Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Homeland Security Today reports that flu virus strains have begun to spread in Western Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that flu activity is now rampant in New York, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. (See item **39**)
- According to the Canadian Press, security has been increased at Coptic churches across Canada as they prepare to celebrate Christmas January 7, in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in Alexandria, Egypt, January 1. Coptic Orthodox leaders in Canada have been contacted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police due to concerns that extremists may target the Coptic diaspora abroad. (See item **62**)

Fast Jump Menu

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 5, UPI* – (Michigan) **Enbridge to shut Michigan oil pipeline.** Canadian pipeline company Enbridge announced plans to shut down parts of an oil pipeline in

southern Michigan for maintenance work. Enbridge said it was replacing "certain non-contiguous segments" of its Line 6B pipeline in Michigan. The work involves replacing 14 sections of the pipeline in Livingston and Oakland counties "in conjunction with Enbridge's aggressive pipeline integrity management program," the company said. Line 6B is scheduled for closure in Livingston County February 7 and in Oakland County on March 7. Outages are expected to last for a maximum of five days, Enbridge said in a statement. Line 6B of the Enbridge-operated Lakehead oil pipeline system ruptured in southern Michigan in late July 2010, spilling around 20,000 barrels of oil into area waterways. A 12-inch dent was found later on a section of the same pipeline running under the St. Clair River. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) said in a restart plan for Line 6B that Enbridge needed to replace the damaged St. Clair leg within a year. The company in late September received approval from U.S. regulators to restart the pipeline provided Enbridge addressed a long list of concerns along Line 6B.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2011/01/05/Enbridge-to-shut-Michigan-oil-pipeline/UPI-20681294233619/

2. *January 5, Occupational Health and Safety* – (Texas; National) **Serious violations lead to Texas refinery's $115,650 fine.** OSHA has cited Pasadena Refining Services Inc. with 21 serious violations for exposing workers to multiple safety and health hazards at the company's facility in Pasadena, Texas. Proposed penalties total $115,650. OSHA's Houston South Area Office in Texas began its investigation on June 30 at the company's facility as part of the agency's national emphasis program on process safety management of refineries. The serious violations include failing to provide properly constructed scaffolds, provide supports to hold piping, provide controls to prevent valves from closing, conduct annual confined space audits, ensure guard rails are adequate, and ensure that operating procedures are up-to-date and accurate. A serious violation is one in which there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known. Pasadena Refining Services is an independent refinery which employs about 363 employees in Pasadena.
Source: http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/01/04/serious-violations-lead-to-texas-refinerys-115650-fine.aspx?admgarea=news

3. *January 5, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (Massachusetts) **Plan for Massachusetts LNG site faces growing opposition.** A proposed liquefied natural gas project avoided a potentially crippling blow three weeks ago in Congress' lame-duck session, but the controversial Weaver's Cove proposal continues to face major political and other hurdles. A bipartisan coalition of Massachusetts and Rhode Island politicians inserted language in the $1.2 trillion Senate omnibus budget bill prohibiting any of the money from being used to approve the project. The measure would have halted federal permitting for Weaver's Cove, but the Senate majority leader abandoned the full bill after support for it faltered. The city of Fall River, Massachusetts, which opposes the project, is challenging Weaver's Cove on calculations they used to determine the spread of flammable gas in an LNG pipe rupture, saying the company dramatically underestimated how large an area might be affected. Only one other LNG storage

facility exists on Massachusetts shores — in crowded Everett, where post-9/11 safety concerns have made it a national symbol of where not to place such facilities. Hess now proposes to have up to seventy LNG tankers a year travel up Narragansett Bay to berth in Mt. Hope Bay. From there, a sub-sea pipe would carry the liquefied gas more than four miles up the Taunton River to a storage facility at a former oil terminal. Then it would be vaporized to go to homes or businesses or be shipped by truck as a liquid.
Source: http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/plan-massachusetts-lng-site-faces-growing-opposition

4. *January 4, Cross Timbers Gazette* – (Texas) **Repairs from gas well leak completed.** Maintenance to replace a broken valve at a gas well site on Shiloh Road in Flower Mound, Texas is complete. Well No. 2 at the Williams Smith Pad A is back in service after being shut-down December 30, when metal loss created a small hole in a valve, resulting in a loud whistling sound and an unexpected release of natural gas. The "washout" in the valve was caused by friction from a large quantity of sand and sediment that reached the valve after traveling through supporting piping under high pressure, according to Williams officials. Flower Mound firefighters responded to the site, as well as a Williams technician and supervisor. One of the company's safety specialists also briefed Flower Mound's oil and gas inspector during and immediately following the event, which released an estimated 75 thousand cubic feet of natural gas (Mcf), or about the same amount that one household uses in a year for heating, cooking, and hot water. Air quality in the area remained safe throughout the event, according to data available via the TCEQ air quality monitoring station in Flower Mound that continuously tests for benzene and 45 other volatile organic compounds. While higher readings for some compounds were observed at the monitoring station at 8 p.m., all of the levels were well below the short-term and long-term air monitoring comparison values (AMCV) for public health, according to the data.
Source: http://www.crosstimbersgazette.com/local-news/1300-repairs-from-gas-well-leak-completed.html

5. *January 4, KPVI 6 Pocatello* – (Idaho) **BP wind turbines damaged.** In Idaho, the Bonneville County Sheriffs Office is looking for the person or persons responsible for shooting at wind turbines above Ammon causing thousands in damage. A Sheriffs Office spokesman said BP Wind Energy reported that one of their wind turbines was shot twice sometime in the last two weeks. The bullets hit the top of the turbines near the fins and damaged hoses, wiring, and other equipment causing more than $5,000 in damage. British Petroleum Wind Energy says they noticed the damage on December 22 and believe the shooting occurred a few days before that. Vandalism is a felony crime punishable by five years in prison and a fine of $1,000 plus restitution for repairs.
Source: http://www.kpvi.com/story.php?id=35035&n=15206

For another story, see item **21**

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *January 4, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **EPA to require safety testing of 19 widely used chemicals.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said January 4 new federal rules will require makers or importers of 19 chemicals to test the health and environmental effects of the substances and make the information public. The chemicals include diphenylmethanone; 9, 10-anthracenedione; C12-C24 chloroalkenes; pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN; and leuco sulfur black. The American Chemistry Council, an industry group, supports the action as an extension of an existing EPA program in which chemical makers have been voluntarily reporting health and environmental effects of heavily used chemicals, said a spokesman. The 19 chemicals are among more than 2,200 chemicals produced or imported in the U.S. in large volumes every year. In recent years, the EPA has asked chemical makers and importers to voluntarily provide information to the public on health and environmental effects of potentially toxic chemicals that they make or import in quantities of one million pounds a year or more.
Source: http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2011/01/04/epa-require-safety-testing-widely-used-chemicals/

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *January 5, Newsweek* – (National) **U.S. nuclear plant security concerns persist.** Staged assaults of U.S. atomic energy plants by counterterrorism professionals in recent years have revealed security weaknesses that could be exploited by terrorists in an attack aimed at releasing stored radioactive material into the surrounding area, Newsweek magazine reported January 4. All 104 of the nation's atomic energy installations are faced every three years with mock terrorist attacks intended to help the sites assess potential security vulnerabilities. The drills are planned with care and facility chiefs receive 60 days advance notice to ready their security personnel. The attackers follow a choreographed plan of infiltration. Even with all of this advance information, since 2005 nearly 10 percent of the fake attack teams were able to cut through plants' security efforts, according to Newsweek. In a 2009 drill, trainers posing as extremists armed with automatic weaponry and grenade launchers were able to infiltrate an atomic energy site in the South by cutting through the barbed wire and chain-link barriers. The attackers fought with plant security personnel. Survivors from the assault force disrupted a key part of the reactor's operating machinery, which threatened in the scenario to produce a reactor core meltdown and the dispersal of radioactive material stored at the facility. Spent atomic fuel — comprised of plutonium, uranium and some other chemicals and formed into small pellets — is generally stored on-site at plants within cement containers in large pools of water. The material essentially constitutes a massive radiological "dirty bomb" that could be released to the surrounding area if the water is drained away from the containers. U.S. regulators say that these successful staged attacks highlight reactor vulnerabilities that need to be addressed. The NRC says federal monitors stay at a plant until its weaknesses have been eliminated. Specifics about the defenses and weaknesses of U.S. plants are kept

secret.
Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110105_2790.php

8. *January 5, Fosters Daily Democrat* – (New Hampshire; Vermont) **Nuclear plant emergency calendars for 2011 issued.** The New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in cooperation with the Seabrook Station and Vermont Yankee nuclear power plants, has issued the 2011 Emergency Public Information Calendars for residents and businesses within the two plants' Emergency Planning Zones. The calendars contain important information that would be needed in the event of a nuclear plant accident. That includes sheltering information, evacuation information and routes and instructions on how people can protect themselves, their families and pets in an emergency. "We strongly encourage people to review this information and keep it available in case of an emergency," said the director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "The calendars focus on the nuclear plants, but the information they contain can be used in any type of emergency." The New Hampshire communities in the Seabrook Station Emergency Planning Zone are Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, New Castle, Newfields, Newton, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rye, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Stratham. The New Hampshire towns in the Vermont Yankee Emergency Planning Zone are Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Winchester, and the Westport section of Swanzey. Any resident or business with the EPZ of either plant that has not received a calendar or needs additional copies may call the New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at 1-800-852-3792.
Source:
http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110105/GJNEWS_01/701059867&template=PortsmouthRegion

9. *January 5, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont; Texas) **Vermont guaranteed space at Texas waste site.** Vermont is guaranteed 20 percent of the capacity of a low-level nuclear waste disposal site in west Texas under an agreement reached January 4. The agreement is part of a plan, approved in a 5-2 vote of the eight-member Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission late January 4, that will allow 36 states to use the disposal facility previously available only to Vermont, Texas, and the federal government. Vermont's two commission members voted for the expansion plan with its Vermont-specific guarantee provision.
Source:
http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110105/NEWS01/101050301/Vermont-guaranteed-space-at-Texas-waste-site

10. *January 4, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (National) **New technology speeds cleanup of nuclear contaminated sites.** Members of the engineering faculty at Oregon State University (OSU) have invented a new type of radiation detection and measurement device that will be particularly useful for cleanup of sites with radioactive contamination, making the process faster, more accurate, and less expensive. A patent has been granted on this new type of radiation spectrometer, and the first production of

devices will begin soon. The advance has also led to creation of a Corvallis-based spin-off company, Avicenna Instruments, based on the OSU research. The market for these instruments may ultimately be global, and thousands of them could be built, researchers say. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on cleanup of some major sites contaminated by radioactivity, primarily from the historic production of nuclear weapons during and after the Second World War. These include the Hanford site in Washington, Savannah River site in South Carolina, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.
Source: http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/new-technology-speeds-cleanup-nuclear-contaminated-sites

11. *January 4, The Salt Lake Tribune* – (National) **Texas opens door to rad-waste disposal.** Utah has long been the destination for all but a small percentage of the radioactive waste that is disposed of in the nation's three commercial landfills. But that could change soon, thanks to a vote January 4 by a two-state radioactive waste panel. The Texas Compact Commission voted 5-2 to OK waste generated from 36 states going to a new radioactive waste site in Andrews County, near the Texas-New Mexico state line. The vote clears the way for Waste Control Specialists to begin competing with Salt Lake City-based EnergySolutions for low-level radioactive waste disposal.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50983582-76/waste-texas-disposal-radioactive.html.csp

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *January 5, Mississippi Press* – (Mississippi) **Gas leak sends 1,300 shipyard workers home.** In Pascagoula, Mississippi, about 1,300 Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding employees were sent home January 4 after crews found a propylene gas leak at the shipyard, company representatives said. Crews saw the leak while upgrading the facilities and taking some corrective actions following a fire at the yard on December 16, a spokesman said. The leak was discovered just before noon on the dock, near LPD 24, and the amphibious transport ship named Arlington. There was no fire or injuries and there was no damage to the facility or nearby ships, the spokesman said.
Source: http://blog.gulflive.com/mississippi-press-news/2011/01/gas_leak_sends_1300_shipyard_w.html

13. *January 4, Aviation Week* – (National) **F-35 begins year with test objectives unmet.** Flight testing of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter enters 2011 at a stepped-up pace, but with many key 2010 objectives still unmet and significant

program changes looming. While the program exceeded its year-end target of 394 flights, the objectives of clearing the conventional-takeoff-and-landing (CTOL) variant to begin pilot training, and the short-takeoff-and-vertical-landing (Stovl) version for training and initial ship trials, were not accomplished as planned in 2010. A major replan of the F-35 program is to be announced by early February.
Source:
http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/awst/2011/01/03/AW_01_03_2011_p22-279507.xml&headline=F-35 Begins Year With Test Objectives Unmet&channel=defense

14. *January 4, Aviation Week* – (Florida) **Discovery tank to be reinforced.** NASA shuttle managers called for the installation of a "radius block" on the stringer section of Discovery's external tank (ET) during a January 3 meeting, a modification that will strengthen areas that experience primary launch forces and are susceptible to cracks like those that formed during an early November 2010 launch scrub. At the same time, technicians initiated backscatter X-ray scans of all 108 ET stringers to complement the traditional X-ray analysis carried out in the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center in Florida following Discovery's December 17 tanking test. The radius block modification will strengthen 34 stringers, located on either side of 2 ET thrust panels. In all, nine stringers on either side of the two thrust panels will be fortified, including two that were modified during earlier crack repairs. The modification will begin January 4.
Source:
http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/asd/2011/01/04/09.xml&headline=Discovery Tank To Be Reinforced&channel=space

15. *January 4, Threatpost* – (National) **DOD report says spying focused on naval technology.** The U.S. Department of Defense in a new report covering espionage for 2009 said that attempts by foreign spies to obtain classified or restricted U.S. technology increased and that foreign governments are focusing their spying efforts on naval and marine technology that could provide the foundation for a next generation "blue water" navy. The revelation comes in the 2010 edition of "Targeting U.S. Technologies: A Trend Analysis of Reporting from Defense Industry," an annual publication by the Defense Security Services, part of the U.S. Department of Defense. The report concludes that Internet based spying and targeted attacks from what the report refers to as "entities" from "East Asia and the Pacific region" continued to be a major problem for the U.S. military and military contractors.
Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/dod-report-says-spying-focused-naval-technology-010411

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *January 5, Softpedia* – (National) **AOL customers targeted in new phishing attack.** A new phishing attack is targeting AOL subscribers by claiming that they need

to update their account billing information in order to avoid facing restrictions. The rogue emails have their header spoofed to appear as originating from "AOL Member Billing Services" and bear a subject of "Billing update on file must be performedz." The body uses an AOL template which includes an AOL Member Services banner and the enclosed message reads: "Our records indicate that your account hasn't been updated as a part of our regular account maintenance. Our new SSL servers check each account for activity and your information has been randomly chosen for verification. AOL Member Services strives to serve their customers with better and secure banking service. Notification: Failure to update your account information may result in account limitation at shopping on our portal." A link called "Update your information" is included and, if clicked, takes recipients to a phishing page which displays a form for inputting a wealth of information. This includes name, address, city, state, zip code, country, phone number, birth date, Social Security number, driver's license number, as well as credit card type, number, CVV2, PIN, expiration date, issuing bank, bank routing number, and bank check account. Information about the AOL account itself, such as screen name, password, security question, and answer are also required.
Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/AOL-Members-Targeted-in-New-Phishing-Attack-176351.shtml

17. *January 4, Help Net Security* – (International) **The evolution of cyber criminal operations.** There is a concerning evolutionary step cyber criminal operations are taking to more effectively diversify the distribution of their ill-gotten gains, according to Fortinet. The campaigns, which were seeded in a number of Asian and European countries, solicited local individuals who already have or had established relationships in the banking industry or were looking for work as 'online sales administrators'. To make these "localized" campaigns even more effective, they incorporated regional-sounding domain names, such as cv-eur.com, asia-sitezen.com, and australia-resume.com. Upon closer scrutiny, Fortinet discovered all three domains were registered to the same Russian contact, and all contact addresses for worldwide recruitment used Google mail hosting. By using localized campaigns, criminals can obtain mule accounts internationally – each one falling under different banks and governing laws. Thus, if one is taken offline (due to increased enforcement activity), the others will remain online and business will be as usual. Cleverly engineered spam mail with malicious attachments/intentions can be much more damaging than non-effective spam by the masses.
Source: http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10391

18. *January 4, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (National) **The evolution of check fraud.** Despite an overall, albeit gradual, decline in check use, check fraud continues to plague the financial industry. And banks and credit unions are challenged to curb these evolving crimes. According to the new Faces of Fraud Survey, check fraud is one of the top three fraud forms plaguing banking institutions, joining the likes of phishing and vishing, and payment card fraud. Sixty-three percent of survey respondents say they experienced check fraud in 2010. Yet only 34 percent of banks and credit unions say they are well equipped to fight these crimes. "Check fraud is so prevalent because it's easy," said the vice president of the Center for Regulatory Compliance within the

Financial Policy and Regulatory Affairs division of the American Bankers Association. "This is low-tech crime, and a lot of fraud prevention in this area is focused on training frontline tellers to ask questions. ... When human interaction is involved, the human analysis is your best line of defense."
Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3231

19. *January 3, KY 3 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Thieves come up with new, easier way to steal credit card data.** City police say they have learned criminals can swipe information on a credit card account without ever touching or even seeing the card. The police chief call it electronic pickpocketing. By getting within two or three feet of a purse or wallet, thieves can use a credit card reading device to steal personal bank information. It is a device that any thief can buy on the Internet. Credit card companies tout the new payWave or pay pass systems as the latest and greatest way to get in and out quickly. You can charge something to your credit card without ever swiping it by just holding it near a pay-out machine. "It can scan your card through your wallet, through your purse, and capture your credit card, your expiration date and your name, and that's all they need to use it," said the Osage Beach Police chief. The machines are handy as long as it is a legitimate business capturing your card. Sometimes it is not.
Source: http://articles.ky3.com/2011-01-03/credit-card_26357721

20. *January 3, Associated Press* – (International) **French trial for 8 suspects in terror finance ring.** Eight men went on trial on January 3 in Paris for their alleged roles in an armed gang accused of using explosives and the threat of violence to finance Islamic terror operations. Prosecutors say the gang set up a restaurant and a cybercafe to try and hide their criminal activities — an "elaborate strategy to promote and finance the cause" of terror, the indictment alleges. The trial, set to continue until Januay 28, takes place five years after the suspects' arrest in an anti-terror sweep. It is common in France for investigators to work on cases for years before they go to trial. Some of the suspects have acknowledged being members of a criminal gang, but all have denied that their goal was to finance terrorism, Le Figaro newspaper reported. The alleged ringleader has already spent time in prison from 2000-2004 for trafficking phony passports to radical groups. All of the men — a French-Algerian, four Tunisians, an Algerian, and two French citizens — are charged with "criminal association in relation with a terrorist enterprise," and some are also accused of terror financing and illegal possession of weapons. The gang is accused of using explosives to blast a hole in the wall of a warehouse of a money transport company in Beauvais, north of Paris, in 2005 — but the hole was not big enough for them to get inside, and they left empty-handed. After the suspects were rounded up, police discovered weapons and explosives in a storage space in the Paris suburbs. Some of the men are also accused in the theft of official French identity documents in northern France.
Source: http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=132630629

For another story, see item **57**

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Transportation Sector

21. *January 5, New York Post* – (New York) **Brooklyn bus depot in terror scare over mysterious filming of gas tanks.** Terror fears have struck a Brooklyn, New York bus depot after reports that several suspicious people videotaped its highly-flammable natural gas tanks. "If those were hit, the whole neighborhood would blow up," said a Transport Workers Union representative who responded to the reports. Three incidents of mysterious filming were reported on January 1-3 at the Jackie Gleason bus depot in Sunset Park. Police say they are investigating. Those who spotted the individuals described them as "Middle Eastern'' looking, and said they paid particular attention to the depot's compressed natural gas tanks, near its front gate. Only one guard is usually on duty at the depot, said sources. Early January 1, a man dressed in a business suit walked by the depot with a video camera, transit sources said. January 2, two men and a woman allegedly parked their gray BMW with Pennsylvania plates in front of the depot, and filmed it with a large video camera. The mysterious videographers waited for the guard to take a bathroom break before shooting their footage, said the sources. January 3, another man was spotted filming buses along their routes in the neighborhood. Union officials also found the gate to a separate entrance to the bus depot wide open yesterday, with no guard in sight. Four MTA counter terrorism officers were at the depot reviewing security footage of the incidents January 4. Source: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/terror_fear_at_klyn_bus_depot_zaPqJhWuo8tobuJHGl1LjK

22. *January 5, CNN* – (International) **Coffee spill diverts United Airlines flight, Transport Canada says.** A United Airlines flight from Chicago to Frankfurt, Germany, was diverted to Toronto this week after the pilot dumped a cup of coffee on the plane's communication's equipment. The unwanted liquid triggered a series of emergency codes, including one for a hijacking, according to Transport Canada, the agency that regulates transportation in Canada. "With the help of their company dispatch staff, the flight crew was confirmed the problem to be a NAV(navigation)/communication issue and not a valid code 7500 (for a hijacking or unlawful interference)," Transport Canada said on its Web site. Flight 940 initially was going to return to Chicago, but then diverted to Pearson International Airport in Toronto where it landed without incident around 10 p.m. January 3. The Boeing 777 had 255 passengers and crew aboard. United retrieved them from Toronto and took them back to Chicago where they were put on another plane to Frankfurt January 4. Source: http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/01/05/canada.flight.diverted/index.html?iref=NS1

23. *January 4, Nextgov* – (International) **U.S.-Qatar pact aims to strengthen aviation screening.** The Homeland Security Secretary and the Qatar government have reached an accord on information sharing that includes coordinating cybersecurity and body scanning strategies to thwart al Qaeda, according to a letter of intent released January 4. The U.S.-Qatar pact covers airport screening. The countries consented to consider "possible cooperation with DHS and the Transportation Security Administration to

strengthen passenger screening processes at airport[s] including [the development] and use of screening technology, such as strategic possible use of Advanced Imaging Technology, via technical exchange in coordination with other relevant aviation security-related efforts." She headed to Belgium on January 5 to continue talks with foreign counterparts about aviation security.
Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110104_9333.php?oref=topstory

24. *January 4, New York Post* – (New York) **Feds, DA offices open probe into botched blizzard cleanup: sources.** The probe launched by the Brooklyn U.S. Attorney's Office comes in response to a New York City Councilman's revelations to The Post last week that sanitation workers told him they were involved in a work slowdown, sources told The Post. At the same time, both the Brooklyn and Queens DAs offices have started their own investigations into whether there was a work slowdown. The Brooklyn U.S. Attorney's Office is investigating whether there was a conspiracy to cripple parts of the city, according to a source. The feds are trying to determine whether the plow supervisors conspired to defraud city taxpayers by padding their overtime pay, which could result in mail or wire-fraud charges. The DAs in both counties, where snow removal was at its worst, are conducting inquiries as well, spokesmen for those offices confirmed to The Post. The Mayor and Sanitation Commissioner have denied there was any orchestrated effort to halt the cleanup effort. New York's Strongest used a variety of tactics to drag out the plowing process — and pad overtime checks — which included keeping plows slightly higher than the roadways and skipping over streets along their routes, the sources said. The snow-removal snitches said they were told to keep their plows off most streets and to wait for orders before attacking the accumulating piles of snow. The workers said the work slowdown was the result of growing hostility between the mayor and the workers responsible for clearing the snow.
Source:
http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/feds_effort_offices_open_probe_into_dARzuQrWbog86JRoZbA2mL

25. *January 4, FoxNews* – (International) **Napolitano: Israeli-style security won't work for U.S.** The Homeland Security Secretary January 4 rebuffed suggestions that U.S. airports should adopt the practices of airports in Israel, calling the Israeli air travel system "a very different model." "We share a common goal, which is to protect the people of our countries from terror or other attacks," she told Fox News ahead of a tour of security facilities at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion International Airport. But there are many differences in the United States system versus Israel. Part of that is driven by sheer size." Critics of U.S. security methods, particularly full body scans and the so-called "invasive pat down" used by the Transportation Security Administration, have called for American airports to adopt Israeli-style security measures, which rely heavily on behavioral profiling of travelers. But the Secretary said that what is effective in Israel, a nation of 7.3 million, would not necessarily work for 310 million Americans. Ben-Gurion is Israel's only major international airport. The United States, however, has 450 such facilities. Plus, about 11 million people pass through Israeli airports each year, while 70 times that many passengers go through American airports each year. January 4, the head of security at Ben-Gurion gave the Secretary a tour of his airport's system

and a "comprehensive briefing" on Israeli airport security that "covered the spectrum from intelligence to the perimeter security of the airport to checkpoint screening and everything in between," according to a Homeland Security official.
Source: http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/01/04/napolitano-israeli-style-security-wont-work/

26. *January 4, Los Angeles Times* – (California; Hawaii) **Delta flight to Hawaii returns to LAX after hydraulic emergency.** A Delta Airlines flight that left Los Angeles International Airport for Kona, Hawaii, was forced to return to LAX January 4 after experiencing hydraulic problems, federal officials said. Flight 1299 landed at LAX without problems at 4:47 p.m., said a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Boeing 757 had about 185 passengers and crew members. The spokesman told The Times that the pilot declared an emergency and decided to return to LAX.
Source: http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/01/delta-flight-to-hawaii-returns-to-lax-after-hydraulic-emergency.html

27. *January 3, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Pipe bomb found near Goldsboro.** Authorities from several law enforcement agencies investigated a "suspicious device" found along U.S. Highway 70 westbound in Wayne County, North Carolina January 3. The North Carolina Highway Patrol said it was a pipe bomb. An inmate work crew from Wayne Correctional Facility found the pipe bomb on the shoulder of the highway, near Goldsboro, around 2 p.m., authorities said. Along with the sheriff's office, Wayne County Fire Marshals, Highway Patrol, Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, the State Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were all called to the scene. The investigation of how the pipe bomb got there is ongoing.
Source: http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/8873369/

For more stories, see items **1** and **3**

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Postal and Shipping Sector

28. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Gasoline fumes close Hardin Post Office.** Authorities in Calhoun County, Illinois, say gasoline fumes from a nearby service station forced the temporary closing of the Hardin Post Office. The Calhoun County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency coordinator told the (Alton) Telegraph the closing January 4 was probably caused by an overfill at the Hardin Ayerco Gas Station. The coordinator said that while the fumes were not concentrated enough to cause an explosion risk, the office was closed because of concerns over the health of postal workers. Operations were temporarily moved to the Kampsville Post Office. The Hardin Mayor says the fumes were first noticed some time last week at the Post Office, several local homes, a funeral home he owns, and a nearby tavern. But the

mayor said tests have indicated no gasoline leakage.
Source: http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local/illinois&id=7880525

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Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *January 5, Food Safety News* – (National) **Historic food safety bill signed into law.** The U.S. President signed the long-awaited FDA Food Safety Modernization Act into law January 4. The legislation, widely hailed as the most sweeping update to U.S. food safety law since the Great Depression, survived a constitutional slip-up, repeated filibuster threats, fierce debate over controversial amendments, and managed to advance amidst a jam-packed legislative agenda in one of the most productive Congresses in recent history. In the last 18 months, food safety legislation cleared the Senate twice and the House three times.
Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/historic-food-safety-bill-signed-into-law/

30. *January 5, Wassau Daily Herald* – (Wisconsin; Michigan) **More E. coli cases reported from Zillman's smoked meat.** Three new cases of E. coli-related illness have been traced from Michigan back to a Wausau, Wisconsin, butcher shop in which an outbreak first was reported just before Christmas. The illnesses bring to seven the number of people sickened by E. coli-infected smoked meat products produced at Zillman Meat Market in late 2010, the Marathon County Health Department said January 4. The department also expanded its advisory on smoked meats produced at Zillman's to between September 30 and December 23, rather than November 13 and December 23 because the department still has not pinned down the source of the bacteria. While the three cases announced January 4 are new, they are related to the prior four illnesses and involve some of the same people, the Health Department's chronic disease prevention director said. The store has fully complied with the Health Department by thoroughly cleaning the market, and the market remains fully operational.
Source:
http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110105/WDH0101/101050600/More-E-coli-cases-reported-from-Zillman-s-smoked-meat

31. *January 5, USA Today* – (Oregon; National) **Invasive medusahead weed threatens ranches in West.** According to a 2010 Oregon State University study, medusahead is rapidly crowding out native grasses, and once established, it eliminates more than 80% of a land's grazing value. Medusahead, native to the Mediterranean area and introduced to the United States in the 1880s, now covers about 1 million acres of Oregon and is spreading across 10 Western states with between 30 million and 76 million acres of public and private land infested, said an Oregon-based scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "The real risk is how rapidly it's increasing," the scientist said. "The rate is probably doubling every five years right now."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2011-01-05-ranchweeds05_ST_N.htm

32. *January 5, Stevens Point Journal* – (Wisconsin) **Man jailed after bomb threats.** A 27-year-old Plover, Wisconsin, man is in Portage County Jail on $2,000 bond after allegedly threatening to bomb a town of Hull bar January 1. According to an initial police report, Stevens Point police were dispatched to Morey's Bar in Hull at 6 p.m. for a report of a man who was causing problems. The suspect, who had been kicked out of the bar earlier in the evening for starting an argument with a woman, allegedly had come back into the bar with a baseball bat and began threatening people, stating he was going to kill everyone in the bar, and that he wanted to bomb the establishment. When Portage County sheriff's deputies arrived, the man already had left, but then he reportedly called the bar and made similar threats. Police later arrested the man after locating him at his brother's residence, where he had passed out.
Source: http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/article/20110105/SPJ0101/101050680/1657&located=rss

33. *January 3, WTNH 8 Bridgeport* – (Connecticut) **Concern over Asian stink bugs.** A lot of Connecticut farmers are worried about Asian stink bugs have turned up in the state. "In certain areas of Eastern Pennsylvania some of the growers down there have lost 50 percent of their crops," the director of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station said. The Asian stink bugs that have turned up apparently hopped rides on cars and trucks from other states. They attack fruits and veggies like a vampire. "The insect has sucking mouth parts," the director said. "So what it does is it will get on a peach, pear or tomato, pepper, it will insert those mouth parts into the fruit, or the vegetable and then it sucks the juices out of that source." Each of those bite marks scabs over with a brown, ugly mark, making the munched on produce unsellable. The state says it may be a year or two before the population grows enough to be a real problem, but they are already drawing up a stink bug battle plan for if and when things get out of hand.
Source: http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/connecticut/concern-over-asian-stink-bugs

34. *January 2, Bismarck Tribune* – (North Dakota) **Man makes bomb threat at Mandan grocery store.** Police in Mandan, North Dakota, are looking for a man who threatened to set off a bomb at a supermarket unless he was given drugs. A police lieutenant said at about 5 p.m. December 31, a man wearing a ski mask walked up to the pharmacy at the Dan's Supermarket on 500 Burlington St. S.E. and gave employees a note asking for a specific drug or else he would detonate a bomb. Store workers did not give him anything, and he left the store. No explosives were found.
Source: http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/local/article_87d1d660-16a9-11e0-912c-001cc4c03286.html

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Water Sector

35. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Wastewater discharged after Hickam power outage.** A power loss at a military waste treatment plant in Honolulu, Hawaii, has led to the discharge of 110,000 gallons of treated but undisinfected effluent into the waters near the entrance of Pearl Harbor. According to the state Department of Health, the power disruption occurred at the Fort Kamehameha Wastewater Treatment Plant at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam January 3. A health department spokesperson says the wastewater had undergone secondary treatment but was not disinfected by an ultraviolet-light unit, which was not functioning because of the power loss. He says boaters and divers are advised to stay out of the area for the next several days.
Source: http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/01/ap-air-force-hickham-wastewater-discharged-010411/

36. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. allows dumping of tainted waters from gas boom.** The natural gas boom gripping parts of the United States has a nasty byproduct: wastewater so salty and so polluted with metals like barium and strontium, that most states require drillers to get rid of the stuff by injecting it down shafts thousands of feet deep. In Pennsylvania, however, the liquid that gushes from gas wells is only partially treated for substances that could be environmentally harmful, then dumped into rivers and streams from which communities get their drinking water. In the 2 years since the frenzy of activity began in the vast underground rock formation known as the Marcellus Shale, Pennsylvania has been the only state letting its waterways serve as the primary disposal place for huge amounts of wastewater produced by a drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. State regulators tightened the rules in 2011 for any new water treatment plants, but let existing operations continue discharging water into rivers. At least 3.6 million barrels of the waste were sent to treatment plants that empty into rivers during the 12 months ending June 30, state records show.
Source: http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11004/1115432-454.stm

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

37. *January 5, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Patient information mistakenly recycled instead of shredded at Adventist Behavioral Health.** Personal information relating to several Adventist Behavioral Health patients was mistakenly recycled instead of shredded after an employee erred in how the documents were discarded, a company spokeswoman said January 4. Adventist Behavioral Health officials learned of the slip-up December 29 after some of the sensitive documents were found scattered at the Rockville facility after being blown out of a recycling truck, she said. The documents were mistakenly placed in a recycling bin by an Adventist Behavioral Health employee. The papers that fell from the truck were shredded at Adventist Behavioral Health, while the remaining documents that were transported to the recycling facility were destroyed by the time company officials learned of the mistake. The documents contained patients' names and dates of birth, not information pertaining

to medical history or treatment.
Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/01052011/montnew81732_32544.php

38. *January 4, WTNH 8 New Haven* – (Connecticut) **Mercury spill at Norwalk medical bldg.** The Norwalk Fire Department and the Fairfield County hazmat team are investigating what may have caused a mercury spill at a Cross Street medical building in Norwalk, Connecticut, January 4. The spill was reported around 11:30 a.m. at the Norwalk Medical Group on the fourth floor. Fire officials say a wall mounted spygnamometer (a blood pressure cuff and gauge) in a patient care room had broken, and had spilled out between 35 and 40 grams of mercury. Approximately 40 to 50 patients and staff were tested for mercury contamination by the hazmat team and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Some people were unaffected, while others were found to have an elevated level of mercury on their hands and shoes. Those people were treated, and their levels fell below DEP limits. No one was injured in the incident. The Norwalk Fire Department said they expect that the office will remained closed through January 5 as the cleanup continues.
Source: http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/mercury-spill-at-norwalk-medical-bldg.

39. *January 4, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Myriad flu strains emerging worldwide.** As confirmed cases of influenza in the United Kingdom over the last couple of weeks rose from 40 percent to 50 percent and at a level that qualifies as an epidemic, flu virus strains also have begun to spread elsewhere in Western Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that flu activity is now rampant in New York, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Moderate flu infections have been reported in Louisiana, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, and Nevada. "The District of Columbia and 48 states from all ten surveillance regions have reported laboratory-confirmed influenza this season," CDC stated, adding that "while activity in other areas of the country is increasing, Region 4 in the Southeastern United States has accounted for 2,664 (54.8 percent) of all 4,864 reported influenza viruses this season, including 1,547 (78.9 percent) of the 1,961 influenza B viruses." Disturbingly, CDC noted that "high levels of resistance to the [antivirals] amantadine and rimantadine persist among 2009 influenza A H1N1 and A H3N2 viruses," emphasizing that "the adamantanes are not effective against influenza B viruses circulating globally."
Source: http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/daily-news-briefings/single-article/myriad-flu-strains-emerging-worldwide/130e079705c2f7f70accd6bff45633b5.html

40. *January 3, CNN* – (New York) **Hepatitis A warning issued after Christmas communion on Long Island.** Hundreds of people might have been exposed to hepatitis A while receiving communion December 25, Long Island officials said January 3. The Nassau County Department of Health is offering vaccines to those who attended two services at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Massapequa Park in Long Island, New York, according to a Nassau County Department of Health spokeswoman. Individuals might be at risk if they received communion during the 10:30 am and noon Masses, according to a statement from the county health department.

Source: http://articles.cnn.com/2011-01-03/us/new.york.hepatitis.a_1_communion-offering-vaccines-hepatitis?_s=PM:US

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Government Facilities Sector

41. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Texas) **FBI helping investigate threats in Bay City ISD.** A hand-written death threat letter to Bay City Independent School District in South Texas prompted the parents of hundreds of students to keep their children home. A message January 5 on the school district's website said classes would continue with increased emphasis on safety and security. The FBI and the Texas Department of Public Safety are investigating. Parents on January 3 were advised by the superintendent of the anonymous letter received December 28. The letter written to the superintendent contains profanity, misspellings, and refers to the sender's child getting in trouble. The sender included new "rules" on discipline and threatened to "kill a random student" if the demands were not met. About half the students in the nearly 3,800-student district missed school January 4.
Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/7366576.html

42. *January 4, Nashville Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Bomb threat in county building.** A bomb threat briefly emptied the Robertson County, Tennessee, office building just before 2 p.m. January 4. The Robertson County 911 Center was advised by Sumner County that they had received the threat from an untraceable cell phone number, and that the link was traced to a cell tower in Sumner County. The caller said the bomb was in General Sessions Court in Robertson County. A captain at Robertson County Sheriff's Office had the building sealed and searched before allowing people back in. The search was done quickly and efficiently, and it turned up no indication of explosives. Once the building was declared safe, people filed back in to offices and courtrooms to resume schedules that had been interrupted.
Source:
http://www.tennessean.com/article/20110104/ROBERTSON01/110104048/Bomb-threat-in-county-building

43. *January 4, Long Island Press* – (New York) **12 sickened at Baldwin Library.** Authorities are investigating what sickened a dozen people at the Baldwin Public Library in New York early January 4, Nassau County police said. The library closed at noon while officials with the Nassau County Fire Marshal's office, and the Baldwin Fire Department investigated the source of the odor or fumes. Seven of those sickened were taken to Nassau University Medical Center for treatment. A voicemail message at the library reiterates that the library is temporarily closed "due to an emergency."
Source: http://www.longislandpress.com/2011/01/04/12-sickened-at-baldwin-library/?doing_wp_cron

44. *January 4, WAGA 5 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Suspicious package forces Fulton courthouse evacuation.** Authorities cleared the way for people to go back inside a county government building in Atlanta, Georgia, that was evacuated January 4 after a person brought a suspicious package inside. A Fulton County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman said emergency responders determined that the package was not an explosive risk. Security personnel at the Fulton County Government Center on January 4 alerted authorities after they identified what they thought was a suspicious package on the X-ray conveyor belt at the entrance of the building. The building was evacuated, but people were allowed to re-enter a short time later when it was determined there was no risk. The sheriff's office, Atlanta police, and Atlanta Fire Rescue responded.
Source: http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/local_news/Suspicious-Package-at-Fulton-County-Courthouse-20110104-pm-sd

45. *January 4, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Former Hempfield student charged in bomb threat.** A former student at Hempfield Area High School in Pennsylvania was charged January 3 with threatening to bomb the school December 26 while students were out of the classroom on holiday break. The 18-year-old Hempfield man was charged with terroristic threats and threatening to use weapons of mass destruction. State police at Greensburg allege the suspect — a student at the alternative school Pressley Ridge — phoned in the threat about 10 p.m. that night. "I'm gonna bomb the school. I'm gonna bomb the school," said part of the message, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. An assistant principal and school secretary heard the message when they reported to school December 30. Phone records at the school were used to tie the call to the suspect's home, police said. A Trooper said when he questioned the man at his residence, he admitted making the call.
Source:
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_716459.html

46. *January 4, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **GSA fails to follow through with IT security setup.** General Services Administration (GSA) officials have strengthened their agency-wide IT security program, but auditors have found managers failing to follow all the procedures to make the program function well. GSA's IT officials need to closely watch how security officials apply baseline configuration requirements to IT systems and IT officials also need to include authenticated security scanning to their systems' technical testing processes, according to a review by the agency's inspector general. "Authenticated scanning would provide a more comprehensive view as to the implementation of GSA's IT security policy and hardening guides by system security officials," the IG reported. The report, released last December, is the fiscal 2010 Federal Information Security Management Act review of GSA's IT security program. It's an annual audit of the agency's IT security program and the results of five system security audits conducted during the year. In those reviews, auditors found weaknesses in database and operating system software that was not patched or securely configured and lax password management for database administrator accounts and said the weaknesses stem from a failure of system security officials to apply GSA's IT security policy core requirements. In addition, officials were not being comprehensive when overseeing the technical testing of systems, the IG reported.

Source: http://fcw.com/articles/2011/01/04/gsa-fisma-it-security-program-audit-2010.aspx

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Emergency Services Sector

47. *January 5, The Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Memphis considers replacing fire trucks with fire SUVs for emergency medical calls.** The Memphis Fire Department in Tennessee is considering using sport utility vehicles to respond to emergency medical calls, which make up three of every four calls the department receives. After a four-month trial of the so-called "alternate response vehicles" the department determined they would do the job and save about $17,000 per vehicle per year on fuel and maintenance. But the firefighter's union opposes the change, saying the smaller vehicles will slow response times and endanger firefighters. A firefighter told The Commercial Appeal that clamping down on maintenance costs would produce more savings. The city's General Services Division, which repairs fire trucks, has been involved in a corruption scandal over the past year with many departments claiming they have been overbilled for work.
Source: http://www.wreg.com/news/sns-ap-tn--firesuvs,0,985182.story

48. *January 3, Fulton Sun* – (Missouri) **New alert system called 15,000 phones.** For the first time, Callaway County's Emergency Management Center (EOC) in Missouri activated its countywide system providing automated telephone calls informing all county homes and businesses of a tornado watch December 31. The Callaway County EOC director said more than 15,000 home phones and businesses in Callaway County received the automated phone calls from the new countywide 24/7 Alert Notification System. Those who signed up for cell phone or text notification also received the alert. She said tests of the new automated alert notification system last September showed it can take up to two hours for the automated system to make it through all of the home and business phone numbers in Callaway County. For this reason, she decided to use the system for tornado watches indicating conditions are favorable for a tornado rather than waiting for tornado warnings after one has been spotted because of the time it takes for the automated phone calling system to complete calls to all county telephone numbers.
Source: http://www.fultonsun.com/news/2011/jan/03/new-alert-system-called-15000-phones/

49. *January 3, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Plain language key to public safety communications.** Law enforcement executives across the United States must commit to a plan and develop a road map that outlines the necessary steps to comply with The Department of Homeland Security policy initiative to migrate from older "Ten Code" public safety radio systems to the use of "plain language" in the National Incident Management System, according to a report released by the National Institute of Justice. The report, Law Enforcement Agencies Are Phasing Out Old Radio Codes, outlines several essential ingredients of such a road map. The need to communicate with other

departments has grown in recent years, and the use of 10-codes — which vary across jurisdictions — can potentially confuse first responders from different agencies when they work together. To address this problem law enforcement must begin to standardize existing plain language terms. For instance, "Stolen car" may be referred to as a GLA (grand larceny auto), a GTA (grand theft auto), or some other term in adjacent jurisdicÂtions. Plain language is encouraged by the Department of Homeland Security, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
Source: http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/daily-news-briefings/single-article/plain-language-key-to-public-safety-communications/5c47aa5aa646017b7109c268c322082f.html

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Information Technology Sector

50. *January 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft, Googler tussle over bug timeline.** Microsoft and a Google security engineer are sparring over a bug the researcher reported to Microsoft in July 2010. A vulnerability researcher who works on Google's security team, publicly released a new "fuzzing" tool January 1 called "cross_fuzz" that he had used to find more than 100 bugs in 5 major browsers. He said he released cross_fuzzer and the crash dump because Chinese hackers were already investigating the vulnerability, and because Microsoft had not responded for months to his bug report. He first contacted Microsoft in July 2010, when he told the company's security team he had found "multiple crashes and GDI [graphics device interface] corruptions," and provided Microsoft with two early versions of cross_fuzz for them to use to verify the problems. He stated he had no contact with Microsoft between August 5 and December 20, when he told them he would release the fuzzer in early January 2011. When Microsoft asked that he delay its release, he declined. Microsoft chastised the Google security engineer January 3. "Working with software vendors to address potential vulnerabilities in their products before details are made public reduces the overall risk to customers," said a spokesman for the Microsoft Security Research Center.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203339/Microsoft_Googler_tussle_over_bug_timeline

51. *January 5, H Security* – (International) **Microsoft warns of thumbnail hole in Windows.** In a security advisory, Microsoft warns of a new, previously unknown security hole in Windows which can be exploited to inject and execute arbitrary code. Sample code that demonstrates how to go about an exploit is already in circulation. In December 2010, two people gave a presentation entitled "A Story about How Hackers' Heart Broken by 0-day" at the "Power of Community" security conference. Their presentation documents describe a security hole in Windows that is connected to the display of thumbnails and can reportedly be exploited locally via Explorer as well as remotely via WebDAV. Displaying a file with a specially crafted thumbnail is all that is

required for a successful attack. The vulnerability is exploited by setting a negative number of colour indexes in the colour table (biClrUsed). According to Microsoft's security advisory, all versions of Windows except Windows 7 and Server 2008 R2 are vulnerable. Microsoft say that they are currently not aware of any attacks which try to exploit the reported vulnerability. However, this could soon change, as a Metasploit module for creating suitable malicious files was released almost simultaneously with Microsoft's advisory.
Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-warns-of-thumbnail-hole-in-Windows-1163562.html

52. *January 5, H Security* – (International) **Floating point DoS attack.** A bug in the way the PHP scripting language converts certain numbers may cause it to tie up all system resources. For example, on 32-bit systems, converting the string "2.2250738585072011e-308" into a floating point number using the function zend_strtod results in an infinite loop and consequent full utilisation of CPU resources. PHP 5.2 and 5.3 are affected, but apparently only on Intel CPUs which use x87 instructions to process floating point numbers. The x87 design has long been known to contains a bug which triggers just this problemPDF when computing approximations to 64-bit floating point numbers. By default, 64-bit systems instead use the SSE instruction set extension, under which the error does not occur. Processing the numbers 0.22250738585072011e-307, 22.250738585072011e-309 and 22250738585072011e-324 also triggers an infinite loop. It may also be possible to remotely disable some server systems merely by sending this value as a parameter in a GET request. The PHP development team has fixed this in the forthcoming version 5.3.5. A patch for version 5.2.16 is available from the repository.
Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Floating-point-DoS-attack-1163838.html

53. *January 5, Europol* – (International) **The hidden risks of social media.** Europol's new Internet facilitated organized crime (iOCTA) report examines how European Union citizens are risking their personal identities, privacy, and computer data through the use of social media tools which are increasingly a target for cybercriminal activity. In recent years the transition of the world wide web from a collection of websites to a platform for linked services such as social networking sites and real–time communication tools ('Web 2.0'), has provided the technical means for the expansion of social engineering. Cybercriminals exploit the trust of users — who consider themselves to be in a 'safe' network of people they know — by injecting malicious software into posted items and sharing links to websites that are bogus and designed to extract personal information. The majority of organizations have come to accept the use of social networking sites in the workplace. But under the right circumstances, access to social media at work has the potential to infect corporate networks with spyware and other means to harvest large amounts of personal, corporate, and financial data for profit.
Source: http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=news&news=pr110105.htm

54. *January 4, Darkreading* – (International) **New stealth rootkit steals Windows 7, Server 2008 user privileges 'on the fly'.** A European researcher has created a rootkit that can evade detection in Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 machines and reset user passwords. The rootkit was initially a project meant for training purposes. But its designer, a security expert for Deloitte in Hungary who works on penetration testing and forensic cases, says he eventually discovered he could perform new types of attacks with the rootkit, which he plans to deliver to antivirus firms as well as to the International Council of E-Commerce Consultants (EC-Council) for its certified hacker training program. He demonstrated the rootkit for the first time at the recent Hacker Halted conferences in Miami, Florida, and Cairo, Egypt. One particularly powerful module of the rootkit is based on the concept of a cached data attack. The cached data attack has to do with how the operating system caches data in physical memory. It lets an attacker clear and reset passwords in memory without being detected by the operating system.
Source:
http://www.darkreading.com/authentication/167901072/security/vulnerabilities/229000060/new-stealth-rootkit-steals-windows-7-server-2008-user-privileges-on-the-fly.html

55. *January 4, Federal Computer Week* – (International) **Microsoft issues IE advisory, warns on FTP flaw.** Microsoft's security team announced late December 2010 that it is investigating two proof-of-concept flaws in Microsoft's Web-related software. One of the flaws offers a possible avenue for remote code execution attacks via Internet Explorer (IE). The other flaw could enable denial-of-service attacks by exploiting a vulnerability in Internet Information Services FTP 7.5, which runs as a part of Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2. The IE proof-of-concept flaw potentially affects all versions of Microsoft's Web browser. It supposedly works by bypassing protections normally enabled by Microsoft's address space layout randomization (ASLR) and data execution prevention (DEP) technologies. Microsoft described the problem in a blog post in December 2010, suggesting that users could deploy Microsoft's Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit (EMET) as a workaround.
Source: http://fcw.com/articles/2011/01/04/ecg-microsoft-investigating-ie-and-ftp-security-flaws.aspx

56. *January 4, Federal Computer Week* – (International) **Exploit for critical vulnerability in Microsoft Office appears in the wild.** An exploit has been discovered in the wild that can successfully attack a critical vulnerability in the way Microsoft Office handles Rich Text Format data, allowing remote execution of code on a victim computer. Microsoft released a patch for the vulnerability, known as CVE-2010-3333, in November 2010, and no widespread outbreaks of exploits have yet been reported. The public availability of an exploit lowers the bar for attackers, however, and increases the urgency for seeing that affected software is patched.
Source: http://fcw.com/articles/2011/01/04/ms-office-rtf-exploit.aspx

57. *January 3, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (International) **Slots-theft case expands.** A Swissvale, Pennsylvania, man who was to stand trial January 3 on charges of swindling the Meadows Racetrack & Casino in Pittsburgh out of nearly $430,000 instead was

arrested by federal authorities for "global prosecution" involving the theft of up to $1.4 million from slot machines. The man was charged with computer intrusion, conspiracy, and other federal offenses in what was allegedly a Las Vegas, Nevada-based, worldwide scheme to target a particular slot machine. "From Las Vegas to Monaco, every casino that has these types of machines could be affected," said the Washington County District Attorney. Authorities said the men were aware of a software glitch in a high-limit slot machine and entered a specific set of keystrokes to expose the weakness and cause the machine to generate false double jackpots.
Source: http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11003/1115306-100.stm

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

58. *January 5, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **Long wait for phone repair.** In late December, AT&T was saying it only had "pockets" of service outages because of the rains. Now after questioning by NBCLA, the phone giant admits it has outages in every part of Southern California, but the company will not tell us exactly how many customers are without service. They are admitting that there is now a 17-day wait to get a repairman to your house. A spokesperson for AT&T told NBCLA that because of the rain they are working around the clock to restore service to customers. To deal with this current repair nightmare, AT&T brought in over 1,000 technicians from outside Southern California, just to fix the phones in the LA area. Verizon also told NBCLA that it is experiencing "higher than normal" outages of landline service in the LA area. Verizon said it too has brought in technicians from out of state get a handle on the volume of service calls, and said its customers are experiencing about a week wait to get repairs.
Source: http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local-beat/Long-Wait-for-Phone-Repair-112909049.html

59. *January 5, Honolulu Star Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Phones still down for 1,100.** There an estimated 1,100 Hawaiian Telcom land-line customers currently without phone service since December and through the holidays. A Hawaiian Telcom spokeswoman said trouble calls rose following the December 10-11 heavy rain and again December 19, following another bout of heavy rainfall. The company reported about 2,200 current trouble tickets, with problems ranging from static to outages. It includes multiple calls from the same customers and non-rain-related issues. The company was unable to provide the number of customers with rain-related problems since the flood of calls began. The company's repair crews have been working overtime and holidays, and

neighbor island crews were brought in to help. Some repairs require cutting sections of cable damaged by short circuits due to water infiltration, then painstakingly splicing in hundreds of lines on both ends. Small pockets of isolated problems affecting one or a few customers have occurred across the island. Equipment failure occurred in some areas caused by prolonged loss of power and water infiltration, the spokeswoman said. In the Punahou and Aina Haina areas, a concentration of customers were hit, 140 and 70, respectively, she said. In the Punahou area, construction crews from other companies damaged Hawaiian Telcom cables, causing small holes or cuts, without notifying the phone company.
Source:
http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaiinews/20110105_Phones_still_down_for_1100.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

60. *January 5, KVVU 5 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Truck catches fire in Vegas casino garage.** A fire that engulfed a pickup truck in the MGM Grand parking garage damaged two other vehicles before it was extinguished, fire officials said January 4. Clark County and Las Vegas, Nevada firefighters responded to the fire just after 10 a.m. on the third floor of the garage, on Tropicana Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard. A total of 41 personnel responded to the fire, officials said. Flames charred the sides of two vehicles parked next to the truck, but no one was hurt by the fire. The fire was out within a few minutes.
Source: http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/truck-catches-fire-vegas-casino-garage

61. *January 5, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Employee injured in explosion at W.Va. motel.** The manager of a motel in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, is recovering from injuries suffered in an explosion. The explosion occurred around 7:30 p.m. January 4 at The Hermitage Motel in Bartow. The Bartow-Frank-Durbin Volunteer Fire Department chief says the blast occurred in the victim's living quarters in the L-shaped building. He says the man was trapped in rubble when firefighters arrived and suffered burns. The manager is in good condition at a hospital in Virginia. The cause of the blast has not been determined but propane is suspected.
Source: http://www.wset.com/Global/story.asp?S=13786250

62. *January 5, Canadian Press* – (International) **High alert for Coptic Christmas in Canada after terrorist attack in Egypt.** Security has been increased at Coptic churches across Canada as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ this January 7, in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in Alexandria, Egypt, January 1. Coptic Orthodox leaders in Canada have been contacted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) due to concerns that extremists may target the Coptic diaspora abroad. The Head of the Canadian Coptic Association based in Montreal said the RCMP are taking every precaution to ensure no attacks are carried out as they celebrate the

Orthodox Christmas. Officials said January 4 the attack in Egypt left at least 23 dead, and it sparked riots in Egypt and alarm across Europe and North America. Canada is believed to be home to the largest Coptic diaspora after the United States, with conservative estimates at nearly 250,000, mostly living in Eastern Canada. There are five Coptic Orthodox Churches in Montreal and more than 20 in the Greater Toronto Area. The Canadian Press reported last month on an al-Qaeda website, Shumukh al Islam, that has a list of more than 100 Copts living in Canada and others around the world.
Source: http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/high-alert-for-coptic-christmas-in-canada-after-terrorist-attack-in-egypt-112889484.html

63. *January 4, Associated Press* – (California) **Suspect surrenders after killing forces evacuation of building, closure of Hollywood Boulevard.** Los Angeles police say a man has been taken into custody after an hours-long standoff that forced the evacuation of an apartment building along the Hollywood Walk of Fame January 4. Officers were called to the Hudson Apartments on Hollywood Boulevard at about 3 a.m. and found the body of a woman lying in a third-floor hallway. A police spokesman said the woman appeared to be about 25 years old and had been shot several times. Police evacuated some people from the building and a SWAT team was called. A police lieutenant tells KTLA-TV that the man was peacefully taken into custody in the apartment more than four hours later. Authorities say it may have been a domestic violence killing.
Source:
http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/09f8994817ab484882dd9c12fd69c1f2/US--Hollywood_Killing/

64. *January 4, Florida Today* – (Florida) **Device rendered safe at West Melbourne office building.** A situation at a West Melbourne, Florida office has ended after the building was evacuated because of a suspicious device January 4. "The device was rendered safe," said a commander of the West Melbourne Police Department. The "hoax device" was thought to have specifically targeted a law office around 2:30 p.m. All personnel had been evacuated from the State Farm Building at 2815 West New Haven Ave and the nearby Sun Trust Bank, which is across from Target in the Home Depot shopping plaza. The Brevard County Sheriff's Office explosive ordnance disposal team arrived just before 3:30 p.m., and the bomb squad ended the situation by 4:00 p.m. when they determined the device was a fake.
Source:
http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20110104/BREAKINGNEWS/110104014/1006/NEWS01/Device+rendered+safe+at+West+Melbourne+office+building

65. *January 4, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Remains of a person found on boat that exploded in Delray Beach.** Remains of a person were found January 4 by the Florida state Fire Marshal's Office on the 32-foot fiberglass inboard boat that exploded January 3, a spokeswoman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) said. The boat was towed by Sea Tow around noon from Delray Harbor Club marina to another local marina. A medical examiner will then take custody of the "badly burnt remains" from

the boat to identify them, said an FWC spokeswoman. The owner of the boat was in stable condition January 4 at Delray Medical Center, according to a hospital spokesman. He was burned when the vessel exploded. The deceased was in the boat cabin at the time. His brother also was injured and taken to Delray Medical Center. The U.S. Coast Guard identified the boat as The Quarterdeck. A spokesman for Delray Beach Fire-Rescue said the vessel was refueling when it exploded. The explosion caused part of the dock to catch fire, which Boca Raton Fire-Rescue put out.
Source: http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/remains-of-a-person-found-on-boat-that-1162182.html

66. *January 3, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Arson investigators find sprinkler system at Indian Orchard mill building was turned off sometime before fire.** The investigation into the fire December 30 at a former mill in the Indian Orchard neighborhood of Springfield, Massachusetts, has determined the building's emergency sprinkler system was operable but had been turned off sometime prior to the fire, a fire official said January 3. A fire department spokesman said investigators are now working to find who shut the system off and when. The building sustained heavy damage to the second and third floors. The first floor sustained mostly water damage. The building's lone tenant and owner of Allston Antiques said that the fire department ordered the sprinklers to be turned off. The Fire Department had the system shut off on December 14 because the building did not have heat and there was concern the sprinkler system pipes would freeze and then burst. A spokesman said fire inspectors turned the system on again December 15. Inspectors could see on a pressure gauge that the system had the proper water pressure, and the building's owner was present to witness it, he said. An inspection in mid-December found exposed wiring, faulty emergency exit signs, and were suspicious that the sprinkler system had not been inspected and was not up to code, officials have said.
Source:
http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/01/arson_investigators_find_sprin.html

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

67. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **National Park Service closes part of Colonial Parkway after water-pipe break.** Part of the Colonial Parkway in Virginia remained closed January 4 after a water pipe broke. Newport News Waterworks said that it is working to fix damage to a 42-inch water main that forced the closure of a stretch of parkway between Cheatham Annex and Parkway Drive. The National Park Service said a marked detour will remain in place until further notice until the pipe and roadway can be repaired. Crews are assessing the extent of the damage caused by the break, which occurred the afternoon of January 4.
Source: http://www.wdbj7.com/sns-ap-va--colonialparkwaydetour,0,6257206.story

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Dams Sector

68. *January 4, Lafourche Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Bridges, levee aim to help Terrebonne residents.** A new pair of bridges on Falgout Canal Road in Houma, Louisiana, and a specially designed levee to the south may give new life to area marshes while protecting Terrebonne communities like Houma, Dularge, and Dulac from storm flooding. The Terrebonne Levee Board voted January 3 to act as the parish's agent while constructing a section of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane-protection system that will be built just south of Falgout Canal Road. The parish decided last month to put up $14 million in hurricane-recovery money from Gustav and Ike to help the Levee District build the levee. And in conjunction with the levee, the parish has its own environmental project planned. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is requiring the Levee District to built the levee in an environmentally friendly manner, outfitted with two structures that will allow water to flow through the levee and can be shut during storms. But that will not work if no water is allowed to flow through Falgout Canal Road. So the parish plans to build two bridges in the roadway, restoring the historic water flow. The Levee District is moving forward with the levee project and plans to begin the environmental study required to get permits for the levee project this year. The study could take as long as 6 months, the Terrebonne Levee Director said.
    Source:
    http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20110104/ARTICLES/110109836/1026/NEWS01?p=all&tc=pgall

69. *January 4, Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **Great Dam study could take a year to complete.** The Exeter River Study Committee in New Hampshire will likely recommend a firm to conduct a feasibility study into the possible removal of Great Dam within a month. A town engineer said the committee reviewed six proposals from firms that responded to the town request for proposals. The town met with two of those firms in mid-December 2010 and is getting cost proposals. Voters approved a warrant article in March 2010 to spend $100,000 for the purpose of studying the feasibility of removing the Great Dam, and approved of acceptance of a watershed assistance grant in the amount of $60,000 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to offset the total. The feasibility study will provide town officials and voters with further information as they consider potential dam modifications or removal. Some of the deficiencies noted by the state include deteriorated concrete, small leaks/seeps through the penstock intake, and the dam's inability to pass the runoff resulting from a 50-year precipitation event. The cost to modify the dam is estimated at approximately $1.3 million. To remove the dam is would cost an estimated at $962,000. The study — which may take 9 months to a year to complete — will include a historical analysis, wetlands evaluation and archaeological surveying. This study will look at all aspects of impacts, costs, and benefits of dam removal. The dam removal study will look at upstream impacts on wetlands and recharge areas, water levels, recreation, and erosion. It will also look at downstream impacts to landowners along the river and with respect to water quality changes in the Squamscott River and the

Great Bay.
Source: http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20110104-NEWS-101040349

70. *January 3, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Floods cause minimal damage in Tijuana River Valley.** Farmers and ranchers in the Tijuana River Valley in California said the punishing winter storm that battered San Diego County and left it in an official state of emergency in December 2010 could have been much worse for the flood-prone area had it not been for recent improvements. Longtime residents credited city dredging projects and a federal grant to build berms with preventing a repeat of the devastating 2008 floods that left several horses dead. The December deluge caused floodwaters to breach a levee December 22 west of Hollister Street, but there were no reported injuries to people or animals. Eighteen horses were moved to higher ground at Kimzey Ranch at Hollister Street and Monument Road in the middle of the storm, but one rancher, the owner of the Sea Horse Ranch on Hollister Street, said the flooding was mild this year. "Some of the berms and some of the preparations that have been done down here have really paid off," he said. In 2009, the city received an emergency permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clear out channels in the valley, including the 1,600-foot Smuggler's Gulch flood-control channel. City crews have been dredging sediment and augmenting berms recently.
Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/jan/03/floods-cause-minimal-damage-tijuana-river-valley/

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