



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 March 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- KITV 4 News reports an investigation is underway of at least 27 Transportation Security Administration officers at the Honolulu International Airport in Hawaii after security failures that could have allowed a terrorist attack on an airplane were allowed to continue for months. (See item [21](#))
- Heavily armed bandits stormed a high-tech company February 27 in Fremont, California, rounding up employees and escaping with at least \$2 million worth of computer chips and other equipment, KTVU 2 Oakland and San Francisco Bay City News reported. (See item [52](#))

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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. *March 2, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Tennessee) **More than 3,000 homes without power in Chattanooga area.** EPB in Chattanooga, Tennessee, reported March

2 that still more than 3,000 customers are without power in some of the worst electrical system damage in decades, and it could be March 4 before everyone has power restored. “These winds cause incredible damage to our electric system,” said the EPB executive vice president and chief operating officer. EPB said the storms February 28 damaged 102 electric poles and left 61,000 customers without power at the peak of the outages. EPB has brought in extra employees from other power companies, and roughly 500 workers are trying to restore power around the clock, he said.

Source: <http://timesfreepress.com/news/2011/mar/02/more-3000-homes-without-power-chattanooga-area/>

2. *March 2, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Report: NTSB recommended gas line replacement in Allentown.** Federal investigators recommended 19 years ago that a Pennsylvania utility company replace its aging, cast-iron natural gas pipelines following a 1990 explosion about a mile from the site of another blast that killed five people in February. The Morning Call newspaper reported the then-acting chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) urged UGI Corp. in 1992 to begin replacing miles of pipeline following an explosion that killed one person and injured nine in Allentown, Pennsylvania. A UGI spokesman said the utility has replaced 120 miles of cast-iron pipe since 1996. The NTSB deemed the utility’s response an “acceptable action.” Investigators suspect a cracked piece of pipe is to blame for the explosion and ensuing fire.

Source:

<http://pottsmmerc.com/articles/2011/03/02/news/doc4d6e7c636d61b671617792.txt>

3. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **300 gallons of ethyl alcohol spilled from rail car in RR yards at North Little Rock, Ark.** An emergency-services official said workers are cleaning up the site of a chemical spill in North Little Rock, Arkansas. A spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management said about 300 gallons of ethanol leaked March 1 because of a faulty valve as a railroad tank car was being unloaded in the Union Pacific Railroad yard in North Little Rock. The spokesman said the leak was reported about 7:40 p.m. He said that, at 10 p.m., a cleanup was under way, but no evacuation had been required, and there were no injuries.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/377fe69229324ae1beabcd809dcf5145/AR--Chemical_Spill-NLR/

4. *March 1, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Explosion reports send crews to Washington Co. gas well site.** A heater malfunction may have sparked a fire March 1 inside a tank at a Marcellus Shale gas compressor station in Hickory, Washington County, Pennsylvania. Fire crews were called to a site in Mount Pleasant Township off Caldwell Road after 911 dispatchers started getting calls about an explosion on March 1. State environmental officials said flames blew the hatch off a second tank, which may have been the noise heard by several people living in the area. No one was hurt, but the incident is still under investigation. A spokesman said that one of the company’s employees was inspecting wells in the area when he saw smoke coming

from a compressor station and called 911.

Source: <http://www.wtae.com/r/27035071/detail.html>

5. *March 1, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **No one hurt in Elk Grove gas station explosion, fire.** Five employees escaped safely when a Shell gas station in Elk Grove, California, caught fire March 1. The flames erupted about 11:45 a.m. when mechanics inside the station’s garage were replacing a fuel pump in a car. The car’s gas tank had to be removed and that is when gas spilled out and there was an explosion and fire, according to the workers. No employees or customers were hurt. There was no immediate estimate of the amount or cost of damage.
Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=125657&catid=2>

6. *March 1, USA Today* – (California) **Company declined safety plan in California pipeline explosion.** The California utility whose gas pipeline exploded last September had rejected federal recommendations to install more automatic shut-off valves to help reduce the risks from a rupture and fire, an investigative panel was told March 1. U.S. Department of Transportation recommendations call for the installation of automatic or remote shut-off valves to reduce the risks of a conflagration, according to documents released at a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) hearing into the accident. Pacific Gas&Electric had rejected the guidance, finding in a 2006 memo that most damage from a pipeline rupture occurs during the first 30 seconds. The memo concluded that automatic valves “will not provide additional safety to people or prevent property damage.” The National Transportation Safety Board has not concluded what caused the explosion. The agency is holding the hearing to discuss broader safety issues raised by the accident. During sometimes tense questioning by NTSB investigators, a panel of PG&E officials said it was impossible to say whether the impact of the fire could have been lessened by better preparation.
Source: <http://tucsoncitizen.com/usa-today-news/2011/03/01/company-declined-safety-plan-in-calif-pipeline-explosion/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *March 1, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Pennsylvania) **Truck hauling explosives crashes on highway.** Emergency crews were on the scene of an accident involving a box truck loaded with explosives in Spring Township, Pennsylvania. The crash happened shortly before 11:00 a.m. February 1 in the northbound lanes of Route 222, between the Broadcasting Road and Spring Ridge interchanges, in Spring Township, Berks County. There were no reports of injuries in the crash, but firefighters and ambulance personnel were dispatched to the scene because of the truck’s contents, which officials said included dynamite and blasting caps. The West Side Emergency Management Agency was also called. Police said the northbound truck was approaching traffic that was backed up as a result of the construction at the Route 183 interchange and could not stop in time. They said the truck veered into the right lane, struck a pickup truck, and then spun around and ended up facing south in a grassy area off the highway. Officials

said they do not believe the explosives were badly damaged in the accident, just shuffled around a bit inside the truck, but they were not taking any chances in their cleanup of the scene. The explosives had to be carefully transferred to another truck before the truck involved in the crash could be moved. Northbound traffic was reduced to one lane while officials evaluated the situation.

Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/berksnews/27037477/detail.html>

8. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Alabama company cited in ammonia leak.** Federal authorities have cited a Theodore, Alabama, company with 16 alleged health and safety violations in connection with an August ammonia leak in which 154 workers were overcome by ammonia vapors. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced the citations involving Millard Refrigerated Services Inc. in Theodore March 1. The government is proposing total penalties of \$52,500. In August 2010, anhydrous ammonia leaked out of a 12-inch pipe located on the roof of the Millard Refrigerated Services facility, due to hydraulic shock within the pipe. The 152 workers from several companies went to the hospital for ammonia vapor exposure, 31 were admitted and four were placed in the intensive care unit.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14165499>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *March 2, Associated Press* – (New York) **Indian Point reactor switches to backup power after blip.** Federal regulators say one of the reactors at the Indian Point nuclear power plant had to switch to backup power for about 2 hours. An NRC spokesman said March 1 that the automatic switch to diesel generators worked the way it is designed to. He said the reactor, Indian Point 2, remained at full power. Indian Point 3, the other reactor at the site, was unaffected. Plant owner Entergy Nuclear said there was no emergency or release of radioactivity. The NRC spokesman said breakers at a switchyard sensed a fault and opened, cutting off electric power at about 11 a.m. He said the precise cause was not immediately known. Electrical power was restored within about 2 hours.

Source:

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110302/NEWS90/110309966/-1/SITEMAP>

10. *March 1, WNWO 24 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Davis Besse's long-term future still uncertain.** The operating license for the Davis Besse nuclear power plant expires in 2017. The NRC is considering extending that license for an additional 20 years but a handful of citizens' groups do not want that to happen. "This plant has one of the worst records in terms of safety and in terms of reliability — it's down way down at 70 percent reliable. So when they ask to extend their license an extra 20 years, they're

putting all of us at risk of a major catastrophe,” said a Green Party member. Safety and the environment are the two major reasons four citizens groups petitioned the NRC to deny the license extension for Davis Besse. But this pre-hearing is not even about reasons just yet. “They’re trying to determine whether to allow these groups to intervene. So that’s the first part,” said an NRC spokeswoman. So if an independent panel of judges finds this petition fit, another hearing will debate the reasoning. “It is pretty much a process that allows citizens to intervene in a license renewal application for a nuclear power plant,” said the NRC spokeswoman.

Source: <http://www.toledoonthemove.com/news/story.aspx?id=587268>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

11. *March 2, Associated Press* – (International) **Ford recalls vehicles over fuel leaks.** Ford Motor Co. is recalling about 35,000 pickup trucks and crossover vehicles in the United States and Canada because of possible fuel leaks and electrical shorts that could lead to fires. Ford says the recall includes about 25,000 2010 Ranger pickups and involves fixing potential problems with the fuel line that could lead to a fuel leak and a fire. No fires or injuries have been reported. Ford also is recalling more than 9,000 other vehicles to fix a software problem that could lead to an electrical short and overheating, potentially causing a fire. The recall involves 2011 model years of the Ford Edge, F150, F250, F350, F450, F550, and Lincoln MKX. Ford says it does not know of any incidents related to the recalled vehicles.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iS1dQfzthcVxcGrN2WEJR-ln_hKw?docId=be2af46c5cbf4984a4723f2645e6838a

12. *March 2, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Burlington Coat Factory recalls slow cookers due to fire hazard.** Burlington Coat Factory, of Burlington, New Jersey, has issued a recall March 2 for about 7,460 slow cookers. The importer/distributor was Lehrhoff ABL, of Carlstadt, New Jersey. The slow cooker’s control panel can overheat and melt, posing a fire hazard. The manufacturer has received 60 reports of the control panels smoking, melting and sparking, and three reports of panels catching fire. Fourteen incidents resulted in minor damage to countertops. No injuries have been reported. This recall involves Bella Kitchen 5-quart programmable slow cookers. The slow cookers were sold at Burlington Coat Factory stores from June 2010 through December 2010.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11150.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *March 1, Kansas City Star* – (Missouri) **Accident at Lake City Army Ammunition Plant injures six.** Six people were injured March 1 in an accident at the Lake City

Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Missouri. A helicopter flew one person to a hospital, said a representative from Alliant Techsystems of Minneapolis, which operates the ammunition facility. She could not comment on the extent of the injuries. The incident occurred in a construction area, she said, who added that the cause was being investigated. The Independence Fire Department dispatched a fire investigator about 3:30 p.m. after receiving a request from plant authorities, said the Independence deputy fire chief. The plant supplies small-caliber ammunition to the U.S. armed forces. Alliant Techsystems has operated it since 2000 in the complex near Missouri 7 and Missouri 78 in eastern Independence.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/03/01/2692030/ammo-plant-accident-injures-six.html>

14. *February 28, Navy Times* – (International) **The plan to keep F/A-18s flying.** Almost 10 years of war have taken a toll on the U.S. Navy’s F/A-18 Super Hornet. “The life of the airplane is getting used up fairly quickly,” said the commander of Carrier Air Wing 7. “They’re relatively new, and — third deployment — some of them are approaching 3,000 flight hours already.” It is a concern, and not just because the newer jets are getting ridden hard. The older Hornets — F/A-18A through D models introduced in 1983 — have already had their service lives extended. These jets must last long enough to stock the fleet until they can be gradually retired in favor of the F-35 joint strike fighter, which is years down the road. “We’re basically operating the aircraft, on average, about 330 hours a year, per airframe,” said the Navy’s F/A-18 program manager. “And that’s about 30 percent more than we expected, annually.” The Navy is working on the problem. A program of real-time and long-range inspections and assessments, service-life extensions, and modifications is aimed at managing fatigue life and keeping Hornets in the air, naval aviation officials said.

Source: <http://www.navytimes.com/news/2011/02/navy-inspection-repair-programs-for-hornet-fleet-022811w/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *March 2, Belleville News Democrat* – (Illinois) **Police say bank robberies in Caseyville, Fairview may be linked.** Police in Caseyville, Illinois, are looking for the two masked gunmen who stormed into the First Collinsville Bank March 1 and robbed it. No one was injured. The robbers displayed guns before fleeing with an undetermined amount of money, the Caseyville police chief said. The police chief said there are similarities between this robbery and one that occurred February 28 at U.S. Bank in Fairview Heights, but declined to elaborate. The FBI is investigating both cases. The robbery occurred shortly before 2 p.m. in a trailer that temporarily housed the bank branch.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/2011/03/02/1612804/bank-robbery-may-be-linked-to.html>

16. *March 1, WFSB 3 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **Bank bomb threats investigated.** Police had opened up a criminal investigation after three bomb threats were called into Windsor Federal Savings Banks in Windsor, Bloomfield, and Granby on February 28. All three branches of the Windsor Federal Savings Bank received a call around 3:45 p.m. that a bomb would detonate in the buildings. “The call was received into the teller that a bomb was going to detonate within the building,” said a Granby police official. The police official said the branches in Bloomfield and Windsor received similar calls just minutes apart. Everyone inside the Granby bank was quickly evacuated as well as employees in nearby businesses. Connecticut State Police brought bomb-sniffing dogs to the scenes, however nothing suspicious was found.
Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/news/27027816/detail.html>

17. *March 1, Boulder Daily Camera* – (Colorado) **Boulder police and FBI seek suspect in 3 robberies in 24 hours.** Boulder, Colorado police are working with the FBI to investigate three robberies — including two bank heists — in the city in less than 24 hours that they believe could be the work of the same man. Still another bank robbery occurred March 1 in Longmont, and police are looking into whether that crime is also linked to the others. The first Boulder robbery took place at 5:26 p.m. February 28 at the Wells Fargo bank at 1690 Canyon Ave. The suspect was described by credit union employees as a 40- to 50-year-old white male, about 6 feet tall with pockmarks and acne scarring on his face. He was wearing a dark jacket, tan pants, a brown knit hat with tassels, and dark sunglasses.
Source: http://www.coloradodaily.com/cu-boulder/ci_17510276#axzz1FSB1O1uI

18. *February 27, TG Daily* – (International) **FBI crime report highlights trends in Internet fraud.** The recently published FBI 2010 Internet Crime Report reveals the most common types of Internet crimes in 2010 were non-delivery of payment or merchandise, impersonating the FBI, and identity theft. According to the joint FBI/National White Collar Crime Center’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), it received more than 300,000 complaints about these particular Internet scams and more. The majority of the filings came from U.S. males between the ages of 40 and 59 years old with targets primarily in California, Florida, Texas, and New York. International complaints came from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and India. In the cases actually solved by the FBI or local law enforcement officials, the majority of perpetrators (around 75 percent) were males residing in California, Florida, New York, Texas, the District of Columbia, and Washington state. Internationally, the hotbeds for scammers were in the United Kingdom, Nigeria, and Canada. The top ten crimes were: computer crimes, miscellaneous fraud, advance fee fraud, spam, auction fraud, credit card fraud, and overpayment fraud. These crimes were mostly carried out through telephone calls claiming victims are delinquent on payday loans and should pay right away, online apartment and real estate scams, denial of service attacks on cell phones and landlines targeting bank accounts, as well as fake emails asking for donations for natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and the tsunamis.
Source: <http://www.tgdaily.com/security-features/54342-fbi-crime-report-highlights-trends-in-internet-fraud>

19. *February 26, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Florida) **Florida lawyer sentenced for stealing trust funds.** The United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, along with several other law enforcement officials, announced the February 26 sentencing of a 63-year-old male, an attorney from Fort Lauderdale, on a mail fraud charge in connection with his embezzlement of funds from clients’ trust account. A United States District Judge sentenced the attorney to 48 months in prison and ordered the man to pay more than \$3,879,896 in restitution to the victims. The attorney had previously pleaded guilty in December 2010. According to the criminal information and statements made in court during the February 26 sentencing hearing, the man practiced law from 1980 through August 2010 at his law firm in Fort Lauderdale. As an attorney, he handled real estate closings for clients, mortgage lenders, and the administration of estates in state court. During that time, the attorney misappropriated more than \$3,879,896 of his clients’ funds. The attorney was permanently disbarred by the Florida Supreme Court on August 26, 2010. The United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida commended the investigative efforts of the United States Postal Inspection Service, FBI, and the State of Florida Office of Financial Regulation. Source: http://7thspace.com/headlines/374049/florida_lawyer_sentenced_for_stealing_trust_funds_.html

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Transportation Sector

20. *March 2, New York Post* – (National) **Passenger took box cutters on JFK airliner.** A passenger passed through ramped-up security measures at JFK Airport in New York with three box cutters in his luggage, boarding an international flight while carrying the weapon of choice of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 hijackers, the New York Post reported March 2. The breach grounded the flight for 3 hours February 26 and drew fury from Port Authority cops, who accused the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of being asleep on the job. The two TSA agents and supervisor who completely missed the blades at a security checkpoint “will all be disciplined and undergo remedial training,” a spokeswoman said. The incident happened at around 10 p.m. local time February 26 as a factory worker 45, of Jersey City made it past the screeners on his way to a Dominican Republic-bound flight. An agent and supervisor and at least one other screener allowed his carry-on luggage — with the box cutters with razor blades — to pass through the X-ray machine, police sources said. Once aboard Santiago-bound Flight 837, a flight attendant asked him to stow his luggage in the overhead storage bin. As the flight Attendant shoved it into the compartment, she saw the box cutters fall out of the bag, according to a police report. He grabbed the box cutters and alerted the captain and first officer. They called JetBlue security, which raised the alarm to PAPD Emergency Service Units, the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the FBI, sparking an evacuation of the plane’s 136 passengers and five crew members. The PAPD’s Canine Unit swept the plane for bombs and all of the passengers had to be re-screened.

Source: http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpps/news/passenger-took-box-cutters-on-jfk-airliner-dpgonc-20110302-fc_12125499

21. *March 2, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **At least 27 Honolulu TSA officers under probe.** An investigation is underway of more than two dozen Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers at the Honolulu International Airport in Hawaii after security failures that could have allowed a terrorist attack on an airplane were allowed to continue for months, KITV 4 News has learned. TSA employees told KITV 4 News thousands of checked bags were loaded onto flights at Honolulu’s airport in recent months without having been screened for explosives. At least 27 TSA officers on the morning shift in Honolulu’s Lobby 4 are accused of not properly searching checking baggage before it was loaded on planes, sources said. Baggage there was supposed to be opened up and checked for traces of explosives, but sources said many pieces of luggage were never checked. In some cases, TSA agents simply marked suitcases as having been screened when those checked bags had not been checked at all, according to people familiar with the investigation. Sources said baggage checked on nine daily morning departures from Lobby 4 were not properly screened, a situation that could have lasted as long as 4 months, meaning thousands of suitcases went unchecked. Source: <http://www.kitv.com/r/27048822/detail.html>

22. *March 1, Boston Herald* – (North Carolina) **Stowaway death forces beefed up airport security.** North Carolina’s main airport will beef up police staffing and electronic security after the body of a 16-year-old stowaway on a US Airways flight to Boston was found mutilated in Milton. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police found “various locations” where the victim might have breached security at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and gained access to the Boston-bound plane, a Boeing 737-400 headed north on November 15, the Charlotte police chief told the Charlotte City Council February 28, according to the Charlotte Observer. During a congressional hearing in February on airport security, U.S. Representative — the former Norfolk District Attorney who investigated the victims case — told the DHS Secretary the incident “raised enormous concerns about aviation safety.” Source: http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/2011_0301stowaway_death_forces_beefed_up_airport_security/

23. *March 1, Msnbc.com* – (Florida) **Firefighter injured battling central Florida wildfires.** A firefighter was injured March 1 while battling fast-moving wildfires engulfing some 16,000 acres along Florida’s central Atlantic coast. Stiff winds were spreading the flames and smoke in a mostly rural stretch of Brevard County, located about 50 miles east of Orlando, and extending into Volusia County to the north. The blaze is 25 percent contained, authorities said. Parts of Interstate 95 and U.S. 1 in North Brevard County were closed February 28 by the Florida Highway Patrol, but had reopened by March 1. A state of emergency has been declared in the county, according to a Brevard County spokeswoman. The fire prompted the voluntary evacuation of 2,500 homes, destroyed two hunting camps and some mobile homes. It also forced the

evacuation of about 20 residences at nearby campgrounds and trailer parks.
Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41847398/ns/us_news-life/

24. *March 1, Associated Press* – (International) **Threat made against US-bound flights from Jamaica.** Jamaican authorities said cargo flights to the United States were temporarily suspended due to a reported threat. A U.S. Transportation Security Administration spokesman said March 1 that the agency is helping the Jamaicans with “precautionary security measures” for U.S.-bound flights following what he called “unsubstantiated threat information.” He said it is being done out of “an abundance of caution.” Jamaica’s civil aviation authority says a temporary suspension of air cargo and duty free items to the U.S. was imposed February 27 evening after an “unconfirmed report” of a threat. U.S. and Jamaican officials refused to disclose specifics about the threat or say when flights will resume.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9LMM3RO0.htm>

25. *March 1, Associated Press* – (New York) **TSA employee arrested at Buffalo airport.** A Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employee was charged March 1 with helping an alleged drug kingpin and other suspect travelers evade security at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport in New York. The suspect was suspended from her job as a behavioral detection officer for the TSA and pleaded not guilty to federal charges. Also charged March 1 was the alleged drug kingpin, which authorities said the TSA agent allowed to travel using an alias and ushered through security with lowered scrutiny. Investigators stumbled upon the TSA agent’s behavior while monitoring the movements and cell phone calls of suspected drug dealers beginning about a year ago, according to court documents. She was scheduled to return to court March 2, when a defense lawyer may be assigned to the case. The agent is charged with conspiring to defraud the United States and evading security requirements. She could face up to 5 years in prison if convicted. The charge against the drug dealer carries a possible prison term of 20 years to life. He was ordered held pending his next court appearance, scheduled for March 4.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP0eabbe9f157c43c089bf9be4e4d9cd10.html>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *March 1, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **HazMat teams investigate mailing in Schenectady.** A suspicious looking envelope brought to city police February 1 caused two hazardous materials teams to respond to the Schenectady Police Department, but the piece of mail did not contain any dangerous substances, police said. A Union Graduate College employee delivered the crumpled envelope, which had no return address and misspelled words on it, to police at around 1:30 p.m. March 1, a police spokesman said. A desk sergeant evacuated the station’s lobby and Police Court, and called the Schenectady Fire Department’s hazmat team. The team took the envelope to

the police department's garage and washed down areas of the building that were potentially exposed. The Capital District Forensic HazMat Team then responded and found that the envelope contained two letters that described illegal drug activity that was supposedly taking place at the college, the police spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/HazMat-teams-investigate-mailing-in-Schenectady-1036941.php>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

27. *March 1, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Pizzeria owner accused in mice caper released on bail.** The Delaware County, Pennsylvania, pizza shop owner who allegedly tried to infest his competitors' restaurants with mice, was arranged in court March 1. The 47-year-old owner of Nina's Bella Pizzeria in Upper Darby was released on \$10,000 unsecured bail, according to the superintendent of police. The man is facing charges that include criminal mischief, harassment, and cruelty to animals. Workers at Nina's said they were told not to make any comments about the incidents. On February 23 the man allegedly tried to slip bags of mice into two nearby pizza shops — Verona Pizza and Uncle Nick's Pizza. The three restaurants are all within blocks of each other on West Chester Pike. The superintendent of police said February 28 that the man's pizza shop was struggling, and he put mice in the other shops because he thought they infested his shop with vermin.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/117158518.html>

28. *March 1, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Ammonia leak at local Dr. Pepper plant cleared in early morning hours.** Temple Fire Units in Texas responded to reports of the smell of ammonia February 28 at the Temple Bottling Company. The leak was first reported around 10:30 p.m., a Temple Fire & Rescue spokesman said. A company engineer along with the Temple Hazardous Materials Team entered the building and found a broken pipe in the refrigeration system releasing a small amount of ammonia gas. The engineer closed valves to the refrigeration system stopping the leak. No one was injured in the incident, and the surrounding areas were not in danger. The scene was cleared by 2:02 a.m., according to the spokesman. A contractor was scheduled to repair the refrigeration system March 2.

Source:

http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Ammonia_Leak_Reported_At_Local_Dr_Pepper_Plant_117219483.html

29. *March 1, Associated Press* – (California; National) **Calif food supplier recalls chicken, pork products.** Taylor Farms Pacific of Tracy, California, recalled 64,000 pounds of chicken and pork products because some broccoli in the products was found to be contaminated with listeria. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said March 1 that several premade dishes were found to have contamination after routine testing. The USDA says each item bears the establishment number "P-34013" or "EST. 34013" inside the department's mark of inspection. The products were

produced between February 6 and February 23 and shipped to Arizona, California, Colorado, and Wyoming. The agency says it has not received reports of anyone sickened as a result of the contamination.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/03/01/state/n220057S32.DTL>

30. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Nebraska company fined \$52K for August ammonia leak that sickened 152 at Alabama chicken plant.** A Mobile-area chicken plant in Alabama is being cited for 16 alleged health and safety violations and fined \$52,500 for an ammonia leak that sent more than 150 people to hospitals last summer and terrified area residents, federal safety officials said March 1. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced the citations against the Omaha, Nebraska based Millard Refrigerated Services Inc., which operates a plant along an industrial canal in Theodore that freezes and ships chicken. The company defended its safety record, saying it is “fully committed to safety.” Anhydrous ammonia leaked out of a 12-inch pipe on the roof of the facility in August. The vapors sickened workers at the Millard plant and at a site across the canal that was being used during the cleanup of the BP oil spill. Officials said 152 workers from several companies went to the hospital for ammonia vapor exposure. Thirty-one people were admitted and four were placed in the intensive care unit; everyone recovered.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/080fc8bc7a324d63b9cb3cc0653218a4/AL--Alabama_Ammonia_Leak/

31. *March 1, msnbc.com* – (National) **E. coli found on 50 percent of shopping carts.** Researchers from the University of Arizona swabbed shopping cart handles in four states looking for bacterial contamination. Of the 85 carts examined, 72 percent turned out to have a marker for fecal bacteria. The researchers took a closer look at the samples from 36 carts and discovered Escherichia coli, more commonly known as E. coli, on 50 percent of them — along with a host of other types of bacteria. “That’s more than you find in a supermarket’s restroom,” said the lead researcher on the study and a professor of microbiology at the University of Arizona. The study’s results may explain earlier research that found that kids who rode in shopping carts were more likely than others to develop infections caused by bacteria such as salmonella and campylobacter, the lead researcher said.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41838546/ns/health-kids_and_parenting/

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Water Sector

32. *March 2, WIS 10 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Grease blockage causes another Alpine Utilities sewage overflow.** A Midlands utility company said its latest sewer overflow was caused by a blockage of cooking grease. In a statement March 1, Alpine Utilities said the overflow happened around 10:30am at 1704 Bush River Road, which is the address listed for the restaurant Villa On Bush River. A Department of

Environmental Control spokesman said a technician found the overflow after an operator at the plant discovered that sewage lines were not feeding into the plant. Alpine Utilities said a grease blockage in the main line introduced sewage into Stoops Creek, which is a tributary of the Saluda River. A spokesman said well over 5,000 gallons of raw sewage overflowed from the collections lines running to the treatment plant, though he did not have an exact estimate. The spokesman said DHEC is working with Alpine Utilities to determine where the grease might have come from and is supervising Alpine's cleanup, which includes applying lime to affected areas and taking samples.

Source: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14165527>

33. *March 2, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **High levels of water contamination near Elkhart.** Test results for two northern Indiana communities show high levels of contamination in nearby waterways. The Elkhart Truth reported that contamination was concentrated in two spots along Yellow Creek near Southwest and one spot along Yellow Creek near Foraker. Officials say it is unclear what has caused such high levels at the testing locations but suspect faulty sewage systems near the communities could be contributing to the problem. Solid waste, phosphorus and E. coli were reported found in both water sources. Officials warn residents not to go into the water because of the high concentration of contaminants. This was the first time either stream has been tested for bacteria.

Source:

<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20110302/NEWS06/110302011/1002/NEWS01/High-levels-of-water-contamination-near-Elkhart->

34. *March 1, Canton Repository* – (Ohio) **Canton sewage plant handles record volume.** The city of Canton, Ohio, set a record by treating 89.5 million gallons of sewage in a 24-hour period. Due to the high flow volume created by melting snow and rain, 851,400 gallons of untreated sewage was discharged Monday into Nimishillen Creek near the city's Water Reclamation Facility on Central Avenue SE, said the superintendent of the facility. The sewage plant is designed to treat 67 million gallons per day during wet weather.

Source: <http://www.cantonrep.com/newsnow/x2022438148/Canton-sewage-plant-handles-record-volume>

35. *March 1, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **Pasadena declares water emergency during 10-day shutdown of treatment plant.** The Pasadena, California City Council February 28 declared the highest level of water shortage emergency requiring drastic conservation measures during a planned 10-day shutdown of a La Verne treatment plant later this month. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is planning a seismic retrofit of its F.E. Weymouth Treatment Plant from March 18 to March 27. The plant is a major water supplier for foothill communities from La Crescenta to Claremont. Pasadena, which receives about 60 percent of its water from the Metropolitan Water District, is restricting water usage to essential uses only. No outdoor watering will be allowed during that period with a few exceptions and

violations will be penalized, Pasadena Water and Power officials said.

Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_17510528

36. *March 1, Seacoastonline* – (New Hampshire) **Sewer moratorium lifted in Hampton.** Hampton, New Hampshire, town officials say the sewer moratorium placed on the town back in August by the state Department of Environmental Services which had prevented any new connections to the wastewater treatment plant is officially lifted. Selectmen voted February 28 to finalize an Administrative Consent Order with the state to lift the moratorium. The order spells out exactly what repairs the town will do over the next few years to get the wastewater treatment plant back up to snuff. The town was placed under a sewer moratorium because the wastewater treatment facility couldn't handle the amount of solids coming into the facility.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20110301-NEWS-110309978>

37. *March 1, United Press International* – (California) **San Fran to bleach sewers for toilet stink.** San Francisco officials said \$14 million is being spent on bleach to deal with sludge backups from low-flow toilets. A spokesman for the city Public Utilities Commission said the city is spending \$14 million on a three-year supply of highly concentrated sodium hypochlorite, commonly known as bleach, to disinfect the sewers and take care of the odors brought on by low-flow toilets, which use less water than traditional commodes. He said the toilets, which previously led to a \$100 million refit of the city's sewer system and sewage plants, have cut the city's water consumption by about 20 million gallons annually.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2011/03/01/San-Fran-to-bleach-sewers-for-toilet-stink/UPI-99811298970000/

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

38. *March 1, Global Security Newswire* – (Illinois) **CDC details cause of 2009 plague death.** The University of Chicago scientist who died in 2009 while conducting vaccine research using a weakened strain of plague bacterium succumbed to his infection because of an underlying medical condition, Bloomberg reported last week. The enervated strain of *Yersinia pestis* the scientist worked with was thought to pose no health risk to humans. His 2009 death initially perplexed infectious disease experts as he was judged to have adhered to all the necessary safety rules. Specialists now believe he was especially susceptible to the plague due to his then-unrealized hemochromatosis, a medical disorder in which too much iron builds up in the body, according to a recently released report by the U.S. Centers For Disease Control and Prevention. The case demonstrates that regardless of the degree to which plague material is altered, there will be individuals who are susceptible to infection, a University of Chicago infectious disease specialist said.

Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110301_2791.php

39. *March 1, United Press International* – (California) **Calif. dialysis center cited in violations.** Health inspectors say they found violations at a dialysis center at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) that could jeopardize the facility's Medicare funding. A report by state investigators said nurses failed to follow sanitary guidelines, equipment was poorly maintained, and walls and chairs were spotted with blood, the Los Angeles Times reported February 28. In a surprise check in November, inspectors also found equipment that was rusted or held together with tape. Regulators have warned the findings could jeopardize government funding for the center that serves about 120 patients. In a letter to the center February 10, the California Department of Public Health said the facility had 90 days to submit a plan of correction or the center would lose its Medicare funding. A plan of correction UCI officials submitted to regulators said equipment has been repaired or replaced in advance of an upgrade scheduled to be completed next year.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/03/01/Calif-dialysis-center-cited-in-violations/UPI-38911299003104/

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Government Facilities Sector

40. *March 2, CNN* – (International) **Two U.S. troops killed in Germany airport shooting, police say.** A 21-year-old man from Kosovo is in custody after two American troops were killed and two others were wounded March 2 in a shooting incident on a U.S. military bus at Germany's Frankfurt Airport, authorities said. Police said they believe the suspect stormed onto the bus, which was waiting at the terminal, and began shooting. The suspect is from the northern town of Mitrovica, Kosovo's interior minister said, citing the U.S. Embassy in Pristina as his source. The suspect has passports from Germany and from Yugoslavia, the latter of which was issued prior to Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008, the interior minister said. Officials were running a background check on the suspect, who lives in Germany, for possible terrorist links. CNN was not able to reach anyone at the U.S. Embassy for comment. A U.S. military official said the bus driver was among the dead. Both fatalities were U.S. Air Force airmen from Lakenheath base in Britain. The two wounded were security forces who were on their way to a deployment, said the source. FBI agents were on the scene shortly after the shooting occurred.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/03/02/germany.shooting/index.html?hpt=T1>

41. *March 2, Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* – (Ohio) **Flood aftermath affects North Ridgeville schools.** Flooding that occurred on February 28 made itself felt at the public, private, and parochial schools in North Royalton, Ohio, on March 1 where cleanup efforts and damage assessments continued. Classes were canceled for the second day at Lake Ridge Academy, St. Peter School, and North Ridgeville Middle School, all of which sustained varying degrees of damage from flooding that dumped 4.5 to 5 inches of rainfall on the area in a 6-hour period overnight February 28.

Source: <http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2011/03/02/flood-aftermath-affects-north-ridgeville-schools/>

42. *March 1, KATU 2 Portland* – (Oregon) **Bottle bomb explodes at middle school.** Three children and a janitor suffered problems from fumes that were emitted when a small bottle bomb exploded March 1 in a bathroom at Ron Russell Middle School in Portland, Oregon. The incident happened just before 8:30 a.m. According to the Portland Police Bureau, fire and medical were dispatched to the school, as well as a bomb technician, while students on the second floor were taken to the gymnasium. Investigators determined the explosion was caused by a caustic bottle bomb (a sealed device with dry ice or other chemically reactive substances inside that explodes in a chemical reaction). Investigators did not say what kind of chemical was inside the bottle. The bottle bomb might not have been the only one planted at the school. Janitors reported that they found a similar device that smelled odd in a trash can February 28. No arrests have been made but police and fire are investigating.

Source: <http://northeastportland.katu.com/news/schools/bottle-bomb-explodes-middle-school/438806>

43. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Texas; International) **Update daycare center fire: Officials say Houston day care operator has fled US.** The Houston Fire Department said a home day care operator charged in connection with a deadly fire that killed four children has fled the United States. A Fire Department assistant chief said February 28 that officials have found out that the 22-year-old suspect has fled to Nigeria, where she is originally from. The assistant chief did not say how investigators determined the woman fled. The U.S. Marshal's Service in Houston says it has been asked to help track down the suspect.

Source: <http://www.kfdm.com/news/houston-41698-fire-fled.html>

44. *March 1, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Roof fire extinguished at NH school, nobody hurt.** Fire officials in New Hampshire said a school in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, had to be evacuated March 1 after a cutting torch ignited a fire on the roof of a middle school. The fire broke out on a roof at the Kingswood Regional High School complex about 11:30 a.m. but was brought under control within an hour. The Wolfeboro fire chief said workers from Northbranch Construction, a contractor for a school renovation project, helped extinguish the blaze, which was confined to a small area of the roof and wall, where the existing middle school connects with a new addition being built. The students were evacuated to nearby Kingswood Arts Center.

Source: http://www.necn.com/03/01/11/Roof-fire-extinguished-at-NH-school-nobo/landing_nation.html?&blockID=3&apID=efdf9c3ed2e246348d3533ddd88e464f

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Emergency Services Sector

45. *March 2, Santa Monica Corsair* – (California) **CCTV cameras on campus are catching crime.** Closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras are recording activity on a

24-hour basis on every campus at Santa Monica College (SMC) in Santa Monica, California. The cameras have assisted with catching criminal activity in cases dating as recently as February 23. The first cameras were set up 20 years ago following an incident involving a student entering the bookstore with a handgun. The camera collection has accumulated over the years and now totals up to 300 cameras district-wide, according to a SMC police officer. The officer described the surveillance system's purpose to have three main components: deterring future crime, monitoring for crime, and case investigation. If and when a crime is captured on film, the police respond promptly by raising awareness of the incident through bulletins and notices, as explained by a facilities manager. Depending on circumstances, police may respond with an increase in patrol and the footage archived for investigation. Although the cost of the entire CCTV system was not determined, the dispatch center's recent renovation from analog to digital system was roughly \$500,000, according to a spokesman.

Source: <http://www.thecorsaironline.com/news/cctv-cameras-on-campus-are-catching-crime-1.2042123>

46. *March 1, Medford Mail Tribune* – (Oregon) **Busted: FCC says city violated rule for failing to register communications tower.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said the city of Medford, Oregon, violated a federal rule by not registering a controversial police communications tower in east Medford before construction. The FCC also is looking into a separate complaint that the tower should have been subject to further review because it is within a half-mile of a historic site — the Hamilton and Edith Patton House, built in 1929 at the intersection of Valley View Drive and Capital Avenue. City officials said the issue has not been resolved. Neighbors near the tower did not receive notification from the city before its construction, but city officials maintained they are exempt from following the normal development procedures. The tower replaces a 60-foot tower to the south on the same property on Capital Hill. The existing tower has served as the city's primary 911 communications transmission center since 1988. Medford police officials said the new tower will fill in gaps in the communication system, especially within large buildings such as Rogue Valley Medical Center, City Hall, and Rogue Valley Mall.

Source:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110301/NEWS/103010318>

47. *March 1, Walnut Creek Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Suspect ex-cop in drug thefts also sought to sell explosives.** A Concord, California, private investigator tried to find a buyer for two bricks of a military-grade explosive in the days before he and a drug task force leader were charged with selling and conspiring to sell large quantities of drugs, according to a search warrant affidavit. The head of the state-run Central Contra Costa Narcotics Enforcement Team and the private investigator are expected to enter a plea March 2 to 28 felony charges that allege they sold marijuana, methamphetamine, and steroids that had been seized by the narcotics team. It appears from the affidavit that the pair conspired to sell drugs that either were about to be destroyed or had been newly seized. The pair allegedly discussed in wire-trapped phone calls when other narcotics task force members would be out of the office for training, the most opportune times to steal drugs. The suspects also were recorded planning to

sell a pound of crystal meth for \$10,000, before the drug was scheduled for disposal. The private investigator has been held in lieu of \$900,000 bail since their arrests February 16. The drug task force leader posted \$400,000 bail February 18.

Source: <http://www.standard.net/topics/drugs/2011/03/01/suspect-ex-cop-drug-thefts-also-sought-sell-explosives>

48. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Texas) **ATF: Gun in US agent’s death traced to Texas man.** Three people suspected of smuggling guns to Mexico were arrested in a Dallas, Texas suburb February 28 after federal investigators traced the gun used in the killing of a U.S. agent in Mexico to one of them, officials said. Agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) arrested the suspected gun smugglers in morning raids in the southern Dallas suburb of Lancaster, an ATF spokesman said. The ATF said the gun was used in the February 15 shooting of two federal agents who were driving on a highway near the northern city of San Luis Potosi, where one agent was killed and the other was wounded. Also, the Mexican navy announced February 28 marines had captured a regional boss for the drug gang that is accused in the agent’s slaying. The regional boss and five other suspects, including a Honduran man, were detained February 27 at a hotel in Saltillo, capital of the northern state of Coahuila. Federal agents said the suspect also is suspected in the February killing of a retired army general who recently had become police chief in Nuevo Laredo, the city across the border from Laredo, Texas.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5glPqz_K6pqQSIL4d9sUQFFxONfDQ?docId=6cd4903cd80749b88385c3699355a4bb

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Information Technology Sector

49. *March 2, Computerworld* – (International) **Mozilla follows Google, patches Firefox as prep for Pwn2Own.** Mozilla fixed 11 security flaws in Firefox March 1. Nine of the 11 flaws were rated “critical,” a threat rating that implies hackers could use the vulnerabilities to compromise a computer or infect it with malware. Of the two remaining bugs, one was labeled “high” and the second was tagged as “moderate.” The updates, which brought the open-source browser to versions 3.6.14 and 3.5.17, were the first since December, a longer-than-usual span between Mozilla patch shipments. Part of the reason was that the updates released March 1 were delayed. They had been slated to show in mid-February, but Mozilla held them to investigate a non-security bug that caused some users’ browsers to crash. The patches addressed three JavaScript flaws, two bugs in Firefox’s browser engine, a JPEG rendering vulnerability that could be exploited by serving a malicious image to users, and a cross-site forgery request (CSRF) bug.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9212479/Mozilla_follows_Google_patches_Firefox_as_prep_for_Pwn2Own

50. *March 2, Help Net Security* – (International) **Rootcager trojan found on the official Android market.** Free Android applications bundled up with malware have spilled over into the official Android marketplace. According to Symantec, the malware in question can root the phone, harvest data and open backdoors — similar to the recent Geimini Trojan spotted lurking on third-party Chinese Android app markets. “The applications in question are popular free apps, bundled with malware, that have then been republished in the official marketplace under different application and publisher names,” said a researcher. Google has removed the applications from the market, but according to Symantec’s sources somewhere between 50,000 and 200,000 downloads took place during the 4 days that the apps were available for download. This new trojan has been dubbed Rootcager because of the rageagainstthecage file included in the Android Package containing the affected apps. Rageagainstthecage is a file that can also be used to legitimately root a phone in order for the users to gain administrative rights, but in this case it is used to allow the trojan to do things like taking screenshots, harvesting IMEI and IMSI numbers and send them to remote sites, and drop a DownloadProvidersManager Android Package that will further execute downloads in the background.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1648

51. *March 2, Softpedia* – (International) **Fake e-gift emails pass old style IRCBot as screensaver.** A new spam campaign currently making the rounds produces e-mails that pose as e-gifts from friends, but in fact lead to an IRC-based trojan. The e-mails have spoofed headers to appear as originating from gifts@freeze(dot)com and bear a subject of “You have received a gift from one of our members !” Freeze.com is a Web site offering desktop customization downloads such as screensavers, wallpapers, icons, sounds, and mouse cursors. It might be possible that attackers have modified a legitimate e-mail template used by the Web site and replaced the real link with a malicious one. The e-mails use social engineering to attract people’s interest and convince them to click on the contained link. According to security researchers from Belgian email security provider MX Lab, the included link leads to a gift.pif file hosted on what is most likely a compromised Web site. The PIF format is not actually meant to contain executable code, but Windows treats it as such and because of this it has historically been abused to hide malware.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Fake-E-Gift-Emails-Pass-Old-Style-IRCBot-as-Screensaver-187080.shtml>

52. *March 1, KTVU 2 Oakland; San Francisco Bay City News* – (California) **Armed bandits stage high-tech plant takeover.** Heavily armed bandits stormed a high-tech company February 27 in Fremont, California, rounding up employees and escaping with at least \$2 million worth of computer chips and other equipment, authorities said. The masked bandits made their way into the Unigen plant at 8:40 a.m. by cutting through a security fence that was hidden by heavy undergrowth. There were only six employees in the loading dock area at the time, authorities said. Twelve to 15 bandits quickly overwhelmed the employees, brought them to a restroom, tied them up, and then backed a moving truck to the loading dock and began loading high-tech equipment. Authorities said the firm was targeted for the takeover. The employees were

not injured, and were able to remove the restraints to call police after the intruders fled. The heist may have been captured on surveillance cameras, and it was being investigated by the Fremont police and the California Highway Patrol. Unigen makes computer chips, flash drives, and other high-tech components.

Source: <http://www.foxreno.com/news/27037849/detail.html>

53. *March 1, Softpedia* – (International) **US points finger at Baidu and TaoBao for facilitating piracy.** A report from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has placed China’s biggest search engine Baidu, and eBay alternative Taobao, among the most notorious piracy markets. USTR puts Baidu and Taobao alongside MP3 download sites, torrent indexes like ThePirateBay, IsoHunt and Btjunkie, Russia’s vKontakte, or smartphone app market 91.com. Baidu, which is among the top 10 Web sites in the world by traffic and offers a plethora of services in addition to Web search, has been included because of deep linking directly to pirated content. Taobao, which is an online auction and shopping site similar to eBay was named a “notorious market” for allowing sellers to deal in counterfeit goods that abuse the trademarks and intellectual property of others.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/US-Points-Finger-at-Baidu-and-TaoBao-for-Facilitating-Piracy-186924.shtml>

For more stories, see items [18](#) and [55](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

54. *March 1, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Fibernet reports 90-minute outage this morning.** FiberNet customers in parts of Kanawha, Putnam, Cabell, Hancock, and Mason counties in West Virginia lost telephone service for more than 90 minutes March 1, state officials said. It was the third time in 6 months FiberNet has reported a major outage — and the first since Waynesboro, Virginia-based nTelos acquired FiberNet last December. FiberNet reported the outage to 911 emergency centers, the Federal Communications Commission, and state Public Service Commission and Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. “Everything was back up after about an hour and a half,” said West Virginia’s homeland security chief. FiberNet’s parent company, nTelos, blamed the outage on a “call routing error.” The company did not disclose how many customers were affected March 1.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201103010963>

55. *March 1, IDG NEWS Service* – (National) **Man gets 7 years for forcing modems to call premium numbers.** A New Hampshire man who made \$8 million by installing unwanted dial-up software on computers and then forcing them to call expensive premium telephone numbers was handed down an 82-month sentence February 28. Prosecutors say that between 2003 and 2007, the suspect and others put together a lucrative business by setting up premium telephone numbers in Germany — similar to the 1-900 numbers used in the U.S. — and then infecting German PCs with software that would automatically dial the numbers for short periods of time. “The victims were generally unaware that their computers’ telephone modems were calling these numbers and charging them with expenses,” the U.S. Department of Justice said in a press release. These dialers were a major, but largely unreported, problem in Europe in the early part of the last decade. In 2006, two men were given stiff sentences by an Austrian court for running a scam that brought in \$16.5 million. And while dial-up modem usage has dwindled, shrinking the number of possible victims, this type of software is still in circulation in Europe. The suspect pleaded guilty to fraud and tax evasion charges in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts in April 2010. Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9212418/Man_gets_7_years_for_forcing_modems_to_call_premium_numbers

For another story, see item [46](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *March 2, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Investigators determining cause of Detroit apartment explosion.** Authorities are trying to find out what caused an explosion at an apartment complex in Detroit, Michigan, March 1. No one was injured in the incident at the Whitehill Apartment complex. According to reports, the blast occurred in an unoccupied unit in the back of the building, which was in flames. Residents were evacuated as firefighters put out the blaze. Leaking gas was initially thought to be the cause of the explosion, but DTE Energy investigators found no problems. “It’s been determined that gas wasn’t involved in the incident,” a DTE spokesman said. Investigators from the Detroit Fire Department are looking into the incident. Source:
<http://www.detnews.com/article/20110302/METRO01/103020387/1409/metro/Investigators-determining-cause-of-Detroit-apartment-explosion>
57. *March 1, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **PD: Woman admits to starting apartment fire.** Police arrested a woman they say set fire to an apartment complex in Phoenix, Arizona, February 28. The fire broke out in the Las Cascada apartment complex on the southeast corner of 42nd Street and Indian School. A second floor apartment was gutted by flames. Dozens of families were evacuated. Fire officials said at least seven units are no longer livable because of the smoke damage. The woman was arrested at the state mental hospital where she is a patient. According to police, she said she started

the fire because friends would not come visit her. Police way she also admitted to lighting a fire at Circle K on her way to St. Luke's Behavioral Hospital.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/27032760/detail.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

58. *March 1, San Angelo Standard Times* – (Texas) **West Texas deals with wildfire devastation.** The Texas Forest Service was calculating damage left by wildfires that swept through Mitchell and Crockett counties. A spokesman with the service, said the two fires in Mitchell County burned through 13,740 acres and destroyed 15 homes, including 13 near Colorado City. “We’re calling it 80 percent contained,” he said. Members of the Texas Department of Agriculture conduct assessments on livestock and miles fence lines lost. The city manager for Colorado City said he’s heard the damage has been estimated at \$1.5 million. Firefighters with the forest service were in southern Mitchell County while other agencies and emergency response groups were taking care of issues closer to the city. In a news release, the city manager for Colorado City said the fire probably was caused by power lines clashing together near a pump jack, combined with 50-60 mph winds. Eleven surrounding area fire departments and the Texas Forest Service assisted in fighting the blazes: Big Lake, Barnhart, Iraan, Glasscock, Sheffield, Sterling City, Mertzon, Irion County, Brady, Eldorado, and Sonora. Mutual aid firefighting units brought manpower, fire trucks, tankers, and brush trucks. The Forest Service brought in two dozers and personnel and flew an airplane over the fire February 27 to check on things.

Source: <http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2011/mar/01/west-texas-deals-with-wildfire-devastation/>

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Dams Sector

59. *March 1, San Bernardino Sun* – (California) **Seven Oaks passes test.** A powerful wall of water poured out of Seven Oaks Dam in San Bernardino, California, March 1 and down into the San Bernardino Valley. But it was all part of a well-orchestrated test. The Army Corps of Engineers completed a high-pressure test of the Seven Oaks Dam — which lies east of Highland at the base of the San Bernardino Mountains. Operators released about 5,248 acre-feet of water at 6,210 cubic feet per second through the dam. “More water was released than has ever been released there in history,” said a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers. “We lowered the elevation of the pool by 16 feet,” he said. The test was meant to gauge the dam’s design and ability to allow large amounts of water under high pressure to safely pass through it. And by all accounts, the test was successful and presented no surprises to engineers, he said. Engineers will take months analyze the data collected during the test to see if the dam’s operation procedures should be changed. The Army Corps of engineers began a three-day test of the dam February 15 and was due to perform the 6,210-cubic-foot-per-

second test on February 17. The test's first two days were completed as scheduled without problems. The third day — when the dam's abilities would be stretched the most — was postponed because of rain.

Source: http://www.sbsun.com/ci_17514202

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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