



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 9 January 2012

### Top Stories

- A total of 79 vehicles were involved in a chain-reaction crash near LaBelle, Texas, that injured more than 50 people and closed a major highway for 5 hours. – *KSAT 12 San Antonio* (See item [17](#))
- Nineteen people in seven states were confirmed infected with a multi-drug resistant strain of Salmonella Typhimurium in an outbreak linked to contaminated ground beef sold at Hannaford Supermarkets. – *Food Safety News* (See item [20](#))

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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, IDG News Service* – (International) **Smart grid security inadequate, threats abound.** A recent report by Pike Research found a lack of security standards, a hodgepodge of products, and increasingly aggressive malicious hackers will make 2012 a challenging year for securing smart grids, IDG News Service reported January 4. “After years of vendors selling point solutions, utilities investing in compliance minimums rather than full security, and attackers having nearly free rein, the attackers clearly have the upper hand. Many attacks simply cannot be defended,” said a Pike

analyst. There is also a danger of overlooking the insider threat. “One of the main reasons for increased spending on smart grid security software and management systems is simply to make sure the correct people have access to the equipment and systems they should have access to.” Among other things, this means protecting systems from disgruntled employees or others who might commit internal sabotage, an ABI Research analyst said. The Pike Research report suggests the lack of enforceable security standards or regulations for power distribution grids “leads to a scene of mass chaos in utility cybersecurity”, and will cause utilities to take a wait-and-see approach to significant security investments.

Source: <http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=A127ABC9-B53E-AC90-3176B393E1D42341>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

2. *January 6, USA Today* – (National) **EPA: Toxic chemical releases rise 16% in 2010.** Reversing a downward trend, the amount of toxic chemicals released into the nation’s environment in 2010 was 16 percent higher than the year before, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported. Due largely to changes in metal mining, 3.93 billion pounds of toxic chemicals were released into the environment in 2010, according to the EPA’s annual Toxics Release Inventory. Such amounts had previously been falling since 2006. “In this sector, even a small change in the chemical composition of ore being mined ... may lead to big changes in the amount of toxic chemicals reported nationally,” the EPA said in a statement January 5 accompanying the data release. The agency said the chemical and primary metals industries also reported increases in toxic releases. The problem was most severe with toxic chemical releases into the ground, which jumped 28 percent in 2010. Such releases into surface water rose 9 percent. Total air releases fell 6 percent in 2010, continuing a multi-year downward trend, but those of dioxin rose 10 percent. The EPA is expected this month to release the first part of an environmental assessment of dioxin, which is linked to cancer and neurological problems.

Source: <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/greenhouse/post/2012/01/epa-toxic-chemical-releases-jump-16-in-2010/1>

3. *January 6, WTAQ 1360 AM Green Bay* – (Wisconsin) **Ammonia leak leads to evacuations in Grand Chute.** A chemical leak in Grand Chute, Wisconsin led to at least 35 people being evacuated January 5. Officials said it happened at Americold, a bulk cold storage company. The fire department said it found an ammonia leak inside the building. Four nearby streets were shut down while crews worked to fix the leak. Members of the Appleton Hazardous Materials Team were able to stop the leak.
- Source: <http://wtaq.com/news/articles/2012/jan/06/ammonia-leak-leads-to-evacuations-in-grand-chute/>

4. *January 5, KPRC 2 Houston* – (Texas) **Beltway 8 reopens after big rig crash.** Part of Beltway 8 in north Houston reopened the afternoon of January 5 after being closed for hours because of a big rig crash involving an 18-wheeler carrying at least four different chemicals, including flammable products. The accident happened in the westbound lane of North Beltway 8 at JFK Boulevard at 8:15 a.m. According to the trucking company, an 18-wheeler pulling two trailers was sideswiped by a car. The driver hit his brakes and jackknifed, officials said. Texas transportation department officials said the truck hit the center lane lighting system, so power was turned off in the area. The driver was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. A hazardous materials team responded, and all main lanes of the highway were closed until the scene cleared shortly before noon. Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/Beltway-8-reopens-after-big-rig-crash/-/1735978/7648546/-/2yhbkkz/-/>
  
5. *January 5, Aledo Times Record* – (Illinois) **Industrial fire extinguished quickly.** A 9,000 square-foot, nickel-plating building in Aledo, Illinois, caught fire early January 5. The fire was called into 911 by a Meminger Metal Finishing employee who noticed heavy smoke billowing from the MMF2 building in the industrial park complex. The two remain zinc plating operations in Aledo were not affected. The call came in to the Mercer County Sheriff dispatcher at 3:39 a.m. and brought out 22 Aledo Protection District firefighters. The Viola Fire Department and AMT ambulance also responded. The Aledo fire chief said the mild weather after many windy days prevented a potential disaster. The plant manager said no chemicals were in danger during the electrical fire. Two new pieces of nickel plating equipment received the most damage — a tank and filter. The company was just about a month-and-a-half away from having the capacity to double its production, according to the plant manager. The new equipment would have doubled output. It now must be replaced. Source: <http://www.aledotimesrecord.com/news/x28915456/Industrial-fire-extinguished-quickly>

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

6. *January 5, Missouri News Horizon* – (Nebraska) **Nuclear gatekeeper returns to Omaha, Fort Calhoun still a concern.** With the Fort Calhoun nuclear plant near Blair, Nebraska shut down since April 2011 — costing ratepayers \$32 million — and no clear cut restart date set, officials with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are coming back to Omaha, Nebraska. The NRC announced January 5 it will meet in public with officials from the Omaha Public Power District January 19 to discuss plans surrounding future inspections at the flood-plagued reactor as well as the NRC’s continuing oversight of the plant. Source: <http://missouri-news.org/midwest-news/nebraska/nuclear-gatekeeper-returns-to-omaha-fort-calhoun-still-a-concern/12517>

7. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Federal regulators say Ohio nuclear reactor safe despite not knowing cause of concrete cracks.** Federal inspectors are convinced a reactor at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant along Lake Erie in Port Clinton, Ohio is safe to operate even though they said January 5 it is not clear why small cracks appeared in a concrete shell that protects the plant. Tests on the concrete have not given inspectors any reason to keep the plant shut down, said a regional director with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC allowed the plant to begin producing electricity again in early December, less than 2 months after the first cracks were found. The commission signed off on restarting the plant following several tests and after its owner, FirstEnergy Corp., assured it the cracks do not pose a threat. The commission has given FirstEnergy until the end of February to find out what caused the cracks.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/nuclear-regulators-ohio-utility-meeting-thursday-to-discuss-concrete-cracks-found-at-reactor/2012/01/05/gIQA3tdCdP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/nuclear-regulators-ohio-utility-meeting-thursday-to-discuss-concrete-cracks-found-at-reactor/2012/01/05/gIQA3tdCdP_story.html)

8. *January 5, New Jersey Press Media* – (National) **NRC to review regulations for reactors.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has agreed with environmentalists to review its regulations concerning General Electric Mark 1 reactors. An NRC safety panel posted notice on its Federal Register Web site January 3 accepting a request by three environmental groups to review whether approvals issued in 1989 concerning reactor venting systems at General Electric Mark I reactors should be revoked. The reactor is the same type that was in operation at the Fukushima, Japan nuclear power plant which suffered a meltdown and fire last March. According to a release issued by the environmental groups, the NRC review will also include whether to order all Mark I operators to install backup emergency power systems to cool the reactors' highly radioactive rooftop fuel pools.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20120106/NEWS01/301060037/NRC-review-regulations-reactors-Oyster-Creek>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *January 6, Softpedia* – (International) **ArcelorMittal hacked by Anonymous, tons of information leaked.** Loose-knit hacker collective Anonymous managed to breach the main Web site belonging to ArcelorMittal, the largest steel-producing company in the world, leaking a large quantity of information from their databases, Softpedia reported January 6. ArcelorMittal's Web site was offline January 6. Several cross-site scripting and SQL injection vulnerabilities allowed the hackers to breach the Web site and leak information on users and administrators. Only a few days have passed since Anonymous first threatened Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal for closing production sites in Belgium.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/ArcelorMittal-Hacked-by-Anonymous-Tons-of-Information-Leaked-244898.shtml>

10. *January 6, USA Today* – (National) **GM announces fix to stop Chevrolet Volt fires.** General Motors will modify its Chevrolet Volt plug-in car to eliminate the possibility that its batteries can catch on fire hours or days after a serious side-impact crash, USA Today reported January 6. GM said it was a “customer satisfaction” action and would not be considered a recall. Battery coolant could leak on an electronic board, causing the fire, GM said. The leaks were discovered in tests in which a Volt was rotated until it was inverted. Only a small amount of coolant, a few cupfuls, were involved. To fix it, GM will modify the car to strengthen the protection around the battery. It will only add a few pounds.  
Source: <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/driveon/post/2012/01/breaking-gm-announced-fix-to-stop-chevrolet-volt-fires/1>
  
11. *January 6, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Chrysler plant fire stalls Jeep Wrangler assembly.** A small fire that broke out in a paint oven January 5 at Chrysler’s Toledo Assembly complex caused about \$10,000 in damage and temporarily stalled Jeep Wrangler production, officials said. A company spokesman said the fire was quickly brought under control. The paint ovens are used for curing freshly applied paint before vehicles go to final assembly. A Toledo Fire Department official said lubricant from the conveyor used to move vehicles into the oven apparently ignited. Work continued in other parts of the plant, and production resumed that afternoon. A member of the plant’s internal fire brigade was treated for smoke inhalation.  
Source: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2012/01/06/Chrysler-plant-fire-stalls-Jeep-Wrangler-assembly.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *January 6, PhillyBurbs.com* – (Pennsylvania) **Man pleads guilty to \$658,000 in check kiting scam.** A Lower Moreland Township, Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty to bank fraud January 5 in connection with a check writing scheme involving three used car dealerships in Lower Bucks. According to federal authorities, the man would write checks on a bank account for one used-car business that amounted to more than was in the account, cash the checks at a Bensalem check cashing business, and redeposit the money into the original account. According to court records, he repeatedly wrote checks on accounts for NIKA Trade in Feasterville, and Superior Auto Trade, also known as Ambela Auto Trading or South Philly Leasing in Langhorne. Agents said the check amounts escalated, enabling the man to inflate each account in a process known as “check kiting.” By continuing to write checks, the inflated amounts moved from

account to account between May and July 2010, according to authorities. Before the thefts were discovered, First Niagara Bank lost \$658,979.91 to the scheme.

Source: [http://www.phillyburbs.com/my\\_town/bensalem/man-pleads-guilty-to-in-check-kiting-scam/article\\_768ca593-9eec-5388-b7f1-88c0b3ff70ce.html](http://www.phillyburbs.com/my_town/bensalem/man-pleads-guilty-to-in-check-kiting-scam/article_768ca593-9eec-5388-b7f1-88c0b3ff70ce.html)

13. *January 6, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Incendiary device that failed to ignite left at southeast Seattle bank.** A suspicious package found January 6 at a bank in southeast Seattle was an incendiary device that failed to ignite. Seattle police called the incident an attempted arson. A Seattle police spokesman said someone who apparently saw the device inside the secure ATM area at a Chase Bank reported it to a patrol officer. Police arson/bomb squad investigators rendered the device safe, according to a police news release. Sound Transit's light rail service through the area was disrupted for a short time during the investigation.

Source: <http://today.seattletimes.com/2012/01/suspicious-package-found-in-southeast-seattle-bank/>

14. *January 5, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **'Logo bandit' robs two St. Louis-area banks in one day.** Police believe the so-called "Logo Bandit" robbed two more St. Louis-area banks January 5, bringing the number of robberies attributed to this man to seven in the past 4 months. The first robbery took place the morning of January 5 at a Bank of America branch in Warson Woods, police officials said. A FBI spokeswoman said the suspect entered the bank around 10:30 a.m. and presented a demand note. He did not show a weapon. He struck again during the afternoon in Clayton. Police said he entered the Truman Bank at around 2 p.m. and handed the teller a demand note. Again the suspect did not indicate a weapon. Authorities labeled him the "logo bandit" because he wears hats and sweatshirts featuring brand-name or athletic logos.

Source: [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/logo-bandit-robs-two-st-louis-area-banks-in-one/article\\_4cca355c-37c9-11e1-89b4-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/logo-bandit-robs-two-st-louis-area-banks-in-one/article_4cca355c-37c9-11e1-89b4-0019bb30f31a.html)

15. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio real estate agent pleads guilty to charges in mortgage fraud scheme.** An Ohio real estate agent pleaded guilty to submitting false loan applications to obtain \$6.9 million from lending institutions in a mortgage fraud scheme. The suspect pleaded guilty January 5 in federal court in Cincinnati to single counts of wire fraud and bank fraud. Authorities said the man encouraged clients to buy homes at prices they could not afford and submitted loan applications for them that contained false statements about their assets. Prosecutors said he also fraudulently created bank statements to support the false loan applications. Prosecutors said each count is punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1 million.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/662816ea524549c59dc660682ca82f14/OH--Mortgage-Fraud-Charges/>

16. *January 4, Panama City News Herald* – (Florida) **5 indicted in \$8.7 million mortgage fraud scheme.** Federal prosecutors have indicted five people in connection to an alleged mortgage fraud scheme that involved nine Panama City Beach, Florida properties and nearly \$9 million, the Panama City News Herald reported January 4.

Investigators said the suspects fraudulently obtained more than \$8.7 million in mortgages to purchase nine properties in Panama City and Panama City Beach in 2006. However, the individuals never paid the mortgage payments and, according to federal prosecutors, never intended to pay the mortgages leading to foreclosure actions. The defendants each were charged with wire fraud. The indictment states the owner of a real estate investment company in Miami, obtained the services of a realtor to assist him in finding properties to purchase in the Panama City Beach area. Once he found the sites, he entered into sales contracts with his business as the buyer. An attorney, the owner of a mortgage company, and a mortgage broker then recruited and paid straw buyers for the properties, officials said. An escrow agent with a title company conducted closings and disbursed lender funds to three of the defendants through various companies owned by them, officials wrote in a news release. Each defendant faces a maximum of 20 years' imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, a \$1 million fine, or a fine in twice the amount of the gross gain/loss.

Source: <http://www.newsherald.com/news/mortgage-99447-mugs-available.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

17. *January 6, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **59 hurt in 79 vehicle crash near Houston.** A total of 79 vehicles were involved in a chain-reaction crash near LaBelle, Texas that injured more than 50 people. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office said the first crash happened on Highway 73 near the Veolia plant shortly before 5:30 a.m. January 5 and started a chain-reaction pileup. Emergency crews said two cars were on fire when they arrived. A tanker-truck was overturned. The chief with Labelle-Fannett Fire Department told KBMT 12 Beaumont that four people had to be rescued using the Jaws of Life. At least 54 people were taken to hospitals with injuries. Four victims were listed in critical condition. All 20 ambulances in the area went to the scene to transport patients. However, officials ran out of ambulances and began transporting victims on shuttle buses with a paramedic on board. Life Flight helicopter was also used for patients. Officials said fog and smoke from marsh wildfires led to the accident because of zero visibility in the area. All eastbound and westbound lanes of Highway 73 were closed west of Taylor's Bayou. The scene was cleared by 10:30 a.m.  
Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/59-hurt-in-79-vehicle-crash-near-Houston/-/478452/7649990/-/33u15oz/-/>
18. *January 5, WIVB 4 Buffalo* – (New York) **Officials close old Route 219 bridge.** The original Route 219 is still a busy one, despite the new bypass. But the old 219 bridge connecting Erie County to Cattaraugus County, New York, is closed. When the Route 219 extension was finished more than a year ago, taking traffic away from the old Route 219, state transportation officials planned to rehabilitate and repair the old bridge. But safety concerns led New York Department Of Transportation (DOT) officials to close the bridge for 4 to 6 weeks, but it could be indefinitely. The DOT slated the aging bridge for possible rehabilitation after an analysis discovered concerns over the structural integrity of the bridge pier. Engineers said they could no longer guarantee the safety of the bridge. Officials estimate over 2,500 cars use the bridge on a

daily basis. Now those cars will have to take a 2-mile detour.

Source: <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/local/fmr-route-219-bridge-closes-to-traffic>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Tennessee; International) **Memphis air parcel shipper paying civil fine, 6 parcels violated anti-terrorism measures.** FedEx has agreed to pay a civil penalty over the shipping of technology banned under anti-terrorism measures, the Associated Press reported January 6. The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security said the Memphis-based air parcel delivery giant agreed to pay \$370,000 to resolve allegations. The government said FedEx processed export paperwork for and transported six packages between 2004 and 2006. Documents state the bureau intercepted packages containing a computer board and peripheral equipment before they reached a Dubai company. The company was investigated after it was linked to a circuit board found inside an unexploded roadside bomb in Iraq. A FedEx spokesman told the Memphis Commercial Appeal January 5 it appeared the checkpoint process of tracking shipments worked. He said the shipments that ran afoul of rules were inadvertent.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/c9898f506e0b4d79981a3bb61c6603a9/TN--FedEx-Fine/>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

20. *January 6, Food Safety News* – (National) **19 ill in drug-resistant Salmonella ground beef outbreak.** Nineteen people in seven states have now been confirmed infected with a multi-drug resistant strain of Salmonella Typhimurium in the outbreak linked to contaminated ground beef sold at Hannaford Supermarkets, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported January 5. That is three more cases of Salmonella infection confirmed since the CDC's last report on the outbreak, two weeks ago. The new cases were reported in New Hampshire and New York. Hannaford, a chain based in Scarborough, Maine, recalled an undisclosed amount of fresh ground beef December 15. Epidemiologic evidence led outbreak investigators to Hannaford's ground beef. Among 18 of the ill people, 14 recalled eating ground beef the week before they got sick. The outbreak has sent at least seven people to the hospital, the CDC said. They are infected with a strain of Salmonella resistant to several commonly prescribed antibiotics. New Hampshire has reported six cases associated with the outbreak, New York five, and Maine four, while Hawaii, Kentucky, Massachusetts and Vermont each have reported one case.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/01/19-ill-in-drug-resistant-salmonella-ground-beef-outbreak/>

21. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Police: 2 dead in shooting at Georgia food plant.** An employee opened fire outside a northeastern Georgia food processing plant January 5, fatally shooting his wife before killing himself, authorities said. The shooting happened at FPL Food in Augusta, Georgia. FPL said the man worked at the plant, but his wife did not. The shootings happened in the plant's parking lot. Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245\\_162-57353670/police-2-dead-in-shooting-at-georgia-food-plant/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57353670/police-2-dead-in-shooting-at-georgia-food-plant/)
22. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Judge: Royal City dairy contaminated water.** A federal judge ruled an Eastern Washington industrial dairy that has been the subject of air and water pollution complaints for years consistently applied excessive amounts of manure to neighboring fields, causing or contributing to groundwater contamination in the area, the Associated Press reported January 5. The Nelson Faria Dairy in Royal City has more than 3,000 cows and consists of four large barns, several lagoons, and multiple feedlots. A U.S. district judge ruled December 30 the dairy failed to operate with a Clean Water Act permit, and had committed numerous violations. Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Judge-Royal-City-dairy-contaminated-water-2444008.php>
23. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Missouri company ordered to stop processing meat.** State agriculture officials ordered a western Missouri meat company to stop processing meat, the Associated Press reported January 5. The Missouri Department of Agriculture said inspectors found records indicating Alma Meats sold meat that was improperly handled and not inspected. State officials said 320 pounds of meat has been recalled, including summer sausage, snack sticks, beef jerky, and roast pork. Agriculture officials said records indicate some of the meat products were sold to Trinity Lutheran School in Alma. Source: <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=704097#.TwcTsIHcxfU>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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## **Water Sector**

24. *January 6, WBNG 12 Binghamton* – (Pennsylvania) **Scale stolen from sewer treatment plant.** Pennsylvania State Police are looking for information on who stole a scale from a Susquehanna County Sewer Treatment Plant in the Thompson Boro just before 6 p.m. December 31. State police in Gibson said an electronic balance scale was taken from the treatment plant building. While the front door of the building is locked, the back door is left unlocked, because its surrounded by a fence. It was unknown how many people were involved in the burglary, nor how they entered and fled the scene. Source: <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Scale-Stolen-From-Sewer-Treatment-Plant-136809328.html>

25. *January 5, WHNT 19 Huntsville* – (Alabama) **Research sheds further light on community’s contaminated drinking water.** New research out of Alabama A&M University (AAMU) has found the drinking water in Triana, Alabama, is still contaminated, nearly 40 years after Olin Corporation shut down and the harmful chemical pesticide DDT was found in the Tennessee River. Researchers collected 20 tap water samples, along with 100 surveys from houses in old and new areas of Triana. They found concentrations of lead and other harmful chemicals exceeded limits set in place by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The AAMU research project also discovered some contaminants were present at levels suggesting “carcinogenic potential.” Among those surveyed, 42 percent were extremely concerned about the quality of their drinking water. Ninety percent believed the quality of their drinking water affected their health, but only a third had filtration systems in their home. Sixty percent said they did not know the source of their drinking water supply. The researchers believe their findings shed light on the growing need for environmental education and outreach in Triana.

Source: <http://www.whnt.com/news/huntsvilleandmadisoncounty/whnt-research-sheds-further-light-on-communitys-contaminated-drinking-water-20120105,0,476995.story>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

26. *January 5, KTNV 13 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Medical records found near dumpster near Buffalo & Washington.** KTNV 13 Las Vegas reported January 5 that a woman found a box full of medical records placed near a dumpster in a parking lot in Las Vegas. The records contained information ranging from credit card applications, to patients’ names, addresses, and even Social Security numbers. There were several doctors’ names in the paperwork found along with the medical records, which are believed to have been produced by Pure Med Spa, a Canadian company that no longer has offices in the United States. The Nevada Board of Medical Examiners said it is investigating the matter.
- Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/news/local/136761898.html>
27. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans hospital janitor, girlfriend plead guilty to misusing stolen patient data.** A man who worked as a janitor at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans and his girlfriend pleaded guilty January 5 to charges they used stolen patient information for their personal gain. He stole printouts containing patients’ names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and other personal information, according to federal prosecutors. He then gave the stolen patient information sheets to his girlfriend who allegedly used the data to open online accounts with retail and financial companies under the patients’ names and ordered a 42-inch television, an \$800 ring, gift cards, and other merchandise. Prosecutors said the stolen documents contained the names and information of about 156 patients. The “intended loss” from the scheme was an estimated \$82,310, according to a court filing.
- Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/13a9ead91ba64ce295abc3c87eb9dac5/LA--Stolen-Patient-Data/>

28. *January 5, Pensacola Business Journal* – (Florida) **Man arrested in fire-bombing of Pensacola abortion clinic.** A homeless has been arrested January 4 after being accused of setting fire to the American Family Planning clinic in Pensacola, Florida. According to an arrest affidavit, he went to the clinic late at night between December 31 and early January 1. He said he filled a 32-ounce beer bottle with gas and used a shirt as a wick. He then stood behind a tree in the rear of the clinic and threw the Molotov cocktail against the building. He explained to investigators he has a “strong disbelief in abortion.” He said that feeling was fueled when he was at the clinic with anti-abortion protesters recently and saw a young woman go into the facility. A team of local, state, and federal agencies investigated the fire. The man is described as a transient who has been in the area 2 to 3 months. He has ties to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Information from the public led to his arrest, said a lieutenant at the state fire marshal’s office.  
Source: <http://www.pnj.com/article/20120106/NEWS01/201060337/Man-arrested-fire-bombing-Pensacola-abortion-clinic->

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

29. *January 6, Associated Press* – (California) **2 arrested during protest at Oakland City Hall.** Oakland, California police said two people were arrested when anti-Wall Street protesters tried to occupy the mayor’s office at city hall January 5. Police closed the building during the incident. The people who were arrested allegedly refused to leave, pounded on a side entrance door, and yelled at officers. The attempt to occupy the mayor’s office came after police the night before cleared Occupy Oakland protesters from the plaza in front of city hall and dismantled the teepee they had set up. Twelve people were arrested on suspicion of resisting police during the raid.  
Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_19687846](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_19687846)
30. *January 6, Computerworld* – (National) **E-voting machine freezes, misreads votes, U.S. agency says.** An electronic ballot scanning device slated for use in the upcoming Presidential elections, misreads ballots, fails to log critical events, and is prone to freezes and sudden lockups, the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) found. The EAC Formal Investigative Report on the DS200 Precinct Count Optical Scanner in the Unity 3.2.0.0 voting system built by Election Systems & Software was released in late December. It highlights multiple “substantial anomalies” in the DS200, including intermittent screen freezes, system lockups and shutdowns, and failure to log all normal and abnormal system events. For example, the DS200 in some cases failed to log events such as a vote being cast, when its touch-screen is calibrated, and when the system is powered on or off, the EAC said. Though the EAC concluded the problems found prevent the DS200 from meeting federal e-voting system standards, it stopped short of decertifying the system altogether.  
Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223187/E\\_voting\\_machine\\_freezes\\_misreads\\_votes\\_U.S.\\_agency\\_says?taxonomyId=17](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223187/E_voting_machine_freezes_misreads_votes_U.S._agency_says?taxonomyId=17)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

31. *January 6, Foreign Policy* – (National) **The LWOT: State Department establishes Bureau of Counterterrorism.** The U.S. State Department January 4, announced that the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism was being upgraded to become the Bureau of Counterterrorism, fulfilling one of the recommendations made in the December 2010 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review. The head of the office said at the press briefing that “Bureau” status will provide the coordinator’s office with a better infrastructure to implement initiatives it has been developing to increase the counterterrorism and counter-radicalization capabilities of foreign governments through bilateral diplomacy efforts.  
Source:  
[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/01/06/the\\_lwot\\_state\\_department\\_establishes\\_bureau\\_of\\_counterterrorism](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/01/06/the_lwot_state_department_establishes_bureau_of_counterterrorism)
32. *January 5, Times of Trenton* – (New Jersey) **Malfunctioning 911 system causes alarm in Hamilton.** Emergency calls were being routed in and out of Hamilton, New Jersey, smoothly January 4, after equipment problems interrupted the 911 call system earlier in the day, officials said. Residents were asked to report emergencies to an alternate number for several hours after a piece of equipment that routes call traffic in a Verizon facility in Mount Holly malfunctioned, according to the company. Police and Verizon officials said the system hiccup had little effect on police and emergency response. The 911 system started showing signs of trouble late January 3, the Hamilton mayor said, and around 10 a.m. January 4, a resident told the township it seemed like 911 calls were not going through, or were being dropped seconds into a call. For most of the afternoon, 911 calls were received at Lawrence police headquarters, where a Hamilton dispatcher had been sent to take the calls rerouted by the county office of emergency management, police said. Instructions were then relayed back to Hamilton. By 5 p.m., all 911 calls from Hamilton were being sent through the township’s lines, a Verizon spokesman said.  
Source:  
[http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2012/01/malfunctioning\\_911\\_system\\_caus.html](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2012/01/malfunctioning_911_system_caus.html)
33. *January 5, Bonney Lake-Sumner Patch* – (Washington) **Pipe bomb brought to Fire Station 12.** East Pierce Fire and Rescue in Bonney Lake, Washington, were surprised January 2, when someone brought what appeared to be a pipe bomb to the fire station. The man, who lived in the neighborhood, found the suspicious-looking package that included a small pipe and a fuse, and brought it to the fire station. Firefighters immediately contacted the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department. After a sergeant confirmed it was a pipe bomb, the Pierce County bomb squad was mobilized. They evacuated a 300-foot radius around the device. Firefighters also moved some vehicles. The bomb squad used a robot to move and then detonate the device. A portion of 214th

Ave. E. was closed for about 30 minutes during the operation. The firefighters were allowed to return to their station just before noon.

Source: <http://bonneylake-sumner.patch.com/articles/pipe-bomb-brought-to-fire-station>

34. *January 4, Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC prisoner bus flips; minor injuries reported.** A bus carrying 16 inmates and three prison staffers from New York City to an upstate prison overturned January 4 on the state Thruway, causing some minor injuries, officials said. All the prisoners were secured, said a spokeswoman for the city’s correction department. She said there was no evidence they had caused the crash in an escape attempt. The state police captain said the bus apparently had been cut off by another vehicle. The passengers were taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, where a spokeswoman said security precautions were in place. She said 11 prisoners and the three staffers had already been seen, and all injuries were minor. Northbound traffic on the Thruway, which is also Interstate 87, was at a standstill after the morning crash. Police closed the northbound lanes and traffic quickly backed up for miles toward the Hudson River and the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/NYC-prisoner-bus-flips-minor-injuries-reported-2441916.php>

For more stories, see items [17](#) and [42](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

35. *January 6, Computerworld* – (International) **Symantec confirms source code leak in two enterprise security products.** Symantec confirmed January 5 that source code used in two of its older enterprise security products was publicly exposed by hackers the week of January 2. In a statement, the company said the compromised code is between 4 and 5 years old and does not affect Symantec’s consumer-oriented Norton products as was previously speculated. “Our own network was not breached, but rather that of a third party entity,” the company said in the statement. “We are still gathering information on the details and are not in a position to provide specifics ... Presently, we have no indication that the code disclosure impacts the functionality or security of Symantec’s solutions,” the statement said. A Symantec spokesman identified the two affected products as Symantec Endpoint Protection 11.0 and Symantec Antivirus 10.2. Both are targeted at enterprise customers and are more than 5 years old, he said. Symantec is developing a remediation process for enterprise customers still using the affected products, he noted. An Indian hacking group calling itself Lords of Dharmaraja earlier claimed it accessed source code for Symantec’s Norton AV products.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223198/Symantec\\_confirms\\_source\\_code\\_leak\\_in\\_two\\_enterprise\\_security\\_products?taxonomyId=17](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223198/Symantec_confirms_source_code_leak_in_two_enterprise_security_products?taxonomyId=17)

36. *January 6, H Security* – (International) **Chrome 17 enters beta, improves speed and security.** Version 17 of Chrome has been released into the WebKit-based browser’s

Beta channel, H Security reported January 6. Its developers said the new Chrome beta, version 17.0.963.26, is focused on improving security. With this version, Chrome's Safe Browsing technology has been extended to protect against malicious downloads by analyzing executable files, including Windows .exe and .msi files. If a user visits a Web site and is tricked into downloading, for example, a fake anti-virus product, Chrome will issue a warning if the file appears to be malicious and will advise the user to discard it. The Chrome team at Google also updated the browser's Stable channel to version 16.0.912.75, closing three high risk security holes. These include a use-after-free in animation frames, a heap-buffer-overflow in the libxml software library, and a stack-buffer-overflow in glyph handling.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Chrome-17-enters-beta-improves-speed-and-security-1404530.html>

37. *January 6, The Register* – (International) **Sony website defacer pwned by second hacker.** A defacer affiliated with Anonymous vandalized Sony's online front door the week of January 2 over the company's support of the Stop Online Piracy Act a hated anti-piracy law proposed in the U.S., The Register reported January 6. The Sony Picture's Web site was defaced and unauthorized comments were posted on the company's Facebook page. The digital graffiti was scribbled by a hacker who uses the Twitter handle s3rver\_exe. Both acts of vandalism were rapidly purged, while the YouTube video illustrating the hack was quickly pulled. The latest security breach comes after Sony announced it was bolstering its electronic defenses following the PlayStation Network hack in 2011, which forced Sony to take down its gaming platform for weeks.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/01/06/sony\\_defacement/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/01/06/sony_defacement/)

38. *January 5, Threatpost* – (International) **Pastebin downed by second DDoS attack this week.** Pastebin.com found itself hit by a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack January 5 for the second time in a week. The site was previously taken offline for a portion of the day January 3, though no motives or culprits for that attack have been named yet. A post to the service's Twitter account (@pastebin) around 1:30 p.m. acknowledged the attack: "Pastebin is under DDOS attack again guys, working on it ..." Initially started as a site to allow developers to share code, over the last year Pastebin has proved to be the favored drop-off spot for hacktivist groups such as Anonymous and Lulzsec for dumping long diatribes of text detailing accounts of hacks, exploits, and other information. As of the late afternoon January 5, the site was still offline.

Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/pastebin-downed-second-ddos-attack-week-010512](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/pastebin-downed-second-ddos-attack-week-010512)

39. *January 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft plans big January Patch Tuesday.** Microsoft said January 5 it would deliver seven security updates the week of January 9 to patch eight vulnerabilities in Windows and its developer tools. However, the company declined to confirm the slate will include a patch pulled at the last minute a month ago. One of the seven updates was tagged "critical," while the others were marked "important," even though some of them could conceivably be exploited by attackers to plant malware on users' PCs. Altogether, three of the updates were labeled as "remote code execution," meaning they could be used to hijack an unpatched

system, Microsoft said in its monthly advance notification. A twist to this month's Patch Tuesday is Microsoft's classification of one of the updates as "security feature bypass," a label it has never applied before.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223180/Microsoft\\_plans\\_big\\_January\\_Patch\\_Tuesday?taxonomyId=17](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223180/Microsoft_plans_big_January_Patch_Tuesday?taxonomyId=17)

40. *January 5, Dark Reading* – (International) **New denial-of-service attack cripples Web servers by reading slowly.** A researcher published proof-of-concept code January 5 that takes a different spin on the slow HTTP denial-of-service (DoS) attack simply by dragging out the process of reading the server's response — and ultimately overwhelming it. The senior software engineer with Qualys also added this new so-called Slow Read attack to his open-source Slowhttpstest tool. Slow Read basically sends a legitimate HTTP request and then very slowly reads the response, thus keeping as many open connections as possible and eventually causing a DoS. The researcher's Slowhttpstest attack tool initially was inspired by related open-source tools Slowloris and OWASP's Slow HTTP Post. Slowloris keeps connections open by sending partial HTTP requests and sends headers at regular intervals to prevent the sockets from closing, while the Slow HTTP POST distributed DoS (DDoS) tool simulates an attack using POST headers with a legitimate "content-length" field that lets the Web server know how much data is arriving. Once the headers are sent, the POST message body is transmitted slowly, thus gridlocking the connection and server resources. Slow HTTP attacks are gaining in popularity among miscreants as a way to quietly wage a DoS attack because these exploits are relatively easy to perform, require minimal computing resources, and often are tough to detect until it is too late.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/attacks-breaches/232301367/>

For more stories, see items [9](#), [19](#), and [30](#)

### 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

41. *January 6, Summit Daily News* – (Colorado) **High winds damage KBCO radio antenna near Breckenridge.** More consequences of the New Year's Eve high winds were discovered January 3 when damaged equipment on top of Baldy Mountain in Colorado was found to be the culprit of a Front Range radio station's lost signal. KBCO, an adult rock station hosted in Summit County by Summit Public Radio (SPR) and TV, went off the air the weekend of December 30, prompting SPRTV volunteers to

head up Baldy to see what was wrong. They discovered high winds — which were up to 126 mph along the Tenmile Range south of Frisco December 31 — blew over a modular building and toppled a tower supporting several antennae. While the building did not house SPRTV broadcasting equipment, the collapse of the supporting tower damaged the antennae that receive KBCO's signal. The station will remain off the air until the receiving antennae can be repaired, and the supporting tower temporarily replaced, according to the SPRTV marketing chair. It is hoped work can begin the weekend of January 7 and 8, but only if the weather permits. A permanent replacement of the supporting tower is not possible until this summer, since that requires more construction.

Source:

<http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20120106/NEWS/120109904/1078&ParentProfile=1055>

42. *January 5, KENS 5 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Are you there? 911, phone service temporarily cut in Atascosa County.** For most of the afternoon and evening January 4, residents throughout Atascosa County, Texas, were unable to make any phone calls, including calls to 911. According to the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office, the outage occurred around 3:30 p.m. when work crews near Pleasanton accidentally cut through a fiber optic line, disabling phone lines in parts of the county. The Jourdanton police chief said most 911 calls appeared to be going through to nearby Wilson County, and then transferred to emergency responders in Atascosa County via radio. However, some Atascosa County residents claim they could not make any calls whatsoever, and that left them nervous in case of an emergency. In a statement to KENS 5 San Antonio, AT&T officials said they were aware of the situation and were working to get it fixed as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/South-Texas-residents-concerned-after-phone-lines-go-down-for-hours-136713273.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

43. *January 6, Green Bay Press Gazette* – (Wisconsin) **Carbon monoxide leak at Hilton Garden Inn in Green Bay reached high level.** An apparent carbon monoxide leak at a Green Bay, Wisconsin, hotel sent several people to the hospital and involved “extremely high” levels, prompting a “room-by-room search,” records show, the Green Bay Press Gazette reported January 6. A Green Bay Fire Department official said as many as 16 people were taken to the hospital after the apparent leak. Fire department records show emergency workers arrived at the hotel and found four small children and other victims suffering symptoms that included headache, nausea, and vomiting. The fire department reported that two victims went to the hospital by ambulance, while as many as 14 others were taken by private vehicles. Fire reports show carbon monoxide was detected in the hotel swimming pool area, a mechanical room, workout room, two restrooms, and a stairway. With levels of 9 parts per million (ppm) sometimes sufficient to prompt evacuation of a building, emergency workers found levels as high as 800 ppm in the swimming pool, and 957 ppm in the adjacent equipment room.

Source:

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20120106/GPG0101/201060552/Carbon-monoxide-leak-Hilton-Garden-Inn-reached-high-level?odyssey=nav|head>

44. *January 6, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Apartment building fires called ‘arson’**. Police searched for someone who set two apartment buildings on fire January 6 in Aurora, Colorado. Aurora fire investigators said a suspect used a flammable liquid to set two buildings on fire at the Windsor Court Apartments. Three apartments were damaged. A total of seven people in three families had to find other places to stay. Residents of neighboring apartments were evacuated, but they were allowed to return once crews extinguished the fires.  
Source: [http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-apartment-building-fires-called-arson-20120106,0,4839435.story?track=rss&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+kdvr-news+\(KDVR+-+Local+News\)](http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-apartment-building-fires-called-arson-20120106,0,4839435.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+kdvr-news+(KDVR+-+Local+News))
45. *January 5, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **Vancouver police probing L.A. arson suspect over unsolved fires**. The investigation of an Los Angeles-area arson suspect widened January 5 to include a probe by Canadian authorities into whether he was involved in a series of suspicious fires in Vancouver, Canada. The suspect who has been charged with 37 felony counts related to the New Year’s weekend arson rampage, lived in Vancouver with his mother before moving to the Los Angeles area. A Vancouver Police Department spokeswoman said officials “have begun to liaise with the LAPD” but stressed detectives have not connected the suspect to any specific fires in that city. News of the probe comes a day after German prosecutors confirmed the suspect was also under investigation for suspected arson and insurance fraud in the October 14, 2011, fire that caused major damage to a half-timbered duplex in the mountainous region near Marburg in central Germany. U.S. immigration officials have confirmed the suspect flew from Frankfurt to Las Vegas 6 days after the fire. Authorities said the suspect was “motivated by his rage against Americans” when he allegedly set the fires in Los Angeles. The fires began after his mother was detained by authorities on a German criminal warrant.  
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/01/vancouver-police-probing-la-arson-suspect.html>
46. *January 5, Sioux Falls Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Police nab 2 suspects in meth lab fire case**. Police captured two suspects in connection with a January 1 apartment fire thought to have resulted from a methamphetamine lab in central Sioux Falls, South Dakota. One suspect was apprehended January 5 in the Players Casino. Fugitive task force officers received information that he might be attempting to cash stolen checks at local casinos, according to the Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Department. The second suspect was also arrested January 5. An investigation found a meth lab started the fire, an official said. One of the suspects suffered burns to his feet that might require medical attention. The building was evacuated and firefighters doused the fire.  
Source: <http://www.argusleader.com/article/20120106/NEWS/301060018/Police-nab-2-suspects-meth-lab-fire-case>

For another story, see item [37](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

47. *January 6, Associated Press* – (International) **Hundreds evacuated from northern Dutch villages amid fears of major dike break.** Police and military personnel evacuated 800 people from four villages in the low-lying northern Netherlands January 6 amid fears of a dike break following days of drenching rains. Authorities said that a section of the dike along a major canal could give way and submerge hundreds of acres of land under up to 5 feet of water. Dozens of villagers and troops spent hours January 5 piling sandbags on top of plastic sheets in an attempt to strengthen and waterproof the dike. The local water authority said the emergency repairs stabilized the situation after water had begun seeping through the dike overnight. In the early afternoon, authorities opened sluice gates to allow water to pour out to sea, a move that will lower water levels and ease pressure on the strained dikes. The defense ministry also said that an F-16 fighter jet equipped with a special camera used to detect roadside bombs in Afghanistan would fly over the region to monitor the dikes. The evacuations 125 miles north of Amsterdam came after torrential rain and powerful northwesterly winds soaked the country and kept water from being pumped into the sea.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/hundreds-evacuated-from-northern-dutch-villages-amid-fears-of-major-dike-break/2012/01/06/gIQACiKOeP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/hundreds-evacuated-from-northern-dutch-villages-amid-fears-of-major-dike-break/2012/01/06/gIQACiKOeP_story.html)

48. *January 6, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Jefferson County plant disposes most toxic ash in US.** According to an analysis of data in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Toxic Release Inventory published January 5, Alabama's coal-fired power plants dispose of almost 15 million pounds of toxic metals in on-site ash ponds. Alabama Power Co.'s Miller Steam Plant in western Jefferson County also sends more toxic metals to its ash pond than any other plant in the country, more than 5 million pounds annually. Pond usage is one method of disposing ash left over from burning coal, which contains traces of such metals as arsenic and chromium. Wet ash is pumped to the ponds where the water is held so the contaminants settle out of suspension. In addition to the assessment EPA made of the condition of ash pond dams across the country, the agency classified ash ponds by the level of hazard posed if dams were to fail. All but one of the Alabama Power ponds were classified as a significant risk, meaning that, if a rupture occurred, environmental and property damage would result. One ash pond at the Gaston plant in Shelby County's Wilsonville was classified as a high hazard, meaning that loss of life could occur if a dam broke. All the ponds lie near waterways that receive treated discharge from the ponds. The Tennessee Valley Authority is phasing out wet storage of ash and gypsum at its coal-fired power plants

and installing state-of-the-art dry storage systems. Officials said coal ash can be recycled or disposed of in landfills that have liners, rather than using the ponds, which carry with them not only the risk of catastrophic failure but also the potential to contaminate groundwater.

Source: [http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/01/jefferson\\_county\\_plant\\_dispose.html](http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/01/jefferson_county_plant_dispose.html)

49. *January 5, Associated Press* – (International) **Burst dike forces thousands to flee Brazil town.** Civil defense officials said they were evacuating an entire town after floodwaters burst a nearby dike in southeastern Brazil, the Associated Press reported January 6. The civil defense department of Rio de Janeiro state said the waters of the Muriae River were expected to reach the town of Tres Vendas by the afternoon of January 5, and its 4,000 residents were being taken to temporary shelters. Elsewhere in Rio de Janeiro state, another 4,000 people were forced to leave their homes and three people were killed by heavy rains and mudslides in recent days.

Source: [http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2012/01/05/9985202-burst-dike-forces-thousands-to-flee-brazil-town](http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/01/05/9985202-burst-dike-forces-thousands-to-flee-brazil-town)

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