



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 10 January 2012

Top Stories

- Federal agents arrested a Pinellas Park, Florida, man described as having extremist jihadist beliefs after he attempted to procure guns and explosives and threatened to blow up government and commercial buildings. – *Tampa Tribune* (See item [30](#))
- Two vulnerabilities in the Siemens FactoryLink industrial control systems used in the oil and gas, chemical, and food and beverage industries, could enable a hacker to carry out remote denial of service and arbitrary code execution attacks. – *Infosecurity* (See item [41](#))

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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 9, Scranton Times-Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **DEP: Cabot drilling caused methane in Lenox water wells.** Methane in three private water wells in Lenox Township, Pennsylvania, seeped there from a flawed natural gas well drilled by Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., state environmental regulators found. The Scranton Times-Tribune reported January 9 an investigation by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) determined the gas migrated from at least one of three Marcellus Shale wells on the Stalter well pad about a half-mile west of Interstate 81 in

Susquehanna County. The gas was found seeping into three water supplies in August. A fourth well for a hunting cabin is still being evaluated, a DEP spokesman said. Video from inside one of Cabot's gas wells showed that a string of steel casing meant to seal off the aquifer from contaminants was improperly constructed, according to a notice of violation sent by DEP in September. The dissolved methane in one water supply jumped from 0.3 milligrams per liter (mpl) before drilling began to 49 mpl August 16 and 57 mpl August 18, according to the violation notice. Cabot installed methane detection alarms in three homes and vented the three affected wells to keep the methane from accumulating and creating an explosion risk. The company is also delivering replacement drinking water to two of the homes. The methane in the third water well has decreased so the home does not require an alternate water supply.

Source: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/dep-cabot-drilling-caused-methane-in-lenox-water-wells-1.1255056#axzz1ixVjFMM4>

2. *January 9, Hartford Business Journal* – (Connecticut) **Storm panel: CT needs utility performance standards.** The Connecticut governor's panel investigating Connecticut's response to two 2011 storms that caused widespread power outages recommended the state develop utility performance standards and give utility oversight agencies more enforcement power to deal with problems. The Two Storm Panel made 82 recommendations in its report released January 9 calling on utilities, the state, and municipalities to fix issues that led to two instances of nearly 1 million utility customers without power, some for more than a week. The first came after Tropical Storm Irene in August, and the second followed an October 28 snowstorm. The panel's first recommendation calls for the Public Utilities Resources Authority (PURA) to develop performance standards for utility recovery and restoration after storms, and link recoverable costs to those standards. The panel also recommended the state give PURA and the Connecticut Siting Council — which approves power plant proposals — enforcement resources to deal with performance issues. Other recommendations for utilities include hardening infrastructure to better withstand storms; using microgrids and other new technologies to cut down on the size of outages; improving worst-case scenario planning and staffing; trimming more trees; communicating better with state and local officials, as well as repair crews; and performing more emergency response training for its crews. While most of the recommendations targeted electric utilities, the standards are meant to apply to all utilities including gas, water, sewer, telephone, cable, data, and piping. The panel recommended new standards for backup power on wireless telecommunications towers and equipment.

Source: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news22096.html>

3. *January 8, Associated Press; msnbc.com* – (Alaska; International) **Tanker plows toward cut-off Alaska city.** A U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) icebreaker is cutting a path through icy seas for a Russian tanker carrying much-needed fuel for the iced-in Alaska city of Nome. The 370-foot tanker Renda, hauling more than 1.3 million gallons of fuel, is scheduled to arrive January 9-10. It was less than 190 miles away January 7. The city of about 3,500 people on the western Alaska coastline did not get its last pre-winter fuel delivery because of a massive storm. If the delivery of diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline is not made, the city likely will run short of fuel supplies before another barge delivery can be made in the spring. If the mission is successful, it will be

the first time petroleum products have been delivered by sea to a Western Alaska community in winter. The USCG said the Russian tanker came upon ice about a foot thick January 6 near Nunivak Island, a large island in the eastern Bering Sea. The tanker is following the Healy, the USCG's only functioning icebreaker. The icebreaker should have no problem getting through the ice even if it becomes several feet thick, said a USCG spokesman. However, he told the Alaska Dispatch the scenario was difficult, noting they can break the ice open, "but it is quickly closing." The spokesman told the Dispatch that the ships, crawling through the ice close together, would struggle overnight as the darkness would make it difficult for the captains to keep watch and avoid knocking into each other.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45909554/ns/us_news-life/t/tanker-plows-toward-cut-off-alaska-city/#.TwsNdIGi9I4

4. *January 6, Discovery News* – (Ohio; Oklahoma) **Ohio quakes directly tied to fracking.** Recent earthquakes in Ohio and Oklahoma have been directly linked to deep wells used to dispose of liquid wastes for hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" of natural gas, according to geological experts and they expect more earthquakes to come as the industry continues to expand across the eastern United States, Discovery News reported January 6. State officials shut down all drilling around a brine-injection well after a magnitude-4.0 quake rumbled through Youngstown, Ohio, December 31. That was the eleventh earthquake in 2011 in the region, which is not considered seismically active. Experts are also investigating a magnitude-5.6 earthquake east of Oklahoma City that has been linked to gas drilling. A team of investigators from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has been trying to figure out the connection between the earthquakes and the injection well, which takes waste fluids from nearby fracking operations, for the past few months. A seismologist on the team said the wells trigger quakes already poised to occur. At least 177 similar disposal wells are located throughout Ohio and a seismologist said it will take a while for the pressure from the fracking fluids to disperse into the earth. The earthquakes linked to drilling operations have been relatively minor. But experts said they do not have enough data yet to know whether the industrial drilling could spawn more destructive ones.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45903873/ns/technology_and_science-science/#.TwsD1la9uuI

5. *January 6, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Fuel tanker flips in Spartanburg.** A tanker truck hauling gasoline and diesel fuel flipped in Spartanburg, South Carolina, January 6, closing roads and prompting evacuations. The tanker overturned near the intersection of John B. White Sr. Boulevard and Southport Road. A captain of the Spartanburg Public Safety Department said gas was leaking from the truck and people were evacuated from several businesses. He said crews were working to contain and clean up the spill. The driver suffered minor injuries. It was unclear how much fuel leaked from the tanker.

Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/16463792/major-spartanburg-intersection-closed-due-to-gas-spill>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *January 9, Salina Journal* – (Kansas) **11,000 gallons of sulphuric acid leaks from rail car into Herington creek.** Emergency workers stopped the flow of sulphuric acid from a tanker car into a creek January 9 near the rail yard in Herington, Kansas, but not before nearly 11,000 gallons of the dangerous liquid contaminated Lime Creek. The leak from one of four tankers sitting on side rails was discovered late the afternoon of January 8, said a spokeswoman for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Property owners in an area from U.S. Highway 56 north to Kansas Highway 4 were warned to avoid that body of water. Portions of Lime Creek are used for watering cattle, the spokeswoman said, but there is no threat to the public water supply. “We’re thinking it will take a couple of days, if not more, to dilute what’s in Lime Creek,” she said. The Herington fire chief said Herington gets its water from Herington Reservoir, and the creek where some of the acid drained, does not drain into that body of water. The acid was no longer leaking by 9:30 a.m. January 9, he said.
Source: <http://www.saljournal.com/news/story/acidleak1-8-12>

7. *January 8, Martinsville Bulletin* – (Virginia) **EPA: DuPont site poses no health danger.** There is no danger to people’s health, and groundwater contamination is contained at DuPont’s 488-acre property in Henry County and Martinsville, Virginia, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official. The agency’s project manager said groundwater under the site flows into the Smith River, where no significant contamination has been found. He said there is no human exposure to contaminated groundwater on the site because it is not used for drinking water. He also said there are restrictions on areas where soil is contaminated, and noted the water and soil restrictions would remain if DuPont sells the property. “Our goal is to restore the water” to drinking water standards, the project manager said. Also, restrictions could be placed on such things as disturbance of the soil if the property is sold, he added. The project manager noted DuPont has already cleaned up a lot of contamination. He said the EPA is finalizing a “remedy” for the site, after which it will seek public comment. The EPA indicated that between 1941 and 1998, the DuPont facility operated as one of the world’s largest nylon manufacturers. The facility generated and managed various types of waste, including nylon wastes, coal ash, spent finish oil, spent nitric and formic acids, and laboratory chemicals. DuPont closed in 1998.
Source: <http://www.martinsvillebulletin.com/article.cfm?ID=31610>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *January 9, Omaha World-Herald* – (Nebraska) **Nuclear plant’s external alerts OK.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) notified nuclear regulators it received “reasonable assurance” emergency systems outside Fort Calhoun Nuclear

Station in Nebraska can respond to any problem at the reactor, despite damage from flooding during the summer of 2011, the Omaha World-Herald reported January 9. Last year's unprecedented Missouri River flooding idled the plant and, among other things, closed roads and disabled warning sirens in its vicinity. A spokesman for the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) described FEMA's approval of the OPPD's off-site emergency preparedness as a necessary step toward restarting the plant. The OPPD said all 101 sirens around the plant were tested and are operational.

Source: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120109/NEWS01/701099926>

9. *January 6, Reuters* – (International) **France to tighten security around nuclear plants.** France will take new measures to tighten security around its 58 nuclear power plants, France's interior minister told daily Le Parisien January 6, after Greenpeace activists succeeded in entering two of them in December. In an attempt to highlight security weaknesses, activists got into the Nogent plant near Paris December 5 and climbed onto one of the domes that houses a reactor, while others entered the Cruas nuclear power site in southeastern France. The interior minister said cooperation would be improved between police watching the plants' exterior cordon and security agents inside, and new surveillance equipment including cameras would be installed at any nuclear site where it was lacking.

Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL6E8C609N20120106>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *January 7, Springfield State Journal-Register* – (Illinois) **Fire extinguished at plant near Athens.** Firefighters from Athens, Illinois, and neighboring communities were called to a manufacturing facility January 6 after a fire broke out in a storage area. An employee of Precision Tank and Equipment Co. noticed smoke about 4:15 p.m. and called the fire department. When firefighters arrived, smoke was coming from the eaves in the back of the building, said a spokesman for the Athens Fire Department, and firefighters quickly extinguished the fire. The building sustained smoke damage, but some parts are still usable. Some equipment appeared to have been damaged, but an overall damage estimate was not available. Precision manufactures fertilizer equipment for farmers and fertilizer companies.

Source: <http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x735287913/Fire-breaks-out-at-Precision-Tank-and-Engineering-near-Athens>

11. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Former supervisor at Nordex wind turbine plant in Jonesboro investigated over metals theft.** Jonesboro, Arkansas police are investigating a former supervisor at the Nordex USA wind turbine manufacturing plant over missing scrap metal. The company said January 5 the supervisor was not authorized to sell the scrap and keep the money for himself. The Jonesboro Sun reported the scheme cost Nordex more than \$14,000. The alleged thefts occurred in July and August. The company said the employee was fired in September.
Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/0e727420e31643d096024832f085a3ff/AR--Nordex-Theft/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *January 9, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **Japanese worker dead following anchor accident at Yokosuka shipyard.** A Japanese shipyard worker died January 9 at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan following an accident involving an anchor, U.S. Navy officials said. The contract worker was pronounced dead at about 3 p.m., said the spokesman for Commander Naval Forces Japan. The man was working in Drydock No. 5 on an overhaul of the destroyer USS McCampbell when the accident occurred, the spokesman said. U.S. Navy and Japanese authorities are investigating the accident, Navy officials said. USS McCampbell, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, moved into the drydock for its overhaul November 9. The ship had its anchor removed December 13. January 9, the ship appeared largely disassembled in drydock, with segments of its gunmetal gray plating either covered or stripped.
Source: <http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/japan/japanese-worker-dead-following-anchor-accident-at-yokosuka-shipyard-1.165450>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *January 8, NetworkWorld* – (National) **FBI warns of malware phishing scam.** The FBI issued a warning the week of January 2, on a new Internet blight called “GameOver,” which, once ensconced on a PC, can steal usernames and passwords and defeat common methods of user authentication employed by financial institutions. The FBI said it has seen an increase in the use of Gameover, which is an e-mail phishing scheme that invokes the names of prominent government financial institutions — the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA), the Federal Reserve Bank, or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The FBI said Gameover is a newer variant of the Zeus malware, which was created several years ago and specifically targeted banking information. This is how the FBI described the scam: “Typically, you receive an unsolicited e-mail from NACHA, the Federal Reserve, or the FDIC telling you that there’s a problem with your bank account or a recent ACH transaction. The sender has included a link in the e-mail for you that will supposedly help you resolve whatever the issue is. Unfortunately, the link goes to a phony website, and once you’re there, you inadvertently download the Gameover malware, which promptly infects your computer and steals your banking information. After the perpetrators access your account, they conduct what’s called a distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attack using a botnet, which involves multiple computers flooding

the financial institution's server with traffic in an effort to deny legitimate users access to the site." The FBI went on to say some of the funds stolen from bank accounts go towards the purchase of precious stones and expensive watches from high-end jewelry stores.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/247450/fbi_warns_of_malware_phishing_scam.html

14. *January 8, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **Bank of Asheville officials negligent, FDIC says.** Directors of the Bank of Asheville in North Carolina ignored their own policies and warnings from regulators while making risky real estate loans that ultimately forced the bank's closure, the Asheville Citizen-Times reported January 8. That is the thrust of a lawsuit filed recently by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) against seven former bank directors that seeks to recover \$6.8 million in losses on loans the suit said the directors approved. The lawsuit, filed December 29 in a U.S. district court, identifies 30 loans it said were negligently approved. It said bank directors generally approved loans via e-mail instead of meeting and discussing loan applications in person. Many of the applications were based on only cursory research on borrowers' finances and the adequacy of collateral, it said. The FDIC and state regulators shut Bank of Asheville in January 2011. Bank of Asheville previously reported substantial losses on real estate loans. The former bank president and chief executive pleaded guilty in June to fraud in connection with a loan.
Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120109/NEWS/301090019/FDIC-slams-Asheville-bank?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>
15. *January 6, Huffington Post* – (California) **'Dying Son Bandit' held up five southern California banks since November.** In southern California, one father is claiming his family's staggering hospital bills are driving him to a life of crime as a bank robber, the Huffington Post reported January 6. Known among local law enforcement authorities as the "Dying Son Bandit," he has reportedly been apologetic during bank hold-ups as he explains he needs the money to pay for his ailing son's care. A FBI spokeswoman told KCBS 2 Los Angeles that during two bank robberies January 5 — one in Dana Point and the other in Lake Forest — he told tellers he needed the cash to pay for his family's medical bills. The spokeswoman confirmed the report with the Huffington Post and revealed the FBI has been on the trail of the "Dying Son Bandit" since late 2011 when he started robbing banks in San Diego County. In November he robbed a bank in Carlsbad. In early December, he robbed a bank in Encinitas, then a bank in Oceanside New Year's Eve. The FBI was able to tie the bank robberies in San Diego County with the January 5 hits in Orange County because of the similar modus operandi, and very clear photos from surveillance cameras.
Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/06/dying-son-bandit-bank-robberies-hospital-bills-california_n_1190217.html
16. *January 6, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **Alleged 'Market Duo' bandit still on the loose.** A man taken into custody in California who was believed to be the second half of the "Market Duo" robbery team was released, and now authorities are searching for a suspect who managed to escape a police perimeter. Following a police pursuit January 5, one suspect was shot and arrested. A second man fled the scene on foot.

After setting up a perimeter, a man was taken into custody; however, it was “later determined that the man had no involvement with the incident,” a deputy told City News Service. The incident started January 5 when two men — believed to be the serial robbers known as the “Market Duo” — allegedly held up a Wells Fargo branch in Placentia. A freeway pursuit ensued, at times reaching 100 mph. The chase ended in Paramount when the suspects’ vehicle hit a curb. After exiting the vehicle, one suspect allegedly pulled out a replica weapon, a Placentia detective said. Wells Fargo is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the identification and conviction of the second suspected robber. The “Market Duo” bandits earned the nickname because they allegedly targeted bank branches in grocery stores. The robbers are believed to have held up the same branch November 21, an FBI spokeswoman said. The alleged bandits are also suspected of robbing a U.S. Bank branch in La Habra October 25 and another U.S. Bank branch in Seal Beach November 3, a FBI special agent said.

Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Market-Duo-Robbery-136832503.html>

17. *January 6, Wired* – (New York) **Romanian man charged in \$1.5 million ATM skimming scam.** A Romanian man was arrested in a \$1.5 million card-skimming operation that targeted 40 ATMs belonging to HSBC branches in New York, *Wired* reported January 6. Between May 2010 and the week of January 2 the man and others allegedly installed card-skimming devices that stole card numbers and PINs on HSBC ATMs in Manhattan, Long Island, and Westchester. Using the videotaped PINs, they withdrew about \$1.5 million from customer accounts over about 7 months, authorities said. According to an affidavit filed by a U.S. Secret Service agent, the suspect was caught on bank surveillance cameras January 5 -- and on prior occasions -- installing the skimmers and pin-hole cameras and made no attempt to hide his face. The suspect, according to authorities, was in the United States illegally on an overstayed visa. He was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and one count of bank fraud. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 60 years in prison.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/01/hsbc-skimming-operation/>

18. *January 6, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota; Wisconsin) **Wisconsin man admits mass mortgage fraud.** A man suspected in what authorities described as “the next wave” in mortgage fraud schemes surprised Hennepin County, Minnesota, prosecutors January 6 and pleaded guilty to a charge of racketeering, exposing himself to a potential prison term of up to 20 years. The man owned and operated Mortgage Planners Inc., a licensed mortgage originator in St. Paul. He admitted January 6 he and others submitted forged financial documents to lenders to qualify “straw buyers” for mortgage loans guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). In addition to the forgeries, he also admitted he relied on a phony “phone tree” set up to provide employment verifications at nonexistent companies for some borrowers. Others facing charges in the scheme include the man’s wife and two other men. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said the defendants brokered about \$23 million in loans, which were used to buy 136 properties in the Twin Cities area and outstate Minnesota. The suspect property transactions were complex deals that took advantage

of provisions of Minnesota foreclosure law, prosecutors said.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/west/136832893.html>

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Transportation Sector

19. *January 9, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Authorities turn to black box for answers in southwestern Montana bus crash that killed 2.** Federal and state highway safety officials January 9 turned to a passenger bus' black box for answers about what caused it to crash on an icy highway in western Montana, killing two passengers. All 32 other people onboard were injured after the Rimrock Trailways bus hit a patch of ice, spun around, and rolled onto its side on Interstate 90 about a mile west of Clinton shortly after 7 a.m. January 8. Eight people were in serious or critical condition January 9. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators and Montana Highway Patrol officials January 9 downloaded electronic information from the black box to determine the bus' speed. The data will be used to help authorities determine whether the driver was negligent. The speed limit in the area is 75 mph, but Montana law requires motorists to travel at a speed that is safe for the conditions. A Highway Patrol spokesman said the initial estimated speed of the bus was 65 to 70 mph and that it slid 150 feet when it entered the median, but there were no skid marks on the highway to measure because of the ice. The crash closed an eight-mile stretch of I-90 in both directions, with injured passengers scattered in the eastbound lanes and tow trucks blocking the westbound lanes. Those suffering the worst injuries appeared to have been ejected when the bus slid on its side and bounced, breaking out the windows on the driver's side. Four people were pinned under the bus, including the two who died, said a Missoula County Sheriff's deputy. Authorities responded to seven other crashes that morning within 10 miles of the bus crash. One of those included a tractor-trailer that also turned on its side. The interstate was open again to traffic by evening.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/patrol-bus-that-crashed-on-icy-montana-interstate-was-going-too-fast-2-killed-32-injured/2012/01/09/gIQAAXwNIP_story.html
20. *January 7, Northwest Indiana Times* – (Indiana) **Final report on train accident could take at least nine months.** Federal officials are investigating a January 6 crash in Indiana involving three trains that left two crew members injured, but a final report will not be released for at least 9 months. The investigator-in-charge with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said a team of investigators from across the country is working on the crash that involved three CSX freight trains. Investigators are analyzing a variety of variables, including operations, signals, possible human error, and the track. However, he said the track had little to do with the crash. A train had stopped on the tracks about 1:18 p.m. around County Road 600 North and County Road 500 East to allow another train to run around it. A second train struck the stopped train from behind. The third train, which was supposed to go around the first train, struck the wreckage from the first two trains, the investigator said. Two crew members were

injured. The NTSB team expects to be at the site for several days, he said. All three trains were headed to Chicago from either New Jersey or Ohio. While the investigator did not know exactly how many cars derailed, the first train had 77 cars, the second had 60 cars, and the third had 48 cars. The resident vice president for CSX Corporation said the company does not have a conclusive time frame yet for cleanup. However, he said, the track is a key arterial freight line for the company. Trains are being rerouted around the accident. No passenger trains use the route, he said.

Source: http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/duneland/jackson-township/federal-officials-to-release-train-accident-information-later-today/article_666b3095-508d-5338-8aca-09e4d9201741.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *January 7, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **Valley duo accused of data thefts from hundreds here, across the state.** The Palm Spring Desert Sun reported January 7 the leaders of a fraud and theft ring run from homes in Rancho Mirage and Cathedral City stole mail from hundreds of people across California and used the information to create phony checks, credit cards, and identification. On December 15, Riverside County sheriff's deputies arrested two individuals who are charged with multiple counts, including possession of a controlled substance, burglary, forgery, and manufacturing and selling government IDs. Investigators said the couple is accused of going to elaborate lengths to steal mail, using a homemade contraption like a fishing pole to snag envelopes from locked mailboxes or simply grabbing mail from unlocked boxes. They allegedly broke into cars, grabbing whatever documents lay inside. Police have identified more than 200 victims, many from the Coachella Valley but also from cities including San Diego and Sacramento.

Source: <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20120107/NEWS0801/201070309/Police-Valley-duo-stole-data-from-hundreds-here-across-state?odyssey=obinsite>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *January 9, Food Safety News* – (Minnesota; Wisconsin; Iowa) **Advisory issued for Honeycrisp apple cider.** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture advised consumers to avoid drinking certain Pepin Heights Orchard Honeycrisp-brand apple cider because some of the cider distributed in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin could have elevated levels of patulin, Food Safety News reported January 9. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said long-term exposure to patulin is a potential concern. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture said routine lab tests confirmed the cider in question contained patulin at levels of 58 parts per billion (ppb), higher than the 50 ppb limit set by the FDA. The affected product — Pepin Heights Orchard brand Honeycrisp 100 percent fresh-pressed apple cider — was sold in 64-ounce (half gallon) plastic jugs.

A similar advisory was issued in 2011 for Pepin Heights Orchard cider after routine testing revealed elevated levels of patulin.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/01/advisory-issued-for-certain-honeycrisp-apple-cider/>

23. *January 7, Food Safety News* – (Massachusetts; Maryland; New Jersey) **Allergen alert: Eggs in rugelach.** Bloch’s Best of Monsey, New York, is recalling vanilla rugelach that was distributed to retail stores in Massachusetts, Maryland, and New Jersey because the pastry may contain undeclared eggs, Food Safety News reported January 7. There was one report of illness connected to the mislabeled rugelach. Ten cases of the mislabeled product, with 18 containers each, were distributed between November 2 and December 22. According to the recall notice, the problem was caused by a supplier’s change in the label, which did not reveal that egg was an ingredient. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/01/allergen-alert-eggs-in-rugelach/>
24. *January 7, Food Safety News* – (New York; International) **Sponge cake recalled.** Rich Products of Buffalo, New York, is recalling sheet sponge cake distributed primarily to in-store bakeries because small plastic fragments were shredding from the packaging, Food Safety News reported January 7. In the recall news release, the company said the vanilla-flavored sponge cake is produced in Ocoyoacac, Mexico. The packaging problem was caused by a change in the resin used by the supplier. Rich’s said it is now working with the supplier to ensure all defective packaging is removed from distribution, and that monitoring systems are in place to eliminate the potential for the problem to reoccur. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/01/sponge-cake-recalled-1/>

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Water Sector

25. *January 7, Hagerstown Herald-Mail* – (Maryland) **High arsenic levels found in water seeping from Washington County’s Old City/County Landfill.** Testing of discolored water seeping from the ground in the area of Washington County’s Old City/County Landfill into Conococheague Creek revealed an arsenic level almost double that of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) standard for drinking water, a Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) spokesman said. An August 3 sample of the seep area was found to have 17 parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic. The EPA’s arsenic standard for drinking water at 10 ppb. “Because of the location and appearance of the seep, MDE is acting under the presumption that this seep is the result of groundwater that has been contaminated by the old landfill that is escaping their groundwater collection system,” the spokesman wrote in an e-mail. “However, this is not conclusively demonstrated by this one sample.” Arsenic was the only contaminant that exceeded maximum contaminant level (mcl) standards in the sample, however, there were other indicators of contamination from the landfill, including elevated salts and the presence of two volatile organic chemicals that did not exceed mcls, the spokesman

said. A Washington County spokeswoman said the test results are characteristic of landfill leachate, though iron from shale is high in the area even without a landfill present. She also noted the seep water is diluted when it discharges into the creek, and that there are no drinking water systems that use Conococheague Creek downstream of the landfill.

Source: http://articles.herald-mail.com/2012-01-07/news/30603279_1_high-arsenic-levels-landfill-leachate-county-landfill

26. *January 6, WVIT 30 New Britain* – (Connecticut) **Water warning issued in 3 towns.** The Connecticut Water Company issued a “Do Not Drink” warning to customers in three towns January 6. The company said customers of the Amston Lake water system in Hebron, Lebanon, and Colchester should not drink water from the tap due to elevated levels of copper. Levels of copper tested at 5 parts per million (ppm) while the normal level is 1.3 ppm, according to company officials. The water provided by Connecticut Water’s wells were not showing elevated levels of copper. The problem appeared to be related to an electrical issue in the distribution system, the company said. The Connecticut State Health Department was notified about the elevated copper levels. Connecticut Water also supplied a water tank near Amston Lake to provide safe drinking water for customers who need it.

Source: <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Water-Warning-Issued-for-3-Towns-136836623.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [6](#), and [7](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *January 9, Infection Control Today* – (National) **Medicare study shows most medical errors go unreported.** A new study released the first week in January 2012 by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), found hospital employees are only reporting 14 percent of all medical errors and usually do not change their practices to prevent future harm to patients. Federal regulations require hospitals to track all medical errors and adverse events that harm patients and to implement preventive measures to protect patients. Only five of the 293 reported cases of medical errors reviewed by federal investigators led to changes in policies or practices by hospitals. The OIG report recommends the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide hospitals with a standard list of medical errors that should be tracked and reported to the agency. A previous 2010 study by the OIG estimated that about 15,000 Medicare patients experienced medical errors in the hospital that contributed to their deaths each month. The OIG calculated that Medicare patients harmed during that month required an additional \$324 million in hospital care. The study estimated the annual cost for these events in hospital care alone at \$4.4 billion.

Source: <http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/news/2012/01/medicare-study-shows-most-medical-errors-go-unreported.aspx>

28. *January 8, Associated Press* – (Nebraska; National) **Novartis recalls bottles of Excedrin, NoDoz, Bufferin and Gas-X.** Novartis is recalling some bottles of Excedrin, NoDoz, Bufferin, and Gas-X January 8, over concerns the bottles could contain stray pills from other medicines, or chipped or broken tablets. The news follows Novartis’ recent decision to temporarily suspend production at its Lincoln, Nebraska plant for “maintenance and other improvement activities.” The Swiss drug maker said it implemented the recall, which affects U.S. retailers voluntarily, and is working with the Food and Drug Administration. It became aware of the potential problem during an internal review that identified broken and chipped pills, and inconsistent bottle packaging that could cause pills to be mixed up. Novartis said some of the bottles of headache medicine Excedrin and caffeine caplets NoDoz with expiration dates of December 20, 2014, or earlier will be subject to the recall. Some of the packages of pain medicine Bufferin and stomach medicine Gas-X with expiration dates of December 20, 2013, or earlier will also be affected.
Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/09/novartis-recalls_n_1193158.html
29. *January 7, CBS News; Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Man charged with murder in Ga. hospital shooting.** A 59-year-old man pulled a handgun from his coat pocket and fatally shot his estranged wife and her mother at a Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia hospital while people watched in the waiting room January 6, police said. “There was a crowd of the folks in the waiting room, but he just exacted his revenge on his two targets and left them alone,” the Fort Oglethorpe police chief told the Associated Press in a phone interview. The shooting happened at Hutcheson Medical Center, about 10 miles from the Tennessee state line. Police identified the man accused of the shootings as a security guard from Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was licensed to carry a firearm. He was seen arguing with his wife at the hospital earlier in the week and employees asked him to leave. At that point, employees did not find him threatening enough to call police. Investigators said he drove to the police station and turned himself in shortly after the shooting. The victims were visiting a relative being treated in the hospital’s intensive care unit. The hospital’s board chairman said at a news conference that the hospital had augmented its security by adding extra, unarmed guards around the clock.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57354411/2-dead-in-shooting-at-ga-hospitals-icu/

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *January 9, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Feds: Man planned terrorism attacks in Tampa.** Federal agents the weekend of January 7 arrested a Pinellas Park, Florida, man described as having extremist jihadist beliefs who wanted to blow up a target in Tampa and create “terror.” The man was taken into custody after an FBI sting operation in which he tried to buy explosives, at least 10 grenades, Uzis, and an AK-47, authorities said. His intended target shifted over the course of the investigation, which spanned several months, at times involving government buildings, the Hillsborough County

Sheriff's Office operations center in Ybor City, and a pub in South Tampa, authorities said. The arrest came about, in part, because of assistance from the Muslim community, said a U.S. attorney. The sting culminated at a Tampa hotel January 7 after the suspect had the person from whom he was purchasing the explosives — unknown to him, an undercover agent — film him making a video explaining his reasoning for the planned attack, according to the complaint. The suspect, who was born in the former Yugoslavia, came to authorities' attention in September 2011 when he contacted a store owner and asked for flags representing al-Qa'ida, according to a federal complaint. The suspect began working for the owner as a laborer. The store owner contacted the FBI, which initiated an undercover investigation.

Source: <http://suncoastpinellas.tbo.com/content/2012/jan/09/091105/feds-man-planned-terrorism-attacks-in-tampa/news/>

31. *January 9, Associated Press* – (New York) **Merchant Marine Academy carbon monoxide leak sends 42 to hospital.** Eight of the 42 U.S. Merchant Marine Academy students who were hospitalized after carbon monoxide was found to be leaking at the Long Island, New York facility returned to the school January 9. Authorities said a water heater was found to be leaking carbon monoxide January 8. The leak was in the Academy's Barry Hall.
Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20120109/NEWS/301090064/Merchant-Marine-Academy-carbon-monoxide-leak-sends-42-hospital>
32. *January 9, Softpedia* – (International) **UK, US officials and NATO advisers exposed after Stratfor hack.** The latest information regarding the hacking operation Anonymous launched against Stratfor reveals that sensitive data belonging to U.S. and British officials, some employed in highly sensitive areas, ended up in the hands of cybercriminals, Softpedia reported January 9. According to the London Guardian, e-mail addresses and encrypted passwords of 221 United Kingdom military officials, 242 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other individuals who work for governments were exposed. The figures show that many of the 800,000 victims are employed by government organizations. An official with the U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit said 19,000 e-mail addresses belonging to U.S. military personnel are in the leaked database, including those of around 350 soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/UK-US-Officials-and-Nato-Advisers-Exposed-After-Stratfor-Hack-245255.shtml>
33. *January 9, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **100 soldiers on lockdown over stolen equipment.** A company of soldiers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington state were put on lockdown after officials discovered military equipment was missing. Since January 3, about 100 soldiers with the 4th Stryker Brigade have been confined to one building on the base. They are not being allowed to go home until the investigation is complete. Military police are investigating the disappearance of hundreds of pieces of weapon attachments they say were stolen, including rifle scopes and night vision goggles. JBLM said no weapons were taken.
Source: http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/01/09/10073252-100-soldiers-on-lockdown-over-stolen-equipment

34. *January 6, CNN.com* – (International) **Stratfor apparently targeted again by hackers.** Hackers appear to have struck Stratfor again. E-mails allegedly sent out January 6 by the global intelligence outfit to its government clients, contractors and other customers said the company “would like to hear from our loyal client base as to our handling of the recent intrusion by those deranged, sexually deviant criminal hacker terrorist masterminds.” The e-mail had multiple links. The Austin, Texas-based company responded with a statement from the CEO acknowledging “false and misleading communications that have circulated within recent days.” In December 2011, hackers representing themselves as members of the activist group Anonymous claimed to have dumped online a wealth of personal information, including passwords and credit card numbers, about the nearly 1 million people registered on Stratfor’s Web site.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/06/us/stratfor-website/index.html>
35. *January 6, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (National) **Chicago man accused of mailing threatening letters containing false information about bombing targets across the U.S.** A Chicago man was indicted on federal charges for allegedly mailing threatening letters containing false information about bombing public and private properties around the country, federal law enforcement officials announced January 6. The defendant was charged with nine counts of falsely threatening use of explosives in an indictment. The man never posed any actual danger of carrying through with the alleged threats contained in dozens of identical letters mailed in March 2011, officials said in announcing the charges. The charges stem from an investigation of identically worded letters that were mailed from Chicago to dozens of recipients in about 16 states in March 2011. The letters, among other things, claimed that “Al-Qaeda” had planted 160 remotely-controlled nuclear bombs throughout the country in schools, churches, hospitals, financial institutions, and government buildings.
Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/chicago/press-releases/2012/chicago-man-accused-of-mailing-threatening-letters-containing-false-information-about-bombing-targets-across-the-u.s>

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Emergency Services Sector

36. *January 8, Monroe News-Star* – (Louisiana) **Sheriff: Suspect wanted to kill police officers, be killed.** A man man who reportedly told West Carroll Parish, Louisiana lawmen he wanted to kill enough of them so they would kill him remained in jail without bond January 8. The suspect was charged with two counts of attempted murder of a police officer, disturbing the peace, illegal use of a firearm, two counts of aggravated criminal damage to property, and possession of a firearm by a felon. The West Carroll Parish sheriff said in a news release the drama started at 3:09 a.m. January 7, when a call came in about shots being fired. An Oak Grove Police officer who responded was shot at as he attempted to leave his vehicle. Several officers and the Oak Grove police chief responded. As the chief drove by, he was shot at by the suspect, the

news release said. Eventually, Oak Grove and West Carroll deputies were able to subdue and extract the suspect from his vehicle. The suspect was then transported to the West Carroll Parish Sheriff's Office and booked.

Source: <http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20120108/NEWS01/120108006>

37. *January 6, WBNS 10 Columbus* – (Ohio) **911 calls go unanswered in Chillicothe.** A technical malfunction at a dispatch center in Chillicothe, Ohio caused 911 calls to go unanswered, WBNS 10 Columbus reported January 6. Officials from the center said the technical issues could be from a lightning strike last May, and from daily use. According to the Ross County Sheriff's Office, the city's 911 dispatch line was down for 81 minutes January 2. During that timeframe, four calls were rolled over to the county's 911 line, WBNS 10 Columbus reported. A dispatcher said the problem was a combination of a button on their touch screen computer not working and the dispatch operator not knowing how to fix the problem. City and county officials said they were still investigating.

Source: <http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2012/01/06/chillicothe-911-calls-went-unanswered.html>

38. *January 6, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Police impersonator sexually assaulted woman in Loveland.** Investigators are searching for a man who posed as a police officer and then sexually assaulted a woman January 5 in Loveland, Colorado. Deputies said a woman in her 20s said she was stopped by a man in a dark sedan with a red light and he told her he was a police officer. Investigators said he then sexually assaulted the woman. He did not display any weapons. The woman said the man was driving a dark-colored, older-model police-style sedan. It had spotlights on both the driver and passenger sides.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article/240457/222/Deputies-on-guard-after-fake-cop-assaults-woman>

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Information Technology Sector

39. *January 9, Computerworld* – (International) **Big IT vendors lead patching laggards.** IBM, Hewlett-Packard (HP), and Microsoft led the list of companies that failed to patch vulnerabilities after being notified by the world's largest bug-bounty program, according to the TippingPoint Zero-Day Initiative. During 2011, TippingPoint — a division of HP — released 29 “zero-day” advisories that had information about vulnerabilities the company reported to IT vendors 6 or more months earlier. Ten of the 29 were bugs in IBM software, 6 were in HP applications and 5, later patched, were in Microsoft products. Other vendors on the late-to-patch list included CA, Cisco, and EMC. TippingPoint, which sponsors the Pwn2Own hacking contest, buys information about vulnerabilities from independent security researchers and privately reports them to vendors. It uses the data to craft defenses for its own line of security appliances. In mid-2010, TippingPoint announced it would go public with

advisories that included “limited details” of reported vulnerabilities if vendors did not patch them within 6 months.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223221/Big_IT_Vendors_Lead_Patching_Laggards

40. *January 6, Threatpost* – (International) **Adobe plans critical security updates for Reader, Acrobat next week.** Adobe said January 6 it will issue critical fixes for its popular Reader and Acrobat products January 10. The company said it is planning to release updates for Adobe Reader and Acrobat versions X and earlier for the Windows and Macintosh platforms to fix a slew of critical security issues. They include the vulnerabilities CVE-2011-2462 and CVE-2011-4369, which were patched in Adobe products up through version 9 in December, the company said on its PSIRT blog. The January patch will be released January 10 as part of Adobe’s monthly patch cycle. Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/adobe-plans-critical-security-updates-reader-acrobat-next-week-010612
41. *January 6, Infosecurity* – (International) **Flaws in Siemens FactoryLink could be exploited remotely.** Two vulnerabilities in the Siemens FactoryLink industrial control system could enable a hacker to carry out remotel denial of service and arbitrary code execution attacks, warned the U.S. Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT). Buffer overflow and data corruption vulnerabilities, discovered by a researcher from Taiwan’s Information and Communication Security Technology Center, affect ActiveX components in Siemens Tecnomatix FactoryLink versions V8.0.2.54, V7.5.217 (V7.5 SP2), and V6.6.1 (V6.6 SP1). The Siemens Tecnomatix FactoryLink software is used for monitoring and controlling industrial processes in variety of industries, including oil and gas, chemicals, food and beverage, and building automation. The buffer overflow vulnerability is exploited by inputting a long string to a specific parameter, causing a buffer overflow that could allow the execution of arbitrary code. The data corruption vulnerability is exploited by inputting arbitrary data, causing a file save to any specified location on the target system, the ICS-CERT explained. Siemens released a patch to its customers to address these vulnerabilities. ICS-CERT confirmed the Siemens patch resolves the reported vulnerabilities. In addition, Microsoft released a kill bit to address the ActiveX vulnerabilities. Customers of Siemens Tecnomatix FactoryLink should also install the security update referenced in the Microsoft Security Advisory 2562937, the ICS-CERT advised. Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/23047/>

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Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

42. *January 8, Associated Press* – (Montana; Wyoming) **Verizon Wireless network working again in Montana, northern Wyoming.** A Verizon Wireless spokesman said service was restored after a January 8 outage of more than 7 hours in Montana and northern Wyoming. A spokesman told the Billings Gazette a switch failed during scheduled maintenance on the network. He said engineers fixed the problem. Customers reported cell phone calls could not be completed and text messaging had problems. The spokesman said the company's network team typically does maintenance and software updates early in the morning when traffic is light. He said the routine maintenance normally does not cause problems in the network.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5a30b22afba74b95a1a7a9f6223add49/MT--Verizon-Wireless-Outage/>

43. *January 6, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **Weather radio outage for the GSP area.** The transmitter located on Paris Mountain that handles the heart of the Greenville/Spartanburg area in South Carolina failed, WSPA 7 Spartanburg reported January 6. Repair efforts are underway, but it was not known when the broadcasts to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios would continue. There is a possibility the outage could linger into early February, but officials hoped for a quicker fix. The 162.550 MHz frequency is down until further notice.

Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/blogs/dan-bickford/2012/jan/06/weather-radio-outage-gsp-area-ar-2997953/>

For another story, see item [2](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *January 9, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Suspect detained after 1 dead, 1 wounded outside San Antonio fitness center.** San Antonio police detained a suspect in the fatal shooting of a fitness center worker and the critical wounding of the victim's girlfriend outside the club. The police chief said investigators believe a Planet Fitness member, who allegedly opened fire January 8 in a parking lot, wanted to date the woman, but she was not interested. The woman also works at the fitness center. Police obtained club records to help locate the suspect January 9 at an apartment complex. The police chief said the woman was shot multiple times and was taken to a hospital. Her boyfriend was dead at the scene of the shootings.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e46136cb93144085a4968f4468b49696/TX--Fitness-Center-Shootings/>

45. *January 8, Louisiana State University Daily Reveille* – (Louisiana) **With two males injured, detectives investigating mall shooting.** Two males were injured after a shooting at the Mall of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 7, according to the public information director for the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office. Shots were fired by two males involved in an altercation outside the mall in between Dillard's and the Rave movie theater. The public information director said two males not involved in the altercation were shot.
Source: <http://www.lsureveille.com/with-two-males-injured-detectives-investigating-mall-shooting-1.2683719#.Twr5ooHcxfU>
46. *January 8, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* – (Georgia) **Fire destroys Teaver Road Baptist Church sanctuary in LaGrange; no one injured.** A fire destroyed a LaGrange, Georgia, church's sanctuary January 8. When firefighters arrived on scene, the sanctuary of the Teaver Road Baptist Church was on fire, said the fire chief. Firefighters forced their way inside through the church's front doors. Once inside, they saw the flames about 20 feet in front of them. The fire already was venting through the roof, a portion of which had fallen to the church floor. An adjoining Sunday school building had some smoke damage, the chief said.
Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2012/01/08/1885605/fire-destroys-teaver-road-baptist.html>
47. *January 8, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **Military explosives found at Coachella Valley Recycling Center.** Three military explosive devices from the World War II era were found January 8 at Coachella Valley Recycling Center in Coachella, California, a Riverside County sheriff's deputy said. As soon as the first explosive device was spotted in a scrap heap, Coachella Police Department officers were called. The officers evacuated the area and dispatched the county's hazardous device team. Their team's search unearthed two other devices. After the four-member team determined the devices to be active, the training ordnance was exploded in a controlled environment.
Source: <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20120108/NEWS08/120108012/Military-explosives-found-Coachella-Valley-Recycling-Center>
48. *January 8, Grand Rapids Press* – (Michigan) **25 shots fired at Gaines Township church youth event; one injured.** One man was injured after he was shot in the back of the head after refusing entry to eight male suspects at a youth event in Gaines Township, Michigan, the Grand Rapids Press reported January 8. The suspects shot at least 25 rounds, the Kent County Sheriff's Department said. There were several different weapons involved, an official said.
Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/01/25_shots_fired_at_gaines_towns.html
49. *January 6, Middletown Times Herald-Record* – (New York) **Update: Several businesses destroyed in huge blaze at Algonquin Plaza.** A huge fire ripped through the Algonquin Plaza in Newburgh, New York, January 6, destroying more than half of the plaza before firefighters knocked down the flames. A firewall saved the U.S. Post Office at the far end of the plaza, but at least five offices and businesses were

destroyed. A dry cleaning business, insurance office, Asian food store, and the district offices for the 100th State Assembly District were also destroyed.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120106/NEWS/120109885/-1/SITEMAP>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

50. *January 7, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Navy explosives turn up on southern Maryland shore.** Navy ammunition from the World War II era has been turning up near the Potomac River shore in St. Mary’s County, Maryland, and authorities have closed a state park where the shells have been found. The Maryland State Fire Marshal’s office said 10 more pieces of ordnance were found January 7 in an isolated area of Newtowne Neck State Park. The Maryland Park Service said the park has been closed until further notice. A St. Mary’s County spokesman said it was “believed the explosives are being unearthed by the tides in the river or washed ashore.” It was not immediately clear where they came from. They are being disposed of by detonation, the county spokesman said. A spokeswoman for the fire marshal’s office said they were first spotted around January 1. Authorities warned against touching the shells or similar objects.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/navy-explosives-discovered-md-state-park-closed/2012/01/07/gIQAGiayhP_story.html

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Dams Sector

51. *January 9, Omaha World-Herald* – (Iowa) **Flood repairs steam ahead.** The levee near Hamburg, Iowa, on the Missouri River should be plugged by February, officials said. The levee cavity — longer than a football field — was carved out to more than 1-mile long, creating a 6,300-foot gap in the towering earthen wall built more than 60 years ago to hold back the river. A new levee is under construction in a location that arcs 700 feet farther from the river than the old levee’s alignment. The new piece will tie into the stubs of the original embankment and will provide greater protection from floods, Corps officials said. Hamburg-area levee repairs are at the top of the agency’s priorities following the historic 3-month flood that swamped the region in the summer of 2011. The Missouri partially breached the levee 5 miles west of Hamburg three times in early June, with a full breach, June 16. Floodwaters left behind scour holes up to 60 feet deep in farmland. Acres of floodwaters still pool in woods and farmland blanketed with sand and flood debris left behind by the river.

Source: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120109/NEWS01/701099912>

52. *January 8, Longview Daily News* – (Washington) **Corps receives funding to raise Toutle dam by 10 feet.** The U.S. Congress recently approved about \$6 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mount St. Helens-related monitoring and flood-control work in Washington State, said the Cowlitz-Toutle river coordinator for the Corps' Portland District. Elevating the Toutle River sediment-retaining dam this summer by 10 feet will restore the 25-year-old structure's ability to trap volcanic sediment and prevent it from flowing into the Cowlitz. The rest of the earthen dam does not need to be raised because it is already considerably higher than the spillway. The Corps hopes to put the project out to bid in May and start the work in July. Left unchecked, the outflow of silt gradually will raise the bed of the Cowlitz and increase the chances of flooding, according to the Corps and hydrologists.
Source: http://tdn.com/news/local/corps-receives-funding-to-raise-toutle-dam-by-feet/article_0eeae89a-3a61-11e1-83e5-001871e3ce6c.html
53. *January 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Missouri River management plan released.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it is trying to improve the way it manages the Missouri River's reservoirs after 2011's historic flooding, but the 2012 plan released January 6 does not include much additional flood-storage space, the Associated Press reported. The Corps has been criticized for last year's flood that caused \$630 million damage to flood-control structures and covered hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland along the 2,341-mile-long river for months. Officials say the levees, dams, and channels along the river remain vulnerable going into 2012 because many more repairs are needed, but they are working to complete critical repairs before spring. The Corps said there is only a 10 percent chance the amount of water flowing into the Missouri River from melting snow and rainfall this year will exceed the amount the plan can handle.
Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/01/06/3356513/missouri-river-management-plan.html>
54. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Missouri to chip in \$3.3M to begin repairs to state's most damaged levees.** The governor of Missouri is paying \$3.3 million to help repair some of the state's most flood-battered levees, he announced January 6. The U.S. President last month signed a nationwide disaster relief bill that provides \$1.7 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which includes money to help fix Missouri River levees. Many of the levees that will benefit from the money are part of a federal program that helps levee operators make flood repairs. But the program requires the levees to pass routine inspections and their operators to pay 20 percent of the repair costs.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/95d610f9e9d34a7384f5db561879b2fe/MO--Missouri-River-Levees/>

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