



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader reports that a steam leak led to a shutdown of one of two nuclear reactors at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Pennsylvania, January 26. (See item [8](#))
- New maps show that should the Lake Maloney dam in North Platte, Nebraska rupture, flooding could be much more extensive than originally thought, according to the North Platte Telegraph. (See item [62](#))

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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 26, WAVY 10 Hampton Roads* – (Virginia) **Fire causes widespread power outage.** Power has been restored to thousands of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, Virginia, residents after a possible explosion and fire cut power January 26. Chesapeake fire crews responded to reports of the possible explosion at the Chesapeake Energy Center on Vepco Street at around 6:30 a.m. Upon arrival, just moments later,

crews found an electrical breaker on fire, a fire captain said. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and no one was injured. Reports have not yet been confirmed that there was in fact an explosion. According to a spokeswoman with Virginia Dominion Power, 35,000 customers were without power for about an hour and a half. The cause of the outage is under investigation.

Source: http://www.wavy.com/dpp/news/local_news/chesapeake/possible-explosion-cuts-power-to-35k

2. *January 26, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Regulators: Ice triggered gas fires in Ohio town.** Ohio regulators said ice caused the buildup in natural gas pressure that triggered a house explosion, fires and an evacuation in Fairport Harbor, Ohio. A spokesman with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio said ice that formed in a sensor line caused a gas pressure regulator to fail January 24 in Fairport Harbor. Temperatures were well below freezing at the time. The resulting fires hit at least 15 homes, apartments and other buildings in the community about 30 miles northeast of Cleveland. The spokesman told the News-Herald of Willoughby his agency will file a formal report once its investigation is complete. The fire department said most people affected by the evacuation have returned to town, but that several structures can no longer be occupied. Source: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13910188>
3. *January 25, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Feds get Chevron’s pipeline restart plan.** Chevron detailed to federal regulators January 25 the company’s plans to restart as soon as next week its oil pipeline between eastern Utah’s Hanna and its Salt Lake City refinery. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) must approve the return-to-service plan, aimed at February 1, 2011, before any crude can flow again after two large spills near Red Butte Garden — one in June 2010, and the second in December 2010. “PHMSA will make a decision on the restart plan when we are confident all concerns have been satisfied to ensure safety,” an agency spokeswoman said. “We will thoroughly scrutinize the plan to ensure safety and protection of the environment.” The spokeswoman noted leaders and engineers in her agency have worked closely with the city to see that Chevron completes all safety testing and repairs required after the latest spill. Salt Lake City’s mayor has said he wants federal regulators to consider the findings of a city-hired independent investigator before the pipeline goes back into service. That report is expected in the coming days. Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/51121611-76/pipeline-plan-chevron-safety.html.csp>
4. *January 24, WTOK 11 Meridian* – (Mississippi) **Gas spill at Murphy station.** Gasoline leaked out of a pump at the Bonita Lakes Wal-Mart in Meridian, Mississippi, because of an internal malfunction in one of the pumps. “There was no way to stop it, so they had to do a complete shut down of the entire gas station,” the fire chief said. With a gas spill that large, more than 55 gallons, the Mississippi Environmental Management Agency (MEMA) and the state department of environmental quality had to be notified. The exact amount of gasoline spilled will not be known until inventory is taken. Officials said they were able to catch most of the gas

before it was able to spread. The city plans to flush out the storm drain into which most of the gasoline spilled.

Source: http://www.wtok.com/news/headlines/Gas_Spills_114513834.html?ref=834

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 26, Sand Springs Leader* – (Oklahoma) **Chemical spill closes Morrow Road.** A hydrochloric acid spill at about noon January 25 on East Morrow Road in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, forced the closure of Morrow Road from Main Street to Adams Road for about 4 hours. City officials said approximately 100 gallons spilled from a transport truck as it left Brenntag Southwest, a chemical distribution company. The spill was safety contained and no injuries were reported. Sand Springs firefighters monitored the incident and the spill was cleaned up by Sooner Emergency Services. Source: http://sandspringsleader.com/news/article_ae43fb6e-28b7-11e0-9851-001cc4c03286.html

6. *January 26, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Air free of toxins, says EPA, but fire could take days to burn out.** Federal and state environmental protection agency officials confirmed there are no dangerous toxins in the air from a chemical fire January 25 at Mar-Flex Building Solutions in Ohio that is expected to take several days to burn out. Plumes of black smoke and flames from the burning warehouse were seen for miles after the fire broke out. The Madison Township fire chief said several explosions were heard inside the 30,000-square-foot facility on Chrisman Lane that manufactures waterproofing and concrete-building products. The director of the Butler County Emergency Management Agency said the cause of the blaze has not been determined, and it could be some time until the state fire marshal's office is able to inspect the still-burning structure. Through four rounds of testing, environmental protection agencies found no dangerous chemicals in the air. However, smoke continued to blow northeast, and the chemical fumes could be hazardous to those with respiratory problems. The director said he is working closely with emergency management agency officials in Warren and Montgomery counties. Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/air-free-of-toxins-says-epa-but-fire-could-take-days-to-burn-out-1063474.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *January 26, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **NRC to hold meeting on issues at Oconee plant.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will meet with officials from Duke Energy to discuss the results of an inspection of the Oconee nuclear power plant in Seneca, South Carolina. The meeting was held January 26 at the World of Energy near Seneca, about 30 miles west of Greenville. The findings from the earlier inspection showed two issues with the plant's standby shutdown systems, and led the

NRC to put the Oconee plant in a category requiring increased oversight. The meeting will review the corrective steps Duke Energy took.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/2011/01/26/1664099/nrc-to-hold-meeting-on-issues.html>

8. *January 26, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Leak shuts down nuke reactor.** The nuclear power plant near Berwick, Pennsylvania, will likely move up a notch on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) watch list and be subject to increased scrutiny after a steam leak January 25 led to a shutdown of one of the plant’s two reactors. PPL’s chief nuclear officer stressed there were no injuries and that all safety equipment functioned as designed during the shutdown. Plant operators at PPL’s Susquehanna Steam Electric Station decided to shut down reactor Unit 1 at 6:10 a.m. after they discovered steam leakage in an area where water is preheated before being fed into the reactor, the NRC Public Affairs Officer for Region I said. Operators decided to scram the reactor — manually shut it down — after determining the leak could not be isolated and the portion of the system with the leak could not be removed from service without affecting other plant systems, the NRC official said.

Source: http://www.timesleader.com/news/Leak_shuts_down_nuke_reactor_01-26-2011.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *January 26, Associated Press* – (International) **Toyota recalls 1.7 million vehicles for fuel leaks.** Toyota recalled nearly 1.7 million cars worldwide January 26 for fuel leaks. The recalls are mostly in Japan, but they also include the IS and GS Lexus luxury models in North America. There were no accidents suspected of being related to the latest recall, according to Toyota.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/01/26/toyota-recalls-nearly-million-vehicles-1956580065/>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *January 25, Federal Times* – (National) **Rand Corp. report criticizes Navy biofuel goals.** The U.S. Navy is refuting a Rand Corp. report critical of the service’s efforts to cultivate biofuels for use in its fleets and planes. The report, by the National Defense Research Institute at Rand at the request of Congress and released January 25, said biofuels the Navy is pursuing could not be made commercially viable in the short term and would not reduce emissions from current levels. The deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, said the Navy is confident that 2012 to 2016 will mark the emergence of a mature biofuels industry. In a conference call with reporters, he said the report is “a misrepresentation” and “factually inaccurate.”

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/01/navy-rand-report-criticizes-biofuel-goals-012511w/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *January 26, Help Net Security* – (National) **Hedge funds unprepared for cyber attack.** With details trickling in about how the sophisticated Stuxnet computer worm derailed years of work on Iran’s nuclear program, many seasoned observers are left to wonder what might happen if such a powerful weapon were ever turned against the nearly \$2 trillion hedge fund industry. On January 26, Alphaserve Technologies, IT advisor to many of the world’s largest hedge funds, offered potential solutions to an industry it perceives as ill-prepared when compared to big banks and other financial institutions. Most hedge funds have protected themselves from external security breaches for years, but today’s managers must protect themselves not only from the outside in, but rather from the inside out, contends the CEO and CTO of Alphaserve Technologies. The everyday, internal activities of employees accessing the Internet, e-mail, Skype, and other information provide ideal channels for worms, malicious software and dishonest employees to siphon off confidential information and do harm. New technologies like Digital Loss Prevention (DLP) software and deep packet inspection firewalls can look inside the Internet channel for any corporate data leaving the company and stop intentional or unintentional illicit transfers of information. Surprisingly though, many marquee names in the hedge fund industry do not have this essential protection even though some are in the process of adopting it, the CEO said. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10491>

12. *January 26, Petoskey News-Review* – (Michigan) **Phone and e-mail scams sweep through Northern Michigan.** The Michigan State Police Petoskey Post is reporting a new phone scam has emerged in northern Michigan, targeting elderly residents. According to a police spokesman, in the last week-and-a-half alone, two to three dozen residents have reported this scam. Typically, the residents are receiving a phone call informing them their grandchild, who is in the military, has been injured, robbed, or arrested in England. They are then asked to wire \$2,800 overseas to help out. The police spokesman said residents should be aware that this scam can be believable. “They often have the name of these people’s grand kids and what branch of military they’re in,” he said. “These people have really done their homework.” In addition to this scam, he said a resident from Petoskey reported she had recently received an e-mail from an old high school friend who told her that she and her family were on vacation in England and were mugged outside their hotel. Source: <http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/null-phone-and-email-scams-sweep-th-01262011,0,7621784.story>

13. *January 26, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (National) **Internal fraud and dollar losses.** Internal fraud is one of the financial-services industry’s most threatening types of fraud. Industry experts ranked it as one of the top 9 security threats banks and credit

unions will face in 2011. A senior analyst with Aite Group and author of the report, “Internal Fraud: The Devil Within,” said internal fraud damages an institution’s reputation, is often difficult to detect and is getting more prevalent, now that organized crime has figured out how easy it is to “plant” employees who are more than willing to steal internal information. “Banks and credit unions need to invest more in detection technology,” the analyst said, adding internal fraud at most banks and credit unions is under-reported, if detected at all. The analyst’s research found that institutions that rely on detection systems to catch internal fraud report higher losses, averaging about 10 percent, while institutions relying on manual techniques said internal fraud losses account for only about 4 percent of overall losses. “I think the number is probably closer to 10,” the analyst said. “Those that use technology are catching more.”

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3296

14. *January 26, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Georgia, Vt., bank robbery suspect arrested.** Authorities in Burlington, Vermont, have arrested two men wanted in an armed bank robbery in the Vermont town of Georgia. Burlington Police and U.S. Marshals arrested a 30-year-old male from St. Albans and a 37-year-old male from Swanton January 26 after a short chase. The 30-year-old suspect is accused of robbing the People’s Trust Bank January 24 and making off with an undisclosed amount of cash. He is expected to be arraigned January 26 on charges of assault and robbery. The 37-year-old male will be charged with being an accessory. Vermont State Police said tips from the public helped lead to the arrests.

Source: http://www.necn.com/01/26/11/Georgia-Vt-bank-robbery-suspect-arrested/landing_nation.html?&blockID=3&apID=fa3ac440e80d4bdbbfe2bed697d3761a

15. *January 25, Softpedia* – (International) **New phishing campaign targets ‘First Data’ merchant accounts.** Researchers from e-mail security vendor AppRiver warn about a phishing campaign that targets merchant accounts from a payment processing vendor called First Data. The pool of phishing attacks targets online banking accounts, credit card information, personal details, and other online accounts. Scams aimed at merchants are not very common. “Once the hacker has gained access to the First Data account they will likely have gained control over that specific merchants account,” warned a security researcher at AppRiver. First Data is an Atlanta, Georgia-based provider of online and on-site payment solutions which caters to merchants, financial institutions, and government agencies.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-Phishing-Campaign-Targets-First-Data-Customers-180526.shtml>

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Transportation Sector

16. *January 26, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Pilots union targets laser threats to planes.** The Air Line Pilots Association has stepped up the campaign against people on the ground intentionally pointing lasers at airliners, by calling on lawmakers,

regulators, and industry officials to prevent such hazards. The union's proposal — unveiled 1 week after the government announced heightened dangers from lasers — includes calls for a sweeping public awareness effort and expansion of “laser-free zones” around airports. The union, which represents nearly 53,000 commercial pilots in North America, also wants new air-traffic-control safeguards and pilot procedures when laser threats emerge. Lasers can temporarily blind or incapacitate pilots, and even cause permanent eye damage in some cases.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703293204576105950154162410.htm?mod=googlenews_wsj

17. *January 26, USA Today* – (National) **Terrorists look to unprotected parts of airports.** The suicide bombing at a busy international airport outside Moscow, Russia, exposes the vulnerable underbelly of airports in this country and around the world, several security experts and former anti-terrorist government officials said. Terrorists have long sought to disrupt aviation through hijackings and bombings. Since many of those recent attempts have failed at least partly because of heightened security, experts said, it makes sense that terrorists would launch attacks on the unprotected zones of an airport: baggage claim areas, ticket counters, security check-in lines, and curbside areas where passengers are picked up and dropped off. “The situation in the United States is even more dangerous” than at Domodedovo International Airport, said a former chief of U.S. aviation security. In this country, anyone can walk up to a baggage claim area, which during peak hours can be a chaotic sea of travelers and their baggage the former chief said.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2011-01-26-airportterror26_ST_N.htm?csp=34news&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+UsatodaycomWorld-TopStories+\(News++World++Top+Stories\)](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2011-01-26-airportterror26_ST_N.htm?csp=34news&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+UsatodaycomWorld-TopStories+(News++World++Top+Stories))

18. *January 26, WPIX 11 New York* – (New Jersey) **Fire aboard commuter ferry prompts evacuation.** Emergency crews responded to a report of a fire aboard a commuter ferry on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River January 26. The fire was reported at about 10:15 a.m. aboard a New York Waterway ferry, which was about 1 mile south of the George Washington Bridge. Another vessel pushed the commuter ferry to the Edgewater Marina in New Jersey. A police command post was established nearby at 916 River Road. All 27 passengers were evacuated from the boat when it docked, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Several people were treated by EMS for smoke inhalation and two people, including a pregnant woman, were set aside for further evaluation, according to reports. According to the Coast Guard, the engine room may have overheated, which caused a smoke condition on board the ferry. It is unclear if there was an actual fire on board or if it was just smoke. North Hudson and Jersey City Fire Department's marine units also responded to the scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.wpix.com/wpix-ny-ferry-fire,0,1126332.story>

19. *January 25, United Press International* – (Florida) **Whale shuts down ship traffic.** Maritime authorities in Florida said the Port of Jacksonville was shut down for an entire day January 24 due to a right whale spotted at the mouth of the St. Johns River. The U.S. Coast Guard said ship traffic was suspended at about 10 a.m. after the whale was spotted entering the river and swimming between the jetties and the Mayport basin, the (Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union reported January 25. The U.S. Coast Guard said inbound and outbound ship traffic resumed at about 6:15 p.m., after the endangered whale was seen swimming back to the Atlantic Ocean. Federal law prohibits approaching within 500 yards of a North Atlantic right whale.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2011/01/25/Whale-shuts-down-ship-traffic/UPI-31121295977567
20. *January 25, Indo-Asian News Service* – (International) **Paris airport evacuated over suspected explosive.** The Roissy Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris, France, was briefly evacuated January 24 after authorities received a report of suspected explosive, police said. A bomb disposal expert was called to a terminal where an unclaimed baggage was found and reckoned to be an explosive, a policeman told Xinhua. The operation lasted about 20 minutes before the police lifted the evacuation order. “He (the expert) made no declaration,” the policeman said, refusing to give further details. An unconfirmed earlier report said the explosive was successfully defused.
Source: <http://www.sify.com/news/paris-airport-evacuated-over-suspected-explosive-news-international-lbzkudajjhg.html>
21. *January 25, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Metro train evacuated for smoke, possible fire.** A Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) train was evacuated after something caught fire and filled a tunnel with smoke near the Forest Glen station on the red line in Maryland January 25. A Montgomery County fire department spokesman said firefighters were called to the station about 2:20 p.m. Passengers all made it to the station and were evacuated. A train operator was treated for smoke inhalation. The spokesman said train traffic has been halted in both directions near Forest Glen as firefighters investigated. He said an initial report indicates the brakes of the train may have caught fire., but the fire was out when firefighters arrived. Metro directed passengers to shuttle buses between the Glenmont and Silver Spring stations.
Source: http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/traffic/metro_news/metro-train-evacuated-for-smoke-possible-fire-012511

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *January 25, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Substance sent to Roskam’s office ‘not threatening’.** A suspicious substance discovered January 24 in a letter sent to a U.S. Representative’s office in Bloomingdale, Illinois, was found to be harmless and

authorities said they did not believe it was sent with any malicious intent. An envelope containing the letter and an unknown, gritty substance was opened by an employee at the office at around 3 p.m. January 24 prompting police and fire officials to briefly lock down the office while they tested the substance and discovered it was harmless. “We don’t really know what it was,” the Bloomingdale police deputy chief said January 25. “It had kind of a tacky feel to it.” The FBI was notified of the letter, but is not investigating after learning that the substance was innocuous, a spokeswoman for the agency said.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-substance-sent-to-roskams-offi-01252011,0,334311.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *January 26, Fargo Inforum* – (North Dakota) **North Dakota to continue monitoring pesticide levels found in Red.** The North Dakota Department of Agriculture said it will continue to monitor three pesticides found in 2010 in the Red River in concentrations approaching at-risk levels for fish and other aquatic life to see if the results repeat themselves. Results of a statewide survey of streams and rivers were largely positive, but the detection of three pesticides — atrazine, bifenthrin, and metolachlor — was noted as an area of concern that may warrant “risk mitigation measures” if pesticide levels persist. The state health department and U.S. Geological Survey conducted the survey, taking water samples from 33 sites from April through October. Overall, the survey found North Dakota’s rivers and streams contained only trace amounts of nine commonly used products, an agriculture commissioner said. Of the 43 detections, 29 were in the intensely farmed Red River Valley.
Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/306281/>

24. *January 26, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island; Massachusetts) **Recall news.** Salad mixes produced by State Garden of Chelsea, Massachusetts, were recalled because of Listeria concerns. The recall involves all salad products produced in the company’s plant January 4 which correspond to trace back codes 45693 and 45703. No Listeria illnesses have been linked to the products. Health officials in Rhode Island notified the company that a sample of Northeast Spring Mix Salad at a retail store in the state tested positive for Listeria.
Source: <http://www.myfoxdal.com/Global/story.asp?S=13911462>

25. *January 25, KSWT 13 Yuma* – (International) **Five killed at Mexicali bar, including former police officers.** Five people, including two former police officers are dead after gunmen opened fire at La Resaca, a Mexicali, Mexico bar, January 24 at 7 p.m. Witnesses said all five people were sitting at a table when three gunmen burst through the front door and opened fire. Four people died at the scene, while another died later at a Mexicali hospital. One of the victims was a former ministerial police officer, and another was a former member of the Baja California State Police.
Source: <http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=13905922>

26. *January 25, NorthWest Cable News* – (Washington) **Fire consumes Loon Lake restaurant.** Crews from Stevens County Fire and Spokane County fire responded January 25 to a fire at the Dinner Bell Restaurant in Loon Lake, Washington. Crews were originally called out just after 7 a.m. for a grease fire in the kitchen of the restaurant just off Highway 395. An employee tried to knock out the flames but was unable to so they evacuated the building and called for help. When firefighters got to the scene, they were able to put out the kitchen fire but at that time, the fire had already crept up the stove hood. Authorities said the building then caught fire between the ceiling and roof. More engines were called to the scene as firefighters began attacking the flames from the outside. Part of the roof collapsed but no injuries were reported.
Source:
<http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fId=114579939&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10222>
27. *January 25, KATU 2 Portland* – (Oregon) **Fire hits Tillamook Cheese Factory kitchen.** A large fire damaged the kitchen in the visitor's section at the Tillamook Cheese Factory on the Oregon coast January 25. Firefighters rushed to the tourist destination just before 3 a.m. and evacuated the entire factory, which was in operation at the time. The visitors section was closed at the time. No injuries were reported. Firefighters said sprinklers helped knock down the fire, but damage is estimated at \$250,000. An electrical problem is suspected of causing the fire. The fire went to two alarms, according to officials. Workers were let back into the factory portion of the complex about an hour after the fire started to resume production.
Source: <http://www.katu.com/news/business/114578334.html>

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Water Sector

28. *January 26, Iowa City Press-Citizen* – (Iowa) **Methane likely cause of Dec. 27 Coralville explosion.** A buildup of methane ignited by a worker using a torch to melt ice likely caused an explosion at the Coralville, Iowa sewage treatment plant, fire officials said January 25. The city's wastewater superintendent, was injured December 27. He was on the roof of a building using a blowtorch to melt ice off a roof hatch of a sludge holding facility so workers could empty the tank, the fire chief said. The explosion lifted the roof off the tank. The city will look into providing better ventilation on the roof to prevent methane buildup, and will explore changing protocol to ensure open flames are not used near the tank, the chief said.
Source:
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110126/NEWS/110125070/Methane-likely-cause-of-Dec-27-Coralville-explosion?RAGBRAI>
29. *January 25, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **10K gallons of sewage spills into canal.** Crews in Honolulu, Hawaii, worked to clean a sewage spill that flowed into Kapalama Stream January 24. About 10,250 gallons of sewage leaked at a pipe joint on Ahiahi Place. Crews responded to a call of a bad odor in the area at about 3:35 p.m. They found a 6-inch pipe clogged by grease. The wastewater flowed into a storm drain

that goes to Kapalama Stream, which flows to Honolulu Harbor. Crews posted warning signs in the area.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/r/26611368/detail.html>

30. *January 24, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Massachusetts) **EPA takes step to improve Lake Champlain water quality.** After a careful review, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has disapproved Vermont’s 2002 water quality plan that set phosphorus targets for discharges into Lake Champlain. Following this action, EPA intends to work closely and collaboratively with the state to develop a new plan for reductions in phosphorus from sources in Vermont. Elevated levels of phosphorus cause algae blooms and other water quality problems. The January 24 action follows EPA’s reconsideration and withdrawal of its 2002 approval of the plan. The Conservation Law Foundation had challenged the approval in federal court. EPA’s decision concerns Vermont’s 2002 Lake Champlain Phosphorus “TMDL,” a technical document that establishes the “Total Maximum Daily Load” for phosphorus in the lake. The TMDL is a pollution budget for an impaired water body, which identifies the pollutant loads that may be contributed by various sources at levels that will restore and maintain water quality. Under the federal Clean Water Act, TMDLs must meet certain requirements.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/73db2705e25a948b85257822006eef39!OpenDocument>

31. *January 22, Macon Telegraph* – (Georgia) **MWA pays \$100,000 in fines to state last year.** The Macon Water Authority (MWA) paid more than \$100,000 in fines to the state of Georgia during 2010 for sewage spills dating back to September 2009, when 37.5 million gallons of sewage polluted the Ocmulgee River during the authority’s effort to save the Macon levee after a sewer pipe collapsed next to it. The authority had argued it should not be fined for that spill because it was related to unusual flooding, the authority’s executive director said. But because the governor did not declare a state of emergency in Bibb County, the environmental protection division required a penalty, he said.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/2011/01/22/1419718/mwa-pays-100000-in-fines-to-state.html>

32. *January 21, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Locals warned of chemical-laden drinking water.** Residents of Brevard County, Florida, were told their drinking water violated government health standards. When last tested in November, it contained almost seven times the allowed concentration of trihalomethanes. The North Brevard County Water System at Mims notified homeowners that the chemical has been present at least since August — when concentrations were about three times the allowed level. The utility said customers can continue drinking the water, but should consult their doctors if they have health concerns. The utility was working to reduce the levels of the chemical.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/r/26574297/detail.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *January 25, CFRA 580 AM Ottawa* – (International) **Patient information stolen from Bruyere Family Medicine Centre.** Two computers have been stolen from the Bruyere Family Medicine Centre in Ottawa, Canada. Officials said there is a high probability that password-protected patient information may have been archived on the computers for anyone who visited them between 1971 and July 1, 2006. That information may include name, date of birth, address, health care number, and telephone numbers. The president and CEO of Bruyere Continuing Care said they reported the incident to Ottawa Police along with the office of the information and privacy commissioner of Ontario. They say there is no evidence the information has been accessed or used inappropriately. They said anyone who suspects their information was improperly used should obtain a copy of their credit report to spot irregularities.
Source: <http://www.cfra.com/?cat=1&nid=77788>

34. *January 25, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Software glitch shuts down Swedish medical-records system.** A 4-hour shutdown of the centralized electronic medical-records system at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, January 24 was caused by a glitch in another company's software, said the Swedish chief information officer. The system, made by Epic Systems, a Wisconsin-based electronic medical-records vendor, turned itself off because it noticed an error in the add-on software, she said, and Swedish was forced to go to its highest level of backup operation. That allowed medical providers to see patient records but not to add or change information, such as medication orders. The outage affected all of Swedish's campuses, including First Hill, Cherry Hill, Ballard, and its Issaquah emergency facility, as well as Swedish's clinics and affiliated groups such as the Polyclinic. During the outage, new data was put on paper records and transferred into patient records in the Epic system after the system went back up. The shutdown likely affected about 600 providers, 2,500 staffers, and perhaps up to 2,000 patients, but no safety problems were reported, the CIO said. Staff members were notified of the shutdown via error messages, e-mails, Intranet, a hospital overhead paging system, and personal pagers.
Source:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2014036271_swedish26m.html

35. *January 25, McAllen Monitor* – (Texas) **McAllen fire destroys medical supply warehouse.** No one was reported injured in a major blaze January 25 that destroyed a 20,000-square-foot medical supply warehouse in McAllen, Texas. No one was in the building when the fire broke out, the owner said, but the loss of inventory was major. She said the warehouse stored durable medical equipment acquired from U.S. hospitals to resell to buyers in Mexico. A McAllen Fire Department spokesman said a 911 call at about 4:50 p.m. alerted firefighters to the blaze. The first crew on the scene found heavy smoke and escalated the response to a two-alarm fire. When flames began reaching the roof, firefighters withdrew from the building and went into defensive

mode, trying to stop the flames from spreading to nearby properties. The building apparently did not contain any hazardous materials, he said. The Hidalgo County Appraisal District lists the assessed value of the property, including the land and improvements, at about \$472,000. The warehouse's owner said the building itself is insured, but she was not certain if the contents would be covered.

Source: <http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/mcallen-122053-warehouse-destroys.html>

36. *January 25, Fargo Inforum* – (Minnesota) **Man accused of arson for Ada, Minn., seniors' center blaze appears in court.** Police said the man charged with arson in a fire January 22 at a seniors' center in Ada, Minnesota, wore a jacket smelling like gasoline when arrested while leaving the burning building. The 31-year-old Ada man is accused of starting the fire at the activity center for seniors, which was damaged badly enough it has not reopened, the Ada police chief said. Court records filed January 24 allege the police found the suspect exiting the center holding a pair of coolers, wearing a jacket that smelled of fuel. He said the coolers had food in them, and that the suspect was also taking a television from the center. He made his first appearance in Norman County District Court on the arson charge January 25. Unconditional bail was set at \$250,000 cash. With conditions — including staying at least a block away from the senior center — bail was set at \$500,000 bond or \$50,000 cash. Court records said the blaze appeared to have started on a basement cabinet. An earlier fire the same morning at a residence 2 blocks away from the senior center might be linked and is being investigated as a potential arson, the police chief said.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/306191/group/News/>

37. *January 24, KBKW 1450 AM Grays Harbor* – (Washington) **Backup device stolen from employee at Grays Harbor Pediatrics contained personal information.** Grays Harbor Pediatrics in Aberdeen, Washington, discovered November 23 that a computer backup device was stolen from an employee. The backup device was used for storing copies of paper records. Grays Harbor has notified all patients and patient billing guarantors. An investigation has revealed that information stored on the backup device may have personal information, including Social Security numbers, insurance details, driver's license information, medical history forms, immunization records, previous doctor records, and patients' medical records, which were scanned and maintained in a paper format. Banking information was not stored on the device and therefore not breached. Grays Harbor has secured all current software applications by changing passwords, implementing new encryption software, and updating security protocols to ensure no patient information may be compromised.

Source: <http://kbkw.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=2243>

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Government Facilities Sector

38. *January 26, Brockton Enterprise* – (Massachusetts) **Brockton District Court evacuated after second bomb scare in a week.** A bomb threat phoned into Brockton

District Court in Brockton, Massachusetts January 25 forced the second evacuation of the building in a week as police cordoned off surrounding streets downtown. Firefighters responded to the courthouse after receiving a 911 call at 2:50 p.m. from a courthouse employee, a deputy fire chief said. An unknown number of courthouse employees, and nine prisoners awaiting court hearings, were evacuated from the building at 215 Main St. about 3 p.m. Authorities called the state police bomb squad unit, which responded to the courthouse with a bomb-sniffing K-9 unit, and no suspicious packages or devices were found. Police cordoned off portions of streets around the courthouse. The nine prisoners were transported to a corrections facility. Source: <http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/x362546211/Brockton-District-Court-evacuated-after-second-bomb-scare-in-a-week>

39. *January 26, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* – (Indiana) **Congressman’s staff threatened.** A 46-year-old Granger, Indiana man has been arrested and accused of threatening the staff of a U.S. Representative. A man allegedly called the Representative’s South Bend office January 24 and claimed the staff was “backstabbing him.” He told an employee, “I am going to come and backstab you, I mean literally come down and stab you,” according to a criminal complaint filed in the Northern Indiana District of U.S. District Court. The employee who answered the phone is familiar with the caller because of frequent calls to the Representative’s office, according to the complaint. The employee hung up on the caller and claims he made three more calls but did not make further threats. The man was arrested without incident at his residence in St. Joseph County January 24. The FBI and the St. Joseph County Sheriff’s Department arrested the man, and he is being held in the county jail in South Bend pending a detention hearing January 28. He is accused of assault on a person engaged in official duties and two counts of assault on an internationally protected person.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20110126/LOCAL08/301269943/1044/LOCAL08>

40. *January 25, Associated Press* – (International) **US warns of February terror attacks in E Africa.** The United States is warning Americans of the potential for terrorist attacks in the east African nations of Burundi and Uganda in February, possibly by Somali extremists with links to al-Qaida. The U.S. embassies in Bujumbura, Burundi, and Kampala, Uganda, on January 25 issued near identical alerts to Americans. The warnings said regional terror groups remain actively interested in attacking U.S. interests in Burundi and Uganda. The notices name the Somalia-based al-Shabab as a threat during February. Neither alert was more specific. Burundi and Uganda are the main troop contributors to the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia. The peacekeepers are trying to support the weak Somali government in its fight against al-Shabab. Al-Shabab has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks in Somalia and coordinated bombings in Uganda.

Source: <http://www.abc27.com/Global/story.asp?S=13907090>

41. *January 25, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **NATO networks vulnerable to cyber threat: US.** The military networks of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are not fully protected against cyber threats and the alliance must make good on a pledge to erect a virtual wall by 2012, a top U.S. defense official said January 25. The U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary warned at the end of a 2-day visit to Brussels that the cyber threat was “maturing” from an espionage and disruption tool to a destructive force against vital infrastructure. The Pentagon’s number two in command said NATO had made the battle against cyber threats a priority at a summit in November, when leaders agreed to bring the NATO Cyber Incident Response Center to full operational capability in 2012, 3 years earlier than previously planned.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hPI87Zn7uY0TyKhDpX8n6-fzSvGA?docId=CNG.148a6c382024ebbebe64021de441dac9.991>

42. *January 24, Washington Post* – (National) **Navy orders a halt to procurement of computer centers.** The U.S. Navy has ordered its procurement officers to stop buying computer servers or adding new data centers, a move that comes as the federal government prepares to announce agency-specific targets for reducing its information technology infrastructure. The federal chief information officer has called for consolidation of the government’s data centers, and federal agencies have submitted specific reduction targets, according to the Office of Management and Budget. The objectives are slated to be announced when the fiscal 2012 budget is released in February. The Navy also said in the directive it expects designated commands to come up with plans to reduce their data centers by 25 percent and increase server utilization by at least 40 percent. Last fall it was reported that the government has just shy of 2,100 data centers — a number that covers owned and leased centers larger than 500 square feet. The Defense Department had the most with 772, while the State Department came in second with 361.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/21/AR2011012106207.html>

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

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Emergency Services Sector

43. *January 26, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Hazmat incident at Albany police station.** Hazardous materials experts were called to the Albany, New York police department’s Center Station January 26, to investigate a suspicious substance, a police spokesman said. A detective said the incident was connected to a package with suspicious white powder but could not immediately provide further details. The call went out about 8:30 a.m., he said. It was not immediately clear whether the station at the confluence of Madison and Western avenues — known as the point — would need to be evacuated.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Hazmat-incident-at-Albany-police-station-978256.php>

44. *January 26, Cleveland Plain Dealer* – (Ohio) **A third of Fairport Harbor evacuation calls failed Monday, mostly due to people dropping landlines for cell phones.** Lake County's emergency-alert system made 1,576 automated phone calls to evacuate Fairport Harbor, Ohio, residents in the wake of January 24 gas explosions. But 578 never connected. Lake County's emergency management director blames the failure on the popularity of cell phones. The county has a database of landline phone numbers to call in case of emergency, but cell phones are not publicly listed and are not part of the database. It is also a challenge facing officials nationwide who use reverse 9-1-1 calls to notify people of danger. With more than one-quarter of the nation's homes using only cell phones, according to a 2010 federal government survey, officials cannot call to give warnings. A national plan to allow cell phone notifications in emergency areas is scheduled to be in place by 2012. Some places, including Lake County, also rely on emergency sirens. But the sirens offer no details about the type of emergency, he said. They also drive people indoors to catch alerts on television or radio. Many emergency systems allow residents to enter their addresses and cell phone numbers to the database online, or by mailing the information in. Lake County has that option, as does Oberlin. Medina County hopes to add that when it buys a new system.

Source: http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/01/one_third_of_fairport_harbor_e.html

45. *January 24, KSLA 12 Shreveport* – (Louisiana) **Busted in Bossier City: Suspect who broke into law enforcement vehicles.** Bossier City Police and Louisiana State Troopers have located a suspect who they believe was responsible for a series of vehicle burglaries that belonged to federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel, and also included civilian vehicles. The incidents originally occurred around 4 a.m. January 19th at Stockwell Place in Bossier. According to Louisiana State Police, two of the vehicles that were burglarized belonged to the Department of Homeland Security and Louisiana State Police. Both were unmarked Durangos. Items taken were uniforms, vests, police-related items, bulletproof vests, ammunition, patches, rifles, shot guns, and a laptop computer. As a result of following leads and tips, Louisiana State Police were able to develop a lead and the vehicle of interest that was possibly involved in the burglary and located the male suspect. Police said many weapons, as well as ammunition that belongs to federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel have been located at his residence.

Source: <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=13900523>

For another story, see item [55](#)

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Information Technology Sector

46. *January 26, CNN Money* – (International) **Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook page hacked.** The fan page of Facebook's founder and CEO was hacked January 25. The

message that appeared on the page under his name read: “Let the hacking begin: If facebook needs money, instead of going to the banks, why doesn’t Facebook let its users invest in Facebook in a social way? Why not transform Facebook into a ‘social business’ the way Nobel Price winner ... described it? [http://bit\(dot\)ly/fs6rT3](http://bit(dot)ly/fs6rT3) What do you think? #hackercup2011.” The message received more than 1,800 “likes” before it was removed from the page. The unsettling breaches raise questions about the company’s security. “Mark Zuckerberg might be wanting to take a close look at his privacy and security settings after this embarrassing breach,” a senior technology consultant at Sophos, wrote on the security protection site. “It’s not clear if he was careless with his password, was phished, or sat down in a Starbucks and got sidejacked while using an unencrypted wireless network,” he said. “However it happened, it’s left egg on his face just when Facebook wants to reassure users that it takes security and privacy seriously.”

Source: http://money.cnn.com/2011/01/26/technology/facebook_hacked/

47. *January 26, Computerworld* – (International) **Intel developing security ‘game-changer’**. Intel’s chief technology officer said the chip maker is developing a technology that will be a security game changer. He told Computerworld January 25 that scientists at Intel are working on security technology that will stop all zero-day attacks. And, while he would give few details about it, he said he hopes the new technology will be ready to be released in 2011. He noted the technology will not be signature-based. Signature-based malware detection is based on searching for known patterns within malicious code. The problem, though, is that zero-day, or brand-new, malware attacks are often successful because they have no known signatures to guard against. Intel is working around this problem by not depending on signatures.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9206366/Intel_developing_security_game_changer
48. *January 26, The Register U.K.* – (International) **Man knows when you’re signed in to Gmail, Twitter, Digg**. A Nottingham, United Kingdom-based Web developer has figured out a simple way to tell if visitors to his site are logged in to Gmail, Facebook, Twitter, Digg, and thousands of other Web sites. One method the man developed makes use of status codes returned by many sites, which differ depending on whether a user is logged in or not. By embedding a small piece of JavaScript that contains a link to one of the sites he is curious about, he can immediately tell if a visitor is logged in. The method works reliably for Twitter, Facebook, and Digg when visitors are browsing with Firefox, Safari, or Chrome. It does not work when visitors are using Internet Explorer or Opera. The exploit works by identifying the HTTP status code returned when the visitor’s browser encounters the link in the man’s script. A 200 code, indicating the request was successfully fulfilled, indicates the person is not logged in, while 404, 500 and other error codes indicate the opposite.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/01/26/detecting_logins/
49. *January 25, Softpedia* – (International) **Bagle overtakes Rustock as primary spam source in January**. According to the January spam report from Symantec’s

MessageLabs hosted services arm, the Bagle botnet overtook Rustock as the primary source of spam traffic for January. Rustock was the dominant spam botnet in 2010 and was responsible for 47.5 percent of all spam e-mails. M86 Security estimates that at its peak, Rustock accounted for nearly 60 percent of the world's spam, but its activity started to wind down in October when Spamit, the world's largest rogue pharmacy affiliate program, closed down. The botnet baffled researchers when it stopped spamming entirely December 25 and remained silent until January 10, however, this was probably due to the winter holidays in Russia. Rustock returned in force since then, but did not make up for the lost start, which allowed Bagle to jump in front. "Since its return, Rustock has accounted for approximately 17.5 percent of all spam in January while the Bagle botnet has taken the lion's share with 20 percent of spam," the MessageLabs report said.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Bagle-Takes-Rustock-s-Role-As-Primary-Spam-Source-in-January-180524.shtml>

50. *January 25, Softpedia* – (International) **Users infected with scareware via ICQ malvertizing.** Scareware distributors have managed to push rogue antivirus advertisements onto the ICQ network by posing as the clothing retailer Charlotte Russe. According to a senior antivirus researcher at Kaspersky Lab, the security vendor began receiving numerous reports of infections with a piece of scareware called Antivirus 8 recently. Upon investigating the problem, Kaspersky's researchers realized that fake antivirus popups were being displayed on people's desktop even when they were not using their browsers. The rogue ads were tracked down to running instances of the ICQ instant messaging application which has its own internal advertising mechanism. When investigating the ICQ advertisements, experts found that one of them was loaded from [censored]charlotterusse.eu, a domain name that seems to be related to clothing retailer. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Users-Infected-with-Scareware-via-ICQ-Malvertizing-180516.shtml>
51. *January 25, Help Net Security* – (International) **Facebook fake photo links lead to malware.** A simplistic but effective bait leading to malware has been circling on Facebook for the past few weeks. Users are sent messages from friends' accounts saying Foto :D apps(dot)facebook(dot)com/photobf/index(dot)php. If the user fails to find it strange or suspicious, a click on the link will take him to a page where the photo was allegedly posted prior to being moved. The next click on the "View Photo" button triggers the download of what looks at first glance like a .png file because of its icon, but it is actually an executable. According to GFI, many rogue application pages were involved in the malware run, but have been deactivated by Facebook one by one. The external sites that have been serving the malware have also been taken offline. The malicious file is a generic Trojan, and is currently being detected by more than two thirds of the AV solutions used by VirusTotal. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1607

For more stories, see items [15](#) and [34](#)

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

52. *January 25, Spokane Spokesman Review* – (Washington; Colorado) **Accident causes power, Internet outages.** Avista customers lost electrical power and a number of businesses lost Internet service January 25 morning after a car smashed a utility pole in Otis Orchards, Washington. About 700 homes were without power for more than 90 minutes after the 4:30 a.m. incident at the intersection of Starr Road and Wellesley Avenue. The longer-lasting impact was on Internet service for more than a dozen business customers of Colorado-based Zayo Enterprises, which manages a large network of fiber-optic cables. Three routes of fiber-optic lines converge on the power pole that was knocked over, a company spokesman said. He said the fiber lines will be reconnected “by this (January 25) evening. The power lines had to be repaired first (before the fiber lines could be fixed),” he said. The spokesman said he had no way of knowing how many dark-fiber customers were impacted.

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/jan/25/accident-causes-power-internet-outages/>

For another story, see item [44](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

53. *January 26, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (New Jersey) **Cherry Hill hotel evacuated for transformer fire.** A transformer fire January 24 forced the evacuation of the Crowne Plaza Cherry Hill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, a city spokesman said January 25. No one was injured in the fire, which started about 7 p.m. in a second-floor electrical room at the hotel, a township spokesman said. PSE&G shut off the power before Cherry Hill firefighters tackled the blaze, which was extinguished around 8:15 p.m., he said. More than 100 guests and about 40 employees were evacuated, according to a representative of the Illinois-based Hostmark Hospitality Group, the hotel’s management company. Guests were relocated to a nearby Holiday Inn Express. The power was expected to be restored January 26 or 27, he said.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/nj/20110126_Cherry_Hill_hotel_evacuated_for_transformer_fire.html

54. *January 25, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Leak forces evacuation of high-rise.** Boston firefighters evacuated the Archstone apartment building on Washington Street in the Chinatown section of Boston, Massachusetts, January 24, after a massive water leak flooded several levels of the 28-story building, fire officials said. Around midnight, police officers and firefighters escorted shivering residents to Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority buses for warmth during one of the coldest nights in recent memory. Residents and rescuers were not able to use the building's elevators and had to walk down the stairs. A fire department spokesman said the flooding was caused by a rupture of a 6-inch water main on the ninth floor that feeds the sprinkler system. Residents were told they would not be able to return to the building that night.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/25/leak_forces_evacuation_of_high_rise_in_chinatown/
55. *January 25, Historic City News* – (Florida) **Residents and deputies exposed to chemicals.** A possible methamphetamine lab was discovered in an apartment on Anastasia Island off the Florida Coast, according to a report received by Historic City News January 25. At least two deputies with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office were exposed to dangerous and volatile chemicals after responding to the apartment requiring emergency decontamination treatments. Deputies implemented an evacuation of residents in several adjacent apartments while detectives with the special investigations unit continued their investigation of the premises. Two residents were also exposed and had to be decontaminated by hazardous materials personnel with St. Johns County Fire Rescue.
Source: <http://www.historiccity.com/2011/staugustine/news/florida/residents-and-deputies-exposed-to-chemicals-9830>
56. *January 24, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **Electrical problem forces evacuation at Jeffries Towers in Atlantic City.** About 175 residents were evacuated January 24 from Jefferies Towers in Atlantic City, New Jersey, after power to 7 floors was shut off for emergency electrical work. The Atlantic City fire chief said firefighters were sent to the public housing building in the 200 block of North Vermont Avenue at about 10:30 a.m. to investigate a suspicious odor. It was later determined — with the help of city code officials — that there was damage to the electrical system. Residents living on the second to eighth floors of the 17-story building were evacuated as a precaution and to allow for repairs while the electricity was shut off. Among those evacuated were 50 people with special needs, he said. Residents living on floors 9 through 17 were still receiving power. Those who were evacuated were being taken to the Police Athletic League building at North New York and Mediterranean avenues, and the All Wars Memorial Building at Adriatic and North New York avenues. The fire chief expected the work to replace damaged and burnt wiring to last through the night. He said residents could possibly return to their homes January 25.
Source: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/atlantic/article_c53c8122-2823-11e0-91d9-001cc4c002e0.html

57. *January 24, Savage-Guilford Patch* – (Maryland) **Suspicious package in North Laurel complex prompts evacuation.** The Howard County police and fire departments continue to investigate reports of a suspicious package left in an auto parts store in North Laurel, Maryland, that prompted an evacuation of the area January 24. The incident happened along the 9000 block of Maier Road near Route 1 shortly after 5 p.m. A suspicious package was found at the store and was reported to police by the store's owner, according to a spokesman for Howard County Fire and Rescue. He said the Maryland State Fire Marshal is assisting in the investigation and, as a precaution, surrounding businesses in the complex were evacuated as well. Maier Road has been closed near the complex.

Source: <http://savage-guilford.patch.com/articles/suspicious-package-in-north-laurel-complex-prompts-evacuation>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

58. *January 26, Laramie Boomerang* – (Colorado; Wyoming; South Dakota) **Bark beetle epidemic has infested 4 million acres in Colorado, Wyoming.** The bark beetle epidemic has infested 4 million acres in Colorado and southern Wyoming, and it is spreading into the Black Hills of South Dakota, U.S. Forest Service officials said. The figures released from an annual aerial survey of the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service showed the bark beetle epidemic that started in 1996 spread to 400,000 new acres last year, according to the Associated Press. The hardest hit forests are the Arapaho, White River, Roosevelt, and Routt national forests in Colorado, and the Medicine Bow National Forest. Aerial survey results also showed the size of the infestation doubled in 2010 in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. The epidemic has spread to 44,000 acres, up from 22,000 in 2009. Mitigation projects in the Laramie Ranger District of Medicine Bow include fuels reduction treatments, watershed protection treatments, hazardous tree removal and more, a Laramie district forester said.

Source:

<http://www.laramieboomerang.com/articles/2011/01/26/news/doc4d3fbdd0b26a5364197223.txt>

59. *January 25, WTHR 13 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Building fire closes downtown streets.** Fire destroyed the Chadwick building in Indianapolis, Indiana, shortly after 11 p.m. January 24. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Crews tore down the building, forcing traffic to reroute. The traffic changes caused major backups January 25 in downtown, as well as I-70 westbound. About 70 firefighters responded and surrounded the building to contain heavy flames on the south side of the 4-story brick structure. Crews got the fire under control in about 2 hours, but continued to spray water on the building to keep hot spots from flaring up. Firefighters said this is the third fire at the building in the last 10 years. The building is a total loss. Investigators were still unsure January 25 how the fire started. While the building had been vacant for many years, homeless people had been known to seek shelter inside

from time to time.

Source: <http://www.wthr.com/story/13900797/vacant-building-on-fire-downtown>

60. *January 25, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Cleanup underway at Boston Athenaeum after water leak.** The Boston Athenaeum, a landmark library on Beacon Hill, has sent thousands of books to a specialist for freeze-drying after a water leak flooded the building January 24. Library officials said January 25 that the leak caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage at the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cause of the leak still has not been determined, but it happened on one of the coldest days in years so frozen pipes could have been the cause. The flooding started on the first floor of the building on Beacon Street. It spread from the Long Room and to the Newspaper Reading Room, the Bow Room, and the Children’s Library. The water was ankle-deep and seeped into stacks of books on lower floors, officials said. The Athenaeum was founded in 1807 and is one of the oldest independent libraries in the United States. It will be closed for the next few days, officials said.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/beacon_hill/2011/01/cleanup_underway_at_boston_ath.html

61. *January 19, National Geographic News* – (Wyoming) **Yellowstone has bulged as magma pocket swells.** Yellowstone National Park’s supervolcano in Wyoming just took a deep “breath,” causing miles of ground to rise, scientists reported. The simmering volcano has produced major eruptions — each a thousand times more powerful than Mount St. Helens’s 1980 eruption — three times in the past 2.1 million years. Yellowstone’s caldera, which covers a 25- by 37-mile swath of Wyoming, is an ancient crater formed after the last big blast, some 640,000 years ago. Beginning in 2004, scientists saw the ground above the caldera rise upward at rates as high as 2.8 inches per year. The rate slowed between 2007 and 2010 to a centimeter per year or less. Still, since the start of the swelling, ground levels over the volcano have been raised by as much as 10 inches in places.

Source: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/01/110119-yellowstone-park-supervolcano-eruption-magma-science/>

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Dams Sector

62. *January 26, North Platte Telegraph* – (Nebraska) **If dam breaks, flooding could be extensive.** New maps show a bigger area than originally thought would be affected should Lake Maloney’s north wall rupture. A Nebraska Public Power District media relations specialist said the dam in North Platte is safe, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires a plan be in place to identify and address any issues that could potentially occur. Local emergency management officials have been briefed about changes to areas that could be affected and the length of time it could take water to enter those areas. The media relations specialist said the maps that were used were

made in the 1990s and were updated yearly. They showed water could flow up to the south side of the airport. New versions, created with more sophisticated modeling software, were made available in December to emergency responders. They show water around Newberry Access, the airport and the wastewater treatment plant east of North Platte. Inspections of the dam and canal system are conducted daily. Repair work wrapped up on the dam last spring after underwater cameras detected areas that needed reinforcement. The media relations specialist said the wall was not in danger of rupturing, but the lake was drained for closer examination. The result was steel pilings were inserted on the water side of the wall and concrete was placed behind the pilings. Source: <http://www.nptelegraph.com/articles/2011/01/26/news/40001318.txt>

63. *January 26, Cherry Hill Courier-Post* – (New Jersey) **Settlement to fund removal of 3 dams.** A settlement over two pollution cases in South Jersey will help fund a plan to remove three dams from a river in Somerset County, New Jersey. Texas-based El Paso Corp. has agreed to remove the dams on the Raritan River, opening a 10-mile stretch of the stream to fish spawning as compensation for past pollution at the Eagle Point Refinery in West Deptford and EPEC Polymers Inc. in Burlington City, state officials said January 25. The settlement also resolves a dispute over clean-up costs at El Paso facilities in Hunterdon and Middlesex counties, according to the state department of environmental protection.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20110126/NEWS01/101260331/Settlement-to-fund-removal-of-3-dams>

64. *January 25, Melbourne Herald Sun* – (International) **More forced to evacuate by Victorian floods as Navy enters fray.** Evacuation orders continue to be issued in the path of a massive flood sweeping towards Swan Hill, 2 weeks after a deluge hit the region in Australia. A large body of water moving towards Swan Hill has threatened small communities in its path as evacuation orders continue to be issued. As water from the Loddon, Avoca and Murray rivers closed in on Swan Hill, thieves stole sandbags supporting the town's levees. The thefts have prompted a mixture of disgust and disbelief in local authorities. The town's population of 10,000, as well as those fleeing floodwaters rolling over properties upstream, are relying on the sandbag-supported levee to keep an inland sea stretching up to 40 kilometers wide by 90 kilometers long from swamping the town. The Swan Hill thefts follow similar cases in Mooroopna, near Shepparton, where the historical society's protective wall has been raided twice in 2 weeks.

Source: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/flood-hit-victorian-towns-rally-despite-thefts/story-e6frf7jx-1225994062524>

For another story, see item [31](#)

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