



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 5 January 2012

### Top Stories

- Three Swiss bankers were indicted in the United States January 3, accused of hiding \$1.2 billion in assets of U.S. clients seeking to avoid declaring their full wealth to tax authorities. – *Agence France-Presse* (See item [13](#))
- Police arrested a suspect January 3 in connection with the firebombing of an Islamic cultural center and four other New York City area sites. – *FoxNews.com* (See item [40](#))

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### Energy Sector

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

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

1. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Officials still trying to find source of petroleum leak in Idaho's Clearwater River.** Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said January 4 they are still working to determine the cause of a petroleum leak in the Clearwater River near Orofino, Idaho. An EPA coordinator told the Lewiston Tribune the source could be a broken gas line, an underground storage tank, or something from an old landfill. The leak is near an unmanned gas station. An EPA spokesman said the lines at the station were tested in early 2011 and no leaks were found, but that was before a small earthquake shook the region

November 11. The lines are now being retested. The leak was reported December 30 and booms were placed to contain the material. The spokesman said the leak is an oil bloom that rises from the bottom of the river and leaves a sheen on the surface.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/7137c4bc21b7444380cb6804ca8784f8/ID--Petroleum-Leak-Clearwater-River/>

2. *January 4, Homeland Security Today* – (Louisiana) **Study: Loss of Louisiana highway could cripple domestic oil supply.** A DHS study has found temporary disruption of Louisiana Highway LA1 in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, could potentially cripple the nation's domestic energy supply, as well as cause major damage to the economy, Homeland Security Today reported January 4. The report, titled Louisiana Highway 1/Port Fourchon Study, concluded a 90-day closure of Port Fourchon as a result of a loss of highway access could result in a reduction of up to \$7.8 billion in American gross domestic product, while significantly impacting domestic oil and gas production for at least a decade. The DHS's National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC) and the National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) Institute at University of Louisiana at Lafayette collaborated on the study.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/today-s-news-analysis/single-article/study-loss-of-louisiana-highway-could-cripple-domestic-oil-supply/a3720568ca181233129a0a8dea7a3331.html>

3. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Russian tanker reaches Alaska port.** A Russian tanker planning to deliver petroleum products to Nome, Alaska, has arrived at a fishing port in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) said the 370-foot tanker anchored outside the port of Dutch Harbor late January 2. A USCG lieutenant said the vessel was being checked out to make sure it met rules that would allow it to actually enter the port. The tanker has been granted a federal waiver that will allow it to load hundreds of thousands of gallons of gasoline. That fuel is bound for Nome, a city of about 3,500 on Alaska's western coast. A large storm this fall delayed delivery by barge and by the time the weather had improved Nome was iced-in. The tanker is expected to arrive in Nome by the second week in January. A USCG ice breaker will assist in the delivery.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9S1HOG00.htm>

For more stories, see items [6](#) and [18](#)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *January 4, Hauppauge Patch* – (New York) **Hazardous materials on Oser Avenue stabilized.** Police in Suffolk County, New York, report a 55-gallon drum of volatile chemical materials that had authorities close down Oser Avenue in Hauppauge for hours January 3 has been stabilized. They said the stabilizing chemicals were mixed in with the hazardous material at Pall Corp. at about 7 p.m. The drum was stored

overnight inside Pall's building until it could be removed by Miller Environmental January 4. There was no leak in the drum, but the materials had chemically changed due to undergoing temperature fluctuations while shipping. The explosive situation was first noticed by a Pall employee, after which the firm evacuated workers and notified the fire department. The Hauppauge Fire Department and other local units spent more than 12 hours on the scene.

Source: <http://hauppauge.patch.com/articles/oser-avenue-chemical-hazmat-stabilized>

5. *January 4, Decatur Daily* – (Alabama) **Companies pay EPA \$2.37 million for Decatur cleanup.** Numerous industries that contributed waste to a now-defunct Decatur, Alabama treatment facility have settled with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for \$2.37 million, according to a consent order released January 3. The settlement reimbursed the agency for clean-up costs it incurred in 2009 and 2010, when it removed improperly secured liquids and sludge, including carcinogens, from Biological Processors of Alabama. The settling parties were customers that paid the firm to accept waste before the facility closed in October 2008. When Biological closed, according to EPA records, the 10-acre site held about 800,000 gallons of liquid waste and 1,100 tons of solid waste. Massive open-topped tanks were on the verge of overflowing, and some drums were leaking. Chemicals at the site included hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and sulfuric acid. Biological — which began operations in 2004 — went out of business after repeatedly discharging chemicals into the Decatur Utilities (DU) wastewater treatment plant. DU finally banned Biological from using the treatment plant in 2008, effectively ending the company's business. The EPA entered the site in January 2009, after receiving a complaint from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

Source: [http://www.decaturdaily.com/stories/Companies-pay-EPA-237-million-for-Decatur-cleanup.89730?content\\_source=&category\\_id=&search\\_filter=&event\\_mode=&events\\_from=&list\\_type=&order\\_by=&order\\_sort=&content\\_class=&sub\\_type=stories&town\\_id=](http://www.decaturdaily.com/stories/Companies-pay-EPA-237-million-for-Decatur-cleanup.89730?content_source=&category_id=&search_filter=&event_mode=&events_from=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=&sub_type=stories&town_id=)

6. *January 3, Bloomberg* – (Mississippi) **Union Carbide asbestos verdict erased by Mississippi judge.** A \$322 million jury verdict in an asbestos case against Dow Chemical Co.'s Union Carbide unit and Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. was overturned by a Mississippi judge. The companies asked the state supreme court to overturn the verdict, saying a county circuit judge had a conflict of interest because his parents had asbestos legal claims, including one against Union Carbide. The state's high court removed the judge last year and his replacement said the companies' request to remove him and vacate the verdict should be granted. The May 4, 2011 verdict was the largest ever made to a single asbestos case plaintiff, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. State punitive-damages restrictions would have reduced it by at least \$260 million. The plaintiff claimed he developed asbestosis after being exposed to the toxic fibers while mixing drilling mud on oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. He claimed Union Carbide and Chevron knew asbestos is toxic and didn't warn him.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-01-04/union-carbide-asbestos-verdict-erased-by-mississippi-judge.html>

7. *January 3, KOB 4 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Sheriff explains why deceased Sandia Labs scientist had chemicals.** The sheriff of Torrance County in New Mexico said a retired Sandia Labs scientist was making bombs in his residence in Estancia before he died to continue his life’s work, KOB 4 Albuquerque reported January 3. The sheriff said it appears the man continued experimenting with different chemicals and compounds to create a new explosive until he died a few months ago. Police discovered the lab and dismantled the elaborate and potentially deadly explosives December 31. “Everybody within about a half a mile radius of this house was at high risk every day,” the sheriff said. Deputies found the explosives when the landlord of the property went to check on the home and found the chemicals. The estimated cost of cleanup is \$50,000. The sheriff said the threat of explosion is gone and groundwater has not been affected, but he said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will make that determination.  
Source: <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2437671.shtml?cat=516>

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

8. *January 4, New Castle News Journal* – (New Jersey) **Nuclear plants investigated.** Federal regulators are investigating undisclosed security failings at PSEG Nuclear’s big Salem/Hope Creek reactor site in Lower Alloways Township, New Jersey, and warned of possible sanctions and additional citations against the company, the New Castle News Journal reported January 4. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) officials declined to release details of inspection findings leading to the security citation that was relayed to PSEG in mid-December but made public only recently. A letter posted in the NRC’s public library noted that PSEG “promptly implemented compensatory measures for the deficiency” and was back in compliance with NRC rules before the federal inspection ended. The problems are nevertheless “being considered for escalated enforcement action.”  
Source:  
<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120104/NEWS08/201040345/Nuclear-plants-investigated?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home>
9. *January 3, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Point Beach nuclear plant hits full power.** The Point Beach nuclear plant near Manitowoc, Wisconsin, began producing additional power after a refueling and expansion that began in October 2011, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported January 3. The two-reactor plant returned to service in December and reached full power December 29, said a spokeswoman for NextEra Energy Services Inc. The plant’s power output was increased by 17 percent, to about 1,200 megawatts via upgrades to both reactors and the replacement of equipment including generators, pipes, valves, and pumps.  
Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/business/point-beach-plants-electricity-is-flowing-across-nations-midsection-d53lqp0-136631143.html>

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## Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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## Banking and Finance Sector

10. *January 4, CBS News* – (Texas; Mississippi; Alabama) **‘Handsome Bandit,’ wanted in Texas, arrested in Mississippi.** Just as the FBI and Texas police agencies intensified their search for the bank robber being called the ‘Handsome Bandit,’ a routine traffic stop led to his arrest, CBS Dallas reported January 3. It said the suspect was named as the ‘Handsome Bandit’ after police in Richardson, Texas, discovered clothing, a mask and weapon the suspect left behind. Police said the man is the person who robbed a Compass Bank December 31. During that incident, her fired at chasing officers, striking one squad car. In all, he’s accused of robbing six banks across Richardson, Dallas, Plano, and Irving. He faces charges of bank robbery and attempted capital murder. CBS Dallas has learned deputies in Jackson County, Mississippi, attempted to perform a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling on Interstate-10, but the vehicle refused to stop. At some point, authorities ran the license plate and discovered the vehicle was linked to the suspect. Deputies tried three times to stop the vehicle using stop sticks but were unsuccessful. The Jackson County sheriff joined the chase as the suspect and deputies entered Alabama. The vehicle was finally stopped in rural Mississippi after the sheriff shot out the car’s right rear tire.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083\\_162-57351695-504083/handsome-bandit-wanted-in-texas-arrested-in-mississippi/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-57351695-504083/handsome-bandit-wanted-in-texas-arrested-in-mississippi/)

11. *January 3, KDFW 4 Dallas-Forth Worth* – (Texas) **Checkbook Bandit disturbs DeSoto Police.** DeSoto, Texas police are asking for help in identifying an aggressive bank robber who has struck nearly half a dozen times in the last 3 months. The man cops call the “Checkbook Bandit” has robbed the Chase bank in DeSoto three times since September. He’s also robbed a Bank of America there twice, most recently January 3. “He’s pretty brazen. He just shows up, walks up to the teller, opens the checkbook ... and basically instructs them what he wants them to do and even implies he has a weapon,” a DeSoto Police officer said. Police said the man’s checkbook includes the phrases, “I have a gun,” and “This is a robbery,” in bold writing. The robber’s modus operandi is always the same and sometimes he appears to be on a cell phone. Police said a surveillance camera captured a clear picture of an identifying mark on the top of the suspect’s head. They said he was so bold during the January 3 robbery he took his time flipping through the bills before leaving the bank.

Source: <http://www.myfoxdfw.com/dpp/news/checkbook-bandit-disturbs-desoto-police-010312>

12. *January 3, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Florida) **Man dubbed ‘Bank Bag Bandit’ arrested at his Palm Harbor residence.** A U.S. attorney announced a man was arrested January 3 in Florida by agents of the FBI, and detectives from Hillsborough and Pasco County sheriff’s offices, following the execution of a federal search warrant at his Palm Harbor residence. The suspect, whose true identity only recently became known, had been dubbed the ‘Bank Bag Bandit’ by law enforcement, and was wanted for the armed robberies of five banks, spanning Pasco, Hillsborough, and Hernando counties. According to the complaint filed January 3 in federal court, during each of the robberies, he entered five banks and threatened the tellers with a silver revolver and demanded money.  
Source:  
[http://7thspace.com/headlines/403129/man\\_dubbed\\_bank\\_bag\\_bandit\\_arrested\\_at\\_his\\_palm\\_harbor\\_residence.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/403129/man_dubbed_bank_bag_bandit_arrested_at_his_palm_harbor_residence.html)
13. *January 3, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **US charges Swiss bankers for hiding \$1.2 billion.** Three Swiss bankers were indicted in the United States January 3, accused of hiding \$1.2 billion in assets of U.S. clients seeking to avoid declaring their full wealth to tax authorities. The bankers were accused of “conspiring with U.S. taxpayers and others” in a massive tax fraud scheme. In an indictment, the bankers were said to have been client advisers at the Zurich branch of an institution identified as “Swiss Bank A.” They allegedly conspired with U.S. clients to hide the existence of bank accounts and the income they generated from the Internal Revenue Service. Swiss banks, which have a longstanding practice of offering clients secrecy, have come under steady attack by U.S. authorities, highlighted by a probe into banking giant UBS which led to a deal between U.S. and Swiss authorities. The service by “Bank A” was allegedly ramped up in 2008 and 2009 “to capture business lost by UBS AG and another large international Swiss bank in the wake of widespread news reports that the IRS was investigating UBS for helping U.S. taxpayers evade taxes and hide assets in Swiss bank accounts,” New York federal prosecutors said in a statement. They “allegedly told various U.S. taxpayer-clients that their undeclared accounts at Swiss Bank A would not be disclosed to the United States authorities because Swiss Bank A had a long tradition of bank secrecy.” The three bankers live in Switzerland. If convicted in the United States they would each face a maximum term of 5 years in prison.  
Source:  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5joM8NiVLMsAOLv2EeeDxDwOpDPzg?docId=CNG.5d4866e77b6f7d7b4a432c8d01267956.741>
14. *January 3, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **‘Wrong Way Bandit’ robs Costa Mesa credit union.** The “Wrong Way Bandit” allegedly robbed a credit union in Costa Mesa, California, December 30, his sixth bank robbery since August, according to authorities. Costa Mesa police were called to a reported robbery at the Nu Vision Credit Union at 10:40 a.m. A suspect reportedly entered the bank, displayed a handgun and threatened a teller with it and demanded cash. The teller complied, giving the suspect

an undisclosed amount of money. The FBI believes the suspect is the “Wrong Way Bandit,” who is thought to have committed five other robberies in Tustin, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, and Costa Mesa. He reportedly used the same robbery method in each of the other incidents.

Source:

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/orange\\_county&id=8489106](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/orange_county&id=8489106)

15. *January 3, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Waco life insurance firm accused of systematic fraud.** Waco, Texas-based Life Partners Holdings and three of its top executives were accused January 3 by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of “systematically and materially” misleading investors about the life expectancy of people whose life insurance policies it traded, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported. The scheme inflated the value of the company’s stock, according to a suit the SEC’s Fort Worth office filed in federal court in Waco. Investigators said the chief executive officer (CEO) sold about \$11.5 million of Life Partners stock at inflated prices while having information not available to the public about the company’s dependency on short-lifespan estimates. “Life Partners duped its shareholders by employing an unqualified medical doctor to assign baseless life expectancy estimates to the underlying insurance policies,” the director of the SEC’s Division of Enforcement said. The SEC filing deals only with Life Partners, which served as a “life settlement” broker — pairing people who no longer can afford their policy premiums with investors who took fractional interests in the policies. Sometimes policies were bought from firms that had insured key workers but then had little interest in the insurance after the employees left. The suit seeks unspecified civil penalties from the three as well as the return of stock trade profits and bonuses from two executives.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/01/03/3632387/waco-life-insurance-firm-accused.html>

For another story, see item [27](#)

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## **Transportation Sector**

16. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Maryland; Delaware) **About 12 people hurt after tour bus, car collide near Md.-Del. line.** About a dozen people were injured when a tour bus collided with a car near the Maryland-Delaware line January 3, authorities said. A Holloway Tours bus hit the back of a Honda Civic about 4 p.m. January 3 on Route 610 in Whaleyville, Maryland State Police said. The injured people were transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, police said. Charges are pending, according to authorities.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/breaking/bal-md-tour-bus-car-accident-0104,0,2698670.story>

17. *January 4, Helena Independent Record* – (Montana) **Moving locomotive’s window shot out.** Someone shot what is believed to be a shotgun round at the engineer’s window of a moving locomotive near National Avenue in Helena, Montana, January 2.

About 10 p.m., police received a call reporting the blast, which shattered the window but did not injure anyone on the train, the Helena police chief said. A small red hatchback was seen by the engineer at the railroad crossing, a spokeswoman for Montana Rail Link said. Officials are reviewing video from the locomotive. The train was hauling grain.

Source: [http://helenair.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/moving-locomotive-s-window-shot-out/article\\_64c50a9c-36a7-11e1-b96b-0019bb2963f4.html](http://helenair.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/moving-locomotive-s-window-shot-out/article_64c50a9c-36a7-11e1-b96b-0019bb2963f4.html)

18. *January 4, Associated Press* – (National) **Obama signs pipeline safety, airport security laws.** The U.S. President signed a bill to toughen oil and gas pipeline regulations and another to ease airport security procedures for members of the military on official travel. He signed the legislation January 3 as part of a post-holiday, back-to-business day that included approval of several other measures approved by Congress late in 2011. The pipeline law aims to close gaps in federal safety regulations made apparent by a fatal gas pipeline break near San Francisco in 2010. The airport security law will allow expedited screening for service members and accompanying family. Military travelers would have to be in uniform and would have to present their orders to benefit from the faster screening process.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/politics&id=8489903>

19. *January 3, MLive.com* – (Michigan) **Freight train derails but nothing spills when section of track breaks in Kalamazoo.** A freight train derailed January 3 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, when a section of track broke, but no rail cars overturned and nothing spilled, officials with Grand Elk Railroad (GER) said. The train, bound for Graphic Packaging, was about a mile south of its destination at Porter and Myrtle streets when a section of rail broke, said GER officials. A section of rail about 60 feet long broke, with one rail protruding upward and the other snapped and lying in snow. The train was carrying liquid clay to Graphic Packaging when it derailed. A GER official said the liquid clay is nonhazardous. Railroad officials said a “sidewinder” will be brought in to move at least four cars that derailed back onto the tracks, which will be repaired.

Source: [http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/01/post\\_242.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/01/post_242.html)

20. *January 3, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (New York; North Carolina) **Suspicious passenger diverts New York-bound flight to RDU.** An American Eagle flight bound for LaGuardia Airport in New York City was diverted to Raleigh Durham International Airport (RDU) in Wake County, North Carolina January 3 after a man failed to claim two cellphones left in the plane’s bathroom, said a RDU spokeswoman. When the pilot landed at RDU, he asked that the passenger be removed from the plane. The FBI and the Transportation Security Administration were called in to investigate. They were questioning the man January 3 before deciding whether charges would be filed, the spokeswoman said. The plane, which took off from Nashville, Tennessee, continued on to LaGuardia without the suspicious passenger on board.

Source: [http://www.wral.com/news/news\\_briefs/story/10557890/](http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/10557890/)

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

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *January 2, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Young mother killed, 3 hurt in Strip District nightclub shooting.** Police said four people were shot at Fever Nightclub in the Strip District of Pittsburgh January 1. A woman was found near the club, police said. She was taken to a hospital with gunshot wounds to the neck and chest and was pronounced dead. Police said she was shot as she got into her car after leaving Fever. The owner of the nightclub agreed to shut down once the district attorney got involved after the shooting. According to police, two men were shot in the club. A fourth victim fled from the area and later reported he was grazed by gunfire while inside the club, police said.

Source: <http://www.wtae.com/r/30112303/detail.html>

22. *January 2, WJXT 4 Jacksonville* – (Florida) **1 dead, 3 injured in nightclub shooting.** Police are investigating a shooting that happened January 1 at the Chicago Club in Jacksonville, Florida, that left one man dead and three injured. According to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, responding officers found a man shot. He later died. Police said three other victims were taken to hospitals by private vehicles. One was treated and released, and two others were still hospitalized January 2.

Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/news/1-dead-3-injured-in-nightclub-shooting/-/475880/7429862/-/153up0d/-/>

For another story, see item [17](#)

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## **Water Sector**

23. *January 3, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **DU water main break repairs continue.** Denver Water continued January 3 to repair pipes and a valve that broke December 31 and flooded the University of Denver, KMGH 7 Denver reported. The pipes that burst were laid in the 1920s or 30s, said a Denver Water spokeswoman. Work crews ordered new pipes to be installed in the next several days. The water main break dumped an estimated 24 million gallons near University Boulevard.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/30127001/detail.html>

24. *January 2, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia; National) **Billions needed to upgrade America's leaky water infrastructure.** At a U.S. Senate hearing in December, a committee was told it will take \$335 billion to resurrect water systems and

\$300 billion to fix sewer systems in the nation. The water pipes in Washington D.C. are being replaced at an average of 11 miles a year. At that rate, replacing them all will take more than 100 years. Officials said there is no money to do it any faster, however, the District's pipes are being replaced twice as fast as the average in other major water systems in America. About \$9.4 billion more per year is needed for water and sewer work between now and 2020, according to a study released in December by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Without that, many Americans should prepare for regular disruption of water service and a jump in contamination caused by sewage bacteria, the study said. Nationwide, an estimated 1.7 trillion gallons of water leaks from pipes each year before it can be put to use. About 900 billion gallons of raw sewage flows into waterways.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/billions-needed-to-upgrade-americas-leaky-water-infrastructure/2011/12/22/gIQAdsEOWP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/billions-needed-to-upgrade-americas-leaky-water-infrastructure/2011/12/22/gIQAdsEOWP_story.html)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

25. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas school shooting: Brownsville Police shot and killed armed middle school student.** Brownsville, Texas police shot and killed an armed eighth-grader who “engaged” officers in the main hallway of his middle school hallway January 4. Brownsville school district officials said administrators called police after the student brandished a weapon shortly after classes started at Cummings Middle School. When police arrived, the student “engaged” the officers and was shot, a district spokeswoman said. The school, with an enrollment of about 750 students, was placed on lockdown when administrators called police and no one else was injured, the district spokeswoman said. The lockdown was lifted about 2 hours after the shooting, but students and employees were relocated while officers investigated. A Brownsville police detective said they had not determined whether the student fired any shots, and he said officers had no information on why the student might have had the gun on him.

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/police-kill-armed-8thgrad\\_n\\_1183517.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/police-kill-armed-8thgrad_n_1183517.html)

26. *January 3, CNN* – (Florida) **FBI takes over investigation of Florida powder incident.** Three people reported falling ill January 3 after exposure to a suspicious powder in the mail room of the state attorney's office in West Palm Beach, Florida, a city spokesman said. Initial reports indicated the powder was not hazardous, but the investigation will continue, an official with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said.

Two of the three workers who were sent to a hospital after the exposure complained of headache, nausea, and vomiting, a city spokesman said. The third worker complained of a headache. A firefighter who responded to the incident was also hospitalized with cardiac problems. He was equipped with an air tank, the city spokesman said, and it was unclear whether his symptoms were related to exposure. Other employees were in the mail room when the envelope containing the powder was opened, but they did not complain of any medical problems. A portion of the building evacuated during the scare was reopened after workers sealed off an air duct connecting it to the mail room. The FBI, U.S. postal investigators, and the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office are jointly investigating the case.

Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/03/justice/florida-suspicious-powder/index.html?hpt=us\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/03/justice/florida-suspicious-powder/index.html?hpt=us_c2)

27. *January 3, Government Computer News* – (International) **Army warns of ID theft from Stratfor hack.** The U.S. Army is warning users of its Army Knowledge Online (AKO) portal to beware of identity theft following the recent Anonymous hack of intelligence analysis company Strategic Forecasting, Government Computer News reported January 3. The hack the weekend of December 23 netted information on hundreds of thousands of accounts, including e-mail addresses and thousands of credit card numbers that Anonymous later posted online. Anonymous said the hack was relatively easy because the credit card data it took was not encrypted, the Wall Street Journal reported.  
Source: <http://gcn.com/articles/2012/01/03/anonymous-stratfor-hack-ako-users-id-theft.aspx>
28. *January 3, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Four people taken to hospital after 'white powder' incident at State Attorney's Office.** Four people, including a fire-rescue worker, were taken to a local hospital January 3 following a suspicious white powder incident at the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office in Florida. Initial testing of the powder was "inconclusive," according to an emergency manager for the City of West Palm Beach. "The colors didn't change the way they normally do, so there was a little bit of concern," said the emergency manager, adding there is no direct threat to other people. The powder was sent to an FBI lab for further testing, and it could be identified within the next 24 hours. Rescue workers and Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched after someone opened a letter in the State Attorney's Office's first floor mail room and found the substance, a city spokesman said. Three people were exposed to the powder — two women and one man. The three complained of headaches and were vomiting. They were decontaminated at the scene, then taken to Good Samaritan Medical Center for further treatment. A fire-rescue worker was taken to the hospital for a possible cardiac issue. People from the second floor of the building were initially moved to the courthouse but were allowed back in once command was terminated in the afternoon.  
Source: [http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/crime/authorities-investigating-possible-white-powder-incident-at-state-2076676.html?cxntcid=breaking\\_news](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/crime/authorities-investigating-possible-white-powder-incident-at-state-2076676.html?cxntcid=breaking_news)
29. *December 29, Washington Examiner* – (Maryland) **Flood caused \$14 million in damage to Prince George's government building.** Repairs to the Prince George

County, Maryland's administration building in flood-prone Upper Marlboro will cost between \$14 million and \$15 million, according to county officials, with most of it not covered by the county's insurance policies, the Washington Examiner reported December 29. The home of the county's executive and legislative branches and a host of other county government functions was closed for days in September after 2 feet of floodwater caused by Tropical Storm Lee destroyed much of the building's ground floor. Insurance will cover about \$5 million in damages, according to the county's deputy chief administrative officer for budget, finance, and administration. Prince George's officials had anticipated coverage of up to \$50 million at the time of the flood, but the building and a nearby warehouse also damaged by rising waters are located in flood zones that lower the county's coverage, he said. The building is scheduled to reopen January 17, according to a spokesman.

Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/maryland/2011/12/flood-caused-14-million-damage-pg-government-building/2045376>

For more stories, see items [18](#), [23](#), and [41](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

30. *January 3, Jackson Clarion-Ledger* – (Mississippi) **Lauderdale Co. shutting down detention center.** Weeks after the U.S. Justice Department announced its investigation into Lauderdale County, Mississippi's juvenile justice system, county officials are moving to shut down the youth detention facility a grand jury described as unfit to house dogs. The board of supervisors approved the move January 3 at the recommendation of the Lauderdale County sheriff, who took over the juvenile detention center in October at the request of youth court judges who had fielded complaints about conditions. The board created a committee to begin negotiations with Rankin County to house Lauderdale's youthful offenders. Justice Department officials said their investigation of the Lauderdale center is the second one in the nation they have undertaken to ensure youths' constitutional rights are not being violated. In addition to physical abuse, children had been denied rehabilitative and educational services, threatened with chemical restraints, and subjected to prolonged cell confinement, despite being confined for such offenses as talking back to their parents and shoplifting, the Southern Poverty Law Center previously wrote in a letter to supervisors.

Source:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20120104/NEWS/201040343/Lauderdale-Co-shutting-down-detention-center?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Home|s>

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20120104/NEWS/201040343/Lauderdale-Co-shutting-down-detention-center?odyssey=m-###>

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## Information Technology Sector

31. *January 4, Threatpost* – (International) **Lilupophilupop SQL injection attack tops 1 million infected URLs.** A SQL injection attack that has been ongoing for several weeks hit a threshold of more than 1 million infected URLs, Threatpost reported January 4. The attack was first identified and disclosed by researchers at the SANS Internet Storm Center in early December, and at the time there were only a few thousand infected pages. The attacks seemed to be targeting sites with backends running on IIS, ASP, or Microsoft SQL Server, and there were some indications the attackers were doing reconnaissance on the infected sites for some time before the actual attack. The attack, which included a script that redirected users to a URL at lilupophilupop(dot)com, was similar to other mass SQL injection attacks that surfaced in recent years. “Sources of the attack vary, it is automated and spreading fairly rapidly. The trail of the files ends up on “adobeflash page” or fake AV. Blocking access to the lilupophilupop site will prevent infection of clients should they hit an infected site and be redirected,” a SANS ISC researcher wrote in the initial analysis of the attack. The goal of the attack seems to be to drive victims to a site that is peddling fake AV or scareware. That is where the monetization portion of the scheme comes in, with the attackers trying to lure victims into paying a license fee for a fake AV program they not only do not need, but will also likely cause other problems on their machines.  
Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/lilupophilupop-sql-injection-attack-tops-1-million-infected-urls-010412](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/lilupophilupop-sql-injection-attack-tops-1-million-infected-urls-010412)
32. *January 4, Help Net Security* – (International) **Spyware pushed via Google ads.** A Zscaler researcher recently spotted a suspicious looking ad for a free Flash Video player in his Google Reader. By clicking on the link he was taken to the download page of the player, which repeats many times over the offered player is free. However, at the bottom of the page a disclosure statement reveals the software is bundled with additional products that “may include advertisement.” This particular piece of adware/spyware appears to install a toolbar along with the player, opens many ports in the system, attempts to connect with remote servers, and requests a number of URLs. “The ad was found on the RSS feed of a security company specialized in cleaning up infected websites,” the researcher said. “This highlights the fact that even reading content from otherwise legitimate resources can inadvertently lead users to unwanted applications when sites include third-party elements (JavaScript driven ads in this case, but also IFRAMES, widgets, etc.) that they do not have control over.”  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1950](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1950)
33. *January 4, The Register* – (International) **Pastebin on the mend after DDoS battering.** Popular text file sharing service Pastebin.com returned online following a denial of service attack January 3. The site, which allows users to anonymously upload documents and share them, has become a favorite resource for hackers from Anonymous and elsewhere over recent months. Anonymous uses Pastebin to upload data dumps and to post announcements of planned operations. The site also serves as an Internet clipboard for programmers and others. Pastebin confirmed the attack January 3 via its official Twitter account.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/01/04/pastebin\\_ddos\\_recovery/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/01/04/pastebin_ddos_recovery/)

34. *January 4, H Security* – (International) **Chat logs reveal the operator of a major botnet.** A security blogger published information about the suspected lead hacker behind the Cutwail botnet. Using various chat logs, he managed to establish the name, phone number, and other personal data of the suspected botnet operator who goes by the name of “Google.” Previously, Russian investigators seized the computer belonging to one of the spammer’s business partners and found extensive chat logs that appeared on the net soon afterwards. The blogger said the logs of chat sessions with a founder of the “SpamIt” spam network indicate “Google” held about a dozen accounts on this network. With these accounts, the spammer allegedly collected around \$175,000 in commissions for sending out pharmaceutical spam through his botnet. “Google” is suspected of having made even more money by renting out his botnet to other spammers who use SpamIt. According to current statistics compiled by M86 Security, Cutwail and its affiliates are responsible for approximately 22 percent of the daily global spam volume. However, SpamIt lost its top market position after hackers intruded into the system and disclosed the names of its customers and affiliates. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Chat-logs-reveal-the-operator-of-a-major-botnet-1403253.html>
35. *January 4, H Security* – (International) **WordPress 3.3.1 closes XSS hole.** Version 3.3.1 of the open source WordPress blogging and publishing platform has been released. The maintenance and security update addresses a cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability affecting WordPress 3.3. According to a blog post by two security researchers, the hole affects WordPress instances installed using an IP address; instances of WordPress installed using a domain name are reportedly not vulnerable. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/WordPress-3-3-1-closes-XSS-hole-1403297.html>
36. *January 3, Softpedia* – (International) **Scareware migrates to Android devices, beware of Opera virus scanner.** Rogue pieces of software that falsely alert users their devices are infected with malicious elements, requiring victims to pay certain amounts of money to allegedly clean their computers, were spotted to target Android enthusiasts. Up until now, Windows systems were the main target for scareware scams, but Kaspersky Lab researchers found online scam artists are now focusing on smartphones. While searching for some popular mobile apps such as Opera Mini, experts came across several phony Web pages that claim the user’s device is infected with malware, requesting access to the phone to provide further details. If the unsuspecting victim accepts, she is taken to another page that brings up worrying results. The site finds malware in messages, calls, apps, and the storage unit. Unlike the rogue applications that target Windows systems, where the victim is required to provide sensitive data or a certain activation fee, in this case, she is offered a link to activate a “security system” free of charge. Once the alleged system is activated, a trojan identified as SMS.AndroidOS.Scavir is downloaded and installed. After installation is complete, a menu icon similar to the one belonging to Kaspersky applications appears and after making sure it has all the permission it needs, starts sending SMSs to premium rate numbers. The malware targets more than Android users, experts warned. If the phone is detected as running a non-Android operating system, the malicious Web page serves a file called VirusScanner.jar identified as Trojan-SMS.J2ME.Agent.ij.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Beware-of-Opera-Virus-Scanner-Scareware-Migrates-to-Android-Devices-244161.shtml>

For another story, see item [27](#)

### 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

37. *January 4, WPTV 5 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **Comcast outage creates static.** Some viewers in Florida were complaining January 4 they were still having problems with their cable signals. Comcast viewers continued to complain about spotty service a day after an outage affected thousands of customers. The outages experienced the afternoon of January 3 were due to a software problem at Comcast's distribution site, a company spokesman said. The outage affected some standard definition channels and most high definition (HD) channels for about 45 minutes January 3. Cable services were fully restored to all Comcast customers, the spokesman said. The outage that occurred January 3 affected the same customers affected by an outage the night of January 2. The electrical problem that occurred January 2 may have caused the software problem January 3, he said.

Source: [http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/science\\_tech/comcast-outage-creates-static](http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/science_tech/comcast-outage-creates-static)

38. *January 3, WHP 21 Harrisburg* – (Pennsylvania) **WIOO back on the air.** WIOO 1000 AM/97.9 FM in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, resumed broadcasting January 3. It is broadcasting directly from the transmitter as most of the equipment was destroyed by a January 1 fire. The phone system has not been replaced yet, but the station is playing music and commercials. The electrical fire started at 1:30 p.m., and badly damaged the building.

Source: [http://www.whptv.com/news/local/story/UPDATE-WIOO-back-on-the-air/GkoNt5fY-0KP-PfLxc\\_rPg.csp](http://www.whptv.com/news/local/story/UPDATE-WIOO-back-on-the-air/GkoNt5fY-0KP-PfLxc_rPg.csp)

For another story, see item [36](#)

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *January 4, WNYW 5 New York* – (New York) **More than 100 firefighters battle Inwood blaze.** A fire that broke out late January 3 was still burning hours later January 4 in the Inwood area of New York City. More than 135 firefighters responded to the

fire that took nearly 4 hours to get under control, said officials. The fire broke out on the first or second floors, according to officials, and spread to several stores and offices above.

Source: <http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/more-than-100-firefighters-battle-inwood-blaze-20120104-KC>

40. *January 3, FoxNews.com* – (New York) **New York City police arrest suspect in string of firebomb attacks.** Police arrested a suspect January 3 in connection with the firebombing of an Islamic cultural center and four other New York City area sites. Police said the suspect was arrested on charges including one count of arson as a hate crime, four counts of arson, and five counts of criminal possession of a weapon. The suspect confessed to five incidents in total, including the attack on the Imam Al-Khoei Foundation, an Islamic center, and a Hindu temple, both located in Queens, a spokesman for the New York City Police Department said. He allegedly was motivated by personal grievances with people at each of the five locations, hurling Molotov cocktails fashioned from bottles filled with fuel that he obtained at a gas station. The suspect was tracked through a car with Virginia license plates that was thought to be at the scene of at least two of the attacks January 1, which also targeted a convenience store and two homes, the police commissioner said. The car was stolen from a Hertz rental car facility at John F. Kennedy International Airport.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/03/new-york-city-police-arrest-suspect-in-string-firebomb-attacks/>
41. *January 3, WTKR 3 Hampton Roads* – (Virginia) **Navy man charged with manufacturing, possession of explosive device in James City County.** Police responded to a call about a domestic assault in the Seasons Trace subdivision in James City County, Virginia, January 1, and an investigation revealed the possible presence of a military hand grenade. The James City County Fire Marshal's Office obtained a felony warrant for a man who is on active duty in the U.S. Navy. He is charged with manufacturing and possession of an explosive device. With the assistance of Navy EOD, the James City County Fire Marshal's Office discovered bomb making material and one partially completed Improvised Explosive Device. All hazardous materials and devices were removed from the residence by EOD personnel. Two adjoining residences were evacuated by police before removal of the materials.  
Source: <http://www.wtkr.com/news/wtkr-navy-man-charged-with-manufacturing-and-possession-of-explosive-device-in-james-city-county-20120103,0,2185078.story>
42. *January 3, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Second woman charged with assault in Walmart chemical fight.** A second woman was charged in the bleach and Pine-Sol fight that temporarily shut down a Baltimore County Walmart in the fall of 2011, the Baltimore Sun reported January 3. A Baltimore County grand jury indicted the woman on charges of first-degree assault, reckless endangerment, and destruction of property in connection with the October 8 fight. The chemical fumes from the incident caused 19 people to be taken to area hospitals.  
Source: [http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-01-03/news/bs-md-walmart-case-update-20120103\\_1\\_chemical-fumes-second-woman-assault](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-01-03/news/bs-md-walmart-case-update-20120103_1_chemical-fumes-second-woman-assault)

43. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colorado mall bomber pleads guilty to arson.** A man acknowledged planting a homemade bomb at a Colorado shopping mall on the 12th anniversary of the Columbine school shootings, the Associated Press reported December 30. The man pleaded guilty to one count of arson in federal court in Denver. An April 20 fire at the Southwest Plaza Mall in Littleton and discovery of the bomb raised fears it was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the 1999 school shootings at nearby Columbine High School that killed 15 people. Authorities concluded it was not. During the hearing, the man said he did not intend to hurt anyone. The Denver Post reported he said he drained the propane tanks connected to the device before leaving it. He said he was upset about “a domestic thing,” but he could not really explain why he did it.  
Source: [http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpps/news/colorado-mall-bomber-pleads-guilty-to-arson-dpgapx-20111230-to\\_16693918](http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpps/news/colorado-mall-bomber-pleads-guilty-to-arson-dpgapx-20111230-to_16693918)

For another story, see item [7](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

44. *January 3, CNN* – (Texas) **Massive grass fire burns in eastern Texas.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is battling a large grass fire in the marshlands of Jefferson County, Texas, an agency official stated January 3. The fire began January 2 about 12 miles west of Sabine Pass and about 200 yards from the Intracoastal Waterway. A spokesman for the fish and wildlife service estimated the area burned to be between 10,000 and 12,000 acres, but said the fire was not threatening any structures. Smoke from the blaze was drifting into the Houston-Galveston area more than 100 miles from the fire. Texas has suffered its worst fire season in state history with more than 3.5 million acres burned, according to state officials.  
Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/03/us/texas-grass-fire/index.html?hpt=us\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/03/us/texas-grass-fire/index.html?hpt=us_c2)
45. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Mount Rainier park remains closed after shooting.** Mount Rainier National Park in Washington State remained closed January 2 following the discovery of the body of the suspected gunman in the fatal shooting of a park ranger. The park, which sees more than 1.5 million visitors annually, has been off-limits since the ranger was killed the morning of January 1. The body of the man suspected of killing her was found January 2 by a plane searching the rugged, snowy area. The gunman who killed the ranger exited his vehicle and fired at the victim and a ranger trailing him, but only the victim was hit. Police immediately began a manhunt. Park officials, fearing that tourists could be caught in the crossfire of a potential shootout, held more than 100 people at the visitors’ center before evacuating them early January 2.  
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/mount-rainier-park-remains-closed-after-shooting-1.3424983>

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## Dams Sector

46. *December 29, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Missouri) **Corps to get \$800 million for flood repair.** The Mississippi Valley Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will receive more than \$800 million for repair funds under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act signed by the U.S. President, December 23. The Corps received \$1.7 billion total. The agency intentionally breached a levee in the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway in May to reduce pressure on a swollen Mississippi River in Mississippi County. The levee breach flooded more than 130,000 acres of farmland and homes. According to the Corps, the Mississippi River and Tributaries System prevented more than \$120 billion in damages during the flood in 2011, the largest recorded flood in the river's history. Engineers estimate repair costs for currently documented damages in the Mississippi Valley region alone are close to \$1 billion and estimate it will take years to restore the system to its pre-flood conditions.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/16411428/corps-to-get-800-million-for-flood-repair>

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

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

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