



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The New York Daily News reports a drowsy traveler set off a scare at LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York when he dozed off in a restricted area and was found by security 4 hours later, sources said. (See item [20](#))
- According to the Contra Costa Times, a California State University, Northridge student who threatened several people on campus was charged with two felonies after police found a shotgun and explosive materials in his room. (See item [47](#))

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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 14, WHDH 7 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Homes evacuated due to smoldering wires in Boston.** Utility crews continued to work January 13 to repair smoldering wires in Boston, Massachusetts. The wires caused a carbon monoxide scare in the area, and residents in the area were forced to leave their homes. Twenty multi-family homes were evacuated as crews began working in the area. Officials had to shut off power, forcing people to find somewhere else to stay. Investigators said the underground wires

were burning, sending fumes inside the homes. There were no injuries reported. Workers spent January 12 digging to find the source of the problem.

Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12003267586763/homes-evacuated-due-to-smoldering-wires-in-boston/>

2. *January 14, Wall Street Journal* – (West Virginia) **EPA blasted as it revokes mine’s permit.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked a key permit for one of the largest proposed mountaintop-removal coal-mining projects in Appalachia. The decision to revoke the permit for Arch Coal Inc.’s Spruce Mine No. 1 in West Virginia’s Logan County marks the first time the EPA has withdrawn a water permit for a mining project that had previously been issued. It is also only the second time in the 39-year history of the federal Clean Water Act that the agency has canceled a water permit for a project of any kind after it was issued, according to the agency. The EPA said January 14 it revoked the permit, issued by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2007, because it concluded new scientific research on mountaintop-removal mining since then indicated the potential harm to streams and watershed areas surrounding the Spruce project could be significant. A spokeswoman for Arch said the company was “shocked and dismayed” by the agency’s decision, which it said would block an additional \$250 million investment that would create 250 jobs. The company said it would appeal to the courts.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703583404576079792048919286.html>

3. *January 13, Daily Tech* – (National) **NC State researchers develop technique for monitoring large power systems.** North Carolina State University researchers have created a system capable of monitoring large power systems to help avert major power outages. The study leader and assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at North Carolina State University, along with co-authors from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Southern California Edison, used high-resolution power-system measurements, called Synchrophasors, to monitor large power systems. The research is needed because major outages could lead to billions of dollars in costs as well as fatalities if patients require the use of medical machines to stay alive. Synchrophasors are real-time measurements of currents and voltages that offer a high-resolution view of events occurring within a large system. Phasor measurement units (PMUs) are the digital recording devices that measure Synchrophasors. “PMUs are comparable to surveillance cameras that continuously monitor the complex dynamics of groups of people in busy places, and indicate how different people respond and interact with each other,” the study leader said.

Source:

<http://www.dailytech.com/NC+State+Researchers+Develop+Technique+for+Monitoring+Large+Power+Systems/article20650.htm>

4. *January 13, Oil and Gas Journal* – (National) **Deloitte: Oil, gas industry faces well-organized cyber security threats.** Oil and gas companies face cyber security threats, including well-organized efforts by criminal syndicates and terrorist groups. The

cybercrime landscape has evolved into highly specialized criminals having sophisticated tools that can routinely evade many security controls, analysts said. A spokesman from Deloitte said the changing threat environment means companies need to evaluate their security strategies, concentrating on espionage and critical infrastructure vulnerabilities. The spokesman urged senior executives to build an effective cyber security program. Executives should ask themselves if their company has enough skilled employees or contractors to mitigate advanced, persistent cyber security threats, he said. Oil and gas companies are at high risk from Web-based malware encounters and cyber attacks because they possess valuable, proprietary data on reserves and discoveries. High downtime cost and attack frequency rates necessitate strong cyber-security programs, the spokesman said.

Source: http://www.ogj.com/index/blogs/health-safety-environment/blogs/OGJ/health-safety-environment-blog/post987_4431226202297142623.html

5. *January 12, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (National) **Berms and boom were largely ineffective responses to oil spill, panel reports.** In the National Oil Spill Commission’s 400-page report on the largest oil spill in U.S. history, there is analysis that suggests the berms and boom did little to prevent oil from making its way to the Gulf of Mexico coast. However, on January 12, a top adviser to the governor of Louisiana said the effort to create offshore berms to keep oil from coming ashore was backed across the board by public officials in Louisiana, and ultimately by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard, which gave the green light. He said, as of now, there is no way of knowing how much oil the berms kept from coming ashore. However, according to the commission report: “Responders knew that in deploying boom they were often responding to the politics of the spill rather than the spill itself.” And on the berms, the report noted that BP, which agreed to pay for the project, “estimate[d] the cost to be \$360 million, double the entire amount it had spent as of early June in helping the region respond to the oil spill.”

Source: http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2011/01/berms_and_boom_were_largely_in.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *January 14, Oklahoma City Oklahoman* – (Oklahoma) **BNSF Railway train derails in Perry.** A highway through Perry, Oklahoma will be closed all day due to the January 13 derailment of a BNSF Railway train, officials said. About 10:15 p.m. the train derailed along U.S. 77, and 7 Street at Birch Street, the Perry police communication supervisor said. The westbound train had 13 cars and four were hauling fertilizer, a hazardous material, said a BNSF Railway spokesman in Fort Worth, Texas. He said three of the cars with fertilizer overturned but did not leak. One car with fertilizer that derailed stayed upright but started leaking. Firefighters evacuated homes in the immediate area. An environmental team responded and said no waterways were

affected by the spilled fertilizer. None of the crew members were injured. Families from three homes were displaced, but were able to return to their homes by January 14. Fertilizer that spilled drained toward Cow Creek, but the fire department is not sure if it got in the creek. Cow Creek does not feed any water sources for the city. Two heavy equipment companies have been called to help clear the train cars. The cause of the derailment is not yet known.

Source: <http://newsok.com/bnsf-railway-train-derails-in-perry/article/3532313>

7. *January 14, Twins Fall Times-News* – (Idaho) **Unknown fluid snarls traffic along Twin Falls’ Pole Line Road.** A small fluid spill closed a busy Twin Falls, Idaho, intersection for 2 hours January 13. The Twin Falls Fire Department was one of multiple agencies that responded to the spill at noon at the intersection of Pole Line Road and Bridgeview Boulevard. The battalion chief said several motorists reported a container of fluid blocking the eastbound lane of Pole Line. He said the container was a 2-gallon weed sprayer containing an unknown fluid that had a vapor cloud coming off it, noticeable even in the rain. All roads leading to the intersection were closed, except the west-most westbound lane of Pole Line. The chief called in a hazardous materials response team from Jerome. “Because it was an unknown fluid, we took all the precautions,” he said. Two team members donned white chemical suits with respirators and collected the container while an ambulance and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security vehicles stood by. Samples were tested for pH and came out extremely basic. The team reduced the pH of the samples to neutral, then began trying to categorize the material. Meanwhile, the team spread an absorbent material on the road, between where the container landed and the curb, to collect the spill. Traffic was restored by 2 p.m. The exact identity of the chemical spilled remained undetermined that night.
Source: http://www.magicvalley.com/news/local/twin-falls/article_f5fa060b-6909-5dd9-9f2d-f2b233949112.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *January 14, Platts* – (Arizona) **Palo Verde nuclear plant clears another hurdle for license renewal.** Arizona Public Service (APS) moved closer to receiving approval to renew the operating licenses for the three Palo Verde nuclear units in Wintersburg, Arizona with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) issuance of a final safety evaluation report. In a January 13 statement, the NRC said there are no open safety items that would preclude renewing the units’ operating licenses for an additional 20 years. Operating licenses for Palo Verde-1, -2 and -3 expire in 2025, 2026 and 2027, respectively. Each unit is rated at 1,428 MW, the largest of any U.S. nuclear units. The plant itself is the largest U.S. electricity generation plant of any kind and one of only four U.S. nuclear stations with three units. Earlier this month, the NRC issued its final environmental report on APS’ license renewal application, concluding there are no environmental impacts that would preclude extended operation of the Palo Verde units.

An environmental report and a safety report are the two main parts of NRC staff's review of license renewal requests. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, an independent group of experts that advises the NRC on reactor safety matters, will discuss the report during a February meeting. The committee will later issue a letter to the commission discussing the results of the review. A decision on the renewal by the director of NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is scheduled for April if no hearing is held, or a decision by NRC is scheduled for October if there is a hearing, NRC said on its Web site.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/ElectricPower/8410022>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *January 14, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **No one injured by minor explosions at Wilkins' Anker plant.** There were no injuries in a series of minor explosions and a small fire January 13 in the Anker Industries plant on Larimer Avenue in Wilkins, Pennsylvania. Allegheny County fire marshal said a worker inadvertently sparked the fire shortly after 8 p.m. while using a torch to cut the lid off a 55-gallon barrel filled with flammable aluminum shavings. He said there were four barrels on a pallet and the explosions were the lids blowing off the barrels. Some tires caught fire, causing heavy smoke to fill the building. Damage was minor, and there was no danger to nearby homes, he said. Anker manufactures products for the steel industry and metals producers.
Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_718160.html

10. *January 13, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **U.S. Steel, contractor fined \$175,000 by OSHA for Clarion safety violations.** U.S. Steel Corp., and the contractor working at the steelmaker's Clairton, Pennsylvania, coke plant were cited by federal safety regulators January 13 for failing to provide an effective energy control procedure, and for exposing 20 workers to burns from the July 14 explosion. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in Pittsburgh cited U.S. Steel for 2 willful and 11 serious violations, with a total penalty of \$143,500. Power Piping Co. of Lawrenceville, a contractor providing steam fitting services at the coke batteries, was cited for six serious violations and fined \$31,500. "U.S. Steel and Power Piping did not have the proper controls in place to prevent worker exposure to hazardous energy," said the director of OSHA's Pittsburgh office. U.S. Steel allegedly failed to provide an effective energy control procedure, which is considered a willful violation because the employer either disregarded requirements of the law or was indifferent to employee safety and health.
Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/breaking/s_718066.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *January 14, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Delaware; International) **Calif. man pleads guilty in Wilmington in arms-broker case.** A California man, in federal court January 13 in Wilmington, Delaware, admitted illegally exporting anti-gravity flight suits to Hungary, and attempting to send a F-5 Tiger fighter jet to Iran. Appearing before a U.S. Magistrate, the man, 36, of Simi Valley, California, pleaded guilty to violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Arms Export Control Act — offenses that carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. The man, who has been in custody since July, will likely receive far less jail time. The prosecution and the defense part company in assessing the man’s danger to the United States.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20110114_Calif_man_pleads_guilty_in_Wilmington_in_arms-broker_case.html

12. *January 13, DoD Buzz* – (National) **Lockheed redesigns F-35B bulkhead.** Lockheed Martin has redesigned the bulkhead on the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) where the main landing gear meet the airframe to prevent the type of cracking that was found during ground stress tests on the jet, according to Lockheed, and the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant. He revealed the bulkhead has been “re-engineered” during a speech January 13. He was discussing the future of the short take-off and vertical landing version of the JSF and the testing challenges it has been experiencing, saying he believes Lockheed and the Pentagon can solve the jet’s engineering difficulties in the next 2 years. Lockheed officials confirmed the reworked bulkhead design, saying the flaw was only found on one plane used for ground tests and that the cracks, revealed in November 2010, did not contribute to the delays in the F-35B’s test schedule.

Source: <http://www.dodbuzz.com/2011/01/13/lockheed-redesigns-f-35b-bulkhead/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *January 14, Waterbury Republican-American* – (Connecticut) **Bank evacuated for reported gas odor.** Northwest Community Bank’s New Hartford, Connecticut branch was evacuated January 13 after employees reported an odor of gas. Firefighters converged on the scene about 10 a.m., and found elevated levels of carbon monoxide that were traced to a malfunctioning furnace. A fire official said no one was seriously hurt, though one member of the bank staff was transported to Winsted Health Center as a precaution. Four staff members declined medical attention. There were no customers in the bank when firefighters arrived, the fire official said. Canton firefighters were called to assist providing a ladder truck that allowed firefighters to get to the snow-covered roof and verify that all of the exhaust vents were clear of snow and ice. The fire official said a bank maintenance worker identified the furnace malfunction as the source, and was working on repairs as firefighters packed up just before noon. The bank was expected to reopen once the problem was corrected.

Source: <http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2011/01/14/news/local/532830.txt>

14. *January 14, eNews Park Forest* – (Illinois) **Six defendants indicted in alleged \$15 million mortgage fraud scheme involving more than 40 residences in Chicago area.** Six defendants were indicted January 12 on federal charges alleging they participated in a \$15 million mortgage fraud scheme involving more than 40 residential properties located in Chicago, Illinois and its south suburbs, federal law enforcement officials announced January 12. The defendants include two licensed realtors and a licensed loan officer who bought and sold homes, recruited others to act as residential purchasers, and allegedly caused various financial institutions to lose approximately \$4.5 million on mortgage loans that were not repaid by the borrowers or fully recovered through subsequent foreclosure sales.
Source: <http://www.enevspf.com/latest-news/police-reports/21063-six-defendants-indicted-in-alleged-15-million-mortgage-fraud-scheme-involving-more-than-40-residences-in-chicago-area.html>
15. *January 14, Softpedia* – (International) **FDIC phishing emails scare users with Patriot Act violations.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) warns users about an ongoing phishing campaign which produces fake e-mails purporting to come from the organization. “The e-mail informs the recipient that ‘in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security, federal, state and local governments’ the FDIC has withdrawn deposit insurance from the recipient’s account ‘due to account activity that violates the Patriot Act’,” the FDIC explains in its alert. Recipients are asked to verify their account information through a system called “IDVerify,” otherwise risk account termination. The link to the ID verification system provided in the e-mail takes users to a phishing page that asks them for personal and financial information. FDIC also notes that malicious software may be loaded onto the recipient’s computer, but does not specify if this is done transparently, in a drive-by download attack, or requires interaction from the user. At least one obank has reiterated FDIC’s alert and is warning their customers about the phishing scam, which, apparently, is not entirely new.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/FDIC-Phishing-Emails-Scare-Users-with-Patriot-Act-Violations-178185.shtml>
16. *January 13, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Suspected ‘Mrs. Doubtfire’ robber arrested.** The suspected “Mrs. Doubtfire robber” — a dowdily dressed woman suspected in 10 bank robberies — was arrested the week of January 10 shortly after an 11th robbery in Kent, Washington, the FBI said January 13. A FBI Special Agent said the woman was identified by bank employees and other witnesses and arrested by Kent police officers January 11. An Alaska USA Federal Credit Union had just been robbed, and the woman was in the process of leaving the scene when arrested. A 53-year-old Des Moines, Washington resident, the woman will initially face a charge in the latest robbery at 10201 S.E. 240th St. in Kent, the FBI agent said. But investigators suspect her involvement in 10 other bank robberies in Seattle, Edmonds, Burien, Kirkland, and Des Moines since April 2010. In each case, the suspect worked alone and passed a demand note, the FBI agent said. She showed no weapon, but claimed to have had one in at least one case.
Source: http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattle911/archives/235603.asp?from=blog_last3

17. *January 13, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **Bank robber escapes in teller’s car.** A bank robber took more than money at a bank in Lakewood, Colorado January 13 — he escaped in a teller’s car. Authorities said a white man entered the TCF Bank at 12053 W. Alameda Ave. sometime around 9 a.m. and gave a teller a note claiming to have a gun and demanding money. The man took the teller’s keys and her car, a 1991 green or turquoise Honda Accord. Police said the license plate number on the car was 632 VVU. It was last seen going east on Sixth Avenue at Federal Boulevard. The only description of the man released was that he was wearing white, was unshaven, and was wearing glasses and a green beanie. The FBI’s Safe Streets Task Force has taken over the investigation. The teller’s car has not been located.
Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/26485756/detail.html>
18. *January 13, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Highway 12 in Lockeford reopens.** A San Joaquin County sheriff’s bomb squad has given the all-clear after checking a possibly suspicious item dropped by a bank robber in Lockeford, California, January 13. Authorities cordoned off Highway 12 for the investigation and evacuated Bank of the West at 13299 E. Highway 12, and several neighboring businesses as a precaution. According to a spokesman with the sheriff’s department, the item was left by the bank robber who entered the bank about 9:30 a.m., ordered a teller to give him money which he took and then walked out. No weapon was seen and no one was hurt. The bomb squad sent in a robot to examine the dropped item, which the robber indicated may be an explosive device, a witness said. The sheriff’s department said the item was possibly a computer bag or purse, maybe taken from another robbery. It was destroyed. The robber was described as white, 50 to 60 years of age, and “scruffy,” the spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=117378&catid=2>

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Transportation Sector

19. *January 14, New York Daily News* – (New York; National) **Embarrassing JetBlue snafu! Airline pilot loses gun and flight gets grounded.** At John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York January 13, a JetBlue pilot lost his bag — and his handgun. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is probing the pilot after an embarrassing mixup nearly sent his government-issued firearm to Florida, while he was due to fly to Pennsylvania. The pilot, who is licensed by the TSA to pack heat in the cockpit, was the scheduled co-pilot on an 8:10 a.m. flight out of JFK to Pittsburgh, law enforcement sources said. While he waited to board, he placed his bag down and talked to another pilot. Nearby, a passenger was waiting with her parents and two children to board a JetBlue flight to West Palm Beach, Florida. When it came time for the passenger to board, she scooped up her bags — and accidentally grabbed the pilot’s backpack, sources said. A 40-caliber handgun was inside, packed in a separate bag. Once the passenger got inside the plane, she realized the bag was not hers and

dropped it onto an empty seat, sources said. A passenger told a flight attendant about the unclaimed backpack. The pilot was so freaked out he waited nearly 40 minutes before telling his bosses, sources said. Both flights were delayed while investigators tried to sort out the snafu. The TSA confiscated his gun as it began investigating whether he should be bounced from the Flight Deck Officer program, sources said. There is no criminality involved.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/01/14/2011-01-14_airhead_pilot_loses_gun_is_grounded.html

20. *January 14, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Sleepy flyer catches some shut eye in LaGuardia Airport terminal, security doesn't notice.** A drowsy traveler set off a scare at LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York January 13 when he dozed off in a restricted area and was found by security 4 hours later, sources said. The traveler's Southwest Airlines flight from Chicago landed at LaGuardia at about 11:30 p.m. January 12, sources said. Instead of leaving the terminal, the passenger, a 24-year-old medical student, fell asleep in the waiting area near Gate B1. Private security from AirTran Airways and officers from the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) failed to detect the sleeping passenger during two security sweeps, sources said. After the sweeps were done, TSA closed the concourse for the night, sources said. The passenger was undisturbed for 4 more hours, until a TSA supervisor toured the area at about 3:30 a.m. January 13 as staff prepared to reopen Terminal B. "It was a big surprise to find a guy sleeping there; not a good thing, you can imagine," a source said. TSA staff called Port Authority police, who sent K-9 teams to search the area to make sure no one else was in the restricted area. The passenger was questioned and sent on his way.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/01/14/2011-01-14_security_at_lag_caught_sleeping.html

21. *January 14, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Major delays after MARC train hits person.** There were major Maryland Area Rail Commuter (MARC) train delays January 14 after a pedestrian was struck by a train at the Gaithersburg, Maryland station. The pedestrian was struck and killed by MARC train 878 at 7:52 a.m., according to a spokesman for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). There were no reported problems for anybody on the train. The pedestrian was an 81-year-old man who appears to have been crossing the tracks to catch a commuter train, officials said. He lived only 2 blocks away on Russell Avenue. Train 878 was stopped at the station, and there was no timetable yet for when it will move. Trains 894 and 880 were stopped behind it for a considerable period of time, so this impacted a large number of commuters heading into work. Trains 880 and 894 were going to move in reverse by 9:25 or 9:30 a.m. and then continue to run around train 878. Buses that were going to Germantown and Metro Grove stations were canceled, but Metro will still accept MARC tickets.

Source: http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dr-gridlock/2011/01/major_marc_delays.html

22. *January 14, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (New York) **Suspicious package leads to evacuation of Westchester Airport terminal.** An unattended package in the passenger terminal at Westchester County Airport in Harrison, New York, January 13 led to the evacuation of the facility. The suspicious package, found in the baggage area, turned out to contain food items. Before that was determined, the Westchester County Police Hazardous Devices Unit was called in and the terminal was briefly evacuated. The incident lasted from 11:35 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2011/January/14/WCA_evac-14Jan11.html
23. *January 14, Cleburne News* – (Alabama) **Severe weather leads to county wide curfew.** Cleburne County, Alabama offices opened January 13 at 10 a.m. following several days of snow and ice which brought the county to a stand-still, caused the closing of numerous roads, and led to a sheriff-issued county-wide curfew January 12. On January 9, the Cleburne County Emergency Management Agency began receiving numerous emergency calls from ice-related accidents. The County Public works Coordinator at the Emergency Operations Center (CCEOC) ordered CR 24 in Abel and CR 70 in Borden Springs closed due to being impassable. The CCEOC was fully staffed with functional coordinators from the Cleburne County EMA, 911, Cleburne County Engineer’s Office, County Fire Service, Cleburne County Sheriff’s Department, and the Red Cross. The EMA, through media releases and Facebook postings, continued to urge all residents to avoid all unnecessary travel as roadways remained extremely hazardous.
Source: http://www.cleburnenews.com/view/full_story/11012407/article-Severe-weather-leads-to-county-wide-curfew?instance=home_lead_story
24. *January 13, Honolulu Star Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Plan would use dogs to detect illegal fireworks.** A Hawaii task force formed to address the importation of illegal fireworks has recommended a cargo inspection program using explosives-sniffing dogs. The state has no program to inspect domestic cargo for illegal explosives. A Hawaii state senator said he is drafting a bill to start the dog inspection program. Maritime shippers conduct random checks on less than 5 percent of incoming domestic containers, and do not look for explosives, he said. Instead, they check to ensure only that the sender is being charged properly. “Of the 200,000 containers that are coming in from our domestic ports today, 0 percent are inspected for explosives,” he said. “The big gaping hole is the domestic containers.” Shipments from foreign ports get inspected for explosives, and the state department of agriculture inspects agricultural products. This year, the Federal Aviation Administration will begin inspecting air shipments. Experts said they suspect most illegal fireworks reach the islands through domestic containers. Explosives-sniffing dogs could close that loophole, but start-up costs for such a program remain a challenge. It could cost \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year for each dog and its handler. The senator is looking at Homeland Security grants, and is also working on legislation to give the state department of transportation and the state department of defense the authority to conduct cargo inspections.
Source:

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaii/news/20110113_Plan_would_use_dogs_to_detect_illegal_fireworks.html

25. *January 13, WCNC 36 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **TSA investigating second airport security breach.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is investigating a security breach involving a JetBlue Airways ticketing agent at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is the second investigation into a security issue at Charlotte-Douglas in recent months. TSA brought a piece of cargo to the JetBlue ticketing counter as part of a sting operation. TSA said it routinely conducts covert and undercover operations to ensure airline employees are following safety rules and regulations. According to WBZ-TV, which first reported the security breach, an undercover TSA agent handed over \$100 and asked a JetBlue employee to place a package onto a flight heading from Charlotte to Boston. The package was reportedly put in a passenger's name without that passenger knowing. A spokesperson for JetBlue acknowledged the incident and told NewsChannel 36 the airline is cooperating with the investigation. The ticketing agent involved in the case is no longer employed by JetBlue, the airline said.
Source: <http://www.wcnc.com/home/TSA-investigating-second-airport-security-breach-113544109.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *January 14, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* – (Iowa) **Hampton teen charged with blowing up mailbox.** A Hampton, Iowa teen has been charged for allegedly blowing up a mailbox in Hampton January 7. The 19 year-old suspect was charged with reckless use of fire or explosives, a serious misdemeanor, according to a news release from the Hampton Police Department. Hampton police received a call January 7 about a bomb that had exploded in a residential mailbox in the 700 block of Fourth Avenue Northwest. The explosive device was located and through an investigation, materials matching those that were used were located and led to the suspect's arrest, according to police. Postal authorities have also been notified about the incident.
Source: http://wfcourier.com/news/local/article_9e8e12aa-1fc4-11e0-809e-001cc4c03286.html
27. *January 13, KJCT 8 Grand Junction* – (Colorado) **Aspen suspicious package cleared, not an explosive device.** The Grand Junction Bomb Squad determined that a suspicious package delivered to the Pitkin County Courthouse in Aspen, Colorado January 13 did not contain an explosive device. The package arrived at the courthouse just before 3 p.m. Emergency crews secured the package and set up a perimeter around the building. While the bomb squad looked at the package, residents were encouraged to stay out of the immediate vicinity of the courthouse and jail.
Source: <http://www.kjct8.com/news/26487985/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

28. *January 14, Food Safety News* – (Indiana; National) **Don't eat the Toxic Waste cherry chews.** In a news release posted January 13 on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Web site, an Indianapolis, Indiana company said it was recalling all flavors of its Toxic Waste brand Nuclear Sludge Chew Bars due to elevated levels of lead in the cherry chews. The release said the candy (“hazardously sour,” according to its label) is imported from Pakistan and had been distributed nationwide in retail stores and through mail order. Circle City Marketing and Distributing, which does business as Candy Dynamics, issued the recall for Toxic Waste Nuclear Sludge Cherry Chew Bar (UPC 0 89894 81430 6), Toxic Waste Nuclear Sludge Sour Apple Chew Bar (UPC 0 10684 81410 7), and Toxic Waste Nuclear Sludge Blue Raspberry Chew Bar (UPC 0 89894 81420 7). Each chew bar has a net wt. of 0.7 oz (20 g). The company said a recent test performed by the California Department of Public Health indicated a lot (#8288A) of the cherry flavor candy contained elevated levels of lead (0.24 parts per million; the U.S. FDA tolerance is 0.1 ppm). Out of an abundance of caution, Candy Dynamics said, all lots and all flavors of the product distributed from its inception in 2007 through January 2011, are part of the recall.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/dont-eat-the-toxic-waste-cherry-chews/>
29. *January 14, Tidewater News* – (Virginia) **Crops lost.** The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced January 13 that corn, soybeans, peanuts, cotton, and hay yields were significantly lower in 2010 compared to 1 year earlier. Across the state, the cotton harvest was down 52 percent, soybeans 33 percent, and peanut production 27 percent, according to a news release from the department of agriculture. The boards of supervisors from Southampton and Isle of Wight counties in July 2010 recommended to the governor their municipalities be declared disaster areas. Combined losses at the time for corn, pasture, and hay harvest totaled \$7.2 million.
Source: <http://www.tidewaternews.com/2011/01/14/crops-lost/>
30. *January 14, Food Safety News* – (New York) **Listeria alert issued for New York herring.** MS Fish Corp., a Brooklyn, New York company is recalling its “Ossie’s Schmaltz Herring” due to *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination. In a news release, the company said the problem was discovered after routine sampling by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Inspectors, and subsequent analysis of the product by laboratory personnel, found the product to be positive for *Listeria monocytogenes*. Ossie’s Schmaltz Herring is packed in a 12 oz. plastic container coded 2/0311. It is a non-imported product that is distributed throughout New York City.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/listeria-alert-issued-for-new-york-herring/>

31. *January 14, Food Safety News* – (National) **United Fresh examines impact of food safety law.** The United Fresh Produce Association has released a new white paper that explores the likely effects of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. The white paper examines new requirements and regulations under the new law faced by businesses within the fresh produce supply chain. Included in the report are breakdowns on the ramifications for produce grower-shippers, wholesalers and distributors, fruit and vegetable importers, retailers and food service operators, and food transporters. “The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act will mean significant changes for the fruit and vegetable industry,” said the senior vice president of public policy for United Fresh. “This white paper gives a quick but exhaustive rundown of the major changes that produce industry members can expect under the new law; all in plain English.” According to United Fresh, in addition to the segment-specific impacts for these sectors, the white paper looks at the legislation’s effect on the industry as a whole, including the aspects of the bill that deal with mandatory recall authority for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), traceability, foodborne illness surveillance, food safety education and training, protections against bioterrorism, and laboratory testing. The white paper also includes a quick-reference-style chart showing what new developments can be expected by each sector, as well as a timeline for the implementation of all new regulations under the law.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/united-fresh-examines-impact-of-food-safety-law/>
32. *January 14, Twin Falls Times-News* – (Idaho) **Firefighters respond to ammonia leak in Heyburn.** An ammonia leak at a Heyburn, Idaho business January 12 posed a slight inhalation hazard to residents until firefighters closed it off. No one was injured during the incident. The Heyburn city superintendent and police chief both left a city council meeting after being notified of an ammonia smell coming from Beef Tech at 800 J St. Beef Tech harvests blood from newborn calves, which would otherwise be euthanized at birth. The components of the blood are used to produce vaccines, or for other medical purposes and research. The Minidoka County Fire Protection district chief said a crew of 10 firefighters from the Heyburn Fire Station responded to the scene at about 7 p.m. after receiving complaints of the smell from area residents. The ammonia was emanating from a release valve on a refrigeration unit, due to an excessive build-up of pressure. No one was inside the building at the time of the incident. Firefighters in full protective gear entered the building and shut down the refrigeration system.
Source: http://www.magicvalley.com/news/local/mini-cassia/article_b53dbfda-e627-5734-921f-b7dc785988b0.html
33. *January 13, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Life Technologies creates salmonella test in wake of major egg outbreak.** A Carlsbad, California company has introduced a genetic test that could make it easier to detect contaminated eggs. Life Technologies said January 13 that its TaqMan salmonella enteritidis detection kit has been cleared for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The test can deliver results in about 27 hours, far quicker than more conventional methods that take up to 10 days, the company said. The faster turnaround could help egg producers detect contaminated eggs before they head to markets, said the president and chief executive

of United Egg Producers. Federal rules requiring large-scale egg producers to test for the bacteria went into place in July after the salmonella outbreak began.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/jan/13/life-tech-creates-salmonella-test-after-major-egg/>

For another story, see item [7](#)

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Water Sector

34. *January 14, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **50,000 Fayetteville water customers lose service.** Thousands of homes and businesses in the Fayetteville, North Carolina, area have been warned to boil water after a line burst at a water treatment plant. Fayetteville’s public works commission said the boil-water advisory is in effect until January 16 for 50,000 customers who had little or no water pressure January 13. The outage slapped Fayetteville businesses in a week were forced to close because of icy and snowy weather. Cumberland County Schools opened 2 hours later than usual January 14.

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/8939247/>

35. *January 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Massachusetts; Rhode Island) **Two New England shipyards cited for environmental violations.** Two New England shipyards, one in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island, will pay penalties to settle claims by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) they violated federal environmental laws. Rose’s Oil Service, a shipyard and fuel oil distributor in Gloucester, Massachusetts, will pay \$130,000 to resolve claims it violated federal water and oil pollution prevention laws. Under the settlement agreement between Rose’s and EPA’s New England office, EPA alleges the company discharged pressure wash water and stormwater without authorization under the Clean Water Act. Rose’s also failed to prepare a Facility Response Plan and an adequate Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan in violation of federal oil pollution regulations. Promet Marine Services will pay \$290,000 to settle claims by EPA it violated federal clean air and clean water laws. According to EPA, Promet’s use of paints exceeded volatile organic compound and hazardous air pollutant limits of the Clean Air Act. Promet violated the Clean Water Act through the unauthorized discharge of contaminated pressure wash water into the Providence River, EPA said. Rose’s builds and repairs vessels, and performs pressure washing, sanding, painting, metal working, welding and machining. After EPA inspected the company, Rose’s promptly came into compliance with federal law by eliminating process water discharges from entering Gloucester Harbor and by applying for required permits. Rose’s also developed the necessary spill response plans. Under the settlement with EPA, the company will pay \$98,000 for water-related violations, and \$32,000 for oil storage violations. Both settlements include a certification by the shipyards that they are now complying with all requirements.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/61E47C31B031FC728525781700692B05>

36. *January 13, Sierra Sun* – (California; Nevada) **Officials: Portion of sewage spill reaches Lake Tahoe.** Regional officials are attempting to identify the amount of sewage that seeped from a Dollar Hill manhole in Tahoe City, California, and eventually dripped into Lake Tahoe after a severe pre-Christmas snow storm compromised a local utility district’s network of power generators. The storm created a power outage on the northwestern shore of Lake Tahoe, in turn spurring a sewage spill in the North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) that led to “a significant amount of sewage” reaching the waters of the lake, an official confirmed the week of January 10. The spill occurred when the December 19 power outage compromised NTPUD’s main generator, the acting general manager of NTPUD said. A backup generator — installed at the Dollar Hill Main Sewer Pump Station this summer — also failed, causing a backup in the piping system, which led sewage to seep out of a manhole located on Highway 281. He said the district estimates 61,000 gallons of raw sewage escaped the manhole, and “a small portion reached the lake.” However, the senior water resource control engineer for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board said he had heard the total discharge amount was closer to 150,000 gallons, with a “significant” amount reaching Lake Tahoe. The NTPUD board president, said the discrepancy stemmed from the reporting of the spill, in that NTPUD was required to give an initial estimate to Lahontan and has since consulted data which provides a more accurate figure. An immediate consequence of the spill includes the possibility of bacterial contamination that could impact drinking water quality for residents who receive water from the lake, he said.

Source:

<http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20110113/NEWS/110119927/1066&ParentProfile=1051>

37. *January 12, Barstow Desert Dispatch* – (California) **PG&E required to submit new solution to Hinkley contamination.** After receiving public feedback that solutions proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) would take too long, the company will be required to submit another solution to the chromium 6 contamination in Hinkley, California, in order to ensure the fastest cleanup possible, Lahontan water board officials announced January 11. PG&E was required by the water board to complete a study that listed different solutions. All solutions proposed by the utility company will take more than 100 years to reduce the chromium 6 contamination to the maximum level for the chemical naturally occurring in the area. In order to get the chromium 6 levels down to the average amount found in the area, PG&E estimates it will take nearly 200 years for even the fastest treatment. Hinkley residents have said the proposed solutions will take too long to complete, and water board officials said they want PG&E to come up with a faster solution to address those concerns. The board gave PG&E until January 31 to comply with its request.

Source: <http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/-10088--.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [5](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *January 14, Washington Post* – (National) **FDA targets acetaminophen amounts delivered in prescription painkillers.** Federal health officials announced January 13 they were restricting the strength of Percocet, Vicodin, and other popular prescription painkillers to prevent people from suffering severe liver damage from overdosing on one of the main ingredients. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked drug companies to limit the amount of acetaminophen in all prescription products that combine the drug with other medications to no more than 325 milligrams per tablet or capsule. Acetaminophen is included at much higher levels in a variety of prescription products with other ingredients, usually powerful painkillers known as opioids. A few examples are Tylenol with Codeine, oxycodone, also known as Percocet, and hydrocodone, which is sold as Vicodin. “Overdose from prescription combination products containing acetaminophen account for nearly half of all cases of acetaminophen-related liver failure in the United States, many of which result in liver transplant or death,” an FDA spokeswoman said. The agency also is requiring manufacturers to update labels of all prescription products that combine acetaminophen with other substances to warn of the potential risk for “severe liver injury.” The action does not affect over-the-counter products containing acetaminophen. A spokesman for the Public Citizen Health Research Group criticized the agency for failing to address over-the-counter products.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/13/AR2011011306675.html>

39. *January 13, WRTV 6 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Hospital security breach puts patients’ records at risk.** A security breach at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital in Indiana may have put the records of 1,800 patients at risk. Hospital officials said they learned in November that certain associate e-mail accounts were breached, which may have allowed patient names, dates of service, and certain clinical information to be accessed. Those patients were recently sent a letter from hospital officials informing them of actions by a third party to inappropriately obtain e-mail log-ins. “We sincerely regret this unfortunate situation, and have made certain to properly inform all affected patients of the issue,” said the privacy officer at St. Vincent. Hospital officials said they are taking appropriate steps to prevent similar incidents from taking place again.

Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/26485267/detail.html>

40. *January 13, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (Florida) **U.S. Marshals seize dental devices from Florida manufacturer.** U.S. Marshals, acting under a court order sought by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), on January 5 and 6, seized all dental devices from Rite-Dent Manufacturing Corporation, located in Hialeah, Florida. The seizure of dentistry products valued at \$208,910 follows an FDA inspection that found significant deficiencies in the company’s manufacturing processes that may affect the safety and effectiveness of the products. The seized products include Alginate Impression Material, Ultra Impression Material, Enamel Bonding System, Pit and Fissure Chemical Curing Sealant, Tooth Shade Resin Material, Cavity Varnish, Polycarboxylate (PCA) Cement, and Zinc Phosphate Cement,

all used in the practice of dentistry. FDA inspections of the Rite-Dent facility, most recently in November 2010, revealed continuing significant deviations from the current good manufacturing practice requirements for the products. FDA's recent inspection also confirmed the company had not obtained FDA marketing approval or clearance for a device called the Ultra Impression System. The company also failed to notify the FDA regarding a correction it made to a device called the Alginate Impression System. The FDA advises health care professionals to discontinue use of these products.

Source:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm237894.htm>

41. *January 13, KPTV 12 Portland* – (Oregon) **Beaverton Medical Center evacuated.** A section of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Beaverton, Oregon, was evacuated January 13 because of a mentally unstable man. Beaverton police said the man had a baby with him when he walked into the lobby of the building on Southwest Western Avenue. He gave his name to a hospital worker, then laid down on the floor and eventually took off his clothes, officers said. Beaverton police said a portion of the medical center was evacuated while the man was taken into custody. As of 1:30 p.m., the man was undergoing a mental evaluation. The baby is safe and was not injured, police said. It was not immediately clear whether the baby was the man's child or not. Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/26485406/detail.html>

42. *January 12, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **MONOC of Wall may fight EPA's machine prohibition.** The Monmouth-Ocean Hospital Service Corp. (MONOC) of Wall, New Jersey, said it will look to appeal a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision that prohibits the ambulance company from using a decontamination machine after workers complained of ailments. The nearly \$30,000 machine, created by Zimek Technologies (a group of affiliated biotechnology companies), is sold primarily to hospitals and emergency service and municipal agencies. It has been used and tested by the Department of Homeland Security in Mount Weather, Virginia. MONOC bought the machine in May 2009 but stopped using it when employees began to file complaints a year later, a MONOC spokesman said. But while the company's union president said close to 100 of its 540 members filed complaints for a host of related symptoms, the spokesman said MONOC received only seven. Zimek officials said they have not received a stop sale, use, or removal order from EPA officials but will reach out to them to correct the matter. "The EPA's action stems from reports of undocumented health-related claims allegedly arising from a Zimek sanitizing and disinfectant dispersal system," a company spokesman said. An EPA spokesman said, "Pesticides and disinfectants need to be labeled for specific causes and the disinfectants (in use) are not labeled to be dispersed using this type of machine." Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20110112/NEWS/101120367/MONOC-of-Wall-may-fight-EPA-s-machine-prohibition>

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Government Facilities Sector

43. *January 14, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Explosives location map nets charges for students.** Five middle school students in Louisville, Kentucky, have been disciplined after authorities found a map, showing where explosives could be placed at a school. A Jefferson County Public Schools spokeswoman told WAVE-TV in Louisville the students were involved in a fantasy video game and a search of Stuart Middle School found no explosives. The spokeswoman said there was no indication an attack was imminent, but officials must take every threat to student safety seriously. WAVE reported that four students were charged January 13 with misdemeanor criminal conspiracy to commit terrorist threatening and released to their parents. The fifth student was arrested on a charge of felony terrorist threatening. Besides the criminal charges, the students face suspensions and alternative placement.
Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2011/01/14/1598665/explosives-location-map-nets-charges.html>
44. *January 14, MMD Newswire* – (Pennsylvania) **2 more defendants plead guilty in licensing examiners bribe scheme.** A 47-year-old man from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a 48-year-old man of Edgewater, New Jersey, pleaded guilty January 13 to charges in connection with a scheme that involved bribes to driver's license examiners in exchange for fraudulent driver's licenses. The 47-year-old man was a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation driver's license examiner, working in West Oak Lane, who took about \$30,000 in cash bribes from driver's license applicants. The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, the FBI, and the Pennsylvania State Police. In total, the 47-year-old man issued more than 100 official Pennsylvania driver's licenses and identification cards, many containing fraudulent identifying information, to foreign nationals and illegal aliens.
Source: <http://www.mmdnewswire.com/guilty-in-licensing-examiners-bribe-scheme-17713.html>
45. *January 13, threatpost* – (Massachusetts; California) **High profile education, government sites hacked.** The Web sites of some of the nation's top universities were discovered to be serving up links to bogus online stores offering everything from popular software by Microsoft to student visas and Viagra, according to a report from security firm zScaler. Portions of Web sites belonging to Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Stanford University were found to be redirecting visitors to phony online Web "stores," using multiple languages, that claim to sell software and other goods at discounted prices. The hijacked Web sites have relatively high search engine rankings, which are used to promote the phony Web stores in search results, Zscaler said. A subdomain of Harvard University's Web site that belongs to the Chandra X-Ray Observatory was among the domains identified by zScaler as having been compromised. Also, various pages hosted on the domain of MIT belonging to academics, as well as a page belonging to the High-Low Tech group that "integrates high and low technological materials, processes and cultures." At Stanford University, Web sites operated by the Associated Students of Stanford University was

compromised, including a Web portal for information about mental and sexual health. There was no clear pattern discernible among the sites compromised, though at least one of the subdomains was hosting the Wordpress blogging software.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/high-profile-education-government-sites-hacked-011311

46. *January 13, San Francisco Examiner* – (California) **San Francisco student hands out rat poison to classmates.** As many as seven middle school students in San Francisco, California were transported to the hospital after ingesting rat poison given to them by a peer, according to San Francisco Unified School District officials. All seven students – boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 12 — were transported to area hospitals and are in stable condition, according to fire officials. The San Francisco Fire Department was called to Martin Luther King Junior Academic Middle School around 12:08 p.m. January 13 for reports of the students ingesting rat poison. The first fire engine was on scene 3 minutes later. It is unknown how long it took the students to report the poison to school officials. One student allegedly invited other students to eat the poisonous cube as candy, according to a released statement by school district officials. A teacher was alerted of the situation and contacted poison control, district officials stated. None of the students was showing any symptoms of poisoning, but were taken to the hospital as a precaution so doctors could evaluate them, a fire department spokeswoman said. “The amount (consumed) was so minuscule that we’re not expecting them to have any symptoms at all,” she said.
Source: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/education/2011/01/seven-san-francisco-middle-school-students-may-have-eaten-rat-poison>
47. *January 13, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Cal State Northridge student charged after officials find explosives, shotgun in his dormroom.** A California State University, Northridge (CSUN) student who threatened several people at the Los Angeles institution is facing two felony charges after police found a shotgun and explosives materials in his on-campus dorm room, according to officials. The 22-year-old suspect allegedly made threats to students and staff on campus and was taken into custody for mental health evaluation January 11, the chief of CSUN police said. Police arrested the suspect January 12 and he is currently in county jail in lieu of a \$150,000 bond, according to inmate records. No injuries were reported. The suspect is no longer enrolled at the university and had no previous reported problems at the school, the chief said. He is charged with possession of ingredients to make a destructive device and bringing a firearm onto a school campus, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. The suspect is set to appear in court for arraignment January 14 at San Fernando Superior Court.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_17088326?nclick_check=1
48. *January 13, CBS News* – (National) **Aide: Uptick in death threats against Palin.** An aide to the former governor of Alaska told CBS News there has been an increase in death threats against the former governor and former candidate for U.S. vice president in the wake of the shooting of a U.S. Representative in Tucson, Arizona. The aide did not provide details concerning the volume of threats, how much have they increased, or

whether they are being referred to the authorities. A different aide told USA Today that the increase in threats since January 8 has been “incredible.” Almost immediately after the shootings, critics drew a connection between the attack and a map released by the former governor that used crosshairs to spotlight 20 House Democrats she wanted to see defeated in the midterm elections. One of them was a U.S. Representative who was injured, along with 19 other people, in the January 8 shooting that killed six people. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20028458-503544.html

For another story, see item [11](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

49. *January 13, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Laser pointed at AirMed helicopter; FBI launches investigation.** The FBI has opened an investigation into a person who shined a laser pointer into the cockpit of a medical helicopter near Salt Lake City, Utah. Police said someone used a green laser — a more powerful version available online and overseas — when they pointed it at an AirMed helicopter around 6 p.m. January 13. The crew had just dropped a patient off at University Medical Center and was returning to its base in Orem, Utah, when the light hit the cockpit. The pilot was able to triangulate the person’s location and notified air traffic control. AirMed has been told the people responsible were found and that they were younger. The FBI confirmed they have opened an investigation — it falls into their jurisdiction since it is federal airspace. The pilot involved in the incident said he has been tagged by a laser 4 times in the past 3 years.
Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=13994853>

50. *January 13, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. man who allegedly bit FBI agents stays in jail.** A western Pennsylvania man accused of biting two FBI agents will remain in custody after a federal judge heard testimony that the man communicated online with at least two other people accused of terror-related charges. A federal district judge ordered the 21-year-old man detained on charges he bit the agents while they wrestled for his loaded gun January 4. The agents were investigating him for allegedly making pro-terrorist statements online. Prosecutors said he communicated with two other Americans who drew the attention of law enforcement. The first, dubbed “Jihad Jane,” is accused of helping foreign terror suspects intent on starting a holy war. The second has pleaded guilty to threatening the creators of “South Park” for perceived insults to the prophet Muhammad. The suspect’s attorney said she will appeal the decision.
Source: <http://www.wfmj.com/Global/story.asp?S=13838857>

For more stories, see items [23](#), [27](#), [54](#), and [58](#)

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Information Technology Sector

51. *January 14, Softpedia* – (International) **First toolkit resulting from ZeuS-SpyEye merger hits the underground market.** Security researchers from McAfee warned the first crimware toolkit to result from the ZeuS-SpyEye merger is now available for purchase on the underground market. Earlier in 2011, the security community was surprised to hear rumors ZeuS and SpyEye, two rival threats in the cybercriminal world, would be joined together under a single developer. This unexpected turn of events was supposedly the result of the ZeuS author's intention to retire from the malware-writing scene after a successful run. The new "SpyEye / ZS Builder" was released January 11, which is a SpyEye version enhanced with some of ZeuS' functionality. New features include brute force password guessing, Jabber notification, VNC module, auto-spreading, auto-update, unique stub generation, and an enhanced screenshot system. The builder is much cheaper than ZeuS used to be. The basic version without VNC (remote desktop) and ability to inject code into Firefox pages costs \$300, while the price for the full version is \$800.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/First-Toolkit-Resulting-from-ZeuS-SpyEye-Merger-Hits-the-Underground-Market-178336.shtml>
52. *January 14, Help Net Security* – (International) **Ransomware continues to pose a threat.** Symantec warns against attackers using ransomware. This type of malware blocks access to computers and then asks users to pay for having that privilege returned. Some ransomware locks the computer's desktop and asks the user to send a text message to a premium rate number to receive back a code that will restore access to the system. Other ransomware adds to that a change of the desktop background image, which contains the request for money, instructions on how and where to send it, and an embarrassing pornographic image that makes the user less willing to ask for technical help. There is also ransomware that encrypts user files and holds them ransom. Sometimes the encryption key is stored on the computer and the user can decrypt the files if he knows where to look for it, but other times the files are lost for good because there is no guarantee the criminals will send the key to decrypt them even if the victim sends the money. Some ransomware does not even allow the operating system to boot.
Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1588
53. *January 13, Softpedia* – (International) **RIM fixes vulnerabilities in BlackBerry OS and BlackBerry Enterprise Server.** Research In Motion has released security updates for BlackBerry OS and the BlackBerry Enterprise Server (BES) software in order to address two moderate and high risk vulnerabilities. The vulnerability affecting BlackBerry devices consists of a denial of service condition that can crash the browser application. It affects BlackBerry Device Software versions earlier than 6.0.0 and can be exploited by tricking users to visit a maliciously crafted Web page. The vulnerability has a score of 5.0 on the CVSS scale, which equates to a moderate risk because the DoS condition is only partial. Meanwhile, the vulnerability patched in the BES is critical and carries a CVSS base score of 9.3 out of 10. It stems from a buffer overflow error in the Attachment Service of the portable document format (PDF) distiller

component. Exploitation involves tricking a user to open a specially crafted PDF file.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/RIM-Fixes-Vulnerabilities-in-BlackBerry-OS-and-BlackBerry-Enterprise-Server-178057.shtml>

For another story, see item [15](#)

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

54. *January 13, Ontario Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* – (California) **Cell tower catches fire, nearby buildings evacuated.** A fire station and a post office had to be evacuated January 13 after a nearby cell phone tower caught fire in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Firefighters at Station 171, 6627 Amethyst Ave., reported the blaze about 10:20 a.m. after seeing smoke and flames coming from the top of the tower. About 35 firefighters put out the blaze by 11:20 a.m., the acting battalion chief for the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department said. No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire has not been determined. The fire station and the neighboring post office at 6649 Amethyst Ave. were evacuated when officials saw the potential for danger. “We were worried the tower would collapse into the fire station and post office,” the chief said. The tower did not fall and evacuees were eventually allowed back into the buildings. BCI Communications West employees were working on the tower when it caught fire. Upland and San Bernardino County fire departments assisted in fighting the blaze.
Source: http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_17090415

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Commercial Facilities Sector

55. *January 14, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **50 people in Ariz. plant tested for CO poisoning.** Workers at a Tempe, Arizona facility were evaluated for possible exposure to carbon monoxide January 12. The Tempe Fire Department was called to Foresight Technology, an electronics company, for reports of a man experiencing chest pains. When firefighters arrived on scene, they found workers driving gas-powered forklifts in a closed 50,000 square-foot building. Workers said they were cold so they closed the doors. Firefighters checked the levels of carbon monoxide and found them to be more than 6 times the safe level to work in. Firefighters had to wear their masks for their own safety when treating patients. It was determined the chest pains were caused by exposure to carbon monoxide. Firefighters then decided to check all the workers to see

if they had been exposed to carbon monoxide. A fire department spokesman said seven men were transported to Tempe St. Luke's hospital where they will have their systems flushed out with pure oxygen. The remainder of the employees were taken to the Fiesta Inn for evaluation. Tempe fire said everyone is expected to be okay.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/50-people-ariz-plant-tested-co-poisoning>

56. *January 14, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **125 senior citizens evacuated during early-morning fire in Ventnor high rise.** Firefighters from Ventnor, Margate, and Longport evacuated 125 senior citizens January 14 after a fire started on the second floor of an apartment building on Marshall Avenue in Ventnor City, New Jersey. A Ventnor Fire Department lieutenant said mutual aid from Margate came immediately when the fire was reported at 3:20 a.m. Longport firefighters also responded. The lieutenant said one resident was hurt and was transported to a local hospital. A firefighter also sustained a minor knee injury while combating the three-alarm blaze. The lieutenant said mutual aid was required to safely evacuate the building quickly and contain the fire to the apartment where it originated. "It was an evacuation issue," he said January 14, adding most of the residents had health issues and were unable to self evacuate. The cause of the fire is unknown and is still under investigation.

Source:

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/communities/margate_ventnor_longport/article_92b599d2-1fd6-11e0-9304-001cc4c03286.html

57. *January 14, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Deputies search for ex-roommate after explosives discovered in Wesley Chapel apartment.** Authorities are looking for a 19-year-old man for questioning about explosives discovered January 13 at an apartment complex in Wesley Chapel, Florida. He was a resident at the Columns at Cypress Point apartments until his roommates asked him to move out, according to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. After he left, the roommates discovered improvised explosive devices, molotov cocktails, and other unknown fluids in jars inside the apartment, the sheriff's office said. Residents were evacuated from a building at 4448 Crabapple Drive for several hours while a Hillsborough County bomb squad removed the devices. No one was injured. It is unknown what the man planned to do with any of the materials, a Pasco sheriff's spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/deputies-search-for-ex-roommate-after-explosives-discovered-in-wesley/1145466>

58. *January 14, WVLT 8 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **Meth lab explosion destroys several apartments.** A meth lab explosion in Campbell County, Tennessee, has several people living in an apartment complex without a home, and the suspect suffering from severe burns. Campbell County investigators said the explosion happened January 13 around 8:30 p.m at Rick's Apartment complex, off Pine Crest Road in Jacksboro. A male left the scene and was taken to Saint Mary's Medical Center of Campbell County for treatment. Part of the facility's emergency room was put temporarily on lockdown for decontamination. The suspect was airlifted to Vanderbilt Burn Center, in Nashville. Everyone else inside the building at the time, was able to get out safely, before the

flames spread from the apartment where the meth was being made. The regional meth task force joined the investigation. Several other people were detained for questioning. Source:

http://www.volunteertv.com/news/headlines/Update_Meth_lab_explosion_destroys_several_apartments.html?ref=114

For another story, see item [18](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

59. *January 13, Associated Press* – (California) **4 SoCal tree sitters removed and arrested.** In Arcadia, California, a daylong standoff between a handful of tree sitters and public works crews ended with the removal and arrest of the activists, who were trying to prevent bulldozers from clearing scores of trees as part of a dam improvement project. Two men, including a veteran tree sitter, and two women were escorted out of the trees January 12 and taken into custody, a Los Angeles County sheriff's lieutenant said. They were booked on suspicion of delaying a peace officer and trespassing. Public works officials said the 11 acres of trees, some of them more than 100 years old, must go to ensure the integrity of a nearby dam that provides most of the drinking water to the Los Angeles suburbs of Arcadia and Sierra Madre. By nightfall, authorities said most of the trees had been removed. Additional people staged a protest nearby. Some of them said the sediment from the dam could be placed elsewhere, including a huge gravel pit about 10 miles away. A Los Angeles County Public Works spokesman said the tree removal project has been in the works for 3 years and the county has approval from federal and state agencies. He said it must be done for the Santa Anita Dam, which was built in 1927, to meet seismic safety standards. Over the years, he said, sediment has built up behind the dam, limiting its water capacity and compromising its safety in the event of an earthquake or other catastrophe. Clearing the 11 acres of oaks and sycamores will create a placement area the sediment can be channeled to. The dam provides 75 percent of the drinking water used in Arcadia, a city of about 56,000 people, and all of the drinking water for Sierra Madre, where about 10,000 people live. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/12/AR2011011204158.html>
60. *January 12, Attleboro Sun Chronicle* – (Massachusetts) **Foxboro: Dam safety report is out of date.** A Massachusetts report listing dams considered to be unsafe or in poor condition — including two in Foxboro — may already be outdated. The outgoing state auditor said January 11, 100 dams owned by 62 cities and towns in Massachusetts are in

need or repair. But the Foxboro conservation manager and the commission chairman said the two Foxboro dams listed in the report as unsafe were repaired by the town last summer. Pierce said Carpenter Upper Pond Dike and Carpenter Upper Pond Dam — both earthen structures — were fixed last August by the Foxboro Highway Department and should no longer be listed as unsafe. She said the state report is outdated as it concerns those two Foxboro dams. The structures are on Carpenter Pond, also know as Lake View Pond, near Lake View Pavilion.

Source: <http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2011/01/11/news/8674844.txt>

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