



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 February 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to AVweb, the Federal Aviation Administration admits that it is relaxing lightning protection standards for commercial aircraft because manufacturers, notably Boeing with the 787, can not meet the rules that have been in place since 2001. (See item [14](#))
- The Associated Press reports that a holding tank at a Caterpillar facility in a Chicago suburb broke Sunday, spilling about 65,000 gallons of oil sludge and contaminating a 3-mile section of the Des Plaines River. (See item [20](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 9, KPIX 5 San Francisco* – (California) **SF underground explosion left 4,000 without power.** More than 4,000 Pacific Gas and Electric Co. customers lost power for about two hours Sunday night in San Francisco after equipment underground exploded. The explosion was reported around 7:50 p.m. at Willow and Franklin streets, knocking out power to 4,238 customers in the Western Addition and Pacific Heights neighborhoods, a PG&E spokesman said. No one was injured, and the explosion did not cause any other damage, he said. All power was restored just before 10 p.m. Source: <http://cbs5.com/local/power.outage.explosion.2.930286.html>

2. *February 8, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Massive gas release on North Slope could have destroyed pump station, officials say.** A massive release of Prudhoe Bay natural gas that filtered into a trans-Alaska pipeline pump station could have destroyed the building and caused an extended shutdown of Alaska’s North Slope oil fields, pipeline operators and investigators said. The incident January 15 occurred as workers for BP PLC, which operates the nation’s largest oil field, used pressurized natural gas to move a cleaning pig through a corroded 34-inch pipeline that was being prepared for decommission. When the pig — a device inserted to scrape walls, detect abnormalities, or perform other functions — became stuck, a large volume of gas bypassed it and went to Pump Station 1. The rush of natural gas overwhelmed systems before escaping out of storage tanks into the atmosphere. An investigation by federal and state authorities is under way into the incident, a federal regulator said Friday. Officials at Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., the company that operates the 800-mile pipeline, acknowledge that a fire or explosion could have endangered the station’s 60-plus workers and caused a shutdown of oil fields. Alyeska’s report faults BP, a nearly 50 percent owner of Alyeska, for mistakes leading up to the Pump Station 1 incident. A BP spokesman acknowledged planning lapses.  
Source: <http://newsminer.com/news/2009/feb/08/massive-gas-release-north-slope-could-have-destroy/>
  
3. *February 6, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Columbia Gas says it doesn’t own explosion site.** Columbia Gas says it does not own or operate the natural gas compressor building in Springhill Township, Pennsylvania, where a natural gas explosion was reported just before noon on February 6. Fayette County Emergency Management officials originally identified Columbia Gas as the owner of the building in Springhill Township, about 50 miles south of Pittsburgh near the West Virginia border. Now emergency officials say they are trying to figure out who owns the building. Nobody was hurt in the explosion. A Columbia spokeswoman says the building does not belong to the company, and the equipment and transmission lines there also do not belong to the company.  
Source: <http://www.timesleader.com/news/ap?articleID=1597702>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *February 8, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Plant’s workers exposed to mercury, EPA says.** On September 24 at the Searles Valley Minerals plant in San Bernardino County, California, a demolition crew toppled a 50-foot-high tank, accidentally spilling an estimated 90 to 100 pounds of highly toxic mercury and contaminating the workers’ clothing. On October 10, a crew knocked down a second 50-foot-high tank, spilling another estimated 90 to 100 pounds of mercury at the same plant. Together, the two incidents produced the West’s biggest spill of mercury in two decades, said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on-scene coordinator. He said he has referred the matter to the U.S. Department of Justice for review. Government documents suggest that Searles Valley Minerals failed to follow proper procedures for reporting the spills and also initially understated the amount of mercury

that had been spilled. According to an EPA report and interviews, the company's failure to follow proper reporting procedures might have exacerbated health risks to six demolition workers who still had mercury on their clothes weeks after the first spill. Searles Valley Minerals' executive director defended the company's actions, saying the September 24 spill was inadvertent and the October 10 spill occurred because of a contractor's mistake. The spills occurred when a contractor was tearing down an old portion of the plant that had been used to produce fertilizer. On the day of the September 24 spill, Searles Valley Minerals notified the state's Office of Emergency Services about a spill of one pint of mercury — equal to 14 pounds. About three weeks later, the company amended its report to 90 pounds. The company reported the October 10 spill to the state as six pounds and about a week later amended that amount to 90 pounds. The company did not immediately notify the National Response Center about either spill. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/02/07/MNJL15B5HM.DTL>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

5. *February 9, Reuters* – (Arkansas) **Entergy shuts Arkansas 1 reactor due to fire.** At the Arkansas Nuclear One station in Pope County, Alabama, Entergy Corp. shut Unit 1 from 90 percent power on February 7 due to a fire in the turbine building, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in a report. The company attributed the fire to a failed bonnet on a manual valve which had unthreaded during operation releasing hydrogen in the vicinity of the hydrogen add station. Entergy declared an unusual event due to the fire. An unusual event is the lowest of the NRC emergency classifications. At the time of the fire, the unit was ramping up after exiting an outage begun by February 6 due to a problem with a control rod drive motor. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0950984120090209>
6. *February 6, Reuters* – (New York) **NY Ginna reactor briefly loses control room power.** An “unusual event” was declared and quickly terminated at Constellation Energy Group Inc.'s Ginna nuclear power station in New York, the NRC said on February 6. In the NRC's event report, the commission said the unusual event — meaning there is a minor problem, or potential problem, but no threat to the health or safety of the public — was declared late February 5 due to “loss of main control board annunciators.” There was ongoing maintenance at the time, however, no specific cause for the loss had been identified, the NRC said in its event notification report. Based on testing, troubleshooting, and restoration of power to the main control board annunciators, the station exited the unusual event at 4:35 a.m. on February 6, the report said. It continued to run at full power on February 6. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0643489420090206>
7. *February 6, Payson Roundup* – (Arizona) **Old radioactive mine tailings pose slow-motion threat.** After decades of delay, the U.S. Forest Service is seeking public

comments about a slow-motion contamination risk — the radioactive dirt piles left over from now-abandoned uranium mines in the Young Ranger District along popular Workman Creek in the Sierra Anchas. Most of the once-sealed mine shafts are now open after vandals pried loose the timbers and tore down the warning signs. The mine shafts still have radiation levels that could cause cancer and other health problems. Moreover, the mining companies left faintly radioactive tailings at the entrance to the mine shafts and in several sites along Workman Creek where they dumped the ore waste, including two public campsites, currently closed. Many of these tailings dump sites lie along Workman Creek, which drains into Roosevelt Lake, which is a drinking water reservoir for Phoenix. Tests show sufficiently high radiation levels in the creek that the Forest Service advises people against eating fish caught in the creek. However, no dangerous levels of radiation have reached Roosevelt Lake, say Forest Service officials. The Forest Service commissioned a study of the extent of the problem and now seeks public comments on that study. The Forest Service will continue gathering comments until March 3, before making a decision on a cleanup plan.

Source:

[http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2009/feb/06/old\\_radioactive\\_mine\\_tailings\\_pose\\_slowmotion\\_thre/](http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2009/feb/06/old_radioactive_mine_tailings_pose_slowmotion_thre/)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *February 7, Reuters* – (National) **White House mulls Pentagon oversight for nuke weapons: report.** The U.S. Presidential Administration is considering moving nuclear weapons production management from the Energy Department to the Pentagon, the New York Times reported on February 7. The change, which the report said would end more than 60 years of civilian control over nuclear bomb manufacture, would be meant to let the Energy Department focus more on energy research, production, and conservation, the Times said. The White House has ordered the two departments to look at costs and benefits of transferring two national laboratories that design weapons, the site in Nevada where they can be tested, as well as all or part of four plants that build and maintain bombs and store weapons fuel, the Times said. The idea was contained in a document the White House Office of Management and Budget sent the two departments, a copy of which was obtained by the newspaper. The departments have a September 30 deadline for completion of the study, the Times said. Oversight of cleanup of polluted weapons plants would remain with Energy, the Times said.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/usPoliticsNews/idUKTRE51600120090207>

9. *February 6, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Space shuttle launch delayed again for valve tests.** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has delayed the next space shuttle launch again. Now the space shuttle Discovery will not lift off before February 22. NASA says it needs the extra time to finish testing hydrogen gas fuel valves. A small part of one valve broke during the launch of the last shuttle flight in November. On Tuesday, NASA postponed the launch of Discovery from February 12 until at least February 19. A NASA spokesman said engineers are still conducting tests, which are taking longer than expected. The worry is that if the valve tip came off, it

could damage part of the shuttle. Discovery and its seven-man crew are set to deliver the last set of solar wings to the international space station.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090206/ap\\_on\\_sc/space\\_shuttle;\\_ylt=AvK56UbFV9v2FvY\\_eglzF\\_us0NUE;\\_ylu=X3oDMTFIMjVtOW90BHBvcwMxMDkEc2VjA2FjY29yZGIvbl9zY2llbmNIBHNsawNzcGFjZXNodXR0bGU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090206/ap_on_sc/space_shuttle;_ylt=AvK56UbFV9v2FvY_eglzF_us0NUE;_ylu=X3oDMTFIMjVtOW90BHBvcwMxMDkEc2VjA2FjY29yZGIvbl9zY2llbmNIBHNsawNzcGFjZXNodXR0bGU)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *February 8, MarketWatch* – (California; Georgia) **Two banks in California, 1 in Georgia are closed.** Regulators shut two banks in California and one in the Atlanta area on February 6, bringing the number of U.S. failures this year to nine, while marking the 34th collapse since the recession began. FirstBank Financial Services, McDonough, Georgia, Alliance Bank of Culver City, California, and County Bank, Merced, California, were seized, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC). Regions Bank of Birmingham, Alabama, has agreed to assume all of FirstBank's deposits and purchase roughly \$17 million of the failed bank's assets, the FDIC said. As for California's Alliance Bank, San Diego-based California Bank & Trust has agreed to assume the failed bank's deposits, the FDIC said. Finally, regarding County Bank, Westamerica Bancorp, San Rafael, California, will buy the bank's assets and assume its deposits.

Source: [http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/two-banks-california-one-georgia/story.aspx?guid={0ADB4918-43F9-46A3-8EDD-19A2503A81B3}&dist=msr\\_2](http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/two-banks-california-one-georgia/story.aspx?guid={0ADB4918-43F9-46A3-8EDD-19A2503A81B3}&dist=msr_2)

11. *February 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Calif. fugitive charged in \$100M mortgage fraud.** Federal prosecutors said February 6 that they charged a suspect in a \$100 million mortgage fraud and investment scheme that spanned five states after he fled the country in a private jet the week of February 1-7. Two assistant U.S. attorneys said the 27-year-old suspect had been cooperating in their investigation before he fled. They believe he flew to Mexico on February 2 by chartering a private jet for \$156,000. Federal agents are investigating the suspect, directors of Loomis Wealth Solutions, a Roseville, California-based investment company, and people affiliated with several related companies. A sworn statement by an Internal Revenue Service agent says they had defrauded investors and mortgage companies of \$100 million since 2006, although an attorney for the owner of Loomis Wealth Solutions denied his client did anything illegal. The suspect's arrest warrant says the scam involved 500 properties in at least five states, including Arizona, California, Florida, and Illinois. The fifth state was not disclosed. New York-based Citimortgage Inc. alone lost more than \$6 million on 15 bogus loans, according to the IRS affidavit. The other lenders were not listed.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/02/06/financial/f161919S28.DTL>

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## Transportation Sector

12. *February 9, Associated Press* – (Puerto Rico) **Charter plane crashes off Puerto Rico; 6 Americans missing.** A single-engine plane carrying six people crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the north coast of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Coast Guard said Monday. Authorities located what appears to be the wreckage in waters off the northwestern city of Quebradillas, and helicopters and boats have been searching for survivors, a Coast Guard spokesman said. Witnesses reported seeing an explosion on the Cessna 206 before it crashed near nightfall Sunday about a half-mile off shore, a police spokeswoman said. The pilot and all five passengers are from the United States mainland, said the president of Tropical Aviation Corp., the plane’s charter company. Their identities have not been released pending family notification. Rescue crews have reported seeing oil slicks and part of the plane’s fuselage near the coast. Officials are hoping the search for survivors will become easier after daybreak.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,489945,00.html>
  
13. *February 9, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Repairs started on crumbling overpass.** Just days before a piece of concrete from Bowker Overpass in the Kenmore Square area smashed through a car’s rear windshield Saturday, the state began emergency repairs on the overpass, which had become riddled with potholes this winter. But the section of the overpass where the concrete broke off was considered one of the sounder stretches of the crumbling overpass, and had not been scheduled for repairs. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is responsible for maintenance of the overpass. At about 5 p.m. Saturday, a car that had been traveling west on Storrow Drive took an exit ramp toward Kenmore Square. But as the car drove down the ramp, a piece of concrete — 6 inches by 8 inches — fell from the overpass, smashing through the back windshield, according to a state trooper. The driver and two passengers were not injured. Yesterday, structural engineers inspected the ramps while crews made repairs, including installation of a wooden ceiling to catch any other falling debris. A Department of Conservation and Recreation commissioner said he expected ramps to reopen by 5 a.m. on February 9 but said his agency would notify the media if the ramps remain closed. DCR officials believe that the sudden spike in temperatures Saturday caused the concrete to come loose. Although state inspectors have not deemed the overpass structurally deficient, the Bowker is scheduled for a major rehabilitation or replacement as part of \$3 billion in bridge improvements identified by the state. The design phase is expected to begin late next year, one of more than a dozen bridge, tunnel, and overpass projects slated along the Charles River. In some cases, problems are so dire the state has embarked on temporary repairs.  
Source:  
[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/02/09/repairs\\_started\\_on\\_crumbling\\_overpass/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/02/09/repairs_started_on_crumbling_overpass/)
  
14. *February 8, AVweb* – (National) **FAA relaxes lightning protection for 787.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) admits that it is relaxing lightning protection standards for commercial aircraft because manufacturers, notably Boeing with the 787, cannot meet the rules that have been in place since 2001. “To this day, we have not had

one manufacturer that has been able to demonstrate compliance with that rule,” said the head of the FAA’s Seattle office dealing with commercial-airplane certification. “We decided it’s time to re-evaluate our approach.” In the 787’s case, that re-evaluation involves allowing a single level of spark protection for some parts in the fuel tanks and wings rather than the triple redundancy that the 2001 rule requires. The FAA and Boeing argue that a new system that will pump inert nitrogen into the void of emptying fuel tanks more than makes up for the lessened spark protection but FAA inspectors, many of them former Boeing employees, have formally challenged that view. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association submitted a formal critique to the agency saying the relaxed standards put the 787 “one failure away from catastrophe.” While the engineers say the tank inerting system is a big improvement, they note that the aircraft’s certification will allow it to fly without the system operating if it breaks down. Boeing insists the 787 will be the most lightning-resistant aircraft ever made.

Source:

[http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FAARelaxesLightningProtectionFor787\\_199725-1.html](http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FAARelaxesLightningProtectionFor787_199725-1.html)

15. *February 7, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Three killed in Catalina plane crash.** As rescue crews on Friday discovered the bodies of three people in the wreckage of an Orange County-based tour airplane that crashed in the rain on a remote Catalina Island hilltop, questions emerged about the pilot’s qualifications to handle charter flights. The pilot flew the fixed-wing Beechcraft Bonanza aircraft out of Orange County’s John Wayne Airport at 1:30 p.m. February 5. The Coast Guard and law enforcement officials began searching Catalina and nearby waters with patrol boats and aircraft after the man’s fiancée reported that she had not heard from him. The passengers, a man and a woman, were out-of-state visitors, but their identities had not been released pending family notification, said an Orange County Sheriff’s Department spokesman. It was raining and cloudy when the plane took off from the island, making weather and poor visibility probable factors in the crash.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-me-catalina-plane-crash7-2009feb07,0,6108686.story>

16. *February 6, KXNT 840 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Odor investigated on plane at McCarran.** An odor on a plane at McCarran Airport brought out the Clark County Fire Department’s Hazmat team Thursday evening. The Southwest Airlines flight arrived in Las Vegas from Kansas City, Missouri around 5:20 p.m., but was moved away from its gate while a check was conducted. Some passengers and crew members in the rear of the plane complained of a strange odor, along with burning and itchy eyes. Investigators initially thought that a can of pepper spray had exploded inside the aircraft, but they now believe smoking electrical wires were responsible for the odor.

Source: <http://www.kxnt.com/Odor-Investigated-On-Plane-At-McCarran/3802772>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *February 9, Salem Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Suspicious package leads to**

**evacuation.** The discovery on February 7 of a suspicious package sent from a military base led to an evacuation and a four-hour police investigation. Someone called authorities to report a brown package at 9:22 a.m. The package was sent from a military base and was directed to a Vancouver, Washington address. It was found in the parking lot at Telecare Recovery Center, a residential facility for people who recently have been released from Oregon State Hospital, said a police spokesman. The Salem police bomb squad and Woodburn police evacuated three houses in the area while ensuring the box was not an explosive device. The package contained packaging material, and an enclosed document showed the box seemed once to have held a guitar, said the police official.

Source:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20090209/NEWS/902090321/1001/news>

18. *February 8, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **8 post offices receive letters with threat of bombings.** Eight southern Minnesota post offices are on alert after each received a bomb threat. Eight letters, all delivered sometime during the week of February 2-6, were sent to postmasters, warning that bombs would be placed at their offices “as part of a succession of eight Post Office bombing incidents,” according to a memo sent to post office employees. The post offices targeted by the letters were in the 560 ZIP code area: Mankato, North Mankato, St. James, Lake Crystal, Madelia, New Ulm, Sleepy Eye and Le Center. An official with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said that the incident remains under investigation and that each building was swept for explosives. Nothing was found. He declined to discuss details of the letter, citing the investigation.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/39265182.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUUF>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

19. *February 6, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (Alaska) **Alaska firm recalls sausage products for possible listeria contamination.** Alaska Sausage Company, Inc., an Anchorage, Alaska, firm, is recalling approximately 872 pounds of sausage products that may be contaminated with listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced on February 6. The sausage products were produced on January 27, 2009 and distributed to institutions and retail establishments in Alaska. The problem was discovered through the firm’s microbiological sampling program. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product.

Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_005\\_2009\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_005_2009_Release/index.asp)

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## **Water Sector**



20. *February 9, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **65,000 gallons of oil sludge spills near Chicago.** A holding tank at a Caterpillar facility in a Chicago suburb broke Sunday, spilling about 65,000 gallons of oil sludge and contaminating a 3-mile section of the Des Plaines River, officials said. The substance was reported to be hydraulic and cutting oil, said a spokeswoman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. “It is being contained, and there is no evidence of a fish kill or harm to water fowl,” she said in an e-mail. Most of the sludge spilled on land, but 6,000 gallons seeped into Des Plaines River water, a U.S. Coast Guard petty officer said. He said the oil waste poses no risk to human health but could be dangerous to animals in the contaminated area. The Coast Guard said barge and boat traffic along the river had been stopped. Caterpillar Inc., the Peoria-based maker of mining and construction machinery, confirmed in a statement Sunday that “an undetermined amount of waste oil” overflowed from a storage area at the company’s manufacturing facility in Joliet. The Environmental Protection Agency said the oil waste leaked when a pump failed on a 40,000-gallon open-air holding tank. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/08/AR2009020801640.html?hpid=sec-nation>
21. *February 8, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Water tests have cities wondering about what’s next.** Residents of 15 Minnesota communities will hear in a few months whether government tests discover firefighting chemicals in their local water supplies. In the meantime, a state Health Department official said on February 7 that any people concerned about the potential risk can purify their home water with an inexpensive, point-of-use carbon filter. State officials on February 6 announced an investigation into whether drinking water supplies have been contaminated with 3M firefighting foams that have drained from training sites used by fire departments over many years. The testing is being done as a precaution, because of the proximity of wells to fire training sites and other factors. Results will be available later this year. Source: [http://www.startribune.com/local/39264722.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7\\_V\\_nDaycUiD3aPc:\\_Yyc:aUU](http://www.startribune.com/local/39264722.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7_V_nDaycUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU)
22. *February 8, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **50,000 gallons of raw sewage spills into local creek.** An overnight power outage sent 50,000 gallons of raw sewage into a Kentuckiana creek. It happened at the Hite Creek wastewater treatment plant off Highway 22 near Oldham County. The spill left Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) crews busy overnight. The MSD director said crews responded quickly to the call after notice came in over a central communication system between all treatment plants and pumping stations. He said, “We got the warning on our computer screen about 3:15. We had a crew acted by 5 a.m.” That meant back up power service started in an hour and a half and stopped the leak, but not before a massive spill. Most of the sewage spilled into Hite Creek and floated downstream but not all of it. Some spilled onto surrounding land. Source: [http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=9809757&nav=menu31\\_2](http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=9809757&nav=menu31_2)
23. *February 6, Gazette.Net* – (Maryland) **State agrees to monitor Great Seneca Creek watershed for lead.** As part of a settlement agreement in a lawsuit filed by an

environmental activist group, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has promised to monitor water in Great Seneca Creek for the next ten years. The state has invested nearly \$1 million in environmental remediation efforts at Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg, where a skeet club fired lead shot for more than 50 years, according to a DNR statement. An activist with Potomac Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit in federal court in 2005 after lead shot was found in 2002 around Great Seneca Creek, the largest watershed in Montgomery County.

Source: [http://www.gazette.net/stories/02062009/montnew144043\\_32504.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/02062009/montnew144043_32504.shtml)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

24. *February 9, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Novel SF program tries to cut new HIV cases.** This month, San Francisco is launching an innovative program designed to catch new HIV infections shortly after they occur — when the risk of transmission is the highest. The goal of the two-year pilot project, the first of its kind in the nation, is to reduce by half the number of new HIV cases. During the two- or three-month period after infection, the viral load is highest and the danger of transmission is also at its peak. As many as half of all new infections are estimated to occur during the acute phase. The expanded testing, along with counseling, will take place at Magnet, a community health center. Clients who report engaging in recent, high-risk behavior will be invited to take viral RNA (ribonucleic acid) testing, which will identify those who are acutely infected. They will also be encouraged to alert their partners. It takes two weeks to get results. During that time, said the director of Magnet, clients are counseled to behave prudently, as if they were HIV-positive.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/02/09/BAH615P2I6.DTL>

25. *February 8, Associated Content* – (Colorado) **First U.S. case of Marburg hemorrhagic fever documented in Denver.** Rocky Mountain News reported that Marburg hemorrhagic fever, a rare disease caused by a virus indigenous to Africa, was discovered in a patient who had returned from a trip to Uganda. The patient, who has not been identified, sought treatment and was released. A follow-up testing in June 2008 revealed that the patient had contracted the deadly Marburg virus, which exhibits though flu-like symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control notified Lutheran Medical Center in Denver of its findings in January. The patient, while in Uganda, had visited a python cave in Maramagambo Forest in Queen Elizabeth Park. They came into contact with fruit bats, which can be Marburg virus carriers. Lutheran Medical Center is working with various local, state, and national health agencies to determine whether anyone on staff may have contracted the deadly virus, which has an 80 percent mortality rate, while in proximity or in contact with the patient or with any testing samples of the patient.

Source:

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1457525/first\\_u\\_s\\_case\\_of\\_marburg\\_hemorrhagic.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1457525/first_u_s_case_of_marburg_hemorrhagic.html)

26. *February 8, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Wash. hospital lockdown lifted after bomb threat.** A lockdown at Highline Medical Center in Burien was lifted after King County

sheriff's deputies checked a suspicious device in a minivan in the hospital's parking garage and found it to be a hoax. The sheriff's spokesman said the man, who walked into the hospital's emergency room at about 3:45 p.m. Sunday and said he had a bomb in his vehicle, was taken to the King County Jail Sunday night to be booked for possession of a hoax device. During the lockdown, no traffic was allowed in or out of the hospital. In addition, several nearby streets were closed.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008722656\\_apwabombthreat2ndldwr.itethru.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008722656_apwabombthreat2ndldwr.itethru.html)

27. *February 7, Washington Post* – (National) **Drug made in milk of altered goats is approved.** Federal officials on February 6 approved for the first time the sale of a drug made in animals genetically modified to secrete the compound in their milk. The drug comes from goats whose DNA was altered to produce a drug needed by patients with a rare blood disorder. The drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), called ATryn, is used to untangle blood clots in patients who lack sufficient quantities of a protein called antithrombin. The drug would be given in hospital settings. "It is novel and has great potential for where we can go with this new technology," said the director of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. The drug is made by GTC Biotherapeutics of Framingham, Massachusetts. Company scientists combined human DNA for antithrombin with goat DNA in such a way that goat's milk glands would express human antithrombin. Researchers are seeking to produce drugs in animals because they can be manufactured faster and more cheaply than by synthetic processes, said the vice president at GTC Biotherapeutics.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/06/AR2009020603727.html>

28. *February 6, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Police at 'dead end' in attack on Ark. doctor.** Detectives are "at a dead end" in their investigation of a bombing that severely injured the chairman of Arkansas State's medical board, a police chief said Friday. No witnesses have come forward with information about who entered the victim's driveway to plant the homemade bomb. Materials collected from the bomb site have been sent to a U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives laboratory in Atlanta. The victim is in critical condition and unable to speak. As chairman of the medical board, he oversaw the licensing of 12,000 physicians, but he also had a primary-care practice a mile from the site of the bombing. The bomb, planted near the front of the doctor's sport utility vehicle, detonated as he prepared to leave home for a medical board meeting in Little Rock.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29057451/>

See also: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/07/us/07explode.html>

29. *February 6, Atlanta Journal Constitution* – (Georgia) **Legionnaires' patients recovering; Grady may be source.** Grady Memorial Hospital itself is the most likely source of the Legionnaires' disease that has sickened four patients since January 1, but results from water tests inside the hospital will not be ready until February 6. All four patients are responding well to antibiotics, a hospital spokeswoman said Friday. A state

epidemiologist said the patients diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease appear to have no ties other than their treatment at the hospital in downtown Atlanta. According to the Georgia Division of Public Health, the disease can be contracted by breathing in the bacteria, carried by water mists from showers, hot tubs, or heating and air conditioning units. State and federal public health officials are helping Grady Memorial Hospital track down the source of the bacteria. Preliminary results of water tests inside the hospital will arrive February 6 and final results should be available February 12, the spokeswoman said.

Source:

[http://www.ajc.com/traffic/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2009/02/06/legionnaires\\_grady\\_atlanta.html](http://www.ajc.com/traffic/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2009/02/06/legionnaires_grady_atlanta.html)

30. *February 6, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **EPA hits Newberg company with big pesticide penalty.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reached a \$325,700 settlement with a Newberg, Oregon dental supply company for violating federal pesticide rules, the agency's largest pesticide settlement in the Pacific Northwest. The EPA's Seattle office said the company, A-dec, applied in 2006 to register a dental waterline cleaner called ICX, designed to control contamination. It sold the product from 2006 to 2008 to dental practices, dental schools, and military bases though the registration had not gone through, the agency said. A-dec's regulatory manager said the product was thoroughly tested and was approved by the Food and Drug Administration before it was sold. The company also thought it had an appropriate letter of approval from the EPA, he said. However, the EPA concluded that the letter was not enough, given some of the marketing claims in the product's labeling. A-dec said it disagrees, but settled to avoid a lengthy and costly legal battle. The violations were unintentional, the company stressed, and dentists have used the product extensively with no human health problems.

Source:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/02/epa\\_hits\\_newberg\\_company\\_with.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/02/epa_hits_newberg_company_with.html)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *February 9, Navy Times* – (Hawaii) **Grounded cruiser off Hawaii pulled free.** The cruiser Port Royal was pulled early Monday off the rocky shoal where it had run hard aground after the ship was lightened by 600 tons and the high Pacific tide came in. The cruiser was towed to a pier at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, where Navy engineers will assess damage the ship sustained after grinding onto the rock Thursday and then rolling with the waves over the weekend. The cruiser will go into a dry dock next week, said a spokesman for Pacific Fleet. He said the Navy knows the ship's rubber sonar dome was damaged in the grounding, but he did not know how badly, nor how many other problems the grounding may have caused. To lighten the ship enough to pull it off the rocks, engineers emptied the cruiser's tanks of seawater pumped in to compensate for the fuel oil burned by its engines. The ship also jettisoned its anchors and anchor chains, and offloaded more than 100 crew members. Then the Military Sealift Command salvage ship Salvor, the powerful tug Dove — which is used to tow the Sea-Based X-

Band radar — and seven other Navy and civilian tugs worked at high tide for 40 minutes early Monday to pull the Port Royal off the rocks.

Source: [http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/02/navy\\_portroyal\\_free\\_020909w/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/02/navy_portroyal_free_020909w/)

32. *February 7, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Computer virus shuts down Houston Municipal Courts.** Houston shut down part of its municipal court operations on February 6, cancelling hearings and suspending arrests for minor offenses after a computer virus infected hundreds of its machines. City officials said they expected the problems to extend at least through February 9. It was unclear how the virus got into the system, but officials promised a thorough investigation. They could not say when they hoped to have the virus removed from the city network. The disruption cascaded through city departments, leading police to temporarily abandon making some arrests for minor offenses. Officials also briefly disconnected the Houston Emergency Center. Although some emergency communications, such as dispatching, are routed through the center, police experienced no major disruptions, officials said. By the afternoon of February 6, officials said the virus appeared to be contained to 475 of the city's more than 16,000 computers. But the problems it caused grew so severe that city officials made an emergency purchase order for up to \$25,000 to bring in Gray Hat Research, a technology security company that began trying to eradicate it through the early morning hours on February 6. The city's deputy director of information technology said officials suspected the infection was a form of Conficker, the latest super virus that has breached at least 10 million computers worldwide as of late January, including the government health department in New Zealand and defense systems in France.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6250411.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

33. *February 9, Accenture* – (National) **FEMA awards Accenture \$58 million contract to help manage flood risk mapping, assessment and planning program.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded Accenture a \$58 million contract to provide program-management and business-architecture services for the agency's Flood Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning ("Risk MAP") program, which is designed to help reduce the nation's vulnerability to natural hazards. Through collaboration with state, local and tribal entities, the Risk MAP program will provide an integrated national assessment of flooding risks based on digital flood-hazard data and Web-accessible data. This information will enable communities to develop action plans and make informed risk-management decisions that reduce the loss of life and property.

Source: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/FEMA-Awards-Accenture-58-bw-14291357.html>

34. *February 8, Prescott Daily-Courier* – (Arizona) **Unique '911 Callback' system alerts homeowners.** The Yavapai County, Arizona, Sheriff's Office (YCSO) has a new emergency notification system called 911 Callback that is the only system of its kind in the country, according to a YCSO press release. A Department of Homeland Security

grant paid for the new system that allows all county residents — even those in cities and towns — to add multiple phone numbers and email addresses to the county’s emergency contact calling system. Most emergency contact systems use landline telephone numbers provided from the local telephone company. In an emergency, such as a fire or flood, the system calls those numbers to alert residents to the danger, the release said. The county’s system lets residents use any Internet connected computer to add multiple contact numbers — including cell phones, fax machines, email, pagers, Blackberry addresses or office voice mail.

Source:

<http://prescottdailycourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&subsectionID=1&articleID=64565>

35. *February 8, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Emergency Center stays closed in ice storm.** An emergency operations center stocked with radios, computers, meeting rooms and even beds and showers went unused by Washington County officials during the recent ice storm in north Arkansas. The county had developed the center in the former juvenile jail in downtown Fayetteville in 2006. When freezing rain coated north Arkansas last month, Washington County officials set up emergency operations at the road department building, which was powered by a commercial generator and a backup generator. The emergency center did not have enough generator power to function. Electricity went out throughout the region and stayed off in many places for days. A county building and grounds supervisor said the generator at the center was installed in 1994 when the building was first built. It can run some backup lights and climate controls, he said, and not communication equipment. He got the generator working January 27 and notified the Washington County Emergency Management director. But officials decided to stay put rather than disrupt their work and move to the Emergency Operations Center. The supervisor said the county has been working since last year to buy a new generator. Money has been approved and the new equipment should be installed within six months.

Source: <http://www2.arkansasonline.com/news/2009/feb/08/emergency-center-stays-closed-ice-storm/?subscriber/national>

36. *February 6, Imperial Valley News* – (Maryland) **Fire experiments provide data on effects of fire fighting resources.** At a live demonstration of fire safety experiments on February 6 in Rockville, Maryland, a group of firefighting, public safety and scientific organizations described a landmark collaborative study examining the effect of firefighting crew sizes and equipment arrival times on fire growth rates and a person’s ability to survive in a structure-related building fire. Funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, this firefighter safety and resource deployment study will help governments make informed decisions to better match resources with risks to the public and firefighters in their communities. Predicting the effects of changes to fire service resources is critical to fire service and local government leaders. “Currently local governments rely on trial and error or a qualitative basis,” explains a National Institute of Standards and Technology researcher. “When this study is complete, there will be objective data on which to base these important decisions.”

Source:

[http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4188&Itemid=2](http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4188&Itemid=2)

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## **Information Technology**

37. *February 9, ComputerWeekly* – (International) **Kaspersky’s Web site hacked.** Security firm Kaspersky has downplayed claims that its U.S. Web site was hacked over the weekend, exposing a database containing customer details. A hacker claimed in a blog posting that he was able to access Kasperky’s databases containing customer details including users, administrators, activation codes and e-mail addresses. A posting on Hackers Blog said the SQL injection vulnerability in usa.kaspersky.com is very real, but Kaspersky “does not need to worry about us spreading their confidential stuff.” “Our staff will never save or keep any confidential data, we just point our fingers to big websites with security problems,” the posting said. Kaspersky has admitted a vulnerability in a section of the usa.kaspersky.com site, but said the problem was fixed within half an hour of detection, according to the Tech Herald. “The vulnerability was not critical and no data was compromised from the site,” the company said in a statement.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2009/02/09/234692/kasperskys-website-hacked.htm>

38. *February 6, DarkReading* – (International) **Doubling of rejected mail makes China ‘top of the bots.’** A massive increase in spam originating from China and the Far East could mark the beginning of a worrying trend that will create more problems for organizations already struggling to cope with unwanted emails. The rise could potentially outweigh any lasting gains from more sophisticated detection and enforcement efforts in the United States and Europe which recently saw a reduction of spam following the shutdown of McColo, the California-based Internet service provider, in November 2008. Latest figures from U.K. security specialist iCritical show that mail from Chinese IP addresses rejected by the company’s servers before reaching client accounts more than doubled from 10.4 million in November 2008 to 22.9 million in December. In the same period, mail from Vietnam rose 62 percent from 2.9 million to 4.7 million and from South Korea nearly 26 percent from 6.2 million to 7.8 million. Illegitimate mail originating in the other five highest spam-producing countries — the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Brazil, and Turkey — all fell significantly in the fourth quarter of 2008. According to iCritical, total spam levels from all eight countries fell from a height of 137.5 million in October to 72.3 million in December, suggesting that the closure of McColo and the prolific botnets it hosted has had a greater effect than some had predicted.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/antivirus/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=213300930&subSection=Attacks/breaches>

**Internet Alert Dashboard**

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

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

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## **Communications Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

39. *February 8, ThePineTree.net* – (California) **Possible pipe bomb located in parking lot of Junction Shopping Center this afternoon.** On February 8, at approximately 2:50 p.m., a Tuolumne County Sheriff's deputy was flagged down by a citizen in the Junction Shopping Center parking lot. The citizen located a suspicious device in the parking lot area near Gottschalks and McDonalds. The deputy noticed the device looked similar to a pipe bomb. The device was a metal pipe, sealed at both ends. The area was immediately secured and a safety perimeter was established. The Calaveras County Sheriff Bomb Unit detonated the device in place and rendered it safe. At this time, it is unknown who left the device.

Source:

[http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN\\_user\\_op=view&ANN\\_id=10444](http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN_user_op=view&ANN_id=10444)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

40. *February 9, News-Messenger* – (Ohio) **Ohio, Fremont to demolish century-old Ballville Dam.** By 2013, city and state officials plan to see the Ballville Dam gone and the area returned to a more natural habitat. The dam has not been used to generate electricity in more than 60 years. It has fallen into disrepair, creating liability issues and potential expenses for the city, officials said. Today, its sole purpose is backing up water for the city's intake pipe, the mayor of Fremont said. But there are problems with that, too. The Ballville Dam is aged, and its concrete is deteriorating, said an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) spokeswoman. In 2004, ODNR's Division of Water examined the dam and determined the city needed to repair it. Three years later,



the Division of Water ordered the city to either remove the structure or fix it, she said. “It doesn’t have sufficient flood-storage capacity,” she said. “If they would receive a lot of rain, it wouldn’t be able to hold it back.” The structure is considered a Class I dam, the most serious of the three classifications the Division of Water uses for dams, she said. That means if the dam fails, people in businesses or homes downstream could die, she said.

Source:

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20090209/UPDATES01/90208018>

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## **Contact DHS**

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

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

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