



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 3 February 2012

Top Stories

- VeriSign Inc., the company in charge of delivering people safely to more than half the world's Web sites, was hacked repeatedly by outsiders who accessed undisclosed information from the leading Internet infrastructure company. – *Reuters* (See item [43](#))
- Fire investigators in Norfolk, Virginia, asked for help February 2 from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in looking into four recent cases of arson at a prominent condo building. – *Newport News Daily Press* (See item [49](#))

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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. *February 2, Pittsburgh Business Times* – (Pennsylvania) **CONSOL's Enlow Mine reopened after imminent danger order.** CONSOL Energy Inc. told investors February 2 that its Enlow Fork Mine in Washington County, Pennsylvania, one of the company's largest operations, was shut down for about an hour due to an imminent

danger order from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). January 28, according to MSHA's records, inspectors found a concentration of methane above the permitted 1 percent in the working area. The condition was considered to be an imminent danger, but the problem was alleviated in less than an hour and the order was lifted. CONSOL disclosed the imminent danger order in an SEC filing February 2 in accordance with new requirements set by the Dodd-Frank Act that went into effect January 27. According to MSHA's records, the Enlow mine has had more than two dozen citations since the beginning of 2012.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/blog/energy/2012/02/consols-enlow-mine-reopened-after-order.html>

2. *February 2, Associated Press* – (California) **Report: Unsafe poles contributed windstorm outages.** The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) February 1 criticized Southern California Edison's (SCE) response to a windstorm that left broad swaths of the Southwest without electricity in 2011. Hurricane-force winds downed power lines and thousands of trees and branches late November 30 and early December 1, 2011, leaving more than 440,000 customers in the dark, some for up to a week. The commission's safety division said in a preliminary report that the utility failed to meet safety standards for at least 21 of the approximately 200 poles downed in the windstorm. The report also said SCE's electrical service restoration time was inadequate, and the utility did not ask for help from other utilities — had it done so, power would have been restored faster. The utility has since changed how it responds to downed wires. Instead of randomly fixing downed wires that have no electricity running to them because of breaks down the line, workers will focus on restoring lines in the radial pattern that power is transmitted, a spokeswoman said. At least 170 circuit outages were caused by vegetation, such as trees falling into and breaking wires, according to the report.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2012/02/02/report_faults_calif_utility_on_windstorm_response/

3. *February 1, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Navy plans to move aging Miramar pipeline.** The U.S. Navy is rushing to get an aging fuel pipeline off Point Loma's shoreline in California and is hoping to get \$26 million from the federal government by spring to move it. The rush comes after a news station unveiled unseen inspection reports for the 57-year-old Miramar Pipeline, which runs between MCAS Miramar and the naval base in Point Loma. KGTV 10 San Diego discovered the Navy fuel line had been repeatedly unearthed and exposed to the elements as it hugs the bayfront area near La Playa. A San Diego city councilman, along with naval leadership, will hold a series of community meetings to let the public know how the pipeline will be moved and where it will go.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/30353985/detail.html>

4. *January 31, Dark Reading* – (National) **Researchers postpone release of free smart meter security testing tool.** Smart grid researchers pulled their talk and planned release of a new security assessment tool for smart grid meters during the ShmooCon conference after a vendor voiced concerns about the research. A senior security analyst

with InGuardians had planned to introduce January 28 a new homegrown tool that tests for both vulnerabilities and functionality in smart grid meters — via the devices' infrared ports. A spokesman said there were no official threats of legal action by the vendor, which he declined to name. InGuardians had not planned to name any vendors in Weber's presentation, either. Legal threats and vendor pressure are nothing new in the security research community: There have been multiple occasions where vendor backlash has forced researchers to pull their presentations at Black Hat, DefCon, and at TakeDownCon in 2011.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/vulnerabilities/232500808/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *February 2, WUSA 9 Washington D.C.; Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Big rig wrecks kill 1, closes part of I-81 in Va.** A section of Interstate 81 in Virginia remained closed late the morning of February 2, following a chain-reaction tractor-trailer crash that killed a Pennsylvania man and spilled a toxic chemical. Virginia State Police told media outlets a northbound tractor-trailer hit a guardrail and overturned. Another tractor-trailer hit that vehicle and overturned in the median. It was struck by a third tractor-trailer in the southbound lanes. The first tractor-trailer spilled thioglycol. The Virginia Department of Transportation said the wrecks occurred in Botetourt County February 2.
Source: <http://washington.cbslocal.com/2012/02/02/big-rig-wrecks-kill-1-closes-part-of-i-81-in-va/>
6. *February 1, WMBF 32 Myrtle Beach* – (South Carolina) **I-95 off ramp reopens in Florence after hazardous spill.** The I-95 off ramp to I-20 westbound in Florence, South Carolina, reopened after being closed for 12 hours following the cleanup of sodium hydroxide that had spilled from an overturned 18-wheeler. Fire crews joined the South Carolina Highway Patrol on scene for 12 hours to clean up the spill as sodium hydroxide can cause serious burns. Motorists were asked to detour. Many agencies responded to the incident, including, the West Florence Fire Department, Florence City Fire Department, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.
Source: <http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/16648752/i-95-off-ramp-shut-down-in-florence>
7. *February 1, Hartford Business Journal* – (Connecticut; Massachusetts) **Waterbury firm pays \$120K EPA fine.** Waterbury, Connecticut chemical and storage company Hubbard-Hall Inc. is paying a \$122,177 fine to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to comply with the U.S. Clean Air Act (CAA), the Hartford Business Journal reported February 1. The firm is paying \$63,200 for its Waterbury facility, \$48,090 for its Wilmington, Massachusetts facility, and donating \$10,887 to the Wilmington fire department for not having a risk management plan on file at both facilities, a CAA requirement for hazardous chemical and storage distribution

companies. The EPA also claims Hubbard-Hall stored certain differing chemicals so close together that a spill or leak could cause a violent chemical reaction. The Hubbard-Hall fine was part of a larger EPA sweep that also included the Monson Companies based in Leominster, Massachusetts, for a total of \$222,000 in penalties and equipment donations.

Source: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news22454.html>

For more stories, see items [18](#) and [50](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *February 2, Rutland Herald* – (Vermont) **Stuck valve causes power reduction at Yankee.** The Vermont Yankee power plant in Vernon, Vermont, has been at reduced power for 2 days because of a problematic valve in a turbine in the non-nuclear side of the plant, the Rutland Herald reported February 2. An Entergy Nuclear spokesman said February 1 that Yankee was at 43 percent power but was increasing power production. He said plant personnel were performing scheduled maintenance surveillance of the turbine valves when the problem occurred. The pilot valve on the main valve of the B turbine closed properly, but would not “respond as expected” and reopen. A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said that the problem was traced to a lack of lubrication.

Source: <http://www.timesargus.com/article/20120202/THISJUSTIN/702029919>

9. *January 31, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Manteca PD: radioactive device stolen from car.** Manteca, California, police said they are investigating the theft of a nuclear densometer from a car the night of January 30. Authorities said the device is radioactive but should not pose a danger, unless the gauge is compromised. Experts said that if the gauge is compromised it could pose a danger to the person handling the device.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/r/30344673/detail.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *February 2, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **No injuries after fire at Dickson aluminum plant.** An aluminum parts plant in Dickson, Tennessee, was evacuated after a fire broke out there February 1. When firefighters arrived at the Nemark plant, they said flames were visible in the furnaces and in the vents on the roof. The plant makes aluminum cylinders, engines, and transmissions. Fire officials said about 100 or so workers were evacuated from the plant. Fire officials said the inside of the plant made this fight especially difficult, necessitating the use of dry chemical powder to extinguish the fire, rather than water.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/16658599/no-injuries-after-fire-at-dickson-aluminum-plant>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *February 2, Orange County Register* – (California) **Police: ‘Snowboarder Bandit’ robbed bank in Irvine.** A serial robber known as the “Snowboarder Bandit” is believed to have struck at an Irvine, California bank February 1, authorities said. The robbery was reported at a Wells Fargo branch, an Irvine Police sergeant said. A note may have been used in the robbery, but no weapons were seen, and no injuries were reported, he added. The robber escaped with an undisclosed amount of money. The robber is believed to be the man authorities linked to holdups in Laguna Hills, Anaheim Hills, Ladera Ranch, and Corona del Mar, an FBI spokeswoman said.
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/bank-338496-robbery-snowboarder.html>
12. *February 2, White Plains Journal News* – (New York) **Cashier accused of skimmer scam as Mamaroneck Staples customers lose \$180,000.** According to police, 50 customers at a Staples in Mamaroneck, New York, were bilked out of more than \$180,000 after a cashier stole their credit card information, the White Plains Journal News reported February 1. The suspect, arrested January 31, is accused of using a skimming device to capture the data from unsuspecting customers at the store between May and December 2011, a Westchester County Police spokesman said. She then sold the information — for a total of \$6,000 — to a Bronx man who used it to create fraudulent credit cards. He and possibly others then made \$181,800 in purchases, mostly from Georgia. Many of the cards were Mastercards issued by Citibank, which initiated a fraud investigation. The cashier was charged with criminal possession of a forgery device and first-degree scheme to defraud, 50 counts of unlawful possession of personal identification, and 50 counts of petit larceny.
Source: <http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012302010099>
13. *February 2, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (National) **Former Gateway executives settle fraud case with SEC.** A former chief executive officer (CEO) of Gateway, Inc. agreed February 1 to settle a fraud case with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The CEO and Gateway’s former controller will pay penalties, without admitting or denying any guilt. The SEC accused the two men of engaging in fraud and other violations of the federal securities laws by falsely representing Gateway’s financial condition in the third quarter of 2000. The SEC claims the two men caused Gateway to record \$47.2 million in revenue from a one-time sale of fixed assets to Gateway’s third-party information technology services provider, which violated Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The complaint also accused the CEO and Gateway’s then chief financial officer (CFO) of causing Gateway to recognize an additional \$21 million in revenue from an incomplete sale of computers to a second entity. The CEO agreed to

pay a \$110,000 civil penalty. The controller will pay about \$270,000 and will be barred from acting as an officer or director of a public company for 5 years. Back in 2001, Gateway restated its earnings for 2000, showing the company made nearly \$75 million less than estimated.

Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/story/16657514/former-gateway-ceo-settles-fraud-case-with-sec>

14. *February 1, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Iowa) **Federal court orders Iowa man and eight companies to pay employment taxes.** A federal court in Iowa ordered a man and eight corporations to begin paying employment taxes to the United States on a timely basis, the Justice Department announced February 1. According to the complaint in the case, the man is the president of Watts Trucking Service Inc., of which the other seven corporations are subsidiaries. The complaint alleges the companies fail to pay over to the Internal Revenue Service all of their employment and unemployment taxes, including the income and Social Security taxes withheld from their employees' wages. A district court judge entered the preliminary injunction order, requiring the entities to comply with federal employment tax filing, deposit, and payment requirements. According to the complaint, the man formed and controlled at least 23 different business entities over the past two decades, most of which have accrued delinquent tax liabilities. The complaint states that the defendant corporations, along with 15 inactive entities, owe the government more than \$30 million in federal employment and unemployment taxes.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/tax/2012/txdv12147.htm>

15. *February 1, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Florida woman, Illinois man indicted for identity theft, attempted bank fraud in metro Birmingham.** A woman and a man were indicted by a federal grand jury in Birmingham, Alabama, February 1 for conspiracy, attempted bank fraud, and identity theft after trying to attach a secret device on a Regions Bank ATM, authorities said. Authorities also confiscated \$50,000 in cash and more than 300 counterfeit credit cards from their Birmingham hotel rooms in 2011, according to a court document. The pair face two counts alleging conspiracy and attempt to defraud Regions Bank, two counts related to debit-card fraud, and a count of aggravated identity theft, a U.S. attorney and the U.S. Secret Service special agent in charge announced in a joint statement. The indictment charges that the pair traveled to the Birmingham area, where they tried to attach a secret device on a Regions Bank ATM in an effort to secretly obtain debit card numbers of people using the teller machine. The indictment also charges that the pair possessed more than 15 counterfeit debit cards and the equipment needed to make such counterfeit cards. According to an affidavit, the pair were arrested by Hoover police May 20, 2011 for attempting to place a "skimmer" on a Regions Bank ATM. Agents searched their rooms and agents seized over \$50,000. Agents, according to the affidavit, also found a magnetic-stripe encoder, a camouflaged "skimmer," four laptop computers, other electronics and computer accessories, and about 340 re-encoded debit and credit cards.

Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2012/02/florida_woman_and_illinois_man.html

16. *February 1, Associated Press* – (California) **Bank robberies drop in Southern California.** Bank robberies in southern California dropped significantly over the past

20 years thanks to better security measures, closer interaction between law enforcement agencies, and more media exposure, authorities said February 1. In addition, bank robberies across the United States steadily declined since 2002, when there were more than 7,700, compared to 4,699 in 2011. In southern California, long considered the nation's bank robbery capital, there were more than 2,600 bank robberies in 1992 compared with just 287 in 2011, according to FBI statistics. California led all states in bank robberies in 2011 with 677, followed by New York with 339, and Texas with 274. There has been a spike in bank heists in 2012 — about 40 — primarily in Los Angeles and Orange counties. A gun is shown in a quarter of all bank robberies in southern California, authorities said.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/02/01/4231946/bank-robberies-drop-in-southern.html>

17. *February 1, Reuters* – (National) **Ex-Credit Suisse traders admit cooking subprime books.** In a rare criminal prosecution to emerge from the financial crisis, two former Credit Suisse traders admitted February 1 to conspiring to manipulate the value of about \$3 billion in subprime mortgage-backed securities in order to hide losses as the U.S. real estate market began to collapse in 2007. The men pleaded guilty in U.S. district court in New York to a criminal charge of conspiracy to falsify books and records and commit wire fraud. Their one-time boss, a U.S. citizen who lives in Britain, faces the same conspiracy charge and additional charges of falsifying books and records and wire fraud. Beginning in the fall of 2007, the three men and others began to manipulate the bond markets to alter Profit and Loss numbers, according to phone calls recorded under Credit Suisse policy, the indictment said. The investigation stems from \$2.85 billion in writedowns that Credit Suisse took on collateralized debt obligations (CDO) in 2008. Credit Suisse revealed those CDO losses in early 2008 and blamed them on a group of rogue traders who deliberately mispriced securities and on a failure of internal controls. Credit Suisse was not charged in the case. Separately, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed civil charges against the three men and a fourth trader. The head of the SEC's enforcement division said in a statement that "the senior bankers falsely and selfishly inflated the value of more than \$3 billion in asset-backed securities in order to protect their bonuses and, in one case, protect a highly coveted promotion."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/01/us-creditsuisse-charges-idUSTRE80U2HT20120201>

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Transportation Sector

18. *February 2, Santa Ynez Valley News* – (California) **Highway 154 off limits to hazardous materials.** California Highway Patrol (CHP) and local government representatives January 30 announced a ban on trucks carrying hazardous materials on Highway 154 in California, nearly a year and a half after a runaway gravel truck barreled down the narrow, winding road and crashed into a home killing three people.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) already prohibits trucks carrying hazardous waste along roadways adjacent to public water supplies. Signs went up on Highway 154 January 5, adding hazardous materials to that ban. The movement came in response to the accident August 24, 2010, in which a fully loaded gravel truck lost its brakes descending Highway 154 toward Santa Barbara and crashed on top of a small home, killing a couple and their son. With the ban, the road joins Highway 84 in Alameda County, San Pablo Dam Road and Bear Creek Road in Contra Costa County, and Highway 20 in Lake County in being off limits to through truck traffic hauling hazardous materials.

Source: http://syvnews.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/highway-off-limits-to-hazardous-materials/article_a7249aae-4c93-11e1-ad30-001871e3ce6c.html

19. *February 2, OSU News & Research Communications* – (Oregon; National) **Oregon prepares for tsunami debris.** As the 1 year anniversary of the devastating March 11, 2011, Japanese earthquake approaches, and debris from the ensuing tsunami moves closer to the West Coast, a group of Oregon agencies, university scientists, political staff, non-governmental organizations, and others is preparing for its arrival. The week of January 30, the group held a conference call to review Oregon's response to the potential arrival of the debris and to chart a communication strategy to educate residents about what may happen. An Oregon State University (OSU) oceanographer and expert in ocean currents, said the debris is still months away from arriving on the West Coast, though it is possible that strong winds may push some floating items that rise high above the surface more quickly to the North American shore. He said it is difficult to calculate how much debris remains in the ocean, and what exactly will arrive on the shore. What does arrive is unlikely to be dangerous, according to a professor and head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiation Health Physics at OSU. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is monitoring the debris from a national perspective.

Source: <http://www.kpic.com/news/local/Oregon-prepares-for-tsunami-debris-138493054.html>

20. *February 1, WPIX 11 New York City* – (New Jersey) **Security breach at Newark Airport prompts lock down of Terminal A.** A security breach at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, prompted authorities to shut down a section of Terminal A. According to officials, the breach happened February 1 after a man passed through a security checkpoint before completing the screening process. Terminal A-2 was shut down while Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials identified the individual and re-screened them, a spokesperson for TSA said. TSA agents also rescreened passengers on flights remaining in the terminal. Flights that were supposed to land in the terminal were diverted for a short time as police swept the terminal. Terminal A-2 was re-opened a short time later.

Source: <http://www.wpix.com/news/wpix-security-breach-newark-airport,0,2080377.story>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *February 2, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **University of South Carolina student charged with throwing explosive devices.** A senior at the University of South Carolina (USC) was arrested February 1 and is accused of throwing seven explosive devices at buildings on campus and in downtown Columbia. Police said the suspect made homemade bombs and threw them from parking garages, at vacant houses, and trash bins. Police think one of the devices was thrown at a bar in Columbia that caused \$300,000 in damage. USC police filed three of the charges of possessing and using an incendiary device. Four of the charges came from the Columbia Fire Department. Police said they found bottles, rags, and gas cans from the suspect's attorney.
Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5a210065c8904de2818dab3b82b90694/SC--Firebomb-Arrests/>
22. *February 2, Food Safety News* – (National) **Outbreak tied to Maine ground beef is over.** With no disclosure about who could have supplied contaminated meat to a northeastern chain of grocery stores, the outbreak of Salmonella infection involving ground beef sold by Hannaford supermarkets was declared over. In its final investigation update February 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said 20 people in 7 states were infected with an antibiotic-resistant strain of Salmonella Typhimurium. That is one more case than was reported in the CDC's January 5 update. New Hampshire and New York each reported six outbreak cases, while Maine reported four. Hawaii, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Vermont each reported one individual sickened by the outbreak strain of bacteria. Their illnesses began around October 8, 2011. The epidemiologic investigation showed that among 19 of the ill people who provided food histories, 14 reported eating ground beef in the week before they were sick. Fourteen of those reported buying the ground beef from Hannaford stores. December 15, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced the recall of an undisclosed amount of fresh ground beef sold by Hannaford, it said the Scarborough, Maine-based grocery chain kept only "limited records," so that the agency could not determine who had supplied the contaminated beef. Hannaford regrinds its own beef using meat from several suppliers.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/02/cdc-outbreak-linked-to-maine-ground-beef-has-ended/>
23. *February 2, Aiken Standard* – (South Carolina) **Griffin fire causes severe damage, no one injured.** A fire that began in the kitchen of the downtown Aiken, South Carolina pub The Griffin January 31 caused severe damage to the pub, as well as minor smoke damage to three other businesses in The Alley. The fire appeared to originate from several appliances found plugged in behind the refrigerator, according to the Aiken

Public Safety fire report. The fire crew forced the front door open, found the kitchen area and extinguished the fire. The fire report stated there was an approximate \$225,000 loss value — \$200,000 in property and \$25,000 of contents. Three adjacent businesses — Galley J Salon, the Aiken Downtown Development Association, and Morgan Stanley/Smith Brown, all located in The Alley — sustained minor smoke damage from the unintentional fire, and firefighters used a positive pressure fan to clear smoke from the buildings, according to the report.

Source: <http://www.aikenstandard.com/story/0202-Griffin-fire-print--3758573>

24. *February 2, Food Safety News* – (National) **Cantaloupe Listeria outbreak still claiming victims.** One more victim of the nationwide outbreak of Listeria infection linked to Colorado cantaloupes died January 29, bringing the death toll up to 32. When the epidemic was declared over in December 2011, it was already the deadliest foodborne illness outbreak in the United States in nearly 100 years, having killed 30 of the 146 people sickened, and caused a pregnant woman to miscarry. However, while the contaminated cantaloupes — distributed by Jensen Farms — were long off the market by that time, the disease continued to wreak havoc on its victims, claiming two more lives. December 18, 10 days after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its final outbreak report, a man died after weeks suffering from listeriosis. January 29, a woman died from complications due to stage IV breast cancer and listeriosis. Listeriosis is especially devastating for individuals with compromised immune systems, making it harder to combat alongside chemotherapy, which weakens the body's defenses. The CDC may not update its outbreak report to include either of these deaths. If this remains the case, it is likely these deaths will go unreported in the official count. According to investigators, traces of Listeria could have come into the packing plant via a truck used to ferry culled cantaloupes to a cattle operation. The bacteria then could have flourished in pooled water, and been tracked and spread around the packing shed, contaminating walkways and equipment.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/02/cantaloupe-listeria-outbreak-still-claiming-victims/>

25. *February 2, Food Safety News* – (National) **Hard-cooked egg recall expands, potato salads included.** One week after a company began notifying customers in 34 states about potential Listeria contamination in hard-cooked eggs, the Food and Drug Administration announced that Michael Foods, Inc. is expanding its recall of certain hard-cooked eggs, Food Safety News reported February 2. Michael Foods said it was widening the initial call back for three lot dates, announced January 26 after lab testing revealed some of the eggs may have been contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes. Additional lot dates were added, the company said, because of new evidence a repair project in its Wakefield, Nebraska, packaging room “was the likely source of the contamination.” While Michael Foods said its eggs were not sold directly to retailers or consumers, the company acknowledged food distributors and manufacturers who purchased the eggs could have used them in products sold to retail outlets, or used them in food service settings.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/02/hard-cooked-egg-recall-expands-potato-salads-included/>

26. *February 1, Food Safety News* – (New York; New Jersey; Connecticut) **FDA moves to halt New York cheese maker.** Saying a New York cheese maker failed to correct repeated violations, despite multiple federal and state warnings, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has gone to court to close down the plant until it complies with food safety regulations, Food Safety News reported February 1. Mexicali Cheese of Woodhaven, New York, produced cheese under persistent unsanitary conditions that contributed to *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of the facility and the company's products, the FDA alleges in a complaint for permanent injunction filed January 30 by the U.S. Department of Justice. According to the FDA news release, Mexicali Cheese makes and distributes a variety of soft Mexican cheeses to grocery stores and supermarkets in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. In October 2010, an FDA warning letter said inspectors found *Listeria monocytogenes* in at least five locations inside the Mexicali processing facility. In August 2010, the New York Department of Agriculture warned consumers not to eat any Queso Cotija Cheese from Mexicali because of possible *Staphylococcus aureus* contamination. The injunction, if entered by the court, would stop the company and its officers from manufacturing and distributing food until they can bring their operations into full compliance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and FDA food safety regulations.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/02/fda-moves-to-halt-new-york-cheese-maker/>

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Water Sector

27. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Main break results in big sewage spill in Pa.** A north-central Pennsylvania official said a broken main sent nearly 2 millions of gallons of raw sewage into a major tributary of the Susquehanna River in January. The executive director of the Lycoming County Water and Sewer Authority said the leak happened between January 20 and 26 in a main that carries sewage from Loyalsock Township to a treatment plant east of Montoursville. She reported a contractor removing piers from a railroad bridge destroyed in September 2011 flooding broke a 10-inch main encased in concrete in Loyalsock Creek. She said about 1.2 million gallons of sewage from the township emptied into the creek, and so did another 720,000 gallons that back-flowed from Montoursville. The state Department of Environmental Protection was investigating.
Source: http://www.timesonline.com/news/state/main-break-results-in-big-sewage-spill-in-pa/article_7fd75192-8fdf-5444-a3dd-0f8584d2d608.html
28. *February 1, Wilmington Star-News* – (North Carolina) **Scotchman to replace wastewater treatment facility.** A Wilmington auto and truck stop with repeated water quality violations will be replacing its wastewater treatment facility to better comply with discharge limits, according to officials with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality February 1. Scotchman #303 accrued more than \$23,000 in fines from July 2010 to July 2011 for violating discharge limits of dissolved oxygen, suspended solids, chlorine, and enterococci bacteria, among other things, according to records. Officials with VPS Convenience Store Group, which owns the truck stop said the treatment

facility began to fail gradually – an inevitable development due mostly to its age. The director of Water Quality’s Wilmington office said the agency was working on an agreement with the corporation to offset fines that accrue during the early stages of the project, including permitting and construction.

Source:

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20120201/ARTICLES/120209985?tc=ar>

29. *February 1, Wilmington News Journal* – (Ohio) **Blan water sources test high for pesticide.** Three of the water sources for the village of Blanchester, Ohio, were declared impaired by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to high amounts of pesticide, the Wilmington News Journal reported February 1. Blanchester draws surface water from Whitacre Run, Stonelick Creek, and the west branch of the East Fork Little Miami River. According to the 2012 Ohio Integrated Report on water quality throughout the state, these watersheds have registered high concentrations of the pesticide atrazine. According to the EPA Web site, atrazine is one of the most common pesticides in the country and most heavily applied in the Midwest. An atrazine evaluation process conducted by the USEPA found that over-exposure to the pesticide can affect hormone levels. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Maximum Containment Level (MCL) for atrazine in finished, treated water is 3 parts per billion (ppb), calculated on a rolling annual average based on quarterly sampling. An EPA risk assessment also determined that any single day’s sample of treated must be less than 298 ppb, and any raw water tested must have a 90-day rolling average less than 37.5 ppb. In May 2010, the highest single sample concentration of atrazine in the treated water system in Blanchester was recorded at 13.6 ppb. However, the average of this measurement with those of the previous three quarters was only 1.56 ppb, well below the MCL. Workers monitor the water as it comes into the plant from the three different streams. If one stream is running high toxin levels they can select which stream from which they want to pull the water. A new treatment plant the village is in the process of building will have a Granulated Activated Carbon system which will automatically treat the water with carbon, rather than workers handling it manually. Officials said the goal is to have the new plant up and running by the end of 2013.

Source:

<http://www.wnewsj.com/main.asp?SectionID=49&SubSectionID=156&ArticleID=196262>

30. *January 31, Coldwater Daily Reporter* – (Michigan) **Surface water again infiltrating system.** Work is underway to inspect Coldwater, Michigan’s sewer system after ground and surface water was again found infiltrating the system, according to the Daily Reporter January 31. Surface water is getting in manholes and ground water infiltrated the old sewer lines. With melting snow and rain January 31, the plant on the Sauk River processed 5 million gallons of water from the sewers — up from an average 1.8 to 2 million gallons per day. The plant is rated at 3.2 million gallons per day, according to the wastewater manager. Monitors will physically go into the manholes, and video inspections are underway. Besides the sewer lines in the development, there is also an underwater sewer main, which will be inspected by several methods to see if water is leaking in from the river.

Source: <http://www.thedailyreporter.com/newsnow/x1672352528/Surface-water-again-infiltrating-system>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *February 2, Kentucky Herald Leader* – (Kentucky) **Employee of Lexington pharmacy pulls gun on would-be robber.** Two men were charged in connection with the attempted robbery of a pharmacy that was foiled when an employee pulled a handgun, Lexington, Kentucky, police said February 1. A man entered the pharmacy, displayed a knife and demanded pills. An employee pulled a handgun and a shot or shots were fired. The robber was seen getting into a car that was later found by police. The same pharmacy was robbed by a man with a knife January 18.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2012/02/01/2052279/employee-of-lexington-pharmacy.html>

32. *February 1, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Hackers tap into medical group's records.** Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), a Denver, Colorado area non-profit medical group, is asking customers to beware of hackers after the group discovered patient data was compromised, KDVR 31 Denver reported February 1. The group believes hackers may have accessed patient names, phone numbers, and medical conditions. It is not believed that hackers were able to access billing information like credit cards in December 2011. On its Web site, MCPN said it is contacting those customers potentially affected via e-mail. They are also recommending those who may have been affected to monitor credit scores and contact the Colorado Consumer Protection Agency for more information.

Source: <http://www.kwgn.com/news/kdvr-hackers-tap-into-medical-groups-records-20120201,0,909581.story>

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *February 2, Portland Oregonian* – (Portland) **Hundreds of Portland State University students evacuated from dorm overnight.** About 300 Portland State University students were evacuated from their dorm building February 2 because of a dumpster fire at the university in Oregon. Smoke from the dumpster drifted into the building, according to the Portland Fire & Rescue spokesman. The building's smoke alarms went off. Hundreds of students streamed out of the building. The fire was extinguished quickly, the spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2012/02/hundreds_of_portland_state_uni.html

34. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Florida) **3 teens arrested after Orlando police investigate acid bombs left at Valencia College.** Police said three teenagers were

charged with detonating acid bombs on the campus of an Orlando community college in Florida. The teens were taken to the Orange County Juvenile Assessment Center after they were arrested February 1. Orlando police said that three times over the past week, security guards at Valencia College's west campus found bombs in parking lots and along walkways. The newspaper reported that the bombs were made with household chemicals.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e520b73f92f447c18c27423b475fbadc/FL--Acid-Bomb-Arrests/>

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [51](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *February 2, Oklahoma City Oklahoman* – (Oklahoma) **Illegal visits prompt changes at Oklahoma County jail.** Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, jailers have been told to ask more questions when investigators from other agencies drop in to question inmates. The sheriff said February 1 the policy change is in response to a man who used police credentials from the small town of Langston to get six private meetings with his incarcerated fiancée. The meetings took place between September 28 and November 22, 2011 with some of them held well after midnight. The man was charged January 31 with six felony counts of unauthorized entry into a prison institution. He has been a reserve Langston police officer. He signed in the first time as a Langston officer but the other five other times signed in as being from Logan County, records show. He was a supervisor at the Oklahoma County jail before being fired in 2001, records show. Source: <http://newsok.com/illegal-visits-prompt-changes-at-oklahoma-county-jail/article/3645385>
36. *February 2, Las Vegas Review Journal* – (Nevada) **Prison guard at Carson City facility injured in attack.** A prison guard at Warm Springs Correctional Center was treated at a hospital and released after he was attacked by two inmates, according to authorities with the Nevada Department of Corrections. Officials said the officer was attacked January 31 with what appeared to be a sharpened piece of wire or fencing at the Carson City prison. Other officers quickly intervened and quelled the situation. The Department of Corrections director said two inmates identified as being involved in the assault have been transferred to Ely State Prison, a maximum security penitentiary. Warm Springs Correctional Center remained in lockdown February 1 during an investigation by the department's inspector general's office. Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/prison-guard-at-carson-city-facility-injured-in-attack-138552214.html?ref=214>
37. *February 1, Columbia Missourian* – (Missouri) **Cellphone use contributing to upward trend in 911 calls.** Boone County, Missouri, experienced an increase in the number of 9-1-1 calls for the fourth consecutive year, according to data collected by Public Safety Joint Communications. And cellphone use — both intended and

accidental — is a primary cause. The director of Columbia/Boone County Public Safety Joint Communications and Office of Emergency Management, cites not only a growing population as a cause but also the increased prevalence of cellphone use. Instead of one person reporting a car accident from a pay phone, five or six people can now report the same accident from their cellphones, she said. As a result of this phenomenon, operators spend more time per call trying to figure out if the different callers are reporting the same accident or separate ones. Operators need this information to help agencies, such as the Columbia Police Department, determine how many responders should be sent out and where they are needed.

Source: <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2012/02/01/increase-911-calls-result-technology/>

38. *January 31, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Auditors claim inmates had access to patient Social Security numbers.** A Maryland corrections division that provides inmate labor has backed out of a data entry contract with the health department after state auditors found that prisoners had access to some patients' personal information, which was supposed to have been redacted from documents, but occasionally was not. The findings were included in a Legislative Services report made public January 31, 3 months after Maryland Correctional Enterprises, an industry arm of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), ceased providing the services to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). According to the report, DHMH used inmate labor to enter physician Medicaid reimbursement claims into a state database. Social Security numbers that appeared in the proper spot in the upper right corner of the forms were automatically redacted or "blacked out." But "infrequently, Social Security numbers for the recipient and/or the provider appeared in other locations on the form" and "remained accessible to the inmates," the report said. A DPSCS spokesman said in an e-mail that this occurred in roughly 3 out of 3,000 cases reviewed, when doctors' offices mistakenly used a patient's Social Security number as the account identifier. He said there was no evidence to suggest inmates even noticed the numbers, and he stressed that there was "strict security in the room where this data entry took place," including four cameras and supervisory staff.
- Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-01-31/health/bs-md-inmates-medicaid-20120131_1_data-entry-inmate-labor-social-security-numbers

39. *January 31, KSL 102.7 FM Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Group hacks into SLCPD Website over graffiti bill.** The activist group Anonymous struck the Salt Lake City Police Department, hacking into its Web site and forcing a temporary shutdown. A Salt Lake police sergeant said the only information that appears compromised are names and e-mail addresses of people who signed up for department press releases or daily summaries of notable incidents in the city. The Web site, www.slpd.com, will be down for an undetermined amount of time as a precaution, he said. Anonymous said it targeted the police department because officers will enforce the state senator's anti-graffiti bill should it pass.
- Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=960&sid=19077893>

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Information Technology Sector

40. *February 2, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Apple issues security update for OS X.** Apple released a security update for its OS X Lion, Snow Leopard, and Server platforms. The company said the OS X 10.7.3 release would patch Lion systems, while the 2012-001 security update would be made available to Snow Leopard and OS X server machines. The update, Apple's first major OS X security fix of 2012, includes some 38 patches for security vulnerabilities in the operating system. Among the applications and components patched in the update are Apple's QuickTime multimedia tool. The software received fixes for six vulnerabilities which could allow for remote code execution by way of specially crafted image and video files. Apple also issued updates for the OS X Apache and PHP components, along with fixes for a vulnerability in Time Machine and an update which blocks poorly-secured root certificates from Diginotar Malaysia.
Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2143131/apple-issues-security-update>
41. *February 2, Softpedia* – (International) **Official EA forum hacked and defaced, data is secure.** Unnamed hackers managed to breach the security measure implemented by Electronic Arts (EA) on its official forum (forum.ea.com) after successfully exploiting a vulnerability they identified in the software that runs the site (possibly a Java app). Voice Of Grey Hat said the company's marketing manager came forward with a statement to reassure users the security hole was patched up and their personal information was not exposed at any time. "As some of you noticed, the homepage of the forums was defaced by a hacker yesterday using a very new exploit for the software which runs the forums. This was noticed quickly and we took the action to take the forums offline while we investigated the details. This work is now complete, and the vulnerability we believe was used has now been fixed," he said. "There is no evidence that any personal data was compromised, and as passwords aren't stored in a recoverable manor, we are confident they remain secure."
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Official-EA-Forum-Hacked-and-Defaced-Data-Is-Secure-250207.shtml>
42. *February 2, H Security* – (International) **HTC Android phones expose Wi-Fi passwords to apps.** HTC has confirmed the way some of its Android smartphones handle requests for passwords allows applications to obtain the passwords for Wi-Fi networks the phones are connected to. If that application also has permission to connect to the Internet it could take that information and transfer it to an unknown server. Researchers discovered applications with the android.permission.ACCESS_WIFI_STATE permission could obtain the password, user name, and other settings by executing the toString() method of the WiFiConfiguration class. On most Android devices, the toString() leaves the password field blank or marked with a "*" to show a password is set, but on the affected HTC devices, the password is shown in clear text. The flaw was found in September 2011 and the researchers have been working with Google and HTC to resolve the issue. Google changed the Android code to better protect the credentials store and performed a code scan of applications in the Android Market and found no applications that exploit the vulnerability there, though this may not apply to other sources of Android

applications. HTC has released updates for the affected smartphones. HTC said most devices will have already received the fix with over the air updates but some devices will need a manual update and asks users to check the help page for more information in the coming week.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/HTC-Android-phones-expose-Wi-Fi-passwords-to-apps-1427099.html>

43. *February 2, Reuters* – (International) **Key Internet operator VeriSign hit by hackers.** VeriSign Inc., the company in charge of delivering people safely to more than half the world's Web sites, was hacked repeatedly by outsiders who accessed undisclosed information from the leading Internet infrastructure company. The previously unreported breaches occurred in 2010 at the company, which is ultimately responsible for the integrity of Web addresses ending in .com, .net, and .gov. VeriSign said its executives "do not believe these attacks breached the servers that support our Domain Name System network," which ensures people land at the right numeric Internet Protocol address, but it did not rule anything out. VeriSign's domain-name system processes as many as 50 billion queries daily. Pilfered information from it could let hackers direct people to faked sites and intercept e-mail from federal employees or corporate executives, though classified government data moves through more secure channels. The VeriSign attacks were revealed in a quarterly U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filing in October 2011 that followed new guidelines on reporting security breaches to investors. Even if the name system is safe, VeriSign offers a number of other services where security is paramount. The company defends customers' Web sites from attacks and manages their traffic, and it researches international cybercrime groups. VeriSign would possess sensitive information on customers, and its registry services that dispense Web site addresses would also be a natural target. The SEC filing said security staff responded to the attack soon after it happened, but failed to alert top management until September 2011.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/02/us-hacking-verisign-idUSTRE8110Z820120202>

44. *February 1, Softpedia* – (International) **Counterclank stays on Android Market, Symantec gives more explanations.** After mobile security firm Lookout argued Android.Counterclank is not a piece of malware as Symantec labeled it, the latter came forward with new arguments to back their initial decision to tell users of potential dangers. Symantec's update reveals even Google decided the apps met their terms and service conditions and that removal from the Android Market was unnecessary. Even the developers accused of serving malicious apps came forward to deny their products represent malware. "WE ARE NOT MALWARE!! Symantec, the company that wrongly labeled this app as malware the other day, have contacted us and are in the process of un-doing the mistake they did and whitelabing our product," the developers wrote on Android Market. On the other hand, Symantec argued they need to keep users informed on behaviors of some applications that may pose a threat to regular users. "The situation we find ourselves in is similar to when Adware, Spyware, and Potentially Unwanted Applications first made appearances on Windows. Many security vendors did not initially detect these applications, but eventually, and with the universal approval of computer users, security companies chose to notify users of these types of

applications,” they said. Now, Symantec brings further details to support their initial arguments around the dangers presented by the applications in question. They revealed that Tonclank and Counterclank apps come from the same vendor, a company that distributes a software development kit (SDK) to third parties with the purpose of helping them monetize their applications, mainly through search.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Counterclank-Stays-of-Android-Market-Symantec-Gives-More-Explanations-249928.shtml>

45. *February 1, CNET News* – (International) **FileVault 2 easily decrypted, warns Passware.** One of the welcome features in OS X Lion was the replacement of Apple’s first-generation FileVault file encryption technology, which only encrypted the home folder, with a new whole-disk encryption approach. FileVault 2 requires the hard drive to be partitioned with a recovery partition that in part acts to store the password and encryption keys used to decrypt the drive. In a statement issued February 1, password recovery company Passware claimed it can fully decrypt a FileVault-encrypted Mac disk within an hour. Passware said its utilities can sample system memory and extract the encryption key for FileVault disks. The process apparently takes no more than 40 minutes, regardless of the length or complexity of the password used.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57369983-83/filevault-2-easily-decrypted-warns-passware/

For another story, see item [13](#)

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

46. *February 2, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Lumos phone services down in Botetourt, Alleghany and Augusta counties.** A Lumos Networks Corp. spokesman confirmed both wireless and landline customers’ phones in Virginia were affected by an outage detected February 2. “Just before 6 a.m. something compromised our network, impacting customers in Augusta, Botetourt and Alleghany counties and potentially areas beyond that,” the spokesman said. Later, about 4 hours later he said engineers were making “significant progress” in restoring service but had not yet determined the cause of the outage.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/breaking/wb/304302>

47. *February 1, Somerville Courier News; East Brunswick Home News Tribune* – (New Jersey) **Copper thieves caught red-handed in Old Bridge.** A police officer thwarted two men intent on stealing copper grounding plates from cell towers near a Garden

State Parkway commuter parking lot in New Jersey February 1. A patrolman arrested the men, one of whom is an employee of Metro RF, on charges of burglary by entering a locked structure, theft of movable property, and possession of burglary tools, an Old Bridge Police captain said. “There has been a problem with copper grounding plates being stolen from cell tower areas,” he said. “Not having the copper grounding bars can be extremely dangerous. Should lightning hit the cell towers, the entire communications system for the area, for all of the state, really, could be out.” While on his usual rounds, the patrolman noticed an unoccupied vehicle parked in the commuter lot. A short time later, the same vehicle appeared to have its lights on, and as the officer approached the car he observed a man asleep in the passenger seat. As he was questioning the the man, the second suspect, approached them from the direction of the cell tower area, police said. Police said during his questioning of the men, the patrolman noticed a black bag filled with copper grounding plates in the vehicle. Upon closer inspection of the cell towers, numerous nuts and bolts were found discarded on the ground while wires were seen hanging loose from the cell towers where the copper grounding plates should have been attached, police said.

Source:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20120201/NJNEWS/302010047/Copper-thieves-caught-red-handed-Old-Bridge?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|p>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

48. *February 2, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **9 suspicious fires in 4 months plague Jeannette.** Nine suspicious fires in the city of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, over the past 4 months have police and fire officials looking for a pattern to determine whether a serial arsonist is at work, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported February 2. The cause of some fires was ruled “undetermined,” the fire chief said. Transients could have set fires to stay warm, and other fires could be related to drug activity, which would make them accidental, he said. All but one of the fires was in an unoccupied structure but some adjoin occupied buildings. On January 29, a fire that gutted a vacant duplex threatened an occupied residence next door. Firefighters had to spray a foam coating on the adjacent building to keep it from igniting.

Source:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_779520.html

49. *February 2, Newport News Daily Press* – (Virginia) **FBI, ATF to join investigation info Norfolk condo arsons.** Fire investigators in Norfolk, Virginia, asked for help from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in looking into four recent cases of arson at a prominent condo building. The Rotunda was evacuated February 1 after the fourth fire in the past 8 days. The Battalion chief said all four fires — three on the fifth floor, and the most recent on the fourth floor — were declared cases of arson by fire marshals. The battalion chief said the residents were not allowed back into the building because of water from both the sprinkler system and the firefighting equipment.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/crime/dp-nws-norfolk-rotunda-fires,0,6833449.story>

50. *February 1, WSOC 9 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Arson suspected in fire at west Mecklenburg County flea market.** Mint Hill, North Carolina firefighters and Mecklenburg County federal health officials worked together February 1 to make sure a fire at a building containing toxic materials did not spread to nearby homeowners. As Mint Hill firefighters battled the fire, the EPA was on hand to make sure potentially deadly chemicals did not leak into the county's storm water drains. The building is a former dry cleaners and is registered as a Federal Superfund site, which means it is contaminated with hazardous waste. The building is currently used as a weekend flea market. As Mint Hill firefighters responded to the fire, they called Mecklenburg County health officials, who in turn notified the federal government. As firefighters fought the fire with water, the EPA took chemical samples to see the level of contamination. Firefighters said the chemicals did not spread off-site. The government said thousands of families live near the building. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police said the fire was intentionally set. Four teens were taken into police custody for questioning, but they have not been charged with a crime.

Source: <http://www.wsoc9.com/news/news/local/4-teens-detained-after-fire-abandoned-meck-co-buil/nHRYS/>

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [23](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

51. *February 2, Melbourne Florida Today* – (Florida) **Mix of fire, fog puts smoky choke hold on KSC.** Weather and traffic officials kept an eye on Florida's Space Coast roadways February 2 amid concerns about smoke from lingering prescribed burns merging with patchy fog. Smoke from a 2,700-acre controlled burn in the brush-heavy Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge covered Kennedy Space Center's (KSC) industrial area. This prompted some road closures, including NASA Causeway, and instructions for employees who work in that area to stay home or work elsewhere. Some who had made it to work early complained about difficulty breathing. The KSC headquarters building, Space Station Processing Facility, and others in the area were emptied of personnel and monitored for smoke and carbon dioxide levels. The center planned to delay workers' arrival at those sites to ensure the air was clear, with forecasts showing wind might blow smoke back into the area. Employees were told to check a center hotline in the morning to get an update. Meanwhile, a KSC Visitor Complex spokeswoman said the complex is open for regular operation, including tours into KSC. Heavy smoke also was reported along some of the nearby roadways with some eyewitness reports of zero visibility. The Florida Highway Patrol planned to continue to monitor roads for visibility issues.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20120202/NEWS02/302020063/Mix-fire-fog-puts-smoky-choke-hold-KSC>

52. *January 31, Associated Press* – (Colorado; Wyoming; South Dakota) **Mountain pine beetle epidemic slows in some areas.** U.S. Forest Service officials said the mountain pine beetle epidemic in Colorado and southern Wyoming is slowing, as insects have largely depleted the large pine trees they attack. The assistant director for forest health projects said February 1 that a 2011 aerial survey showed about 4.6 million acres in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota have been affected since the first signs of the outbreak in 1996, up from about 4.3 million in 2010. The increase includes 140,000 more acres infested in Colorado, 68,000 more acres in Wyoming, and about 23,000 more acres in South Dakota. The Forest Service spent about \$32 million in fiscal 2011 removing dead trees that threatened to fall along 275 miles of roads, 162 miles of trails, and about 12,000 acres in the region.

Source: <http://www.kjct8.com/news/30344202/detail.html>

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Dams Sector

53. *February 2, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Driller's \$2.2M to pay for hazardous Pa. dam fixes.** A company will pay a \$2.2 million bonus for the Marcellus Shale natural gas under a southwestern Pennsylvania lake, and state officials plan to use the money to fix some hazardous dams. The Observer-Reporter newspaper reported February 2 the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will also receive 18 percent royalties from Range Resources Inc. for the gas accessed beneath Dutch Fork Lake in Washington County, about 30 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. The lake was drained after rising waters from Hurricane Ivan in 2004 put its dam in danger of failing. The state already has \$4.5 million to rebuild that dam and restore the lake and will use the drilling money on similar projects elsewhere.

Source: http://www.ldnews.com/state/ci_19876488

54. *January 31, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps installs gate at Industrial Canal.** Contractors for the Army Corps of Engineers dropped a second vertical lift gate in place in the new Seabrook Floodgate Complex in the Industrial Canal in Louisiana January 31, a key step towards completing construction on the project by late June or early July. A pie slice-shaped sector gate that will be placed in the canal's navigation channel will be installed in late March or early April. The 120-ton lift gates on either side of the sector gate stay open until dropped in place to block hurricane storm surges from entering the canal from Lake Pontchartrain. The \$165 million project is designed to protect from surges caused by a hurricane with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year, a so-called 100-year storm. Cofferdams used to drain water from the canal where the gates are being built will provide the same level of protection until they are removed when the gate complex is completed. The project also includes an upgrade of a gate at the Alabama Great Southern Railroad crossing of the canal, a new 16-foot-high T-walls that tie the adjacent levee system into the gate complex, and a ramp at Hayne Boulevard over a portion of the levee system. The Seabrook complex is paired with the large barrier wall that will block surges from Lake Borgne from entering the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and reaching the Industrial Canal. That wall is 25 to 26 feet above sea level, and is designed to allow some water

from storm surges to overtop it and be stored within the waterway and Industrial Canal. It includes a gate for ship and barge traffic on the waterway and a gate for fishing vessels at Bayou Bienvenue.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2012/01/corps_installs_gate_at_industr.html

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