



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

13 March 2012

Top Stories

- Pacific Gas & Electric Co. agreed to pay \$70 million in restitution to San Bruno, California, for the 2010 pipeline explosion that killed 8 people and destroyed 38 homes. – *Associated Press* (See item [1](#))
- A dozen earthquakes in Ohio were almost certainly induced by the injection of gas-drilling wastewater into the earth, state regulators said March 9 as they announced a series of tough new rules for drillers. – *Associated Press* (See item [6](#))
- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered all nuclear plants in the country to better protect safety equipment and install enhanced equipment for monitoring spent fuel pool, water levels. – *Pottstown Mercury* (See item [11](#))
- A bus driver and a student were killed and 10 other students were injured March 12 when a school bus crashed into a bridge outside of Indianapolis. – *MSNBC*; *Associated Press* (See item [18](#))
- Nearly one-third of the student population, about 500 students, was absent March 9 from 2 schools in Algonquin, Illinois, due to norovirus. – *Elgin Courier-News* (See item [33](#))
- A nationwide drug shortage has led to ambulance services and other first responders to scramble at the last minute to find life-saving anti-seizure medications. – *CNN*; *WCBS 2 New York* (See item [38](#))

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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. *March 12, Associated Press* – (California) **PG&E to pay \$70M for deadly Calif. pipeline blast.** Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) agreed to pay \$70 million in restitution to San Bruno, California for the 2010 pipeline explosion that killed eight people in the San Francisco suburb, company and city officials said March 12. In a joint statement, PG&E and San Bruno said the money will be used to establish a nonprofit organization to help the community recover from the September 9, 2010, blast, which also injured dozens of people and destroyed 38 homes. The agreement does not settle about 90 civil lawsuits victims filed against the San Francisco-based company. A trial has been set for July 23 in San Mateo County Superior Court. The new nonprofit organization will determine how the restitution is spent for the benefit of the community. PG&E will make the \$70 million payment within 30 days and will not seek to recover the money through insurance or utility rates, officials said. PG&E officials have said the firm plans to compensate blast victims and hopes to settle the civil lawsuits. Federal investigators blame PG&E for the explosion, saying a litany of failures led to the blast, which they concluded was the result of an “organizational accident,” not a simple mechanical failure. Escaping gas fed a pillar of flame 300 feet tall for more than 90 minutes before workers were able to manually close valves that cut off gas to the ruptured pipeline. Investigators said the damage would have been less severe had automatic valves been in place. State regulators also cited the firm’s woeful record-keeping, haphazard response to emergencies, and failure to follow federal pipeline safety laws and accepted industry practices.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hz0OcCr8srPR4Bwa1_Ngs5rs97zw?docId=d5939ddf3e4b42dab4769eb040d019e6

2. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Utah) **\$500,000 fine for Utah mine collapse.** The operator of a Utah coal mine where a 2007 collapse led to the deaths of nine people agreed March 9 to plead guilty to two misdemeanor criminal charges and pay a \$500,000 fine. Six miners died at Crandall Canyon in central Utah in the August 2007 collapse so powerful that it initially registered as a 3.9-magnitude earthquake. Another cave-in 10 days later killed two rescuers and a federal inspector. The operation was eventually called off after drilling into the mountain found no sign of the trapped men. Source: <http://www.djc.com/news/co/12038761.html>
3. *March 12, Reuters* – (West Virginia) **Miner dies at Alpha Natural mine in W. Virginia.** A coal miner was fatally injured at an Alpha Natural Resources Inc mine in West Virginia the weekend of March 10, the company said. The man was struck by material from the mine's side wall during the evening shift March 10 at the Kingston #2 mine in Fayette County. Alpha said operations at the mine have been idled while federal and state officials investigate. Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/03/12/alpha-death-idUKL2E8EC1FV20120312>
4. *March 12, KYTX 19 Tyler* – (Texas) **Fire crews investigate fire at chemical plant.** Fire investigators were working March 12 to figure out what caused a Mineola, Texas petroleum business to burn to the ground the night before. A HAZMAT team was on the scene of the Pearce Petroleum Plant cleaning up. About 15 fire trucks and 35 firefighters responded. Officials said a large amount of petroleum product poured onto the company grounds, three homes were temporarily evacuated, and some nearby roads were temporarily shut down. Source: <http://www.cbs19.tv/story/17133255/fire-crews-fight-petroleum-plant-fire-in-mineola>
5. *March 9, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **28,000 without power in South Seattle.** More than 28,000 Seattle City Light customers lost power in the South Seattle March 9 for 2 hours. The outage affected many parts of the International District. The utility said crews working on a line knocked out the south substation. The Seattle School District canceled after-school activities at 14 schools affected by the outage around South Seattle, as well as the John Stanford Center. Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/komo/article/28-000-without-power-in-South-Seattle-3395334.php>
6. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio: Gas-drilling injection well led to quakes.** A dozen earthquakes in northeastern Ohio were almost certainly induced by injection of gas-drilling wastewater into the earth, state regulators said March 9 as they announced a series of tough new rules for drillers. Among the new regulations, well operators must submit more comprehensive geological data when requesting a drill site, and the chemical makeup of all drilling wastewater must be tracked electronically. The state department of natural resources announced the tough new brine injection rules because of the report's findings on the well in Youngstown, which it said were based on "a number of coincidental circumstances." They also noted the seismic activity was clustered around the well bore and reported a fault has since been identified in the

Precambrian basement rock where water was being injected. Northeastern Ohio and large parts of adjacent states sit atop the Marcellus Shale geological formation, which contains vast reserves of natural gas that energy companies are rushing to drill using a process known as hydraulic fracturing.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP6f04bbcf2fb9418d9a9befaa122c3dbd.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *March 12, Kingsport Times News* – (Tennessee) **Highway 11-W reopened near Seneker Lane in Blountville.** Cleanup was completed at the scene of a tanker that overturned and leaked acetic acid in Blountville, Tennessee. All four lanes of Highway 11-W near Seneker Lane were reopened early March 12, after being closed for more than 19 hours. The accident happened when the tanker ran off the right side of the road and overturned in a ditch. The Tennessee Highway Patrol said a cleanup crew pumped acid out of the disabled tanker into another tanker, before removing the disabled tanker from the ditch. A half-mile stretch of 11W was closed in both directions, and a few residences within a half-mile radius of the accident were evacuated. The tanker was transporting the acid from Eastman Chemical Co. to New York. The driver suffered minor injuries.
Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article/9043584/update-highway-11-w-reopened-near-seneker-lane-in-blountville>
8. *March 12, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Evacuees return home after train derails in Abbeville.** Fifty residents living close to the site of the March 8 train derailment of a train carrying chemicals in Abbeville, South Carolina, returned to their homes March 10. The evacuation was issued after 28 train cars on a train hauling the highly flammable methanol derailed, officials said. They said crews cleaning up the site removed a derailed tanker car carrying methanol, noting, however, that on-site monitoring teams with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control reported there was no release of toxic materials. One car ruptured leaking Propanediol, a non-threatening, corn syrup-based substance used in laminates, the agency said. The evacuees who were forced to stay away from their homes were provided with hotel rooms paid for by CSX Railroads. A CSX spokesman said the railroad “intends to cover all reasonable expenses incurred by fire, police, and other public agencies that responded to this incident.”
Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/r/30652907/detail.html>
9. *March 11, WDTV 5 Weston* – (West Virginia) **Man arrested after accident shuts down I-79.** Police said the driver of a company truck was arrested after an accident March 9 on I-79 in Marion County, West Virginia that resulted in nitrogen tanks and hydraulic fluid leaking on the interstate and caused three injuries. He was charged with 3 counts of DUI with injury. Officers said more charges were pending. Three people were taken to a hospital, including one person with serious injuries. Both lanes of the

road reopened March 10 after being closed for about 6 hours. The crash occurred when some equipment on a flatbed trailer — including the nitrogen tanks — being towed by the company truck in the northbound lane of I-79 fell off the trailer and slid about 200 feet. When a car slowed down, another truck rear-ended the car, knocking it head-on into the equipment. Crews put down absorbent to try to stop fluid from getting into waterways. Emergency management officials and a HAZMAT team responded.

Source: <http://www.wdtv.com/wdtv.cfm?func=view§ion=5-News&item=5-NEWS-UPDATE-Man-Arrested-After-Accident-Shuts-Down-I-791430>

10. *March 9, KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids* – (Iowa) **EPA orders Cedar Falls company to clean up hazardous waste.** A defunct Cedar Falls, Iowa company and the owner of the property where it was located have been ordered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up leaking hazardous waste containers, KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids reported March 9. The EPA said it visited Cedar Valley Electroplating the week of February 27. The agency had previously inspected the business, which ceased operating last year, in 2005 and 2010. The most recent inspection found numerous totes, tanks, drums, and other containers and materials stored in an unsafe manner, including many containers that were open and several that were leaking. Some of the hazardous wastes included chromium, ferric sulfate, ferric chloride, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, sodium hypochlorite, and sodium hydroxide. The property is located near a child-care center, some homes, and a stream. The EPA mandated several actions by Central Valley Electroplating and property owner R Squared Properties LLC to ensure compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/EPA-Orders-Cedar-Falls-Company-to-Clean-up-Hazardous-Waste-142093703.html>

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [25](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

11. *March 11, Pottstown Mercury* – (National) **New NRC rules aimed at preventing explosions.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued two “Fukushima-related” orders to all nuclear plants in the country March 9. The first order “requires the plants to better protect safety equipment installed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and to obtain sufficient equipment to support all reactors at a given site simultaneously.” The second order “requires the plants to install enhanced equipment for monitoring water levels in each plant’s spent fuel pool.” Other plants may be issued additional orders. Exelon Nuclear has until the end of 2016 to install a new ventilation system at the Limerick Generating Station in Limerick Township, Pennsylvania, designed to prevent the kind of explosions that blew apart Japan’s Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear reactor buildings in March 2011.

Source: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/article/20120311/NEWS01/120319926/-1/BLOGS/new-nrc-rules-aimed-at-preventing-explosions>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *March 9, Northwest Florida Daily News* – (Florida) **Loose fasteners blamed for F-35 fuel leak.** Maintainers with the 33rd Fighter Wing determined three loose fasteners caused the small fuel leak during the F-35's first mission flight at Eglin Air Force Base near Valparaiso, Florida March 6. The wing's first F-35A Joint Strike Fighter took off for what was supposed to be a 90-minute flight. The sortie was cut short to 20 minutes when the pilot of an F-16 acting as a chase plane spotted what appeared to a small fuel leak on the F-35. Maintainers with the 33rd Fighter Wing conducted an extensive review and determined three slightly loose fasteners allowed a small amount of fuel to seep during the flight, Eglin Air Force Base announced March 9. Maintainers also found residual water from an earlier wash of the aircraft. Eglin officials do not know what caused the fasteners to loosen. However, the maintainers tightened them on the base's eight other F-35s, said a spokeswoman with Eglin's public affairs office.
Source: <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/articles/-48089--.html>
13. *March 8, Defense Systems* – (International) **One bad part dooms \$72.8M Global Hawk.** According to Defense Tech, the U.S. Air Force lost an EQ-4B Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle because a single part came undone, Defense Systems reported March 8. The part, a Line Replaceable Unit, came undone August 11, 2011, rendering the aircraft uncontrollable in a mission over Eastern Afghanistan by interrupting the flow of electricity to its aileron and spoiler actuators — the tiny motors that control the movements of an aircraft's flight control surfaces, the story added. Apparently, the screws holding the part in place were not tight enough and probably shook loose due to typical flight vibrations, the article said, quoting an Air Force finding.
Source: <http://defensesystems.com/articles/2012/03/08/agg-broken-part-eq-4b-global-hawk-afghanistan.aspx?admgarea=DS>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *March 10, Burlington Hawk Eye* – (Iowa; National; International) **Fraud to hit more than 1,000 cardholders.** After all is said and done, there will be more than 1,000 debit/credit cardholders in the southeast Iowa region, particularly in the Burlington area, who will have been affected by a recent wave of fraudulent transactions that surfaced in recent weeks, the Burlington Hawk Eye reported March 10. That figure is estimated based on the current number of customers area banks said have been victimized or have the potential of their card data being illicitly used. The transactions reportedly have occurred at retail stores from California, the East Coast, and as far

north as Canada. Local law enforcement and bank fraud detection units are working to pinpoint the common denominator for the breach. Also, there have been reports of many cell phone customers having received a text message about their debit cards. The message indicates there is a problem and to call the number provided. “We’re thinking of reissuing somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 cards,” the president of Two Rivers Bank & Trust said. Officials at First Federal Bank proactively approached the problem, according to its president. “It’s about 400 customers in southeast Iowa,” he said. First Federal got information the past 2 weeks from Shazam, a card services company, about the cards and how many were affected by fraudulent transactions.

Source: <http://www.thehawkeye.com/story/Fraud-031012>

15. *March 9, Seattle Times* – (Washington; International) **Kirkland man pleads guilty in ATM ‘skimming’ scheme.** The leader of an ATM “skimming” ring with ties to a Romanian organized crime ring pleaded guilty March 9 in federal court in Seattle to bank fraud, conspiracy, access device fraud, and aggravated identity theft. The man oversaw a ring of fellow Romanians — some in the country illegally — that stole hundreds of thousands of dollars by using high-tech devices to skim credit card information and secretly capture bank customers’ personal identification numbers, according to the U.S. attorney’s office. Much of that money went overseas to Romania, prosecutors said. The U.S. attorney’s office said a Secret Service investigation showed the man had been involved in credit-card skimming in the Seattle area since 2007. He has agreed to pay \$357,256 in restitution, surrender \$10,000 in cash seized when he was arrested, and forfeit three vehicles, computer equipment, and three firearms.

Source: <http://today.seattletimes.com/2012/03/kirkland-man-pleads-guilty-in-atm-skimming-scheme/>

For another story, see item [47](#)

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Transportation Sector

16. *March 12, WKMG 6 Orlando* – (Florida) **26 vehicles crash in Interstate 75 pileup.** Twenty-six cars were involved in a chain-reaction pileup March 11 on Interstate 75 in Sumter County, Florida. No one was seriously injured in the crashes, which occurred in the northbound lanes of I-75 between the Bushnell and Lake Panasoffkee exits. Troopers said they received reports of about 11 accidents. Seven people were taken to hospitals, but everyone was expected to be okay. Wet roads from storms may have played a role in the crash. Northbound I-75 was closed for a few hours but later reopened.
Source: <http://www.clickorlando.com/news/26-vehicles-crash-in-Interstate-75-pileup/-/1637132/9275990/-/nh9jh/-/>
17. *March 12, WGRZ 2 Buffalo* – (New York) **JetBlue plane diverted to Buffalo after bomb threat.** A JetBlue flight from Boston headed to Chicago was diverted to Buffalo, New York, after a telephoned bomb threat. FBI officials confirmed a telephone bomb threat was made and the plane was diverted to Buffalo just after 8 a.m. March 12. The

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority police chief said once the plane landed at an isolated section of the terminal, the 83 passengers were taken to another location. He said a bomb-sniffing dog was used and nothing was detected. FBI officials said the call originated in Boston. They said the threat was the result of a domestic dispute, and that they located the female caller and were questioning here.

Source: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/article/160281/37/JetBlue-Plane-Diverted-to-Buffalo-After-Bomb-Threat>

18. *March 12, MSNBC; Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Bus driver, student killed in school bus crash.** A bus driver and a student were killed March 12 when a school bus crashed into a bridge outside of Indianapolis, WTHR 13 Indianapolis reported. Ten other students were injured after the bus struck a bridge support beam, officials said. Two of the injured students were listed in critical condition. An Indianapolis Fire Department captain said the two critically injured students and eight others whom she characterized as “walking wounded” were taken to nearby hospitals. She said fire department crews spent about 45 minutes extricating 4 people from the bus. The driver of the bus died at the scene, and there is no word yet on what led to the crash. The bus was transporting children to Lighthouse Charter School just north of Beech Grove, Indiana. WISH 8 Indianapolis reported that as many as 50 children ranging from ages 5 to 16 may have been on the bus. The uninjured students were taken to the school about 2 miles away from the accident scene.

Source: <http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/03/12/10652099-bus-driver-student-killed-in-school-bus-crash>

19. *March 11, Kennewick Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **MESA: Debris cleared after train strikes trailer.** Debris was cleared from a railroad crossing in Mesa, Washington, after a freight train struck a lowboy trailer on the Sheffield Road rail crossing March 11. No one was injured in the incident, which closed the railroad and the crossing for about 3 hours, said a Franklin County sheriff’s deputy. The driver who was hauling the trailer was cited by troopers from the Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Division for not having a proper commercial driver’s license. Damage to the locomotive and trailer was minor. The investigation into the crash is continuing.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2012/03/11/1860498/mesa-train-strikes-trailer-blocks.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *March 11, Ithaca Journal* – (New York) **Arrest made in thefts from mailboxes.** Trumansburg, New York police, with help from the Ithaca Police Department, charged a Newfield woman in connection with the theft of mail from mailboxes in December 2011, they announced March 11. Trumansburg police said the woman was charged with two felony-level charges of criminal possession of stolen property. Police were able to trace two Visa gift cards stolen from a mailbox and used

at Ithaca stores, and obtained video of the suspect buying products using those two cards. In mid-December, village police reported 40 to 50 mailboxes were opened and mail taken over 3 weeks. During that period, cash and gift cards were often being mailed, with mailbox flags up to request a pick-up. The suspect had a contract to deliver the Ithaca Journal in the Trumansburg area, police said. They determined she was not the only person delivering newspapers on her route, and said more arrests are possible.

Source:

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20120311/NEWS01/203110357/Arrest-made-thefts-from-mailboxes?odyssey=mod|mostview>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *March 11, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Firefighter hurt in blaze at central NJ farm.** Authorities said an unattended wood-burning stove sparked a fire at a central New Jersey farm that destroyed two buildings and left a firefighter injured. The fire sparked March 11 and quickly engulfed a barn and another nearby steel structure on the roughly 40-acre farm in Manalapan. Numerous firefighters from the township and nearby communities responded and extinguished the fire in about 90 minutes, but both structures were destroyed.
Source: <http://www.njherald.com/story/17131678/firefighter-hurt-in-blaze-at-central-nj-farm>
22. *March 10, Food Safety News* – (National) **Goat feed recalled for labeling error.** Cargill Animal Nutrition is recalling 50 pound bags of Nutrena NatureWise Goat Pellets distributed in 5 states because of an error in labeling, Food Safety News reported March 10. The recalled bags of goat feed should have indicated the feed included Decoquinate, a medicated article for the prevention of coccidiosis that is commonly included in ruminant feed, but which is not approved for lactating goats. The goat pellets were manufactured at Cargill's Montgomery, Alabama facility December 31, 2011, February 18, and February 25 and distributed in five states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/goat-feed-recalled-for-labeling-error/>
23. *March 10, Food Safety News* – (International) **Salmonella concerns prompt curry recall.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and G. Dion Foods are warning the public not to consume certain Dion brand curry powder because it may be contaminated with Salmonella, Food Safety News reported March 10. G. Dion Foods of Saint-Jerome, Quebec, is recalling 36 gram packages of Dion-brand Organic Curry powder. The curry was distributed in Quebec and Ontario.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/salmonella-concerns-prompt-curry-recall/>
24. *March 10, Food Safety News* – (National) **Infant formula recalled due to 'off odor'.** Some Gerber Good Start Gentle powdered infant formula is being recalled, not

because it poses a health or safety risk according to the Gerber Products Company, but because it might have an unpleasant odor, Food Safety News reported March 10. The company said it has received complaints that the product's "off odor" has caused infants to spit up or have gastrointestinal issues. The recalled Gerber Good Start Gentle powdered infant formula is in a 23.2-ounce plastic package with an expiration date of March 5, 2013.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/infant-formula-recalled-due-to-off-odor-1/>

25. *March 10, WBND 57 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Company fined for its role in explosion that injured four.** A company was fined for an explosion that injured four people in Goshen, Indiana, in October 2011, WBND 57 South Bend reported March 10. Two safety orders were put in place: one against the company, T&T Fertilizer, and the other against Southwest Enterprises, a welding company. The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration determined both companies shared a role in the explosion that led to a 2,000-gallon ammonia leak. Both companies shared the blame and neither appealed. The penalty for Southwest Enterprises was paid. T&T Fertilizer has until the end of March to pay their fine. The amounts of the fines were not made public.

Source: <http://www.abc57.com/news/local/Company-fined-142204815.html>

26. *March 9, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. scientists warn EPA on Monsanto corn rootworm.** A group of U.S. plant scientists is warning federal regulators that action is needed to mitigate a growing problem with biotech corn that is losing its resistance to plant-damaging pests, Reuters reported March 9. The stakes are high — U.S. corn production is critical for food, animal feed, and ethanol production, and farmers have increasingly been relying on corn that has been genetically modified to be toxic to corn rootworm pests. More than 20 academic corn experts sent a letter dated March 5 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) telling regulators they are worried about long-term production prospects because of the failure of the genetic modifications in corn aimed at protection from rootworm. Monsanto introduced its corn-rootworm protected products, which contain a protein referred to as "Cry3Bb1," in 2003 and they have proved popular with farmers around the country. Biotech corn sales are a key growth driver of sales at Monsanto. The product is supposed to reduce the need to put insecticides into the soil, essentially making the plants toxic to the worms that try to feed on their roots. However, plant scientists found evidence the genetic modification is losing its effectiveness, making the plants vulnerable to rootworm damage and significant production losses. The scientists said in their letter to EPA that the situation should be acted upon "carefully, but with a sense of some urgency."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/09/monsanto-corn-idUSL2E8E9ASB20120309>

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Water Sector

27. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **Study says Newport sewer system needs overhaul.** An engineering firm said Newport, Rhode Island, can not fix its sewer system's illegal discharges into Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay without major construction projects and new pumping stations. The Newport Daily News reported March 12 a study by a Boston firm said eliminating overflows into the harbor and bay cannot be accomplished with corrective measures to the existing system. The city must correct the problem under a consent agreement reached in 2011 with the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Justice Department. The agreement stemmed from a 2008 lawsuit against the city filed by Environment Rhode Island, and four city residents. The new study does not give a cost estimate because a master plan is still being developed. City officials said the cost could top \$100 million.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2012/03/12/study_says_newport_sewer_system_needs_overhaul/

28. *March 10, KPRC 2 Houston* – (Texas) **Heavy rain blamed for sewage overflow.** An 8-inch sewer line in Baytown, Texas, was discovered overflowing March 10, but officials said they were not able to contain it until March 11. Baytown officials said 192,000 gallons of sewage flowed into the Cedar Bayou stream. The exact cause of the overflow is still under investigation, but officials suspect rain to be the cause. Crews were working to clean up the affected area.

Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/Heavy-rain-blamed-for-sewage-overflow/-/1735978/9274740/-/n63xyt/-/index.html>

29. *March 10, Denton Record-Chronicle* – (Texas) **Water operations manager suspended, demoted.** A water operations manager in Denton, Texas, was suspended and demoted for his role in a chemical discharge at the Ray Roberts water treatment plant that cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up, the Denton Record-Chronicle reported March 10. The manager served a week's suspension without pay February 2012 and was demoted to an operations foreman at the Lewisville Lake water treatment plant with a 5 percent pay cut, a city spokesman said. The discharge occurred in August 2011 resulting in more than \$300,000 in clean up costs. Denton potentially faces fines from a state investigation of the incident involving the hosing of at least 5,000 gallons of a caustic solution onto the ground. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality investigation stemmed from an anonymous complaint a worker pumped the solution toward a storm drain that flows into a tributary of the Trinity River's Elm Fork, according to state records. Fines can reach \$10,000 per day for each violation under the agency's penalty policy, but exact amounts are assessed case by case. The discharge involved a diluted solution of sodium hydroxide. It happened as water production workers repaired a leaky pipe connection on a chlorine scrubber tank. City officials said the discharge never jeopardized the city's drinking water quality.

Source: <http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20120310-water-operations-manager-suspended-demoted.ece>

30. *March 10, San Gabriel Valley Tribune* – (California) **Tap water safe again in Baldwin Park, La Puente areas following contamination.** San Gabriel Valley Water Company customers in the Baldwin Park and La Puente areas of California were advised March 10 it was again safe to drink their tap water after a failure at a groundwater treatment facility March 8 contaminated the system with perchlorate. After officials issued a warning not to drink water following the discovery of the contamination, the San Gabriel Valley Water Company said the system had been flushed of the toxic chemical. Utility workers immediately shut down the water supply from the affected well, however the remnants of perchlorate contamination had to be flushed out of the system before the water could be declared safe. Water was being re-directed from other wells within the system as officials continued making repairs to the malfunctioning groundwater treatment facility, he added. According to the utility, the “temporary consumption” of perchlorate at the levels detected in the system do not pose a health risk to people or pets.
Source: http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_20145118/water-supply-contaminated-baldwin-park-la-puente-areas
31. *March 8, Grand Island Independent* – (Nebraska) **Rogue contamination plume escapes EPA water treatment.** A section of groundwater contaminated with industrial solvents bypassed a treatment system set up by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the Parkview Superfund site in Nebraska, the Grand Island Independent reported March 8. The EPA plans to install an additional water-extraction well this spring on vacant ground owned by Grand Island Public Schools. More than 4,000 feet of pipe will be laid to return water pumped by the new well to a similar extraction well. As part of the original project, the EPA installed three extraction wells along railroad tracks and one well at Commerce Avenue, but the contaminated plume had moved east of the last well before they started running. The plume migrates southwest to northeast under Grand Island, officials said. EPA officials hoped the well would pull enough contamination back so the plume would not continue to migrate, but water testing in a subdivision east of Stolley Park Elementary School has shown the plume has continued to move. The rogue plume measures about 1,200 feet long and 200 feet wide but should be easily captured by the new well, which will pump 400 gallons of water a minute. Additionally, the EPA will install three monitoring wells at the Stolley Park site, and six monitoring wells along August Street. All new installation and piping should be complete by the end of July.
Source: http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/rogue-contamination-plume-escapes-epa-water-treatment/article_c89be05e-68c5-11e1-87e7-0019bb2963f4.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *March 12, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **UM student charged with threatening a ‘shooting rampage’**. A student from Howard County threatened to go on a “shooting rampage” March 11 at the University of Maryland, College Park, campus police said. The student posted on a Web site comments such as “I will be on a shooting rampage tomorrow on campus”, “hopefully I kill enough people to make it to national news”, and “stay away from the Mall tomorrow at 1:30”, according to a release from university police. He was taken to a local hospital for an emergency psychiatric evaluation. He was unarmed when police apprehended him and charged with disturbing the orderly conduct of the activities, administration, or classes at the campus, a misdemeanor that could result in a \$2,500 fine or 6 months in jail. A department spokesman said police became aware of the threats March 10 after a former student noticed them on a Web site and two people who had contact with the suspect on another site informed the school; at least one was from out of state. The suspect was taken into custody on campus, near Cumberland Hall. March 11, the department spokesman said he was still at the hospital. University administrators suspended him, and he is no longer allowed on campus pending a review, police said.
Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/breaking/bs-md-college-park-student-threats-20120311,0,1370540.story>
33. *March 11, Elgin Courier-News* – (Illinois) **Norovirus blamed as almost 500 Dist. 300 children absent**. Nearly one-third of the student population, about 500 students, was absent March 9 from Westfield Community School, and Community Unit School District 300 in Algonquin, Illinois, alerted parents to numerous reports of the norovirus. More than half — 262 — of all elementary school students and 223 middle school students were absent March 9 from Westfield, a District 300 spokeswoman said. Those numbers jumped from 35 percent of elementary students and doubled in the middle school from the day before, she said. That is when the Carpentersville-area district e-mailed families and staff to let them know about the high rate of students reporting norovirus symptoms. The Kane County Health Department confirmed norovirus samples from several students who were sick March 9, according to a written statement. The virus is more commonly known as the stomach flu or food poisoning.
Source: <http://couriernews.suntimes.com/news/schools/11182065-418/norovirus-blamed-as-almost-500-dist-300-children-absent.html>
34. *March 10, CNN* – (Washington) **Suspect arrested after attack at Washington State Courthouse**. March 10, authorities arrested a suspect who allegedly shot a female officer, stabbed a judge, and fled a Washington state courthouse March 9, an official said in Montesano, Washington. The suspect was arrested at his mother’s home in Olympia without incident, the Grays Harbor County undersheriff said. The suspect’s mother called authorities to tell them where he was after hearing media reports about the incident at the Grays Harbor County Courthouse. Authorities also recovered a gun taken from the officer during the confrontation. “He attacked (the officer) with a sharp-edged instrument,” the undersheriff said. “The judge rushed to the aid of the officer and actually struck the suspect physically, knocking him off of the deputy.” The suspect cut the judge in the neck. A deputy attempted to draw her weapon, but the suspect knocked

her to the floor and took the weapon, officials said. The suspect fired twice, hitting the deputy once in the shoulder.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/10/justice/washington-courthouse-incident/index.html>

35. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Lancaster welfare office evacuated after white powder discovered.** Authorities in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, said a state welfare office was evacuated after an employee opened a piece of mail containing a suspicious white powder, the Associated Press reported March 10. Emergency officials in Lancaster later determined the substance was not hazardous. About 200 people were ordered to leave the building for several hours March 9 while police investigated. Lancaster police said six people exposed to the substance were taken to a hospital to be decontaminated and examined. Authorities said the powder was sent to a state police lab for further analysis.

Source: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/article/20120310/NEWS03/120319965/-1/OPINION01/lancaster-welfare-office-evacuated-after-white-powder-discovered>

36. *March 9, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **20 Livonia students sickened by carbon dioxide.** At least 1 student was hospitalized March 9 and about 20 others at Emerson Middle School were exposed to slightly elevated levels of carbon dioxide, according to a letter sent to parents from the Livonia Public Schools in Livonia, Michigan. The students reported mild symptoms of dizziness and nausea. They were immediately removed from the classroom and windows were opened. The letter said the Livonia Fire Department was contacted and tested the entire building, but the elevated levels of any gases or chemicals appeared to be confined to one classroom. Parents were contacted, and students were treated at the school by EMS personnel. Some students returned to class and others returned home with parents. One student was taken to a hospital for observation. The classroom with the elevated levels of carbon dioxide was closed off, and the cause is being investigated.

Source:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120309/SCHOOLS/203090454/1361/20-Livonia-students-sickened-by-carbon-dioxide>

For more stories, see items [5](#), [8](#), and [45](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *March 12, Homeland Security Newswire* – (National) **GAO: New emergency responder network lacks critical features.** A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concluded limitations in the government's plans to create a nationwide broadband network for first responders will require the continued use of the existing system for at least another decade, Homeland Security Newswire reported March 12. The new broadband network will allow first responders from different jurisdictions to communicate, however, according to the GAO report, the new network lacks critical capabilities that the existing land mobile radio (LMR) systems have. As a

result, existing LMR systems, which are expensive and limited in range, will continue to be used even after the new mobile broadband network is implemented. For instance the new network, with its designated Long Term Evolution standard, does not support basic voice capabilities such as push to talk, group talk, and talk around — features that first responders need. Without these features on the new mobile broadband network, the GAO report argued the existing LMR system must continue to be used.

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120311-gao-new-emergency-responder-network-lacks-critical-features>

38. *March 10, CNN; WCBS 2 New York* – (National) **Nationwide drug shortage problem increasing.** A nationwide drug shortage that is dogging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is hitting home with first responders CNN and WCBS 2 New York reported March 10. For emergency medical technicians, shortages can mean the difference between life and death. Nationwide, anti-seizure drugs including intravenous Valium, Versed, and Ativan are among the dozens of drugs — including cancer treatments — that are in short supply. The Monmouth Ocean Hospital Service Corporation Health Services ambulance service said it had to special order a temporary replacement anti-seizure drug to avoid running out the weekend of March 10. The FDA said it tracked at least 220 shortages in 2011, and claims it prevented 114, but admits the problem is far from solved.

Source: <http://www.wdam.com/story/17126976/nationwide-drug-shortage-problem-increasing>

39. *March 10, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Los Angeles Fire Department released false response times, report says.** A new report found the Los Angeles Fire Department for years released misleading data on its response times, KABC 7 Los Angeles reported March 10. When questioned by the Los Angeles Times, department leaders said they used figures that made it appear firefighters were arriving at the scene of emergencies faster than they actually were. The numbers are based on responses within 5 minutes of the initial call. The department admitted a former statistician wrongly counted all responses within 6 minutes, which improved the record.

Source:

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=8576727

40. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio jail site boosts security after inmate escape.** An inmate's escape from a southeast Ohio jail facility has prompted increased security measures there and disciplinary action against three sheriff's deputies, the Associated Press reported March 10. Authorities said a man apparently used socks to protect his hands as he climbed a barbed wire fence to escape a Fairfield County jail in February. He was later caught. The incident spurred an internal review. The sheriff told the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette it appears someone miscounted the number of people returning from an outdoor recreation period. He said two deputies will receive written reprimands, and one will face an administrative hearing that could lead to a reprimand, suspension, or firing. The sheriff added several more surveillance cameras at the facility, and will now have two deputies outside during recreational activities, instead of one.

Source:

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/usatoday/article/38769801?odyssey=mod|news|well|text|Frontpage|p>

For another story, see item [8](#)

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Information Technology Sector

41. *March 12, H Security* – (International) **Pwn2Own ends with three browsers felled.** By the end of the Pwn2Own competition at CanSecWest, Google Chrome, Microsoft Internet Explorer, and Mozilla Firefox were all subject to zero day exploits, the H Security reported March 12. Chrome fell a second time in Google’s own Pwnium contest with an attack that pulled together three zero-day vulnerabilities. The first Chrome exploit by the VUPEN team is thought to have leveraged flaws in the Flash player bundled with the browser, while their Internet Explorer exploit first provoked a buffer overflow on the heap working around DEP and ASLR protections. The team then made use of a memory error to break out of the sandbox (protected mode) of the browser. Mozilla Firefox fell to a team of two. Their zero day vulnerability in Firefox involved a use-after-free problem that evaded DEP and ASLR protections in Windows 7. According to reports, the vulnerability was used to leak data multiple times that was then used to prepare code to be executed, again through the same vulnerability. At Google’s Pwnium contest, Chrome fell a second time after a hacker going by the name of “Pinkie Pie” chained three zero-day vulnerabilities in Chrome together to break out of the sandbox and execute code. Google later patched Pinkie Pie’s vulnerabilities and announced the changes are being distributed in an update to the stable version of Chrome. Further changes are expected to harden the browser against CVE-2011-3046 and CVE-2011-3047, the CVE numbers allocated to Pinkie Pie’s vulnerabilities. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Pwn2Own-ends-with-three-browsers-felled-Update-1469096.html>
42. *March 9, CNET* – (International) **Danish firm outlines two unpatched Safari vulnerabilities.** The Danish IT security firm Secunia released an advisory March 9 regarding two unpatched vulnerabilities in Apple’s Safari 5 Web browser. The vulnerabilities so far are not known to be actively exploited; however, if done, they could allow an attacker to run malicious software and conduct spoofing attacks. The first vulnerability is in Safari’s plug-in handling system, where in some instances when interacting with the plug-in (such as by accessing its settings or contextual menus), if a user navigates to a new page, the plug-in may be unloaded in a way that allows it to write to freed memory and thereby allow code to be injected into components of memory no longer being controlled by the plug-in process. Secunia was able to exploit this bug in Safari version 5.1.2 (the Windows version) using the RealPlayer and Adobe Flash plug-ins, though the company warns other versions may also be affected. The second vulnerability is a problem with a built-in function called “setInterval,” where when exploited, a malicious attack can display arbitrary contents on the screen when a trusted URL is visited, potentially allowing for spoofing and misleading people visiting those pages. This bug was found in version 5.0.5 of the Web browser, but was partially

fixed in version 5.1.2, though it apparently is still exploitable.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57394491-83/danish-firm-outlines-two-unpatched-safari-vulnerabilities/

43. *March 9, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Stricken Kelihos botnet rises from the dead.** The Kelihos botnet that Microsoft claimed to have taken down in 2011 re-emerged with new tools aimed at rebuilding and infecting computers, according to security researchers, v3.co.uk reported March 9. They warned the resurgent botnet is being used to steal credentials, install malware, and distribute millions of German stock-related spam messages. According to Swiss researchers at the Abuse.ch blog, the new version of Kelihos is using a .eu domain in combination with so-called fast flux techniques. Fast flux is a DNS technique used by botnet operators to mask malware hosting Web sites behind a constantly-changing network of compromised machines, which act as proxies. Previously, Kelihos used domains associated with the Czech Republic. Security firm GFI also warned a new variant of Kelihos is on the loose, with those behind it seemingly intent on rebuilding the botnet. Microsoft said it shut down the botnet in September 2011. Security firm Kaspersky Labs, which worked with Microsoft on the initial Kelihos takedown reported seeing new variants of the botnet as early as January 2012.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2158406/stricken-kelihos-botnet-rises-dead>

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

44. *March 10, Niagara Gazette* – (New York) **Thieves try to take copper from Falls cell tower.** Two men attempting to steal copper wiring and metal piping from a cell phone tower and generator in Niagara Falls, New York, were interrupted when a technician arrived to determine why power had been cut. Police were called to a warehouse March 9, and were met by a field operations technician for Cricket Communications. The worker said Cricket has a cell tower and generator on top of the warehouse along with copper wiring running behind the building. The technician said he received a call from the network operator informing him power had been lost. When he arrived, he heard someone running and tried to chase the suspects down but was unsuccessful. He then found copper wiring from the tower and generator had been removed and rolled onto spools, and metal piping had been cut and placed on the ground. Police found a pair of bolt cutters nearby. The owner of the warehouse looked at surveillance video and said the footage shows two people with flashlights near the phone generator rolling up copper wiring. Damage to the tower and generator was estimated at \$5,000.

Source: <http://niagara-gazette.com/local/x2029123084/Thieves-try-to-take-copper-from-Falls-cell-tower>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

45. *March 12, KWCH 12 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Smoke damage forces cancelations at downtown Hutch rec center.** All classes and activities scheduled at a recreation center in downtown Hutchinson, Kansas, were canceled the week of March 12. The building suffered smoke damage after a dumpster fire at a business next door March 11. The fire caused smoke and fire damage inside the building. Classes and activities at other Hutch Rec locations were still going on. The Hutch News reported there have been several dumpster fires at various locations around town. All of them are under investigation. Source: <http://www.kansascw.com/kscw/news/kwch-jab-smoke-damage-forces-cancelations-at-downtown-hutch-rec-center-20120312,0,6381215.story>
46. *March 12, Dearborn Press & Guide* – (Michigan) **Illness sweeps through Taylor Sportsplex sending more than 20 kids to emergency rooms.** The Taylor Sportsplex in Taylor, Michigan, was evacuated March 11 after an unknown illness swept a wave of hockey players into local emergency rooms, according to officials. About 20 to 25 high-school-age hockey players got sick simultaneously with apparent flu-like symptoms, causing several players to vomit on benches and inside the locker room. The sudden occurrence prompted a call to the fire department. Firefighters first checked the building's air quality to rule out issues such as unsafe levels of carbon monoxide. Oxygen levels were found to be fine, though samples from the facility, including from the water supply, were sent to a laboratory for analysis. Unseasonably warm temperatures and possibly the crowd's size caused the air conditioning system to unexpectedly turn on, so air duct samples will also be tested. Source: <http://www.pressandguide.com/articles/2012/03/12/news/doc4f5d910f6ee9d777622035.txt?viewmode=fullstory>
47. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Credit card numbers stolen at McDonald's.** Federal prosecutors have accused four Ohio men of stealing customers' credit card numbers from the drive-thru at a McDonald's in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A McDonald's worker told authorities he used a handheld skimming device for 3 weeks to capture the card numbers, according to a complaint filed March 8 in federal court. The employee told authorities he sold the numbers to an accomplice. The four defendants are in jail on charges they re-encoded other cards to buy iPads and laptop computers. The complaint said investigators discovered "approximately 282" card numbers on a laptop in a suspect's vehicle. Ponca City police arrested the men October 16, 2011 on suspicion of using counterfeit cards at a Wal-Mart Supercenter. The four had debit and gift cards encoded with stolen numbers, and inside a vehicle, authorities found a laptop, a magnetic card reader and writer, three iPads, and Wal-Mart receipts, the complaint said. The McDonald's employee told authorities his accomplice would come to his apartment each night and download the card numbers from the skimmer.

He said he was paid \$600 and given two laptops and a Nintendo 3DS.

Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/state/article/235111/23/Credit-card-numbers-stolen-at-McDonalds>

48. *March 9, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Shooting at Woodbridge Center mall: Alleged shoplifter shot, killed by police; customers run for cover.** A suspected shoplifter who held a woman hostage at knifepoint inside Woodbridge Center in Woodbridge, New Jersey, was shot to death by a police officer March 8, authorities said. After the man was confronted by mall security for an alleged shoplifting, the suspect put a knife to the throat of a random shopper and pulled her inside another store. An off-duty Woodbridge police officer who was wearing his police uniform and working an extra duty job at the mall shot the suspect after repeated warnings, killing him.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/03/shooting_at_woodbridge_center.html#incart_mce

49. *March 9, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Minneapolis apartment residents escape fast-moving fire.** A 3-alarm fire that rose from the basement gutted a south Minneapolis apartment building March 9, obliterating the roof of the 3-story, 32-unit brick structure and forcing dozens from their homes. The fire started in the basement, eventually growing to three alarms as it spread through each floor and then to the roof. One firefighter suffered a minor injury, but remained on the scene.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/142044073.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [10](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

50. *March 11, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Olmsted Dam cost increases \$800 million.** Costs for the Olmsted Dam project on the Ohio River west of Paducah, Kentucky, will approach \$3 billion, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported March 11. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a new cost estimate that adds \$800 million to the dam's bottom line, based on its continuing with the innovative and previously untried construction technique that was chosen about 15 years ago. Officials will consider switching back to a traditional construction method for the longest segment of the dam review. They also plan to review whether a switch could avoid construction delays now estimated at up to 4 years. That means the twin locks that are already part of the Olmsted Lock and Dam could be almost 2 decades old before they become

operational in 2020. The Corps calls this the largest single locks and dam project in the history of the U.S. Inland Marine Transportation System, which includes such rivers as the Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Missouri. Despite its problems, the project is widely recognized as essential to the regional and national economy. Some 90 billion tons of coal, grain, petroleum, and other goods move through that stretch of the Ohio River every year. Locks and Dams 52 and 53 upriver from the Olmsted project area are rusting and crumbling into the river, creating a choke-point and long delays while relying on 90-year-old technology such as a steamboat and manual labor.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20120311/NEWS01/303120002/More-red-ink-and-delays-for-Olmsted-Dam-on-Ohio-River?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home>

51. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **\$2 million more pledged to improving Omaha levees.** The levee system that helped protect Omaha, Nebraska, from the summer of 2011's Missouri River flooding is going to be improved, the Associated Press reported March 11. The Pappio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) pledged \$2 million toward strengthening the levee system and making sure the flood protections are re-certified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The historic flooding along the Missouri River damaged many of the levees and drainage ditches and other structures along the river. The city is already receiving \$15 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help pay for repairs. The NRD maintains more than 85 miles of levees along the Missouri and Platte rivers.

Source:

<http://www.coshocotribune.com/usatoday/article/38774649?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Frontpages>

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