_t3)
41. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Florida) **4 injured in gas explosion at machine shop.** Authorities said four men were injured at a Medley, Florida, machine shop when a gas tank exploded November 15. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue officials said workers at the Medley Machine Shop were trying to cut into an empty fuel tank. Fire officials said

the tank apparently was not cleaned properly. When sparks hit the fumes inside, it exploded. Three employees were airlifted to a Miami trauma center.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/15/2503806/4-injured-in-gas-explosion-at.html>

42. *November 15, KIII 3 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **Residents evacuated after gas leak.** An apartment complex in Corpus Christi, Texas, was evacuated November 15 after six people became ill from carbon monoxide poisoning. It was discovered after a woman returned home from work to find her boyfriend passed out on the floor and strong odor of gas. That woman then went door to door alerting other residents. Five of those six people ended up being rushed to area hospitals. Investigators believe the problem started when a pipe, which was not properly connected to a water heater caused the gas to slowly leak into the complex. Firefighters confirmed high gas readings at the apartment complex.

Source: <http://www.kiiitv.com/story/16049191/residents-evacuated-after-gas-leak>

43. *November 15, Daily Dunklin Democrat* – (Missouri) **Fire destroys Kennett Country Club.** The Kennett County Club in Kennett, Missouri, was destroyed in a fire November 14. Upon arrival, firefighters were met with heavy flames and smoke. Mutual aid was called in from the Hayti and Senath Fire Departments, who brought tanker trucks, as well as the Caruthersville Fire Department, who manned the local fire stations so Kennett crews could work the scene. Four tankers were used to extinguish the fire, as there was no fire hydrants in the vicinity. Fire officials estimate that the damage is more than \$1 million.

Source: <http://www.dddnews.com/story/1784500.html>

44. *November 15, Melville Newsday* – (New York) **Officials probe cause of Fire Island blaze.** Fire and police officials were trying to determine the cause of an explosive fire that gutted a two-building entertainment and retail complex in Fire Island Pines, New York, November 14. The buildings will be demolished after they are inspected. Flames tore through the interior of the two buildings. The fire sent propane tanks raining down around the community, and damaged a home across the harbor. The fire also destroyed an entertainment complex. More than 20 fire departments worked to extinguish the fire, Suffolk County police said. The fire required 400 firefighters to knock it down.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/suffolk/officials-probe-cause-of-fire-island-blaze-1.3322729?qr=1>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

45. *November 15, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio national forest halts sale of drilling rights.** The U.S. Forest Service has decided to hold off on selling drilling rights in Ohio's only national forest so officials there could explore potential impacts from the process known as fracking. The Wayne National Forest supervisor said in a statement

November 15 that more than 3,000 acres have been withdrawn from a natural gas and oil lease sale scheduled for December 7. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a horizontal drilling technique for gas that uses chemical-laced water to break up shale deep underground so trapped gas is released. Local leaders from areas near the forest in southeast Ohio had protested the lease sale, saying they feared a fracking accident could harm the forest. The supervisor said the forest would bring together experts to study fracking's possible effects above ground.

Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/215066/3/Ohio-national-forest-halts-sale-of-drilling-rights>

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## **Dams Sector**

46. *November 16, Baraboo News Republic* – (Wisconsin) **Lake Redstone flood risk in question.** A town board wants Sauk County, Wisconsin, supervisors to oppose expansion of the Lake Redstone floodway, Baraboo News Republic reported November 16. The town chair said about nine town properties would be affected by the change, which he said would restrict property owners' ability to maintain existing structures, and build new ones. A state-mandated engineering study looked at the potential breach of the Lake Redstone dam during a 100-year storm event. The study recommended the dam be designated "high hazard", and that new areas be included in the floodway. That would require an amendment to the county floodplain zoning ordinance. The county board's planning and zoning committee approved the amendment in September on a 3-2 vote. If the board rejects the amendment, the state could hold hearings and amend the county's ordinance independently, the planning and zoning director said, adding the state could charge the county for those hearings.

Source: [http://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/article\\_2eb12466-100c-11e1-a9fb-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.wiscnews.com/baraboonewsrepublic/news/article_2eb12466-100c-11e1-a9fb-001cc4c03286.html)

47. *November 16, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Corps: SW Iowa levee to remain vulnerable in 2012.** Officials said the levee near Percival, Iowa that failed in last summer's Missouri River flooding will undergo temporary repairs but will remain vulnerable to severe flooding next year. KETV 7 Omaha reported damage to the levee is about \$120 million, but only \$10 million has been received to fix it. A member of the local levee district said it is going to take time to clear legal hurdles and ensure the work is done right. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the Percival levee is a top priority, but money is limited. The agency said the levee will be repaired to handle a 25-year flood by March 1, but it will take a year or more to restore it to the way it was before the flooding.

Source: [http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20111116/NEWS/111116005/-1/gallery\\_array/Corps-SW-Iowa-levee-remain-vulnerable-2012-](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20111116/NEWS/111116005/-1/gallery_array/Corps-SW-Iowa-levee-remain-vulnerable-2012-)

48. *November 15, Ventura County Star* – (California) **County seeking \$21 million in grant funding for deficient levees.** In a move cheered by worried Oxnard

homeowners, the board of supervisors voted November 15 to seek up to \$21 million in state bond funds for repairs to eight deficient levees in Ventura County, California. Owners of 5,000 residential and business properties could be freed from having to buy flood insurance if the levees can be fixed to meet federal standards. About 15,000 to 16,000 people live near the deficient barriers, a little more than half in Oxnard near the Santa Clara River. The action is designed to put the county in the running for part of almost \$50 million authorized in a bond measure California voters approved in 2006. Levees across the nation failed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's standards when the agency revised its flood zone maps, including eight in Ventura County that lie along the Santa Clara, Calleguas Creek, Conejo Creek, Arroyo Simi, and Ventura River. Even if the county gets a disproportionate share of the state awards, the money would just be part of as much as \$132 million in estimated repair costs. The tax-funded district, cities, and developers would share in the final tab, district officials said. The supervisors voted unanimously to authorize the application for funding. Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/nov/15/county-seeking-21-million-in-grant-funding-for/>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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