



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 11 January 2012

### Top Stories

- A Palisades Park, New Jersey man admitted January 9 he ran an identity-theft ring that peddled Social Security cards to scores of Korean clients who used them to steal millions from lenders, banks, and credit card companies. – *Hackensack Record* (See item [11](#))
- Heavy rains in the Houston-area January 9 flooded highways and curtailed public transit, knocked out power to thousands, and caused a shopping mall roof to collapse. – *Houston Chronicle* (See items [2](#), [16](#), [39](#))

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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 10, Associated Press* – (International) **Mexico says 1,500-barrel oil spill controlled.** Mexico's environment department said a 1,500-barrel oil spill from a pipeline near the Gulf of Mexico coast has been brought under control, with about 40 percent of the oil being recovered. The department said some of the oil has been detected along a 5-mile stretch of the Coatzacoalcos River, which empties into the gulf. The spill started December 31 at a pipeline leading to a refinery operated by the state-owned oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501715\\_162-57355711/mexico-says-1500-barrel-oil-spill-controlled/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501715_162-57355711/mexico-says-1500-barrel-oil-spill-controlled/)

2. *January 9, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Houston flooding leaves thousands without power, stranded.** Thousands of people and at least five schools lost power in Houston, Texas, January 9, after powerful thunderstorms prompted tornado warnings, dropped hail, and left several inches of rain. Centerpoint Energy reported outages affected about 19,600 customers. The Houston Independent School District said five of its campuses lost power.

Source: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=705410#.TwxSBYG9tBk>

3. *January 9, Sarasota Herald Tribune* – (Louisiana) **Most oil from BP spill never reached surface, report says.** Most of the oil and gas that flowed into the Gulf of Mexico during the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster never reached the surface, according to the first comprehensive report tracking the amount of oil. Nearly 25 percent of the released material is still unaccounted for. The study also provides critical benchmarks, such as the ratio of oil to gas, that will prove important as the federal government seeks money from BP to pay for the response and recovery. The report was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Fourteen scientists studied the chemical make-up of oil and gas sampled from the burst pipe, the deep plumes, the surface slick, and the atmosphere. The samples were collected over 6 weeks during the disaster. The findings support other reports made during and after the spill detailing vast plumes of microscopic oil droplets. After a catastrophic explosion April 20, 2010, an estimated 206 million gallons of crude shot from the Deepwater Horizon riser pipe over 3 months. The spill occurred a mile deep and about 60 miles off the coast of Louisiana.

Source: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20120109/ARTICLE/120109584/-1/sports?Title=Most-oil-from-BP-spill-never-reached-surface-report-says>

4. *January 9, Knoxville News-Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **State, feds probe coal plant discharge into New River.** A coal company violated state and federal water quality permits by releasing shale and rock shavings into New River in Briceville, Tennessee, for 12 hours January 2 and not reporting the discharge, an official said. As a result, the plant was directed to stop operations. State and federal officials went to the scene January 5 and found “greyish-black material” coating rocks and algae in the New River and deposited along the edges of the river for 7 miles downstream. A spokeswoman for the state department of environment and conservation said the discharge did not affect the nearest water treatment plant, located 30 miles away in Huntsville, Tennessee. The release came from the plant’s discharge pond and is a by-product of the process when coal is separated from shale and rock. The volume of discharge released in violation of water quality permits has not been determined, she said.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/jan/09/state-feds-probe-coal-plant-discharge-into-new/>

For another story, see item [16](#)

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## Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 10, WKYC 3 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Brimfield Twp: Semi overturns, spills flammable chemical.** The Ohio Department of Transportation said portion of Interstate 76 in Portage County near Brimfield Township, Ohio, was reopened late the morning of January 10. The section of the westbound lanes at State Route 43 were closed overnight after a semi overturned late January 9, spilling a flammable chemical onto the roadway. The Ohio State Highway Patrol said that the semi's driver went off the side of the road spilling more than 36,000 gallons of the chemical diisobutylene. The chemical is used mostly in the manufacturing of other chemicals, but is highly flammable. Crews transferred the remaining chemicals to a container brought in from Columbus.  
Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/224151/6/Brimfield-Twp-Semi-overturns-spills-flammable-chemical>

For more stories, see items [3](#) and [8](#)

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## Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *January 10, Nuclear Street* – (Louisiana) **Internet surfing by reactor operators at River Bend nuclear plant could draw \$140,000 fine.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) January 10 proposed a \$140,000 fine for Entergy after investigating Internet use by reactor operators at its River Bend nuclear plant north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In a release, the NRC announced it proposed the civil penalty related to a period in 2010 when nine operators violated plant procedures requiring them to “remain attentive and focused on their work.” Between January and April, they frequently accessed the Internet from the control room while on duty. Six operators will receive severity level IV violations from the agency. Three others and the plant itself will be issued level III violations.  
Source:  
[http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear\\_power\\_industry\\_news/b/nuclear\\_power\\_news/archive/2012/01/10/internet-surfing-by-reactor-operators-at-river-bend-nuclear-plant-could-draw-2400-140-2c00-000-fine-101002.aspx](http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear_power_industry_news/b/nuclear_power_news/archive/2012/01/10/internet-surfing-by-reactor-operators-at-river-bend-nuclear-plant-could-draw-2400-140-2c00-000-fine-101002.aspx)
7. *January 10, Associated Press* – (New York) **Pump problem shuts reactor in NYC suburbs.** The Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York, was shut down January 10 to repair a cooling water pump. The pump is one of four that supply cooling water to the Indian Point 2 reactor. An Entergy spokesman said operators noticed an increase of water flow through the pump's mechanical seal over the past 2 weeks. He said the night of January 9, the extra flow reached a point at which operators decided to shut down for a repair. He said it was not yet known how long Indian Point 2 will be offline. The other reactor at the plant, Indian Point 3, continued operating at full power.  
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP45c33f21230c436195398edcb5f43907.html>

8. *January 9, TriCities.com* – (Tennessee) **Chemical leak at storage area at Nuclear Fuel Services.** A nitric acid leak occurred in an outdoor bulk chemical storage area of the Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) complex in Erwin, Tennessee, January 9, according to a company press release. The nitric acid was contained by a dike designed for that purpose. Nitric acid may mix with water to cause fumes that can be hazardous. Facility operations were in safe shutdown. As a precautionary measure, employees working in nearby areas were redirected to another NFS facility. Two employees were seen by NFS medical staff and were later released.  
Source: <http://www2.tricity.com/news/2012/jan/09/chemical-leak-storage-area-nuclear-fuel-services-ar-1598675/>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *January 9, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. Air Force taking steps on F-22 oxygen problems.** The U.S. Air Force said January 9 it has not found a “smoking gun” to explain oxygen issues that grounded Lockheed Martin’s F-22 fighter jet for 4 months in 2011, but has implemented steps to minimize problems. The Air Force chief of staff told Reuters a subpanel was due to brief the Air Force’s Science Advisory Board the week of January 9 about recurring problems with the system that supplies oxygen to pilots who fly the radar-evading warplane, but no single mechanical cause had been found. He said he expected the advisory board to finalize its report on the issue by the end of January or early February. The Air Force grounded its fleet of F-22 Raptor fighter jets in May 2011 but allowed flights to resume in September after concluding the planes were safe to fly. The service chief said the service installed new equipment to monitor the output from the oxygen producing system on board, as well as the level of oxygen in the blood of the pilots, but would continue to collect data.  
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/politics/sns-rt-us-lockheed-fighter-oxygentre80902t-20120109,0,5316169.story>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *January 10, Bloomberg* – (National) **Ex-CDR Financial executives plead guilty in fraud case.** The former chief financial officer (CFO) of CDR Financial Products Inc. and its vice president (VP) pleaded guilty January 9 in a multimillion dollar scheme to rig municipal bond investments. The pleas in federal court in New York came a week before opening arguments were scheduled to be heard in a trial over alleged bid- and auction-rigging in the municipal bond market. The CDR founder and former chief

executive officer (CEO) and his Beverly Hills, California-based firm pleaded guilty December 30. The CFO admitted in court to manipulating bids during his tenure at CDR from 1998 to November 2006. CDR was hired by public entities that issue municipal bonds to act as their broker and conduct what were to be competitive bidding processes for contracts for the investment of municipal bond proceeds, prosecutors said. Instead, CDR employees allegedly took kickbacks for running sham auctions. The CFO and VP each pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy and one count of wire fraud. They face as long as 35 years in prison on all counts, the judge said. The VP told the judge that soon after he joined CDR in April 2000, he became involved in the conspiracy. "Through corruption and bid rigging, [the defendants] reaped profits for their company by defrauding municipalities and denying them the competition they deserved," the acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division said. Both men face at least \$1.5 million in fines. The CEO and CDR both pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy and one count of wire fraud, the government said. CDR faces fines of as much as \$101 million.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-01-10/ex-cdr-financial-executives-plead-guilty-in-fraud-case.html>

11. *January 9, Hackensack Record* – (New Jersey; International) **Palisades Park man admits running ID-theft and bank-fraud ring that netted \$4 million.** A Palisades Park, New Jersey man admitted January 9 he ran an identity-theft ring that peddled Social Security cards to scores of Korean clients who used them to steal millions through fraudulent bank loans, credit card "bust-outs," and other schemes. The defendant confessed he directed frauds out of Bergen County storefronts and advertised his illegal services in Korean-language newspapers. He pleaded guilty to five felony counts, including three counts of conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, and money laundering. Also pleading guilty was an accomplice who admitted his role in three conspiracies that caused more than \$2.5 million in losses to lenders. He admitted he fraudulently established credit scores for customers and obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in commercial and personal loans for unqualified borrowers. He pleaded guilty to three counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and faces about 3 years in prison. Both men face deportation once their sentences are served. The men were among 54 people arrested in September 2010. About half of the defendants have pleaded guilty. The scheme centered on legitimate Social Security cards, issued in the 1990s to Chinese nationals who came to work in American territories in the Pacific. The defendant admitted he purchased the cards from black-market brokers and sold them to customers in Bergen County. He said ring members escorted more than 100 customers to various states so they could fraudulently obtain ID cards and driver's licenses using the Social Security cards and other documents, such as counterfeit Chinese passports. The ring "built up" credit scores by adding the Chinese identities as authorized users to the accounts of co-conspirators, who received a fee for the service. Once they had obtained scores of 700 to 800, the customers were coached to open bank and retail credit card accounts and take out lines of credit and loans — including loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration — using the fraudulent identities. The ring "busted out" the credit cards by buying expensive liquor, designer clothes, and other high-end goods they resold for cash. They also had a network of "collusive merchants" who rang up sham charges. Other schemes included check kiting, leasing

luxury cars and selling them, and filing fake tax returns. In total, the scheme defrauded various credit card companies, banks, and lenders out of about \$4 million.

Source: [http://www.northjersey.com/news/Palisades\\_Park\\_man\\_admits\\_running\\_ID-theft\\_and\\_bank-fraud\\_ring\\_that\\_netted\\_4\\_million.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/news/Palisades_Park_man_admits_running_ID-theft_and_bank-fraud_ring_that_netted_4_million.html?page=all)

12. *January 9, City News Service* – (California) **Guilty plea entered in Penasquitos bank skimming case.** A San Diego man who placed a debit card skimming device on a Rancho Penasquitos, California, bank security door and trained hidden cameras on ATMs so he could steal the PIN numbers of thousands of customers pleaded guilty January 9 to identity theft, burglary, and grand theft charges. The defendant — who was charged with 25 counts — faces a maximum 2 years in state prison. He is believed to have obtained the security codes for more than 970 ATM/debit cards, resulting in estimated losses of \$300,000, said a deputy district attorney. Bank customers had no idea their personal information was compromised. The attorney said the defendant used reconfigured debit cards from the stolen personal information and withdrew money from the victims' accounts between January and July 2011, mostly in \$500 increments. One victim had to get a new debit cards three times, the prosecutor said. Chase Bank notified the San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force of the series of crimes occurring at its branch on Black Mountain Road. Prosecutors said a Chase investigator determined someone had been placing the debit card skimming device on the security door accessing the lobby of the Black Mountain bank and ATM machines. The bank investigator reviewed surveillance videos from the branch and determined the same suspect had installed the skimmer and cameras on five previous weekends.  
Source: <http://www.pomeradonews.com/2012/01/09/guilt-plea-entered-in-penasquitos-bank-skimming-case/>
13. *January 9, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Police: Ark. woman, 73, held hostage with husband, sent into bank with possible bomb on leg.** Authorities searched January 9 for a man suspected of holding a woman and her husband hostage at their home in Fayetteville, Arkansas, then forcing her to try to rob a bank with what she thought was a bomb strapped to her ankle. The woman told employees at the bank about the device and authorities were able to safely evacuate the building before a bomb squad could remove it from the woman's leg, police said. Authorities were testing the device to see if it really was dangerous. The woman told police a man had been holding her and her husband captive in their Washington County home, and sheriff's deputies dispatched there found her husband tied up but unharmed. The couple's pickup truck was missing, and KHOG 29 Fayetteville reported sheriff's deputies found an abandoned truck believed to belong to the couple. A Washington County sheriff's lieutenant said investigators believe the couple's story.  
Source:  
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/512f1cf6283d444e8920c63b935866e6/AR--Bank-Bomb-Scare/>
14. *January 9, WFLD 32 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Gold Coast bandit robs 7th bank.** Authorities in Chicago are looking for a serial bank robber who struck his seventh bank January 9 in the Gold Coast neighborhood. Police said the man robbed a Chase Bank. He passed a teller a note and did not display a weapon. Police said he fled

with an unknown amount of cash. The man last robbed two North Community Bank branches January 6. He is also suspected of robbing a Chase Bank December 30; a PNC Bank December 22; a North Community Bank December 20; and a Chase Bank December 13. He has not shown a weapon in any of the robberies.

Source: <http://www.myfoxchicago.com/dpp/news/metro/chicago-bank-bandit-robber-chase-gold-coast-chase-north-community-pnc-fbi-20120109>

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## **Transportation Sector**

15. *January 10, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **I-95 bridge construction delayed over poor beams.** Rhode Island transportation officials said a portion of the Pawtucket River Bridge that is still under construction must be dismantled because some beams are misaligned. The Providence Journal reports that contractors have removed portions of the main girders on both ends of the Interstate 95 bridge. Construction began in November 2010. A spokesman for the state department of transportation, said it is not clear how much of the bridge will have to be disassembled to correct the problem, how long it will take, how much it will cost, or who will pay for it. The bridge was to be open to traffic this spring. But the project fell behind schedule even before state inspectors found the alignment problem.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode\\_island/articles/2012/01/10/i\\_95\\_bridge\\_const\\_ruction\\_delayed\\_over\\_poor\\_beams/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2012/01/10/i_95_bridge_const_ruction_delayed_over_poor_beams/)

16. *January 9, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Flash flooding plagues Houston after heavy storms.** A strong storm front with heavy rain raced through Houston, January 9, leaving behind so much water, it completely shut down Texas 288 at the South Loop. One tornado reportedly touched down near FM 1093 at FM 723, near the Grand Parkway and Mason Road earlier in the morning. Nickel-sized hail was reported at Highway 99 and Fry Road, and bigger hail was seen in Wharton County early in the day. More than a dozen freeway intersections were flooded. People in cars stalled in high water on roadways called 911 for rescue, said a Houston Fire Department assistant chief. Firefighters helped people get out of their cars and take them to safer areas. Flooded streets forced Metro to reroute some buses and the Metro Rail service in downtown was limited because of water on the tracks. Light rail service was limited to the downtown transit center and the Preston Station on Main Street. Several parking garages in the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in Houston were closed because of high water. and the loading docks and the valet parking at the neurosensory center of TMC's Methodist Hospital were closed.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Flash-flooding-plagues-Houston-after-heavy-storms-2450155.php>

17. *January 9, Abilene Reporter-News* – (National) **Pair of wrecks close I-20 in Mitchell County temporarily.** Icy road conditions and limited visibility are believed to have played a role in two crashes on Interstate 20 in Mitchell County, Texas that led to the road being closed twice January 9. The interstate was closed in both directions for more

than 4 hours following a crash involving several 18-wheelers and a few passenger vehicles near Westbrook, west of Colorado City, that occurred early in the morning, said a Texas Department Of Transportation (TxDOT) maintenance supervisor for Mitchell County. A second crash occurred in the afternoon, also near Westbrook, when a jack-knifed 18-wheeler forced the closure of the east-bound lanes. The road was reopened 30 minutes later. Rain began falling in western Mitchell County early January 9, and mixed with sleet and snow as the day progressed.

Source: <http://www.reporternews.com/news/2012/jan/09/pair-wrecks-close-i-20-mitchell-county-temporarily/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *January 10, Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Milford police look for creator of ‘bottle bombs’**. Police are still investigating a series of “bottle bombs” set off over the weekend of January 7, in Milford, Massachusetts. No one was hurt in the three incidents, but the deputy police chief said the bombs could have caused serious injuries if chemicals were sprayed in someone’s eyes or plastic was blown at a victim. Officers responded to explosions in yards on West and High streets and near a Highland Street mailbox, police said. Officers released pictures of a green plastic bottle that had exploded. Police believe the explosives were made with common household cleaning chemicals, designed to ignite in 45 to 60 seconds. But, if made improperly, an explosion may not happen until the bottle is unknowingly moved by someone.

Source:

[http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/police\\_and\\_fire/x1312981703/Milford-police-look-for-creator-of-bottle-bombs](http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/police_and_fire/x1312981703/Milford-police-look-for-creator-of-bottle-bombs)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *January 10, Reuters* – (International) **Most milk in India contaminated or diluted**. People in India may think twice before gulping down a glass of milk after the country’s food safety regulator found most samples collected in a survey were either diluted or adulterated with products including fertilizer, bleach, and detergent, Reuters reported January 10. The study, conducted in January by the food safety and standards authority of India, found milk was adulterated with skimmed milk powder and glucose, or hydrogen peroxide, urea, and detergent. “Consumption of milk with detergent may cause health hazards and indicates lack of hygiene and sanitation in the milk handling,” the regulator said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/10/us-india-milk-idUSTRE80919O20120110>

20. *January 8, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Arson suspected in Harris Farms truck lot fire.** The Fresno County Sheriff’s Office said arson could be the cause of a fire January 8 that damaged 14 tractors and several trailers in the Harris Farms truck lot in Coalinga, California. The fire started in the truck storage area, according to the sheriff’s office. Multiple tractor trailer rigs were fully engulfed in flames when deputies and fire personnel arrived. Harris Farms is one of the largest family-owned agribusinesses in the nation. It is California’s largest cattle feeder, beef processor, and beef marketer. Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/01/08/2675315/arson-suspected-in-harris-farms.html#storylink=cpy>

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## **Water Sector**

21. *January 9, Nevada County Department of Environmental Health* – (California) **37,500 gallons of untreated sewage spill in to Magnolia Creek and Bear River.** The Nevada County Department of Environmental Health reported a 37,500 gallon sewage spill into Magnolia Creek near Colfax, California. It was caused by a computer system failure at the Lake of The Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant during a 12-hour period starting January 8. The environmental health department was working with the county public works department to collect samples to determine the extent of the impact. The sewage that was discharged contains bacteria and other pathogens. The flow rate of Wolf Creek in that area was about 220 gallons per minute, a fairly slow dilution rate indicating that high bacteria levels may be present for at least 24 hours. Officials are fixing the cause of the release. Source: <http://yubanet.com/regional/37-500-Gallons-of-Untreated-Sewage-Spill-in-to-Magnolia-Creek.php#.TwxYUoHah8E>
22. *January 9, Associated Press* – (Montana) **EPA approves Montana’s phased-in water pollution plan; state says approach avoids huge costs.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Montana’s plan to phase in strict limits on water pollution from municipal wastewater treatment plants, industry, and other sources, officials said January 9. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality Director (DEQ) said that under the state plan, most major polluters still would have to make changes to meet Montana’s flexible standard for two pollutants — nitrogen and phosphorus. The approved plan includes variances for cities and companies that would allow them to meet the new federal standards over 2 decades, meaning polluters could avoid huge costs they otherwise would have faced to upgrade pollution control equipment more immediately. The EPA raised concerns in 2011 about the state’s phased-in approach because it does not require individual polluters to prove economic harm before they are given more time to meet federal standards. The EPA backed down after the state in recent months presented studies that said the cost of meeting the standard would be significant. Although precise costs were not provided, some municipalities have said they would be forced to spend tens of millions of dollars to meet the federal rules using current technologies. The state’s plan to control nutrient pollution will go before the board of environmental review for adoption possibly sometime this coming summer or fall, a DEQ spokeswoman said. After that, the DEQ

will issue a formal rule setting the nutrient standard and allowing the variances.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/fc9fa844f37d4d139418c29dadadfb1/MT--Water-Pollution-Rules/>

23. *January 6, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **Illinois EPA sues Markham over alleged drinking water violations.** The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is suing the City of Markham for alleged environmental safety violations regarding the city's water supply, the Chicago Sun-Times reported January 6. An Illinois attorney general claims Markham violated the state's Environmental Protection Act by not having a backflow contamination control in its water supply system that has 4,500 connections and serves 12,000 residents for at least 6 months, according to a court complaint. It said the primary source of water is obtained from Lake Michigan through the Midmark Water Commission's pumping station. The station receives lake water into a reservoir, and four pumps send then send chlorinated water to Markham's supply system. A one-inch water line is used to supply water to a cooling system, and coolant within the generator is e-circulated at a higher pressure, the complaint said. An Illinois EPA inspector noticed October 26, 2010, that there was not a proper backflow prevention device, and a leak in the coolant line or a crack in the radiator within the generator could contaminate the water system with coolant, the complaint said. A backflow prevention device was installed at the pump March 31, 2011. The complaint is seeking a civil penalty of \$50,000 for each violation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, and an additional \$10,000 penalty for each day of the violation. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8494027>

For another story, see item [4](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *January 9, MEDCITY NEWS* – (National) **Drug shortage risk for Endo Pharmaceuticals after factory shut down.** Endo Pharmaceuticals faces a drug shortage risk for some of its opiates as Novartis Consumer Group sorts out a mix-up that could cause extended release opiates for Endo Pharmaceuticals to be bottled together with over-the-counter pain reliever Excedrin and stimulant NoDoz. The factory shutdown, though temporary, could cause a shortage for Endo's painkiller drugs such as Endocet and Zydone, as well as Percocet. The chief operating officer of Endo Pharmaceuticals said the company was working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to minimize disruption for patients using these drug treatments. As a result of the Novartis facility shutdown, Endo will be expediting the production of products at alternative manufacturing facilities in Huntsville, Alabama. Source: <http://www.medicitynews.com/2012/01/drug-shortage-risk-for-endo-pharmaceuticals-after-factory-shut-down/?edition=pharmaceuticals>
25. *January 9, Radio Iowa* – (Iowa) **Northeast Iowa police investigating pharmacy burglaries.** Several pharmacies in northeast Iowa were burglarized January 8. A

Manchester Police chief said officers and Delaware County sheriff's deputies responded to a burglary alarm and arrived at Widner's to find the front door broken into. The suspects had already fled the scene. They had taken an undisclosed amount of pills containing pseudophedrine, which is commonly used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Police said two other pharmacies in Strawberry Point and Oelwein were also burglarized.

Source: <http://www.radioiowa.com/2012/01/09/northeast-iowa-police-investigating-pharmacy-burglaries/>

26. *January 9, NBC 7 San Diego* – (California) **'Highly dangerous' chemical leaked in Sorrento Valley lab.** Three people may have been exposed to a dangerous chemical at a research facility in the Sorrento Valley section of San Diego, January 9. Scripps Research Institute employees were working with hydrogen fluoride when something broke releasing the chemical into the lab. San Diego firefighters were called to the building around 10:20 a.m. The second floor was evacuated as San Diego hazmat worked with employees to assess the spill. Officials are unsure if the chemical was a gas or a liquid when it was released. At least one person was exposed, officials said. By noon, the first floor of the building was deemed safe and employees were told they could return to work.

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/sorrento-valley-hazmat-san-diego-torrey-pines-136958843.html>

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## Government Facilities Sector

27. *January 9, Harrisburg Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **1 injured in shooting outside Harrisburg High School basketball gym.** Gunshots rang out outside of Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, during a high school basketball game January 9. One person was wounded, police said. The game was put completely under lockdown. Officers denied access to the entrances and exits after the shooting. At least 10 police units responded. After the shooting, police officers spent much of their time stopping groups of teens from repeatedly attempting to enter the gym and forcibly removing them during the rest of the game. At one point, someone in the parking lot fired what appeared to be a starter's pistol, sending a group of teens running to the gym doors.

Source:

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/01/1\\_injured\\_in\\_shooting\\_outside.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/01/1_injured_in_shooting_outside.html)

28. *January 9, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Former western Pa. guardsman guilty of setting fire at National Guard building near Pittsburgh.** A former Pennsylvania National Guard member pleaded guilty January 9 to setting fire to a guard facility near Pittsburgh in 2005. The man was indicted in 2009 in the fire at the facility in Ross Township and pleaded guilty to a slightly different charge. He was originally charged

with malicious destruction of U.S. property. The charge he pleaded guilty to was arson of property within a special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States. The November 18, 2005 fire was set at a building the Guard rented from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/ec5e781bb58442469577c289d3916b47/PA--National-Guard-Arson/>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *January 10, Aiken Standard* – (South Carolina) **Patient tries to jump from medical helicopter.** Authorities said a medical helicopter taking a patient to a Charleston, South Carolina hospital had to make an emergency landing after the patient fought with the crew and tried to leap from the aircraft. Colleton County Fire and Rescue said paramedics were called after the 26-year-old laborer jumped from an SUV going 70 mph on Interstate 95 late afternoon January 7. The man had several serious injuries, so paramedics called a medical helicopter. Authorities said while in the air, the man broke loose from the backboard and started fighting the crew. The pilot was able to land safely, and the man was put in a special sleeve that kept him from moving his arms and legs and an ambulance took him to the hospital.

Source: <http://www.aikenstandard.com/story/m1114-BC-SC-MedicalHelicopter-01-09-0331>

30. *January 10, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Man arrested for entering Athens jail.** Authorities with the Clarke County Sheriff's Office in Athens, Georgia are investigating how an apparently disturbed man got into a secure area of the jail January 7, by pretending to be a police officer. The man entered a bond hearing room just before the judge arrived; He then made racist statements about a sheriff, and later threatened to arrest a sheriff's deputy, according to sheriff's records. The records were submitted January 10 by sheriff's officials to Athens-Clarke County Magistrate Court, along with other jail documents. The man was charged with impersonating a police officer, criminal trespass, and disorderly conduct, according to jail records. After the Athens Banner-Herald obtained the jail records, a spokesman for the sheriff said a serious lapse in security allowed the man into the jail. The man was allowed into the hearing room after he told a deputy he was a retired police officer who had permission from the sheriff and a judge to observe a bond hearing, according to the deputy's statement.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2012-01-10/man-arrested-entering-athens-jail?v=1326190984>

31. *January 9, Emergency Management* – (New York) **New York City completes major 911 system overhaul.** New York City (NYC) officials announced the week of January 2 the completion of a major 911 system overhaul — the first major communications

integration within the “cellphone era,” according to city officials. For the first time in New York City’s history, officials said, the 911 emergency call takers from the NYC police and fire departments and the Emergency Medical Dispatch services are now all located on the same floor of the Public Safety Answering Center in Brooklyn and are operating on the same technology. The system is capable of handling 50,000 calls per hour — more than nine times the peak hourly call volume that took place during the September 11th attacks, and more than 40 times than the average daily call volume. New York City receives more than 11 million 911 calls each year. With the new system, call takers can now see on-screen maps of a caller’s location. The upgraded system also has critical redundancy to NYC’s emergency communications infrastructure. The system upgrade, called the Emergency Communications Transformation Program, started in 2004. Officials said it will help improve and streamline data sharing among public safety agencies. Additional upgrades were also made to NYC’s emergency telephone and radio networks.

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/New-York-City-Completes-Major-911-System-Overhaul.html>

32. *January 9, WKBT 8 La Crosse* – (Wisconsin) **911 outage linked to CenturyLink.** Some people who tried to make 911 calls the evening of January 8 in the La Crosse, Wisconsin-area likely did not have their call go through. A technical problem caused another widespread outage in the area. It lasted at least 2 hours. It was the second time in just 6 months that a widespread 911 outage has occurred. The latest outage impacted almost all cell phone users in La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, and Trempealeau Counties. The director of the La Crosse County Public Safety Communications Center said some people with home phone service were also impacted. The problem was traced back to CenturyLink’s router site in Black River Falls. A CenturyLink spokesperson said a back-up system failed to kick in during the outage.
- Source: <http://www.news8000.com/news/911-outage-linked-to-CenturyLink/-/326/7681364/-/yfmdeq/-/>
33. *January 5, Threatpost* – (Maryland) **Losing the cops in a foot chase? There’s an app for that.** Law enforcement officials in Maryland issued a warning about the increasing use of smartphones and Web-based services to listen in on law enforcement radio transmissions. Gang members, officials warn, are using smart phone apps to get a jump on enforcement efforts and, in at least one case, to evade capture during a foot chase. The warning, from the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) is titled “Criminal Use of Police Scanner Apps.” It describes several recent “contacts with criminal gang members” within Maryland during which “law enforcement agency (personnel) has heard their radio transmissions broadcast over a suspect’s smart phone.” In one instance, “officers pursuing a suspect on foot overheard the suspect listening to the pursuing officers’ radio transmission over a smart phone” with a 3-second delay. Gang members and associates are using mobile applications and radio enthusiast Web sites to find and monitor secure channels used by law enforcement over the Internet.
- Source: [https://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/losing-cops-foot-chase-theres-app-010512](https://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/losing-cops-foot-chase-theres-app-010512)

## **Information Technology Sector**

34. *January 10, Help Net Security* – (International) **Android trojan masquerades as phone optimizer app.** F-Secure researchers recently spotted ads for third-party Android markets being served on an Android-related site and discovered it hosts a number of malicious sites that push bogus/malicious apps, Help Net Security reported January 10. One of those poses as a “Phone Optimizer” app that supposedly reveals hidden functions. “The idea is that the manufacturers would then earn money through an OS update that unlocks the hidden features,” explain the researchers. “This site claims to check your phone for such hidden features and unlock them.” Once the device is “analyzed,” the user is offered an update module that supposedly does exactly that. But the offered download link leads to an app that sends text messages to a premium-rate number based in the country in which the user is located. If the user visits the site through the link in the “Phone Optimizer” app, she will be served with a .apk file, while other visitor may be presented with a .jar version of the same file.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1957](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1957)
35. *January 10, Help Net Security* – (International) **Spam emails link to QR codes.** The Websense ThreatSeeker Network reported it has started spotting spam messages leading to URLs that use embedded QR codes, according to Help Net Security January 10. The discovery indicated a clear movement and evolution of traditional spammers towards targeting mobile technology. The spam e-mail messages look like traditional pharmaceutical spam e-mails and contain a link to the Web site 2tag.nl. This is a legitimate Web service that allows users to create QR codes for URLs. Once the 2tag.nl URL from the mail message is loaded in the browser, a QR code is displayed, along with the full URL the QR code resolves to on the right. When the QR code is read by a QR reader, it automatically loads the spam URL (or asks before loading, depending on which QR reader the user has installed).  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1956](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1956)
36. *January 10, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Shnakule discovery highlights growing sophistication in cyber crime.** The discovery of a highly sophisticated malware network is leading some security firms to reshape their view of cyber crime operations, V3 reported January 10. Known as Shnakule, the operation employs a massive network of servers to attack sites as well as compromised pages to exploit vulnerabilities and infect users’ computers. Shnakule spans many attack vectors and is believed to have been used for multiple attacks, with active servers ranging from hundreds to thousands of systems at a time. The vice president of product management and product marketing at Blue Coat told V3 his firm has been tracking the Shnakule operation for months through its WebPlus security networks. He said the firm’s findings defy conventional knowledge of how malware and cyber crime operations work. Attacks that previously appeared to be isolated events are now believed to be the work of various systems operating within the cyber crime network. Blue Coat estimates such networks will be responsible for as much as two-thirds of all attacks in 2012. “Shnakule is an organization of servers, it is an infrastructure more than anything,” the vice president

explained. “They may be doing the same attacks, but they have a well-built infrastructure to obfuscate it.” To combat such large-scale operations, Blue Coat believes vendors must take a wider approach to analyzing attacks. Rather than looking to block attacks based on the individual activity of a site or domain, the company believes firms will need to single out servers and domains that have been connected with malicious networks in the past.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2135898/schnakule-discovery-highlights-growing-sophistication-cyber-crime>

37. *January 9, Threatpost* – (International) **Gamers seek beta versions, download malware instead.** Tracking the increasingly common use of PC games as an infection vector, researchers at the Microsoft Malware Protection Center discovered several malicious programs making the rounds on torrent and file sharing sites, Threatpost reported January 9. Social engineers are disguising their malware by labeling it as the beta-versions of unreleased games or upgrades to popular ones. With the following files, “dota 2 Betakeys.txt.exe” and “diablo3-crack.exe,” attackers prey on gamers anxious to test out Defense of the Ancients 2 (a custom scenario map for Warcraft III) and Diablo III, respectively, which are not slated for release until later in 2012. Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/gamers-seek-beta-versions-download-malware-instead-010912](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/gamers-seek-beta-versions-download-malware-instead-010912)

For another story, see item [33](#)

### 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

38. *January 9, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon) **More than 900 without phone service, after outage at Frontier Communications’ Aloha office.** More than 900 Frontier Communications customers in Oregon were without phone service January 9, after an outage at the company’s central office in Aloha, according to Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R). The exact area affected by the outage was unknown, TVF&R said. Frontier reportedly believed that up to 938 people were without service. Technicians were working to fix the problem, TVF&R said. Source: [http://www.oregonlive.com/aloha/index.ssf/2012/01/more\\_than\\_900\\_without\\_phone\\_service.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/aloha/index.ssf/2012/01/more_than_900_without_phone_service.html)

For more stories, see items [32](#), [33](#), and [34](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

39. *January 10, Galveston Daily News* – (Texas) **Officials: None injured in mall roof collapse.** A roof collapse from tornado and water damage forced the evacuation and closure January 9 of the Mall of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas. The president of Boxer Retail, which manages the mall, said the company was assessing the damage caused by a strong thunderstorm that rolled through Texas City. If all repairs went as planned, the mall might reopen January 10. An official with the city’s inspection department, surveyed the damage along a north wall that lines the entrance near the theater. “The wall’s tilting out about a foot,” he said. “By the looks of it so far, and I’m not a structural engineer, it looks like the scuppers for some reason or another got stopped up.” Scuppers are openings that allow water to drain from flat roofs. “The eating area and the movie theaters are all flooded in there,” he said. The depth of the water was as much as 1.5 inches, depending on the proximity to the roof collapse. Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story/284738>
40. *January 10, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Teens arrested after Walker County church fire.** Authorities said they arrested two teenagers after a church building burned down in Walker County, Alabama, the Associated Press reported January 10. WBRC 6 Birmingham reported Patton Hill Baptist Church near Oakman was destroyed in the December 20 fire. Authorities said charges of second-degree arson and third-degree burglary have been filed against both suspects. Authorities said they believe vandalism was a motive in the crime, and they believe drug use was also a factor. Source: <http://www.wdef.com/news/state/story/Teens-arrested-after-Walker-County-church-fire/Wp6OgPG8g0qjEM0DWitZRw.csp>
41. *January 9, msnbc.com; Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Alaska town buried in snow gets military help.** Dozens of National Guard troops armed with shovels deployed across a southeast Alaska fishing town of Cordova January 9 after the coastal region was swamped with too much snow. The Guard reported more than 18 feet of snow has fallen in the past few weeks. At least three buildings have collapsed or partially collapsed and six homes are deemed severely stressed by heavy wet snow, officials said. Schools were closed January 9 to keep children off the roads and sidewalks. In Valdez, the other major town in Alaska’s Prince William Sound, snow is also an issue, with more than 24 feet so far this season — 12 feet above normal. The city set up a shelter at a local recreation center, but said people leaving homes in avalanche-risky areas have been staying with other residents. The town issued a disaster proclamation the week of January 2 after three weeks of relentless snow overwhelmed local crews working around the clock and filled snow dump sites. Source: <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/45923783/ns/today-weather/t/alaska-town-buried-snow-gets-shovel-help-troops/#.TwxgloHcxfV>
42. *January 9, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Explosion rocks city’s Westside; fire, smoke on W. Washington Street.** An explosion January 9 at a former fast-food restaurant building on Indianapolis’ westside sent smoke billowing skyward and debris landing up

to 150 feet from the structure. The vacant building was destroyed and neighboring business buildings had some minor damage, according to a spokesman for the Wayne Township Fire Department. The destroyed building was in the process of being renovated for a nail salon and a restaurant.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/article/20120109/NEWS/120109038/Explosion-fire-destroy-vacant-building-Westside?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com>

43. *January 7, WLKY 32 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Man arrested after allegedly putting traps in public park.** Paris, Kentucky police arrested a man January 6 who they said placed animal traps in a city park. The police chief said the man was arrested for carrying a concealed deadly weapon when he came to the park to check his traps. Authorities said they found the traps when they removed a nearby neighbor's dog, which had become trapped in one of the sets and died. They set up surveillance of the area and arrested the suspect a day later. Fish and wildlife officials said they found eight traps. The suspect did not have permission to set the traps in the park and faces charges for that as well. The traps were set in area frequented by recreational users of Garrard Park, including children.

Source: <http://www.wlky.com/news/30158193/detail.html>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

44. *January 9, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Three charged in historic Pa. church fire.** Three people were charged the weekend of January 7 with arson-related offenses in the October 2011 torching of a historic Delaware County camp-meeting church and two cottages used for summer retreats. The three will be arraigned January 25 in district court in Aston, Pennsylvania. One man is charged with arson and other offenses; the other man is charged with tampering with evidence and criminal and defiant trespassing. Police charged a woman with criminal and defiant trespassing. The church's value is estimated at \$1.5 million. The camp meeting, a 31-acre site nestled in a wooded area, was unoccupied when the structures were set on fire. The camp meeting has about 40 members, but its services are open to the public. The Web site said the nine-alarm fire started in the church and then spread to three adjacent cottages, gutting two. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Source: <http://www.officer.com/news/10611102/three-charged-in-historic-pa-church-fire>

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## **Dams Sector**

45. *January 9, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **Crews recycle old levee to build new one downstream in Yakima.** Contractors hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers January 9 began removing old levee material at the south end of the levee

near Yakima, Washington, as part of a project that will increase the river's ability to handle high water as well as expand fish and wildlife habitat. The project also will reduce the threat of damage to levee sections downstream near the Terrace Heights bridge that routinely needs attention during high-water events. Material removed will be trucked to create a new levee set back several hundred feet from the river. The federal Bureau of Reclamation purchased the property several years ago. A county surface water manager said the Hartford Road neighborhood is at greater risk from flooding if nothing is done. The Corps is paying for the bulk of more than \$2 million project cost.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2012/01/09/crews-recycle-old-levee-to-build-new-one-downstream-in-yakima>

46. *January 9, Scripps News Service* – (Oklahoma) **Workers complete Zink Dam repairs.** Repairs to fix the gates on the Zink Dam near Tulsa, Oklahoma, have been completed. One of the gates had been broken for the past few months, affecting the water flow. Officials said the dam is once again fully functional. A \$30 million overhaul of the dam is scheduled to begin in a few years.

Source: [http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/workers-complete-zink-dam-repairs](http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/local_news/workers-complete-zink-dam-repairs)

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

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

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