



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 February 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to USA Today, United Airlines canceled 15 flights February 15, after grounding its fleet of 96 Boeing 757s over safety issues. (See item [16](#))
- Associated Press reports one U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent was killed and another injured when gunmen attacked their vehicle in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi. (See item [36](#))

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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. *February 16, NorthJersey.com* – (New Jersey) **Power restored after PSE&G transformer explosion.** Power was restored to Public Service Electric and Gas Co. customers in Bergen County, New Jersey, following two nearly simultaneous incidents February 16. About 6,300 customers in Southern Bergen County were without power between 8 a.m. and 9:25 a.m. because of an undetermined problem at the utility’s Ridgfield substation. Witnesses in Waldwick reported just after 8 a.m. that a transformer exploded, sending a fire ball into the air at the Hopper Avenue substation,

but a PSE&G spokesperson said power was not affected by that incident. A Waldwick resident, who lives about a half mile away, said he heard a loud thud. “The house shook, and then I looked over and saw the fire ball.” After the fire ball, a plume of smoke drifted into the air, he said. The cause of both equipment failures is still under investigation and the company could not pinpoint which towers, or which towns, were impacted until the investigation is complete, the spokesperson said. Most of the two dozen or so towns that were affected had fewer than 500 customers without power.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/topstories/waldwick/021611_Waldwick_investigating_power_outages_possible_transformer_explosion.html

2. *February 15, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Strong winds cut power, knock tree onto I-5.** Gusts of 50 miles per hour (mph) were recorded around the Puget Sound area in Washington state February 14, cutting power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses, and toppling a tree onto Interstate 5 north of downtown Seattle. The tree fell about 11 p.m., blocking two northbound lanes near Lakeview Boulevard. The roadway was cleared about 2 a.m. The strongest winds were reported along the coast, where the storms hit late February 14, with gusts of up to 64 mph recorded in Hoquiam, and as high as 75 mph in Northwest Oregon. Some 40,000 customers of Puget Sound Energy, many in Kitsap County, lost power at the peak of the storm. By February 15, a utility spokeswoman said fewer than 2,000 of the utility’s customers were still without power, primarily in Kitsap County and in the Juanita area near Lake Washington.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/theweatherbeat/2014230221_gusty15.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *February 15, Hazleton Standard Speaker* – (Pennsylvania) **I-81 southbound through area reopened after spill.** An incident involving a spilled corrosive material on Interstate 81 in Pennsylvania closed the southbound lanes of the highway between exits 141 and 131 for about 3 hours February 15. Southbound traffic was diverted off I-81 at Exit 141 — the South Beltway exit near Hazleton — as hazardous materials crews attended to the incident near mile marker 132. Traffic was allowed to return to the highway at Exit 131, Mahanoy City/Hometown. The spill was reported just before 1 p.m. By 3:45 p.m., the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reported that the 10-mile stretch of I-81 was reopened.

Source: <http://standardspeaker.com/news/i-81-southbound-through-area-reopened-after-spill-1.1105304>

For more stories, see items [22](#), [35](#), and [37](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

4. *February 16, Quincy Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Tritium levels plunge at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth.** The levels of groundwater contamination from a radioactive isotope have plunged at the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in recent weeks, but the plant’s operators do not seem to be much closer to figuring out the source of the problem. Despite the sharp decline, representatives for the plant and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said it is far too early to know if the problem has gone away. Last summer, tritium levels in a monitoring well at the plant exceeded 25,000 picocuries per liter (ppl), adding to concerns about a potential leak. The tritium levels in the monitoring well only exceeded the federal maximum for drinking water of 20,000 ppl on one other occasion, in September. The tritium levels in that well have fluctuated wildly since that time, however, and have generally been significantly above levels that could be caused by typical atmospheric conditions. In recent weeks, the levels have shown a downward trend, the NRC said. The tritium levels fell from 7,000 ppl in mid-January to roughly 1,000 ppl by the end of the month. The levels in the second half of January were the lowest spotted since the well was first used last spring. Meanwhile, levels of tritium have been stuck in an elevated range in a nearby monitoring well, at 3,000 to 4,000 ppl. Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/news/x1463449776/Tritium-levels-plunge-at-the-Pilgrim-nuclear-power-plant-in-Plymouth>

5. *February 16, Mid-Hudson News Network* – (National) **Schneiderman challenges NRC’s plan to store nuclear waste at Indian Point.** The New York State attorney general announced February 15 he is suing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for allowing Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, and other nuclear plants to store radioactive waste for 60 years after they close. He has teamed up with attorneys general from Connecticut and Vermont to call on the federal government to conduct impact studies before deciding nuclear waste should be stored onsite. The New York State attorney general said the issue is a regional one. “This is a particularly sensitive point here in Westchester because of Indian Point, but really in the entire area around Indian Point extending into Connecticut, into New York City, into New Jersey, because this ruling would require waste storage here in the pools that hold the waste short term and in the nuclear bunkers that hold the waste longer term,” he said. The current rule said the waste may be stored onsite for 30 years, but that would be extended to 60 years after a plant closes. Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2011/February/16/IP_waste_store_AG-16Feb11.html

6. *February 16, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **Yankee searches for leak.** Evidence is building that tritiated water discovered in mid-January in a monitoring well at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont, is not connected to a leak discovered last year in the plant’s advanced off gas building. The radiological health chief for the Vermont Department of Health said that while Yankee technicians continue to look for a conduit that might be channeling contaminated water from a plume that spread from the off gas building, “They believe that’s not very likely. They appear to have most of their hopes on finding it in the piping near well 24S,” said the

chief, who met with plant representatives February 10. Well 24S was drilled in mid-November, the Vermont health official said, and is located about 150 feet north of the plume of contaminated water that originated in a pipe tunnel connected to the off gas building. Investigations have centered on five buried pipes that are drain lines for systems that normally carry gases. Two of the five pipes have been tested once and ruled out as sources, but will be tested again. Two more lines will be tested in the coming week. The fifth will take longer to be tested as it is a safety-related pipe, which requires greater planning. He said there is still not enough evidence to declare that this is a new leak.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_17397982

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *February 16, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Airbus calls for passenger evacuation test on Boeing 747-8.** Boeing Co should be obliged by the U.S. civil aviation authorities to conduct an emergency evacuation test of its new 747-8 Intercontinental, a senior Airbus executive said February 16. The 747-8, a stretched version of the 747-400, was rolled out over the weekend of February 12 and 13 at Boeing’s plant outside Seattle, Washington. It will carry 467 passengers, 51 more than the current version of the jumbo jet, offering airlines a lower cost per seat mile. Airbus’s chief operating officer for customers said Boeing was not obliged to carry out an evacuation test of the 747-400 as it had been “grandfathered”, meaning tests on the earlier 747 versions were deemed sufficient. Chicago, Illinois-based Boeing is seeking a similar waiver for a test on the 747-8, he said. Airbus has successfully carried out emergency evacuation tests on its flagship A380 superjumbo, managing to evacuate 873 passengers from the double-deck aircraft in 78 seconds as part of its certification process before the plane went into service in 2007.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110216-708679.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 16, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Late-night McDonald’s run tripped up military laptop thieves, Gee says.** The Hillsborough County, Florida, sheriff said February 16, the thieves who lifted \$7.4 million in military laptops from an east Hillsborough warehouse in March 2010 might have been successful if they had not stopped at McDonalds drive-thru and been caught on tape. He said one of the accused thieves was caught on camera midway through the biggest cargo heist in Hillsborough history. For nearly a year, the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office kept quiet about its investigation into the theft at iGov Technologies, which contracts with special operations command. When news leaked out through a search warrant filed in July 2010, military officials assured the public the laptops contained no sensitive information. At a news conference February 16, the sheriff announced the arrest of a

55-year-old man who is accused of being the ringleader in a South Florida-based crew of about 10 thieves. “This was very choreographed and conducted at a very high skill level,” the sheriff said. “They’ve obviously done this before.” Authorities expect to make more arrests as the investigation continues.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/hillsborough-sheriff-announces-arrests-in-military-laptop-thefts/1151938>

9. *February 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Official: 100 foreign agencies test US networks.** More than 100 foreign intelligence agencies have tried to breach U.S. defense computer networks, largely to steal military plans and weapons systems designs, a top Pentagon official said February 15 at the RSA cybersecurity conference in San Francisco, California. The Deputy Defense Secretary said that while foreign governments and rogue states may try to launch more destructive attacks against military networks, most may stick to theft and spying because they are worried about a U.S. counterattack. The greater threat, he said, are terror groups such as al-Qaida, who are more difficult to deter. Terrorists have vowed to unleash cyberattacks, and over time may be able to either develop their own malicious computer threats or buy them on the black market. The Deputy Defense Secretary declined to specify how many of the 100 foreign intelligence agencies he said have tried attacks were successful in breaching U.S. government defenses, saying that would include classified information. He said the attacks involved espionage, such as seeking weapons design or diplomatic information, and didn’t appear to be aimed at causing destruction of physical infrastructure.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iGMAInxaJxFPsIHG0_RAnRkjuEqQ?docId=f77c72e6081742d39398fd45bd36eadc

10. *February 15, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy destroyer’s mast breaks off.** The upper part of the mast on the destroyer Gravelly broke off February 13 while the warship was underway off the northern Florida coast, the U.S. Navy has confirmed. “While underway conducting routine operations February 13, USS Gravelly (DDG 107) experienced structural damage to the mast mounted antenna. No personnel were injured during the incident,” a spokesperson for the Second Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia, said February 15. “USS Gravelly’s crews took immediate action and secured the damaged mast-mounted antenna. The cause and extent of the damage is unknown. She said the ship safely returned to Mayport, Florida, at approximately February 14 and is undergoing assessment. The Gravelly, a DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class Aegis destroyer, was built by Northrop Grumman’s Ingalls Shipyard in Mississippi, and is virtually a new ship, having been commissioned last November.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=5718390&c=AME&s=SEA>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *February 16, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **BNY Mellon employee accused of embezzling \$452,000.** A Bank of New York-Mellon employee in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been indicted for allegedly embezzling \$452,037, according to court documents entered February 16. The 37-year-old woman, of Greenfield, Pennsylvania faces charges of theft by a bank employee and is the subject of an arrest warrant. The U.S. attorney’s office said an FBI investigation led to a federal grand jury charge for a string of thefts from April 2007 through August 2010. If convicted, the woman could face a maximum of 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.
Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11047/1125761-100.stm>

12. *February 15, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (National) **Visa incents ‘Dynamic Authentication’.** A move toward Europay, Mastercard and Visa (EMV) intergrated circuit cards can help merchants cut their security compliance costs, but only if they operate outside the United States, is the message from Visa Inc., which the week of February 7 announced the launch of the Visa Technology Innovation Program. It is designed to eliminate eligible international merchants from annual validations of compliance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. In the United States, where no official movement toward the EMV standard exists, other types of dynamic authentication are being encouraged by Visa. But they will not offer the same incentives (i.e. eliminating compliance validations) the Technology Innovation Program provides to qualifying EMV-compliant merchants in other parts of the world. “With the United States facing government price controls on debit and restrictive routing and exclusivity rules, it is not feasible or appropriate to drive the market toward major infrastructure investments, especially in an environment where financial institutions could lose billions in revenue as a result of the regulation,” Visa’s group executive for the Americas said in a statement issued by Visa. “With such a dramatic potential for revenue loss, financial institutions will likely curtail investments in future innovations.”
Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3351

13. *February 15, Cookeville Times* – (Tennessee) **FBI investigates bank pipe bomb in Sparta.** The FBI has taken over the investigation of a an incident in which a Sparta, Tennessee woman took a pipe bomb into a bank without realizing what she was carrying. The woman reported to police that she had found the pipe bomb at her home but did not know what it was and took it to work with her February 14 for examination by one of the police officers. US Bank on Highway 111 was evacuated after the woman showed the bomb to officers. The bomb squad detonated the bomb in a nearby grassy area and no one was injured. Area businesses were also evacuated and Tennessee Bomb and Arson was called as well as the FBI. Both northbound and southbound lanes of Highway 111 were shut down as a precaution.
Source: <http://www.ucdailynews.com/news/local/Sparta-Pipe-Bomb-116285934.html>

14. *February 15, WMTW 8 Portland* – (Maine) **Security breach investigated at Day’s Jewelers.** Customers of Day’s Jewelers in Portland, Maine were told to check their credit and debit card statements for unauthorized charges. The Maine State Police

Computer Crimes Unit is investigating a security breach, involving hackers, company officials said. The breach affects customers who used credit and debit cards at stores in November and December 2010. The company said it could not release details about the breach because of the investigation, but in a statement, the president of Day's Jeweler's said, "We are working diligently with law enforcement as it investigates this criminal activity. The Maine Credit Union League helped bring the breach to the attention of authorities with the help of local credit unions. "They started putting two and two together and noticed most of those transactions that were fraudulent, those members had conducted a transaction at Day's jewelry store," said a Maine Credit Union League spokesman.

Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/r/26874318/detail.html>

15. *February 14, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **FBI: 'Cooler Bandit' wanted in 7 SoCal bank robberies.** The FBI is asking for the public's help catching a suspect suspected of robbing seven banks in Southern California since August 2009. The suspect has been dubbed the "Cooler Bandit" because he has been seen carrying a nylon-type lunch bag and water bottle during some of the robberies. The most recent robbery was on February 9 at a Bank of America in the 2400 block of West Florida Avenue in Hemet. Detectives said he has threatened to kill bank tellers if they did not hand over money. The "Cooler Bandit" is described as between 5'5" and 5'6" tall. He has a thin build, with black hair and brown eyes. He has worn sunglasses with orange lenses or clear glasses with black rims in some of the robberies.

Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-cooler-bandit,0,4282953.story>

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Transportation Sector

16. *February 16, USA Today* – (National) **United: Operations back to normal as 757 inspection continues.** United Airlines said it canceled 15 flights late February 15, after grounding its fleet of 96 Boeing 757s over safety issues, but expected to resume normal operations February 16. The carrier voluntarily halted 757 takeoffs after it discovered it hadn't completed safety checks on a critical equipment upgrade required by federal aviation regulators. As of the morning of February 16, United hadn't completed inspecting all 757s, but expected to complete them "shortly," a spokeswoman said. United uses the planes mostly on long-range flights. The problem occurred on the 757's air data computer, which measures air pressure and other atmospheric conditions to determine speed and altitude. On June 22, 2004, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered the computers be replaced and that mechanics perform a check to ensure they were working properly. United hadn't performed the required check after replacing the units. The airline said it was not aware of any problems or incidents caused by the computers. Each 757 has two of the computers so they can check each other's accuracy, as well as a standby system in case of emergency, according to Boeing documentation. The FAA issued an emergency order requiring the computers be replaced because of a flaw that could cause pilots to erroneously believe they were flying too fast or too slow. The agency was unaware of the issue until it was notified

February 15 by United, an FAA spokeswoman said. Although rare, erroneous speed readings have led to several fatal crashes, including two in 1996 on 757s, a USA TODAY report found.

Source: <http://travel.usatoday.com/flights/post/2011/02/united-operations-back-to-normal-as-757-inspection-continues/143332/1>

17. *February 15, Cranford Patch* – (New Jersey) **Bomb squad investigates suspicious canister by Cranford tracks.** Trains February 14 were barred from entering the New Jersey Transit station for about 45 minutes in Cranford, New Jersey as the Union County Bomb Squad inspected a nearby metallic object of unknown origin. Officials declared the area to be safe around 7:30 p.m., an hour after receiving a tip from a passerby who spotted the object, embedded in a snowy embankment behind Cervante’s of Spain on North Avenue East. After testing, the Union County Bomb Squad said the object was a sulfur emissions testing device. “(It’s) a pressurized canister used to remediate the airflow. We have deemed it safe and will be removing it shortly,” said a Cranford Police Department captain. Officials do not know who owns the tester, which is half the size of a normal propane tank. As the object was located 50 yards from the train station, trains were stopped from coming into the station for about 45 minutes.
Source: <http://cranford.patch.com/articles/bomb-squad-investigates-suspicious-canister-by-cranford-tracks>

18. *February 15, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Colorado) **United plane makes emergency landing in GJ.** A United Airlines flight from Los Angeles, California, to Denver, Colorado, diverted to Grand Junction Regional Airport in Grand Junction, Colorado, and made an emergency landing February 15 after a report of smoke in the airplane’s cargo area. The incident happened around 11 a.m. Initially, the pilot expressed concerns of a possible bomb in the cargo area, but that report turned out to be a miscommunication between the flight crew and air traffic control. After further inspection, the flight crew clarified there was no suspected bomb and that the cargo area smoke indicator light was the only issue, the airport manager said in a news release. Airport firefighters inspected the cargo area upon landing and reported no smoke. All 109 passengers and flight crew members evacuated the aircraft with no problems. As of 12:45 p.m., there was no word on whether the plane was still on the ground or had taken off again.
Source: <http://www.gjsentinel.com/breaking/articles/united-plane-makes-emergency-landing-in-gj/>

19. *February 12, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Washington; Colorado) **Stowaway rat disrupts Denver-bound flight.** A Denver, Colorado-bound flight from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in SeaTac, Washington, was delayed February 10 after a rat was seen scurrying in the cabin, airline officials said. Alaska Airlines said the Boeing 737 had just pulled away from the gate February 10 when the rat was spotted. The captain returned to the terminal where passengers and crew boarded another plane roughly 90 minutes later. An airline spokeswoman said the plane would not be returned to service until maintenance workers made sure the rat did not damage equipment or chew any

wires — and an exterminator certified the plane was rodent-free.

Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-stowaway-rat-in-plane,0,5803182.story>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [7](#), and [13](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *February 16, Fort Smith Times Record* – (California) **Spiro man pleads guilty in bombing case.** A Spiro, Oklahoma man faces up to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to a federal explosive charge in U.S. District Court in California. The 52-year-old pleaded guilty to mailing an explosive device with intent to kill or injure in a Fresno, California courtroom February 14 in exchange for prosecutors dropping two additional charges. The suspect was arrested October 15, 2009, a little more than a month after his nephew opened a package mailed to Cal-Air Cooling & Heating in Visalia, California, and was injured when one of five pipe bombs in the package exploded, according to the plea agreement.
Source: http://www.swtimes.com/news/article_ac391486-39dc-11e0-8bd6-001cc4c03286.html

21. *February 16, Palo Alto Daily News* – (California) **VA office in Palo Alto evacuated after letter found with suspicious substance.** Authorities evacuated a 3-story office building at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Palo Alto Health Care System campus in Palo Alto, California, February 15 after an employee opened an envelope containing a suspicious substance and fell ill, a VA official said. The employee at Building 6 on the 3801 Miranda Avenue campus was going through mail when he opened the mysterious envelope, a VA spokeswoman said. “In opening the envelope, he felt something gritty,” she said. “It smelled musty.” The alarmed man notified hospital staff, then became nauseous and vomited, the spokeswoman said. He was eventually treated in the emergency room on campus and released shortly afterward. The spokeswoman said initial reports indicated the substance was a white powder, but that proved to be false. Palo Alto police and the fire department’s hazardous materials team responded, and the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service are investigating. The FBI will analyze the envelope to determine the nature of the substance.
Source:
http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_17396584?source=most_email&nlick_heck=1

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *February 16, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Fire still burning at SC fertilizer plant.** South Carolina officials were sending a team February 16 back to a burning fertilizer plant in Hartsville to make a second check of smoke billowing from the fire.

A state department of health and environmental control spokesman said February 15 the fire was still sending up a lot of smoke. Previous testing found no hazardous chemicals in the air. The fire started February 14 at the Agrium Rainbow plant. Firefighters continued to battle hotspots February 15, and officials were testing water at a nearby lake. About 50 people worked at the plant. Hartsville's mayor said city officials were meeting with state commerce officials and representatives from the governor's office to help former employees find new jobs.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-16/fire-still-burning-at-sc-fertilizer-plant.html>

23. *February 15, NBC* – (Florida) **Teens blamed for chemical attack on restaurant.** A chemical attack February 11 at a yogurt shop in Kissimmee, Florida, caused temporary respiratory problems for customers and employees. Police said four teenagers allegedly unloaded a chemical-like pepper spray in Menchie's Frozen Yogurt restaurant. "They sprayed behind the cash register, then by the machines and by the cold bar," an employee said. Police said the boy in the group walked over to the yogurt machine and sprayed the chemical again. The smell overwhelmed customers and workers. Investigators said the chemicals caused a woman to have an asthma attack. Customers were evacuated while employees closed early and tossed toppings that could have been contaminated. It cost the business more than \$1,000. Police said the teenagers will face charges when they are caught.

Source: <http://www.wdam.com/Global/story.asp?S=14037408>

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Water Sector

24. *February 16, Marlin Democrat* – (Texas) **Water main break not the only water problem.** Snow and ice covered the Marlin and Falls County, Texas area the first week of February, but the frigid temperatures that continued the next week caused major problems for the city water department. On February 5, a 6-inch water main broke in the Commerce Street area of the city. City crews worked until approximately 1:30 a.m. February 6, with pressure restored to homes and business late that morning. The water plant superintendent said, "We completed the Commerce Street task but our gauges indicated that we had another leak somewhere in the city and began the search to find it. Luckily, a postman heard an alarm at the old Insulfoam building and reported it." The Marlin Fire Department chief said, "In our investigation as to the cause of the alarm, we found a sprinkler system line had froze and burst, draining water from the city system. We immediately had all power cut off to the building and notified Insulfoam personnel." He said after all systems were cut off, everything returned to normal at the water plant. He also said Insulfoam will be responsible for paying for the 626,000 gallons of water spilled plus all other expenses incurred from the leak.

Source: http://www.marlindemocrat.com/news/article_283cc30e-39d6-11e0-aa6e-001cc4c002e0.html

25. *February 15, KCIM 1380 AM Carroll* – (Iowa) **Wastewater leak in Denison.** Untreated wastewater was bubbling up to the ground surface near the job corps facility on the east side of Denison, Iowa, February 15. Frost may have caused a break in the sewer line between the job corps facility and the city sewer main. Denison municipal wastewater staff estimated the leakage at 15 gallons per minute. The untreated wastewater flowed downhill about 15 feet across a walking path and then into a storm sewer, possibly reaching an unnamed tributary to the Boyer River. The city is blocking the storm sewer, and plans to pump or haul wastewater to a nearby manhole leading to the sewage treatment plant. Job corps has barricaded the pathway and will be conserving water at the facility until repairs can be made. The Department of Natural Resources cautioned people to keep children and pets away from the area for 48 hours after repairs are made.
Source: <http://www.1380kcim.com/Wastewater-leak-in-Denison/9206145>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *February 16, TriCities.com* – (Tennessee) **Five charged in drug store robberies.** Five men, including a Bristol, Tennessee man, were charged February 15 on 13 counts in federal court, of robbing five pharmacies at gunpoint, then selling the stolen drugs from a Knoxville business. Among the pharmacies they are accused of robbing was the CVS on Virginia Avenue in Bristol. According to the indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Knoxville, the Bristol man was working with four Knoxville men. The Bristol man is alleged to be the ringleader of the group who planned each robbery, procured weapons, and sold the drugs from his business, Po Boys Used Tires on Chapman Highway in Knoxville, according to the indictment. The only man alleged to have participated in all the robberies is accused of stealing a vehicle before each hold-up to be used as the getaway car then discarded. If convicted, two of the men will spend at least 107 years in federal prison, a third will spend 57 years, and a fourth at least 32 years, according to a news statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office. The fifth suspect was charged separately from the other men.
Source: <http://www2.tricitie.com/business/2011/feb/16/five-charged-drug-store-robberies-ar-845946/>
27. *February 15, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Rockland Psych Center patients may have been exposed to hepatitis, HIV.** Patients treated at Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, New York who had finger stick blood sugar testing were advised to get tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV infections, according to a press release from state officials. The notification stems from an investigation by the state department of health in cooperation with the state office of mental health, which operates Rockland. The investigation began after a patient treated at Rockland in the summer of 2010 developed a new hepatitis B infection. Investigators found finger stick pens were being used on more than one patient. The pens were used to get a drop of

blood for checking patients' blood sugar levels. The lancet (sharp part) of the pen with the needle was not used for more than one patient, but blood can contaminate the barrel of the device. There is a risk of spreading infections when any part of the pen is used for more than one patient. The investigation identified another patient with chronic hepatitis B at the same time as the newly-infected patient. Analysis performed by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta found he analyzed portions of viruses from the two patients were identical, suggesting transmission from one patient to the other or transmission to each patient from another infected person. Both patients had received finger sticks with a shared pen while at Rockland; however, investigators could not determine with certainty that the infection was transmitted by use of a pen.

Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20110215/NEWS03/102150371/-1/newsfront/Rockland-Psych-Center-patients-may-have-been-exposed-to-hepatitis--HIV>

28. *February 15, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Patient dies during fire at Gallatin rehabilitation home.** A weekend fire at a rehabilitation home in Gallatin, Tennessee killed one of the facility's patients February 12. The blaze broke out at 21st Century Living Services on Hartsville Pike. Fire crews said a 45-year-old male died of smoke inhalation. The facility provides programs and services for patients with traumatic brain injuries. While investigating the fire, the Gallatin Fire Marshal learned the facility was not licensed with the city codes department, or with the state. A department of health spokesperson said a license is not always required, but the agency is currently working to determine whether the owners were in violation. "If you have a facility and there are four or more individuals who are not being cared for by family members, then there are likely some state level licensure requirements," a department of health spokeswoman said. If that proves to be the case, the facility could face fines or penalties that will be determined by the state board in charge of licensing healthcare facilities. Adult protective services could also intervene, to make sure patients are being properly cared for. The fire marshal has ruled the fire as accidental, saying it started in a light fixture on the back porch.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/14037384/patient-dies-during-fire-at-gallatin-rehabilitation-home>

29. *February 15, Vallejo Times-Herald* – (California) **Students need booster shots.** By the start of the 2011-12 school year, all middle and high schools students in California will need to prove they have been immunized for pertussis. Whooping cough made a dramatic comeback in 2010 amidst a statewide outbreak of the highly infectious bacterial disease. Solano County and area school officials are gearing up to adhere to a new law that goes into effect July 1 requiring all incoming students grades 7 to 12 prove they received a booster shot. "This past year has been a pertussis epidemic but activity has been slowing. We're not getting the same number of cases we got in 2010," a Solano County deputy health officer said. Solano County saw 38 cases of whooping cough in 2010 and has had 2 so far this year, he said. California saw 8,627 cases in 2010 and about 311 this year. The last time there were more cases than in 2010 was in 1947.

Source: http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_17391367

For another story, see item [21](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

30. *February 16, WLKY 32 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Courthouse evacuated after mobile meth lab discovered.** A small duffel bag forced the evacuation February 15 of the Bullitt County Courthouse in Louisville, Kentucky, after an active methamphetamine lab was found inside about 4 p.m. A major said shortly before that, an elderly Bullitt County man came across the bag lying in his backyard. After the man looked inside, he knew something was not right, the major said. The man was trying to turn the bag and its volatile contents over to the sheriff’s department, located across the driveway from the judicial center. He ended up walking into the courthouse instead. The bag was moved outside, and the Bullitt County Meth Lab Response Team and fire department moved in to neutralize the components. Bullitt County authorities do not know how the meth lab ended up in the man’s yard.
Source: <http://www.wlky.com/news/26877250/detail.html>

31. *February 15, KIVI 6 Nampa* – (Idaho) **Chemical spill closes Mountain Home High School.** Mountain Home High School in Mountain Home, Idaho, was closed February 15, after a custodian discovered what was described as a chemical spill. Details of the spill or the nature of the chemical were not immediately available. Students arriving at the school were diverted to Mountain Home Junior High to be sent home from there, according to the school’s district superintendent. Haz-mat crews were on the scene investigating. The school was expected to re-open February 16.
Source: <http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14032275>

32. *February 15, WBNS 10 Columbus* – (Ohio) **State mailing exposes Social Security numbers.** More than 8,000 state child-care providers in Ohio had their Social Security numbers accidentally exposed, WBNS 10 reported February 14. The providers received letters from Affiliated Computer Services, a subsidiary of Xerox. The company was hired by Ohio to manage a new automated system for paying and tracking child-care providers. “Xerox sent out a mailing to these providers and the mailing label on the envelope included their provider ID number,” a spokesman with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services said. “Now for a childcare center, that’s not a big deal. It’s a random six-digit number. For Type B providers, who offer childcare out of their own home, their provider number is their Social Security number.” The numbers were printed on the outside of the envelopes where anyone could see them. State officials said identity theft protection would be provided to all affected workers.
Source: http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/02/15/social-security-numbers-exposed-wbns.html?sid=101

33. *February 15, Government Technology* – (Virginia) **Audit: Human error partly to blame for Virginia computer outage.** A major computer failure that knocked out service to more than two dozen Virginia government agencies in the summer of 2010

was exacerbated by human error, according to an audit released February 15. The finding, announced jointly by the governor and the state's legislative audit committee, blamed the severity of the computer failure — 26 of the state's 89 state agencies were affected in late August, some for as long as a week — partly on the maintenance process done on a storage network located at the state's data center in Richmond. Data corruption occurred across several critical systems when a memory board was replaced on the storage network, a DMX-3 Series manufactured by EMC. The audit said two memory boards were reporting errors, and that they were replaced in the incorrect order. The protracted incident was the latest blemish on the enterprisewide IT partnership struck between the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and Northrop Grumman in 2006. The 10-year, \$2.3 billion contract called for Northrop Grumman to provide the state's IT services. But the project — the largest of its kind among state governments — has been plagued by delays, cost overruns, and poor service.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/policy-management/Human-Error-Virginia-Computer-Outage-021511.html>

34. *February 15, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Snow College students evacuated for possible carbon monoxide poisoning.** A girl fainted and fell from possible carbon monoxide poisoning February 15 in the Snow College Science Building in Utah, the Sanpete County Sheriff's Office reported. The fainting, and several students who reported feeling dizzy, prompted crews to be sent at 8:29 p.m. to investigate, police said. At about 8:45 p.m., the building was closed, according to a news release from a college spokesman. Emergency responders found higher than normal levels of carbon monoxide. About 40 faculty and students were monitored by emergency medical services in the Noyes Building until 10:30 p.m.
Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705366804/Snow-College-students-evacuated-for-possible-carbon-monoxide-poisoning.html>
35. *February 15, Puyallup Herald* – (Oregon) **System failure causes plant closure at Chemical Depot.** An HVAC system failure caused the incineration plant at the Umatilla Chemical Depot to shut down February 12 in Hermiston, Oregon. The chemical agent monitoring system did not detect any abnormal conditions, and no chemical agent was released from the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, according to information from the depot. A depot spokesman said there was no container of mustard chemical weapon agent in the incinerator when the problem occurred at 4 p.m. However, workers were in the plant to do some maintenance work. Those workers, who were in full protective gear, left the plant, and other workers on the disposal facility campus were required to put on masks as a safety precaution. The workers involved in the maintenance work were evaluated by a doctor and no exposure to chemical weapon agent was found. The order to wear masks was lifted at 7:45 p.m.
Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/02/15/1545750/system-failure-causes-plant-closure.html>

For more stories, see items [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [29](#), and [43](#)

Emergency Services Sector

36. *February 16, Associated Press* – (International) **Gunmen kill US agent, wound another, in Mexico.** A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent on assignment to the ICE Attache in Mexico City, Mexico from his post in Laredo, Texas, died February 15 when gunmen attacked his blue Suburban vehicle in the northern state of San Luis Potosi. A second ICE agent was shot in the arm and leg and was in stable condition, according to statements from the Department of Homeland Security. The Homeland Security Secretary said the fatal attack on American law enforcement, the highest-profile attack since the 1985 torture and killing of a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, will not change the U.S. commitment to supporting Mexico in its crackdown on organized crime. The two agents were driving on a four-lane, federal highway between Mexico City and Monterrey when they were stopped at what may have appeared to be a military checkpoint, according to one Mexican official. Mexican military officers said they had no checkpoints in the area. After they stopped, someone opened fire on them, the official said. Police said a checkpoint was unlikely on such a high-speed stretch of highway and that the bullet-riddled Suburban was found off to one side of the road. The United States has increased equipment and training support for Mexico in recent years through its \$1.4 billion Merida Initiative.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110216/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/lt_mexico_ice_agents_shot

37. *February 16, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **First responders from 12 counties do two-part exercise to prepare for potential disaster.** First responders from a 12-county area gathered in Jamestown, North Dakota, February 15, to figure out how to handle a serious chemical spill. The officials were participating in Operation Roughrider, a two-part exercise at the Jamestown Civic Center designed to help them prepare for a large-scale disaster requiring the cooperation of police, fire and ambulance agencies from around the region. The drill was divided into two parts. “This morning we started with a functional exercise to test the inter-operative operations of the communications,” said a training and exercise officer for the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services. “The second part is a table-top exercise where the first responders discuss issues around a catastrophic hazardous materials spill in Jamestown.”

Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/129657/>

38. *February 16, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Montgomery’s 911 troubles appear widespread.** Residents in Montgomery and at least two other Maryland counties have been unable to connect with 911 operators at times in the past several months due to a glitch with Verizon, the utility that provides service to emergency dispatch centers. Thousands of 911 calls have gone unanswered, said the chief of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) public safety and homeland security bureau. The FCC thinks the problem might be occurring nationwide, he said. In the Maryland cases, residents who dialed 911 have heard busy signals or have been rerouted to other

jurisdictions. Officials in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Charles counties have reported the problem. On February 10, Verizon officials acknowledged the failure and said they were taking steps to improve their infrastructure and communication with local jurisdictions. Verizon officials made the comments during a meeting of the state's emergency number systems board, which is the funding agent of the state's 911 centers. Maryland residents said that, in some cases, it took half an hour to reach emergency dispatchers.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/02162011/montnew184543_32539.php

39. *February 15, KTVZ 21 Bend* – (Oregon) **Deschutes 911 has its own snow emergency.** On February 14 and 15, Deschutes County, Oregon received several inches of snow. Due to the warm temperatures, the snow caused downed power lines, trees, and phone lines. Many of the trees fell onto the power lines causing wide-spread power loss in Deschutes County. The Deschutes County 911 Center lost power and phones at about 7:45 a.m. February 15. An emergency operations center was set up in the 911 center to operate as an emergency dispatch center, as well as diverting 911 calls to the Oregon State Police (OSP) in Medford. OSP assisted Deschutes County by communicating via cell phones back to the 911 Center where emergency calls could be dispatched to emergency personnel by portable radios units. The center was staffed by 911 personnel, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office emergency management personnel, as well as representatives from the City of Bend Police Department, the City of Redmond Police Department, Deschutes County Road Department, and the City of Redmond Public Works. At about 9 a.m. power and phones were restored to the Deschutes County 911 Center.

Source: <http://www.ktvz.com/news/26879234/detail.html>

40. *February 15, KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids* – (Iowa) **HazMat team responds to Cedar Rapids police station.** Authorities have located the cause of an ammonia-type odor in an evidence storage area at the Cedar Rapids Police Department in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The hazardous materials team found a keg of hydrous ammonia, a Cedar Rapids Fire Department (CRFD) spokesman said. They moved the unit to an isolated area. The facility was not evacuated and no injuries were reported. A hazardous materials team responded to a maintenance shed at the police station around 11:30 a.m. February 15, and was still there trying to find the source of the smell at 2:30 p.m. "It could be just some products that have been sitting for a period of time that are just starting to decompose," the acting CFRD battalion chief said. The police first noticed the odor February 14, and it was even more noticeable February 15. Firefighters dressed in hazmat suits removed and contained some items from the maintenance building, and then tested them for gases. A police spokeswoman said larger items that do not fit in storage boxes are housed in the maintenance building.

Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/HazMat-Team-Responds-to-Cedar-Rapids-Police-Station-116260849.html>

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Information Technology Sector

41. *February 16, The Register* – (International) **Windows 0day could allow complete hijacking.** Security researchers have warned of a new vulnerability afflicting older versions of Windows that could allow attackers to take complete control of machines running the operating systems. The flaw in “BrowserWriteErrorLogEntry()” function within the Windows mrxsmb(dot)sys driver “could be exploited by remote attackers or malicious users to cause a denial of service or take complete control of a vulnerable system,” researchers from French security firm Vupen warned. The warning came after proof-of-concept code was posted February 14 to the Full-disclosure mailing list. Attacks are triggered by sending vulnerable machines malformed Browser Election requests that cause a heap overflow in the mrxsmb(dot)sys driver. The term “Browser” in this context does not refer to an application for browsing Web sites, but rather, to networking technology used by older versions of Windows. The malformed Browser Election requests contain an “overly long Server Name string,” vulnerability tracking service Secunia said. Vupen, which rates the vulnerability as critical, has confirmed the bug in Windows Server 2003 SP2 and Windows XP SP3. Secunia rates it as moderately critical.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/02/16/windows_0day_vulnerability/
42. *February 15, ConsumerAffairs.com* – (International) **‘Reporter has stroke on TV’ turns into Facebook scam.** During the Grammy Awards broadcast February 13, a Los Angeles, California television reporter appeared to be having a stroke during a live report. She slurred words and at times spoke gibberish, what physicians describe as classic stroke symptoms. Despite the fact she was fine, the video of her on-air meltdown has gone viral on YouTube, and has become a tool for at least one Facebook scam, according to security experts at Sophos software. Facebook users have started getting messages, which look like they are from friends, followed by a link. Users who click the link are redirected to a screen that indicates the video requires a “verified app” to be viewed. To get the app, users are prompted to click a button to download it. The scammers’ plan is to exploit interest in the video by tricking users into approving an application that will be able to access profiles and post messages onto the walls of Facebook accounts. Though users cannot see it, their own Facebook account is reaching out to all their friends, encouraging them to click on the link and view the same video.
Source: <http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2011/02/reporter-has-stroke-on-tv-turns-into-facebook-scam.html>
43. *February 15, Help Net Security* – (International) **HBGary e-mails are a treasure trove for social engineers.** The recent publication of the second batch of corporate e-mails exchanged between HBGary and HBGary federal executives and various contacts in U.S. intelligence, military, and law enforcement organizations is a godsend to individuals who aim to launch social engineering attacks against those people, a security expert said. The e-mails contain a variety of personal and business contact information of individuals who work for various U.S. intelligence agencies, the Air Force, and other high ranking government officials, and can also be used to extrapolate a likely web of social and business contacts between them and the business community. The topics of the e-mails themselves offer a great amount of useful knowledge about

the organizations' and the individuals' needs and ways of thought — knowledge that can be deadly in the hands of an adept social engineer.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10606>

For more stories, see items [33](#), [47](#), and [48](#)

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

44. *February 15, New York Magazine* – (International) **Iran tries internet censorship, execution as protesters demand democracy.** After pro-democracy protests in Tehran, Iran, February 14, Iranian authorities have started blocking pro-opposition Web sites and electronic media, and greatly slowed broadband speed in major cities. Text-message and mobile-phone traffic was disrupted, and the word “bahman”, the current month in the Persian calendar, has been blocked. Authorities have tried to censor the actual protests and reporting of the events, blocking the top two news sites and jamming satellite TV broadcasts and prohibiting photography. Conservative lawmakers have also called for the execution of two opposition leaders who asked for permission to demonstrate but were denied and did it anyway.

Source: http://nymag.com/daily/intel/2011/02/iran_tries_internet_censorship.html

45. *February 15, MyBroadband* – (International) **Web Africa ADSL international connectivity problems.** An outage on Web Africa's SAT-3 link caused international connectivity downtime for subscribers. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Web Africa was experiencing an international bandwidth outage February 15 that was aggravated by routing problems which prevented failover of the SEACOM submarine fiber-optic cable that connects communication carriers in south and east Africa. Web Africa subscribers started reporting international connectivity problems February 15. Web Africa's Web site confirmed the problems, assuring subscribers they were investigating the problem. According to Web Africa's call center, they “can't go into details”, but they said a portion of the SAT3 link from WebAfrica's upstream providers were affected. The community coordinator for Web Africa, posted the following in the MyBroadband forums: “At this stage we are aware of a portion of our upstream provider's section of SAT3 is currently down. Unfortunately I don't have an ETA as yet. We do have SEACOM fail-over, however due to routing issues there are problems in switching this over.”

Source: <http://mybroadband.co.za/news/adsl/18485-Web-Africa-ADSL-international-connectivity-problems.html>

46. *February 15, Radio World* – (National) **FCC asks for money for direction-finding gear.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wants to equip its enforcement agents with better gear. In the budget submitted to Congress by the U.S. President, the FCC asked for \$350,000 for portable direction-finding gear. It said that the current equipment used by the enforcement bureau’s field offices to identify and resolve interference, provide limited portable or semi-fixed capability for direction finding. Source: <http://www.radioworld.com/article/113834>
47. *February 15, Softpedia* – (International) **Hackers create WiFi content spoofing device.** A pair of creative hackers have built a device capable of connecting to wireless networks and altering the Web content users access, as part of a project to demonstrate how news can be manipulated. The device mimics a pass-through power socket, making it hard to observe, and has already been tested in cafe shops in Berlin, Germany, where its creators are based. Inside the 12-centimeter long casing is a small circuit board with an Atheros chipset and an antenna. It runs a customized Linux distribution designed for embedded systems. When turned on, the device automatically searches for wireless networks and connects using passwords supplied in advance. A reverse SSH tunnel is established with a remote server, allowing attackers to control the device from a distance. The tunnel uses 2048-bit encryption and is routed over Tor nodes, making it virtually impossible to determine where the attacker is located. The device launches Address Resolution Protocol spoofing attacks to position itself as a gateway between the other wireless clients and the real router. This allows attackers to manipulate content passing through it. Combined with other techniques, especially on open wireless networks, the device can also be used to hijack users’ sessions, read e-mails, and perform other attacks. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Researchers-Demo-WiFi-News-Spoofing-Device-184549.shtml>
48. *February 15, Help Net Security* – (International) **Two BBC sites serving malware via injected iFrame.** A piece of malware detected by only 21 percent of the anti-virus solutions used by VirusTotal is currently being pushed onto unsuspecting visitors of the BBC 6 Music and BBC 1Xtra radio station Web sites. The visitor does not have to do anything except land on the Web site to become a victim of a drive-by download attack, since the Web sites have been injected with an iFrame that automatically loads the malicious code from a Web site parked on a co(dot)cc domain. According to Websense experts, the payload is delivered only the first time the user visits the site. “The code that is delivered to end users utilizes exploits delivered by the Phoenix exploit kit. A malicious binary is ultimately delivered to the end user,” they say, and add that the attack is part of a current mass-injection targeting vulnerable Web sites. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1631

For another story, see item [38](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *February 17, East Brunswick Sentinel* – (New Jersey) **Hazmat teams remove chemicals from Rt. 18 office.** Police confiscated chemicals commonly used in the manufacture of methamphetamines from an East Brunswick, New Jersey office February 10. Officers and hazardous materials personnel from the county and state responded to 200 Route 18 on after receiving a report of hazardous materials being stored in one of the tenants’ offices. Authorities immediately evacuated the building for the safety of the other tenants, and haz-mat teams in full protective suits entered the building. After a thorough search, officials found and removed several household chemicals that police said are commonly used to make methamphetamine. The building was deemed safe to all tenants except the occupants of the office where the chemicals were found. That office was to be decontaminated, according to police. East Brunswick Fire District 2 and the District 2 fire marshal as well as the East Brunswick Rescue Squad also responded. No arrests were made.
Source: http://ebs.gmnews.com/news/2011-02-17/Front_Page/Hazmat_teams_remove_chemicals_from_Rt_18_office.html
50. *February 14, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Victim ignored warning about falling ice at Cowboys Stadium.** One victim was warned about ice falling from Cowboys Stadium moments before he was injured February 4, and the first attempt to de-ice the roof afterward was performed with a “regular garden hose,” according to documents released February 14. Arlington, Texas, city officials unveiled 20 new pages of e-mails, providing more insight about roof safety and seating problems at the football stadium, which is home to the National Football League’s Dallas Cowboys, before Super Bowl XLV. Many documents reinforced the city’s concerns about safety and the Super Bowl, as shown in the several hundred pages that were released February 11. One e-mail sent to city staff pointed blame at an unnamed victim struck by falling ice 2 days before the Super Bowl. A fire official wrote that one person struck by falling ice had been warned just before the accident. Citing information from police, a battalion chief wrote: “the [person] with the head injury from falling ice was stopped inside and advised by Safe Management not to exit due to falling ice â□ he forced his way through and was promptly hit by the ice.”
Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sports/super-bowl/local/20110214-victim-ignored-warning-about-falling-ice-at-cowboys-stadium.ece>

For more stories, see items [13](#) and [14](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

51. *February 16, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Fight against wildfire continues in Jefferson National Forest.** Firefighters in the Jefferson National Forest gained ground February 15 against a wildfire that burned through about 570 acres just north of New Castle, Virginia. The fire was 50 percent contained and one home that was at moderate risk was being monitored, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman said. The fire, apparently sparked by a downed power line and fanned by gusts of to 30 miles per

hour, was reported February 14. Seventy-five paid and volunteer firefighters worked on the ground, and one helicopter monitored and dumped water on hot spots. February 15 was the first day of the Virginia Department of Forestry's spring fire season, during which state law prohibits burning before 4 p.m. It is in place through April 30. Seventeen brush fires burned 130 acres in state and private lands south of Bath County and east of Bedford County through Southwest Virginia, a regional forester with the state department of forestry said.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/277190>

52. *February 16, Sierra Vista Herald* – (Arizona) **Duquesne fire more than doubles in size on Day 2.** A fire south of Patagonia, Arizona, has more than doubled in size since it was first reported February 14, measuring about 1,400 acres, a Coronado National Forest spokeswoman said. No structures were threatened by the Duquesne Fire, now being worked on by 150 personnel, using three fire engines, two water tenders, one helicopter and one airplane. The fire is about 2 miles from Duquesne, an old mining encampment. The remote and rugged terrain has resulted in efforts being focused on the southwest corner of the blaze to gain a foothold against the fire, the spokeswoman said. Mexican firefighters are working to suppress the fire from the south after it crossed the border into their country. The exact origins of the human-caused fire are under investigation.

Source: <http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2011/02/16/duquesne-fire-more-doubles-size-day-2>

53. *February 16, KWES 9 Midland/Odessa* – (Texas) **Texas Forest Service warns of wildfires in the coming days.** The Texas Forest Service (TFS) issued an alert February 15 saying dangerous wildfires could happen at anytime in the next few days. Fire officials in more than half the state were preparing for what could be a very busy week ahead. TFS warned residents west of Interstate 35 to brace for potentially dangerous wildfires. That alert stretches from El Paso to Del Rio. "Our local fire departments are seeing a real increase in the number of fires that they're being called out to and these fires are getting bigger than they have been in the past few months," a TFS spokeswoman said. The weekend of February 11, TFS responded to 30 wildfires that scorched more than 5,000 acres. In preparation, task forces were being set up and airplanes were being prepared to drop flame retardant in certain hotspot areas.

Source: <http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=14038422>

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Dams Sector

54. *February 16, Yadkin Ripple* – (North Carolina) **Local reservoir and dam leaking.** The Yadkinville, North Carolina, reservoir and dam is losing 100,000 gallons of raw water per day. What is referred to as "boils" have presented outside of the new earthen dam and are generating the water loss. At a recent town board of commissioner's meeting, the public works director described the situation. "What's happening is that small areas have appeared outside of the dam that look like mini volcanos," he said. "As these

bubble up, water loss is occurring in the reservoir. We have contacted the engineering firm and asked that they determine the problem.” He said the engineers, Hobbs Upchurch and Associates, have contacted the company that did the original soil testing before the reservoir and dam were built and asked them to do a core sample test and to examine the boils. “These little places [boils] started coming up on the outside of the dam last summer and we’ve been monitoring ever since,” he said.

Source: http://www.yadkinripple.com/view/full_story/11423714/article-Local-reservoir-and-dam-leaking?instance=secondary_news_left_column

55. *February 15, KOTV 6 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Corps says Keystone very high risk dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the Keystone Dam in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, is considered a very high risk dam. According to a news release from the Corps office in Tulsa, the reason is the potential consequences from seepage through the foundation and the abutments of the dam, and potential overtopping during a probable maximum flood. “Let me emphasize that currently there is no evidence to suggest that an emergency situation exists at any of our projects,” the district commander said. In a news release, the Corps said a major component of the risk from Keystone is the proximity of housing and development near Sand Springs and Tulsa to the dam. He said the Tulsa District is completing further study of issues at Keystone. Source: <http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=14032944>

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