



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 January 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Crews from the Northern Indiana Public Service Co. January 28 stopped and repaired a gas leak, which prompted the evacuation of hundreds of residents within a four-block radius the night before, in East Chicago, Indiana, the Indiana Post-Tribune reports. (See item [2](#))
- According to Network World, a new study shows half of U.S. government Web sites are vulnerable to commonplace denial of service (DNS) attacks because they have not deployed a new authentication mechanism that was mandated in 2008. (See item [61](#))

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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 28, Wyoming Tribune Eagle* – (Wyoming) **Fuel spill closes east Cheyenne roads.** South College Drive and South Industrial Road in Cheyenne, Wyoming, were closed January 27 when a tractor-trailer spilled diesel fuel in the area. Approximately 250 gallons spilled across all four lanes of College Drive at about 10:30 a.m. The roads were immediately closed. One lane of College Drive opened around 2:30 p.m. The

chief of Laramie County Fire District 1 said the truck's gas tank was ruptured during a towing mechanical failure. The tank was ruptured when the tow truck attempted to turn. He said responders immediately covered the fuel spill with dirt to keep the fuel on the roadway. They then covered it with sand to absorb and contain the spill. Cheyenne Fire and Rescue, Laramie County Fire District 1, Cheyenne Police Department, Laramie County Sheriff's Department, and Wyoming Highway Patrol responded to the scene. Source: http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2011/01/28/news/01top_01-28-11.txt

2. *January 28, Indiana Post-Tribune* – (Indiana) **Gas leak forces hundreds from East Chicago homes.** Crews from the Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) on January 28 stopped and repaired a gas leak in East Chicago, Indiana, that led to the evacuation of hundreds of residents the night of January 27. East Chicago Fire Department and police evacuated residents in a four-block radius in buses and emergency vehicles around 10 p.m. January 27 after NIPSCO and police received several calls about a potential gas leak in the area. As a safety precaution, NIPSCO disconnected gas for 21 to 22 residences from the time the leak was detected until January 28 when the company finished repairing a crack in welding that caused the leak. The welding connects the 6-inch steel main. “[It] can be a number of causes, none of which are preventable. It can be caused from ground movement, from the change in climate and temperature. Frost can play a factor or even things on the external surface, like work and other projects above the ground that can have an impact on things beneath the surface” a spokesman said. NIPSCO will take the part of the pipeline that leaked to additional testing, he said. Source: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/3042714,ecgaslk-ptb-0128.article>
3. *January 28, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **PG&E can't find crucial pipeline pressure records.** Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s (PG&E) president told a Bay Area congresswoman that the utility company cannot find records that support pressure levels on nearly a third of its natural-gas transmission system in populated areas, the congresswoman said January 27. The Representative said the utility president reported that PG&E has been unable to produce key manufacturing and installation documents for 30 percent of its pipelines in and around urban areas in Northern and Central California. The revelation that PG&E had erroneous documents about the pipeline that exploded in San Bruno on September 9, killing eight people, prompted the California Public Utilities Commission to order the state's utilities to produce reliable records for their gas transmission lines by March 15. If no reliable records can be found, utilities face the prospect of having to shut down a pipeline for days and run expensive tests that use high-pressure water to detect weaknesses. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/01/28/MN6M1HFE6G.DTL>
4. *January 28, Associated Press* – (Maryland; District of Columbia; Virginia) **100,000 without power in DC area; more snow coming.** More than 100,000 customers in the Washington, D.C., region are still without power following the first major snow storm of the winter season, and weather officials say more snow is on the way. Pepco, which serves customers in Washington, D.C., and Prince George's and Montgomery counties

in Maryland, said about 88,000 customers did not have power as of about 6 a.m. January 28. Most of the outages were in Montgomery County. Baltimore Gas & Electric said about 3,450 of its customers in Prince George's County and about 490 in Montgomery County lacked power. In northern Virginia, Dominion Power was reporting about 13,000 outages.

Source: <http://www2.wsls.com/news/2011/jan/28/100000-without-power-in-dc-area-more-snow-coming-ar-805204/>

5. *January 27, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Two men injured in Pawhuska from explosive device.** Three men were injured January 27 when some sort of explosive device went off outside of the National Oilwell Service Co., about a mile southeast of downtown Pawhuska, Oklahoma, according to the Osage County Sheriff's Office. The undersheriff said investigators were still at the scene, trying to determine if the explosion was caused by a pipe bomb or some other type of device. She said the explosion injured three of the company's workers, and they were taken to the local hospital for treatment. The undersheriff said their injuries did not appear life-threatening. The explosion also started a grass fire, "and that's how we first learned about it," she said.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=12&articleid=20110127_12_0_PAWHUS195969

6. *January 27, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Fire marshal warns of kerosene-gas mixture sold at Gorham convenience store.** Maine's top fire official is issuing a warning that kerosene sold at a Gorham convenience store was mistakenly mixed with gasoline — a mixture that could cause an explosion. The fire marshal said a delivery of gasoline was mistakenly pumped into a kerosene tank January 25 at the Little Mart store on Route 202. About 400 gallons of the kerosene-gasoline mixture were sold between January 27 and when the mistake was discovered January 27. The fire marshal said anyone who bought kerosene from the store in the past two days should stop using it, and that any heating devices fueled by the mixture should be immediately removed from any enclosed living area. He said people who bought the contaminated mixture can return it to the store for a full refund.

Source: <http://www.sunjournal.com/state/story/977736>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *January 27, WATE 6 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **Hazmat crews respond to West Knox County chemical spill.** Hazmat crews rushed to contain a chemical spill in West Knox County, Tennessee, January 27. Crews were called to Safety Ecology Corporation (SEC) at Lexington Drive and Carden Jennings Lane on a reported spill of 50 to 100 gallons of calcium polysulfide. The chemical is a common wastewater treatment chemical. A SEC spokesperson said the chemical was spilled when it was being transported to a vehicle. Some of the chemical spilled into a drain and ended up in the

business's parking lot. Because of this issue authorities called in a company called HEPACO to make sure all of the chemical is cleaned from the property. The chemical is an irritant to skin if inhaled, but is not deadly. The spill was contained in about 30 minutes. A spokeswoman with the Knox County Sheriff's Office said about 60 people were evacuated from area businesses. Lexington Road was shut down while emergency crews handled the situation and reopened around 7:10 p.m. No injuries have been reported.

Source: <http://www.wate.com/Global/story.asp?S=13923851>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *January 28, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. nuclear reactor reopens after steam leak.** A reactor at PPL Corp.'s Susquehanna nuclear plant in northeastern Pennsylvania is back in service after a steam leak was repaired. Unit 1 was shut down January 25 after the leak was discovered in a system that heats water for the reactor. It returned to full power January 28. PPL says while the unit was shut down, workers repaired a leaking valve and did maintenance that can only be done when the unit is shut down. A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said there were no injuries, and no release of radiation from the steam leak.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-28/pa-nuclear-reactor-reopens-after-steam-leak.html>
9. *January 27, KPVI 6 Pocatello* – (Idaho) **Agency fines Idaho National Lab in radiation case.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has levied an \$85,000 fine against the contractor for the Idaho National Laboratory after a worker was accidentally exposed to a radiation generating device. Lab contractor Battelle Energy Alliance said its investigators identified several safety flaws that led to the exposure. The Post-Register reported that the federal agency praised Battelle for reacting quickly last March and recognizing the severity of the case after an employee's hand was exposed to radiation. Energy Department officials say Battelle is re-examining operations and safety measures in high radiation areas to ensure proper controls are in place. In a letter to the DOE, Battelle officials blamed a failure to follow existing procedures and failure to post and control entry to high-radiation rooms.
Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/story.php?id=36631&n=15206>
10. *January 27, Las Vegas Review Journal* – (National) **DOE seeks four-month wait on Yucca Mountain case.** The Department of Energy (DOE) has called for a 4-month delay before resuming license hearings for the Yucca Mountain repository, saying there is too much uncertainty surrounding the project to move forward. A panel of judges associated with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has expressed interest in restarting hearings on the controversial nuclear waste site after putting them on hold last year. But DOE attorneys filed a motion on January 21 arguing that a restart could amount to a waste of time and money because lawsuits and budget issues surrounding the repository still are up in the air. They asked that license hearings remain frozen

through May 20. Energy Department attorneys argued that the NRC judges should hold off to see whether the skies are any clearer in 120 days. Nevada, which has fought against the Yucca project, supports a 120-day hold, according to the acting executive director for the state Agency for Nuclear Projects.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/doe-seeks-four-month-wait-on-resumption-of-yucca-case-114741729.html?ref=729>

11. *January 26, New London Day* – (Connecticut) **Dominion called to meeting to address errors.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) met publicly with Dominion, the owner of Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut, January 25, to address problems it is having in reviewing license amendments and other regulatory actions sought by the company. Any time Dominion wants to amend its license, it provides information to the NRC that is in the public domain. Over the past several months, as the NRC and Dominion have exchanged data in rounds of questions, there have been errors within the licensing submittals that delay or complicate NRC reviews, an NRC project manager said. “We’re looking to understand on their end what actions they’ve either already taken or will be taking to improve the license submittals,” she said. The meeting was informational and has no enforcement action associated with it, the project manager said. However, while these types of meetings are not unheard of, they are not standard either, she said. This meeting was a first for Millstone, she added.

Source: <http://www.theday.com/article/20110126/BIZ02/301269958/1044>

12. *January 26, Physics Today* – (California) **Review finds flaws in new radiation monitor program.** A National Research Council (NRC) committee identified flawed testing, faulty cost–benefit analyses, and other problems with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office’s (DNDO) program to develop and deploy improved radiation monitors for the screening of cargo at US ports. The NRC review also found that vendors of the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal (ASP) monitors had failed to deliver a system that meets DNDO’s specification for modularity, with the result that the agency is unable to match the best-performing hardware with the optimal data-analysis algorithms, or to allow upgrades as experience is gained with the system. The findings deal another blow to a program that has been bedeviled for years by performance issues. First planned as a replacement for the network of polyvinyl toluene (PVT) detectors that are currently installed at the nation’s ports and border crossings, the ASP system has since been relegated to a secondary role, scanning the shipping containers that set off the PVT portal monitors. Ironically, the major motivator for ASP’s development was the inability of PVT monitors to distinguish the radiation signatures emitted by threat materials, principally highly enriched uranium (HEU) or plutonium, from those of harmless, naturally occurring radioactive sources such as cat litter or bananas. As a result, PVT monitors at U.S. ports are tripped hundreds of times each day by containers that pass through them. Each false alarm necessitates a secondary, time-consuming inspection by customs agents, who must clamber with hand-held radiation detectors through the containers. Like ASPs, handhelds can identify the isotopic source of radiation.

Source: <http://blogs.physicstoday.org/politics/2011/01/review-finds-flaws-in-new-radi.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

13. *January 27, Toronto Star* – (International) **Parts shortage idles Chrysler plant.** A parts shortage will halt production at Chrysler Canada’s minivan plant in Windsor, Canada, for a week. A Chrysler spokesperson said January 27 that the company will halt operations beginning January 31, but anticipates production will resume February 7. The spokesperson said the shortage involves “an external supplier” but would not identify the source or the parts. One report indicated that the shortage originated in China. Chrysler would not estimate how much the stoppage means in lost vehicle production but said the company would make it up over time.
Source: <http://www.thestar.com/business/auto/article/929586--parts-shortage-idles-chrysler-plant>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *January 27, KSL 5 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Dugway says lockdown caused by ‘serious mishandling’ of nerve agent.** The U.S. Army January 27 said a 13-hour lockdown at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah was prompted by an internal error. A mislabeled one milliliter vial of the nerve agent VX, or less than 1/4 teaspoon, that could not be found during a routine inventory check resulted in the base being locked down from approximately 5:25 p.m. January 26 until 7 a.m. January 27. The Dugway commander told reporters January 27 the vial was not lost. “It was just misplaced into a different container that was improperly marked,” he said. Tests were conducted on the vial of VX January 25. The remaining residue after the tests were completed was supposed to be put back into its original vault. Instead, the VX was returned to a container with the wrong serial number. During a routine inventory check January 26, it could not be found. The base commander said he immediately ordered Dugway Proving Ground on lockdown, and no one on the base — Army personnel or civilians — could leave. The vial was found about 3 a.m. The lockdown continued, however, as the investigation into whether there was malicious intent was settled. It was determined that there was no malice. The base commander said although the missing VX was found, the issue is still under internal scrutiny and investigation, and the FBI is assisting.
Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=14157393>

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *January 28, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **ATM skimmer investigated in Md.** A 48-year-old woman discovered what appeared to be an ATM skimmer while using an ATM at a Bank of America in Anne Arundel County, Maryland on January 22, police said. At approximately 5:26 p.m., officers responded to a call from to the Bank of

America in the 600 block of Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, for a recovered ATM skimmer affixed to the ATM machine. The woman told police she observed what appeared to be a fraudulent device attached to the machine for the purpose of scanning the ATM cards of customers. She had pried the device from the machine before the suspect could return to retrieve the device and obtain customer data. This appeared to be an isolated incident and no personal account information has been compromised for individuals that used the ATM, police said. The case is being investigated by the United States Secret Service with the assistance of the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/crime-scene/baltimore/atm-skimmer-investigated.html>

16. *January 28, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Takoma Park bank robbery suspect killed.** A man was fatally shot by police January 28 after he attempted to rob a bank in Takoma Park, Maryland, authorities said. Three people were also injured. The incident began at 9:25 a.m. when police officers were called to the Capital One bank at New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard for a report of a suspicious package. When officers from Takoma Park and Prince George’s County police departments arrived on the scene, they discovered that a suspect was holding a weapon to the head of a woman. Six people were in the bank at the time of the robbery. Video shown on a number of local television stations showed the suspect and a female hostage leaving the bank and walking toward a parking lot. The two were surrounded by armed police officers nearby. Shortly after a red dye pack exploded, the suspect slipped on ice and the hostage broke free, the video showed. Authorities said three Takoma Park officers and three Prince George’s County officers opened fire on the suspect. He was taken into custody, taken to authorities and later pronounced dead. Officials said one hostage was pistol whipped and a second was taken to the hospital after experiencing shock. A Prince George’s officer was grazed by a bullet. Authorities said it is possible the officer’s wound may have come from another police officer.
Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/local-breaking-news/crime-and-public-safety/report-takoma-park-bank-robber.html>

17. *January 28, Columbia Broadcasting System; Associated Press* – (National) **“Granddad Bandit” Michael Mara to plead guilty to bank robberies in Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas.** The 53-year-old man dubbed the “Granddad Bandit” by the FBI will plead guilty to multiple bank robbery counts February 10, according to the federal prosecutor’s office in Richmond, Virginia. A representative of the federal public defender’s office confirmed January 26 that the suspect will plead guilty, but would not discuss details of the case. The man, who is suspected in 25 bank robberies in 13 states, is charged with two robberies in Virginia and has apparently agreed to plead guilty in Richmond to four robberies in Alabama and one in Arkansas. The man was captured at his home in Baton Rouge August 11, 2010 after the FBI and police received a tip from someone who identified the suspect as the “Granddad Bandit” and gave authorities photographs to match bank surveillance videos.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20029800-504083.html

18. *January 28, Medford Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **Man armed with ‘Uzi-style’ gun robs Medford bank.** The hunt is on for two men suspected in an armed robbery of a Key Bank branch January 27 on East Barnett Road in Medford, Oregon. A white man, about 5 feet 9 inches tall, wearing a knit cap, a camouflage shirt and baggy pants showed an Uzi-style submachine gun and fled the bank at the corner of Black Oak Drive and Barnett Road with what a deputy chief described as “a significant amount of cash.” The robber had a getaway driver, police said. A suspicious man was seen in the area in a white, four-wheel-drive Dodge pickup, which police are still looking for. A police tracking dog was called to the area and sniffed through the complex, but was unable to locate a suspect. Officers taped off the bank while detectives and FBI agents spoke with witnesses. As detectives collected more statements, they learned the truck was fitted with a canopy and might have had red lettering on one side reading “sport.” It also had chrome rims, a spokesman said. The suspect brandished a silver-colored handgun and shouted at employees and customers. He stuffed an undisclosed amount of money into a green bag and ran from the bank, police said.

Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110128/NEWS/101280318/-1/NEWSMAP>

19. *January 28, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Man accused of robbing bank, attacking detective.** A San Diego, California man was behind bars January 27 on suspicion of robbing a Kearny Mesa bank and attacking a detective at police headquarters after being arrested at the end of a freeway and foot chase. The man allegedly handed a demand note to a teller at the Wells Fargo branch in the 9300 block of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard January 25. The employee complied, but the money she turned over had an electronic tracking device hidden inside it, according to the FBI. A few minutes later, San Diego police caught up with the white sport utility vehicle he was driving and tried to pull it over. He fled to the south and west before running over a tire-flattening spike strip laid in his path by the California Highway Patrol on southbound Interstate 805. He then jumped out of the SUV and ran off, but officers arrested him a short distance away with help from a K-9. At downtown San Diego Police Department headquarters, he asked to use the restroom, and officers took off his handcuffs. He allegedly made two attempts to overpower a detective and get hold of his gun. Both times, he was subdued by officers.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/26647904/detail.html>

20. *January 27, Fort Bend Now* – (National) **Two Fresno residents found guilty In \$3.7 million mortgage scheme.** Two Fresno, California, residents, along with a Katy resident, have been found guilty of defrauding residential mortgage lenders of more than \$3.7 in loans in connection with home purchases in the Houston, Texas, area. Members of the United States Attorney’s office, FBI, and IRS — Criminal Investigations Section announced January 26 that a jury in United States District Judge Sim Lake’s Courtroom found the suspect, former fee attorney for First Southwestern Title Company and attorney for Aldridge and Associates, along with the other suspect, a former employee of First Southwestern Title Company and a third man, a co-owner of Waterford Homes, guilty of charges of wire fraud and money laundering. The first

two suspects, both of Fresno, were found guilty of 19 counts which included conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering charges. The third man, of Katy, was found guilty of 13 counts which included conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Source: <http://www.fortbendnow.com/2011/01/27/50101>

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Transportation Sector

21. *January 28, Aviation Week* – (International) **ATC evacuation disrupts transatlantic flights.** The Nav Canada air traffic control center that handles most transatlantic traffic was temporarily evacuated January 27, causing ground delays and re-routings. Controllers had to leave the Gander Area Control Center in Newfoundland, Canada, at about 9:15 a.m. due to smoke coming from an electrical panel in a power supply room. They returned about 40 minutes later, but it took longer to get systems up and running. While Gander was offline, controllers in the nearby Moncton center took responsibility for the Gander oceanic airspace. However, a ground delay was issued for flights headed east to Europe until about 3 p.m. About 20 U.S. transatlantic flights were affected by this delay, a Nav Canada spokeswoman said. Some flights did take off, but stayed further south in the FAA's New York oceanic airspace. Westbound flights from Europe also were delayed on the ground due to the Gander evacuation, but numbers are not yet available.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2011/01/27/awx_01_27_2011_p0-285846.xml&headline=ATC Evacuation Disrupts Transatlantic Flights](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2011/01/27/awx_01_27_2011_p0-285846.xml&headline=ATC+Evacuation+Disrupts+Transatlantic+Flights)

22. *January 28, Bloomberg* – (International) **Japan evacuates homes, cancels flights as volcano spews ash mile into sky.** Japan's government issued alerts after a volcano on the southern island of Kyushu erupted for the first time in 52 years, causing the evacuation of homes and cancellation of more than 60 flights. Shinmoedake, in the Kirishima range, erupted January 27, spewing ash as high as 8,200 feet into the air, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. A second eruption occurred January 28 at about 1 p.m. local time, national broadcaster NHK reported. Ash from the volcano reached Miyazaki city, 30 miles to the east, according to the broadcaster. Japan Airlines Corp. canceled 37 flights to or from nearby Miyazaki airport, according to its website January 28. Three additional flights will be scrapped January 29, it said. All Nippon Airways Co., Asia's largest listed carrier, canceled 24 flights affecting 3,350 people, spokeswoman said by phone January 28.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-28/kyushu-volcano-spews-mile-high-ash-causing-evacuations-canceled-flights.html>

23. *January 27, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Va. transportation chief says state did its best to deal with snowstorm.** Virginia Secretary of Transportation said January 27 that

state officials responded as “best as we could under the circumstances” of the January 26 storm that dropped as much as 9 inches in parts of Northern Virginia. The secretary said transportation department workers were stymied by rain that washed away pre-treated salt from roads and an earlier-than-anticipated rush hour when the federal government let employees go 2 hours early. An enormous number of cars were abandoned on roads, which state police have been towing. As of early January 27, 500,000 customers had no power in Northern Virginia and 200 traffic signals were out. State officials did not consider declaring an emergency — which would allow the National Guard to be activated and supplies and equipment to be mobilized quicker — because that is only done for major natural disasters. About 4 inches fell in Arlington, 5 inches in Fairfax and Prince William, and 9 inches in Loudoun, according to state totals. More than 2,200 pieces of equipment were used to clear snow, as transportation department employees worked all night.

Source:

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/virginiapolitics/2011/01/virginia_official_says_state_d.html

For another story, see item [1](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *January 27, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Harmless package prompts evacuation of One Main Place Tower.** One Main Place in downtown Dallas, Texas, was evacuated on January 27 because of a suspicious package that turned out to be harmless. According to Dallas police, a bomb-sniffing dog working a training exercise hit on a Fed-Ex package in the basement, possibly on a loading dock, of the skyscraper at 1201 Main St. Hundreds of evacuees and onlookers lined the outskirts of the cordoned-off area as investigators examined the building and the box. They determined the package contained only paper files and began letting people back into the building at about 11 a.m. No injuries were reported but one woman on a stretcher was loaded in an ambulance. The tower is connected to the underground system of walkways that run between various buildings.

Source: http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpps/news/texas/012711-One-Main-Place-Evacuated_11610488

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *January 28, Food Safety News* – (National) **USDA fully deregulates roundup ready alfalfa.** The U.S. Agriculture Secretary said January 27 that USDA will allow genetically engineered (GE) Roundup Ready alfalfa to be planted without restriction. The announcement bucked expectations that the department’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) would likely introduce a partial deregulation of the crop,

which is engineered to withstand Monsanto's Roundup herbicide. Partial deregulation would have imposed geographic restrictions on planting in an effort to prevent GE contamination of non-GE and organic alfalfa. The Agriculture Secretary's recent statements about "coexistence and cooperation" between GE and non-GE agriculture led many to believe partial deregulation of the crop was in the pipeline.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/usda-fully-deregulates-ge-roundup-ready-alfalfa/>

26. *January 28, WDEL 1150 AM Wilmington* – (Delaware) **Roof collapse causes gas leak.** Fire Marshal's investigators in Wilmington, Delaware, said a vacant restaurant's roof collapsed January 27, rupturing a gas line, which resulted in evacuation of nearby homes. A Delmarva Gas crew investigating a report of a gas odor at 1605 North Claymont Street around 4 p.m. found the roof of the restaurant had collapsed, rupturing a gas line. Firefighters evacuated several homes nearby, gas and electrical service to the restaurant was shut off, and residents were allowed back into their homes about 40 minutes later. Licenses and Inspections investigators are working to determine the cause of the roof collapse.
Source: <http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=32006>
27. *January 28, Belleville News-Democrat* – (Illinois) **Four-alarm fire barbecues Illinois meat market.** Wenneman Meat Co. in St. Libory, Illinois, was destroyed by fire January 27. Firefighters spent the day trying to put out the fire at the retail store and wholesale business. The fire was called in at 2:49 a.m. Twelve fire departments and 130 firefighters were involved in putting out the fire. They drew water from the village's water tower and then had tankers go to a lake a half mile away to draw more water in case the tower ran dry. Fire officials said ice was a problem in the early morning and they had to call the Illinois Department of Transportation to salt the parking lot and highway. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is investigating, as is the insurance company, but it appeared the fire started in a refrigeration unit's compressor area.
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topic/strategy-and-tactics/4-alarm-fire-barbecues-ill-meat-market>
28. *January 28, Reuters* – (International) **Kabul supermarket bomb kills 9, foreigners target.** A suicide attack on a supermarket in Kabul's upmarket embassy district on January 28 killed at least nine people, including three foreign women and a child, in the first major Taliban assault on civilians in the capital for nearly a year. Gunfire rattled through the area — home to the British, Canadian, Pakistani and other missions — at the start of the assault. The Taliban said they had carried out the attack. It was aimed at foreigners, but the primary target was the head of security firm Xe Services, formerly known as Blackwater, a spokesman told Reuters by telephone. Police said there were no security employees among the dead.
Source: <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE70R1UJ20110128>
29. *January 27, CNN* – (Arkansas) **Report gives answers to mass bird deaths in Arkansas.** The mass deaths of thousands of red-winged blackbirds December 31 in

Arkansas was caused by “blunt force trauma,” according to a new report by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Laboratory tests were conducted on 13 of the birds that were part of the group that flew into buildings and died in a neighborhood in Beebe, Arkansas, 40 miles northeast of Little Rock. “The tests ruled out bacteria, viruses, heavy metals, pesticides, and avicides (chemicals used to kill birds) as causes of death,” the commission said in a statement. These results confirmed preliminary tests that were conducted after the incident. The tests revealed hemorrhaging “consistent with blunt trauma,” according to the report released January 26. “In most instances, such traumatic injuries in wild birds are due to flying into stationary objects such as trees, houses, windows, power lines, towers, etc.” Officials say as many as 5,000 birds died in the incident.

Source:

http://mw.cnn.com/snarticle?c=cnn_us&p=0&aId=20110127:arkansas.bird.mystery:1

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Water Sector

30. *January 28, Kirksville Daily Express* – (Missouri) **Frozen sewer line results in wastewater release to Putnam County creek.** A frozen sewer line January 26 resulted in the release of an estimated 50,000 gallons of wastewater into a Unionville creek in Jefferson City, Missouri, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Officials from Unionville notified the department’s Northeast Regional Office in Macon this morning that a frozen sewer line at an aerial crossing caused wastewater to back up and overflow from a manhole near Monroe Street and North 10th Street. The wastewater entered a nearby tributary to North Blackbird Creek. The department has dispatched an investigator from the Northeast Regional Office to determine the extent of environmental damage to the tributary. Regional office staff will use the investigator’s findings plus the city’s incident report to determine what enforcement action will be taken in the case.

Source: <http://www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com/news/x286170744/Frozen-sewer-line-results-in-wastewater-release-to-Putnam-County-creek>

31. *January 27, Annapolis Capital* – (Maryland) **Power outage causes Mill Creek sewage spill.** Anne Arundel County, Maryland public works crews are investigating why a pumping station failed and spilled 263,000 gallons of raw sewage into Arnold’s Mill Creek the night of January 26. The Mill Creek pumping station, off of College Parkway, lost power at about 9:30 that night. The station has two commercial power lines supplied by Baltimore Gas and Electric that failed. An emergency generator should have kicked on, but failed to do so. That system of two power lines and a backup generator is the standard for most pumping stations. The pumping station — including the generator — is inspected monthly, with the last inspection on January 6 showing the generator working correctly. Once the investigation is complete, the county will make any changes in equipment or operations necessary to prevent future spills. In the meantime, crews have a generator up and running and the pumping station is working. Mill Creek is off-limits to human contact until further notice.

Source: <http://www.hometownannapolis.com/news/cbn/2011/01/27-69/Power-outage-causes-Mill-Creek-sewage-spill.html>

32. *January 27, Downey Patriot* – (California) **Car dealer accused of dumping waste in river.** Downey Auto Wholesale, in Downey, California, is being investigated by Los Angeles County Health officials after local public works personnel discovered a trail of hazardous waste flowing from the dealership to the Rio Hondo River earlier this month. During a routine inspection of the river bed on January 11, L.A. County Public Works staff noticed a sheen on the surface of the water that was later determined to be hazardous materials, including both oil and antifreeze. According to the assistant chief and fire marshal for the city of Downey L.A. County investigators linked the waste to the Downey auto dealership and repair center, just one mile east of the Rio Hondo River, after discovering a trail of oil flowing into a storm drain near the business. “They were actively pouring it in the hole when investigators arrived,” he said. “They’re telling investigators that they thought there was sub storage, a grease separator underground, but prosecutor are looking in to it.” L.A. County Public Works conducted an extensive clean up following the discovery where various pipes, drains, and the river bed itself, had to be sanitized. “It was a very expensive cleanup — tens of thousands of dollars,” he said. L.A. County Public Works officials and Lee Kirby, head of the Downey Fire Department’s Health and Hazardous Materials division, are currently investigating the matter.

Source: <http://thedowneypatriot.com/bookmark/11152594-Car-dealer-accused-of-dumping-waste-in-river>

33. *January 27, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Grounded barge sends oil sheen down Columbia River.** Washington state and federal officials are trying to determine how much oil remains in a barge grounded on the north bank of the Columbia River in southwest Washington. A 15-mile-long oil sheen drifted down the river January 27. The Columbian says the Davy Crockett’s owner had been ordered to remove onboard oil and garbage after the vessel broke its mooring and went aground Jan. 20 between Vancouver and Camas. On January 24 the Coast Guard reported that task was completed and the vessel no longer posed a pollution risk. But now a Coast Guard petty officer says the agency suspects there’s some kind of compartment under the water that wasn’t found initially. The 431-foot-long barge is deteriorating. Its stern and bow form a “V” sticking out of the water with much of the midsection swamped by river water. The owner plans to scrap the vessel.

Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_grounded_barge.html

34. *January 27, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Flatbed with gas tanks overturns near Florida Medical Center.** A 15-year-old boy who did not want to walk home from school January 27 stole a truck filled with gas tanks that overturned and created a hazard, officials in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, said. The teenager, who lives in Lauderdale, was arrested and faces felony vehicle theft charges, according to a Plantation Police detective. While walking home from Pine Ridge Alternative Center School in Fort Lauderdale, the teenager saw the truck on S. State Road 7. It was carrying 17 large and four small cylinders of oxygen, helium and nitrous oxide,

authorities said. “One of our units saw it stopped at a traffic light,” the officer said. “We attempted to pull him over by the Florida Medical Center. He took a curve a little too fast and the vehicle turned over.” The cylinders that fell off the truck remained intact, though 30-gallons of diesel fuel that spilled along the 4900 block of Oakland Park Boulevard had to be cleaned up with foam and absorbent materials by hazardous materials workers from Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue. The incident briefly tied up traffic.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/fl-flatbed-overturn-20110127,0,6193811.story>

35. *January 27, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Nebraska) **EPA approves Nebraska’s list of impaired waters.** EPA has approved Nebraska’s list of impaired waters, which removes 36 waters from the previous impaired waters list and adds 107 waters. The January 27 decision brings the total number of impaired waters in the state to 259. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality submitted its impaired waters list to EPA for review and approval as required by the Clean Water Act (CWA). The CWA requires EPA to review the state’s list of impaired waters to determine if the state reasonably considered available water quality-related data, and identifies waters to be listed.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/98E9B86A5E6BB439852578250074AFE>
[A](#)

36. *January 26, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Pennsylvania) **EPA settles Clean Water Act case with Harrah’s Casino for unpermitted waste discharges to the Delaware River.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) January 26 announced it has settled a Clean Water Act case with Harrah’s Chester Casino & Racetrack (Harrah’s) for unpermitted discharges to the Delaware River in Pennsylvania. Under the settlement, Harrah’s has agreed to pay a \$39,000 penalty and to take measures, costing an estimated \$24,000, to reduce water pollution from the facility. EPA inspected the horse racing facility in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, on April 27 2009. EPA alleges that its inspectors observed evidence of horse manure and other pollution in close proximity to several inlets of a stormwater collection system that discharges to the Delaware River. On July 28, 2009, EPA ordered Harrah’s to obtain a permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP), which the facility failed to do in a timely manner. In July 2010, the company applied to PaDEP for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit. PaDEP is currently reviewing the application. As part of the settlement, Harrah’s has neither admitted nor denied liability for the alleged violations.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/1e5ab1124055f3b28525781f0042ed40/f3af54a5565c6b288525782400606db0!OpenDocument>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

37. *January 28, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Massachusetts man is diagnosed with cholera.** A 30-year-old Massachusetts man who traveled to the Dominican Republic for a wedding has been diagnosed with cholera after returning to Boston, state disease trackers confirmed January 27. The man is recovering, and doctors said there is no evidence he spread the intestinal infection to anyone in the state. The patient went to the emergency room at Massachusetts General Hospital January 25. The man had attended a wedding from January 20 to 23 at a resort in the Dominican Republic, where more than 400 guests feasted on lobster. Dozens, including some who had returned to Venezuela, fell violently sick in the days after the celebration. Tests show that the ill are infected with the same strain of cholera that has killed more than 3,000 in Haiti since October and spread to the Dominican Republic, said the director of the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Preliminary testing conducted at Massachusetts General suggested that the man contracted cholera; a confirmatory test will be performed at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/28/massachusetts_man_is_diagnosed_with_cholera/
38. *January 28, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Volusia Sheriff snags \$2.67 million from bust of illegal online pharmacy.** Authorities in Volusia County, Florida, announced January 28 they have received \$2.67 million as a result of a large-scale investigation of an illegal online pharmacy business. A “significant amount of the business’ assets” of Daytona Beach-based Jive Network, Inc. were seized during the investigation and were ultimately awarded to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office announced. The Department of Justice this morning will present a \$2.67 million check to the Volusia County sheriff. The money will be divided among members of the Volusia Bureau of Investigation, which participated in the investigation.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/crime/os-volusia-sheriff-windfall-20110128,0,126593.story>
39. *January 27, WBEN 930 AM Buffalo* – (New York) **Falls doctor arrested in federal drug raid.** A local doctor has been arrested and charged with running an illegal prescription drug trafficking ring. Federal agents arrested the doctor at his practice on Main Street in Niagara Falls, New York, January 27. A total of 14 people were arrested and charged. A U.S. attorney said the doctor would write prescriptions for people who did not have any medical problems. They paid him an \$85 “office fee.” Some of those people would then sell the pills on the street for \$30 to \$50 apiece. Others obtained the painkillers on the state’s Medicaid rolls. They face additional charges of defrauding the Medicaid system. Federal agents, the DEA, and the Niagara Falls Police worked together on the investigation.
Source: <http://www.wben.com/Falls-Doctor-Arrested-in-Federal-Drug-Raid/9074863>

40. *January 26, United Press International* – (North Carolina) **Bio-threat system being showcased.** The North Carolina Bio-Preparedness Collaborative (NCB) is showcasing a bio-surveillance system for early outbreak threat detection. When complete, the NCB-Prepared system will integrate data from sources as disparate as the environment, animal, and human clinical services and food production, processing and distribution to detect emerging health threats more quickly and effectively. Examples of data used in the system include ambulance calls, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, reports of tainted food, and veterinary records. NCB-Prepared will allow public health experts to differentiate between normal health patterns, environmental changes, and natural or man-made bio-threats. The North Carolina Bio-Preparedness Collaborative is a public-private partnership that includes the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and SAS, with support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The system is being presented January 27 at the North Carolina State Health Director's Conference.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/01/26/Bio-threat-system-being-showcased/UPI-64331296065272/

41. *January 26, Softpedia* – (International) **International counterfeit drugs supplier arrested in New Zealand.** New Zealand Police announced the arrest of a Chinese national suspected of serving as an international supplier of counterfeit pharmaceuticals. The 32-year-old man was arrested following a three-year long investigation into the international trade of counterfeit drugs. The suspect was taken into custody in Wellington January 25 by the Auckland Metro Crime and Operations Support (AMCOS) officers. A Wellington District Court judge set bail and ordered him to appear at a hearing next month where his extradition to the United States will be considered. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations cooperated with New Zealand authorities in the investigation. "Counterfeit pharmaceuticals include those used as sexual stimulants, heart medications, pain killers and other medications which Police believe have been sourced from China and distributed internationally via the internet," the AMCOS field crime manager, said. These operations are closely tied to the pharma spam that plagues people's email inboxes and the countless rogue online pharmacy websites. According to recent statistics from Symantec, 64 percent of the entire spam traffic in December fell into the pharmaceutical category.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/International-Counterfeit-Drugs-Supplier-Arrested-in-New-Zealand-180818.shtml>

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Government Facilities Sector

42. *January 28, AOL News* – (California) **LA officer accused of shooting himself, filing false report.** A Los Angeles school police officer is charged with filing a false report.

The officer claimed that he had been shot in the chest, which prompted the lockdown of 9,000 students at El Camino Real High School in Woodland Hills, California, January 19. During a news conference, the LA police chief said investigators processed more than 350 clues and talked to hundreds of people before concluding that the purported gunman who shot the officer was fictitious. The officer claimed that he was on patrol outside the high school when he confronted a man who had been breaking into cars. He said the suspect tried to kill him. The shooting prompted the largest area lock-down in history. Hundreds of officers from local, state, and federal agencies searched a seven-mile area looking for an armed gunman. Helicopters, SWAT teams, and K9 units were deployed.

Source: <http://www.aolnews.com/2011/01/28/la-officer-jeffrey-stenroos-accused-of-shooting-himself-filing/>

43. *January 28, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Leak threatening county records.** A Prothonotary employee discovered leaks on the fourth floor of the Thomas C. Thomas Building in downtown Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania last week. He alerted the impacted departments, and records were moved from the area of the leaks. Buckets and tarp were set up to prevent the water from seeping to the floor below. On January 27, the employee discovered puddles and water on top of some file cabinets in several spots on the third-floor, where Prothonotary records are kept. Some papers were warped from the water, but he moved them before they were destroyed. The building owner said ice buildup on the roof caused the leaks.

Source: http://www.timesleader.com/news/Leak_threatening_county_records_01-27-2011.html

44. *January 28, Nevada Appeal* – (Nevada) **Carson City father arrested in school threat incident.** A 41-year-old Carson City, Nevada, father upset over the perceived bullying of his child was arrested January 26 after telling a teacher at Mark Twain Elementary there would be “another Columbine” at the school if something did not change. The man, who works as a custodian, confronted his son’s teacher in her classroom at 2:45 p.m., just a few minutes before school got out January 26. According to the arrest report, the man’s son had lost his recess privileges for the week because he took the coat of another child and taunted him by yelling, “toro, toro!” The man allegedly told the teacher that if something was not done, there would be another Columbine at the school, referring to the 1999 shooting spree at a Colorado high school that left 12 students and one teacher dead. A Carson City deputy made contact with the father later that day. The father agreed to come to the school to give a statement and was arrested at 4:24 p.m. on suspicion of threats, a misdemeanor.

Source:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20110128/NEWS/110129569/1001&parentprofile=1058>

45. *January 28, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Substitute teacher arrested in Bay City threats.** A 41-year-old substitute teacher in Bay City, Texas, has been charged with making 12 terroristic threats after Bay City students, parents, and school officials were frightened by a series of anonymous threats in recent weeks, prompting schools to lock

campus doors in this town of nearly 18,000 people, authorities said January 27. The man was arrested January 26 and is in the Matagorda County jail on bail totaling \$240,000. He could face up to 10 years in prison on each of the third-degree felony charges if convicted. He had been a substitute teacher primarily at Bay City Junior High and Bay City High School since October 2008 and was still working in that capacity at the time of his arrest, the superintendent for the school district said. A district judge issued search warrants, and the man's arrest occurred after "numerous threatening phone calls" were made January 26 to "local businesses and private residences in Bay City," the school district's Web site stated. Court records stated that the substitute teacher was captured on security video at a Walmart store purchasing the phone that is believed to have been used to make the alleged threats.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7400625.html>

46. *January 28, NewsCore* – (National) **Napolitano announces end of color coded terror alert system.** The U.S. Homeland Security Secretary announced January 27 a new targeted terror alert system that will replace the current structure which uses coded colors to represent varying threat levels. The new, two-tiered system will inform specific groups or sectors of threats and will have definitive end dates, she said during her inaugural State of the Homeland Security address. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will work with federal agencies to issue "formal, detailed alerts" about specific, credible threats, she said. The United States will begin its transition to the new system over a 90-day period beginning January 27.

Source: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/napolitano-announces-end-of-color-coded-terror-alert-system-ncxdc-012811>

47. *January 28, Tallahassee Democrat* – (Florida) **Man gets 37-month term for threats to his Florida National Guard unit.** A 30-year-old Perry man was sentenced January 27 to 37 months in federal prison for threatening to shoot members of his Florida National Guard unit, according to a U.S. attorney of the Northern District of Florida. He pleaded guilty November 5, to an indictment alleging that he transmitted via the Internet threats to injure members of the Florida Army National Guard, 146th Signal Battalion, Company C, of which he was a member. The case was investigated by the FBI, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida National Guard, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and the Perry Police Department.

Source:

<http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20110128/BREAKINGNEWS/110127020/Man-gets-37-month-term-for-threats-to-his-Florida-National-Guard-unit>

48. *January 28, New London Day* – (Connecticut) **Superior Court building evacuated.** About 40 people were evacuated January 27 from a building in Waterford, Connecticut, leased by the state Superior Court. The chief of the Jordan Fire Department said a call went out at 1:57 p.m. that the roof of the building was collapsing. Fire units found buckling in the ceiling of the left front corner of the building, which is owned by the Jaypro company and leased to the state. They determined the roof could potentially fail. The fire chief said the chief judge at the site decided to send everyone home and that business would be suspended January 28. Gas

and water lines have been secured, and the building is being inspected. Waterford police and ambulance, state police, and court system officials responded to the call. Source: <http://www.theday.com/article/20110128/NWS01/301289956/-1/nws>

49. *January 27, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **Hazmat team called to UCLA.** A hazardous materials team was sent to UCLA January 27, where a spill of a cleaning agent inside a building left several people feeling ill, a city fire official said. The Los Angeles Fire Department responded at 2:31 p.m. to a report of an “unknown chemical spill” in the campus building, said a city fire spokesman. The hazmat team determined the chemical found in the Mathematical Sciences Building was a cleaning agent. At least three people were treated at the scene for minor complaints. Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local-beat/Hazmat-Team-Called-to-UCLA-114755769.html>

50. *January 27, WAVY 10 Hampton Roads* – (Virginia) **Warehouse fire on Norfolk Navy base.** It took firefighters several hours January 27 to extinguish a fire at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. According to a Naval Station Norfolk spokeswoman, the fire broke out at an empty warehouse on Aircraft Tow Way at 10:20 a.m. Firefighters were busy spraying the fire into the afternoon hours. The warehouse is about 63,000 square feet. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Source: http://www.wavy.com/dpp/news/local_news/norfolk/norfolk-navy-base-fire

51. *January 26, KKTV 11 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Explosive prompts evacuation on Ft. Carson.** Officials at Ft. Carson in Colorado said a small ordnance round discovered near a motor pool facility on post prompted an evacuation January 26. A Ft. Carson explosive ordnance team isolated and transported the round to a range facility so it could be safely neutralized. One building near where the round was found was evacuated as a precautionary measure. Officials said no personnel were considered to be in danger at any time. Source: http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/Explosive_Prompts_Evacuation_on_Ft_Carson_114679919.html

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Emergency Services Sector

52. *January 27, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Terror-attack training: Old arena, 9 hospitals used for emergency exercise.** In a mock terrorist attack, police officers carrying assault rifles descended on the old arena in Orlando, Florida, while rescue crews escorted schoolchildren covered in fake blood and bruises from the building January 27. The event was conducted by Orlando police, firefighters, and other law-enforcement agencies as a training exercise — the second of its kind after a 2009 downtown shooting rampage that left one man and left five others wounded inside the RS&H engineering firm. Law enforcement handled the simulated siege as a worst-case scenario involving officials from Homeland Security, Lynx, the Orange County

Sheriff's Office, Rural Metro and emergency-operations centers in Orlando and Orange County. Hazmat teams donned protective "moon suits," oxygen tanks and gas masks. Several armored vehicles waited alongside the old arena and Orlando police bomb-squad unit deployed a robot used to detonate explosives. The mock terrorist attack presents a scenario where people could be trapped in a building and afraid to leave. Source: http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2011-01-27/news/os-orlando-police-training-old-amway-20110128_1_emergency-exercise-shooting-rampage-mock-terrorist-attack

53. *January 27, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Reminder to clear fire hydrants of snow.** The Needham Fire Department in Massachusetts would like residents and business owners to clear snow and ice from fire hydrants in their neighborhood. Due to the many recent snow storms, several fire hydrants are very difficult to locate, and are buried in frozen snow banks. If not shoveled out, the fire department could lose time attempting to dig away through the snow and ice. It is critical to effective firefighting operations that they have immediate access to fire hydrants, and the fire department requests the assistance of the community with this task. Source: http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/needham/2011/01/reminder_to_clear_fire_hydrant.html

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Information Technology Sector

54. *January 28, The Register* – (International) **UK.gov braces for Anonymous hacklash.** U.K. government websites have been warned to brace themselves for website attacks in the wake of the arrest of five Britons as part of an investigation into Anonymous the week of January 23. Members of the Anonymous hacking collective condemned the arrests, arguing that denial of services attacks are a legitimate protest tactic, comparable with staging a sit-in or picketing. In a statement, the group criticized the police operation as disproportionate, describing it as "a serious declaration of war from yourself, the U.K. government, to us, Anonymous, the people." Information security agency GovCertUK has taken this implied threat seriously, issuing an advisory urging government websites to prepare defenses against possible attack. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/01/28/anonymous_hacklash_warning/
55. *January 28, Softpedia* – (International) **Kaspersky anti-virus source code leaks online.** The source code for one of Kaspersky's security suite products has been leaked online and is available for download from torrent and file hosting websites. According to a description accompanying the release, the sources were stolen from Kaspersky Lab in 2008 and the last changes made to them date from December 2007. The code is written in C++ and Delphi and covers the anti-virus engine, as well as the anti-phishing, anti-dialer, anti-spam, parental control, and other modules. It is unknown

what version of Kaspersky's security suite the sources actually correspond to, but 8.0 is the most likely candidate. The Russian vendor's line of products is now at version 11.0, which is publicly marketed as 2011 and PURE, for the most complete offering.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Kaspersky-Anti-Virus-Source-Code-Leaked-Online-181297.shtml>

56. *January 28, Softpedia* – (International) **Eight-character password bug identified on Amazon**. A password bug has been identified on Amazon, where the casing and everything after the first eight characters is ignored for older access codes. The discussion about this problem was started on Reddit by a user who noticed that Amazon's system would authenticate him even if he mistyped the ending of his password. Apparently, the issue exists only for access codes longer than eight characters. And, after analyzing the implications, that the impact is quite limited — if an attacker would decide to hack a user whose password is common eight-letter word, they would still need to find out their e-mail addresses. Giving the sheer size of Amazon and the likely protection against brute force attacks, finding even a single match would probably take a lot of time, even with lists of already harvested e-mail addresses. In addition, the password must not have been changed in a long time, because this trick does not appear to work with newer access codes, probably because the source of the bug is an old password hashing algorithm.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Eight-Character-Password-Bug-Identified-on-Amazon-181109.shtml>
57. *January 27, H Security* – (International) **50 million viruses and rising**. IT security lab AV-Test registered the 50 millionth new entry into its malware repository January 27. The malware in question is a PDF file which exploits a security hole in Adobe Reader to infect Windows systems. It has not been given a name yet because it has not been fully identified. So far, only the heuristics of Authentium, Eset, F-Prot, Kaspersky, and McAfee have issued a generic message such as: "HEUR:Exploit.Script.Generic." This new item of malware confirms the trend that attackers trying to infect PCs no longer use mainly the security holes in operating systems or browsers as their point of entry. Instead, malware authors are focusing on third party applications.
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/50-million-viruses-and-rising-1178664.html>
58. *January 27, IDG News Service* – (International) **FBI executes 40 search warrants in quest for 'Anonymous'**. Police agencies worldwide are turning up the heat on a loosely organized group of WikiLeaks activists. U.K. police arrested five people January 27, and U.S. authorities said more than 40 search warrants have been executed in the United States in connection with December's Web-based attacks against companies that had severed ties with WikiLeaks. Investigations are also ongoing in the Netherlands, Germany, and France, the FBI said January 27. Acting on information from German authorities, the FBI raided Dallas ISP Tailor Made Services in December, looking for evidence relating to one of the chat servers used by Anonymous. Another server was traced to Fremont, California's Hurricane Electric. The actions come after Anonymous knocked websites for MasterCard, Visa and others offline briefly by

recruiting volunteers to target them with a network stress-testing tool called LOIC (Low Orbit Ion Cannon). LOIC flooded the sites with data, making them unable to serve legitimate visitors.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9206838/FBI_executes_40_search_warrants_in_quest_for_Anonymous

59. *January 27, Softpedia* – (International) **Most computers infected with SpyEye are located in Poland.** Security researchers from Trend Micro have recently investigated new developments surrounding the SpyEye crimeware and have discovered that most computers infected with this threat are located in Poland. SpyEye is a sophisticated banking trojan which appeared around a year ago and positioned itself as an alternative to the ZeuS crimeware toolkit. With a similar set of features for a much lower price, SpyEye not only competed with ZeuS for market share, but also removed it from the computers it infected. In a Twitter update, TrendLabs announces that most SpyEye-infected computers are located in Poland, which is unusual giving that most banking trojans usually target users and companies in U.S. and U.K.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Most-Computers-Infected-with-SpyEye-Are-Located-in-Poland-181069.shtml>

60. *January 26, The H Security* – (International) **Conficker: Lessons learned report published.** The Conficker Working Group has published a report by the Rendon Group, based on work funded by the Department of Homeland Security, on the “Lessons Learned” from the international effort to contain the virulent Conficker worm, a botnet infection that spread throughout the world in 2009. The report, written in the summer of 2010, documents the history of the Conficker worm, from the early reports in November of 2008 through to 2009 when Conficker infections were widely reported. Security researchers started to work together on solving the problems posed by the worm in 2008, a cooperation which eventually became the Conficker Working Group.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Conficker-Lessons-Learned-report-published-1177350.html>

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

61. *January 27, Network World* – (International) **Half of federal Web sites fail DNS security test.** Half of U.S. government Web sites are vulnerable to commonplace

denial of service (DNS) attacks because they have not deployed a new authentication mechanism that was mandated in 2008, a new study shows. The Office of Management and Budget issued a mandate requiring federal agencies to deploy an extra layer of security — called DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) — on their .gov Web sites by December 31, 2009. However, an independent study conducted in January 2010 shows that 51 percent of agencies are out of compliance with the requirement to deploy DNSSEC, which is also necessary for high marks in agency report cards under the Federal Information Security Management Act.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2011/012711-dns-security-test.html>

62. *January 27, International* – (Unknown Geographic Scope) **To avert Internet crisis, the IPv6 scramble begins.** The Internet is running out of Web addresses that computers need to communicate with each other. It is likely that within a week, the central supplier of Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4) addresses will dole out the last ones at the wholesale level. That will set the clock ticking for the moment in coming months when those addresses will all be snapped by corporate Web sites, Internet service providers, or other eventual owners. And that means it is now a necessity to rebuild the Net on a more modern foundation called IPv6. It has taken a long time because there was little immediate payback for companies spending money and time to build IPv6 support.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-30685_3-20029721-264.html?tag=topStories2

63. *January 27, Softpedia* – (International) **Top Russian cybercrime host shut down.** Malicious host-tracking outfit HostExploit announced that the number one cybercrime hosting provider, VolgaHost, has been offline since January 17. Russian-based VolgaHost made it to the first position of HostExploit's "Bad Hosts" list for the fourth quarter of 2010 and ranked third in previous tops. The provider used to offer bulletproof hosting services to people running command and control servers for various botnets, with ZeuS in particular. Other malicious activity detected on VolgaHost's IP space consisted of infected Web sites, phishing pages, exploit servers, and spam. VolgaHost went offline after it was depeered by its upstream provider, RUNNet.ru, the Russian State Institute of Information Technologies and Telecommunications, along with several other ISPs known for hosting ZeuS domains.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Top-Russian-Cybercrime-Host-Shut-Down-181071.shtml>

64. *January 27, USA Today* – (National) **Comcast to broadcast info on missing children.** Starting January 27, a missing child's story and photo will be available to nearly 20 million Comcast cable customers in more than 25 cities in partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "Somebody knows where this child is," says center President. "If we reach that one person, we increase the likelihood that we'll get that one lead that will bring the child home." The public service campaign comes a day before Comcast closes its deal with General Electric for 51 percent of a joint venture that includes NBC Universal. The deal makes Comcast the nation's most powerful media, entertainment and news company. Comcast created the missing kids videos after having some success with its Police Blotter program, which

features fugitives. Police credit the crime videos with generating tips that led to 90 arrests, said vice president of entertainment services for Philadelphia-based Comcast. Twenty, 2-minute video profiles are available. The videos include the child's name, description, photo, possible whereabouts, and a narrative of the disappearance. Each month, the missing children's center and Comcast will rotate new videos into the lineup. Each video will be available for at least 12 weeks.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-01-27-missingkids27_ST_N.htm

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Commercial Facilities Sector

65. *January 28, KDFW 4 Dallas-Forth Worth* – (Texas) **Cowboys stadium ‘suspicious package’ turned out to be trash.** After careful inspection by a bomb squad expert said a suspicious package in a sewer just north of Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas turned out to be just trash. Officers closed part of Randol Mill Road between the stadium and the Wal-Mart after someone spotted a car stopped near a traffic island. Security officers say the car's occupant threw something into the sewer, then drove away. With the February 6 Super Bowl coming up, police didn't want to take any chances, so bomb experts were immediately called out to check the manhole and sewers. By 9:45 a.m., the all-clear was given.

Source: <http://www.myfoxdfw.com/dpp/news/012811-suspicious-package-at-cowboys-stadium>

66. *January 28, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Smoking electrical box prompts evacuation in West New York.** An electrical box underneath a gift shop in West New York, New Jersey, went up in smoke January 27, officials said. According to the North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue battalion chief, the electrical box below “Yang's Gift Shop” at 5914 Bergenline Ave. began smoking at about 3 p.m. A three-story complex had to be evacuated, he said. The complex includes four small stores and a dentist's office. No injuries were reported. PSE&G workers at the scene said electricity flowing to the box would have to be turned off to make repairs.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/westny/index.ssf?/base/news-0/129619951259210.xml&coll=3>

67. *January 28, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **Military experts called in to checkout explosives.** A Concord, California neighborhood cleared out January 27, as military experts moved in because heavy-duty ammunition was found. Experts from Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield arrived to examine ammo in the back of a pick-up truck. The Walnut Creek bomb squad was there earlier that day, but they did not feel they were as qualified to deal with the situation as the people of Travis. In the truck were four military-grade mortars. They ended up in the vehicle when the homeowner was helping a friend clear out her house. She brought them home thinking they were just empty shells. Concord police immediately cordoned off the area and evacuated about a dozen homes. After five hours, the experts from Travis determined the mortars

were in fact empty. They x-rayed each mortar, dismantled them, and hauled them away.
Source: http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=7924784

68. *January 28, DNAINFO.COM* – (New York) **Gas leak forces evacuation of four Greenwich Village apartment buildings.** Four apartment buildings were evacuated January 28 after a gas pipe burst beneath Charles Street that sent enough gas into the homes above it to cause an explosion. Emergency workers had to evacuate 26 people from 91, 95, 101, and 102 Charles Street after getting the call of leaking gas around 12:15 a.m., fire officials said. The Office of Emergency Management brought an MTA bus to help residents keep warm, and 15 people stayed inside the bus until they were allowed to return home shortly after 7 a.m. “It was in explosive ranges. Literally, the whole building could have blown up,” an OEM official told the busload of people. ConEd workers had to drill through Charles Street to dissipate the gas, which was unable to seep through the frozen ground, officials said.
Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/20110128/greenwich-village-soho/four-greenwich-village-buildings-evacuated-by-gas-leak>
69. *January 28, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Ga. Army sniper kept grenades, police say.** An Army sniper accused of stashing grenades in his Columbus, Georgia apartment was released from custody January 27 after attorneys brokered a deal for him to remain on Fort Benning as he awaits trial. The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer reports that the 23-year-old man, of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, faces charges of possession of explosives and lying to federal agents. He had been jailed since January 20 when federal agents searched his apartment off Milgen Road. The charges stem from a message the FBI received last week the man’s relative, who claimed he had seen the man with a fragmentation grenade.
Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-01-28/ga-army-sniper-kept-grenades-police-say>
70. *January 27, Boston Examiner* – (Massachusetts) **Update - Lynn roof collapse.** Two men are safe after being trapped under a collapsed roof in Lynn, Massachusetts, January 27. Dozens of emergency officials spent two hours working to free the men who were trapped in their car after a 100 by 125 foot section of roof on a garage crashed on top of them around 5 a.m. The two were inside a building on the Lynnway, where Greater Lynn Senior Services park. “Starting from the bottom up there was steel beams, corrugated steel, wood plank roof, insulation board about an inch and 3/4 thick and then a rubberized roof on top of that, and three feet of snow,” the deputy Lynn fire chief said. All of that fell on top of the sedan with the two men inside. The two were in touch with rescuers via cell phone throughout the two hour ordeal. Neither was seriously injured though both were taken to the hospital to be evaluated. Several others escaped from the building when the roof collapsed. Officials believe the foot of snow caused the collapse.
Source: <http://www.examiner.com/headlines-in-boston/update-lynn-roof-collapse>

For more stories, see items [24](#) and [52](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

71. *January 27, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Cracking down on smugglers by chopping down trees.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is making it harder for smugglers to sneak their contraband through federal protected land by chopping away desert landscape in Arizona. The BLM and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) are teaming up to clear brush growing along Interstate 8 as part of Project Daylight. The dense vegetation is often used by drug and human smugglers for cover. A 45-mile stretch, from Casa Grande to Gila Ben, is currently being worked on. This is the first phase of the project where crews are using various techniques to get rid of overgrown plants. They are using Chainsaws and “chipping” to remove Palo Verdes trees which serve as the perfect hiding spots. ADOT surveyed the landscape before hand to make sure cacti were left intact. “The BLM’S goal is to protect the monument by removing some of the vegetation along the road way, we can reduce the ability of smugglers to traffic through the area,” a BLM spokesman said. The project is under a greater operation; Reclaim our Arizona Monuments or ROAM. The aim is to crack down on illegal border activities in federally protected land. Damage caused by smugglers is increasing as new routes go deeper into the Sonoran Desert and Iron Wood Forest National Monument.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=13923343>

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Dams Sector

72. *January 28, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Flood control district looking at dam safety.** Three 40-year-old flood control dams in Phoenix, Arizona, are little used, but badly needed when it rains and normally dry desert washes and stream beds turn into fast-moving rivers. The Maricopa County Flood Control District says it is concerned about the integrity of the earthen dams east of Mesa and whether they can take the punishment of a severe flood. The Arizona Republic reports the district is looking at whether to replace or brace the dams that provide protection to a population of 150,000 in southeast Mesa and northern Pinal County. Flood control district officials say fixing or replacing the dams could cost several million dollars. The dams are designed to withstand a 100-year flood and the last time they were severely tested was October 1972.

Source: <http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=13926670>

73. *January 28, Australian Broadcasting Corporation* – (International) **Flood levee may have been tampered with.** The State Emergency Services (SES) in Australia has sent a team to investigate reports that someone has interfered with a levee at Benjeroop near Swan Hill. Residents say they are fighting a losing battle in fending off floodwater on a front estimated to be about 50 kilometers wide. An SES spokesman says the reported breach may have been aimed at moving water from Benjeroop into the little Murray.

He says this could isolate a number of people near Fish Point and Pental Island. Floods have hit dozens of towns in Victoria this month and caused an estimated \$2 billion damage to the state's agriculture sector. The SES says during the 27 days of the flood crisis in Victoria, more than 250 buildings have been flooded.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/28/3124548.htm>

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