



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Associated Press reports the U.S. Department of Justice said a former NASA employee in Ohio has been charged with illegally shipping infrared military technology to South Korea. (See item [10](#))
- According to Associated Press, a Colorado man was arrested for threatening to set fire to the office of a U.S. Senator and to shoot members of his staff. (See items [36](#), [39](#))

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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 11, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Alaska oil pipeline operator works on bypass.** The company that operates the trans-Alaska pipeline in Alaska was working January 10 on building a bypass line so the flow of North Slope oil can be restarted despite a leak. The pipeline, which transports crude from the nation’s largest oil field to the Valdez tanker terminal, was shut down January 8 after the leak was discovered in an underground pipe near a pump station. Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., which operates the 800-mile pipeline from Prudhoe Bay, had welders working around the clock on the

bypass line to circumvent the leak and restore the flow of oil. Meanwhile, oil production on the North Slope was cut by 95 percent. Alyeska engineers were designing a 170-foot-long, 24-inch-diameter bypass pipe to get oil to the main line. It was not known when the pipeline might be restarted. As of noon January 10, the shutdown had lasted more than 50 hours. More than 200 people in Anchorage and the North Slope were working on the problem.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2011/01/11/alaska_oil_pipeline_operator_works_on_bypass/

2. *January 11, Bloomberg* – (National) **Offshore drilling needs urgent reform, U.S. panel says.** Only “urgent reform” of government rules and oil industry practices can prevent future disasters similar to BP Plc’s oil spill, the presidential panel investigating the accident said in its final report. Exploration in U.S. deep waters should be overseen by an independent agency in the Interior Department, with companies paying a fee to cover the overhaul, the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill said in a report released January 11 in Washington, DC. The agency should be led by an official with a fixed term and be shielded from political influence, according to a panel statement. The disaster that began on a rig leased by BP was caused by “systemic” management failures at the London-based company and its main contractors, showing the need for an overhaul of the industry and government rules, according to the panel named by the U.S. President in 2010. The commission’s report is about “restoring the faith of the country in a vital enterprise,” said the commission co-chairman and a former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The panel will “make a lot of noise” to ensure Congress passes the needed reforms, he said.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-01-11/offshore-drilling-needs-urgent-reform-u-s-panel-says.html>

3. *January 11, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Portion of I-75 closed for hours after fuel spill.** Southbound Interstate 75 in Dayton, Ohio reopened January 10 after a tanker truck overturned, spilling gasoline onto the highway. Traffic was backed up for hours after the accident, but started to clear up as crews reopened lanes around 3:15 p.m. More than 100 emergency personnel responded to the accident that occurred just after 10 a.m. near the Ohio 129 exit. Crews drained the remainder of the 5,100 gallons of fuel in the truck’s tank, cognizant that one spark could ignite the estimated 1,000 to 2,000 gallons that drained into a ditch that leads to a retention pond, the emergency management director said. All southbound lanes from the 129 exit through the Liberty Way exit originally were expected to remain closed through rush hour. Fumes permeated throughout the area. The Liberty Township assistant fire chief said this was the largest spill he recalls dealing with in the township’s history, and it required the assistance of Monroe, Hamilton, Fairfield Township., and West Chester Township fire departments. Two HAZMAT crews from Hamilton and West Chester Township also responded, and the American Red Cross helped to provide relief for the emergency crews working in the freezing temperatures. Emergency management officials said the priority throughout was to stop the fuel from getting into the sewer system. Dams were used to stop the flow to the retention pond, and the spill was monitored to ensure no

gasoline leaked into the water supply. Authorities said the crash was caused by a motorist in a blue car who swerved to avoid striking a cardboard box in the roadway. The tanker truck then swerved to avoid hitting the car, which cause it to overturn and leak fuel.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/portion-of-i-75portion-of-i-75-closed-for-hours-after-fuel-spill-1050477.html>

4. *January 10, Naples Daily News* – (Florida) **3 injured in gas explosion at Mangrove Cafe in downtown Naples.** Three people were injured January 10 in a gas explosion at the Mangrove Cafe on Fifth Avenue South in Naples, Florida. Propane tanks were being filled behind the restaurant by a truck from Balgas Propane of Naples when the blast occurred. One blast victim was transported to the Regional Burn Center at Tampa General Hospital. He was transported to the burn unit via medical helicopter, which landed nearby at Gulf View Middle School. The other two injured in the explosion were taken to local hospitals. Two Naples police officers also reported smoke inhalation injuries, the Naples police chief said. The blast was powerful enough to blow glass out the front of the building and onto Fifth Avenue South, now temporarily closed from Ninth Street to Eighth Street South.

Source: <http://www.marconews.com/news/2011/jan/10/3-injured-gas-truck-explosion-mangrove-cafe-downto/>

5. *January 10, Platts* – (National) **Winter storms affect railroad deliveries of coal in US southeast.** Weekend snowfall topping 10 inches in some parts of the southeastern U.S. January 10 was delaying coal shipments to the region's power plants, as railroads experienced delays from unusually fierce winter storms. Norfolk Southern issued a general advisory to customers warning of 48-hour delays for the region, which includes large coal consumers like Duke Energy, Tennessee Valley Authority and Southern Company. "Customers with shipments normally routed through Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, should expect delays of up to 48 hours due to a winter storm impacting much of the Southeast," the Norfolk, Virginia-based railroad said January 10. Power plants in the southeast are also struggling with below-freezing temperatures, that have delayed unloadings when coal freezes into blocks in rail cars, according to rail officials at both companies. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for much of eastern and central Virginia, part of major export routes from Central Appalachian mines to ports in Norfolk.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Coal/6737186>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *January 11, WHAS 11 Louisville* – (Indiana) **I-65 north shutdown, southbound down to 2 lanes due to semi accident.** I-65 Northbound was shutdown in Clark County, Indiana, beginning at the Kennedy Bridge January 11. A tractor trailer carrying a hazardous material flipped over around the 3 mile marker. I-65 Southbound was open but all northbound lanes were closed. The highway was closed to the Kennedy Bridge

and no traffic was being allowed across the bridge northbound. No one was injured in the crash. Northbound 65 was scheduled to be closed for 4 to 5 hours.

Source: <http://www.whas11.com/home/I-65-shutdown--113272499.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *January 11, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **State experts prepare for disaster.** In a time of crisis, once can never be too prepared, the chief of radiological health for the Vermont Department of Health said. People need to know what to do in case of a disaster. Starting January 11, government officials and employees from the departments of health, agriculture and natural resources, along with personnel from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, will be simulating what would happen if there was a leak of radiation. “This prepares us for any technological or natural disaster,” the official said. “We’ll be looking at all impacts, psychological, social, environmental and economic.” Using the control room simulator for the nuclear plant in Vernon, the instruments will create blueprints for everything associated with an actual disaster. Once the plume is originated by the computers, plant employees will use wind patterns to track which way it would travel, and state hazardous material technicians will be sent out to various sites to collect simulated measurements. Those measurements, the official said, will be used to determine who needs what, which locations need to be evacuated, how to control traffic and what the next steps will be.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17060926

8. *January 11, Associated Press; Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **NRC says everything OK one year after leak.** One year after a leak of tritiated water was discovered at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) released its report on how it was handled. On February 25, plant employees identified and stopped the leak in an underground pipe tunnel that contained leaking components for the advanced off-gas system. Ground water extraction began on March 25 and was initially terminated November 8, but after a strong recommendation from the governor, it was resumed December 30. Approximately 10 percent, more than 300,000 gallons, of the plume has been extracted so far. NRC inspectors determined, “there has been no impact to public health and safety due to the ground water contamination event,” according to the report released last week. An NRC spokesman said the commitments included the formation of a groundwater protection panel of experts, updating key documents such as the plant’s Final Safety Analysis Report and Off-site Dose Calculation Manual with the latest information, and completing a Conceptual Site Model. The NRC cited Vermont Yankee for failing to adhere to the nuclear industry’s Groundwater Protection Initiative, which was adopted several years ago, the NRC spokesman wrote.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17060915

9. *January 10, Harrisburg Patriot News* – (National) **NRC extends time that radioactive waste can be stored at nuclear plants.** Three Mile Island in Londonderry

Township, Pennsylvania, and other nuclear plants may store radioactive waste on site for up to 60 years after their shutdown, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has decided. The change in the federal “waste confidence decision” published in the Federal Register December 23 doubles the time the waste can be stored on-site in spent fuel pools or in dry concrete storage facilities, a NRC spokesman said. With federal funding cut for the proposed Yucca Mountain underground storage site in Nevada, there is uncertainty in getting a national high-level nuclear waste storage site established, the spokesman said. The NRC also asked its staff to look at whether on-site storage could occur for more than 120 years, instead of the former time frame of 60 years.

Source:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/01/nrc_finalizes_order_extending.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *January 10, Associated Press* – (International) **Ohio ex-NASA worker charged over military exports.** The U.S. Department of Justice said a former NASA employee in Ohio has been charged with illegally shipping infrared military technology to South Korea. The 66-year-old of Avon Lake was charged January 10 with one count of exporting defense articles on the U.S. munitions list without getting an export license or written authorization from the federal government. Authorities said he exported infrared focal-plane array detectors and infrared camera engines. They said the man is a former employee at the NASA Glenn Research Center, but noted he is not accused of taking technology from the center. The suspect also is charged with making a false individual income tax return.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/10/AR2011011006532.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *January 11, Torrance Daily Breeze* – (California) **Alleged ‘Scanner Bandit’ nabbed.** A man alleged to be the so-called Scanner Bandit has been arrested in connection with four bank robberies in southern California, including one in Torrance. The 48-year-old suspect was arrested January 7 following a tip that came after the FBI released his photograph to the media January 6. The suspect is suspected of holding up

a Bank of America branch on Sartori Avenue in Torrance December 21, along with a U.S. Bank branch in Norwalk December 15, a U.S. Bank in Whittier December 18 and a Bank of America branch in Orange January 4. The suspect showed an address in Santa Fe Springs, but had been living in residential motels. In crimes attributed to the Scanner Bandit, the robber carried a device that looked like a police scanner. He told tellers he had a bomb, which he partially hid inside a black folder.

Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_17059758

12. *January 10, Infoworld* – (National) **Hackers find new way to cheat Wall Street.** High-frequency trading networks, which complete stock market transactions in microseconds, are vulnerable to manipulation by hackers who can inject tiny amounts of latency into them. By doing so, they can subtly change the course of trading and pocket profits of millions of dollars in just a few seconds, said a former IBM research fellow and founder of cPacket Networks, a Silicon Valley firm that develops chips and technologies for network monitoring and traffic analysis. The former IBM research fellow, an Israeli-born computer scientist and one-time Intel engineering manager, said the root of the problem is the increasing speed of networks; as they get faster and faster, our ability to actually understand events taking place within them is not keeping up. Network monitoring technology can detect perturbations in network traffic happening in milliseconds, but when changes occur in microseconds, they are not visible, he said.
Source:
http://www.pcworld.com/article/216425/hackers_find_new_way_to_cheat_wall_street.html
13. *January 10, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **Feds bust constable in alleged plot to steal millions.** An elected Pennsylvania constable is one of two men accused of trying to rob an armored car storage vault. Federal prosecutors said a lead conspirator and an associate conspired to steal millions of dollars from the Garda armored car storage vault on Corporate Drive in Muhlenberg Township, Berks County. The FBI arrested both men at the facility January 8. Prosecutors said the lead suspect is a former employee of Garda, who is currently a constable in Upper Tulpehocken.
Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/berksnews/26435134/detail.html>
14. *January 10, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **FBI warns of serial bank robber.** The FBI is looking for a serial bank robber who has hit at least five banks throughout Macomb and Wayne counties in Michigan since October. The man has robbed each of the banks in the same manner, said a FBI Special Agent. The robber is described as a black male in his early to mid-30s, about 5-foot-10 to 6-feet tall with a medium build. In each robbery, he has worn a baseball cap, including hats bearing logos of the Detroit Red Wings and Philadelphia Phillies. Police said he may be driving a maroon or burgundy sport-utility vehicle. The man is suspected in the following robberies: October 28: Chase Bank, 31045 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores; November 18: Comerica Bank, 30500 Van Dyke Ave., Warren; November 26: Bank of America, 20599 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods; December 21: PNC Bank, 31320 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores; January 5: Comerica Bank, 28801 Groesbeck Highway, Roseville.
Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110110/METRO/101100419/1409/metro>

Transportation Sector

15. *January 11, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia; National) **Delta, AirTran on reduced schedule; MARTA bus service canceled.** Delta Air Lines planned a reduced schedule through January 11, to include cancellation of more than 1,400 Delta and Delta Connection flights systemwide “as extreme snow and ice conditions continue in Atlanta and a severe winter storm moves into the Northeast,” the airline said. The cancellations are on top of more than 2,000 January 9-10 cancellations Delta previously attributed to the storm. AirTran, which canceled all flights into and out of Atlanta January 10, had planned to resume normal operations January 11, but the weather did not cooperate. As the system that blanketed Atlanta with ice makes its way up the East Coast, several more airports are likely to be affected. The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, which canceled bus service January 10, said buses also will not run January 11. The agency said it would notify the public as soon as it knew when bus service would resume. Cobb Community Transit also canceled all bus service January 11. Gwinnett County Transit canceled express bus service again January 11, but said local service would begin at noon, “weather permitting.” Quick Transit buses in Clayton County were not running, either. MARTA rail service continues to operate, though passengers should expect delays. Amtrak’s trains were on schedule, the rail carrier said.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-weather-delta-airtran-800151.html>

16. *January 11, Abu Dhabi National* – (International) **Flydubai evacuates passengers over bomb threat.** Passengers on board a flydubai flight from Amman to Dubai had to be evacuated before take-off after a passenger made a bomb threat. A flydubai spokesperson confirmed a passenger on flight FZ144 traveling from the Jordanian capital to Dubai January 10 had claimed to be carrying explosives. The airline denied initial reports the passenger, who made the threats, was also a co-pilot working for the company and confirmed that he was not an employee. The passenger was taken away for questioning and the other passengers were also offloaded at Amman while a search of the plane was conducted. No explosives were found and the flight continued to Dubai International Airport. Earlier, a Jordanian security official said the incident was sparked when the passenger, also a Jordanian, had said he wanted to see the captain as the aircraft was about to take off. “When his request was refused, he claimed he had a bomb and threatened to blow the plane up,” the official said. “The passenger who made the bomb threat is a co-pilot who works in the United Arab Emirates. He said he was just making a joke. He was arrested, and an investigation is now under way,” the security official added.

Source: <http://www.thenational.ae/news/worldwide/middle-east/flydubai-evacuates-passengers-over-bomb-threat>

17. *January 10, Los Angeles Times, KTLA 5 Los Angeles and KSWB 5 San Diego* – (California) **FAA seeks safety improvements at Bob Hope Airport.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has again raised safety concerns about the proximity

between the passenger terminal and one of the runways at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, California. Federal aviation officials have long held the terminal is too close to the runway, a finding that in 1986 prompted the agency to prohibit planes from taking off to the east. An airport spokesman said planes taking off to the west are safely airborne well before they get near the terminal. But the latest iteration of the proximity issue came after an incident in April 2010 where two planes flew dangerously close to each other above the airfield. Although the incident was determined to be caused by air-controller error, the federal report on the matter determined “the airport passenger terminal location presents significant risks and compromises airport design safety standards.” Officials with the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority said the airport is making the modest adjustments sought by the FAA, including relocation of a weather sensor near runways, and is working with a private property owner to remove a nearby windmill. They also plan to bolster so-called blast walls that redirect exhaust from jet aircraft.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/01/faa-seeks-safety-improvements-at-bob-hope-airport.html>

18. *January 10, Dallas Morning News* – (National) **Airlines ordered to inspect Boeing jets for cracks.** Federal regulators are ordering U.S. airlines to inspect some models of Boeing jets for cracks after a large hole blew open in an American Airlines plane in October 2010. The regulation covers 683 U.S. Boeing 757-200s, including 88 operated by Fort Worth, Texas-based American. On October 26, an American jet was forced to make an emergency landing in Miami, Florida after an 18-inch-by-12-inch hole opened near the front of the plane. The plane was flying at 31,000 feet and lost cabin pressure, causing oxygen masks to deploy. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said a similar, 10.75-inch crack was found on a United Airlines jet in September. In December, a small crack was found on another American jet during a maintenance check, according to American and FAA officials. The regulation, effective January 25, states all of the cracks were attributed to metal fatigue. The rule orders airlines to check for cracking of the fuselage before the plane reaches 15,000 flight cycles or within 30 days, whichever occurs later. The inspection must then be repeated every 30 to 300 flight cycles, depending on the method of inspection used. The inspections will cost airlines \$58,055 per inspection cycle, the FAA said. The FAA regulation, known as an airworthiness directive, applies to Boeing models 757-200 and 757-300.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/0111dnbusfaa.9ee31e5c.html>

19. *January 10, WZVN 7 Naples* – (Florida) **Gun in bag gets man arrested at RSW.** A man trying to board a flight at Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, Florida with a loaded handgun in his carry-on was arrested January 7. The suspect, of Punta Gorda, Florida told port authority police he forgot the S & W Airweight handgun was in his bag. A Transportation Security Administration screener noticed the gun and stopped the traveler. The man told police he normally carries the gun for work as a real estate agent. Police found he had a valid concealed weapons permit, and he had a non-extraditable warrant for his arrest in Cook County, Georgia, for failure to appear. Bond

was set at \$500.

Source: <http://www.abc-7.com/Global/story.asp?S=13817034>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *January 11, Culpeper Star Exponent* – (Virginia) **Police investigate mailbox explosions.** A Virginia State Police arson investigator is assisting local law enforcement to solve a string of mail and newspaper box vandalisms. A town spokesman said Culpeper police and the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office are joining forces to investigate a number of recent complaints where bottles have blown up inside mailboxes and newspaper boxes. "Officials believe the vandalisms are related," the spokesman said. The first incident was reported January 3 in the 15000 block of Great Bridge Lane. A deputy responded and collected evidence. The same day, a man reported to town police a noise near his home along Finley Drive; there, police found a plastic bottle that appeared to have exploded. The latest incidents took place January 9 in Culpeper. A resident reported hearing a loud pop around 7:15 p.m. in the 600 block of Overlook Drive. During the investigation, an officer found another undamaged bottle in a newspaper box. A short time later, a mailbox was damaged in the 1700 block of Finley Drive. No one was injured in any of the incidents. Although lab analysis will determine the materials used to produce the explosions, officials believe common household items were used to construct the devices.
Source: <http://www2.starexponent.com/news/2011/jan/11/police-investigate-mailbox-explosions-ar-766373/>
21. *January 11, WFIN 1330 AM Findlay* – (Ohio) **Findlay office building evacuated Monday.** Suspicious writing on a package delivered to the Social Security Administration Building in Findlay, Ohio, led to an evacuation January 10. Findlay police and firefighters were called to 1720 Melrose Avenue around 3:30 p.m. The Lima Bomb Squad was also called in. However their services would not be needed, as it was soon discovered that all that was contained inside the 4" x 6" box was a pen. Office employees were worried when the box showed up with suspicious writing and no return address.
Source: <http://www.wfin.com/localnews201.asp?id=6234&storyno=3>
22. *January 10, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **FBI: Powder no danger at Pa. federal building.** Officials have determined a white, powdery substance discovered inside a letter sent to the federal building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was not harmful. A FBI spokesman said the powder was inside a letter addressed to a name similar to that of a federal judge. Fire officials said a hazardous materials team responded to the downtown building around 10:30 a.m. January 10 and quickly determined the substance was not dangerous. Police briefly closed the street outside the building but no evacuations were

ordered.

Source: http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_17056693

23. *January 10, Morris News Service* – (Georgia) **Ga. business gets suspicious package.** Garden City, Georgia police reopened Commerce Court at 2:45 p.m. January 10 after employees at Vantage Freight Systems received a suspicious package. Employees of the Savannah-area freight company also went back to work the afternoon of January 10. Vantage employees received a bubble-wrapped package January 10 with a note attached. Inside the package was a bomb, according to the note. Garden City police were called to the scene at about 1 p.m., evacuated the building, closed off Commerce Court and called in the Savannah-Chatham County Police Department's bomb squad. A police official, who heads up Garden City's criminal investigation division, said the package contained a "volatile substance," and was removed from the scene. The case has been turned over to the FBI and the U.S. Postal Service for investigation.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-01-10/ga-business-gets-suspicious-package>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *January 11, Food Safety News* – (Oregon; California; New Jersey) **Complaints bring recall of spoiled ground beef.** Customer complaints about discolored hamburger with an off odor prompted a recall of about 226,400 pounds of ground beef, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced January 10. Frozen products from One Great Burger, an Elizabeth, New Jersey-based company, are subject to the Class II, Low Health Risk recall. The beef was distributed to institutions in Oregon, and California. No illnesses have been linked to the spoiled meat. The FSIS investigation of the customer complaints uncovered evidence the establishment repackaged and recoded returned products and sent them out for further distribution to institutional customers, the Food and Drug Administration said in a news release. FSIS said it must consider the products to be adulterated and has acted to remove the products from commerce.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/customer-complaint-brings-recall-of-one-spoiled-burger/>

25. *January 11, Associated Press* – (International; Hawaii) **Bat found in shipping container carrying radishes.** Hawaii's Department of Agriculture said a live bat was captured January 6 in a shipping container carrying radishes and turnips from South Korea. Workers at a Pearl City produce storage facility found the brown-colored bat. Officials are still trying to identify the species, but it is not native to Hawaii. The department said January 10 the bat was euthanized out of concern it might be carrying the rabies virus, but tissue samples taken from the animal were negative. Hawaii is the only U.S. state and one of the few places in the world that is rabies-free. The agriculture department said bats are found occasionally in shipping containers, but most

are found dead.

Source: <http://www.kpua.net/news.php?id=22017>

26. *January 11, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **State wildlife officials monitoring bird disease in Pinellas.** Florida wildlife officials are monitoring an avian disease in Pinellas County, Florida after the deadly disease was found in some cormorants the week of January 3. The disease is called the Exotic Newcastle Disease. It is extremely contagious, but while birds can die from it, it is not considered life-threatening to humans, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Human contact with the disease may cause minor irritations such as pink eye or skin irritations. Exotic Newcastle Disease is often spread among birds in the same flock. It can affect wild birds, such as cormorants, domestic poultry, and pet birds like parrots and parakeets, the agency said in a prepared statement released January 10. The agriculture commissioner encouraged Floridians with pet birds, as well as Floridians who visit aviary sanctuaries, to be aware of the disease's symptoms. Birds with the disease often cough and tremble. Their wings may droop, the birds themselves may become paralyzed, and the tissue around their eyes or neck may swell, the agency said. There may be discharges from the birds' eyes or beaks.
Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/jan/11/111027/state-wildlife-officials-monitoring-bird-disease-i/news-breaking/>
27. *January 11, Food Safety News* – (California) **String cheese recalled in California.** A Los Angeles, California company recalled its string cheese January 10 because it may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Surtex Foods Co. said it has ceased production and distribution of its "La Original" brand Oaxaca string cheese, which is sold in a 17.63-ounce clear package. The product was distributed only in California. No illnesses have been reported. The recall was the result of a routine sampling program by the Food and Drug Administration.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/string-cheese-recalled-in-california/>
28. *January 10, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Boat vandals target fishing fleet.** At least a dozen commercial fishing boats were vandalized in Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts, late January 9 or early January 10, according to a fisherman. The fisherman from Plymouth said his boat, the *Odessa*, was spray-painted with the initials "ELF," believed to stand for an environmental group called Earth Liberation Front. The phrases "death to commercial fishing" and "commercial fishing = slaughter" were also painted on the boats. The fisherman said police have surveillance of two people vandalizing the boats. Police confirmed they are investigating the incident but would not give any specific details. The FBI said it was coordinating with Plymouth police in the investigation. The boats were in a boat yard on Hedge Street in North Plymouth.
Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/r/26428594/detail.html>

For another story, see item [4](#)

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Water Sector

29. *January 10, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **42M-gallon sewage spill raises health concern.** Crews have plugged a leak that spewed an estimated 42 million gallons of raw sewage into a river in the Apple Valley area of California after December's heavy storms damaged the sewage line. But it may be several months to a year before the main sewage line serving the high desert is back online. "What it did was shift our pipes that are lying in the Mojave River such that they began taking in sand and river water and then displacing sewage downstream," said a spokesperson with the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA). VWVRA crews have been working nonstop to install two bypass pipelines, one in Victorville and another in Apple Valley. The situation has some residents concerned about their water supply. Crews stopped the leak, but must begin repairing the damage. It has cost \$3 million so far to bypass the sewage lines, but a more permanent solution could end up costing between \$6 million and \$20 million.

Source:

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/inland_empire&id=7890766

30. *January 10, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Wheeling water pollution fine unresolved.** A \$414,000 pollution fine owed by Wheeling, West Virginia, for wastewater discharges remains unresolved. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued the fine last year. The agency said discharges from Wheeling's treatment plant exceeded chloride limitations 50 times from January 2009 through February 2010. A spokeswoman said the DEP is still working with the city to resolve the fine. The DEP's complaint said the violations started when Wheeling started treating wastewater from a privately owned company, including hydraulic fracturing wastewater from natural gas drilling. The Wheeling Public Works director said the city will no longer accept the hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" wastewater.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201101100599>

31. *January 5, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Iowa) **City of Keokuk, Iowa, agrees to address discharges of untreated sewage to Soap Creek and Mississippi River.** EPA Region 7 and the City of Keokuk, Iowa, have reached an agreement where the city will improve its combined sewer system over the next 20 years, reducing discharges of hundreds of millions of gallons of raw sewage to the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Under an administrative compliance order on consent, filed in Kansas City, Kansas, Keokuk will submit to EPA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) a long-term control plan for improving its sewers to reduce overflows. The plan is due no later than December 31, 2012. Once approved by EPA and IDNR, Keokuk must complete the implementation of all terms of the order, including requirements related to the long-term control plan, no later than December 31, 2030. An inspection by EPA in late November and early December 2010 found Keokuk had violated conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by failing to operate and maintain its wastewater treatment facilities in good working order, by allowing for overflows of raw sewage from the collection system to waters of the United States and private property, and by diverting waste streams from

its wastewater treatment works into the waters of the United States. Initial projections by the City of Keokuk to implement the long-term control plan are estimated to be between \$60 million and \$100 million for total separation of the combined sewer system.

Source: http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/r07_2011-1-5_keokuk_ia_untreated_sewage_discharge

For more stories, see items [3](#) and [8](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *January 11, Associated Press* – (National) **Docs urge shots as flu season grabs the South, NYC.** Flu season has arrived in the southern United States and New York City, and it is sure to spread to the rest of the country. The good news: There is still plenty of vaccine. but the vaccine’s protection takes about 2 weeks to kick in. “Take the opportunity while you’ve got the chance,” advises a doctor of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). January and February typically are the worst flu months, and it can drag into March. This winter, a well-known strain of Type A flu is causing most of the illnesses so far in the United States. This so-called H3N2 branch of the flu family tends to trigger more pneumonia and other complications than other forms of influenza. This year’s vaccine offers triple protection, against the swine flu known formally as Type A H1N1 flu, the worrisome H3N2 strain, and the Type B flu that tends to be less severe. The United States produced more than 160 million doses this year, a record amount. The CDC said the flu so far is striking very hard in parts of the South, including Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi , and also in New York City. Illinois and Oklahoma also are reporting high levels of flu.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/features/health/20110111_ap_docsurgeshotsasfluseasongrabsthesouthnyc.html

33. *January 11, Lewiston Sun Journal* – (Maine) **Electrical malfunction evacuates dental office.** A business was evacuated briefly January 10 after smoke and fumes were detected in a lab at the back of the Oxford Hills Dental Associates building in Norway, Maine. No one was injured. An employee found a melted light switch plate in the lab and saw smoke in the air. “It was an old switch that malfunctioned,” the fire chief said. Firefighters responded to the call at 232 Main St. shortly after 2 p.m. and within 10 minutes had taken off the Sheetrock and capped off the switch to ensure there was no fire in the walls.

Source: <http://www.sunjournal.com/oxford-hills/story/968780>

34. *January 10, Consumer Affairs* – (International) **Extortion scam by Food and Drug Administration impersonators continues.** Criminals posing as Food and Drug Administration (FDA) special agents and other law enforcement personnel are running an international extortion scam. The criminals call the victims — who in most cases

previously purchased drugs over the Internet or via “telepharmacies” — and identify themselves as FDA special agents or other law enforcement officials. They inform the victims that buying drugs over the Internet or the telephone is illegal, and that law enforcement action will be pursued unless a fine or fee ranging from \$100 to \$250,000 is paid. Victims often also have fraudulent transactions placed against their credit cards. The criminals always request the money be sent by wire transfer to a designated location — usually in the Dominican Republic. If victims refuse to send money, they are often threatened with a search of their property, arrest, deportation, physical harm, and/or incarceration. Victims of extortion-related calls have also received telephone solicitations for additional pharmaceutical purchases from other possibly related, illegal entities located overseas. The extortionists use customer lists complete with extensive personal information provided through previous purchase transactions. These include names, addresses, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, purchase histories, and credit card account numbers.

Source: <http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2011/01/extortion-scam-by-food-and-drug-administration-impersonators-continues.html>

35. *January 10, iHealthBeat* – (Connecticut) **Connecticut physician profile website missing malpractice records.** Information on malpractice cases is missing from the profiles of at least 106 physicians as posted on Connecticut’s Department of Public Health online physician profile database, the Hartford Courant reported. The online profiles are meant to help consumers choose physicians by providing information that includes: All malpractice payments made in the past 10 years; any felony charges; and disciplinary actions administered by the state or by hospitals. In March 2010, the department shut down its physician profile Web site to integrate the data into Connecticut’s centralized eLicense system, which health care professionals can use to renew their licenses. The department sought to have the new site up and running by April 2010, but it was delayed until December. A review of the site by the Courant determined that about one in six physicians who have made payments in recent years for harming patients do not have any mention of the incidents on their records. A spokesperson for the department said officials were unaware of the missing malpractice records. He said the department is conducting a “quality audit to determine that the migration of physician profile data is complete and accurate.”

Source: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2011/1/10/connecticut-physician-profile-website-missing-malpractice-records.aspx>

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Government Facilities Sector

36. *January 11, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Man accused of threatening Sen. Bennet staffers.** A Colorado man is accused of threatening to set fire around the office of a U.S. Senator from Colorado and shoot members of his staff, prompting authorities to step up patrols around the Senator’s home and office. The man faces a charge of assault on a federal employee. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He is due in federal court January 17. An FBI agent said in an arrest affidavit that

the man called the Democratic Senator's office January 6 to complain about his Social Security benefits. At one point, according to the document, the man one of the Senator's staffers that he is schizophrenic and needs help and that he "may go to terrorism." A spokesman from the U.S. attorney's office said there were no indications the incident was related to the January 8 shooting of several people — including a U.S. Representative — in Arizona. The man was well known to staffers in the Senator's office because he had called several times before to complain about his Social Security benefits, the affidavit said. But during one call January 6, a spokesman quotes the man as telling a staffer: "I'm just going to come down there and shoot you all." The man called again and spoke to another staffer, this time saying: "To get your attention, I will go down there and set fire to the perimeter."

Source: http://www.aurorasentinel.com/hp_metro/article_f0733914-1cf0-11e0-84b7-001cc4c03286.html

37. *January 11, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **2 Foss High School students arrested after urinal explosion.** Two 16-year-old students have been arrested on suspicion of arson in connection with an explosion in a bathroom at Foss High School in Tacoma, Washington January 10, police told KIRO 7 Eyewitness News. Both were being booked into Remann Hall in Tacoma, a spokesman of the Tacoma Police Department said. A urinal in the 400 hall was destroyed in the incident, a Tacoma school spokesman said. Students returned to class after officials evacuated the school as a precaution while police looked for any other explosives on campus, a KIRO 7 reporter said. The spokesman said there was no threat made prior to the explosion. No one was hurt.
Source: http://www.kirotv.com/news/26434106/detail.html?cxntlid=cmg_cntnt_rss
38. *January 10, Colorado Springs Gazette* – (Colorado; National) **Springs man charged with threats to kill Obama.** Federal prosecutors have charged a man who allegedly walked into the Colorado Springs, Colorado FBI office January 6 and threatened to kill the U.S. President. The man was charged in U.S. district court with one count of making threats against the President. According to an affidavit by a U.S. Secret Service agent, the man told an FBI agent January 6: "I want to stop the voices and I intend to kill the President." The man also told the agent he had been paroled 3 days earlier on a conviction for child pornography, and he was having suicidal thoughts, the affidavit said. The FBI said the man described a plan to hitchhike to his father's home in Pennsylvania, retrieve a gun and continue to Washington D.C., where he would confront Secret Services agents at the White House. "[The man] further stated that if he could not kill (the U.S. President), he hoped that agents of the Secret Service would shoot and kill him," a spokesman wrote. The man was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation and was placed on an involuntary 72-hour hold. If convicted, the man could face up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.
Source: <http://www.gazette.com/articles/charged-110890-obama-kill.html>
39. *January 10, Chicago Breaking News Center* – (Illinois) **Danny Davis receives threat in wake of arizona shooting: email warns 'Danny Davis is next.** An U.S. Congressman from Illinois said his office received an e-mail threat January 9. "It was

some person who emailed one of my staff persons and said that ‘[the name of the Representative] is next,’ “ the legislator said. The Democratic Representative said the U.S. Capitol Police and Chicago, Illinois police have been notified. The legislator said he would typically ignore such a threat, but a shooting in Arizona December 8 that critically injured a U.S. Representative, killed six people and injured 14 others, prompted him to be on alert. “You know some things are cranks, some things are pranks. Some things you simply don’t know about, but I think in this climate it pays to be as cautionary as one can be,” he said. The Representatives said the e-mailer is someone from Chicago who “operates around and in the community” and has been known to “do this before.”

Source: <http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2011/01/davis-claims-email-threat.html>

40. *January 10, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia; National) **Archives security vulnerable, report finds.** Private security officers who guard the headquarters of the National Archives in Washington D.C. are not properly trained to respond to threats to visitors, the staff, or the holdings, a report by the agency’s watchdog reveals. Without a more robust system of testing and drills for the guards, the Archives “has no assurance officers are proficient enough with their weapons” to respond to an attack, the agency’s Inspector General (IG) said in an emergency memo to top Archives officials. “We lack the confidence the security officers would be able to respond appropriately during an incident,” the IG warned an Archivist in a 2-page letter last fall. The letter had not been made public, but a copy was recently obtained by the Washington Post. The IG said building security deserves heightened priority in light of the September hostage crisis at the Discovery Channel headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland and the 2009 shooting inside the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. The IG’s concerns echo previous alarms sounded by federal auditors about the security provided by contractors hired to protect workers at federal buildings around the country. The Federal Protective Service, an arm of DHS guards 9,000 federal facilities with a mix of about 800 full-time federal inspectors, and 15,000 private guards.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/09/AR2011010904139.html>

For more stories, see items [10](#) and [21](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

41. *January 10, Corpus Christi Caller-Times* – (Texas) **Chemical dispersant at police dispatch center causes evacuation.** Dispatch center staff at the Corpus Christi, Texas police station were evacuated for nearly 2 hours from the fourth floor of the building in the 300 block of John Sartain Street about 5 p.m. after its fire alarm system was triggered, spraying a chemical dispersant, said a police spokesman. “It was some kind of false alarm,” he said. “The fire department came and checked it out and no injuries were reported.” Staff were moved to the department’s emergency operations center at the Frost Bank Building. The building’s Halon alarm system is designed to extinguish a

fire without the use of water and not damage electronics, fire officials said. The alarm's chemical mist pushes oxygen out of a room and can irritate the eyes. The building's heaters may have triggered the alarm, he said.

Source: <http://www.caller.com/news/2011/jan/10/chemical-dispersant-at-police-dispatch-center/>

42. *January 10, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Suspicious device investigated by bomb squad at sheriff's office.** The public parking lot at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Colorado was closed the afternoon of January 10 after a suspicious device was found. The Arapahoe County Bomb Squad was investigating after a security guard who does building-to-building inspections noticed a device with wires attached to the fuel pump on a security vehicle around 4 p.m. The security guard drove the vehicle straight to the sheriff's office after she noticed the device. The public lot was evacuated and the sheriff's office asked all people who were inside the building to stay inside. Bomb technicians did not find any hazardous devices and everything was reopened before 7 p.m.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=174860&catid=346>

For another story, see item [13](#)

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Information Technology Sector

43. *January 11, The Register* – (International) **Spam volumes double as Rustock botnet wakes.** Spam volumes have returned to normal following a holiday lull that saw a drastic reduction of junk mail. The Rustock botnet is out of hibernation and back in business, spewing copious volumes of useless junk mail courtesy of hundreds of thousands of compromised Windows machines. Rustock (which specializes in spamvertising unlicensed pharmaceutical Web sites) is the biggest single source of global spam. Its return January 10 resulted in the doubling (98 percent increase) of global junk mail volumes over the course of just 24 hours, MessageLabs reported. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/01/11/spam_volumes_return/
44. *January 11, AfterDawn* – (International) **Security researcher uses Amazon cloud to hack WPA-PSK passwords.** A security researcher in Germany is warning Amazon's cloud service can be used to brute force weak passwords used to protect Wi-Fi security. Short and weak passwords would be vulnerable to a brute force attack, especially at the speeds offered by Amazon's services, which is capable of testing 400,000 potential passwords every second. The researcher claims to have found the key for a network in his neighborhood using his method and Amazon's service. The brute force attack took about 20 minutes to get the correct key, but he is making changes to his code which he reckons could bring the time down in such a case to about 6 minutes. He will distribute his software publicly and give demonstrations on using it at the Black Hat conference in Washington, D.C. He is releasing it to convince skeptical network administrators that such attacks will often be successful against protected networks.

Source:

http://www.afterdawn.com/news/article.cfm/2011/01/11/security_researcher_uses_ama_zon_cloud_to_hack_wpa-psk_passwords

45. *January 10, IDG News Service* – (International) **IBM DeveloperWorks site hacked and defaced.** An IBM site for developers was defaced the weekend of January 8 and 9, with attackers replacing some of the Web pages on the site with ones containing their own messages, IBM confirmed January 10. Word of the vandalism, which took place on the IBM DeveloperWorks site, was first posted January 8 on the Full Disclosure security mailing list. IBM restored the original pages within a few hours, though copies of the compromised pages were quickly reposted elsewhere. No data was lost, nor were any user passwords exposed during the breach, an IBM spokesman said. The site was undergoing routine maintenance at the time of the breach. The defaced pages were draped in black and titled “Defaced by Hmei7.” They contained the scrolling message: “You have been Hacked !!!, not because of your stupidity That’s because we love you, and we want to warn you That your web still has large of vulnerability.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9204300/IBM_DeveloperWorks_site_hacked_and_defaced

46. *January 10, Softpedia* – (International) **Aging simulation scam hits Facebook users.** Facebook scammers are tricking users into taking surveys by promising them an app that can simulate what their appearance would be 20 years from now. According to Facecrooks, the spam messages associated with this latest scam read “Wow, how creepy, LOL i look scary as an old person! - http[colon]/bit[dot]ly/[censored]” and share a page called “AGE yourself! See what you will look like in 20 years!” Clicking on the link takes users to a page which displays the picture of a girl and how she would allegedly look 20 years into the future. The images seem to have been copied from a real aging simulation service available at in20years.com that scammers deemed interesting enough to attract users. A message on the rogue page instructs users to click on the image to begin the simulation process. However, doing this will prompt a permissions dialog from an app called “OMG - How could this happen?” that wants access to post on people’s walls in order to spam their friends.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Aging-Simulation-Scam-Hits-Facebook-Users-177371.shtml>

47. *January 10, Switched* – (National) **Obama drafting online identity system, led by Commerce Department.** The U.S. President is looking to create an Internet ID system for American Web surfers, and is counting on the Department of Commerce to make it a reality. As CBS News reports, the so-called “trusted identity” project is part of the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace, which the Presidential administration is currently drafting. The White House Cybersecurity Coordinator said the initiative is geared toward creating an “identity ecosystem,” but it remains unclear what that ecosystem will look like, and how it will function. “We are talking about is enhancing online security and privacy and reducing and perhaps even eliminating the need to memorize a dozen passwords, through creation and use of more trusted digital

identities,” the Commerce Secretary explained. The White House Cybersecurity Coordinator said an online identification system would still allow users to maintain anonymity and protect their privacy when surfing the Web. He stressed there are no plans to put together “a centralized database” of user information.

Source: <http://www.switched.com/2011/01/10/obama-drafting-internet-id-all-americans/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

48. *January 10, TechWeek.org* – (National) **Android mobile phone trouble has a solution.** Google Inc. said it would soon overcome the bug that has hit the company’s small number of Android mobile phones because of which text messages are delivered to the wrong people and not the desired one. This glitch emerged last year for the first time. Some of the people facing this problem have reported that sometimes messages are delivered to random people. It has been a year since the problem was reported to the company, and the number of such mishaps increased last summer. Google has been investigating, and said it has finally found the source of the problem. An engineer on the Android security team said some of the cell phones can be fixed remotely, but there are others which require a complete software update and need to be plugged in to computers for this purpose.

Source: <http://techweek.org/19131android-mobile-phone-trouble-has-a-solution.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *January 11, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **OCSO: Explosive found outside Walgreens.** A suspicious device caused evacuations at several East Orange County, Florida businesses January 10. Investigators said the suspicious package, described only as oddly shaped, was an explosive device. Orange County sheriff’s deputies said they received a call at 5:35 p.m. reporting a suspicious package outside the Walgreens drugstore on Aloma Avenue near Goldenrod Road. Deputies evacuated the store as well as neighboring businesses and shut down roads in the area. Authorities said the explosives robot moved in to check it out and shortly after 9 p.m., members of the bomb squad along with the FBI Terrorism Task Force detonated the device. Investigators said the package could have packed quite a punch in the busy parking lot. “It was a dangerous device, so we took all the precautions we needed to render it safe

without property damage and without any injuries,” an Orange County Sheriff’s Office spokesman said. Authorities are investigating what is left of the explosive hoping to uncover who left it in the parking lot and why, he said.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/r/26441076/detail.html>

50. *January 11, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Police in Natick play it safe with Coptic church terror threat.** As many as 60 police officers from surrounding communities helped protect St. Mark’s Coptic Orthodox Church on Oak Street in Natick, Massachusetts, January 6, blocking off roads and stopping cars after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security sent a bulletin warning of a terrorism threat. Several extremist Web sites posted threats to Coptic churches worldwide after a suicide bomber killed 23 people in Alexandria, Egypt, at a Coptic New Year’s celebration. The threats made references to churches in the United States; St. Mark’s was the only one of the three Coptic churches in Massachusetts mentioned by name, Natick’s police operations commander said. Police went door-to-door informing neighbors about the roadblocks, but the detours snarled traffic in a wide area around Oak Street. January 6 was Christmas Eve on the Coptic calendar. He said police began blocking roads at noon. Roadblocks were removed by 11:25 p.m. The plan was made in conjunction with the FBI.

Source: http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/top_stories/x448583256/Police-in-Natick-play-it-safe-with-Coptic-church-terror-threat

51. *January 10, KTVU 2 Oakland* – (California) **Pipe bomb deactivated near SJ apartment building.** The San Jose, California bomb squad deactivated a pipe bomb found January 10 in front of an apartment complex in South San Jose, a police spokesman said. Callers reported a suspicious package at about 4 p.m. outside of an apartment complex in the 1600 block of Merrill Drive, an officer said. Responding officers discovered what appeared to be a homemade bomb fashioned with a material similar to cardboard. When the officers noticed what looked like a fuse sticking out the end of it, they called the bomb squad. Residents of eight units in the complex were evacuated, he said. Others nearby were encouraged to stay in their homes. Upon arrival, members of the bomb squad X-rayed the package and found projectiles inside that could cause injury if the device exploded. Further testing revealed the package contained gunpowder, so the bomb squad deactivated it. Residents were allowed to return home later that night.

Source: <http://www.foxreno.com/news/26441247/detail.html>

52. *January 10, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **4-story Philly apartment complex evacuated in fire.** Scores of firefighters battled a blaze in a 4-story apartment complex January 10, but said the building had been evacuated safely and there were no reports of injuries. Light smoke was reported in the Windermere Court complex in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the fire quickly worsened, with flames shooting from the roof, a deputy fire chief said. About 160 firefighters aided by 50 pieces of equipment were battling the blaze, he said. Hoses poured water on the fire from several sides of the apartment complex, which has three large residential sections that are connected, as crews tried to keep the flames from spreading to nearby buildings. The

cause had not been determined. A Red Cross reception center to help residents of the 90 units initially was set up at West Philadelphia High School next door and later was moved to the Alain Locke School several blocks away. The Salvation Army director said about 70 people were at the center, but he expected the number to rise. Children were evacuated from Henry C. Lea Elementary School a block away due to smoke from the fire.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41009216/ns/us_news/

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

53. *January 9, Fox News Latino* – (Texas; International) **Informal border crossing will open at Texas' Big Bend.** Outdoor enthusiasts will once again be able to traverse the Mexico-United States border at West Texas' remote Big Bend National Park, authorities announced. A border crossing will be built through Boquillas Canyon, which encompasses part of the park and Mexican protected lands, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner said January 6. Construction of the necessary infrastructure, including a boat dock and visitor's center, is set to begin in July, and a boat carrying people back and forth should be running by April 2012, he said. There will be no vehicle traffic since everyone crossing will be doing so by boat. The border crossing also will not have customs, but Americans will still be required to show passports or other travel documents to Border Patrol agents, who will be in contact with colleagues in El Paso, Texas, or other, full-service field offices. Mexicans using the crossing will still need U.S. visas. Informal border crossings not staffed by immigration officials were once common in Big Bend, but they closed down in the months following the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Source: <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/lifestyle/2011/01/07/informal-border-crossing-open-texas-big-bend/>

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Dams Sector

54. *January 11, CNN* – (International) **Disaster declared as Australia flood death toll rises to 10.** Three quarters of the Australian state of Queensland has been declared a disaster zone after torrential rain threatened the worst flooding in the state capital in 37 years. Ten people were confirmed dead in flash flooding January 11 which swept through the town of Toowoomba, about 80 miles west of Brisbane, January 10. The wall of water came without warning, overturning cars and swamping homes. More than 24 hours later, 78 people remained missing. The deluge was compared to an "inland tsunami" which came with little or no warning despite weeks of rain. The flood alert spread to the Queensland capital of Brisbane January 11 with authorities warning that more than 30 suburbs were at risk of flooding, with water threatening 6,500 homes. Evacuation centers were filling up January 11 as residents heeded advice to seek shelter away from affected suburbs. The wave of water that devastated Toowoomba was

moving through the Lockyer Valley where it was set to feed into the Wivenhoe Dam, built after the 1974 floods to prevent a similar disaster. Heavy rains have already filled the dam to capacity and authorities are releasing water at staged intervals to release the pressure. That water is flowing into the already swollen Brisbane River. High tides predicted for January 12 are expected to push the river's water levels even higher before peak January 13. Authorities are warning the flood may exceed levels set in 1974, when the banks of the Brisbane River burst, flooding thousands of homes and killing 14 people.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/01/11/australia.floods/index.html>

55. *January 8, Marysville Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Army Corps to repair section of Feather River levee in 2011.** A 415-foot section of the Feather River levee in south Sutter County, California, is set to be repaired later this year, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers looks to shore up places where erosion could cause problems. The work, set to begin in late fall, would include trimming and clearing vegetation, putting quarry rock on the lower slope of the levee, and building a mixture of rock and soil on the upper slope. A spokesman for the Corps' Sacramento office said the agency is contracting for repairs as they are needed and money is available. The section being bolstered is on the river's eastern side, about 7 miles upstream from its confluence with the Sacramento River. Because the project has yet to go out to bid, there is not a specified cost, but the spokesman said it would likely be in the same range as a Corps project a contracting company finished last year on a Sacramento River levee in Clarksburg, southwest of Sacramento. That project cost \$764,599. In addition, the Corps will coordinate four levee repairs on the Sacramento and American rivers, along with Deer Creek. Several other levees in Yuba-Sutter will also see work in 2011. In Marysville, work will resume later this year to address problems with the ring levee around the city.

Source: <http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/river-102906-levee-sacramento.html>

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