



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to msnbc.com, a chemical spill on the Las Vegas, Nevada strip brought traffic to a grinding halt and sent one man to the hospital, January 6. (See item [6](#))
- CNN reports a federal judge ordered a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer held in custody as a flight risk January 6, after his arrest on charges he disclosed top secret defense information. (See item [33](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

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

1. *January 7, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Fiery fuel tanker wreck closes I-30 west of downtown Dallas.** The westbound lanes of Interstate 30 west of Dallas, Texas, are now open following a fiery fuel tanker wreck January 7, which left several people injured and the highway closed for hours. A preliminary investigation of the accident showed a car traveling on eastbound I-30 was switching lanes when it veered into an 18-wheeler, causing the big rig to veer into another 18-wheeler that then crashed into a median shortly before 2 a.m., a Dallas County Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman said.

Three or four people were taken to the hospital with minor injuries, she said. The 18-wheeler that crashed into the median and burst into flames was hauling 7,500 gallons of gasoline and 950 gallons of diesel fuel, the spokeswoman said. The westbound lanes were fully open at about 5 a.m. The fuel spilled into nearby Coombs Creek and a hazardous materials crew was called to the scene, a Dallas Fire and Rescue spokesman said. The crew was not able to determine how much fuel was spilled into the creek and further tests will be conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Program, he said.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/01/07/2751865/fiery-fuel-tanker-wreck-closes.html>

2. *January 7, WKMG 6 Orlando* – (Florida) **Power outage hits 16K customers, 6 schools.** Power has been restored in the MetroWest area of Orange County, Florida, after an outage left nearly 16,000 customers and six schools without electricity January 7. The power outage, which also affected numerous stoplights in the area, occurred at 9:45 a.m. The Orlando Utilities Commission said a contractor working on power lines hit a line, causing the outage. Power was re-routed and restored around 10:30 a.m. The affected schools were Catalina Elementary, Memorial Middle, Eagle’s Nest, Richmond Heights, Washington Shores, and Eccleston Elementary.
Source: <http://www.clickorlando.com/news/26400567/detail.html>
3. *January 6, Computerworld UK* – (International) **BP oil spill IT systems lacked key alarms.** BP’s monitoring IT systems on the failed Deepwater Horizon oil rig relied too heavily on engineers following complex data for long periods of time, instead of providing automatic warning alerts. That is a key verdict of the Oil Spill Commission (OSC), the authority tasked by the U.S. President to investigate the Gulf of Mexico disaster. It also criticized decisions to ignore cement modeling tests, as well as other cementing and management strategies. The OSC said in a chapter released January 6 that the monitoring systems on the rig before the explosion provided the necessary safety data, including about pressure in the well. However the systems relied too much on engineers’ astute manual observation of data flows. It also noted the systems used by BP were standard in the energy industry. When engineers were tasked with so many simultaneous functions over long work days, they needed much more support from systems. The standard industry ones used by BP were too basic, the OSC said. In a chapter of the report, panelists expressed exasperation that while the industry was regularly conducting highly complex drills in order to satisfy the global demand for oil, IT systems simply have not kept pace with the complications and risks of deepwater drilling. The full report will be published next week.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203749/BP_oil_spill_IT_systems_lacked_key_alarms
4. *January 6, Legal Newsline* – (National) **Madigan pursuing oil spill case.** The Illinois attorney general announced January 5 a preliminary injunction has been granted against two pipeline companies allegedly responsible for a recent oil spill. Buckeye Pipe Line Co. and West Shore Pipe Line Co. allegedly violated numerous environmental laws.

The Illinois attorney general and the Will County state's attorney filed a seven-count complaint against the two companies after a December 14 incident where part of an oil pipeline was found leaking crude oil in Lockport. Since there are private water wells and non-community water supply wells in that area, the attorney general feared for the safety of those residents. The suit alleges the oil spill became a public nuisance and endangered the health of many who lived in the proximity of the spill. The suit asks the court to require West Shore, the owner of the 12-inch pipeline, and operator Buckeye, to pay all response and oversight costs related to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's and Will County's response to the leak.

Source: <http://www.legalnewsline.com/news/230567-madigan-pursuing-oil-spill-case>

5. *January 6, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Investigation into deadly gas explosion complete.** State investigators said the city of Cairo, Georgia, is partly to blame for a gas line explosion that killed a city worker. Georgia Public Service Commission investigators found nine safety violations that contributed to the fatal blast in September. A utilities worker died and three others were severely burned when the pipe they were replacing ignited, causing a massive explosion. “There were a number of things the report says the city failed to do including training people appropriately in emergency procedures and suitable materials to make repairs with and following their own operating manuals,” said a commission spokesman. Officials say investigators took their time making sure to find every violation so the city would discover its mistakes and fix them. The investigators will give the commission a recommendation on whether to fine the city or proceed with an official hearing to determine the penalties.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=13797821>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

6. *January 7, msnbc.com* – (Nevada) **Las Vegas chemical spill brings tech show, traffic to gridlock.** The largest technology show in the country was disrupted on its opening day January 6 after a chemical spill on the Las Vegas Strip brought traffic to a grinding halt and sent one man to the hospital. About 200 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked from a pipe that broke outside the entrance of the Wynn Las Vegas. A Clark County, Nevada, spokeswoman said the accidental spill was caused by a contractor filling the pipe with the chemical right outside the resort. The fire department responded at about 8 a.m. PT, and the spill was contained within an hour. Movement along the strip, jammed with traffic on normal days, was gridlocked in the area near the Las Vegas Convention Center and other venues, including the Venetian Hotel, where the Consumer Electronics Show was being held. More than 120,000 were attending the show, and many were trying to make their way via buses, taxis, and cars to the convention center. Both directions of traffic along the strip were closed as hazardous material crews worked to neutralize the acid. The acid is not flammable and there was “minimal risk” of the liquid and fumes spreading because of Las Vegas’ chilly temperatures, in the 40s, a police spokesman said. One man who slipped and fell in the liquid was taken to a

local hospital and is reported to be in stable condition. Roads near the entrance of the hotel and on the strip re-opened around noon January 7.

Source: <http://technolog.msnbc.msn.com/news/2011/01/06/5778248-las-vegas-chemical-spill-brings-tech-show-traffic-to-gridlock>

7. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **35 evacuated after train with acid tips in mid-Michigan.** Crews worked overnight to clear up hydrochloric acid that leaked from a tank car after a train derailed in Vernon Township, Michigan, and 35 people who were evacuated from nearby homes should be allowed to return later January 7, the Vernon Township fire chief said. Eight Canadian National Railway railcars came off the tracks and another three cars toppled in the 7 p.m. January 6 accident. The fire chief said he did not know how much hydrochloric acid the train had been carrying or was spilled. “The leak is stopped and the vapors are stopped,” he said, adding repair and cleanup of the damaged and contaminated rails was the next priority. He said the nearest home was two-thirds of a mile away. He said three cars remained tipped over early January 7, and eight derailed cars had already been removed from the site, near Durand, about 20 miles west-southwest of Flint. The accident delayed an eastbound Amtrak passenger train that operates on the same track, a railroad spokesman said January 6. He said the train was stopped in Lansing. Twelve evacuated families were briefly sheltered at Durand City Hall but Canadian National later made arrangements for them to spend the night at a local hotel.

Source:

<http://www.macombdaily.com/articles/2011/01/07/news/doc4d271533b2a5c258872757.txt>

8. *January 7, Baton Rouge Advocate* – (Louisiana) **Sulfur dioxide leak contained, no off site impact.** A sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide leak reported at the Rhodia plant on Airline Highway in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 7 has been contained and has not produced any off site impact, a Rhodia spokesman said. The leak came out of a production unit at the plant but was contained and sealed quickly. The plant is a sulfuric acid manufacturing and recycling plant. The leaks occurred at 8 a.m. and lasted for 3 to 5 minutes. There were no injuries and an investigation is underway to figure why the leaks occurred. The production unit involved was shut down and will remain closed until the investigation is complete.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/latest/113070784.html>

For another story, see item [37](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *January 7, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **PPL working to correct problem with system at nuke plant.** Engineering workers at the nuclear power plant near Berwick, Pennsylvania detected a design flaw in a temperature control system that could have shut down the two reactors, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

reported. The reactors remain in operation, and officials at PPL's Susquehanna Steam Electric Station are working to correct the problem that has existed since the plant came on line in the 1980s, an NRC spokesman said. The plant is jointly owned by PPL Susquehanna LLC and Allegheny Electric Cooperative Inc. The flaw was discovered in house and reported to the NRC January 3, the spokesman said. On January 6, he described it as a "single point of vulnerability." Besides resulting in a shut down, he said, "this could have impacted some very important safety systems." A plant spokesman said plant operators have taken measures to make sure it operates safely.

Source:

http://www.timesleader.com/news/PPL_working_to_correct_problem_with_system_at_nuke_plant_01-06-2011.html

10. *January 7, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Appeal halts uranium test well in Weld County.** An environmental group has blocked a test-well permit for a controversial in-situ uranium mine in northern Colorado. Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction (CARD) filed a petition of review with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Appeals Board in Washington, D.C., January 3. The petition appeals a December 3 decision by EPA's Region 8 office in Denver to issue an underground injection-control permit for the proposed in-situ operation near Nunn in Weld County. The filing of the appeal stays the permit and keeps Powertech Inc. — developer of the Centennial Project uranium mine — from reinjecting groundwater from an aquifer-pump test at the site, according to CARD. EPA officials could not be reached for comment. In-situ mining involves pumping a fluid into the ground to loosen uranium and then pumping the fluid out of the ground to bring the uranium to the surface. Powertech officials say the in-situ method is safe and produces little damage. Critics say it damages groundwater and leads to environmental harm. The appeal claims EPA failed to gather relevant information from pump tests performed by Powertech in 2008 in the same geologic formation, one as close as 500 feet from the currently proposed injection well. Some of those bore holes have been documented as improperly sealed, raising concerns of cross-contamination of the aquifers that could be exacerbated by the pump test and injection, CARD wrote.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_17031571

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *January 6, WABI 5 Bangor* – (Maine) **Fire breaks out at business.** A fire broke out at a business in Bangor, Maine, January 6. Fire crews were sent to Bangor Armor Liners, a truck bed lining company, around 3:30 p.m. Fire officials said they were initially concerned with the possibility of hazardous materials, but the fire was contained to an office area and was knocked down quickly so the hazardous threat did not materialize. There was only one worker in the business at the time of the fire. He said he noticed fire coming down the side of the furnace and left the building. The fire marshal's office will investigate.
Source: <http://www.wabi.tv/news/16928/fire-breaks-out-at-business>

12. *January 5, WIFR 23 Rockford* – (Illinois) **Chemical spill in Genoa.** An aluminum plant in Genoa, Illinois, was evacuated January 5 due to a hazardous chemical spill. The incident occurred at Custom Aluminum Products. Fire departments and the HAZMAT team got the call around 2 p.m. when workers found a leaking drum of liquid coming from a Fed Ex truck. Officials said no one was hurt. The situation has been resolved and clean up crews are working to clean up the mess.

Source:

http://www.wifr.com/home/headlines/Chemical_Spill_in_Genoa_112985924.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *January 6, United Press International* – (National) **600 credit-card numbers stolen at gas pump.** Six hundred credit-card numbers were stolen at a Florida gasoline station by an operation that used a credit-card skimmer hidden inside a gas pump, police said. The skimmer, placed at a RaceTrac Petroleum Inc. gas station in Melbourne, Florida, by unknown thieves, recorded customers' credit-card information every time they swiped their cards to pay for gas, police said January 6. The allegedly stolen data led to complaints of fraudulent credit and debit card charges, police said. "We've had about 20 incidents that have been reported involving this particular gas station," a Melbourne police spokesman told Florida Today. Many of the stolen card numbers were used for purchases in New York City, mostly at a credit union, police said. Police have made no arrests, but "we do have a lead detective working on the case right now," the spokesman told the newspaper.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/01/06/600-credit-card-numbers-stolen-at-gas-pump/UPI-54631294358121/

14. *January 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Visa claims new software catches more fraud.** Credit card companies choose to scrutinize some bits of information for signs of fraud while ignoring others. And those decisions are made in a fraction of a second when approving or denying a sale. Visa, which operates the world's biggest electronic payment network, spoke publicly January 6 for the first time about new technologies it put in place ahead of the 2010 holidays. The company said the upgraded systems can catch more fraud because its developers figured out ways for the software to look for more signs of bad behavior at once. Some of the variables include the speed of transactions on a particular card, the time of day, the physical distance between transactions, and the type of store. The new software, which rolled out in September, can combine more than a dozen different variables. That is important because the ability to sift through more data increases the odds of catching a fraudulent purchase

before it is approved. Visa said upgraded software will allow Visa to spot a greater percentage of fraud. Detection of cross-border fraud, which Visa said it looked at intently for the latest iteration, shows major gains.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110106/ap_on_hi_te/us_tec_techbit_visa_fraud_upgrade

15. *January 6, Jacksonville Journal-Courier* – (Illinois) **US Bank evacuated after bag left on floor.** A Jacksonville, Illinois, bank was briefly evacuated after someone left a black bag inside. Police were called about 10:20 a.m. January 6 after an elderly woman walked into the foyer of US Bank at 322 W. Morton Ave., dropped a bag on the floor and promptly left. Alarmed about what may be in the bag, bank employees and customers were evacuated from the building. Police arrived and found that the bag contained gym clothes. The bag’s owner was located at her residence and after speaking to her and bank employees, it was decided no charges would be filed.
Source: <http://www.myjournalcourier.com/news/bag-31021-bank-left.html>

16. *January 6, Softpedia* – (National) **Infected laptop leads to data breach at Pentagon Federal Credit Union.** The Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) is dealing with a data security breach involving personal and credit card information exposed after a laptop was infected with malware. In a letter sent to the New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office, the credit union’s lawyers revealed the laptop infection was discovered December 12. The malware allowed attackers to access a database containing names, addresses, Social Security numbers, PenFed account numbers, credit, or debit card numbers of current and former members, joint owners, employees, and beneficiaries. The letter states that 514 New Hampshire residents were affected by the incident, but the total number of people involved has not been disclosed. PenFed does not have any indication that the illegally accessed information was misused so far, but out of caution it reissued all exposed credit and debit cards. The federally chartered credit union started sending notification letters to the affected individuals January 4 in which it offers them a 2-year free subscription to an identity theft protection service from Kroll.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Infected-Laptop-Leads-to-Data-Breach-at-Pentagon-Federal-Credit-Union-176739.shtml>

17. *January 5, DNAinfo.com* – (New York) **FBI searching for ‘Red Coat Bandit’ bank robber.** The FBI is asking the public for help in its search for the “Red Coat Bandit” who robbed a Midtown New York City, New York Citibank branch January 4. Just as tellers and bank employees were getting ready to close the bank branch at 411 Fifth Ave. at 37th Street about 6:15 p.m. January 4, a man entered the bank displaying a fake bomb that had wires and a detonator, the FBI said. The robber then threatened to blow up the location and proceeded to rob the bank of an unspecified sum. The “Red Coat Bandit” was described by the FBI as an Indian male, approximately 30 years old and 5 feet 10 inches. He was seen wearing a boonie hat, which is typically a wide-brimmed hat worn by military personnel, a black scarf or ski mask, a red hooded jacket, black gloves, light blue jeans, and beige or tan work boots.

Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/20110105/midtown/fbi-searching-for-red-coat-bandit-bank-robber>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

18. *January 7, AOL News* – (Florida) **Magnetic north pole shift affects Tampa Airport.** The Earth’s magnetic north pole is slowly heading toward Russia, according to scientists, but one of the places being affected by this is Tampa International Airport (TIA) in Tampa, Florida. Airport officials closed its main runway this week until January 13 to adjust the taxiway signs accounting for the magnetic pole shift, Tampa Bay Online reports. The runway designation change was called for by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reflect a previous National Geographic News report which indicated that the magnetic pole was heading in Russia’s direction at almost 40 miles per year. TIA in Florida is closing some runways to make adjustments based on the shifting magnetic pole. Magnetic changes in Earth’s core are causing this, possibly due to “a region of rapidly changing magnetism on the core’s surface,” according to National Geographic. Normally, magnetic fields do not require adjustments to be made at airports, a FAA spokesman said. Later this month, two other runways at the Tampa airport will also be closed to update the signs to their new designations. It is not known yet if similar changes will be needed at other airports in the United States.
Source: <http://www.aolnews.com/2011/01/07/magnetic-north-pole-shift-affects-tampa-airport/>

19. *January 7, Associated Press* – (New York; New Jersey) **Snow causing major airport delays.** New York City’s metropolitan area airports were reporting up to 2-hour delays due to the weather January 7. The Federal Aviation Administration’s Web site said LaGuardia Airport’s incoming flights were experiencing average delays of 1 hour and 34 minutes January 7. Flights destined for Newark International Airport in New Jersey were delayed an average of 2 hours. At John F. Kennedy International Airport, departure and arrival delays were 15 minutes or less. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the airports’ operator, said a total of 300 flights were canceled at the three airports, most in advance of the storm. It said delays are mostly due to low cloud ceilings and snow.
Source: http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/local_news/Snow-Causing-Major-Airport-Delays-20110107-APX-

20. *January 7, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Man on tracks killed by Acela in North Philly.** An unidentified man was killed January 6 after stepping into the path of a high-speed Amtrak train in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The man was on southbound tracks near the 900 block of West Sedgely Avenue shortly after noon, police said. The southbound Acela, which was running a few minutes late, was due at 30th Street Station at 12:10 p.m., an Amtrak spokeswoman said. The train did not arrive until nearly 2 and one-half hours later. It struck the man about 12:14, killing him instantly. There were no injuries to the train’s crew or any of its 135 passengers, the

spokeswoman said. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Trenton Regional Rail line, and other Amtrak trains were delayed by up to 90 minutes as police and emergency workers investigated the apparent suicide. By 4 p.m. the Trenton line was back on or close to schedule, a spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20110107_Man_on_tracks_killed_by_Acela_in_North_Philly.html

21. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Half of Dulles Airport closed for strange package.** Police closed about half of the main terminal at Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia after a suspicious package was discovered near the baggage claim area January 6. An airport spokeswoman said the package was discovered about 4 p.m. She said flights continued to operate at the airport. A police dog alerted authorities to the item. The parcel did not seem to be similar to packages found at Maryland state government buildings that ignited January 6.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110106/ap_on_re_us/us_dulles_airport_suspicious_package_2

For more stories, see items [1](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), and [31](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **2 fiery packages put Maryland mailrooms on alert.** A disgruntled “lone wolf” griping about highway signs mailed a small package to Maryland’s Democratic governor and the parcel ignited when someone in the state mailroom unzipped it, shooting out a tiny flame that singed the worker’s fingers. About 15 minutes later January 6, a second worker was injured opening a similar package at a state government building 20 miles away. Soon after, mailrooms across Maryland were cleared and two other suspicious packages uncovered, though they turned out to be a toner cartridge and laptop batteries. Explosive material was not found in either package that ignited and authorities are not sure if any other dangerous packages are out there, but mailroom workers were expected back at work January 7. They will have pictures of the packages and were advised to be vigilant about anything suspicious. Meanwhile, the packages have prompted officials in at least four nearby states to be more vigilant.

Source: <http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/2-fiery-packages-put-Maryland-mailrooms-on-alert/ErBr3mMywUaqlN0zO4r5PQ.csp>

23. *January 6, Corpus Christi Caller-Times* – (Texas; Colorado) **Anthrax hoax shuts down UPS station overnight.** Authorities responded to an anthrax threat in a United Parcel Service (UPS) package about 7 p.m. January 6 that turned out to be a hoax, Corpus Christi, Texas police said. An active duty Army Iraq War veteran stationed at Fort Collins, Colorado, sent a 3-foot by 3-foot package weighing about 19 pounds to

his former mother-in-law after sending her a text he was shipping Anthrax to her and her daughter, his ex-wife, a police captain said. The soldier also is suspected of having some post war trauma problems, he said. The Corpus Christi Fire Department's hazardous materials team was the first to handle the package, after police closed access to the UPS terminal in the 300 block of Navigation Boulevard. The street was closed for about 3 hours between Agnes and Leopard streets as a precaution, the spokesperson said. The soldier has been identified, and could face federal charges, which will be handled by the FBI.

Source: <http://www.caller.com/news/2011/jan/07/anthrax-hoax-shuts-down-ups-station-overnight/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *January 7, WFAE 90.7 FM Charlotte* – (North Carolina; South Carolina) **Some fish in Charlotte reservoirs unsafe to eat.** Health officials in North and South Carolina are warning people to eat little, if any, large mouth bass caught in Lake Wylie or Mountain Island Lake. The fish contain dangerous levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which can lead to cancer and other health problems in humans. In Mountain Island Lake, officials said eating channel catfish is dangerous, too. PCBs are found in the dirt at the bottom of lakes and slowly move up the food chain, reaching dangerous levels in predators like catfish and largemouth bass. PCBs were common in household appliances and heavy equipment until they were banned in the 1970s, but the compound lingers in the environment and has shown up in numerous reservoirs throughout the Carolinas.

Source: http://www.wfae.org/wfae/1_87_316.cfm?action=display&id=6788

25. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Chicago company recalls ground beef.** The Illinois Department of Agriculture said a Chicago company recalled about 200 pounds of ground beef patties because of possible E. coli contamination. The department said January 6 the patties were produced by the Columbus Meat market Inc. December 27, and shipped to food-handling customers in the Chicago area. Each package label on the patties carries the mark “EST. 755” and an identifying date of “12/27/10.” The agriculture department said a sample of the patties tested positive for a strain of E. coli that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration, and — in the most severe cases — kidney failure. The company has received no reports of illness linked to the patties.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-beefrecall,0,581784.story>

26. *January 6, University of Wyoming* – (Colorado; Wyoming) **‘Red nose’ vaccine may cause some cattle abortions.** Veterinarians at the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University are noticing an increased number of abortions in heifers due to the virus responsible for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), also known as “red nose.” Some episodes occur after vaccination with specific USDA-approved modified live viral vaccines. Multiple abortion episodes are being investigated in Wyoming and Colorado. A pathologist with the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory at the

University of Wyoming, and a worker with the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Colorado State University, reported the abortion increase initially as a letter to the Journal of the American Medical Association. “Often, there is a history of modified-live bovine herpesvirus-1 vaccine use some two to eight weeks prior to abortion,” they wrote. They suspect live vaccine strains of bovine rhinotracheitis virus are responsible for some abortion outbreaks. Producers may be using modified-live bovine herpesvirus-1 vaccines in pregnant animals without realizing they must first use a specific group of vaccines within a defined time period before the pregnant cattle can be safely vaccinated, they wrote. Since that letter was written in August 2010, both laboratories continued to see abortions in the wake of vaccinations with specific modified live products. Losses range from 10-25 percent, the pathologist said.

Source: http://www.theprairiestar.com/articles/2011/01/06/ag_news/livestock/live11.txt

27. *January 5, Homeland Security News Wire* – (National) **New U.S. food safety law goes into effect.** In the biggest overhaul of food safety in the United States since the 1930s, the U.S. President signed a law January 4 giving the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) more power to inspect and shut down food producers. Critics said the changes will have little effect on food-borne infections such as salmonella. New Scientist reports the bill follows an unprecedented series of food poisoning scandals in the United States in recent years, including the recall of half a billion eggs in August 2010 because of Salmonella bacteria, and peanut butter that sickened more than 600 people and may have killed nine in 2009.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/new-us-food-safety-law-goes-effect>

28. *January 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Scientists optimistic about new weapon.** For nearly 60 years, scientists have watched helplessly as a war of bug versus hemlock played out from Georgia to Maine. Now scientists have a new weapon in their arsenal — another bug — and say the tide is turning, at least in New England. The hemlock woolly adelgid, a native to Asia, was discovered in Virginia in 1951. Since then, it has spread to suck up the sap of the stately evergreens in at least 16 Eastern states, including in New England, which has not yet lost large numbers of trees. A beetle that eats the adelgid was found in Idaho and was introduced to forests in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and New York in 2007. Since then, entomologists have determined the predator, which is able to withstand cold weather better than its cousins, is doing its job. Adelgids can weaken and kill a hemlock over several years. Their eggs appear as white, woolly batches on the underside of branch tips. Sections of hemlock forests in the South, such as in the Blue Ridge, Shenandoah, and Great Smoky mountains, have been devastated.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17012069?source=rss

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

29. *January 6, WRGB 6 Schenectady* – (New York) **Saratoga County Water Authority sues GE for \$27 million.** The Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA) has filed a

federal lawsuit against General Electric, seeking \$27 million for the damages it says it incurred trying to avoid PCBs during GE's dredging project in the Hudson River in New York. Law firm Dreyer Boyajian LLP said January 6 the water authority had to spend \$27 million building a water treatment plant in Moreau to stay upriver of the General Electric plants in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, and the PCB dredging project. SCWA said the move was necessary to avoid possible PCB contamination in their water, as GE continues to dredge up the contaminants in a massive \$500 million clean-up project. PCBs are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as probably human carcinogens, associated with adverse effects on reproductive, endocrine, and immunological function. Several town and villages within Saratoga County have already filed their own suits against GE for the damages and costs related to the PCB dredging project.

Source: <http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/water-1281751-million-saratoga.html>

30. *January 5, WECT 6 Wilmington* – (North Carolina) **More than 23,000 gallons of wastewater spilled.** Crews with the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority in North Carolina have cleaned up a wastewater spill caused by a leak on a main in Wilmington. Over 23,000 gallons of wastewater spilled into a ditch near the Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant January 3. The ditch the wastewater leaked into ultimately discharges into the Northeast Cape Fear River. Workers were able to clean everything up and repair the piping by 2 p.m.

Source: <http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=13789640>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *January 7, KTVI 2 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Highly pressurized liquid helium from MRI device released.** Emergency crews released the highly pressurized liquid helium from a damaged MRI device in Sunset Hills, Missouri, around 9:30 a.m. January 7. Officials said there is no longer a threat of an explosion from the gas leak. The Mehlville Fire Department chief will notify the public in a new conference when it is safe to reopen the stretch of Lindbergh and when residents can return to their homes. Residents were told to evacuate their homes as authorities learned MRI machines inside a damaged medical facility could pose the risk of an explosion. The area that has been closed encompasses about four blocks, with several businesses in the area. An imaging business, SSM, which was damaged by a December 31 tornado, was trying to power down the machine when the problems began. That requires removing highly pressurized liquid helium from the device. It can be highly explosive. Damage was discovered to the ventilation system for the machine, making it even more dangerous than usual to take it offline. SSM officials notified the Mehlville Fire Department of the danger.

Source: <http://www.fox2now.com/news/ktvi-highly-pressurized-helium-mri-device-released-010711,0,1744275.story>

32. *January 6, Los Angeles Times and KTLA 5 San Diego* – (California) **Unusual odor forces evacuation of downtown L.A. medical center.** A hazardous-materials team is investigating an “unusual smell” in Los Angeles, California, and has evacuated patients from a medical center as a precaution, authorities said. About 50 city firefighters responded at 10:30 a.m. January 6 to reports of an unusual odor on Olive Street near Venice Boulevard, a Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman said. At least 11 patients with non-life-threatening conditions were evacuated from the Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center and examined by medical personnel on the scene, he said. The patients were being taken to local hospitals, he added. The source of the odor — and whether it poses any health risk — has not been determined. Police officers were also on scene to encourage people to leave the area, he said.
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/01/usual-odor-downtown-los-angeles.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

33. *January 7, CNN* – (National) **Former CIA officer charged with disclosing defense information.** A federal judge in St. Louis, Missouri, ordered a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer held in custody as a flight risk January 6, after his arrest on charges he disclosed secret defense information, a CNN affiliate producer who was in the courtroom said. The 43-year-old man of O’Fallon, Missouri, is charged in a 10-count indictment with unauthorized retention and disclosure of classified information, mail fraud, and obstruction of justice, the Justice Department (DOJ) said. The suspect has “always maintained his innocence,” the man’s attorney said. The suspect worked at the CIA from May 1993 to January 2002, DOJ said. One of his assignments was working on a top-secret operational program related to the weapons capabilities of certain countries. His role included working with “a human asset,” the department said. He was fired from his job in 2002, it said, adding he had filed discrimination complaints against the CIA before and after he left. The indictment alleges the suspect stole classified information and orally disclosed the contents to a newspaper reporter who was writing a book.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/01/06/virginia.cia.arrest/index.html>
34. *January 7, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Putney school is evacuated.** Thirteen students and one staff member were evacuated from Putney Central School in Putney, Vermont January 6 after a boiler malfunctioned and sent fuel fumes into the school. Ambulances from around Windham County responded to the school just before noon after students and staff said they smelt gas in the building. All of the staff and students were moved to the gymnasium where a number of people received preliminary blood tests. The Windham Southeast superintendent said a motor shut down in the boiler, but a pump continued sending fuel into the heating system. No carbon monoxide detectors went off, but after a number of staff members said they smelled gas, emergency responders were called to the school. The middle section of the school, where the boiler is located, was evacuated and the rest of the school was eventually cleared out as well.

Firefighters checked the building two times, and the school day was resumed by 1:30 p.m.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/ci_17031202?source=most_email

35. *January 7, CNN* – (Texas) **Security at Texas school district beefed up after another threat.** Security was tightened January 6 at a small Texas school district after an additional threat was made to students, the superintendent said. Almost half of the students in Bay City schools have been out of classes since January 4, a day after officials disclosed an anonymous letter writer threatened to kill students unless “bleeding heart liberals” cracked down on discipline. The superintendent said he is hopeful police will be able to trace the source of a text message sent January 5 to many residents of the city 80 miles south of Houston. The text read, “FWD: Hey! Forward this to everyone, (that letter)...1 rule broken, two girls die at the jr. high and 2 from high school, dnt go! The school will be on lockdown.” According to the superintendent, the district’s schools have locked all exterior doors. Additional police patrols were added January 6. The FBI has offered assistance. Bay City Independent School District published the threatening letter January 3 in hopes the public could help authorities catch the sender.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/01/06/texas.school.threats/>

36. *January 6, WSOC 9 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Explosive prank rattles students at Charlotte-area high school.** Witnesses said they thought they heard gunshots at North Mecklenburg High School in North Carolina January 6 when a potentially dangerous homemade device went off within 20 feet of a police officer. “It was right at the end of first lunch when students were leaving when the two bangs went off,” said a Huntersville police lieutenant. The bangs came from a cafeteria trash can, in which someone had placed two plastic water bottles containing a mixture that included a common household substance. The chemical combination produced gas inside the bottles that caused the pressure to build up and eventually blow off the bottle caps, police said.

Source: <http://www.wsoc9.com/news/26395400/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [37](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

37. *January 7, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Emergency teams will practice response to terrorism involving chemical weapon.** Drivers on U.S. Highway 17 January 7 should see emergency teams at Six Mile Road in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, training for how to handle a chemical weapon of mass destruction at a school, officials said. Dozens of responders including police, firefighters, emergency medical specialists, and South Carolina National Guard members were expected to participate in the training exercise at the former Laing Middle School. “Our proximity to the port and major transportation routes could place

us at risk for exposure to a wide range of emergency incidents,” a Mount Pleasant Fire Department chief said. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Regional Response Team includes about 85 volunteers from public safety agencies in Charleston and Dorchester counties. The National Guard participants are from the 43rd Civil Support Team, which carries equipment that can detect radiological, chemical, or biological agents. The State Law Enforcement Division and the Charleston County Local Emergency Planning Committee will evaluate how the responders performed.

Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/jan/07/drill-to-mimic-horrific-scenario/>

38. *January 7, Columbus Republic* – (Indiana) **Police investigating theft of copper wire in Decatur Co.** Indiana State Police are investigating the theft of thousands of dollars worth of copper from an Indiana State Police radio tower site in Decatur County. Three copper grounding bars and 10 feet of copper wire, valued at \$6,000 to \$10,000, were stolen between December 17 and January 6 from the site on Southwest Road 60.
Source: http://www.therepublic.com/view/local_story/Police_investing_theft_of_copp_1294410458/
39. *January 6, Bloomington Pantagraph* – (Illinois) **Hazmat team reports to Pontiac prison; no injuries reported.** A hazardous-materials event was reported January 6 at Pontiac Correctional Center in Pontiac, Illinois. Four members of the Bloomington Fire Department hazardous-materials response team were called about 3:30 p.m. to the prison to assist the Pontiac Fire Department. The event was concluded by 5:25 p.m., said a department of corrections spokeswoman. “We really have no comment, but there were no injuries. Everyone was fine,” she said when asked about the nature of the incident. A decontamination tent was set up in the parking lot near the main gate at Vermillion and Lincoln streets during the incident.
Source: http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/article_e9f08f20-19ed-11e0-bc30-001cc4c03286.html
40. *January 5, United Press International* – (National) **Larger guard presence sought at border.** Lawmakers from U.S. states bordering Mexico said they want a larger National Guard deployment to counter rising drug cartel violence. A U.S. Representative from Texas has proposed legislation allowing border-state governors to send as many as 10,000 guardsmen to the region, The Washington Post reported January 5. Currently 1,200 guardsmen are deployed at the border — 560 of them in Arizona where lawmakers want a larger force following the December 14 killing of a Border Patrol agent just north of Nogales. Border-state lawmakers from both political parties have told the Post they view the U.S. military presence as a long-term necessity despite rules that prevent National Guardsmen from making arrests or seizing drugs.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/01/05/Larger-guard-presence-sought-at-border/UPI-77291294247195/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

41. *January 7, Softpedia* – (International) **Microsoft postpones patching of two critical 0-day vulnerabilities.** Microsoft announced it does not plan to patch two publicly known 0-day vulnerabilities in Internet Explorer and Windows in a release scheduled for January 11. One of the two bulletins announced affects only Windows Vista and is rated as important, while the other affects all supported Windows versions and has a severity rating of critical. These bulletins will not cover an actively exploited vulnerability affecting Internet Explorer 6, 7, and 8 on all Windows types. Identified as CVE-2010-3971, the flaw consists of an use-after-free memory error in the mshtml.dll library and can be exploited to execute arbitrary code remotely. Moreover, in December 2010, a group called Abysssec Security Research announced a reliable exploit for this vulnerability that bypasses the DEP and ASLR protection mechanisms in Windows. A second critical vulnerability that will remain unpatched is located in the Graphics Rendering Engine and affects all Windows versions except Windows 7 and Server 2008 R2.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Microsoft-Postpones-Patching-of-Two-Confirmed-0-Day-Vulnerabilities-176771.shtml>

42. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts; North Carolina) **Man pleads guilty to stealing \$930,000 in computer equipment.** A North Carolina man has pleaded guilty in federal court to charges of stealing nearly \$930,000 worth of computer equipment from the EMC Corp. facility where he worked. Prosecutors said he concealed the items in a small bag as he left work at EMC's Apex, North Carolina facility between 2000 and 2009. He also sold the equipment over the Internet using the identity of a friend, without that person's knowledge. He pleaded guilty January 6 in U.S. District Court in Boston, Massachusetts to charges including wire fraud and identity theft. Data storage equipment maker EMC is based in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. The man faces up to 32 years in prison at sentencing April 7.

Source: <http://www.thetimesnews.com/news/pleads-39963-stealing-boston.html>

43. *January 7, H Security* – (International) **Expert: Linux capabilities don't add security.** The developer behind the grsecurity project has pointed out most of the privilege control capabilities implemented under Linux carry a significant potential for compromising a system and wreaking other havoc. The intended purpose of capabilities is to prevent that by restricting services and processes to certain operations and specific resources. Among other things, they aim to reduce the effects of successful attacks and can, for example, prevent an exploit for an office tool from installing a back door because the office tool does not have the capabilities required for binding services to network ports. Capabilities can also make it unnecessary to use SUID – Ubuntu and Fedora are considering this approach. OpenWall has reportedly already implemented it in version 3.0, which was released towards the end of December: the standard installation does not contain a single SUID program.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Expert-Linux-capabilities-don-t-add-security-1164658.html>

44. *January 7, ITProPortal* – (International) **Apple’s Mac App Store hacked on first day.** Apple’s launch of the new Mac App Store January 6 has already been marred with reports of hackers coming up with ways to pirate paid apps on the platform. Hackers have discovered a simple copy-paste method to illegally crack some of the paid apps on store. The method involves replacing the receipt and signature files on a paid app package with ones taken from a free app. According to Apple Insider, Apple provided support for App Store receipts on Mac OS X 10.6.6, but it is clear Apple failed to check the Mac App Store for vulnerabilities like this before launching it. A report on technology blog Daring Fireball said the vulnerability only affects those apps which do not follow Apple’s app validation advice, in which the application is required to check for a valid receipt along with making sure that the receipt matches the app’s bundle ID. Source: <http://www.itproportal.com/2011/01/07/apples-mac-app-store-hacked-first-day/>
45. *January 7, The Register* – (International) **Facebook riddled by ‘my first ever status message’ scam app.** A new survey scam that first appeared January 6 has hoodwinked thousands on Facebook. Users are being induced into filling out a worthless survey on the false promise of a dubious reward — a reminder of their first ever status message on the social networking Web site. These false promises appear as status messages from already fooled surfers, touting a rogue application. Surfers who install the application grant it account privileges — thus allowing it to post from a user’s account, a facility used to spam followers of a compromised account with spam come-ons, continuing the infection cycle. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/01/07/first_status_survey_scam_facebook/
46. *January 7, IDG News Service* – (International) **Hacked iTunes accounts continue to sell in China.** The sale of iTunes accounts that have reportedly been hacked has yet to be stopped by Apple or the Chinese e-commerce site hosting the sellers. Merchants on the Chinese retail site Taobao.com have been selling iTunes and Apple App Store accounts filled with U.S. dollars for bargain prices. Some services allow the purchase of \$100 worth of products on iTunes for merely 55 yuan (\$8.30). But the Chinese media reported hackers obtained thousands of the accounts sold on the site. The merchants themselves, however, have not said where the accounts have come from. How the users stole the account information, however, is still unclear, the CEO of Chinese security company Knownsec said. Hackers may have originally tried to obtain these accounts by stealing the information on iTunes gift cards. But now they could be developing methods to steal user account information from computers and iPhones, he said. The stolen iTunes accounts are attractive in China because many consumers there have no way to create legitimate accounts of their own. The Chinese iTunes store only accepts payment by credit card, which many Chinese consumers do not have. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203858/Hacked_iTunes_accounts_continue_to_sell_in_China
47. *January 7, IDG News Service* – (International) **Google enhances e-mail security in Apps.** Google has taken a step to stop legitimate e-mail messages sent by its Apps customers from getting caught in spam filters. Administrators for Google Apps can

now enable digital signing of those messages, which helps recipients verify the messages came from a known, vetted sender, wrote a Google Enterprise product manager on a company blog. The system uses DKIM, or DomainKeys Identified Mail, which verifies the domain name through which a message was sent by analyzing the message's cryptographic signature. If the message comes from a domain considered reputable, it will not be filtered out. Some users of Google Apps have complained their e-mail from their custom domain has been blocked even if they have set up a proper Sender Policy Framework (SPF) record. The SPF record allows a domain owner to specify which hosts are allowed to send mail for their domain.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9203898/Google_enhances_e_mail_security_in_Apps

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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

48. *January 7, WBNG 12 Binghamton* – (New York) **Verizon wireless outage.** Many Verizon Wireless customers in the region around Binghamton, New York, were without service January 7. A regional representative for Verizon said there were about 50 wireless towers that lost service around 10:30 a.m. The company did not know what caused the outage, but was looking into what caused the nearly 30-minute loss of service. The representative believed an internal glitch caused the problem.

Source: <http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Verizon-Wireless-Outage-113074699.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *January 7, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **People injured, boats destroyed in NC marina fire.** A fire at McCotter's Marina in Beaufort County, North Carolina, injured three people and damaged 25 boats January 7, according to local media and the Coast Guard. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office told WNCT that the 911 call came in around 12:30 a.m. When crews arrived on the scene, they said the North Dock was engulfed in flames. Most of the boats, along with the dock, were destroyed. North Carolina Coast Guard crews are assisting local agencies. A boat crew from Coast Guard Station Hobucken was on scene monitoring the situation and containing any debris and pollution from the fire. A cleanup company was contracted to respond to the scene, and Coast Guard pollution investigators were there to assess the amount of

pollution caused by the fire.

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/8897004/>

50. *January 6, WBAL 11 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Gas main leak in Rosedale closes store.** Firefighters in Baltimore County evacuated stores in Rosedale, Maryland, January 6 because of a gas leak. A Baltimore County Fire Department representative told WBAL-TV 11 News that a gas main leaked inside the Sam's Club in the 6400 block of Petrie Way at about 11 a.m. No injuries were reported. A SkyTeam 11 HD captain reported fire crews evacuated the Walmart and Sam's Club stores after fire crews said they found a significant amount of gas leaking in the Sam's Club. Both stores were evacuated as a precaution. Police allowed people to leave the shopping center, but did not allow anyone to enter the shopping center bound by Philadelphia and Golden Ring roads and Interstate 695. Baltimore Gas and Electric crews shut down the gas main inside the Sam's Club, which remained closed. Authorities allowed the Walmart to reopen.

Source: <http://www.wbalv.com/news/26388072/detail.html>

51. *January 6, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Colorado) **Water line break forces downtown hotel to evacuate guests to next door.** A Grand Junction, Colorado hotel was evacuated January 6 after a water pipe burst, sending water cascading from an upper floor into the lobby. The Grand Junction Fire Department was called to Main Street Suites, 225 Main St., around 8:15 p.m. and found water gushing out of the front doors of the hotel. It was unclear where exactly in the hotel the pipe broke, but water was seen dripping from the second floor into the lobby. Several people staying in the hotel, including families with children, were ushered with suitcases next door to the Hampton Inn, 205 Main St. Both hotels are operated by the same owner. Firefighters used brooms to push the water out of the lobby and into the drop-off area and street in front of the hotel. Temperatures were in the mid-teens when the water line burst.

Source: http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/water_line_break_forces_downto/

For more stories, see items [6](#) and [31](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

52. *January 7, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Erosion claims Wellfleet summer home.** Construction workers in South Wellfleet, Massachusetts, flattened a summer cottage January 6 because of beach erosion that left the front porch hanging off a coastal dune. Cape Cod National Seashore officials warned January 6 that sightseers should avoid tramping on the dunes near the cottage property. The seashore maintenance chief said the tops and bottoms of the dunes in the area appear unstable, presenting a possible danger to people who might climb along the sandy cliffs to see the property.

Source:

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

53. *January 7, Modesto Bee* – (California) **Working to shore up levee.** Flood control officials are scrambling to patch a levee on the San Joaquin River west of Modesto, California that has been damaged by heavy runoff from recent storms. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) planned to award a \$1 million contract January 6 to stabilize the levee. The location is in San Joaquin County, in a rural area just north of Airport Way near the town of Vernalis. Flooding is not an imminent concern, a senior DWR engineer said. But erosion has cut into the structural profile of the levee, and with additional runoff expected for months, a quick repair was considered necessary. The region has not seen a significant storm in several days. But one of the wettest Decembers on record has caused unusually heavy runoff that is likely to persist for some time. Reservoirs feeding the San Joaquin River have been forced to release water to make way for more runoff, which has added to already high river levels. The engineer said the repair work will address about 500 feet of the levee bank that is eroding, and should be completed in about 2 weeks.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2011/01/06/1500976/working-to-shore-up-levee.html>

54. *January 6, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Kaw Reservoir Dam closed after accident.** A crane working at the Kaw Reservoir Dam in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, fell and became submerged into the water below around 10:30 a.m. January 6. Authorities said the crane was placing stop logs at the dam so cables could be replaced to lift the flood gates at the dam. During the process, the crane went over the guardrail. The crane operator was not injured. Another crane is being brought to help lift the fallen crane out of the water. For now, the dam is shut down and could be reopened January 7.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/news/26392838/detail.html>

55. *January 6, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (National) **Mississippi River levee to be raised on West Bank.** The Army Corps of Engineers has finalized plans to raise 15 miles of West Bank levees along the Mississippi River from English Turn, Louisiana, to Oakville, Tennessee. The levee, which currently ranges in height from 15 feet to 19 feet, will be raised to about 21 feet as part of the Corps' efforts to guard against a 100-year storm. The levee upriver from English Turn is already high enough to provide such protection, while the levees downriver from Oakville are beyond the scope of flood-protection upgrades authorized by Congress. The Corps plans to seek construction bids early next month, with the work to be completed by the beginning of the hurricane season in June. All work will be conducted within the existing right of way, a Corps spokesman said.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2011/01/mississippi_river_levee_to_be.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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