



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- CNN reports small explosions at two Maryland government office buildings caused by packages sent via mail, left one person with minor injuries January 6. (See item [27](#))
- According to Associated Press, the son of a police detective opened fire at a high school in Omaha, Nebraska, January 5, fatally wounding the assistant principal and injuring the principal. (See item [49](#))

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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 6, Wichita Falls Times Record News* – (Texas) **Two suspects in oil products heist at large.** Law officers in Montague County, Texas are attempting to arrest more people indicted in connection with the theft of more than \$1 million in petroleum products. In a Montague County grand jury session, 23 sealed felony indictments for theft, engaging in organized criminal activity, and conspiracy were issued against seven individuals, said the district attorney. These indictments bring the total to 10 people charged in connection with two-and-a-half year investigation by the Texas Rangers,

Montague County DA's office, and the Wise County Sheriff's Office. An investigator with the Wise County Sheriff's Office, said the December indictments were for charges of theft, money laundering, engaging in organized criminal activity, and conspiracy. A spokesman said the thieves used various methods to steal the oil, but the most common was for saltwater truck drivers to go to clandestine sites and change out the water for oil. They also would get half a load of water and half a load of oil. The stolen oil was then sold at less than half price to companies in Montague County. Another method would have the drivers obtain keys to trucks from deserted businesses at night and take them to steal the oil.

Source: <http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2011/jan/06/two-suspects-in-oil-products-heist-at-large-n-of/>

2. *January 5, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Fuel spill sparks scare in Florida Keys.** A report of a large fuel sheen in the waters off Key Largo, Florida January 4 sent the U.S. Coast Guard on a mission to quickly track down the source. In a search of the waters, a pollution investigator discovered a large diesel spill and eventually tracked the source back to a 500-gallon diesel fuel tank on land with a leaking hose attached to a moored vessel. By the time it was discovered, all the fuel had escaped from the tank, the Coast Guard said. The Key Largo Fire Department hazardous materials team responded and cleaned up the spill. The Coast Guard and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are investigating.
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/05/2000863/fuel-spill-sparks-scare-in-florida.html>
3. *January 5, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Explosion possibly caused by copper theft.** A man was critically injured January 5 after an electrical fuse exploded near the old Hard Rock Cafe in Waikiki, Hawaii. The incident caused a power outage in the area that affected hundreds of customers and the closure of Kapiolani Boulevard, a Hawaiian Electric Co. spokesman said. Witnesses said the transformer fire was near the old Hard Rock Cafe site at the corner of Kapiolani Boulevard and Kalakaua Avenue. They said they could see flames leap up as high as the nearby coconut trees. An injured man ran out onto the street with severe burns, witnesses said. Hawaiian Electric officials said there is evidence the man was trying to steal copper wiring from a locked box with electrical equipment.
Source: <http://www.kitv.com/r/26379974/detail.html>
4. *January 5, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Feds put nation's pipeline operators on notice.** Federal safety officials responding to the findings of the San Bruno, California disaster probe issued a nationwide bulletin January 5 urging operators of natural-gas pipelines to verify they have accurate records about their lines, and to cut pressure on them if they do not. The regulators took the unusual step in response to the discovery that Pacific Gas and Electric Co. had erroneous records about the high-pressure gas line that exploded in San Bruno in September, killing eight people and destroying 38 homes. The revelation raised questions about whether the utility had set the line's maximum allowable operating pressure too high, and whether it had used an inspection method for the pipe that was ill suited to detect some possible weaknesses.

The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, saying some companies have “failed to detect flaws and deficiencies” in their pipes, called on operators January 5 to do an exhaustive review of records to ensure they are checking for all possible problems. If a pipeline operator cannot make a case for a line’s safety, the agency said, it should cut pressure immediately on the line by 20 percent and inspect it.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/01/05/MN001H4F71.DTL>

5. *January 4, Austin Post-Bulletin* – (Minnesota) **Corn mash tank collapses at Claremont ethanol plant.** A 270,000-gallon corn mash fermentation tank at the Al-Corn Clean Fuels in Claremont, Minnesota collapsed inside a building January 1, draining nearly all the mash from the tank and another connected to it. About 420,000 gallons of mash spilled, and about 100,000 gallons got out of the building, but most stayed on Al-Corn land, said Al-Corn’s CEO. Most of the mash in the building was recovered and is being turned into ethanol, he said. Mash is part of the process used to turn corn into ethanol. The 100,000 gallons that leaked equates to about 10,000 bushels of corn, he said. The collapse also knocked out a roof beam support, bowing out a wall, he said. Such collapses are “fairly unusual,” the CEO said. The tank was made of carbon steel, and the mash is corrosive to that, he said. The plant has expanded from making about 10 million gallons to 50 million gallons, mostly using those tanks. The new tank will cost about \$300,000, he said. None of the corn mash apparently got into surface water or groundwater. If the mash gets into water, the ethanol and sugar can use up oxygen needed by plants or animals in the water, a spokeswoman said.

Source:

http://ww2.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=28&a=483991

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *January 6, Associated Press* – (International) **1 killed in explosion at French chemical plant.** An explosion at a chlorine plant in southern France on December 6 killed one man and injured nine, authorities said. The administration for the Bouches-du-Rhone region said a leak of water containing sodium prompted the explosion. The blast occurred at a plant run by Gazechim in the Mediterranean port of Lavera. The administration said in a statement that no gases leaked outside the site. Traffic around the site was restricted, and specialists in chemical accidents were there. A 28-year-old man who worked at the plant died immediately, the administration said, without providing details. The local emergency service said that one other person suffered serious injuries and eight others were treated for chemical poisoning. The explosion coughed up a black and white cloud and damaged a reservoir, causing chlorine gas to escape, the administration said in a statement.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110106/ap_on_bi_ge/eu_france_explosion

7. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **1 dead in explosion at Tennessee ammunition plant.** A series of explosions ripped through an ammunition plant January 5, killing one worker and injuring a firefighter in Oakland, Tennessee. Four other workers were chased out by a fireball while shells from the plant fired off for about an hour. The emergency management director for Fayette County said a 34-year-old male employee died in the blast and subsequent fire at the Kinematics Research plant, which makes bullets. The Oakland police chief said the plant housed several thousand rounds of unknown caliber and gunpowder. Witnesses said debris shot into the air during several explosions spanning a half-hour. The building, just south of U.S. Highway 64, was left standing but was gutted and riddled with holes. Fire crews could not get close to the building because of the danger. One firefighter was slightly injured, apparently hit by a bullet or fragment of some kind. The fire was brought under control about 90 minutes after the first blast was reported around 1:45 p.m. The cause is not yet known.
Source: <http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20110106/NEWS01/101060318/1+dead+in+explosion+at+Tennessee+ammunition+plant>
8. *January 5, Associated Press* – (International) **Dutch firefighters tackle blaze at chemical plant.** Authorities in The Hague, Netherlands, warned residents to stay indoors and keep doors and windows shut December 5 as a major blaze and explosions ripped through a chemical storage and packing company. Television images showed a towering plume of thick smoke churning out of the fire and several powerful blasts, apparently as storage tanks exploded. The fire started at Chemie-Pack Nederland BV in an industrial estate in the town of Moerdijk. The Moerdijk mayor told a press conference measurements had not detected fumes that could form a health risk. A police spokesman said “poisonous, flammable and corrosive” chemicals were stored at the company, but gave no further details. Police said none of the company’s 50 staff were injured. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. Residents in parts of the nearby city of Dordrecht also were warned to keep windows and doors shut. Barges using the nearby Hollands Diep waterway were ordered to stop. Dozens of firefighters fought the blaze, and the government sent three air-force firefighting trucks.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/05/AR2011010502814.html>
9. *January 5, RotorNews* – (National) **U.S. revises hazmat transport special permits procedure.** The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has issued a final rule revising its procedures for applying for special permits to transport hazardous materials in commerce. The new procedures mandate that applicants offer sufficient information to ensure the agency is able to evaluate their ability to undertake the activities of the special permit, clarify current requirements, and call for supplemental information to allow the agency to have better oversight. They also make an online application available. The changes will go into effect March 7.
Source: <http://rotor.com/Default.aspx?TabId=177&newsid375=72429>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vt. nuke plant again drawing dirty ground water.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is once again extracting contaminated groundwater from beneath the Vernon, Vermont facility. On December 30, the plant began extracting water contaminated with radioactive tritium from two new wells close to the Connecticut River. The resumption followed a December 17 visit to the plant by Vermont’s governor-elect, who asked plant officials to resume pumping. The plant started extracting contaminated water last March. Engineers said the radioactive water came from cracked pipes. The process was stopped in November after 390,000 gallons were extracted. A Vermont Yankee spokesman told the Brattleboro Reformer the new wells were drilled where engineers estimated tritium would be present.
Source: http://www.necn.com/01/06/11/Vt-uke-plant-again-drawing-dirty-ground/landing_scitech.html?&blockID=3&apID=ce59db84154f41d984198f64bfb4ed15

11. *January 6, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. nuclear output little changed as Illinois reactor slows.** United State nuclear-power production was little changed for a third day, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. Production from U.S. reactors fell by 117 megawatts from January 5 to 96,942 megawatts, or 95 percent of capacity, according to the January 6 NRC report and data compiled by Bloomberg. Four of 104 power units were offline. Exelon Corp. slowed its 867-megawatt Dresden 3 reactor in Morris, Illinois, to 89 percent of capacity from full power January 5. Another reactor at the site, the 867-megawatt Unit 2, was operating at full capacity.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-06/u-s-nuclear-output-little-changed-as-illinois-reactor-slows.html>

12. *January 5, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Homeland Security delivers nuclear detection plan to Capitol Hill.** A key U.S. Homeland Security Department agency recently submitted to lawmakers the blueprint for the federal government’s effort to prevent nuclear-weapon materials from being smuggled into the country. The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) delivered its long-awaited “strategic plan” for the global nuclear detection architecture to Capitol Hill December 20, according to the DNDO chief. The Homeland Security Secretary signed off on the plan that same day. The detection architecture usually refers to the worldwide network of sensors, telecommunications, personnel, and measures used to detect, identify, and report the potential movement of illicit nuclear and radioactive materials or weapons. The blueprint, which has yet to be made available to the public, details the detection office’s vision for the system over the next 5 years as well as the objectives and performance metrics for the architecture, the DNDO chief said.
Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110105_2909.php

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *January 6, C4ISR Journal* – (International) **Navy intel chief: Chinese missile is effective.** The U.S. Navy’s intelligence director said January 5 that officials were surprised by China’s rapid development of a ballistic missile thought capable of striking ships at sea. “Their anti-ship missile — we underestimated when they would be competent and capable in delivering a technological weapon of that type,” said the vice admiral, the deputy chief of naval operations for information dominance and the Navy’s intelligence director. He was referring to development and testing of the Dong Feng 21D, a land-based anti-ship ballistic missile that officials now say has reached its initial operating capability. Analysts said the missile leaves U.S. aircraft carriers vulnerable to attack, as the technology the missile utilizes increases its probability of being able to hit a moving target.
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/01/navy-intelligence-chief-chinese-missile-is-effective-010511w/>
14. *January 6, Aviation Week* – (Texas) **Further Discovery launch delay possible.** Space shuttle program managers are assessing the need for radius block modification to each of the 108 support stringers on the shuttle Discovery’s external tank (ET), an upgrade that would likely require NASA to push the senior orbiter’s final mission out of an early February launch window. Managers will consider the additional work during a Program Requirements Control Board meeting January 6. Discovery’s 11-day assembly mission to the International Space Station has been on hold since a November 5 launch scrub, while managers have been trying to establish the root cause for eight cracks found so far in five 21-foot-long aluminum lithium alloy support stringers on the ET’s “intertank.”
Source:
[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/asd/2011/01/05/16.xml&headline=Further Discovery Launch Delay Possible&channel=space](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/asd/2011/01/05/16.xml&headline=Further%20Discovery%20Launch%20Delay%20Possible&channel=space)
15. *January 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Report says Army cut corners on body armor tests.** The Pentagon inspector general said the Army cut corners when testing body armor used by U.S. troops. In a report issued January 5, the watchdog agency said service officials did not consistently enforce — and at times lowered — ballistic testing requirements for protective vests that cost U.S. taxpayers \$434 million. Taking shortcuts around the testing standards means the Army has only limited assurance the vests met what the contract required, the report said. The Army has agreed with an inspector general’s recommendation to determine whether a recall of any of the critical battlefield gear is necessary. The body armor used by most American forces consists of a ballistic vest with two large, specially hardened ceramic plates that protect most of

the upper body from enemy bullets and shrapnel.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/05/AR2011010505602.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *January 6, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **Woman FBI calls the ‘church lady bandit’ indicted in 12 robberies.** The first bank robbery now attributed to the “church lady bandit” occurred January 10, 2006 — right around the time, auditor’s records show, the suspect lost her Northeast Side house in Columbus, Ohio in foreclosure. Three more robberies linked to the bandit occurred in October 2008, the same month the suspect embezzled \$2,500 from her employer using a company credit card, according to court records. The bandit’s pace picked up in the fall, when she robbed seven banks and a motel, authorities said. Those robberies started in September, 4 months after the courts agreed the suspect owed \$12,400 for defaulting on a car loan. On January 5, the Franklin County prosecutor announced a 24-count indictment against the suspect, saying the 46-year-old woman was responsible for 11 bank robberies, and one at a motel.

Source:

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/01/05/Church_lady_bandit_indicted.html?sid=101

17. *January 6, Associated Press; Texarkana Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Police officers charged in armored car caper.** Three Arkansas police officers have been charged with conspiracy to rob an armored car in Little Rock, and one of their two alleged accomplices was indicted for stealing \$400,000 from an armored car driver in 2007, according to an indictment released January 5. Prosecutors would not say whether the conspiracy charges stemmed from the alleged heist or another plot, though all five men were named in the same terse, 2-page indictment.

Source: <http://www.texarkanagazette.com/news/WireHeadlines/2011/01/06/police-officers-charged-in-armored-car-c-41.php>

18. *January 6, Help Net Security* – (International) **Undetectable fake ATM keyboard steals PINs in real time.** Thieves and scammers are an inventive bunch, especially when it comes to stealing money indirectly. And the latest discovery of a fake keyboard placed over an ATM’s legitimate one that records the typed-in PIN — in conjunction with a fake magnetic strip reader that can be manufactured from cheap spare electronic parts — shows this kind of crime does not require a lot of funds and can bring in quite a lot of money. According to Gizmodo, the keyboard is virtually undetectable by anyone who is not an expert, and looks exactly like the real thing. It records the PIN as you type it in and sends this information, and that regarding the credit card magnetic strip, to the criminals in real time, so they can immediately proceed to empty an account. U.S. ATM users are particularly susceptible to these types of theft, since many ATMs work on the same principle. The chip-and-PIN technology used in Europe is harder to

crack, so a number of U.S. banks have started adopting it.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10402>

19. *January 6, WFXT 25 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **FBI investigating possible bank robbery ring.** One bank robbery January 5 in Burlington, Massachusetts could turn out to be a hit by a major organized crime crew. The FBI violent crimes task force has been chasing a group of organized bank robbers for nearly a month now. Since December 15, they have hit banks in Lynnfield, Reading, Malden, Westford, Salem, Westford, and, most recently, Burlington. At first authorities thought they were dealing with a single bank robber, but now they believe this is a bank robbery ring — one that is considered armed and dangerous. Surveillance from the latest bank robbery January 5 at about 9:30 a.m. at the Central Bank on Wilmington Road shows a black man wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt with the hood up walking into the bank, passing a demand note threatening he had a gun, and then walking out. The FBI and the Massachusetts Bankers Association have put up a \$15,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspects.

Source: http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/crime_files/crime_watch/bank-robberies-the-work-of-organized-crew-20110105

20. *January 6, Willoughby News-Herald* – (International) **Federal charges filed against man accused of defrauding St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union.** A person who resides in both Eastlake, Ohio, and Skopje, Macedonia, is facing two charges of bank fraud and one charge of money laundering. The suspect is accused of fraudulently obtaining several loans totaling \$2.5 million from St. Paul Croatian Federal Credit Union in Eastlake between July and August 2009, according to the United States attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. Authorities believe he obtained most of the loans by falsely listing the names of other persons as the applicants and intended recipients, he said. The suspect is also accused of not being eligible to receive any loans from the credit union at that time because he had already defaulted on more than \$1 million he previously received.

Source: <http://news-herald.com/articles/2011/01/06/news/doc4d25cc96ba93b719119840.txt>

21. *January 6, WLUK 11 Green Bay* – (Wisconsin) **Neenah police search for bank robbery suspect.** A bomb threat, turned bank robbery had a Neenah, Wisconsin, grocery store evacuated for nearly 4 hours January 5. It began around 5:30 p.m. at the Pick ‘n Save on Fox Point Plaza. Authorities said a man wearing a black hooded sweatshirt pulled a package he claimed was a bomb from a grocery bag. He then demanded money from the Associated Bank inside the store. The Brown County Bomb Squad determined the package was harmless, but police said the robbery caused quite a scare. “We treated it as carefully as we could. We evacuated the building, got the employees out, and the patrons cleared, the parking lots and some of the other nearby buildings, then called for the bomb squad,” the Neenah police chief said. Employees were allowed back in the building shortly before 9 p.m.

Source: http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/fox_cities/neenah-pick-n-save-evacuated

22. *January 5, Orange County Register* – (California) **Fake-bomb bandit believed to be serial robber.** A man who used a fake bomb to rob a Bank of America January 4 in Orange, California is believed to be a serial robber who has hit banks in Los Angeles County, officials said. At about 2:45 p.m., a man wearing a baseball cap sat down with an employee and opened what looked to be a day planner, authorities said. Inside was a device that looked like a bomb, complete with cylinder-shaped objects that resembled flares, wiring, and electronic components. A man law-enforcement officials have dubbed the “Scanner Bandit” is believed to be responsible for four robberies, including the January 4 heist. The serial bank robber is known for using devices that look like bombs. The object in the January 4 heist was determined to have been a fake bomb, and FBI officials said the robbery closely resembled similar incidents in banks in Torrance, Whittier, and Norwalk.
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/bomb-282836-bank-officials.html>

For another story, see item [61](#)

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Transportation Sector

23. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Wyoming; National) **NTSB: American Airlines mishandled plane data.** Federal officials investigating an incident where an American Airlines jet went off the end of a runway said the airline improperly downloaded information from the plane’s flight recorder before turning it over to the government. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) called the download a violation of its standards, and barred American Airlines from further participation in the inquiry into the December 29 incident at Wyoming’s Jackson Hole Airport. A Boeing 757 carrying 181 passengers and crew members landed on a runway and came to rest in hard-packed snow about 350 feet beyond the runway overrun area, the NTSB said. No one aboard Flight 2253 from Chicago was injured, and the plane was not damaged. The NTSB said December 31 it learned the plane’s digital flight data recorder was flown to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where American Airlines technicians downloaded information from it before turning it over to the agency in Washington, D.C., the evening after the incident. American Airlines did not access the plane’s cockpit voice recorder, the NTSB said. The NTSB requires in such instances that airlines transport recorders to NTSB labs without accessing the information, the agency said. Agency investigators determined no information from the American Airlines jet was missing or altered.
Source: <http://topnews360.tmcnet.com/topics/associated-press/articles/2011/01/06/132018-ntsb-american-airlines-mishandled-plane-data.htm>
24. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Alaska; National) **Alaska plane crash that killed Ted Stevens prompts call for inspections of emergency locators.** Federal safety officials investigating the Alaska plane crash that killed a former U.S. Senator from Alaska called for the inspection of emergency locator transmitters on planes to ensure they are properly mounted and will function after a crash. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said in a letter January 5 to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Administrator that the transmitter aboard the plane carrying the Senator, several friends, and their children August 9 failed to function after the single-engine float plane slammed into a remote southwest Alaska mountainside. The transmitters are designed to transmit a plane's identification and location upon impact. But the transmitter on the the de Havilland Dash-3T became dislodged from its mounting tray and its antenna broke off. It was nearly 5 hours after the accident before airborne searchers located the crash site, which was only 19 miles from where the plane originated. Rescuers found the Artex 406 megahertz emergency transmitter on the floor of the plane, where it apparently fell during the crash. A strap that was supposed to hold the transmitter in place was in the wrong position, the board said. Had the transmitter remained attached to the mounting tray, it is likely the signal would have been detected soon after the accident, and rescue personnel dispatched directly to the crash site hours earlier.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-alaska-plane-crash-ntsb,0,3639319.story>

25. *January 5, Reuters* – (International) **Hijacker overpowered on Norway-Turkey flight.** Passengers aboard a Turkish Airlines flight from Oslo, Norway, overpowered a would-be hijacker as the plane landed at an Istanbul, Turkey airport January 5, fellow passengers told Turkish media. Police said the man was a Turk who had demanded the plane return to Norway. His motive was unclear. According to the Turkish Dogan news agency, he tried to force his way into the cockpit of the plane saying: "I have a bomb." The pilot notified emergency services at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport. Passengers were taken off after landing and the man was arrested, and the bomb found to be a fake. Police said a passenger was sitting on the hijacker when they entered the plane, a Dogan journalist reported. Private Norwegian television network TV2 quoted a witness as saying someone in the back of the plane put on a mask and threatened to blow up the plane in the air. He said the crew moved the other passengers to the front of the plane, while the hijacker remained at the back. There were no reports of injuries.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2011/01/05/world/international-uk-turkey-norway-hijack.html?_r=1&ref=world

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Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *January 6, Associated Press* – (International) **US to launch new effort to bolster cargo security.** The Homeland Security Secretary said the United States is launching an effort to improve cargo security and protect infrastructure and supply networks worldwide. She said the European Union and other international organizations will participate. She did not elaborate, saying only the Global Shield program would be tightened to prevent transport of bomb-making chemicals. The intelligence-sharing program launched by Homeland Security and 60 other nations last year has reportedly intercepted a number of suspicious shipments worldwide.

Source: <http://topnews360.tmcnet.com/topics/associated-press/articles/2011/01/06/132118-us-launch-new-effort-bolster-cargo-security.htm>

27. *January 6, CNN* – (Maryland) **Small explosions at Maryland state offices injure 1.** Small explosions at two Maryland state government office buildings left one person with minor injuries January 6, a Maryland state government official with knowledge of the situation told CNN. No one suffered serious injuries or was hospitalized, a government source said. Both buildings were evacuated. Authorities responded to devices found in the mailroom of a state house office building in Annapolis, and at the Maryland Department of Transportation headquarters near Hanover, said a spokesman for the mayor of Annapolis. Reports of the incidents came in “not simultaneously, but close,” said the government source. “While the investigation is ongoing, it appears that two incendiary devices were transported through State government mail rooms,” the Maryland House speaker wrote in a statement. “We would encourage you to use reasonable caution in handling any packages that come to your office for the time being, and not open any mail until we have more complete information.” The Annapolis police bomb squad and firefighters, as well as the FBI and the state bomb squad responded. A Department of Homeland Security official said the department is closely monitoring the situation and is working with law enforcement agencies.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/01/06/maryland.security.incident/index.html?hpt=T1>

28. *January 5, WSAV 3 Savannah* – (Georgia) **Unknown white powder at Georgia Southern Univ. taken to Atlanta for further testing.** Public safety officials at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, said preliminary test results came back undetermined on a white powder that was in an envelope mailed to the school. The public safety director at Georgia Southern said the large envelope of “admissions-type papers” actually arrived at Lewis Hall and was opened by an employee January 4, but authorities were not notified until around 9 a.m. January 5. Lewis Hall is home to the GSU Office of Admissions. Statesboro Police and Fire, Bulloch County Sheriff’s Office, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, FBI, and other agencies from as far away as Swainsboro assisted in the incident. The American Red Cross and Statesboro Fire CAFE Unit also responded with aid.

Source: <http://www2.wsav.com/news/2011/jan/05/9/update-white-powder-caused-quarantine-ga-southern--ar-1304936/>

29. *January 5, WCBS 2 New York* – (National) **Officials: Checks stolen from synagogue mailboxes.** The FBI is looking into a rash of reported synagogue robberies. Officials said 15 temples have been victimized around the country. In each case, checks have been stolen from synagogue mailboxes and then cashed elsewhere. A New York state assemblyman said thousands of people are being ripped off. “When people send in their checks for donations, for different causes or membership, the checks disappear,” he said. “There is some kind of conspiracy going on where that money is stolen from the particular institution and hundreds of thousands of dollars could be at stake.” He said one of the checks which had been written out for \$250 had been altered to look as if the amount was \$1,250. The assemblyman said most of the checks have been cleared

through a bank in Missouri or check cashing business in Florida.

Source: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2011/01/05/officials-checks-stolen-from-synagogue-mailboxes/>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *January 6, Reuters* – (California) **Customs agents find ‘dangerous’ beetle at LA airport.** U.S. customs officials said January 5 they had intercepted a shipment of rice at Los Angeles International Airport containing a beetle considered one of the world’s most dangerous pests. Agents found live adult and larvae of khapra beetle in a shipment of Indian rice arriving in a shipment of personal effects from Saudi Arabia the week of December 27, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) spokesman said in a written statement. Entomologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said the khapra beetle is one of the world’s most destructive pests of grain products and seeds. The CBP spokesman said established infections of the insect were difficult to control because of its ability to live without food for long periods of time, and its relative tolerance to surface insecticides and fumigants. The shipment was quarantined and safeguarded according to USDA guidelines, and destroyed under CBP supervision. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLNE70502F20110106>

31. *January 6, CNN* – (Maryland) **2 million fish found dead in Maryland.** Authorities in Maryland are investigating the deaths of about 2 million fish in Chesapeake Bay. “Natural causes appear to be the reason,” the Maryland Department of the Environment said in a news release. “Cold water stress exacerbated by a large population of the affected species (juvenile spot fish) appears to be the cause of the kill.” In Maryland, preliminary tests showed water quality to be acceptable, officials said. “The affected fish are almost exclusively juvenile spot fish, 3 to 6 inches in length,” the Maryland department said. A recent survey “showed a very strong population of spot in the bay this year. An increased juvenile population and limited deep water habitat would likely compound the effects of cold water stress.” Large winter kills of spot fish have occurred at least twice before in the state, in 1976 and 1980, the department said. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/01/06/maryland.fish.kill/index.html?hpt=T2>

32. *January 5, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Ammonia leak at House of Raeford prompts evacuation.** A half-mile radius around the House of Raeford plant in Raeford, North Carolina, was evacuated January 5 after a major ammonia leak was discovered at the facility, according to the Raeford Fire Department. No injuries were reported, but ammonia flowing out at about 100 pounds per square inch prompted authorities to clear the area as a safety precaution. The leak was reported at 2:31 p.m., and the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team from Fayetteville reportedly had it sealed by about 7:45 p.m. However, authorities decided to evacuate about 800 residents because authorities were not sure the seal would hold. All residents were cleared to return home that evening after the plant and surrounding area was ventilated and it was ensured that the seal on the valve would hold, the deputy fire chief said. An

emergency shelter had been opened at West Hoke Middle School to accommodate the people affected by evacuations. The leak is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2011/01/05/1060921?sac=Home>

33. *January 5, Columbus Republic* – (Indiana) **Anhydrous ammonia tank, truck stolen.** A pickup truck and a tank containing roughly 50 gallons of anhydrous ammonia were stolen January 5 from a farm service business in southern Bartholomew County, Indiana, authorities said. Bartholomew County Sheriff’s deputies discovered an open gate at Growers Farm Service on Road 800S in Azalia at about 1:30 a.m. They checked the area and asked the owner to come to the scene. The owner discovered the truck and a 1,000-pound anhydrous ammonia nurse tank believed to contain about 50 gallons of ammonia was missing. Anhydrous ammonia is a farm fertilizer used illegally in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. The tank was later located abandoned in Jennings County, but the truck remained missing.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/local_story/Anhydrous_ammonia_tank_truck_s_1294261114/

34. *January 5, KVIA 7 El Paso* – (Texas) **Northeast bakery explosion sends 2 to hospital.** Fire officials said an oven exploded January 5 at the Supreme Bakery on McCombs Street in El Paso, Texas. The blast was so loud it blew out two of the front windows. Fire officials said two employees, a man and a woman, were sent to the hospital. The man had second-degree burns. No word yet on what caused the explosion.

Source: <http://www.kvia.com/news/26381811/detail.html>

35. *January 5, Houston Chronicle and Associated Press* – (Texas) **Ship Channel cleanup of animal fat nears completion.** The remainder of 15,000 pounds of animal fat dumped into the Houston Ship Channel in Houston, Texas, when a tank ruptured is expected to be removed by midday January 6, said an official with the company that owns the onshore container. The executive vice president of agriculture company Jacob Sterns and Sons blamed the rupture on “employee error.” About 250,000 gallons were lost January 4 from the tank, but an estimated 15,000 gallons were released into the water through a storm drain. The majority remained inside the company’s containment area. Workers with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Texas General Land Office used pitchforks and fishnets January 5 to pierce, corral, and remove the chunks of fat clogging the channel, shutting down nearly 1 mile of the waterway. No ship traffic was delayed, because the spill occurred at the end of the waterway, said a spokesman with the Coast Guard. The spokesman said that fog limited channel access in the last 2 days, and that the spill was responsible for 9 or 10 hours of the waterway’s shutdown.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7367781.html>

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Water Sector

36. *January 6, Pottstown Mercury News* – (Pennsylvania) **Sewer plant operator pleads guilty in pollution cover-up.** A former sewage treatment plant operator faces probation and fines for submitting false reports to cover up the alleged dumping of untreated sewage into the Perkiomen Creek in Norristown, Pennsylvania. The 67-year-old man of Upper Hanover, was sentenced in Montgomery County Court January 4 to one year of probation after he pleaded guilty to charges of tampering with records and unlawful conduct in connection with incidents that occurred during a 5-year period between March 2004 and August 2009. The judge accepted a plea agreement in the case, and ordered the man to pay \$2,500 in fines to the state’s Clean Water Fund. Lab results for samples collected on various dates at the plant “showed that fecal coliform, total suspended solids and total residual chlorine levels exceeded the permitted limits,” according to state officials. On the same dates, reports the operator submitted to the state department of environmental protection indicated the levels were within permitted limits, state authorities alleged.

Source:

<http://www.pottstownmercury.com/articles/2011/01/06/news/srv0000010508656.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

37. *January 5, Attleboro Sun Chronicle* – (Massachusetts) **Authorities respond to Foxboro chemical leak.** Local firefighters, water department workers and a state hazardous materials team responded January 5 to a chemical incident inside a Foxboro, Massachusetts, water pumping station off Mechanic Street. First thought to be a spill of chemicals used by the water department, the problem was caused by the explosion of a truck-type battery on a water pump engine, officials said. The incident began about 2 p.m. In an initial report about 4 p.m., authorities suspected about 5 gallons of potassium hydroxide had leaked at a pipe fitting in the station building. “Everybody is safe and it’s confined to that area of the pump house,” the fire chief said. The building was secured about 5:15 p.m. Police directed Mechanic Street traffic past the site during the incident. The water department superintendent said an employee entered Pumping Station No. 5 and detected a strong chemical odor. The employee noticed a burning sensation in his throat. He was evaluated by Foxboro paramedics and was not hospitalized. Once the building was ventilated, haz-mat workers entered the brick structure and determined a battery had exploded, releasing acid fumes. A “trickle charger” — a device used to keep a battery from going dead — had apparently overheated, causing the battery to blow. The state department of environmental protection, which is part of the normal haz-mat response, had a representative on site.

Source: <http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2011/01/05/news/8644844.txt>

38. *January 5, WGHP 8 High Point* – (North Carolina) **Contractor dies, 2 injured during pipeline repairs.** One man died and two others were injured in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, while working to repair a pipeline January 5. City officials said the workers were making repairs to the raw-water pipeline between Salem Lake and the Thomas Water Treatment Plant. The City-County Utilities Division hired the firm Ramey in November to clean out the pipe and make necessary repairs to prepare for the rebuild of the Thomas water plant, which is scheduled to be up-and-running within the year. OSHA is investigating.

Source: <http://www.myfox8.com/news/wghp-story-contractor-dies-110105,0,3008980.story>

39. *January 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Iowa) **Highway construction company agrees to pay \$60,000 civil penalty for Impacting stream, wetlands in Clarke County, Iowa.** A private construction company hired by the Iowa Department of Transportation to work on a section of Interstate 35 in Clarke County, Iowa, has agreed to pay a \$60,000 civil penalty to the United States for performing unpermitted fill activities that impacted a section of a nearby stream and 3 acres of adjacent wetlands. Manatt's, Inc. of Brooklyn, Iowa, did not have a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform fill work at the site in June or July of 2009, according to an administrative consent agreement filed by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 in Kansas City, Kansas. Manatt's approached the owner of private land adjacent to the I-35 construction project to seek permission to use material from the construction site to fill in about 1,000 linear feet of an unnamed tributary of White Breast Creek. Although the landowner agreed to the proposed activity, neither the landowner nor Manatt's obtained a permit from the Corps to allow the work within the stream and wetlands, as required by the federal Clean Water Act. Manatt's unauthorized fill activity was identified during a 2009 Corps inspection.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/85BFD0362EA2D1718525780E00606833>

40. *December 30, EurekAlert* – (National) **Wastewater treatment lowers pathogen levels.** A recent study by a team of researchers at the University of Arizona has tracked the incident of pathogens in biosolids over a 19-year period in one major U.S. city. In the same study, the researchers also analyzed pathogen levels in biosolids at 18 wastewater treatment plants in the United States. Their analysis indicates pathogen levels have dropped since the implementation of federal regulations on treating sewage in 1993. These treatment guidelines have proven to be extremely effective with 94 percent to 99 percent of all pathogens in biosolids eliminated after wastewater treatment. The term biosolid refers to sewage sludge that has undergone a certain level of treatment and is divided into two classifications. Class A biosolids undergo a high level treatment and do not show any signs of pathogens. In contrast, Class B biosolids receive a lower amount of treatment and have been found to contain bacterial, parasitic, and viral pathogens. Around 5.5 billion kilograms of biosolids are produced annually in the United States, with the vast majority being Class B. Approximately 60 percent of the annual production of biosolids is used as agricultural fertilizer.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-01/asoa-wtl010311.php

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

41. *January 6, Columbus Dispatch* – (Ohio) **OhioHealth patient data exposed.** OhioHealth officials announced January 5 they will provide 1 year of credit protection to anyone who was a patient at Grant Medical Center from January 1, 2008, through November 5, 2010. A spokesman for OhioHealth, which owns Grant, said an employee stole computers from an inventory storage facility that contained patient health information. The employee, who has since been fired, “tried to clean the hard drives and resell them,” he said. The hospital system reported the theft to Columbus police November 16. A lieutenant with the burglary bureau said police recovered a laptop, four desktop computers, and five monitors from a local computer store. The stolen items were returned to OhioHealth. The spokesman said it is unlikely any patient information was accessed because it was encrypted and password-protected. He said he had no idea how many patients were affected. Grant admits 22,000 to 23,000 patients each year. Those numbers do not include people who received outpatient care or those who were discharged from the emergency room.
Source: http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/01/06/ohiohealthpatient_dataexposed.html?sid=101
42. *January 6, Medscape Today* – (National) **Recall of AngioSculpt PTA scoring balloon catheters.** AngioSculpt percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) scoring balloon catheters, manufactured by AngioScore Inc, are subject to a class I U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recall because of retained device fragments or significant arterial injury, which may lead to death or the need for additional surgical intervention. The FDA issued the safety alert from the MedWatch FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program January 5. The recall affects 17,682 AngioSculpt PTA scoring balloon catheters (OTW 0.018” Platform) of multiple sizes, including all sizes and lot codes for the following models: 2076-4020, 2076-5020, 2076-6020, 2092-6020, and 2105-6020. Products were manufactured by AngioScore, Inc, from September 2009 to November 2010. A Medical Device Recall notification letter dated November 15, 2010, was issued to U.S. customers, who were instructed to immediately discontinue distributing and using any affected product.
Source: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735355>
43. *January 6, Florida Times-Union* – (Georgia; Texas) **Second man charged in Brunswick health care fraud case.** A former Brunswick, Georgia businessman faces federal charges he tried to steal more than \$500,000 from Medicare in a fraud scheme carried out through medical equipment supply companies he operated in Georgia and Texas. The 37-year-old man of Houston, Texas, is charged with four counts each of health care fraud and aggravated identity theft, and one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, an indictment unsealed January 5 showed. He is charged with carrying out a fraudulent scheme while operating Preferred Prosthetics and Orthotics in Brunswick and Team Orthotics and Prosthetics Inc. in Houston from January 2005 through June 2008. In the scheme, he and others stole identifying information from Medicare patients and doctors then used it to submit phony claims to Medicare, according to the indictment. The indictment states he and others routinely billed Medicare for ankle, knee, and back braces and other medical devices that either were

never provided to patients, were not medically necessary, or had not been prescribed by a doctor.

Source: <http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2011-01-06/story/second-man-charged-brunswick-health-care-fraud-case>

44. *January 5, Reuters* – (International) **Doctor faked data linking autism to vaccines, British Medical Journal says.** The British Medical Journal January 5 accused a disgraced British doctor of committing an “elaborate fraud” by faking data in his studies linking vaccines with autism. The doctor’s work convinced thousands of parents that vaccines are dangerous. Such fears have not only caused parents to skip vaccinating their children, which critics say has led to ongoing outbreaks of measles and mumps, but have forced costly reformulations of many vaccines. The journal’s editors said he must have faked the data for his study. It supported its position with a series of articles by a journalist who used medical records and interviews to show he falsified data. For instance, the reports found the doctor, who included data from only 12 children in his report, studied at least 13, and that several showed symptoms of autism before having been vaccinated. The doctor denied the allegations. In 1998, the Lancet medical journal published the study linking the combined measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine with autism. The other researchers withdrew their names from the study, and the Lancet formally retracted the paper in February 2010.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/05/AR2011010506947.html>

45. *January 4, CNN* – (New Mexico) **Suspect named in New Mexico hospital shooting.** A suspect fired his gun inside the University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 4, but no one was injured, the university and police said. Police identified the apparent gunman as a 21-year-old man. Witnesses told officers that a female patient was with her child when the woman’s boyfriend entered the room, police said. The couple began to argue. During the altercation, the suspect pulled out a small handgun and purposefully fired it, according to a statement from the Albuquerque Police Department.

Source: http://articles.cnn.com/2011-01-04/justice/new.mexico.hospital.gunman_1_apparent-gunman-new-mexico-hospital-lockdown-order?_s=PM:CRIME

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Government Facilities Sector

46. *January 6, New Hampshire Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Hillside Middle School evacuated again.** Students were evacuated from Hillside Middle School in Manchester, New Hampshire for the second day in a row January 5, both times after bomb threats were discovered written on bathroom walls, authorities said. Both threats — January 4 in a boys bathroom, January 5 in a girls bathroom — indicated a date and time a bomb would explode, the Manchester school superintendent said. Firefighters and police responded both days and evacuated students for about 15 to 20 minutes. The

superintendent said officials have yet to determine who is responsible for the writing. He said school officials January 5 were considering strict requirements for use of bathrooms, including having a staff member escort students to the bathroom. Under one possible plan, a staff member would wait outside the bathroom and then inspect it after a student uses it, he said. But as students left the assembly, one pulled a fire alarm, which caused a dismissal-time evacuation.

Source:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Hillside+Middle+School+evacuated+again&articleId=0a643acb-e45a-4136-a2b2-868bfefc9127>

47. *January 6, Victoria Advocate* – (Texas) **No leads in threatening letter sent to school.** No arrests had been made and no additional information was available January 5, pertaining to the threatening letter that was sent to Bay City Independent School District in Bay City, Texas. The district has taken precautionary measures to insure the safety of students, staff, and faculty, according to the school district's Web site. The letter, addressed to the superintendent, was received December 28 during the Christmas holiday break. The letter writer outlined nine "rules" for the district to follow, including no talking unless told to, and detention given to students and staff who violate the rules. The letter also threatened to kill students if rules were not followed. The FBI has offered their assistance, but the superintendent said they are not involved yet because it is not a federal crime. The Texas Rangers have been working with local law enforcement in Bay City, he said.

Source:

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/jan/05/aa_baycityfolo_010611_124605/?news&matagorda-county

48. *January 5, WJBF 6 Augusta* – (Georgia) **Plea deal for Fort Gordon explosives suspect.** The man accused of impersonating a soldier and stealing military grade items from Fort Gordon in Georgia has entered into a plea deal. He entered a plea of guilty to three of the seven counts against him. The man was arrested in June for impersonating a military officer. He was dressed in full military gear when he was pulled over by Military Police. After a search of his car, officers found guns, ammunition, and weapons. Investigators then searched his house and found more weapons, including a stolen silencer. In court, the man's attorney told the judge the led family members to believe he was working as a civilian contractor for Fort Gordon and would soon be deployed to Iraq. The man pled guilty to Impersonating a Military Officer, Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon, and Possession of an Unregistered Silencer. In exchange for the guilty plea, the U.S. Attorney agreed to drop the four other counts against him.

Source: <http://www2.wjbf.com/news/2011/jan/05/plea-deal-fort-gordon-explosives-suspect-ar-1305156/>

49. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Student kills 1, self at Omaha high school.** The son of a police detective opened fire at a high school in Omaha, Nebraska, January 5, fatally wounding the assistant principal and forcing panicked students to take cover in the kitchen of the building just as they returned from holiday break. The

gunman, who had attended the school for no more than 2 months, also wounded the principal before fleeing from the scene and fatally shooting himself in his car. The vice principal died at a hospital hours after the shooting, police said. The principal was listed in stable condition. In a rambling Facebook post filled with expletives, the shooter warned January 5 that people would hear about the “evil” things he did and said the school drove him to violence. He wrote that the Omaha school was worse than his previous one, and that the new city had changed him. He apologized and said he wanted people to remember him for who he was before affecting “the lives of the families I ruined.” The post ended with “goodbye.” The police chief provided no details on the weapon the gunman used or how he obtained it. The gunman’s father is a detective for the Omaha Police Department. Investigators were interviewing the 7-year veteran to try and discern a motive.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-01-05-omaha-school-shooting_N.htm

50. *January 5, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **St. Cloud City Hall search finds no intruder.** The mayor of St. Cloud, Minnesota, said a police search of city hall has failed to find a possible burglary suspect. The building was evacuated during the search. The mayor said employees were being allowed back in January 5, and that city hall would reopen for business January 6. The mayor said there were two break-ins at city hall in which some equipment and food was taken, and two safes were tampered with. The mayor said about 80 people in the building were evacuated January 5 when an employee spotted a man with a blanket near the ventilation system in a remote area. The man ran from the building. The employee heard more noise coming from the vents. The mayor said police found no one in the building. The St. Cloud Times reported police are looking for two suspects.

Source: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=898523&catid=391

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Emergency Services Sector

51. *January 6, Firehouse.com* – (National) **USFA: 2010 record low for on-duty deaths.** Last year was record-setting — the fewest on-duty deaths of firefighters since the United States Fire Administration started compiling statistics in 1977. There were 85 on-duty deaths in 2010, according to preliminary statistics. Of those, 15 are classified as Hometown Heroes. In 2003, federal legislation was adopted that firefighters who died of heart attacks or strokes within 24 hours of a response or training receive that designation. This is the second year in a row that on-duty deaths showed a decline. In 2009, the country experienced the lowest number in 15 years. Of those who died in 2010, 55 were volunteers, 28 were career, one was a paid full-time wildland firefighter, and one was a paid-on call firefighter. Heart attacks continue to claim the most firefighters — 56.4 percent — while trauma was reported in 23.5 percent of the deaths. Other causes included stroke, burns, heat exhaustion,

asphyxiation, and crushing.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/usfa-2010-record-low-duty-firefighter-deaths>

52. *January 6, Associated Press* – (New York) **FDNY boots EMS chief after storm response delays.** The chief of the Fire Department of New York's Emergency Medical Service Command has been replaced amid investigations into New York City's response to a blizzard that stranded ambulances and created a backlog of more than 1,000 emergency calls. The chief, who held the top job for 6 years, will be replaced by the head of the department's emergency medical dispatch. The city is facing multiple inquiries into its performance during the December 26 snowstorm that brought much of New York to a grinding halt. New York's mayor directed the citywide director of emergency communications to examine why the communications and dispatching system failed. Federal prosecutors and city investigators are looking into claims sanitation workers sabotaged the city's snow cleanup. City operators fielded 49,478 calls to 911 on December 27, the day after the storm. That total was the sixth highest in any day since the city began keeping statistics. At one point, there was a backlog of 1,300 calls.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iXKh23BJ_SbMZcrHZMRGhg8NhteQ?docId=c766619dbd6b48c99ea999eefacec840

53. *January 6, Watertown Daily Times* – (New York; Colorado) **Time Warner official: 911 glitch won't be routine.** Digital telephone emergency 911 calls generated in New York State will not routinely be answered in Colorado, as occurred January 3, a Time Warner Cable official told emergency management personnel in the state January 5. A 911 caller, using his Time Warner digital phone line, found himself talking to someone in Colorado, causing a 44-second delay before he could speak with an emergency dispatcher in Jefferson County. The Jefferson County director of fire and emergency management, and about a dozen of his counterparts across the state participated in an hour-long conference call January 5 with Time Warner's vice president for migration and network planning, Time Warner contracted with Intrado Communications, Longmont, Colorado, to provide its digital telephone service, but some glitches have turned up with 911 calls. Some calls are being answered in Colorado, while other calls directly reaching local emergency centers are not registering on dispatchers' screens the vital information needed to facilitate police, fire, and ambulance response. The conference call revealed to local officials Time Warner has just begun phasing in the Intrado program, with Jefferson, St. Lawrence, and Lewis counties in New York. The rest of New York eventually will be switched, and ultimately, the Time Warner-Intrado phone connection will be nationwide.

Source: <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20110106/NEWS03/301069960>

54. *January 5, KESQ 3 Palm Springs* – (California) **Indio Sheriff's Station back to normal after brief evacuation.** The Indio Sheriff's department station in Indio, California, was back to business January 5 after someone brought in a potentially explosive device. It was brought into the station on Dr Carreon Blvd. around 4:30 p.m.

Deputies said a man claimed to find it while cleaning his home. As a precaution, the front lobby area of the station was evacuated. The road between Oasis and Arabia was shut down just as rush hour began. The hazardous material team and bomb squad determined the 3-inch round from the World War II era posed no danger.

Source: <http://www.kesq.com/news/26382031/detail.html>

55. *January 5, KIII 3 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **All explosives recovered and 2 suspects arrested.** Another suspect is behind bars, January 5, after being accused of stealing powerful explosives belonging to the Corpus Christi Police Department (CCPD) in Texas. The second and third arrests came January 5. All the explosives have now been recovered from the Nueces River. On December 8, an Annville storage unit that is owned by the CCPD was broken in to and explosives, including TNT and C-4, were taken. A tip led police to search the Nueces River near the boat ramp at Labonte Park. A dive team found stolen TNT, police night sticks, and confiscated fireworks. Sources tell 3 News a CCPD dive team went back in the water January 5 and recovered the last of the missing explosives: C-4. A 20-year-old was arrested the week of December 27 in connection with the break-in.

Source: <http://www.kiiitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13792062>

56. *January 5, Taos News* – (New Mexico) **Taos police chief's missing guns found in Taos home.** The police-issue shotgun and rifle stolen from the Taos, New Mexico police chief's unmarked police unit December 24 were recovered from a residence January 5 not far from his home. A police lieutenant said shortly after the weapon recovery that some "intelligence" led police to 498 Calle Palomita, where two adults and a juvenile have been arrested with charges of the theft and possible narcotics charges pending. The officer said that U.S. Homeland Security helped in the arrest.

Source:

<http://taosnews.com/articles/2011/01/05/news/doc4d24a4ea035b5615261796.txt>

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Information Technology Sector

57. *January 6, H Security* – (International) **Flash Player sandbox can be bypassed.** Flash applications run locally can read local files and send them to an online server — something which the sandbox is supposed to prevent. Flash includes a number of sandboxes which impose restrictions depending on the origin of, and access rights for, the SWF file. Local SWF files, for example, run within the local-with-file-system sandbox, are permitted to access local files. They are not able to access the network, so a malicious SWF applet should not be able to send local data to a remote server. However, an H Security specialist has determined that Adobe controls access to the network using a blacklist of protocol handlers. Protocols such as HTTP and HTTPS are blacklisted. He reports it is in principle possible to send files to a server using the file: protocol handler, but that this is only possible within the local area network. He has

identified another protocol handler which can be used to send data to remote servers — mhtml.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Flash-Player-sandbox-can-be-bypassed-1164376.html>

58. *January 6, Help Net Security* – (International) **MediaWiki 1.16.1 fixes clickjacking issue.** MediaWiki released version 1.16.1, which is a security and maintenance release. Wikipedia user PleaseStand pointed out MediaWiki has no protection against “clickjacking”. With user or site JavaScript or CSS enabled, clickjacking can lead to cross-site scripting (XSS), and thus full compromise of the wiki account of any user who visits a malicious external site. Clickjacking affects all previous versions of MediaWiki. The fix involves denying framing on all pages except normal page views and a few selected special pages. To be protected, all users must use a browser which supports X-Frame-Options.
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10405>
59. *January 5, Softpedia* – (International) **Survey scammers and adware pushers target TRON fans.** Security researchers warn of multiple scams that trick fans of the “TRON” movie into subscribing to premium rate services or infecting their computers with adware. Most of the scams offer to view the movie online at high quality. These are usually advertised through YouTube videos with titles among the lines of “Watch TRON : Legacy Online HD Blu-Ray Quality.” Clicking on the links listed in the descriptions of these videos leads users to Web sites that ask them to take a survey before being given access to the movie. These deceptive surveys usually attempt to subscribe users to premium rate services and collect their personal information for future targeted spamming in the process. Other TRON free streaming scams use the “required codec” social engineering trick to get users to download and install Adware programs like ClickPotato, ShopperReports, QuestBrowser, and blinkx Beat.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Survey-Scams-and-Adware-Pushers-Target-TRON-Fans-176321.shtml>
60. *January 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Researchers confirm Googler’s Internet Explorer bug.** French security researchers at Vupen January 5 confirmed the presence of a bug in Internet Explorer (IE) that is at the center of a spat between Microsoft and a Google security engineer. According to Vupen, IE8 harbors a vulnerability that can be exploited to hijack a Windows system. Vupen said it confirmed the vulnerability and its exploitability in IE8 running on Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3), but believed it could also be leveraged on Windows Vista, Windows 7, Server 2003, Server 2008, and Server 2008 R2. The security company rated the bug as “critical,” its highest threat warning. In a follow-up tweet, Vupen said, “Reproducing was/is hard.” The bug was publicly reported by a Google security engineer, when he released a new “fuzzing” tool that had found more than 100 bugs in 5 major browsers.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203461/Researchers_confirm_Googler_s_Internet_Explorer_bug

61. *January 5, IDG News Service* – (International) **Alleged Miley Cyrus hacker arrested.** The 21-year-old hacker who boasted about breaking into the Gmail account of a famous singer and actress has been arrested in Tennessee on fraud charges. The arrest comes more than 2 years after FBI agents raided the suspect's home looking for evidence in the case. In court documents, the FBI said he was an accomplished spammer, who hacked a large number of Gmail and MySpace accounts. But the suspect has not been charged in the celebrity hack — instead, he faces more serious financial fraud charges for allegedly storing about 200 stolen credit card numbers on his computer. He could go to prison for 10 years and pay a \$250,000 fine if convicted of the charges.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203498/Alleged Miley Cyrus hacker arrested](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203498/Alleged_Miley_Cyrus_hacker_arrested)

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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

62. *January 5, San Diego North County Times* – (California) **AT&T customers report service outages.** Thousands of AT&T customers are reporting problems with their phone, Internet, and cable services throughout California, including some in North County. More than 70,000 customers statewide have reported connection problems since December, and many are likely caused by the recent storms, an AT&T spokeswoman said. No figures were available for San Diego County, she said. December was one of the wettest months on record for the state. In San Diego County, several days of nearly uninterrupted rain disrupted the region's transit, power, and road systems. AT&T's infrastructure was not spared, but the company is working to fix the problems, a spokesman said. The company could not provide an exact date when the problems would be resolved, but said public safety and customers with special needs are a priority.

Source: http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/article_c9c2c65e-3927-5b5c-b87a-3376c6a8d2d4.html

63. *January 5, KHQA 7 Hannibal* – (Iowa; Missouri) **LeeComm 911 service out of reach to some communities.** A fiber optics cable was cut just south of Houghton in Lee County, Iowa January 5. Windstream customers in the in that area were only be able to dial within their own prefix and could not dial long distance. This also meant that they could not dial 911. The communities affected included Donnellson, Farmington, Montrose, Argyle, Primrose, and in Missouri the community of Athens. Work crews

responded and repaired the cable and restored service by the afternoon.
Source: <http://www.connecttristates.com/news/story.aspx?id=563465>

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

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Commercial Facilities Sector

64. *January 6, WJAR 10 Providence* – (Rhode Island) **Fire causes evacuation of local strip mall.** Investigators are trying to determine what started a smoky fire inside a Middletown, Rhode Island retail store January 5. The fire inside Tuesday Morning, a closeout retail store, started at about 4:30 p.m. and took firefighters from several towns 1 hour to extinguish. The store's regional manager said two employees and one or two customers were in the store at the time of the fire. They all got out safely. Smoke from the fire forced neighboring stores in the shopping plaza on West Main Road to evacuate as well. The owner of one of those neighboring businesses told NBC 10 that workers from Tuesday Morning told her they tried to put the fire out with an extinguisher, but then noticed flames in another location. Asked if the fire is considered suspicious, the Middletown fire chief said the cause is under investigation. He said the fire appeared to start in a rack of clothing or bedding in the middle of the store.
Source: <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/jan/05/8/fire-reported-middletown-strip-mall-ar-351335/>
65. *January 5, azfamily.com* – (Arizona) **Chandler mall evacuated after suspect shoots at officers.** Chandler Fashion Center in Chandler, Arizona was evacuated and was on lockdown for several hours January 5 after a suspect fired shots at officers outside then ran into the mall. According to a Chandler police sergeant, an armed robbery occurred off the mall premises and the suspect went to the mall located at Chandler Boulevard and Loop 101 around noon. Undercover officers with the U.S. Marshals Task Force who were in the area pursued the suspect, who police identified as a 27-year-old man, and confronted him outside the mall. The sergeant said shots were exchanged, but no one was injured. The suspect then fled into the mall. The mall was placed on lockdown and people were evacuated while officers searched for him. Somehow the suspect was able to exit the mall. At approximately 12:30 p.m. there was a report of shots fired and a hostage situation inside a Baja Fresh restaurant north of the mall. Contact was made with the suspect and after about 1 hour of negotiations, he was taken into custody inside the Baja Fresh shortly before 3 p.m. without incident. Around 5 p.m., Chandler police confirmed the man was the original suspect from the shooting, and that the two incidents were related.
Source: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/Chandler-Fashion-Center-evacuated-for-suspect-search-112954299.html>
66. *January 5, NBC News; KGW 8 Portland; msnbc.com; and Associated Press.* – (Oregon) **Ore. police chief shot to death during struggle.** The police chief of Rainier, Oregon, was shot to death January 5 in a struggle with a man at a car auto shop. The

suspect was wounded and taken to a hospital. The shooting occurred at a small shopping complex in Rainier after the report of a disturbance at Rainier Sound Authority about 10:45 a.m. The officer responded and struggled with the suspect, then was shot to death. More officers responded to the scene. The police ordered a man to drop a weapon and fired multiple shots into the Sound Authority building, a witness said. Investigators said they did not think the suspect was from Rainier. He was expected to recover from his wounds.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40930697/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts

67. *January 5, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **35 apartment units evacuated, 9 damaged by fire.** Thirty-five units were evacuated due to a multi-unit apartment fire in Lakewood, Colorado, January 5. The West Metro Fire Department said the fire broke out at the Pines Apartment Homes on West Cedar Drive near South Union Boulevard and 6th Avenue around 6 p.m. When firefighters got to the scene, they saw smoke and flames spreading along the walls of one of the apartment units. West Metro Fire said 9 units were impacted by smoke and water damage, but three of them were vacant. West Metro said two families who were displaced had to stay elsewhere because they did not have water or heat. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Source:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=173826&provider=top&catid=188>

For another story, see item [29](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

68. *January 5, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Mysterious tar balls on beach.** Tar balls that turned up on Limantour Beach at Point Reyes, California are being analyzed to determine where they came from. Hundreds of the ping-pong-sized balls were found on the beach at the beginning of last week by volunteers from the Gulf of the Farrallones Marine Sanctuary's Beach Watch program. "It was along a two-mile stretch of the beach, but we are not quite sure what the source is," a marine sanctuary spokeswoman said. Other area beaches also had the tar balls, but not as many as seen at Limantour, she said. Storms and high tides have since washed the mess away. For a time, the area saw numerous tar balls wash up on beaches. Those were created by oil that leaked from the S.S. Jacob Luckenbach. The freighter sank in 1953 about 17 miles southwest of the Golden Gate Bridge, but was not identified as the source of the material until 2002 after decades of leaking oil, especially during winter storms, causing injury to wildlife. In 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard oversaw a \$19 million effort to remove oil from the Luckenbach and to seal it to prevent further oil releases.

Source: http://www.marinij.com/westmarin/ci_17017771?source=most_viewed

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Dams Sector

69. *January 6, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota; South Dakota) **Too soon for flood outlook.** Hard statistics to base any flooding estimates for this year are still unavailable for the Jamestown, North Dakota area. However, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials see a lot of early similarities to one year ago. “Plains snow pack amounts on Jan. 1, 2011 are similar to amounts monitored last year on Jan. 1,” the Corps’ senior public affairs specialist said in a press release. The 2010 high water event prompted releases from the Jamestown and Pipestem dams at 1,800 cubic feet per second. That level of release puts the James River in Jamestown at flood stage. In 2009, high water levels prompted releases of 3,200 cfs from the two dams. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates between 2 and 4 inches of snow water equivalent throughout North Dakota. Field testing done January 3 found the estimates were within 10 percent of actual moisture content. Snow water equivalent is the amount of moisture in the current snow if it is melted. This compares to estimates at the beginning of 2010 of 3 to 4 inches across the central parts of North and South Dakota. The National Weather Service (NWS) has not made any river or lake stage predictions for the Jamestown or Pipestem dams. The NWS does forecast a 10 percent chance of major flooding on the Pipestem at Pingree and a 2 percent chance of major flooding on the James River at LaMoure. “Based on the current numbers and the extended forecast we could be seeing something similar to last year,” the county emergency manager said. “But the first hard numbers will come in during the early- to middle part of February.”

Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/126828/>

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