



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

21 March 2012

Top Stories

- Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp.'s former chief financial officer admitted to helping his boss commit a \$3 billion fraud that caused one of the country's largest banks to collapse. – *Bloomberg* (See item [11](#))
- Three people were convicted on federal bank fraud charges in connection with an identity-theft scheme where bank insiders helped them steal millions from dozens of victims in four states. – *Orange County Register* (See item [12](#))
- A tornado and heavy rains near San Antonio and Dallas forced the cancellation of many flights and flooded dozens of streets. The severe weather also damaged homes and injured several people. – *MSNBC; Associated Press; Reuters* (See item [14](#))
- More than two dozen students were recovering at a local hospital March 19 after three school buses crashed in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. – *WJLA 7 Arlington* (See item [15](#))
- Four school buses and eight homes were cleaned after testing positive for elevated mercury levels in Birmingham, Alabama, where hundreds of individuals were exposed after a spill at a middle school. The school was expected to be closed for about 2 weeks. – *WIAT 42 Birmingham* (See item [38](#))
- A tornado and strong storms in the Houston area hurt several workers at a chemical plant and damaged a bank and electric utility station. – *KTRK 13 Houston* (See items [50](#), [13](#))

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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 20, Skowhegan Morning Sentinel* – (Maine) **Short circuit blamed for Skowhegan chemical mishap.** A short circuit in the wiring of a fire suppression system at a gas station in Skowhegan, Maine, March 19 was the apparent cause of a plume of white powder released onto cars and people. Several people were taken to the hospital to be checked out for possible respiratory problems. Others were examined at the scene. A cloud of white powder blasted from about 50 hoses mounted in the canopy of the stations' gas-pumping area. "It was a short circuit caused by water into the conduit," the fire chief said. "It's weather-tight stuff, but I guess over time one just loosened up, caused a short and triggered the discharge." He said the chemical was a nontoxic compound that can cause mild eye and throat irritation but is not life threatening. The chemical is called ABC powder, mostly a sodium bicarbonate, used in dry-powder fire extinguishers.
Source: http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/short-circuit-blamed-for-skowhegan-gas-station-fire-suppression-mishap_2012-03-19.html
2. *March 20, Bloomberg* – (Colorado) **Fracking wells' air emissions pose health risks, study finds.** Chemicals released into the air when natural gas is produced by hydraulic fracturing may pose a health risk to those living nearby, the Colorado School of Public Health said in a new report. Researchers found potentially toxic airborne chemicals near wells in Garfield County, Colorado, during 3 years of monitoring. Emissions from the wells include methane and volatile organic compounds that react with heat and sunlight to form ozone, according to a health scientist with the Environmental Defense Fund. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed rules that would reduce oil and gas well emissions. The research focused on those living about a half mile from the wells and was requested by county officials in response to the rapid expansion of

fracking in the state. One operator has proposed drilling 200 wells about 500 feet from homes in Garfield County.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2012/03/19/bloomberg_articlesM14RQV6JTSEC01-M153F.DTL

3. *March 19, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. studies vulnerability of fuel pipelines to East Coast.** The United States is studying the vulnerability of Colonial Pipeline Co. and Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP pipelines that carry fuel from Gulf of Mexico refineries to the East Coast, the DHS said March 19. “We will be conducting analysis to better understand how disruptions to Colonial’s pipeline and Plantation pipelines could affect the broader critical infrastructure,” said the director of the department’s Homeland Infrastructure Threat and Risk Analysis Center. “Our primary concern would be a prolonged damage to the pipeline that kept it down more than a week, more than 2 weeks,” the director said. “Once you start getting beyond a week or two, the ability for the excess inventory at terminals along its route starts to be diminished and then you start to have more serious impacts.”

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-03-19/u-s-studies-vulnerability-of-fuel-pipelines-to-east-coast-1-.html>

4. *March 19, WBBH 2 Fort Myers* – (Florida) **Crash sparks explosion at Fort Myers gas station.** A dump truck slammed into a fuel pump at a Fort Myers, Florida gas station March 19, sparking an explosion and small fire. Police said the driver of the truck was turning into the parking lot when the back of the vehicle struck the pump, knocking it over, and causing an explosion. The gas station attendant quickly hit the pump’s emergency shut-off button after the wreck, preventing any further damage. Firefighters extinguished the fire a short time later and no injuries were reported. The gas station was to remain closed until the area was clear.

Source: <http://www.nbc-2.com/story/17188024/crash-sparks-fire-at-fort-myers-gas-station>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 20, Associated Press* – (National) **New labeling rules aim to protect workers from hazardous chemicals.** The U.S. President’s administration is adopting long-awaited rules to improve labels on hazardous chemicals and make them conform with international guidelines developed by the United Nations, the Associated Press reported March 20. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimated that such labels could prevent more than 40 deaths and about 500 workplace injuries and illnesses from exposure to hazardous chemicals each year. About 43 million U.S. workers come in contact with hazardous materials on the job. Development of the rules began during the previous President’s administration, and they were initially proposed in 2010. The current Presidential administration said the move now is part of a presidential directive in 2011 to streamline burdensome rules and eliminate red tape.

Chemical manufacturers currently have to produce two sets of labels and records: one to satisfy U.S. standards and another to meet the U.N. guidelines. OSHA officials said that by ending the duplication, the industry could save more than \$475 million annually in training costs and paperwork.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-government-safety-rules-aim-to-protect-workers-from-hazardous-chemicals/2012/03/20/gIQACnzXPS_story.html

6. *March 20, WRTV 6 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Crash with chemicals closes US 31.** U.S. 31 in Tipton County, Indiana, was closed for many hours March 20 after a crash involving a truck carrying cleaning products. Police said a tractor-trailer rear-ended a box truck that was stopped at the railroad tracks on U.S. 31 at Division Road. The highway was closed in both directions as a precaution in case any chemicals in the truck had mixed, police said. Some chemicals could be seen leaking from the truck. A HAZMAT team from the Kokomo Fire Department responded. The northbound lanes of 31 were opened after a few hours. The southbound lanes reopened 2 hours later. Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/30720791/detail.html>

7. *March 20, WSAZ 3 Huntington/Charleston* – (West Virginia) **Route 87 reopens in Evans, W.Va. after hazmat situation.** HAZMAT crews told neighbors in Jackson County, West Virginia, to shelter in place after barrels of chemicals were found leaking out of the back of a tractor trailer making a delivery to a store March 19. Route 87 and other roads in Evans were shut down for several hours. Four people were exposed to a potentially hazardous chemical, according to emergency crews. Two people, the owner of the store and the truck driver, were decontaminated and sent to a hospital. They suffered burns and other injuries after the store owner — at the direction of the truck driver — tossed kitty litter on the chemical that spilled in the parking lot. The chemical that leaked is called Barchlor 81-ISO, and firefighters said it is not known to be hazardous unless mixed with water or other chemicals. Two fire departments and a regional response team responded. The scene was cleared and roads were reopened after about 5 hours. Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/143320056.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

8. *March 19, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Ohio) **U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA proposes \$103,500 in fines to Polychem in Leetonia, Ohio, for 30 safety and health violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), March 19 cited Polychem OMS Systems LLC, a specialty manufacturer of equipment for the production and processing of metals and plastic products in Leetonia, Ohio, with 30 safety and health violations, including exposing workers to amputation hazards. The OSHA initiated an inspection in September 2011 based on a complaint. Twenty-one serious safety violations involved failing to: establish a lockout/tagout program to control the energy sources of equipment; remove damaged web slings from service; provide machine guarding on lathes, blades, grinders and other equipment; provide personal protective equipment for electrical work; inspect trucks prior to use; remove defective vehicles from service; and train workers to operate powered industrial trucks. Six serious and one other-than-serious violations were also cited.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22026

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *March 20, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Air Force to modify F-22 following fatal crash.** The U.S. Air Force will modify the handle that engages the emergency oxygen system in its entire fleet of F-22 Raptor fighter jets after a report found it played a role in a crash that killed one of its aviators, the Los Angeles Times reported March 20. The changes come as the pilot's widow filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Lockheed Martin Corp. and the subcontractors that designed and built the jet. The pilot died when his F-22 crashed in the Alaskan wilderness in November 2010. In her suit, the widow contends the F-22 is "unreasonably defective" and that the oxygen-generation system, environmental-control system, and other life-support systems were responsible for her husband's death. The Air Force confirmed that about 200 handles, costing \$47 each, were delivered, including spares. The new handles were already installed in the jets at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, where the pilot was based, the Air Force said. The pilot's inability to pull the handle during his fatal accident was one of the issues cited in an accident investigation report released by the Air Force in December 2011.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-f22-fighter-jet-20120320,0,2086707.story>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 20, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **Police: Bank robber ID'd.** A bank robber, acting as if he had an explosive device, was shot by a police detective in Berks County, Pennsylvania, March 19. The detective was at the M&T Bank by coincidence. He told investigators the suspect walked into the bank and ordered everyone to put their hands up. Police said the man appeared to have something strapped on him that had wires sticking out of it. When the detective approached the man and ordered him to get on the ground, the police chief said he had to act quickly. "The suspect said, 'You want everybody to be blown up?' And at that point, somewhere in between there, as they grappled, [the detective] pulled out his service revolver and shot the suspect," the chief said. The suspect was shot in the stomach. When authorities arrived, they also called the Reading Bomb Squad and the FBI. "The device the suspect used is a fake, it's a hoax," the police chief said.
Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-berks/Police-Bank-robber-ID-d-as-Dragos-Ungurean/-/121418/9524554/-/12mfwbs/-/index.html>
11. *March 20, Bloomberg* – (National) **Ex-Taylor Bean finance chief admits role in \$3 billion fraud.** Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp.'s former chief financial officer (CFO) admitted to helping his boss commit what prosecutors say was one of the largest bank frauds in U.S. history. He pleaded guilty March 20 in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to one count of conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud and one count of false statements in a scheme that contributed to the failures of Montgomery, Alabama-based Colonial Bank and its parent, Colonial BancGroup, once among the nation's 25 biggest depository banks. He faces as much as 10 years in prison. From 2005 through August 2009, the CFO helped Taylor Bean's ex-chairman and other conspirators misappropriate more than \$1.5 billion from Ocala Funding LLC, a financing vehicle used and controlled by Taylor Bean, said a statement of facts filed by prosecutors. The CFO issued false financial reports that masked shortfalls to keep auditors at bay and investors on board, the document states. Taylor Bean was servicing more than 500,000 mortgages, including \$51 billion of Freddie Mac loans, when it collapsed in August 2009, according to court records. The CFO admitted to falsifying mortgage loan data so Taylor Bean would meet collateral thresholds set by its lenders, and inflated the assets Taylor Bean supposedly owned, according to the statement of facts. False financial statements were given to Ginnie Mae and Freddie Mac so that Taylor Bean's authority to sell and service mortgage securities guaranteed by the government-sponsored entities would be renewed, according to the court filing.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-03-20/ex-taylor-bean-finance-chief-admits-role-in-3-billion-fraud>
12. *March 17, Orange County Register* – (California; Southwest) **3 convicted in large ID theft ring.** An Orange County, California jury found one man guilty and a judge convicted two others on federal bank fraud charges March 16 in connection with one of the largest identity theft schemes in southern California with dozens of victims and millions of dollars in losses. The three defendants faced several counts of attempted bank fraud, conspiracy to commit bank fraud, and aggravated identity theft. For the approximately 6-year duration of the scheme, defendants conspired to cause at least \$8

million in losses, with victims in California, Arizona, Texas, and Nevada, prosecutors said. The defendants did everything they could to bypass bank security systems to drain the accounts of victims, many of them unsuspecting seniors, an attorney said in a statement. According to the government, as early as 2005, the defendants and co-conspirators used bank insiders to execute a sophisticated fraud scheme targeting individual bank accounts by obtaining confidential information. Prosecutors said the leader coordinated the scheme from behind state prison doors in partnership with gang members. After obtaining account data, the participants cashed fraudulent checks, prosecutors alleged. When banks called to check on the pending withdrawals, the calls were routed to co-conspirators who previously set up call forwarding with the victims' telephone companies, the attorney said.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fraud-345082-bank-defendants.html>

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Transportation Sector

13. *March 20, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Storms strand passengers at Houston airports.** A combination of bad weather in north and central Texas, and storms in Houston March 20 led to significant delays at Bush Intercontinental Airport, KTRK 13 Houston reported. Delays for travelers were up to 3 hours in many cases. The night of March 19, about 300 people spent the night sleeping on cots in the baggage claim area. The majority of them were supposed to fly to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, but the severe weather in north Texas forced those flights to land in Houston. Hotels in the area were all booked and no rental cars were available. Passengers described the scene as chaotic. At one point, a ground stop had been issued for both airports in the Houston area, meaning flights could take off, but could not land at the local airports. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8587981>
14. *March 20, MSNBC; Associated Press; Reuters* – (Texas; Oklahoma) **Spring delivers tornado, flooding to central US.** The National Weather Service said a tornado touched down March 19 about 25 miles southwest of San Antonio. Most of the damage was to rural homes north of the towns of Natalia and Lytle. Several people suffered injuries. Thousands of customers lost power in San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth, where strong winds and rain pelted the area, and power outages were reported in Oklahoma City and Tulsa County. Flights were stopped temporarily at Love Field airport in Dallas, and some 35 flights were canceled March 20 at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Dozens of San Antonio streets were closed by high water from flash flooding or by debris. The San Antonio Fire Department reported at least two house fires that may have been caused by lightning strikes. Source: http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/03/20/10776232-spring-delivers-tornado-floo...
15. *March 19, WJLA 7 Arlington* – (Maryland) **Kids hospitalized in Upper Marlboro crash.** More than two dozen students were recovering at a local hospital March 19 after

three school buses crashed in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The buses had just departed Fredrick Douglas High School and were loaded with students going home when the crash occurred near Route 301. Paramedics treated 75 students at the scene. Thirty-four others were transported to the hospital where the triage extended to the outside while parents waited in a separate area. Officials said all the students were treated for only minor injuries.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/articles/2012/03/kids-hospitalized-in-upper-marlboro-crash-73951.html>

16. *March 19, North County Times* – (California) **Region: Interstate 8 closed in East County due to snow, ice.** The tail-end of the last storm of the winter season moved eastward across San Diego, dropping more rainfall and snow in the region March 19. An additional quarter-inch of rain in coastal and valley areas, and up to 4 inches of additional snow was expected. Schools in the Julian and Mountain Empire Unified school districts were closed March 19 due to snow. In the far reaches of East County, Interstate 8 was closed in both directions from East Willows Road to Imperial Highway due to hazardous road conditions.
Source: http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/region-interstate-closed-in-east-county-due-to-snow-ice/article_3934e357-6f33-56b1-be7e-517a01a5e562.html
17. *March 19, Washington Post* – (Washington, D.C.) **2 fired Metro workers plead guilty to stealing \$445,000 from agency.** Two fired Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) employees pleaded guilty in federal court March 19 to stealing \$445,000 in cash from fare machines. A revenue technician and a Metro police officer stole the money and hid it in a spot near Washington, D.C. They would collect the bags of coins and bills when their shifts were done. The individuals both agreed to waive indictment and plead guilty to two counts: theft concerning federal funds and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Each faces up to 30 years in prison, potential fines of \$750,000, and payment of restitution. Prosecutors said they are still working with Metro to figure out how much money was stolen, and that the figure could rise to \$600,000. Sentencing was set for June 15.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/2-fired-metro-workers-plead-guilty-to-stealing-445000-from-agency/2012/03/19/gIQAtszdNS_story.html
18. *March 19, Washington Post* – (Washington, D.C.) **Report: Metro workers abused credit cards.** Employees in the planning department at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) have used agency credit cards to buy camcorders, gift cards, Kindle e-readers, and even designer earbuds, according to an investigation by Metro's inspector general in 2011 that found extensive abuse. The problem was so bad, the report said, that authorities in Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County declined to prosecute, the Washington Post reported March 19. The critical report, dated December 1, 2011, is heavily redacted, with some entire sections, including two of the seven findings and several graphs on "purchase card approval procedures," blacked out. Metro said the information was marked through because it "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/report-metro-workers-abused-credit-cards/2012/03/19/gIQA193IOS_story.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *March 16, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of Florida* – (International) **Boca Raton resident charged with mail fraud in corporate identity theft scheme.** The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida and a FBI special agent announced a man was charged with mail fraud in a 26-count indictment. He was arraigned March 16 in Fort Lauderdale. The indictment alleged the defendant, a Brazilian national, offered merchandise for sale through his Internet Web sites, including Brazil Express Import and Export and Sky Air Express. In the Web sites, the defendant offered to ship the merchandise to Brazil and elsewhere at favorable shipping rates. He was able to offer lower rates than his competitors because he fraudulently established new shipping accounts and/or subaccounts with different shipping firms, using the identity of existing corporations, such as Target, Apple Computers, and Walmart. He used these fraudulently obtained corporate accounts to ship thousands of packages throughout the United States and Brazil for customers. When the shipping companies discovered the fraudulent accounts created and used by him, they would credit the respective account of the legitimate corporate account owner. As a result, the shipping companies suffered multi-million dollar losses because of his activities. If convicted, the suspect faces a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of up to 20 years for each count of mail fraud.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/fls/PressReleases/120316-05.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *March 20, Food Safety News* – (New Jersey; International) **Uninspected pork recalled.** Lawson Foods of Irvington, New Jersey, is recalling about 84,587 pounds of pork that includes pork imported from Canada not properly presented for re-inspection upon entry into the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced March 19. FSIS said the shipment of imported pork, inspected and passed by the Canadian authorities, arrived from Canada earlier than scheduled and was sold to Lawson Foods without being presented to U.S. food safety authorities for re-inspection. The recall is for various weight cases of PORK SHOULDER BUTTS. This product was produced March 3 and was distributed to one wholesale firm in New Jersey.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/uninspected-pork-recalled/>

21. *March 20, Duluth News Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Pelican River's low oxygen levels blamed in fish kill near Orr.** Thousands of fish, including many game fish, died in a

fish kill on the Pelican River near Orr, Minnesota, according to a department of natural resources area fisheries supervisor at International Falls, the Duluth News Tribune reported March 20. The kill, probably caused by low oxygen levels in the water, occurred in an approximately 2-mile stretch of the Pelican River from the dam at St. Louis County Highway 23 and downstream past U.S. Highway 53. The fish kill was first reported March 15. A fisheries crew visited the site March 19 and traveled the river by canoe to assess the extent of the kill. "They saw a lot of northern pike, one smallmouth bass, lots and lots and lots of black crappies — probably thousands from 3 inches and up," the supervisor said. "They saw some larger bluegills up to 10 inches, lots of yellow perch and bullheads and suckers."

Source: <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/226179/>

22. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island; Connecticut) **Report: Arrest made in Rhode Island cow thefts.** Police in the Rhode Island town of Tiverton said they made an arrest in a rare case of cattle rustling. The Newport Daily News reported a man from North Stonington, Connecticut, turned himself in March 16 in the theft of at least 18 cows from High View Farm. The suspect said he took the cows because the farm's owner owed him money. The suspect was arraigned and released on \$10,000 personal recognizance. He faces charges of felony larceny and theft of animals. Authorities said transporting the stolen animals across state lines could lead to federal charges. Because the cows were mixed in with those on the suspect's farm, they are under quarantine until they can be tested for tuberculosis.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2012/03/19/report_arrest_made_in_rhode_island_cow_thefts/

23. *March 19, Food Safety News* – (International) **Glass fragments in fruit beverages.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and AllJuice International are advising customers not to consume certain AllJuice products because they may contain harmful glass fragments, Food Safety News reported March 19. The recalled juices were distributed in Ontario, Canada, and include: Alljuice Key Lime Fruit Beverage, Alljuice Strawberry Kiwi Fruit Beverage, Alljuice Cranberry-Raspberry Cocktail Fruit Beverage, Alljuice Mango Fruit Beverage, and St. Maarten Mangos & Carrots Fruit Beverage.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/glass-fragments-in-fruit-beverages/>

24. *March 19, Food Safety News* – (International) **Canada recalls seven months worth of frozen ground beef.** After a series of earlier recalls, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recalled all ground beef from New Food Classics processed between July 1, 2011 and February 15 because it may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7. One person was reportedly sickened after eating meat processed in October 2011. New Food Classics went into receivership in February, according to the Toronto Star. The company packaged burgers and steakettes under brand names including Best Value, Loblaws' no name, no name Club Pack, Country Morning, and Grillhouse. According to the court filing, the Saskatchewan-based company learned February 15 its frozen ground beef was linked to a case of E. coli O157:H7 illness and 3 days later recalled 3,800 cases of frozen burgers. Another 767 cases were recalled February 22. All

together, about 1.25 million cases of ground beef products were taken off the market. CFIA, in a news release the weekend of March 17, warned the public not to consume the company's frozen ground beef products, and also warned all retailers, distributors, and restaurants not to sell, serve, or use these ground beef products. The beef was distributed nationally in Canada.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/canada-calls-back-seven-months-of-frozen-ground-beef/>

25. *March 19, White Plains Journal News* – (New York) **Yonkers sugar refinery agrees to \$48,000 fine for violations.** A waterfront sugar refinery in Yonkers, New York, completed plant upgrades and agreed to pay a \$48,000 fine after being cited by the state for air and water quality violations. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation commissioner announced the penalty March 19 against American Sugar Refining Inc., a maker of Domino sugar. In January 2010, the state agency found the plant violated emission standards for nitrogen oxides — which can contribute to the formation of the lung-damaging pollutant ozone. American Sugar's Yonkers refinery is located in what federal environmental officials have designated as a low-air-quality "non-attainment area" for ozone. In response, the company performed boiler maintenance, conducted a "stack test," and installed new monitoring controls to ensure the plant runs as cleanly as required. In early 2011, the refinery was again faulted for violating a wastewater discharge permit after bricks from the side of the building fell and ruptured a pipeline, releasing sugar into the Hudson River. A plantwide control system failed to detect the rupture. American Sugar has since moved the pipes indoors and installed an alarm on the faulty device.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20120320/NEWS02/303200034/Yonkers-sugar-refinery-agrees-48-000-fine-violations?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|News|s>

26. *March 18, Food Safety News* – (National) **Allergen alert: Caramel 'Puffcorn' snack with milk.** Troyer Cheese, Inc. is recalling their Backroad Country Caramel Puffcorn, because it may contain undeclared milk, Food Safety News reported March 18. This recall was discovered when the milk-containing product were distributed in packaging that did not have a label saying the presence of milk in the ingredient statement. "Backroad Country Caramel Puffcorn" is sold in 8- and 16-ounce plastic bags and was distributed between January 6 and March 12 in 32 states in retail stores and through mail orders. Distribution of the product has been suspended until the Food and Drug Administration and the company are certain the problem is corrected.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/allergen-alert-caramel-puffcorn-snack-with-milk/>

27. *March 18, Food Safety News* – (California) **Chicken wraps recalled for undeclared allergens.** LSG Sky Chefs is recalling about 1,784 pounds of grilled chicken Caesar wraps because the Caesar dressing used contains egg, a known allergen not declared on the wrap product label, Food Safety News reported March 18. The company is recalling packages of "7-Eleven Fresh to Go Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap" with a "Freshest Before" packaging date of March 15 through March 18. The products were produced from March 12 and March 15, have a 2 day shelf-life, and were distributed to 7-Eleven stores in northern California. The problem was discovered by the company during a

routine label review.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/chicken-wraps-recalled-for-undeclared-allergens-1/>

28. *March 15, United Press International* – (National; International) **Insecticides linked to honeybee die-offs.** Die-offs of honeybees critical for pollinating food crops — part of so-called colony collapse disorder — is linked to an insecticide, according to a U.S. journal, United Press International reported March 15. Researchers from the University of Padua in Italy writing in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* said the springtime die-offs were linked to technology used to plant corn coated with insecticides. In some parts of Europe where farmers use the technology to plant seeds coated with so-called neonicotinoid insecticides, widespread deaths of honeybees have been reported since the introduction of the technique in the late 1990s, they said. Such insecticides are among the most widely used in the world, popular because they kill insects by paralyzing nerves but have lower toxicity for other animals. Scientists said they suspected the bee die-offs might be due to particles of the insecticide made airborne by the pneumatic drilling machines used for planting that forcefully suck seeds in and expel a burst of air containing high concentrations of particles of the insecticide coating.
- Source: http://www.upi.com/Technology_News/2012/03/15/Insecticides-linked-to-honeybee-die-offs/UPI-96311331840460/?spt=mps&or=5

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Water Sector

29. *March 20, Coeur d'Alene Press* – (Idaho) **Sewage enters St. Maries River.** The Fernwood Water and Sewer District reported March 19 that up to 11,000 gallons of wastewater escaped into the St. Maries River in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, March 15. The district's pumping station No. 1 was overwhelmed due to heavy rain and melting snow, causing the release. The district said most of the wastewater that reached the river was stormwater, and that the river was at flood stage at the time, diluting the waste. The district reported in late February that wastewater from the pumping station flowed into the river as well. In a news release the district said it did not anticipate any public health hazard as a result of the release and the river is not being used for "contact recreation" because of cold temperatures and high flows. The district is in the process of correcting system deficiencies that allowed the releases to occur that could cost around \$500,000 or \$600,000.
- Source: http://www.cdapress.com/news/local_news/article_0b029264-b2c7-593c-ac88-9cbfe132833f.html
30. *March 19, Evansville Courier-Press* – (Kentucky) **Chemical leak at water plant called a 'fluke'.** The chemical leak at the water treatment plant in Henderson, Kentucky, March 16 was a "fluke," but members of the Henderson Water Utility board would like staff to take steps to ensure it does not happen again, the Evansville Courier-

Press reported March 19. All leakage from the 6,000-gallon tank of sodium hypochlorite was collected by the containment area; there were no injuries, although a few people in Red Banks Park were told to evacuate as a precaution. "We were able to take it slowly to the wastewater plant," the director of operations said, adding that he has never seen such a PVC pipe failure in the nearly 2-dozen years he has worked at the water utility. The tank began leaking where the pipe entered the tank, and because it occurred between the tank and the valve, there was no way to shut off the leak. He added that he would like to see a different method for delivering the chemical.
Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2012/mar/19/chemical-leak-at-water-plant-given-post-mortem/>

31. *March 19, San Antonio Express News* – (Texas) **More than 100,000 gallons of sewage dumped into creek.** A collapsed sewer main dumped more than 100,000 gallons of sewage into Rosillo Creek in east San Antonio, March 18. The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) did not know the cause of the collapse and was working on containing and cleaning up the sewage March 19. The stagnant sewage spread under I-10 and was being held from going further by a makeshift dam south of the Interstate. Dead fish were spotted. Utility crews were unable to stop the flow immediately as it backed up and left the sewer system via a manhole cover, said a SAWS spokesman. The rugged terrain and muddy conditions caused several trucks to become stuck, which further impeded the cleanup efforts. The SAWS is under scrutiny by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the high number of sewer spills it has had and could be required to implement a massive \$1 billion overhaul and upgrade of its system if it is not able to reduce the number of spills and overflows.

Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/living_green_sa/article/More-than-100-000-gallons-of-sewage-dumped-into-3418870.php

32. *March 19, Enid News and Eagle* – (Oklahoma) **Medford cleanup continues.** A well designed to store natural gas liquids ruptured February 28 spewing saltwater brine and propane vapors for 4 days. The leak forced the closure of the nearby ONEOK natural gas fractionation facility and led to a 4-day voluntary evacuation of Medford, Oklahoma. The well was permanently capped and the evacuation ended March 5. The focus of the cleanup work has been on the leaked saltwater brine and preventing it from reaching groundwater or Pond Creek. An Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) spokesman said work continued the week of March 19 to flush the saltwater brine from a tributary that feeds to Pond Creek. The OCC is the lead state agency in overseeing cleanup at ONEOK Hydrocarbon. They reported workers are rinsing the creek bed, then pumping the rinsewater to a brine pit, and finally to a saltwater disposal facility. A contractor has taken over responsibility for sampling and testing the ground surrounding the leak site to determine chloride levels. The work of testing the soil surrounding the leak site has been put on hold due to persistent rainfall. According to a fact sheet by the U.S. Department of Energy, possible effects of saltwater brine leakage include groundwater contamination and conversion of soil to a saline or sodic condition that will not support plant life. While cleanup and assessment are continuing, ONEOK's natural gas fractionation and storage work has resumed.

Source: <http://enidnews.com/localnews/x223904365/Medford-cleanup-continues>

33. *March 19, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **12-year-old NC boy drowns at water treatment plant.** A boy from Garyburg, North Carolina, drowned after falling into a holding pond for treated waste water at a water treatment facility in Seaboard. Police said more than a dozen children were playing near the facility March 16 when the boy slipped on the black lining around the pond and fell into the water. Authorities said other children jumped in and held a stick out for the boy to grab, but they could not save him. Authorities searched for the boy overnight but had to stop because of lightning. Rescue squads found his body March 17.
Source: http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/national_world&id=8586092
34. *March 17, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Boil-water order lifted for northern Palm Beach County residents.** The Seacoast Utility Authority in Palm Beach County, Florida, lifted a boil water advisory March 17 after tests showed that water was not contaminated. The advisory was issued March 15 after a water main break near the water treatment plant. About 47,000 homes and 100,000 people are served by Seacoast, from Palm Beach Gardens, North Palm Beach, and Lake Park and parts of Juno Beach. Forty water samples were taken from locations throughout the service area, incubated for 18 hours and then examined, finding no contamination.
Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/boil-water-order-lifted-for-northern-palm-beach-2243767.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *March 20, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **GHS employee faces two identity theft charges.** A Greenville Hospital System employee in South Carolina has been suspended without pay after being charged with two counts of financial identity fraud. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) said she had access to patient and employee records and used that information for financial gain. GCSO investigators say the cases spanned from April 2011 to March 2012. Investigators believe she was specifically targeting individuals bearing her last name.
Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2012/mar/20/ghs-employee-faces-two-identity-theft-charges-ar-3443535/>
36. *March 20, WOIO 19 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Seven people charged in prescription drug ring bust.** A 39-count indictment was filed charging 7 people from Cleveland with various offenses related to a scheme to fraudulently obtain thousands of prescription painkiller pills, law enforcement officials announced March 20. Health care fraud and aggravated identity theft charges were also filed against some defendants, who are accused of forging prescriptions for Oxycontin and Percocet pills, hiring people to have them filled at pharmacies throughout the region, then selling the pills on the street between 2011 and 2012, according to the indictment.
Source: <http://www.woio.com/story/17199452/drug-ring-bust>

Government Facilities Sector

37. *March 20, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **2 arrested for alleged bomb threats against Alhambra High.** A student and a former student at Alhambra High School in Alhambra, California, were arrested for allegedly making a series of bomb threats. Alhambra police said the school received at least six threats by phone since the beginning of 2012. The most recent was March 15. No explosives were found, but the threats disrupted the campus. District officials said they will proceed with appropriate disciplinary action against the student.
Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-alhambra-high-bomb-threats,0,7343954.story?track=rss>
38. *March 19, WIAT 42 Birmingham* – (Alabama) **Hundreds of homes tested for mercury following Putnam spill.** Screening results from clothing and shoes of about 200 students and staff led the Environmental Protection Agency to test 137 homes and several school buses for possible mercury contamination, WIAT 42 Birmingham reported March 19. The superintendent said the cleanup in the aftermath of the March 12 spill at Putnam Middle School in Birmingham, Alabama, is going somewhat ahead of schedule and classes are set to resume March 26. The Birmingham Board of Education held a special called meeting March 19 to give the superintendent authority to enter into any additional contracts required to finish all cleanup efforts. Four school buses and eight residential homes were cleaned as a result of elevated mercury readings.
Source: <http://www.cbs42.com/content/localnews/story/Hundreds-of-Homes-Tested-for-Mercury-Following/w2wHXirfIE-zFXhGyJ0IwA.csp>
39. *March 19, University of Texas Daily Texan* – (Texas) **Former graduate student under investigation for possible theft of chemical materials.** The FBI and the Travis County Sheriff's Office are investigating the possible theft of chemical materials from a University of Texas (UT) lab by a former graduate student, according to university officials, the University of Texas Daily Texan reported March 19. A UT statement said Travis County sheriff's deputies apprehended the suspect for driving while intoxicated December 21, 2011. A search by university police of the suspect's apartment turned up 11 vials containing a non-dangerous fragment of toxic Ricin DNA, and 44 plastic vials. Naturally occurring Ricin is highly toxic and is produced by the castor oil plant. UT's director of environmental health and safety said a biochemistry professor and his lab employees were researching an antidote for the Ricin toxin. The lab was subject to regular self-inspection and an official inspection by the director at least once a year. According to the university statement, UT does not possess any biological agents that are monitored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control because all potentially harmful toxins are held in extremely small quantities.
Source: <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/university/2012/03/19/former-graduate-student-under-investigation-possible-theft-chemical-materials>

40. *March 17, Melbourne Florida Today* – (Florida; National) **KSC employees warned over effects of laptop theft.** March 16, the John F. Kennedy Space Center on Merritt Island, Florida alerted about 2,300 employees that personal information, including their Social Security numbers, was put at risk by the theft of an employee’s laptop computer. A NASA human resources employee reported the laptop stolen from a car outside their Orange County home March 5. By March 14, the center realized many more personnel were affected and more personal data was accessible than originally thought, said a spokesman for Kennedy Space Center. In addition to Social Security numbers, the information included names, race, national origin, gender, date of birth, contact information, college affiliation, and grade-point average. The spokesman said e-mail notification was sent to about 2,300 civil servants and student interns — virtually the center’s entire non-contractor workforce — and letters would follow. The e-mail said there was no evidence the information was abused and the “probability is low” that it would be, because the computer was password-protected, and the information was not believed to be the reason for the laptop theft.

Source: http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20120317/BUSINESS/303170018/KSC-employees-warned-over-effects-laptop-theft?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home&nlick_check=1?nlick_check=1

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Emergency Services Sector

41. *March 20, Officer.com* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas officer critical, firefighter killed after being struck at crash scene.** A Jacksonville, Arkansas police officer is in critical condition after he was struck by a motorist while working the scene of a wreck March 19, in an incident that also killed one firefighter and left another in critical condition. The driver of the van that struck them was charged with second-degree murder and two counts of criminal intent to commit second-degree murder, according to KARK 4 Little Rock. He allegedly did not attempt to stop his vehicle, though witnesses said he told authorities his accelerator pedal became stuck. The firefighter was pronounced dead at the scene while the injured firefighter and police officer were transported to area hospitals in critical condition.

Source: <http://www.officer.com/news/10658591/arkansas-officer-critical-firefighter-killed-after-being-struck-at-crash-scene>

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Information Technology Sector

42. *March 20, Threatpost* – (International) **Newly compiled driver shows Duqu authors still at work.** One of the unique things about Duqu is the malware appears to be specifically tailored to each new victim. Rather than writing one piece of malware and spreading it out to a large potential victim base, the crew behind Duqu had a small, specially selected group of targets, each of which got its own specifically crafted

components and drivers. Researchers say the number of known victims of Duqu is small, perhaps fewer than 50. In the last several days, researchers at Symantec found a newly compiled driver for Duqu, leading to speculation the attackers are still tweaking and modifying their original work. March 20, one of the researchers who did the initial analysis of Duqu at Kaspersky Lab said while the new driver did not have any new functionality, there are indications it is not just new, but it is also aimed at evading existing detection techniques for Duqu.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/newly-compiled-driver-shows-duqu-authors-still-work-032012

43. *March 20, The Register* – (International) **Facebook 'cloaking' flaw allows unexpected snooping.** A University College London research student and the chair of information communication technology told a conference of what they call a "zero day privacy loophole" in Facebook. Facebook users are not told when friends de-activate or re-activate accounts. That means trouble if the account is re-activated, as the newly re-activated friend regains access to anything their connections posted. Once they elicit information, they can de-activate the account again and their friends will almost certainly not know what happened or that they shared information.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/20/facebook_deactivated_friend_zero_day/

44. *March 20, The Register* – (International) **Trial finds eight ways to defeat Google, PayPal and other SSOs.** U.S. security researchers unearthed flaws in the single sign-on (SSO) services operated by a number of portals, including Google and PayPal. Idiosyncratic methods of integrating the APIs, SDKs, and sample code supplied by identity providers are creating exploitable security shortcomings, according to a study by two researchers at Indiana University and one Microsoft researcher. In particular, the researchers said, the process of token exchange is often mangled, which creates the possibility for attackers to sign into targeted accounts without having to crack an intended victim's password. The study — touted as the first field trial of popular Web SSO systems — focused on implementation problems rather than fundamental flaws in the cryptographic techniques at play, which are fundamentally fine. The exercise uncovered eight serious logic flaws in high-profile ID providers and relying party Web sites (which rely on authentication cookies to establish a user session). ID providers affected included OpenID (including Google ID and PayPal Access); Facebook; the JanRain platform; Freelancer; FarmVille; and Sears.com. Every one of the eight flaws allows an attacker to sign in as a targeted user. The researchers contacted the sites involved, which have largely deployed a fix.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/20/sso_security_shortcomings/

45. *March 20, Help Net Security* – (International) **Beware of fake Google AV.** According to GFI researchers, a number of pages offering "Google antivirus" software and threatening to block the users' access to Google services because of an infection have recently appeared, and they are listed among Google and Bing search results. The offered software is actually a rogue AV solution that has nothing to do with Google, and will likely try to bilk money from the victims. Currently, very few AV solutions detect the variant in question.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2040&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+\(Help+Net+Security\)&utm_content=Google+Reader](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2040&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)&utm_content=Google+Reader)

46. *March 19, Dark Reading* – (International) **Duqu code written by seasoned programmers, researchers find.** March 19, Kaspersky Lab researchers announced that, with the help of the security community, they were able to unravel the origins of a well-masked programming language used to write the communications module in Duqu, the information-stealing malware that researchers at Kaspersky and other firms say is connected to Stuxnet. They also said that the same group of actors is behind both malware attacks. It turns out the attackers used object-oriented C language compiled with Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 — which indicates it was not a typical malware writer behind it, but more of an "old school" programmer, according to Kaspersky researchers. "This is not common for malware writers, that's for sure," Kaspersky's chief malware analyst said. "This looks like a normal style for coding enterprise-wide applications." He said the language used is commonly a tool for professional software developers, which suggests the Duqu writers were not a typical cybercriminal outfit. Earlier in March, Kaspersky asked the security community for assistance in identifying the programming language, which did not appear to be one they ever saw before.
Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/vulnerabilities/232602839/duqu-code-written-by-seasoned-programmers-researchers-find.html>

For another story, see item [40](#)

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

47. *March 20, WDIO 10 Duluth* – (Minnesota) **Power outage knocks out Duluth media.** WDIO 10 Duluth and other TV and FM stations in Duluth, Minnesota, were knocked off the air March 20 by a power outage. A cause was not immediately known, nor did officials provide an exact number of customers affected. Eleven of the 16 FM radio stations which transmit from the hillside were off the air. AM stations were unaffected because their transmitters are in different parts of the city.
Source: <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S2545096.shtml?cat=10335>
48. *March 20, WDSU 6 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Slidell phone systems down after main break.** Slidell, Louisiana leaders said the city was experiencing a telephone

outage March 19 after an underground main line broke. The city said it was working with AT&T to repair the lines and anticipated that service would be restored within 24 hours. City leaders said that city departments could be reached via e-mail while crews were working to restore the service.

Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/r/30711868/detail.html>

49. *March 19, Springfield State Journal-Register* – (Illinois) **Lincoln radio station will be off the air another 2-4 weeks.** WLLM 1370 AM radio in Lincoln, Illinois, will be off the air another 2 to 4 weeks as the result of a March 12 electrical fire, the station's general manager said March 19. The offices have moved temporarily to another location while repairs are made to the station building. The general manager said damage to equipment was minimal and the fire did not reach the transmitter. Cornerstone Community Radio owns the not-for-profit station, which broadcasts at 1370 AM and 105.3 FM.
Source: <http://www.sj-r.com/breaking/x872948758/Lincoln-radio-station-will-be-off-the-air-another-2-4-weeks>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *March 20, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Strong storms cause damage across Houston area.** The National Weather Service investigated the possibility that at least one tornado caused damage as a line of strong storms moved through the Houston area March 20. Some workers with Lyondell-Basell suffered injuries when high winds toppled a tent. It was not clear how many workers were inside the reinforced, industrial-sized tent of about 50 feet by 100 feet. The workers were in the process of being moved, according to a company spokesman, when the tent became unstable and flipped over. Four workers were checked out at a hospital. The storms are also blamed for a fire at the San Jacinto Steam Electric Station NRG facility in La Porte. A spokesman said it appeared lightning struck the switch yard causing a fire. High winds broke some windows at the Bank of America building on I-10 near Federal. A light pole was knocked down, and some vehicles in the parking lot suffered broken windows and wind damage. An official with Harris County Flood Control District reported several trees and fence lines down. Winds in that area were estimated by radar to be between 55 to 60 mph.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8586817>
51. *March 20, WABC 7 New York* – (New York) **Police look for woman who set trash can fires.** Police were searching for an arsonist who set several trash cans on fire in the Midtown Manhattan area of New York City, March 19. Investigators said a woman used some kind of chemical accelerant to fuel fires in 15 trash cans. The first fire was in front of the New York Public Library. Shortly after, authorities received a 911 call about a trash can fire a block away. Police said the same person may be responsible for

similar fires in the area during the week of March 5.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local/new_york&id=8587755

52. *March 19, Reuters* – (New York) **New York police tighten security at Jewish sites.** New York City police ramped up security at synagogues and other Jewish institutions March 19 following the deadly attack on a Jewish school in Toulouse, France. The tightened surveillance and increased patrols at more than 40 locations citywide came in response to the Toulouse attack and unspecified "events abroad," according to a spokesman for the New York City Police Department (NYPD). "Although there is no known specific threat against New York City, the NYPD has taken the precaution of stepping up coverage of Jewish neighborhoods and institutions in the city," he said.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/sns-rt-france-crimenewyork11e8ejb15-20120319,0,2615659.story>
53. *March 19, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Oregon) **Three-alarm fire hits Oregon church, school.** A three-alarm fire hit the Living Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool in Tualatin, Oregon, March 19. Much of the school building was damaged and firefighters used a defensive approach to try and save a newer sanctuary, according to a Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue official. An initial effort to enter with building with hoses was called off because of the thick flames and concerns about the building's structural integrity. Hot spots continued to flare up in attic spaces after the initial fire was put down. The fire started in the school. The cause remained under investigation.
Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/news/regional/143343356.html>
54. *March 19, Buffalo News* – (New York) **Gorilla, keeper shared in surprise of escape.** A silverback gorilla escaped through an unsecured door at the Buffalo Zoo in Buffalo, New York, March 19, causing minor injuries to one zookeeper and prompting the Buffalo Police SWAT Team to be activated. Zoo officials instituted their emergency procedures for an animal on the loose, and escorted visitors into safe areas. The zoo's animal-escape team then used a blow pipe to immobilize the gorilla with a tranquilizer dart blown through an open window. The gorilla escaped through one barrier in a double-locked area but still remained in a locked section and had no access to public areas.
Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/north-buffalo-hertel/article770671.ece>
55. *March 19, KERO 23 Bakersfield* – (California) **Arsonist sets multiple fires within 90 minutes.** The Bakersfield Fire Department believes one man set several arson fires within an hour and a half March 19 in northeast Bakersfield, California, setting ablaze different things in different locations. Security cameras at a Farmer Boys restaurant filmed the arsonist as he set fire to a dumpster behind the business. "He goes back and looks into a dumpster, and it appears he's setting up the boxes that we have back there in our trash bins and walks away. As soon as he does, you see white smoke coming up and in seconds it starts flaming up," the restaurant's manager said. Police are currently looking for a suspect based a description from the video footage.
Source: http://www.turnto23.com/east_county/30717835/detail.html

56. *March 19, YNN Central New York* – (New York) **Oswego apartment fire.** More than a dozen tenants in Oswego, New York, were displaced after fire damaged an apartment building March 19. Firefighters were called to the 12-unit building when flames broke out on the building's third floor. The damage was contained to the top floor, but firefighters said many of the other apartments suffered smoke and water damage. The cause of the fire appeared electrical, an official cause was not yet named. No one was injured.

Source: http://centralny.ynn.com/content/top_stories/577610/oswego-apartment-fire/

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

57. *March 19, KARK 4 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Flood threat closing some national forest sites in Arkansas.** National forest officials in Arkansas temporarily closed recreation area campsites on the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests as strong storms moved across the state, heeding the warning that days of heavy rain were expected the week of March 19. Weather reports predicted 6 inches or more of rain and potential flooding in some areas. Officials warned everyone to be on high alert for potential flooding throughout all areas of both national forests and said some roads and dispersed camping sites may also not be safe to use.

Source: http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=520762

58. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Wildfire chars 450 acres in Santa Cruz County.** Emergency personnel said a wildfire that broke out in eastern Santa Cruz County, Arizona, burned close to 450 acres. A captain of the Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department said a coalition of local firefighters and Coronado National Forest officials responded to the fire March 17. He said officials contained the fire by early March 18. Officials said dry conditions and high winds were to blame. Rain helped to extinguish hot spots.

Source: http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/weather/apx-AZCoronado-ForestWildfire_72429457-03182012

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Dams Sector

59. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **County approves emergency bond for Lake Delhi.** Delaware County supervisors gave the go-ahead March 19 to issuing up to \$3 million in bonds to help fund the rebuilding of the Lake Delhi dam on the Maquoketa river in Iowa. KGAN 2 Cedar Rapids said the unanimous vote followed a public hearing. The dam collapsed during flooding in 2010, nearly draining the 9-mile lake on the river. Supervisors will meet later in March with the county's bonding attorney. Rebuilding the dam will cost about \$12 million. Lawmakers have promised \$5 million in aid. Lake Delhi residents have approved raising their own taxes to fund a \$6 million

bond, with \$1.7 million donated in private funds.

Source: <http://www.whbf.com/story/17197234/county-approves-emergency-bond-for-lake-delhi>

60. *March 19, WSAU 550 AM Wausau* – (Wisconsin) **Stevens Point approves McDill Pond dam plan.** Stevens Point, Wisconsin leaders accepted a finalized version of the agreement to share costs of the McDill Pond repairs, WSAU 550 AM Wausau reported March 19. Under the agreement, the city, the county, and the McDill Lake Association will all split the remaining cost of the repairs, which are estimated at \$366,789. The property would then be turned over to the Lake Association, with the city picking up the cost of minor maintenance on the dam. Under the agreement, the city would pay the cost of any repairs to the dam under \$3,000, and the Lake District and the city will split any costs over that amount. The county board planned to vote on the measure March 20. The pond remained drawn down while repairs are pending.

Source: <http://wsau.com/news/articles/2012/mar/20/stevens-point-approves-mcdill-pond-dam-plan/>

61. *March 18, Cache Valley Daily* – (Utah) **Vehicles stuck at Newton Rez spillway require Haz-Mat cleanup.** An SUV got stuck in the spillway of Newton Reservoir in northern Utah, sometime between March 17-18. Fire crews from Newton, Cache, and Smithfield responded to the area and soon called in the Bear River Health Department to assist in cleaning up gas and oil that spilled into the water. The assistant chief of the Newton Fire Department said the vehicle accessed the restricted area below the reservoir and became trapped in the deep water. Another vehicle attempted to remove the first vehicle and became stuck itself. Reservoir officials shut off the flow of water from the reservoir March 18. A local towing company completed the removal of the trapped vehicles while a small amount of gas and oil contaminated the water. Once the cleanup was complete, crews left the scene and the spillway was reopened. Officials said further investigation of the case and whether charges will be filed will be handled and determined by the Cache County Sheriff's Office.

Source: <http://www.cachevalleydaily.com/news/local/Vehicles-stuck-at-Newton-Rez-spillway-require-Haz-Mat-cleanup-143140156.html>

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