



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 5 January 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

For information, click here:  
<http://www.dhs.gov>

### Top Stories

- eWeek reports a botnet spamming out malware through a phony holiday message from the White House enabled operators to get hold of 2 gigabytes of data from government agencies, including the National Science Foundation. (See item [37](#))
- According to the Rock Hill Herald, sophisticated thieves pilfered \$100,000 of emergency response equipment from the South Carolina Forestry Commission’s main maintenance and storage area. (See item [45](#))

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### 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. *January 4, Associated Press* – (California) **NTSB issues recommendations in San Bruno explosion.** Federal investigators issued a host of urgent safety recommendations January 3, pressing for major changes at the California utility responsible for the gas pipeline that exploded in a San Francisco suburb last year, killing eight people. Six of the seven recommendations released by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) were classified as urgent. The board has been investigating what caused the

September 9 explosion that destroyed dozens of homes in San Bruno. Officials have not determined an exact cause, but suspect the pipeline may have ruptured under high gas pressure. One of the urgent recommendations asks Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to identify all gas transmission lines that have not yet undergone testing for safe operating pressures. The NTSB also urged California regulators to make sure the utility follows through on testing.

Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-san-bruno-ntsb,0,479594.story>

2. *January 4, Hattiesburg American* – (Mississippi) **Gas leak residents remain evacuated.** About 25 families remain evacuated from their homes following a natural gas leak December 28 in Covington County, Mississippi. Most of the families from the Eminence community have been staying at a Collins motel. The leak occurred December 28 in a pipeline connected to one of seven storage caverns off of Mississippi 588, owned by Williams Gas. No one was injured in the incident. “They’re still releasing gas from the site,” a spokesman said. “We want to get the pressure lower, before the evacuees are allowed to return home.” Williams Gas officials have been meeting with evacuated residents each morning to keep them informed of developments, a spokesman said.  
Source: <http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20110104/NEWS01/101040305>
3. *January 4, Long Island Business News* – (New York) **Operator error caused gas leak.** Brookhaven officials have determined that the January 1 propane gas leak in Shirley, New York that caused the evacuation of 900 homes in the surrounding area was caused by “operator error.” Due to snow accumulations, a deliveryman mistakenly opened the valve unaware there was nothing attached to the valve body except a plastic cap used to protect the threads from exposure to the elements. Once opened, the plastic screw cap was unable to withstand the pressure and began to leak gas. Brookhaven Town’s Division of Fire Prevention conducted an investigation of the equipment, following the leak. Along with the revelation the leak was caused by operator error, the report also concluded Synergy Gas, the owner of the tank, failed to apply for a permit to complete 2011 safety upgrades on the tank’s propane installation system. There was no indication the upgrade work was the cause of the leak though.  
Source: <http://libn.com/blog/2011/01/04/operator-error-caused-shirley-gas-leak/>
4. *January 3, WSAZ 3 Huntington* – (West Virginia; Kentucky) **Three plead guilty to \$900,000 fuel stealing scheme.** Three men pleaded guilty to their roles in a conspiracy to steal more than \$900,000 worth of diesel fuel and sell it to local businesses in federal court January 3. They each pleaded to one-count informations charging them with conspiracy to transport and sell goods stolen from interstate shipments from April 2007 to September 2008. The convictions stem from an investigation conducted by the FBI into a major fuel theft from CSX Transportation and CEVA Logistics Inc. One man was an employee at CEVA, a Texas company which contracted with CSX to transport diesel fuel to various locations throughout Kentucky and West Virginia to refuel CSX locomotives. The men admitted the stolen fuel was given to one man who would sell it to various businesses and people in Kentucky and West Virginia. Each man faces up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when sentenced April 4.

Source:

[http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Three Plead Guilty to 900000 Fuel Stealing Scheme 112830424.html](http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Three_Plead_Guilty_to_900000_Fuel_Stealing_Scheme_112830424.html)

5. *December 31, WTVC 9 Chattanooga* – (Georgia) **Thousands lose power in North Georgia.** All power was restored to North Georgia EMC customers in the Calhoun/Gordon County, Georgia, area as of about 9:30 a.m. December 31. According to North Georgia EMC, they lost power around 3:30 a.m. due to an equipment problem at a transmission substation owned and operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. About 13,000 customers were originally affected when power went out. Power to a majority of the affected customers was restored around 5 a.m.

Source: <http://www.newschannel9.com/articles/power-997350-tva-scene.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *January 3, Crestview News Bulletin* – (Florida) **Public Services evacuated for chlorine leak.** A slow leak in a 150-pound chlorine gas cylinder resulted in the precautionary evacuation of the Crestview Public Services building on North Ferdon Boulevard in Crestview, Florida, January 3 around 7:20 a.m. Public Services staff smelled the leak and notified emergency responders, the Crestview Fire Department (CFD) deputy chief said. A hazardous-materials squad from the Okaloosa County Special Operations Team from the department of public safety secured the chlorine gas cylinder, which was leaking from the head, in a heavy-duty salvage cylinder commonly called a “coffin.” Chlorine gas, which the city uses to treat the public water supply, can be deadly if inhaled in concentrated amounts, but the miniscule amount leaking did not pose a health risk as it rapidly dissipated into the air, officials said. The cylinder had been secured in an external storage room on the building’s rear loading dock. After the leaking cylinder was placed in the coffin, CFD firefighters hosed down the interior of the storage room, including another cylinder of gas which was stored in it, to remove residual chlorine. The building evacuation lasted about an hour and a half. Public Services staff were readmitted about 9 a.m.

Source: <http://www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/public-12718-chlorine-leak.html>

7. *January 3, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Fertilizer ship runs aground in Hillsborough Bay.** A 575-foot ship containing a load of fertilizer ran aground January 2 in Hillsborough Bay, Florida, about 2 miles east of Gadsden Point, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard station in St. Petersburg received a call at 11:15 p.m. that the Pollux, which was traveling to Tampa, Florida, from Galveston, Texas, ran aground, said a Coast Guard spokeswoman. “We have received no word about pollution or any injuries or damage at this time,” the spokeswoman said. The Pollux is not blocking shipping traffic into or out of the Port of Tampa, and there are tugs available to assist large ships in the area. “Coast Guard investigators as well as other folks are trying to figure out why and how it grounded, and how to best move it safely so that it does not affect traffic and keeps the ship intact,” she said.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/jan/03/031821/fertilizer-ship-runs-aground-in-hillsborough-bay/>

For more stories, see items [28](#) and [33](#)

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

8. *January 4, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. nuclear output is little changed after Indian Point slows.** U.S. nuclear-power production was little changed January 4 after Entergy Corp. slowed a unit at its Indian Point plant in Buchanan, New York, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. Production from U.S. reactors dropped by 144 megawatts from January 3 to 97,048 megawatts, or 96 percent of capacity, according to the NRC report and data compiled by Bloomberg. Four of 104 power units were offline. Entergy reduced power at its 1,020-megawatt Indian Point 2 reactor to 77 percent of capacity from 90 percent January 3.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-04/u-s-nuclear-output-is-little-changed-after-indian-point-slows.html>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *January 3, Indiana's NewsCenter* – (Indiana) **Mysterious package caused partial plant evacuation at GM.** A suspicious looking package had security at the GM automobile plant in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on high alert January 3. An unidentified pipe package with caps on each end arrived at the body shop entrance around 1:30 p.m. causing plant security to enact evacuation protocol for part of the plant along with a quarantine of the area. Local authorities were called in and after inspection, the contents of the package were found to be empty. Operations have resumed at the plant. Source: <http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/Mysterious-Package-Caused-Partial-Plant-Evacuation-At-GM-112821349.html>
10. *January 3, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Two victims of Blacksburg plant explosion upgraded to fair condition.** Federal-Mogul Corp. has resumed engine-bearing production at its Blacksburg, Virginia factory as it looks for the cause of an explosion that burned two people critically December 31. The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, the lead state agency on worker safety, is investigating, a spokesman said. A federal Web site said past violations of health and safety codes have brought several fines at the plant over the past decade. At about 9:30 a.m. December 31, four employees of the Roanoke environmental services firm LCM Corp. were cleaning metallic dust from ductwork when the explosion occurred. The Blacksburg fire chief said the workers' job was to vacuum ductwork or piping of aluminum dust, which was collected into a barrel and bag on board a truck. But the dust exploded, he said. The area around the explosion caught fire, including the dust that had already been

vacuumed, he added. Firefighters contained the fire quickly, but a Blacksburg fire crew of 15 to 20 people needed until 6 p.m. to put it out using Class D fire extinguishers. Federal-Mogul, a Southfield, Michigan manufacturer of automotive, aerospace, energy, industrial, marine, and rail products, was on pace to book \$6 billion in revenue in 2010. The company operates 106 manufacturing plants.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/nrv/breaking/wb/272668>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *January 4, Pacific News Center* – (Guam) **USCG and Navy helping Guam shipyard keep its dry dock afloat.** The U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy have put pumps in place and are removing the water in an effort to keep Guam Shipyards only active dry dock afloat. A Coast Guard official said they received information from the Navy at approximately 2 a.m. January 3, that the dry dock known as “Big Blue,” had partially sunk. More than 24 hours later, the Navy, Coast Guard, the Guam Environment Protection Agency, and Gresco, a Guam environmental consulting firm, were working on a plan to mitigate and get rid of the oil and diesel fuel that is on board the dry dock. In 2010, the Guam shipyard won a federal contract worth over \$10 million to repair and modify the submarine tender USS Frank Cable. The period of performance for the work was done between July and August 2010.

Source:

[http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10418:us-coast-guard-and-navy-keep-guam-shipyards-dry-dock-afloat-and-plan-to-remove-its-fuel&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156](http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10418:us-coast-guard-and-navy-keep-guam-shipyards-dry-dock-afloat-and-plan-to-remove-its-fuel&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156)

12. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Arms dealer in Pentagon scheme may get prison.** A 25-year-old self-described “gun runner” faces federal prison time for defrauding the federal government in a \$300-million Pentagon ammunition contract. The president of Miami Beach, Florida-based AEY Inc. pleaded guilty to a conspiracy involving the illegal shipment of Chinese bullets to Afghan forces allied with the United States. He faces up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at his sentencing hearing January 3 in Miami federal court.

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/01/ap-arms-dealer-in-pentagon-scheme-may-get-prison-010311/>

13. *January 3, West Virginia MetroNews Network* – (West Virginia) **C-5s still flying at Martinsburg.** Officials with the West Virginia Air National Guard said there is no plan to make a switch from C-5 aircraft at the Martinsburg base to the smaller C-17s. The Air Force conducted an environmental assessment in 2010 to determine if switching from the C-5s to the C-17 would be more efficient at bases across the country. The officials said a reserve unit out of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, New York, will make the switch from C-5s to C-17s in the near future. That will mean a major loss in jobs on both bases. During that same study, there was no determination the Martinsburg base would be impacted. The

current plan calls for the 167th to increase the number of C-5s they have on base from 11 to 16. The 167th currently employs more than 480 full-time and 719-part-time employees.

Source:

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=42253>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

14. *January 4, Cliffview Pilot* – (New Jersey) **‘Fedora robber’ in custody, tied to holdups in Hackensack, Fairview, Guttenberg.** Union City, New Jersey police tracked a bank robbery suspect after he tried to hold up a TD Bank branch off 43rd Street less than 2 hours after making off with \$1,000 from the Guttenberg Savings and Loan off 68th Street on December 14, investigators said. Both branches are on Bergenline Avenue. “Our investigation revealed he was also responsible for” robbing the Valley National Bank in Hackensack on September 9 and the Oritani Bank on Fairview Avenue on December 4, an agent told the Cliffview Pilot. The same weapon — the end of a blowtorch wrapped in a cloth — was used in both holdups, he said. No weapon was reportedly shown in the Hudson County robberies. The suspect served nearly 15 years for robbery after being sentenced in February 1989, records show. Investigators told the Web site he wore a white hat and was carrying the weapon when he took more than \$10,000 from the Hackensack bank.  
Source: <http://www.cliffviewpilot.com/hudson/1985-fedora-robber-in-custody-tied-to-holdups-in-hackensack-fairview-guttenberg->
15. *January 3, LoanSafe.org* – (National) **Kansas man pleads guilty to role in embezzlement by bank president.** A Jefferson County man has pleaded guilty to helping the former president of a bank in Meriden, Kansas, steal from the bank, a U.S. Attorney said January 3. The man pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, January 3 to one count of aiding and abetting theft by a bank officer. In his plea, the man admitted that in 2001 and 2002 he helped the former Meriden State Bank president embezzle bank funds. During that time, the former bank president convinced the bank’s board to construct a branch on Fairlawn Street in Topeka, Kansas. The two men concealed from the board the fact the former bank president would be serving as the undisclosed general contractor on the project. In order to receive approval for the project, the former bank president falsely represented to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that no insider would be involved or benefit from construction of the branch. The man who assisted the former bank president in the scheme is set for sentencing March 21, 2011. He faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison, and a fine of up to \$1 million.  
Source: <http://www.loansafe.org/kansas-man-pleads-guilty-to-role-in-embezzlement-by-bank-president>
16. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Minivan is tool, getaway vehicle in WA ATM theft.** Vancouver, Washington police said a minivan driver used his vehicle as

both a tool and a getaway car in the theft of an automatic teller machine from a bowling alley January 3. The Columbian reports a man drove a minivan through the glass doors of Allen's Crosley Lanes at about 3 a.m. and crashed into the ATM. Surveillance footage of the robbery shows a person then jumping out of the van, grabbing the ATM, hoisting it into the vehicle and driving off. A sergeant said damage to the building was "in the thousands." There was an unknown amount of cash in the ATM.

Source: [http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap\\_wa\\_atm\\_robbery.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_atm_robbery.html)

17. *January 3, SecurityInfoWatch.com* – (National) **FBI: Organized retail crime costs U.S. \$30B a year.** According to an article published the week of January 3 by the FBI, organized retail crime, which includes merchandise theft, as well as credit card fraud, gift card fraud, and price tag switching, costs the United States about \$30 billion per year. The agency said the stores targeted by perpetrators of organized retail crime range from small specialty shops to major department stores. The groups responsible for these crimes include South American theft groups, Mexican criminal groups, as well as Cuban criminal groups from South Florida, and Asian street gangs from California. A Special Agent of the FBI's Violent Crimes/Major Offenders Unit in Washington, D.C. called organized retail crime a "gateway crime" often used to fund other criminal endeavors. The FBI said it is working with the retail industry to help address the problem, and noted it recently helped to develop the Law Enforcement Retail Partnership Network (LERPnet), which is a database that can be used by retailers to report and share incidents of retail theft and other retail crimes.

Source: <http://www.securityinfowatch.com/fbi-organized-retail-crime-costs-us-30b-a-year>

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *January 4, Hawaii News Now* – (Hawaii; National) **Rise seen in lasers pointed at aircraft.** Pilots are reporting a jump in the number of lasers being pointed at aircraft over Honolulu, Hawaii. They have counted nine cases since Christmas Eve. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the problem is worse in Honolulu than in big cities such as San Francisco, Denver, and Miami. Honolulu had 45 cases in 2010, which is the 8th highest number of reports in the United States. Authorities are worried about pilots being blinded or disoriented by the intense light. A FAA spokesman said, "Lasers are increasingly available on the Internet and the price level of the devices has dropped as the power level has increased substantially. So that means these things are much cheaper than they used to be, and they're capable of hitting planes at higher altitudes." There were 2,800 reports of lasers being shined at aircraft in the United States last year.

Source: <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13777965>

19. *January 4, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Amtrak train hits semi stuck at Kings Mountain, NC rail crossing.** Passengers on an Amtrak train are back on track after a collision at a North Carolina railroad crossing sliced apart a stuck tractor-trailer

rig. Police said the truck got stuck on the tracks around 2 a.m. January 4 in Kings Mountain, about 30 miles west of Charlotte. Officers tried to notify Amtrak, but were too late and the fully loaded train from Atlanta to New York hit the vehicle and split the trailer apart. No one on the train was hurt. The truck driver escaped before the train hit. The train was delayed for about an hour, then continued its route. Warning signs tell truckers not to try crossing the tracks where the accident happened because of the steep grade. The truck driver was cited for ignoring the warnings.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20110104/NEWS/301040045>

20. *January 4, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Train derails in downtown Douglasville.** Several major roads through Douglasville, Georgia, were shut down January 4 as crews began cleaning up a train derailment. Eleven cars of the Norfolk Southern train derailed about 1 a.m. in the heart of the city west of Atlanta. No injuries were reported. The derailed train cars were carrying a double stack of piggyback truck trailers hauling a variety of products, including insulation. There were apparently no hazardous materials involved. A 6-block stretch of Bankhead Highway (U.S. 78) and Strickland Street remained closed at 7:30 a.m., but authorities had reopened all of the main rail crossings in the city, including Ga. 92 and Rose Avenue. A county spokesman said the derailed cars were just behind the westbound train's engines. He said while the cause of the derailment had not been determined, the train's engineer reported the train did not strike any objects. Dozens of the truck trailers were a twisted mess, some of them spilling cargo through gaping holes. Most of the trailers bore the logo of J.B. Hunt trucking company, although Swift trucking and UPS trailers were also in the wreckage. The spokesman told the AJC railroad officials were hoping to have the tracks cleared by mid-afternoon January 4.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/train-derails-in-downtown-794585.html>

21. *January 3, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Vegas-bound flight makes emergency landing at DIA.** A United Airlines jet had to make an abrupt mid-air U-turn and return to Denver, Colorado, January 3 when smoke was detected in the cabin, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. Flight 243 had just taken off from Denver International Airport en route to Las Vegas, Nevada when the captain noticed an unusual smell and decided to return to Denver. The Airbus A320 landed safely at about 9:30 a.m. United maintenance workers investigated the source of the smoke, but apparently nothing serious or significant was found. The flight was scheduled to depart again shortly after 11 a.m.

Source: <http://www.kwgn.com/news/kdvr-vegasbound-flight-makes-emerge-01032011,0,5308491.story>

22. *January 3, Associated Press* – (Nevada; California; Montana; North Dakota) **Cold storm brings Vegas snow, closes I-5 in Calif.** Snow in Las Vegas, Nevada January 3 turned the main highway between Southern and Central California into a snowy, icy parking lot. Hundreds of motorists returning from the New Year's holiday found themselves stuck after Interstate 5 was closed for a second day over the 4,160-foot-high Tejon Pass, about 70 miles north of Los Angeles, California. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) closed a 30-mile stretch of the freeway shortly after 12:30 p.m. January 2



because of blowing snow. Blizzard conditions eased to light snow flurries January 3, but the road remained clogged with snow and patches of ice. CHP finally started escorting vehicles over the pass in the afternoon in groups of about 500. Other drivers spent hours crawling over Interstate 15's snowy Cajon Pass to get back to Los Angeles from Las Vegas, where there was a trace of snow January 3. In Montana and North Dakota, Amtrak expected to resume normal service January 3 after a weekend weather stoppage. Snow, freezing temperatures, and subzero wind chills had led Burlington Northern Santa Fe to halt passenger traffic on its tracks, while freight trains ran at slower speeds.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jIyC7R6mG8BIV1t5P4c75rsMBAJg?docId=5334192dcdce4d56b4791e5e73eaf831>

23. *December 31, Hawaii News Now* – (Hawaii) **Tourist boat runs aground in Lahaina Harbor.** The U.S. Coast Guard said 60 people were rescued off the Spirit of Lahaina December 30 after it ran aground at about 5:30 p.m. in Lahaina Harbor in Maui, Hawaii. No one was hurt and everyone was taken safely back to land by an unidentified good Samaritan vessel. The Coast Guard said the incident was not reported to them until about 2 hours after it occurred and the cause is under investigation. The Coast Guard also said the dinner cruise ship was refloated and moored back into the harbor.

Source: <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13765562>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [2](#), [4](#), [7](#), [24](#), [41](#), and [60](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

24. *January 3, Associated Press* – (International) **The influence game: Safety, trade interests clash.** A Presidential Administration proposal aimed at preventing air shipments of lithium batteries from causing fires in flight is drawing fierce opposition from some of the United States' top trading partners, who say it would disrupt international shipping and drive up the cost of countless products. The European Union, China, Japan, South Korea, and Israel are lobbying against requiring air shipments of lithium batteries and products containing them to meet hazardous cargo regulations, diplomatic and industry officials told the Associated Press. At a minimum the proposal could cost hundreds of millions of dollars and disrupt the flow of products such as cellphones, laptops, medical devices, water meters, and electric car batteries, among others, these governments say. But the Transportation Department estimates its proposal would cost only \$9 million per year. Pilot unions want the additional safety precautions, saying it is only a matter of time before the batteries cause a plane crash.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/03/AR2011010300564.html>

For another story, see item [20](#)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

25. *January 4, NewsCore* – (International) **Bumblebee population in US on the decline.** Several species of bumblebees in the United States are dying off at a rate researchers are calling “alarming,” according to a study published January 3 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In the first large-scale study of the U.S. bumblebee populations, researchers found the populations of four species of agriculturally-important bees have declined by 96 percent, and their range has declined by nearly 87 percent. As with the massive die-offs of honeybees in recent years, the researchers are not certain what forces are at play. The researchers found evidence that, as with honeybees, a pathogen is partly to blame for the drop in numbers. They also believe inbreeding caused by loss of habitat may have a role. Bumblebees, like honeybees, are a key part of growing several crops in North America including tomatoes, blueberries, and cranberries. Bumblebees can pollinate at higher altitudes and in colder weather than other bees. Several studies have been done confirming bumblebees are disappearing also in Europe and Asia. This is the first to confirm their numbers are falling globally.  
Source: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/offbeat/bumblebee-population-in-us-on-the-decline-ncdc-010411>
26. *January 4, CNN* – (Arkansas; Louisiana) **Officials probe ‘unusual’ mass deaths of birds in two states.** Some of the nation’s top experts January 4 were looking for clues into sudden, mass deaths of birds in Arkansas and Louisiana over New Year’s weekend. The National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, part of the U.S. Geological Survey, is receiving samples from Arkansas, where as many as 5,000 red-winged blackbirds and starlings fell from the sky in a square-mile area in less than an hour December 31, according to the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission. The center will also examine samples from Louisiana, where 500 red-winged blackbirds, starlings, and grackles were found dead in Labarre. A preliminary report conducted January 2 by the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission found the birds in Beebe, Arkansas, likely died from massive trauma. There had been reports of loud sounds in Beebe before the reports of birds falling began to come in. It is possible the sounds made the birds disoriented, and they went into sudden, chaotic flights, crashing into each other and into objects. A spokesman for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said the birds showed evidence of trauma in the breast tissue, with blood clots in the body cavity and a lot of internal bleeding. An ornithologist for the commission said such incidents can be caused by a lightning strike or high-altitude hail.  
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/01/04/arkansas.bird.mystery/>
27. *January 3, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Bomb threat temporarily shuts down Tyson’s Shelbyville plant.** A bomb threat January 3 temporarily shut down the Tyson Chicken Plant in Shelbyville, Tennessee, in what is now the company’s second security scare at that location in just 2 weeks. “We got a call from the Tyson plant at about 1:27 p.m. Monday,” the Shelbyville police chief said. “They then organized a search team,

and the search team went through the plant after it was evacuated.” A Tyson spokesman said the call came in from an unidentified person, saying there was a bomb on the premises. The 600 employees were immediately evacuated. Employees were allowed back to work about an hour later, after the facility was given the all-clear by police. Locals said the threat is unsettling, especially since it comes on the heels of another security scare. Two weeks ago, Tyson contacted federal authorities over graffiti found in one of the plant’s bathrooms. Police do not know if the two incidents are connected. An off-duty, armed officer from the Shelbyville Police Department now patrols the plant at Tyson’s request.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/13777411/bomb-threat-temporarily-shuts-down-tysons-shelbyville-plant>

28. *January 3, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Ammonia leak plugged at Cudahy plant.** Firefighters helped to stop an ammonia leak January 3 at the Patrick Cudahy plant in Cudahy, Wisconsin, officials said. The leak was reported to the Cudahy Fire Department at 12:16 p.m. It is unclear whether Patrick Cudahy workers had to evacuate, but firefighters and workers at the plant quickly stopped the leak and were able to avoid a wider evacuation, a lieutenant from the fire department said. Firefighters aired out the building later that afternoon.  
Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/112843739.html>
  
29. *January 3, MyHealthNewsDaily* – (California; New York) **Chicken mushroom pies recalled by Crave Foods.** Crave Foods, a Los Angeles, California establishment is recalling about 600 pounds of frozen chicken mushroom pies because they contain an undeclared allergen, monosodium glutamate (MSG), which is not declared on the label, the Food Safety and Inspection Service announced January 3. The products subject to recall include: 6-pound cases of “Craves Pies Chicken Mushroom Pie,” with each case containing 12 individual packages. The products were produced between September and December of 2010, and were shipped to distribution centers for further retail sales in California and New York.  
Source: <http://www.myhealthnewsdaily.com/chicken-mushroom-pies-recalled-by-crave-foods-0980/>
  
30. *January 2, CNN* – (Arkansas) **Massive fish kill blankets Arkansas River.** Arkansas officials are investigating the death of an estimated 100,000 fish in the state’s northwest, but suspect disease was to blame, a state spokesman said January 2. Dead drum fish floated in the water and lined the banks of a 20-mile stretch of the Arkansas River near Ozark, about 125 miles northwest of Little Rock, a spokesman for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said. A tugboat operator discovered the fish kill December 30, and fisheries officials collected some of the dying creatures to conduct tests.  
Source: [http://articles.cnn.com/2011-01-02/us/arkansas.fish.kill\\_1\\_massive-fish-dead-birds-bird-deaths?\\_s=PM:US](http://articles.cnn.com/2011-01-02/us/arkansas.fish.kill_1_massive-fish-dead-birds-bird-deaths?_s=PM:US)

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## Water Sector

31. *January 4, WPMT 43 York* – (Pennsylvania) **DEP: Oil spill in Susquehanna River appears deliberate.** New information has been released regarding an oil slick that was found in the Susquehanna River near the Steelton Water Treatment Plant in Steelton, Pennsylvania. A fuel-like substance was found floating in the river about 30 feet from the Steelton shoreline January 1. That substance has now been identified as used motor oil. The department of environmental protections said someone deliberately dumped 200 to 500 gallons of it into a nearby storm drain. The oil then leaked into the river. No suspects have been named. If anyone is caught, they will be forced to pay for the cleanup. Absorbent booms are being used to keep the oil from leaking further into the river.  
Source: <http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-fuel-spill-update-steelton,0,7881914.story>
32. *January 3, Mt.Carmel Daily Republican Register* – (Indiana) **Boil order remains in effect for entire rural water system.** A boil order remains in effect for the entire rural Wabash County, Indiana water systems. Just after 11 a.m. December 30, the Rural Wabash County Water District (RWCWD) issued the order. On January 3, a spokesperson said the order still stands. The problem involves an inoperative valve at a pump station, according to a RWCWD spokesperson. It wasn't known how long repairs would take. She said more than 100 customers are affected by the incident. During the boil order — which is in effect until further notice — rural water district customers are advised they must boil any drinking water or cooking water a minimum of 5 minutes before using that water.  
Source: [http://tristate-media.com/drr/news/local\\_news/article\\_9fc10254-1439-11e0-b778-001cc4c03286.html](http://tristate-media.com/drr/news/local_news/article_9fc10254-1439-11e0-b778-001cc4c03286.html)
33. *January 3, Yuma Sun* – (Arizona) **Chemical spill being cleaned up.** Firefighters from the Yuma Fire Department in Yuma, Arizona were being assisted by city of Yuma employees in the cleanup of a ferrous chloride spill at a sewage lift station January 3. According to the city's public affairs manager, the spill of 150 gallons of the chemical, which is used to alleviate odors from the sewage system, resulted from a break in an underground pipeline between the lift station and the site where it is injected into the system. He said the spill was discovered shortly before 9 a.m. by employees from the city's water pollution control unit, who were making their morning rounds. The public affairs manager said the break in the pipeline happened in a vacant area about 100 yards north of the 36th Street lift station, which runs along Avenue 3E. "The liquid percolated up to the surface and was reported," he said. The chemical spill does not pose a public safety risk, and no evacuations of nearby facilities were necessary, the public affairs manager said. He said it could take several hours to clean up the spill and repair the leak. He said the chemical was being made into a solid by adding dirt, and then being hauled off and disposed of properly.  
Source: <http://www.yumasun.com/news/nash-66563-spill-chemical.html>
34. *January 2, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **Storm causes sewage spill in Cambria.** The Cambria Community Services District in California reported that about

15,000 gallons of sewage was released into Santa Rosa Creek January 2, according to the county public health department. The sewage spilled at 2:14 p.m. near Windsor Boulevard and Shamel Park, the county said, because the local sewer system was overwhelmed. Public health officials advised people to stay out of Santa Rosa Creek and the shoreline at Moonstone Beach Park.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/01/02/1428246/storm-causes-sewage-spill-in-cambria.html>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

35. *January 4, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **Data still shows no clear sign of cancer cluster near Detrick.** State and county health officials still do not have evidence of a cancer cluster around Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, but they vowed to keep working with the data until they can provide area residents with a more concrete conclusion. After announcing in October that an initial analysis of Maryland Cancer Registry data showed no indication of higher rates of cancer around Fort Detrick than would be expected, a spokesman for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene faced complaints from community members and activists who insisted Fort Detrick was making them and their families sick. He promised a second look at the data to see if there were any geographic patterns or abnormalities in the ages of those being diagnosed with cancers. “Thus far we haven’t seen any evidence of clustering,” he said January 3. For the 1,059 cancer cases diagnosed between 2000 and 2007 in a 1-mile radius around Fort Detrick, fewer than 10 of the cases were considered statistical outliers. He said he needed to run more tests before understanding what these figures mean.

Source:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=114647>

36. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Former nurse agrees to plea deal in fraud case.** A nurse is heading to prison after pleading guilty to a scheme that stole \$600,000 from Lee Memorial Health System. She signed a plea deal January 3 in Fort Myers, Florida. Terms of the deal include 2 years in prison, followed by 2 years of house arrest and 16 years of probation. Officials said she and her husband used money stolen from the hospital system to buy a new house, vehicles, and other luxuries. Her husband, who was also charged in the case, committed suicide in 2009. The nurse’s sentencing is scheduled for March 10.

Source:

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cId=tallahassee&sParam=35447113.story>

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## Government Facilities Sector

37. *January 3, eWeek* – (International) **Malware campaign cyber-espionage or cyber-crime?** The crew behind the Kneber botnet that made headlines in 2010 may have surfaced again in a malware campaign targeting employees of various governments. The botnet, which pushes out the Zeus Trojan, was spotted around Christmas time spamming out malware through a phony holiday message from the White House. Those who received the card and either clicked on a link to an e-card or opened a malicious attachment were compromised. The fact Zeus was stealing data will come as no surprise to anyone familiar with the Trojan; but the idea that a piece of malware most commonly associated with swiping banking credentials was after documents raised some eyebrows. According to a security blogger, the botnet operators were able to get their hands on more than 2 gigabytes of PDFs, Microsoft Word, and Excel documents from dozens of victims, including an employee at the U.S. National Science Foundation's Office of Cyberinfrastructure and an official with the Moroccan government's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and New Technologies.  
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Malware-Campaign-Cyber-Espionage-or-Cybercrime-626011/>
38. *January 3, Modesto Bee* – (California) **Sacto 9-1-1: Library to reopen Saturday after Molotov cocktail fire.** The Arden-Dimick branch of the public library in Sacramento, California, will remain closed until 10 a.m. January 8, due to damage caused by a Molotov cocktail-type device January 3. About 1,000 books were damaged, mostly from water when fire sprinklers were activated, after somebody dropped a flaming bottle of liquid into the drop box at the library at 891 Watt Ave. The incident occurred about 3:30 a.m., and no arrests have been made. However, officials plan to review outdoor security video. "There appears to be more damage from water than from fire," the Sacramento Public Library director said in a written statement. "Water did flow from the book return area and into the main room of the branch, soaking approximately 5,000 square feet of carpet." No computers or electronic equipment were damaged, and no one was injured.  
Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2011/01/03/1495478/sacto-9-1-1-library-closed-after.html>
39. *January 3, Pantagraph.com* – (Illinois) **Hackers shut down state website.** Unknown hackers shut down an Illinois state Web site for several hours January 2 and 3. The Illinois Senate Democrats site — [senatedem.ilga\(dot\)gov](http://senatedem.ilga.gov) — appeared simply as a blank white screen with the words, "by 3n\_byt3 @ indonesia hackers :P" in the center from the evening of January 2 until 8 a.m. January 3, when the site was repaired. The communication director for the Illinois Senate Democrats said there were a number of attempts to hack the site, but he did not know who was responsible. A Webmaster added hackers were able to exploit a weakness in the Windows operating system, and said staffers were working on resolving the issue.  
Source: [http://www.pantagraph.com/news/state-and-regional/illinois/article\\_ab3ba49a-17ae-11e0-9eca-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.pantagraph.com/news/state-and-regional/illinois/article_ab3ba49a-17ae-11e0-9eca-001cc4c002e0.html)

40. *January 2, Associated Press* – (New York) **NY Gov. Cuomo’s Twitter account briefly diverted.** An unknown tweeter set up a fake Twitter account and briefly linked it to the governor of New York’s official state Web site January 2. A spokesman for the governor said the problem was quickly corrected. He had no further comment. The posts on the fake account showed nothing malicious and no outlandish statements or misstatements over a few hours January 2. The governor’s real Twitter account had tweeted the news he was ordering top state officials in the executive chamber to undergo ethics training. A fake tweet suggested the governor’s office get some training in social networking, too.  
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP21b8408aa2e943aeb2ee4507cf393250.html>

For another story, see item [42](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

41. *January 4, Fort Myers New-Press* – (Florida) **Laser hurts Collier sheriff pilots.** A Collier County, Florida sheriff’s helicopter crew was injured when two teenagers allegedly shined a beam at their aircraft January 1. A sheriff’s pilot and tactical flight officer suffered ruptured blood vessels in their left eyes, officials said. They were treated at Naples Community Hospital and released. A 19-year-old and 17-year-old were arrested and charged with pointing a laser at an aircraft and causing injuries, a second-degree felony carrying a maximum 15 years in prison. A spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration said 2,682 cases were reported nationwide last year compared to only 300 cases in 2005. The crew was flying over Naples, Florida at 500 feet at 1:06 a.m. “We were illuminated with a green laser on the left side of the aircraft,” the pilot said. They were forced to fly back to the sheriff’s hangar at Naples Municipal Airport. There, they said they realized they had ruptured blood vessels. The suspects told deputies they had been shining a laser device shaped like a pen into the air and they did not know the action was illegal.  
Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110104/CRIME/110103066/1075/Laser-hurts-Collier-sheriff-pilots>
42. *January 3, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **Bomb threat prompts scare at city hall.** A man who called 911 and threatened to blow up the Bethlehem Police Department in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania prompted a scare in and around city hall, police said. The call was received at approximately 10 a.m. January 3. Police said the man told the call-taker there was already someone with a bomb in front of city hall, which was immediately locked down. Police diverted traffic away from city hall as officers and firefighters searched the area. An unattended package was found on the west side of the city hall complex, but it was deemed harmless and unrelated to the bomb threat. Police gave the all-clear around 11:15 a.m., but then another suspicious package was found next to the library. The library was then evacuated and surrounding streets were closed again.  
Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/lehighvalleynews/26351982/detail.html>

43. *January 3, KTSM 9 El Paso* – (Texas) **Fire at downtown jail forces evacuation.** A fire intentionally started by an inmate at an El Paso, Texas jail forced an evacuation January 3. The fire on the 6th floor of the jail was intentionally started by a jail inmate using an outlet, wires, and magazines. Jailers evacuated everyone safely and put out the fire before it spread. No injuries were reported.  
Source: <http://www.ktsm.com/news/fire-at-downtown-jail-forces-evacuation>
44. *December 31, Cleveland Plain Dealer* – (Ohio) **Identification system puts information at fingertips of police.** Starting next month, law enforcement agencies in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and four neighboring counties will start using a \$2 million system that allows police to match fingerprints and palm prints taken at crime scenes with a database of criminals. The new Automated Fingertip Identification System is faster than the existing one, produces better-quality images, and is mobile. A device called Rapid Identification will be in police cars so officers can get prints from a suspect's two index fingers. Officers will also be able to lift prints at the crime scene with the mobile device. The Cuyahoga County sheriff said having fingertip readers in cars also helps ensure officer safety by allowing them to confirm the individual's identity and check whether the person has a record and any warrants. The new system can go through a database of 400,000 prints in 10 seconds and produce 10 close matches.  
Source: [http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/12/identification\\_system\\_puts\\_inf.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/12/identification_system_puts_inf.html)
45. *January 1, Rock Hill Herald* – (South Carolina) **Thieves steal S.C. Forestry Commission equipment.** Sophisticated thieves pilfered some \$100,000 of emergency response equipment from the South Carolina Forestry Commission's main maintenance and storage area in Columbia sometime during the Christmas break. Missing items include critical equipment the agency needs for emergency response, a commission spokesman said. "Many of the items are things our Incident Management Team must have to respond to large-scale disasters, such as the bigger wildfires and hurricanes," he said. Among the items taken were 13 Dell laptops, 2 all-terrain vehicles equipped for law enforcement and firefighting duties, various tools, and a Ford F350 diesel flatbed truck adorned with the agency's logo.  
Source: <http://www.heraldonline.com/2011/01/01/2721918/thieves-steal-sc-forestry-commission.html>

For another story, see item [53](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

46. *January 4, IDG News Service* – (International) **Microsoft blames server problem for Hotmail outage.** Microsoft said it has fixed a problem with its Windows Live Hotmail service that temporarily deleted the e-mail of more than 17,000 users. The trouble began December 30 when the e-mail in 17,355 accounts disappeared. A Microsoft executive wrote January 3 the company had identified the technical glitch and restored



e-mail to the affected accounts by the night of January 2. “Customers impacted temporarily lost the contents of their mailbox through the course of mailbox load balancing between servers,” a corporate vice president with Windows Live Engineering wrote on a company blog.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203120/Microsoft\\_blames\\_server\\_problem\\_for\\_Hotmail\\_outage](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203120/Microsoft_blames_server_problem_for_Hotmail_outage)

47. *January 4, ITProPortal* – (International) **PlayStation 3 root key made public.** A hacker has finally managed to completely crack Sony’s PlayStation 3 console, allowing users to run custom firmware and pirated games without restrictions. The hacker decrypted the “root key” used to authorize software on the platform that prevented users from installing unauthorized software on the PS3, and has posted it for every one to use. Kotaku reported the hack could also be connected to hacking group fail0verflow that develops “homebrew” software for PS3s. With the root key cracked, users and hackers will now also be able to play pirated games, circumventing Sony’s built-in security measures. In using the hack, users risk voiding the device’s warranty. Experts believe Sony will not be able to change the master root key without risking making most legitimate programs on the platform completely inaccessible. Experts also claim the latest PS3 hack is unlikely to be unaffected by future software updates.  
Source: <http://www.itproportal.com/2011/01/04/playstation-3-root-key-made-public/>
48. *January 4, Softpedia* – (International) **Adware and Java trojans dominated the web threat landscape in December.** According to statistics from Kaspersky Lab, adware programs and Java-based downloaders were the most common threats encountered on the Web during December 2010. The most frequently encountered one was AdWare.Win32.HotBar.dh, which tried to infect a number of 203,975 distinct users. It includes HotBar, Zango, and ClickPotato and was the most prominent threat overall, including all categories. The other two samples are AdWare.Win32.FunWeb.di and AdWare.Win32.FunWeb.fq. The second most common threat was Trojan-Downloader.Java.OpenConnection.cf, a dropper that uses the OpenConnection method of an URL class to download malware on the computer. The third place was filled by rogue IFrames injected into compromised Web sites.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Adware-and-Java-Trojans-Dominated-the-Web-Threat-Landscape-in-December-176033.shtml>
49. *January 4, H Security* – (International) **Unpatched hole in ImgBurn disk burning application.** According to security specialist Secunia, a highly critical vulnerability in ImgBurn, a lightweight disk burning application, can be used to remotely compromise a user’s system. The security issue in the freeware program is reportedly caused by the application loading libraries (dwmapi.dll) in an “insecure manner,” which can then lead to the execution of arbitrary code. The problem has been confirmed to affect version 2.5.4.0 of ImgBurn, the latest release from December 12; however, previous versions are also likely to be vulnerable. For an attack to be successful, a victim must first open a specially crafted file. As such, users are advised to avoid opening untrusted files.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Unpatched-hole-in-ImgBurn-disk-burning-application-1163003.html>

50. *January 3, Softpedia* – (International) **Recent spam campaign points to new Storm botnet.** While analyzing a recent spam campaign, security researchers found what seems to be a new version of the Storm or Waledac botnets. According to the Shadowserver Foundation, a recent junk e-mail campaign distributed links that led to a new Waledac or Storm variant. The e-mails come with a subject announcing a holiday e-card, while their body message direct users to links to view the alleged greeting. These links lead to HTML pages hosted on compromised Web sites, which in turn execute a meta redirect towards one of multiple domain names controlled by the attackers. The domains are using fast flux hosting — they respond to multiple IP addresses and are difficult to shut down. The landing pages on these domains display a message reading “Can’t view the greeting? Download Flash Player!” If the visitor does not click on the link to download the alleged Flash Player installer within 5 seconds they are redirected to a secondary page which serves several exploits for outdated software installed on their computer. If they do click on the link, a file called install\_flash\_player.exe is downloaded. If executed, this file opens an Internet Explorer connection to the same exploit page. In both scenarios, successful exploitation downloads the new Storm variant.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Recent-Spam-Campaign-Suggest-New-Storm-Botnet-175866.shtml>

51. *January 3, The H* – (International) **Hole in VLC Media Player.** Virtual Security Research has identified a vulnerability in VLC Media Player. In versions up to and including 1.1.5 of the VLC Media Player, specially crafted files can be used to inject code that will trigger a buffer overflow in the demultiplexer used for Real Media format files. Potential victims need to explicitly open such a specially crafted file. Users have been advised not to open files from unknown sources until the media player has been patched. As an alternative, the Real demuxer plug-in (libreal\_plugin.\*) can be removed from the VLC plugin directory. VLC Media Player 1.1.6 is said to be immune to the problem, but the Videolan developers have not yet released this version for Windows.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/open/news/item/Hole-in-VLC-Media-Player-1162498.html>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

52. *January 3, Aviation Week* – (International) **Intelsat mulls options in wake of zombie sat.** An Intelsat spacecraft that wreaked havoc around the world since it went out of control last spring has been shut down, removing an interference hazard that had threatened communications satellite operators worldwide. Intelsat said the spacecraft, Galaxy 15, temporarily lost Earth lock December 17, causing it to lose enough power to shut down its primary C- and L-band payload. On December 23, the battery completely drained and the baseband equipment command unit reset automatically, as it was designed to do. The spacecraft then began accepting commands and sending telemetry again, allowing engineers to place it in safe mode. The satellite — which industry has dubbed Zombie Sat — is now Sun-pointed and thermally balanced with batteries fully recharged and no longer poses a threat to neighboring satellites or customer services, the operator said. Over the coming weeks, engineers will run diagnostic tests, upload new command software patches that have been pre-tested on other orbital satellites, and attempt to immobilize the satellite, which has been drifting eastward since it went out of control April 5. They will then seek to move the satellite to one of Intelsat’s orbital locations so it can be thoroughly tested to determine the viability of the payload and the functionalities of the spacecraft.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/awx/2010/12/27/awx\\_12\\_27\\_2010\\_p0-279254.xml&headline=Intelsat Mulls Options In Wake Of Zombie Sat](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/awx/2010/12/27/awx_12_27_2010_p0-279254.xml&headline=Intelsat+Mulls+Options+In+Wake+Of+Zombie+Sat)

53. *January 3, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Jam prisoners’ cellphone calls? New federal report explores possibilities.** The Presidential Administration does not want dangerous prison inmates to make calls or send text messages from contraband cellphones because of the possibility they could direct new crimes. But federal officials also do not want to go so far in trying to jam those communications that they create problems for nearby public safety workers or average citizens, according to a new government report. A possible solution: more limited technologies that would let prison officials block calls only from unapproved devices, the report said. In late 2009, Congress directed government officials — including the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration — to look into technologies that could prevent the use of cellphones by inmates. A law enacted in August bans cellphones from federal prisons, but it does not apply to state facilities. In California state prisons, for example, inmates are not supposed to have cellphones, but there is no law that makes possessing one a crime, or that imposes penalties on visitors who smuggle them in. This year, California will test one technology, called managed access, with which officials can block calls that do not come from a list of phones approved to transmit through nearby towers. The system enabled Mississippi state officials to block more than 216,000 unauthorized calls and text messages in its first month in operation last summer.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/technology/2011/01/prison-cellphone-charles-manson-jam-government-fcc-report.html>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

54. *January 4, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Theater collapses, injures firefighter.** A century-old theater undergoing renovation in southern New Jersey collapsed, slightly injuring a firefighter. The Levoy Theatre in Millville, New Jersey, was in the process of an \$8.5 million restoration. Exterior walls of the 102-year-old building gave way around 4 p.m. January 3. The Press of Atlantic City reported a firefighter was being treated for an ankle injury suffered while inspecting for a possible gas leak. No other injuries were reported.  
Source: <http://www.njherald.com/story/news/j0151-BC-NJ-TheaterCollapse-01-03-0258>
55. *January 3, Haaretz* – (International) **British Consulate staff suspected of aiding plotters of Hamas rocket attack.** Israel said January 3 it had charged two local employees of the British Consulate General in Jerusalem with arms trafficking as part of an investigation into an alleged plot to fire a rocket into a major sports stadium in the capital. A British Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman confirmed the arrests, and said Britain was urgently seeking confirmation of the charges. “We have been told by the Israeli authorities that the investigation into our two employees is unrelated to the work they do at the consulate,” the spokesman said. The Shin Bet said the two Palestinians were indicted recently on the weapons charges in connection with an alleged plot by two other Palestinians to attack Teddy Stadium, home to the Beitar Jerusalem soccer team. The Shin Bet said the consulate staffers helped the two other suspects, alleged members of the Hamas Islamist group who were charged in court January 2, to obtain guns. No rockets were found by authorities, who said the plot to attack the stadium was in its preliminary stage.  
Source: <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/british-consulate-staff-suspected-of-aiding-plotters-of-hamas-rocket-attack-1.335019>
56. *January 3, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Oil spill prompts an evacuation.** A heating oil spill forced residents of a Dorchester, Massachusetts apartment building out of their homes January 2, authorities said. The spill of about 100 gallons at 251 Boston St. was reported at about 11:38 a.m. and prompted evacuations, a Boston Fire Department spokesman said. One person was taken to the hospital with breathing difficulties, a police spokesman said. Authorities did not have the exact number of people who were forced out. The tank was still leaking at 3:20 p.m., and a cleanup team had not yet arrived, though the hazardous-materials unit had contained the oil. The building’s management was arranging cleanup and alternate housing for residents.  
Source:  
[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/03/oil\\_spill\\_prompt\\_s\\_an\\_evacuation/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/03/oil_spill_prompt_s_an_evacuation/)
57. *January 2, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Lethal levels of carbon monoxide force evacuation of Brooklyn apartment house; tenants furious.** Firefighters evacuated an apartment building in Brooklyn, New York, due to high levels of carbon monoxide January 2. Tenants of the four-story building on E. 15th St. in Midwood

were alerted to the problem when a carbon monoxide detector went off in a second-floor apartment about 7 a.m., residents said. When firefighters arrived, they detected 130 parts per million of carbon monoxide in the air — far higher than safe levels. The New York Fire Department evacuates buildings when carbon monoxide levels are more than 10 parts per million. No one in the building was hurt. Investigators determined the cause was a faulty basement boiler, which the superintendent said he had turned on around 6 a.m.

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/01/02/2011-01-02\\_lethal\\_levels\\_of\\_carbon\\_monoxide\\_force\\_evacuation\\_of\\_brooklyn\\_apartment\\_house.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/01/02/2011-01-02_lethal_levels_of_carbon_monoxide_force_evacuation_of_brooklyn_apartment_house.html)

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

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

58. *January 3, Seward Phoenix Log* – (Alaska) **High avalanche danger.** Avalanche danger has increased to high level on all windloaded slopes greater than 30 degrees in the Turnagain Arm and Turnagain Pass areas of Alaska January 3, according to a spokeswoman with the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center. Non-affected slopes and rain-saturated terrain at the lower elevations pose considerable danger. Large natural and human-triggered avalanches are likely, with up to 18 inches of new snow, hurricane-force winds and heavy rains at lower elevations. After the weather improves, natural avalanches will subside, but most steep slopes at the mid and upper elevations will be hair-trigger for the next 24 hours, she said.

Source: [http://thesewardphoenixlog.com/article/1101high\\_avalanche\\_danger](http://thesewardphoenixlog.com/article/1101high_avalanche_danger)

For more stories, see items [34](#) and [45](#)

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## **Dams Sector**

59. *January 4, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Hope Mills to pay firm \$100,000 in probe of dam collapse.** The Hope Mills, North Carolina, Board of Commissioners voted January 3 to pay an engineering firm \$100,000 to continue the investigation into the failed Hope Mills Lake dam, but one commissioner said it may be time to look into legal action on the matter. The board voted 3-2 to pay the money to MBP engineering. The dam failed in June, emptying the lake. Since then, the firms that designed and built the dam — Crowder Construction Co., MacTec Engineering and Consulting, McKim and Creed engineering, and Morrison Engineers — have been stabilizing the structure and investigating the failure. In recommending the payment, the town manager said MBP needs time to go over the results of the investigation to determine who was at fault. That analysis could take several months. Within the next week, workers will get under the foundation of the dam to search for the cause of the failure. Water has been

diverted from Little Rockfish Creek to allow the workers access.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2011/01/04/1060398?sac=Local>

60. *January 3, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon) **The Dalles Dam lock closure extended.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has extended the closure of the The Dalles Dam navigation lock in Oregon by 5 days, officials said January 3. The lock at Columbia River mile 192 closed December 10 to replace the downstream miter gate and had been scheduled to reopen March 18. But setbacks in the fabrication of the new gate as well as added welding led to delays. The Corps is replacing gates at The Dalles, John Day, and Lower Monumental dams, shutting down all river traffic, as well as doing maintenance and repair work at other locks in the Columbia-Snake navigation system.

Source:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2011/01/the\\_dalles\\_dam\\_lock\\_closure\\_ex.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2011/01/the_dalles_dam_lock_closure_ex.html)

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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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