



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 March 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Center for Public Integrity reports an audit by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Inspector General found the agency’s process for testing ground beef for E. coli is flawed. (See item [23](#))
- According to ABC News, a U.S. marshal was shot and killed, and two other law enforcement officers were injured while serving a warrant near St. Louis, Missouri. (See item [39](#))

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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 7, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Sheriff: Fire, explosion in ND oil field under investigation.** The Burke County, North Dakota sheriff’s office said an investigation continued March 7 into the cause of a fire and explosion in the oil field south of Bowbells, North Dakota. A sheriff said in a prepared release that several oil tanks at a salt water disposal site caught fire March 3 and three exploded. He said the fire was contained on site and was allowed by the Powers Lake and Bowbells fire

departments to burn itself out. No injuries were reported.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/14390c5ce22c42389d6794d126117645/ND--Tank-Fire/>

2. *March 7, KFYR 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **McKenzie County oil well explosion still burning.** The explosion at the Jaynes oil well in McKenzie County, North Dakota, started as an oil and steam leak. On March 7, the McKenzie County Sheriff's Department and the Arnegard Fire Department received reports of a broken valve that was leaking steam and oil at the Jaynes well site 8 miles north of Arnegard. By 3:30 a.m., the sheriff's department notified people in the surrounding area of the fire and the potential exposure to hydrogen sulfide. At 9:13 a.m., the well site exploded. The oil company operating the well site, SM Energy, was fighting the fire March 7. The fire was still burning later in the day, March 7, but there were no reported deaths or injuries to people or livestock.

Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=47134

3. *March 7, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Utility exec says Allentown pipeline inspected day before deadly explosion.** A Pennsylvania utility executive said at a congressional hearing March 7 that it is possible a leak in a natural gas pipeline developed after an inspection a day before an explosion killed five people in Allentown in February. At a hearing on pipeline safety in King of Prussia, the UGI CEO told a panel of congressional members that the investigation into the February 9 explosion will take 6 to 8 more weeks before a final determination on the circumstances surrounding the blast. A U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania who leads the House subcommittee on railroads, pipelines, and hazardous material, held the hearing in the wake of the Allentown explosion, which killed a 4-month-old boy, an elderly couple and two others, as well as a January blast that killed a Philadelphia Gas Works employee. "It is possible that the catastrophic leak could have developed after that survey was done," a spokesman responded, adding the utility was still investigating whether that was the case. He also said the utility was placing a priority on replacing as many lengths of cast-iron pipeline as possible. Also during the meeting, officials pushed for better coordination of survey inspections and heightened efforts to replace thousands of miles of cast-iron pipelines that can be a century old.

Source:

<http://pottsmmerc.com/articles/2011/03/07/news/doc4d753c23ceebc244282476.txt>

4. *March 5, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Oil well device may have been flawed.** There may have been a fundamental safety design problem with the pods that controlled the massive device that failed to stop the Gulf of Mexico oil spill last year, federal investigators said March 4 as they asked that more testing be done to confirm that. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board has objected to the government's decision to halt testing of the blowout preventer March 4. Testing began last November, nearly 7 months after the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil drilling rig killed 11 people, and resulted in the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry. The Norwegian firm doing the testing, Det Norske Veritas

(DNV), is expected to submit its findings by March 20. A spokeswoman for the joint investigation team said in an e-mail to the Associated Press that the scope of the work done by DNV was developed in coordination with other interested parties, including the safety board, and in consultation with the Justice Department. She said there have been no other objections. She said the team believes DNV has performed the tests necessary to determine why the blowout preventer did not function as intended. Blowout preventers sit at the wellhead of exploratory wells and are supposed to lock in place to prevent a spill in case of an explosion. The 300-ton device that was used with BP's Macondo well was raised from the seafloor September 4. It sat at the NASA facility for 2 months before testing began.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jsBICGrykaQYRfrCbTd36yeY-Tjw?docId=1bfc5c1adc124acfadd9cf5db03f33db>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 8, Florence Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Chemical tanker truck overturns.** Cherokee, Alabama, emergency officials and the Colbert County Hazardous Materials Unit spent several hours March 7 decontaminating an area around Cherokee Nitrogen Plant after a tanker truck overturned, spilling hot ammonium nitrate liquid. Authorities immediately closed the area between the plant and North Pike Road east of Cherokee after the accident was reported about 11 a.m. The truck was carrying 43,000 gallons of the chemical from the plant to Attapulgus, Georgia. The amount spilled was not immediately determined. The truck overturned less than a mile from the plant when it ran off the road. The driver was not injured. Officials with his company, Action Resources Inc., of Hanceville, said the driver followed company guidelines in reacting to the situation. Authorities did not evacuate residents, although emergency workers kept them abreast of the situation. Workers on the scene said valves from the top of the truck were buried in the ground when the truck overturned. Emergency personnel brought in equipment to help dig out the valves, using shovels to stop the flow of liquid. Workers secured the scene by clearing the area 300 feet from the truck, as called for by the environmental safety plan associated with that material. The fire chief said the Colbert haz-mat unit worked feverishly to prevent the truck's diesel fuel from mixing with the liquid ammonium nitrate, which could have resulted in an explosion. By 2 p.m., company officials were on the scene to evaluate and assist in clean-up.

Source:

<http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20110308/NEWS/110309843/1011/NEWS?Title=Chemical-tanker-truck-overturns>

For more stories, see items [4](#), [25](#), [28](#), and [35](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *March 8, Canadian Press* – (International) **Groups seek to block transport of nuclear generators.** Canadian environmental groups have gone to court to block the shipment of 16 nuclear-plant generators through the St. Lawrence Seaway that runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes in the United States and Canada. A motion to halt the shipment was filed in federal court the week of February 28, and a copy was obtained by the Canadian Press. The Sierra Club and the Canadian Environmental Law Association are asking the court to overturn a decision from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. They have also asked for an injunction to keep the Canadian transport minister from signing off on any other permit or authorization allowing Bruce Power to proceed with the project. Bruce Power wants to ship the 16 steam generators, each the size of a school bus, from an Ontario, Canada, nuclear plant to Sweden, passing through the Great Lakes and cities such as Montreal, Canada along the St. Lawrence. The move is strongly opposed by the Bloc Quebecois, the New Democratic Party, and a number of community organizations. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission said thousands of shipments of radioactive medical isotopes and other substances routinely go through that route every year.
Source: <http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Canada/20110308/nuclear-generators-110308/>

7. *March 7, Reuters* – (Colorado) **Colorado approves first post-Cold War uranium mill.** Colorado regulators March 7 gave final state approval for construction and operation of the first new uranium mill in the United States since the Cold War, but the project still faces a court challenge from environmentalists. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued a radioactive materials license to Toronto-based Energy Fuels Inc., allowing the company to process up to 500 tons of uranium ore per day at the site in western Colorado. The agency gave the project initial approval in January. But the Sheep Mountain Alliance, an environmental coalition in Telluride, then sued the state, claiming Colorado regulators failed to follow federal and state law in permitting the mill. The group has asked a Denver judge to revoke the license, and the state has filed a motion seeking to have the lawsuit dismissed. A judge has yet to rule in the case. Energy Fuels said the company has agreed to 16 conditions set by the state for construction and operation of the proposed Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill. Among the requirements is payment of \$11 million for environmental remediation work once the plant is decommissioned. The facility is designed to remain in operation for 40 years.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/08/us-energyfuels-idUSTRE7270D620110308>

8. *March 7, Oregon Public Broadcasting* – (Washington) **Hanford shrinking: Federal contractor uses explosives to demo old buildings.** On March 4, several structures at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeast Washington State came down in a planned demolition explosion. The latest buildings to come down are two stacks about 250-foot tall, 3 air filtration buildings, a coal silo, and a water tower. It was all part of a steam-heating system for much of the sites other facilities. A top manager with the federal contractor doing the demolition work said, “They were the tallest structures in the area — and taking them down is a huge skyline change. And a very dramatic example of the progress we’re making.” The demolition of the two groups of buildings

is being funded with \$1.6 million in federal stimulus money.

Source: <http://news.opb.org/article/74298-hanford-shrinking-federal-contractor-uses-explosives-demo-old-buildings/>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *March 7, Associated Press* – (National) **Honda, Toyota and Chrysler issue recalls.** Honda recalled more than 35,000 Civic hybrids in the United States March 7 to fix a problem with the electrical system that could cause the headlights to turn off or the engine to stall. The company said the voltage converter that relays power from the motor assist system to the vehicle's electrical components could fail. Separately, Toyota recalled about 22,000 SUVs and trucks to address faulty tire pressure monitoring systems. Toyota said the systems do not illuminate on the dashboard at the minimum activation pressure and must be recalibrated. Chrysler recalled about 20,000 Jeep Wranglers over potential loose fasteners to the front and rear axles. The issue could cause poor steering and handling or cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

Source: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=134335459>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *March 1, Winchester Ammunition* – (National) **Product warning and recall notice: Winchester Ranger law enforcement 223 Remington 64 grain power-point.** Olin Corporation, through its Winchester Division, is recalling 6 lots of its RANGER 223 Remington 64 Grain Power-Point (PP) centerfire rifle ammunition (Symbol Number RA223R2). Lot Numbers (last four characters): DK01, DK11, DK21, DK31, DK41, and DK51. Through extensive evaluation Winchester has determined the above lots of RANGER Law Enforcement ammunition may contain incorrect propellant. Incorrect propellant in this ammunition may cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable, and subject the shooter or bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury when fired.

Source: <http://www.winchester.com/library/news/Pages/News-ProductWarningandRecall.aspx>

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *March 8, BNO News* – (California) **Ten Americans indicted after scamming more than \$1.5 million from elderly victims.** Ten Americans have been indicted on federal charges of running a so-called advance fee scheme that targeted elderly victims in the United States with promises of millions of dollars in inheritances — but only if they

paid money upfront to facilitate the transfer of the promised bequests. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California March 7 released the first details about the cases. One suspect, who is a Nigerian national, allegedly orchestrated the domestic part of the scheme, which sent spam e-mails to thousands of potential victims. The senders of the e-mails falsely claimed to have control of millions of dollars in inheritance money in Nigeria, and they falsely told victims they would receive inheritance money if the victims paid a variety of advance fees for taxes or documentation. The suspect and his associates allegedly claimed to be attorneys, bankers, diplomats or other government officials, all of which was designed to convince victims they were dealing with legitimate professionals. The indictment alleged the suspects lured victims by initially demanding relatively small amounts of money. But once the victims paid the modest amounts, they were asked to wire increasingly larger amounts — as much as \$35,000, according to the court documents. This so-called Nigerian 419 scam — which references to the section of the Nigerian criminal code that deals with fraud — allegedly bilked at least two dozen victims, most of whom were elderly, who collectively lost more than \$1.5 million. Three of the ten defendants were arraigned March 7 in district court, where they pleaded not guilty and were ordered to stand trial later this year. The investigation into the 419 scam was initiated by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration after one of the fraudsters allegedly impersonated an IRS agent to convince a victim to pay fictitious taxes.

Source: <http://channel6newsonline.com/2011/03/ten-americans-indicted-after-scamming-more-than-1-5-million-from-elderly-victims/>

12. *March 8, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **2 guilty of trying to defraud Navy credit union.** Two men have pleaded guilty to fraud charges in an attempt to defraud nearly a half-million dollars from the Navy credit union. One suspect of Norfolk, Virginia, pleaded guilty March 7 in U.S. District Court to two charges related to credit union fraud. His accomplice of Virginia Beach, Virginia, pleaded guilty last month to credit union fraud and aggravated identity theft. The two admitted that between 2009 and 2010, they tried to cash \$460,000 in checks obtained with stolen identities. They netted about \$160,000, according to a court filing. One man admitted he stole the identities of customers at Navy Federal Credit Union, and then he and his accomplice obtained loan checks for bogus used car and motorcycle purchases. They also used unidentified third parties to help cash the checks. One, who is in jail, will be sentenced May 2 while his accomplice remains free pending sentencing June 6.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2011/03/2-guilty-trying-defraud-navy-credit-union>

13. *March 8, Daily Stamford* – (Connecticut) **New Canaan man pleads guilty in ponzi scheme.** A New Canaan, Connecticut man accused of defrauding people in a Ponzi scheme pleaded guilty March 7 in federal court and now faces up to 70 years in prison. The suspect pleaded guilty to five federal charges in U.S. District Court in Bridgeport. He owns and operates the Michael Kenwood Group, which operated several hedge funds in Stamford. “This investigation has revealed that [the suspect] operated a massive Ponzi scheme that has defrauded foreign investors of hundreds of millions of dollars,” said a U.S. attorney for Connecticut. “While the precise dollar losses will not

be known for some time, based on this fast-moving investigation, we believe this case represents the largest white-collar prosecution ever brought by this office.” According to federal and FBI officials, from 2006 to February 2011, the suspect engaged in a scheme to defraud his investors, creditors, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). He allegedly created fraudulent documents as well as a fictitious asset verification letter falsely representing that one of his hedge funds had at least \$275 million in credits as a result of outstanding loans even though he knew it did not have such credits. In addition, authorities said, the suspect misled investors, creditors, and the SEC about the true performance of the funds. The suspect pleaded guilty to two counts of wire fraud, one count of securities fraud, one count of investment adviser fraud, and one count each of conspiracy to obstruct justice, to obstruct an official proceeding and to defraud the SEC.

Source: <http://www.thedailystamford.com/news/new-canaan-man-pleads-guilty-ponzi-scheme>

14. *March 7, Perry County Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Harrisburg man charged with 3 bank robberies.** State police have arrested a Harrisburg, Pennsylvania man and charged him with seven bank robberies, including three in Perry County. The suspect, 25, of the 2800 block of Canby Street, is being held on \$750,000 bail in Adams County Prison. He is charged in connection with robberies of First National Bank of Liverpool December 30 and January 24, and of the PNC Bank in Duncannon February 18. State police in Gettysburg also have charged the suspect with an Adams County bank robbery February 18 that occurred prior to the robbery of the PNC Bank. East Pennsboro Township police have charged him with robberies November 23 and December 9 at the PNC Bank in Enola. Assisting in the investigations were the FBI Task Force, state police’s bureau of emergency and special Operations, the state police troop H vice unit, and the East Pennsboro, and Camp Hill police departments.

Source: http://www.pennlive.com/perry-county-times/index.ssf/2011/03/harrisburg_man_charged_with_3.html

15. *March 7, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Alleged Concord bank robber tentatively identified by Danville Police.** The man who police said is responsible for several bank robberies around the Bay Area since February, including one in Concord, California February 24, has been tentatively identified by the Danville Police Department. The suspect robbed a bank in Danville March 7. According to Danville police, the suspect robbed the Chase Bank location at 661 San Ramon Valley Boulevard. A male, in his 20s, described as African American or Middle Eastern, wearing a white turban, approached a teller and demanded money. No weapon was seen and no one was injured during the robbery. The suspect received an estimated \$20,000 from the teller and then fled the bank on foot. Witnesses told responding officers they had seen a person matching the suspect’s description running north from the scene. The FBI is assisting Danville police and a suspect has been tentatively identified.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/incontracosta/detail?entry_id=84532

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [45](#)

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Transportation Sector

16. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Girl burned by acid on GRTC bus.** Authorities in Richmond, Virginia, are seeking the source of acid on a city bus that injured a girl, Associated Press reported March 8. A Richmond fire lieutenant told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that the girl was treated for second-degree burns on her knees after she came in contact with one or more seats on a Greater Richmond Transit Company Transit System bus. The incident occurred March 6. The Richmond fire lieutenant said initial tests show a liquid found on three seats was acidic. The liquid has been sent to the state lab to identify the substance. A Richmond police spokesman told the newspaper that authorities do not believe any criminal conduct was involved.
Source: <http://www.wric.com/Global/story.asp?S=14207258>

17. *March 8, Cherry Hill Courier-Post* – (National) **Tugboat crewman was on cell phone when barge crashed into Philly duck boat.** The first mate in charge of the Caribbean Sea tugboat was on his cell phone when the barge he was pushing up the Delaware River plowed into an amphibious vessel packed with tourists and killed two people in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, last July. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) March 7 disclosed the cell phone use with the release of several factual reports on the sinking of the Ride the Ducks tour boat. The reports provided the most detailed description to date of the harrowing accident, which also injured 26 duck boat passengers. NTSB is investigating the accident, which occurred after the duck boat became disabled near Penn's Landing on a sweltering summer afternoon. NTSB expects to release a determination on the accident's cause this summer, a spokesman said. Among the reports' details: An air horn, used by the duck boat captain in a last-ditch attempt to alert the tug, failed to work because its power source — the boat's ignition — had been turned off. Ride The Ducks has since changed its procedures to prevent that from happening again. No passengers were able to jump from the boat before the collision and no one was able to properly secure a life jacket in the 10-second period before the boat sank. "Many passengers weren't able to hold onto their life jackets when the vessel capsized and so they grabbed life jackets when they surfaced," the report said. The duck boat captain gave instructions on life jacket use before the trip began, but his remarks could not be understood by many of the 15 Hungarian tourists aboard the boat. "Several Hungarian survivors commented on the fact that the master did not physically demonstrate on his body how to put on a life jacket," the report noted. The two victims who died were Hungarian tourists sitting side by side near the front of the tour boat. The report said the tug boat's first mate had made or received 21 calls on his cell phone from the time he assumed his watch earlier that day. Using a cell phone while on watch is in violation of policy for K-Sea Transportation, a New Jersey-based firm that operates 78 tugs, including the Caribbean Sea.
Source:
<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20110308/NEWS01/103080345/0/NEWS01/>

[Tugboat-crewman-cell-phone-when-barge-crashed-into-Philly-duck-boat?odyssey=nav|head](#)

18. *March 7, Reuters* – (National) **Poll shows 30 percent of young drivers text at the wheel.** A new poll shows young drivers are more likely to use cell phones while driving, and that 30 percent of them have recently texted from behind the wheel, transportation officials said March 7. The release of the poll came as the Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary called distracted driving “a deadly epidemic.” The poll comes from the magazine Consumer Reports, which is working with DOT on creating awareness about the dangers of cell phone use while driving. Among the findings are that 63 percent of respondents under 30-years-old reported using a handheld phone while driving in the past 30 days, DOT said. Thirty percent of the drivers texted from behind the wheel in the same time period according to the survey, which had 1,026 respondents. Older drivers were less likely to talk on the phone behind the wheel, and only 9 percent of those over 30-years-old reported they had recently texted while driving.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/08/us-phones-driving-idUSTRE7270D420110308>

For more stories, see items [29](#) and [30](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *March 8, Florence Times Daily* – (Alabama) **UNA employee surrenders.** A longtime University of North Alabama (UNA) employee accused of sending a threatening letter containing a suspicious white substance to a faculty member surrendered to authorities March 7. The 56-year-old woman is charged with making a terrorist threat, according to a UNA spokesman. The charge is a Class C felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison if convicted. After being contacted by authorities, the woman made arrangements to turn herself in at the Lauderdale County Detention Center. She was released a short time later after posting a \$5,000 bond. The letter was delivered March 3 to a UNA faculty member on the fifth floor of Stevens Hall, which houses administrative offices for the college of education and where the woman served on staff from 2003-2010. The woman has worked at UNA in Florence, Alabama since 1997, and since September, was the administrative assistant in student financial services. The UNA spokesman said the letter and powdery substance were sent to the Alabama Department of Forensics for testing. The exact content of the letter remains unknown. “I’ve not seen the letter, so I don’t know the exact wording, but I’m told it’s of the ‘What comes around goes around’ nature,” he said.

Source:

<http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20110308/NEWS/110309842/1011/NEWS?Title=UNA-employee-surrenders>

20. *March 7, Memphis Commercial Appeal* – (Tennessee) **Homemade chemical bomb found in DeSoto County mailbox.** A DeSoto County, Tennessee, homeowner got a scare March 6 when a homemade chemical bomb exploded in a mailbox. The DeSoto County sheriff said authorities are not sure when the bomb was placed in the mailbox at the home on Braybourne Cross, just east of Olive Branch off of Miss. 302. The sheriff said the family was out of town when the mailbox was destroyed by a homemade bomb. No one was injured by the bomb, which was made of Drano and aluminum foil. The sheriff said the device, a plastic 2-liter Mountain Dew bottle that contained the Drano and shredded foil was placed in the mailbox. “The chemicals create a gas and when shaken up it exploded in the bottle with the cap on it,” he said. “Residents did not hear the explosion.” Authorities do not know if the bomb was intended as a prank. “These devices are dangerous and can blow up in your face,” he said.
Source: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2011/mar/07/homemade-chemical-bomb-found-desoto-county-mailbox/>

21. *March 7, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Accused bank robber charged in N. Seattle post office break in.** A 27-year-old Seattle, Washington, man already accused in a North Seattle bank robbery has been charged with breaking into a post office there and stealing mail from almost 200 people. Federal prosecutors in Seattle claim the man burglarized the post office at 11036 Eighth Ave. N.E. 2 weeks before he robbed a nearby Sterling Savings Bank November 1, 2010. Previously charged with the bank robbery in state court, the man is accused of forcing his way into the post office shortly after 6 a.m. on October 18, 2010 and stealing mail from 198 post office box customers. According to charging documents, the man admitted to that break-in and several residential burglaries after he was arrested on October 21, 2010. He pointed police to a storage locker where a substantial amount of mail was recovered. He has now been charged with bank robbery, burglary of a post office, and mail theft in U.S. District Court at Seattle.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/436699_postoffice07.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *March 8, Food Safety News* – (Pennsylvania) **Banned milk replacers still used at PA dairy farm.** Two Pennsylvania dairy farms were found selling bob veal calves for slaughter with higher than allowed levels of specific animal antibiotics in their edible tissues. In February 15 warning letters to a dairy farm at Danville and a dairy farm at Greencastle, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said both operations were offering animals for sale that were adulterated under federal law. Both farms are in trouble for using neomycin, an amino glycoside antibiotic discovered in 1949 and used in many topical medications. But for the Danville farm, violations included the continued use of milk replacers manufactured with a combination of neomycin and oxytetracycline, known as neo-terramycin or NT. Oxytetracycline is a broad-spectrum tetracycline antibiotic. FDA banned the use of NT in 2:1 dosage more than a year ago. At the Greencastle farm, FDA said a veal calf was sold for slaughter in January that the

Food Safety and Inspection Service found with residues of neomycin (7.73 parts per million [ppm]) and flunixin (0.11 ppm) in kidney and liver tissues, respectively. Flunixin is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, with a tolerance level of 0.125 ppm. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/banned-milk-replacers-still-used-at-pa-dairy-farm/>

23. *March 7, Center for Public Integrity* – (National) **USDA audit says E. coli testing in ground beef is flawed.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has found its process for testing for E. coli in ground beef is flawed and may be missing bacteria during tests. These findings come from an audit released March 7 by the agency’s Inspector General (IG). It warns the current sampling method “is not designed to yield the statistical precision that is reasonable for food safety or to verify that plant controls or interventions are working as intended.” The audit makes four recommendations for improving inspections of the nearly 4 billion pounds of ground beef produced annually in the United States. These recommendations include developing a redesigned sampling program to provide “higher confidence” in the testing regime. The audit was done at the request of a U.S. Representative from Connecticut. The IG warned that, in situations where E. coli is present in 1 percent of the inspected bin, the current screening method would miss it more than half the time. Or, as the report puts it, “if the contamination level is very low, FSIS (Food Safety and Inspection Service) is more likely to miss contamination than to detect it.” Source: <http://www.publicintegrity.org/blog/entry/3000/>
24. *March 7, Associated Press* – (New York) **NY Beech-Nut plant roof collapses; no injuries.** Authorities said the roof on a section of Beech-Nut Nutrition Corp.’s new food plant in Florida, New York collapsed March 7. The company president and CEO said in a release that no one was injured when a small portion of the roof in the production area caved in. The plant is located about 30 miles northwest of Albany. Heavy snow was falling in the region, but company officials said it was not known yet what caused the roof to give way around 9:30 a.m. The company said about 150 people were in the factory at the time. The plant will remain closed until March 9. Beech-Nut began shifting operations in 2010 from its longtime plant in Canajoharie 20 miles east to the new infant food factory near Amsterdam. Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP1688ed16f9234ef89cbe1580003b4c89.html>
25. *March 7, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* – (New York) **HazMat crews respond to White Street for spill.** White and Cliff streets in Rochester, New York, were closed March 7 while firefighters contained a low-level hazardous materials spill. Members of the Rochester Fire Department’s Hazardous Material Response unit were called around 7:30 a.m. for an anhydrous ammonia spill. They ventilated Goglianian Bakeries Inc., which makes pizza dough, to bring down the ammonia levels. According to the Rochester fire captain, bakery workers detected the odor and called 911. Workers evacuated the building and nobody was exposed to the chemical or was injured. The haz-mat unit upon arrival took meter readings and found 300 parts per million of anhydrous ammonia in a 10- by 10-foot refrigerated room that is used for cooling. Once ventilation is completed, haz-mat workers planned to look for the source of the leak.

The bakery was facing as much as \$195,200 in new fines from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration for safety hazards at its plant, the agency reported February 18.

Source:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20110307/NEWS01/110307001/-1/zagform/2-point-penalty-added-drivers-using-hand-held-cell-phones?odyssey=nav/head>

26. *March 4, Jacksonville Daily News* – (North Carolina) **Coast Guard crew stops illegal fishing operation.** The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Elm March 2 intercepted and boarded a fishing vessel found with scallop dredging gear deployed while in a closed area east of New Jersey, a release said. The Elm, homeported at Fort Macon, North Carolina, was conducting joint operations with the National Marine Fisheries Service to enforce domestic fisheries regulations within closure areas. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) issued the master of the vessel a citation for dredging for scallops in a closed area and ordered the crew to cease fishing. USCG said violations of closure areas have serious impacts on the viability of the fishing industry and achievement of sustainment goals. The scallop closures are designed to protect beds of juvenile scallops.

Source: <http://www.enctoday.com/news/crew-88535-jdn-operation-fishing.html#>

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Water Sector

27. *March 8, Vancouver Columbian* – (Washington) **Beached barge cleanup costs reach \$5.3 million.** Contractors have rung up \$5.3 million in costs for the beached and broken barge Davy Crockett, as of the end of the week of February 28. And that is before they have even formulated a plan for removing the 431-foot derelict from the north bank of the Columbia River in Washington State between Vancouver and Camas. They found what was described as remnant amounts of heavy bunker fuel, which has the consistency of peanut butter. Samples confirmed assumptions the material contained no heavy metals or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Trace levels of PCBs were previously discovered leaking into the river. Contractors had removed 524,480 pounds of debris as of March 4. They had also recovered 5,701 gallons of oil-water mixture. Thousand of feet of floating oil-absorbent booms have been deployed around the vessel and downriver. On March 4 and 5, workers deployed additional booms in 3 locations to protect what was described as culturally sensitive areas as far as 2.8 miles downriver from the ship. State authorities have attributed the state of the ship to its owner. They said an apparent effort to scrap the vessel while it was afloat weakened it to the point that its midsection buckled and sank.

Source: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/mar/08/beached-barge-davy-crockett-cleanup-costs-reach-53/>

28. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Longview mill spills bleach into Columbia River.** The Weyerhaeuser pulp mill at Longview, Washington, spilled about 20 pounds of bleach into the Columbia River. The company reported the spill March 6

to the state ecology department. A department spokesman said the mill was shut down for annual maintenance at the time 2,000 gallons of sodium dichromate spilled, and most was caught in the mill's treatment system. He did not expect to see any environmental harm from the amount that reached the river.

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

29. *March 8, Framingham MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Sewer break could close Northborough street for a week.** A break in a Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, sewer main that runs through Northborough could close down traffic to Thayer Street for a week, according to the Department of Public Works (DPW) March 7. The DPW sent out an e-mail at 3:43 p.m. alerting the public about the problem. The line broke near a manhole in front of a Thayer Street house. According to the DPW, Shrewsbury has a pressurized sewer main that carries its flow to a Westborough treatment plant. The main usually carries about 3 million gallons of flow. But according to the DPW on March 7, the pipe carried as much as 10 million gallons because of rain, rising groundwater, and melting snow. “Due to this, there is a manhole in Thayer Street that seems to have let go,” the department wrote. “Water is flowing from the manhole and from under both sides of the newly paved street. The DPW did not indicate whether the water was contaminated with sewage. A dispatcher said the Shrewsbury Fire Department had not received reports of service disruptions as of late afternoon March 7. According to a Shrewsbury DPW press release, the town will hire emergency crews to repair the break, but they cannot start until the pressure is reduced.

Source: http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/top_stories/x945640263/Sewer-break-could-close-Northborough-street-for-a-week#axzz1G1fLrYOM

30. *March 8, Honolulu Star-Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Repairs to Waikiki road could take all day.** Water should be restored by about 8 a.m. to four Waikiki, Hawaii businesses cut off by a 12-inch water main break March 7 on Royal Hawaiian Avenue. But the road will remain closed for most of the day March 8 as repairs are completed. A board of water supply spokesman said crews were replacing the pipe and re-paving the road. They hope to have the work completed by the afternoon rush hour March 8. In the meantime, Royal Hawaiian Avenue between Kuhio Avenue and Waikolu Way remained closed and the right lane of Kuhio Avenue near the break was also closed. A spokesman said it will likely be several weeks before the cause of the break can be determined. The main was relatively new, replaced in 2003.

Source: <http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/117588543.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Members of Congress call for independent investigation of lapses at Ohio VA hospital.** Members of Congress from Ohio want an outside investigation of procedures at a veterans hospital where officials said a

dentist failed to change gloves or sterilize instruments properly between patients. More than 500 patients from the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center were offered free health screenings in February. Nine have tested positive for hepatitis. A U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators are calling for an independent review of the clinic to be conducted by the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5dc30a349d4b452c9c1ac409bcf67ec5/OH--Veterans-Hospital-Infection-Tests/>

32. *March 7, KXXV 25 Waco* – (Texas) **Woman accused of kicking a nurse, setting a fire at hospital.** A woman is facing charges after reportedly setting a fire in a bathroom and attacking medical personnel March 3 at Metroplex Hospital in Killeen, Texas. Police said the 40-year-old woman also resisted arrest and screamed profanities at an officer. She is accused of kicking a nurse and threatening to kill her. She was charged with assault on a public servant.

Source: <http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14204997>

33. *March 7, U.S. Department of Justice* – (California) **Las Vegas woman pleads guilty to acting as the straw owner of a Los Angeles medical supply company that submitted more than \$3.5 million in false claims to Medicare.** A Las Vegas, Nevada woman pleaded guilty March 7 to falsely representing to Medicare that she owned a Los Angeles, California-area durable medical equipment (DME) company that was actually owned and operated by her brother, and used by her brother and others to submit more than \$3.5 million in false claims to Medicare, the U.S. departments of justice and health and human services announced. The woman admitted that between January 2006 and September 2009, she allowed her brother to use her identity to conceal his ownership and control of Contempo Inc. Contempo was a fraudulent DME supply company located in Inglewood, California, which he and others used to submit false claims to Medicare for expensive, high-end power wheelchairs and other DME.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/March/11-crm-288.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *March 8, WWMT 3 Kalamazoo* – (Michigan) **Hundreds at risk of identity theft after hard drive goes missing at WMU.** Western Michigan University (WMU) in Kalamazoo, Michigan is sent out a news alert warning hundreds of students, former students and staff that they could be at risk for identity theft. WMU said that back in January, a portable hard drive went missing from an office on campus. WMU sent letters to warn people that their names, addresses, student ID numbers, and Social Security numbers could fall into the wrong hands. It is unknown if someone stole the hard drive or just misplaced it. WMU is offering people with information on the hard

drive a one-year membership with an identity theft protection company.

Source: <http://www.wvmt.com/articles/drive-1388207-university-hard.html>

35. *March 8, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **4 to hospital after D.C. battery explosion.** Four people were taken to area hospitals for evaluation March 8 after a truck battery exploded in a warehouse on New York Avenue in Washington D.C. About two dozen people were exposed to possibly hazardous chemicals. The building is a former Washington Times warehouse now being used by D.C.'s Department of Public Works. Twenty-five people were evacuated from the building and three of them were transported to area hospitals in serious condition, according to D.C. fire officials. The explosion occurred about 8:15 a.m. Traffic was delayed on New York Avenue near Bladensburg Road because of rubbernecking, authorities said.

Source: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/crime-scene/allison-klein/battrey-explosion-in-northeast.html>

36. *March 7, CNN* – (California) **2 sailors killed, 1 injured in Camp Pendleton training exercise.** Two sailors were killed and a third injured March 7 during a training exercise at California's Camp Pendleton, according to a spokesman. The 7-ton bulk water tanker the sailors were driving rolled over about 8 a.m., said a U.S. Navy 3rd Fleet spokesman. The injured sailor was taken to a nearby hospital where he was listed in stable condition. The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct the investigation because it happened on their base.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/03/07/california.pendleton.deaths/index.html>

37. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Alaska state education officials say external hard-drive with student data stolen.** Alaska state officials said a hard-drive with student data was stolen from the Juneau headquarters of the state department of education. Officials said the theft likely occurred in early February, when a computer system holding the data was being upgraded. A department spokesman said officials believe the thief just wanted the equipment, and not the information on more than 89,000 students that was on the hard drive. The equipment contained student test scores as well as other information, including the names of test-taking students, dates of birth, student identification numbers, gender, ethnicity, disability status, and grade levels. Officials said the hard-drive does not contain Social Security numbers — information often used by identity thieves. The department notified police and the state security office.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/d997af77079e42538d0b72346d658a8c/AK--Alaska_Computer_Theft/

38. *March 3, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **Agencies admit to bad records management.** Four federal departments — Agriculture, Education, Justice, and Transportation — rated themselves at high risk of failing to manage and preserve official records in 2010, according to a mandatory self-assessment survey of 270 agencies released by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Sixteen departments received aggregate scores indicating moderate risk of being

ineffective in managing records, NARA said in the March 2 report. None of the departments showed low risk. On the whole, the study revealed that federal departments and agencies are struggling with their records management duties, especially for electronic records, with too few staff and resources dedicated for that purpose, NARA said.

Source: <http://fcw.com/articles/2011/03/03/fed-departments-ranking-at-high-and-moderate-risk-or-bad-records-management-survey-shows.aspx>

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Emergency Services Sector

39. *March 8, ABC News* – (Missouri) **St. Louis shootout ends with U.S. Marshal and suspect dead.** A U.S. marshal was shot in the head and killed March 8 while serving an arrest warrant near St. Louis, Missouri, setting off a standoff that ended with two other officers injured and the suspect killed. The marshal was taken to a hospital where he died, the U.S. Marshals Service said in a statement. The officers were attempting to serve an arrest warrant at the suspect's home in the St. Louis suburb called Dutchtown, when the man opened fire with a semi-automatic pistol as the officers tried to enter the home. A shot fired at the St. Louis police officer ricocheted off his bullet-proof vest and entered his shoulder. He appears to have suffered a broken shoulder, sources said. The injured marshal is believed to have been shot in the leg or foot. When authorities arrived at the suspect's home, he told them, "I'm only going out in a body bag," ABC News radio affiliate KTRS reported. Three children were removed from the home before shots were fired.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/us-marshals-cop-wounded-st-louis-shootout/story?id=13084122>

40. *March 7, Government Technology* – (Georgia) **911 responders in Georgia aided by online citizen profiles.** Two Georgia cities have implemented software that allows citizens to create online profiles to assist emergency responders on 911 calls. The profiles from Smart911 are designed to provide more personal information about a 911 caller so emergency responders are better equipped to deal with that caller's needs. Users can go online to the Smart 911 to input a range of data about themselves, according to the company's Web site. Since January, nearly 1,000 Sandy Springs residents have registered an online profile — about 1 percent of the city's population of 100,000. The service is free to use. If a citizen calls in a 911 emergency and has a Smart911 profile, the emergency call taker forwards the person's profile information to first responders a spokesman said. For example, if a parent is a registered Smart911 user and has a photo of his or her child on the profile, that photo can be sent to emergency responders if the parent reports the child missing. All of Sandy Springs' public safety fleet is using Panasonic Toughbooks, so once profile information is forwarded, emergency responders can access that data on their computers out in the field, the city's assistant city manager said.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/911-Responders-in-Georgia-Aided-by-Online-Citizen-Profiles.html>

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Information Technology Sector

41. *March 8, Softpedia* – (International) **Google patches remote code execution Android Market vulnerability.** Google has fixed a critical vulnerability in the Android Market Web site that allowed potential attackers to remotely install rogue apps on visitors' devices. The bug stemmed from a simple cross-site scripting (XSS) weakness in the form used to publish new applications and was discovered by a security researcher at Duo Security. He explained that insufficient input validation in the application description form allowed the insertion of malicious code in the resulting application page. The code could have been used to trigger a remote app installation procedure through the INSTALL_ASSET functionality. This type of installation, which is considered a feature of the Android Market, was criticized because it does not display any prompt on the user's device asking for confirmation.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Google-Patches-Remote-Code-Execution-Android-Market-Vulnerability-188116.shtml>

42. *March 8, H Security* – (International) **Vulnerabilities in STARTTLS implementations.** Vulnerabilities in implementations of the STARTTLS protocol for establishing an encrypted TLS connection could allow commands to be injected into a connection. According to a description by the discoverer of the problem, a Postfix developer, the key point is commands are injected into the connection before it has been secured/encrypted, but are only executed once the secure connection has been established. The developer illustrated the problem with an example involving securing SMTP with TLS. A client sends "STARTTLS\r\n"; using a man-in-the-middle attack an attacker changes this to "STARTTLS\r\nRSET\r\n". The client and server then establish a TLS connection. The server then regards the injected RSET command added during the unprotected phase as if it has been transferred subsequent to the TLS connection being established. The RSET command in this example is relatively innocuous as it is a harmless protocol reset command, but other commands could be injected in a similar fashion.
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Vulnerabilities-in-STARTTLS-implementations-1203760.html>

43. *March 8, Softpedia* – (International) **Microsoft detects spikes in SWF malware attacks using embedded JavaScript.** Microsoft has seen spikes in the number of attacks using SWF malware that embed malicious JavaScript and warn this technique might become more prevalent. SWF-based malware is not new. It is commonly used to exploit vulnerabilities in Adobe Flash Player in order to install further threats on computers. The new trojan identified by Microsoft and dubbed Trojan:SWF/Jaswi.A

targets CVE-2010-0806, an arbitrary code execution vulnerability in Internet Explorer 6 and 7. However, what sets it apart is the way the JavaScript-based exploit is launched. Most SWF malware use the getURL function to redirect users to malicious sites, but Jaswi.A uses a function called ExternalInterface.call() to initiate the injection. If successful, the attack downloads a file called uusee(dot)exe, which is a Chinese password stealer known as PWS:Win32/Lolyda(dot)AU.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Microsoft-Sees-Spikes-in-SWF-Malware-with-Embedded-JavaScript-188253.shtml>

44. *March 8, H Security* – (International) **USB driver bug exposed as ‘Linux plug&pwn’**. A researcher from MRW InfoSecurity has reported a bug in the Caiq USB driver that could be used to gain control of a Linux system via a USB device. The bug is caused by the device name being copied into a memory area with a size of 80 bytes using strcpy() without its length being tested. A crafted device with a long device name could thus write beyond the limits of this buffer, allowing it to inject and execute code. Because the driver is included, and automatically loaded, in most Linux distributions, to execute code in kernel mode an attacker would merely have to connect such a device to a Linux system’s USB port. MRW said it has assembled a suitable USB device for this purpose, boasting in a Tweet of a “Linux plug&pwn.”
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/USB-driver-bug-exposed-as-Linux-plug-pwn-1203617.html>
45. *March 8, Help Net Security* – (International) **Illegal online pharmacies target mobile users**. As witnessed by Cyveillance, fake pills pushers have begun targeting mobile device users. The look of regular Web sites is not optimized for mobile browsing — the font size is usually too small and navigation is too difficult. So, the scammers running some illegal online pharmacies have decided that there is enough interest to warrant the setting up of Web sites optimized for mobile device interaction. They even incorporated a .mobi Internet domain for the site. But apart from these cosmetic changes, the danger for users remains the same: fake pills that can endanger their health and unsecured, unencrypted payment processing that may result in their credit card details getting stolen and misused.
Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1658
46. *March 7, Softpedia* – (International) **Private open-source software security mailing list shuts down after hacking**. A private mailing list — referred to as Vendor-Sec — used by Linux and FreeBSD vendors to coordinate responses to critical vulnerabilities was closed down after its server was compromised and destroyed by hackers. “...I noticed a break-in into the lst.de machine last week [the week of February 27], which was likely used to sniff email traffic of vendor-sec,” the moderator announced on the OSS Security mailing list March 3. “This incident probably happened on Jan. 20 as confirmed by timestamp, but might have existed for longer,” he added. Before deciding on what course of action to take regarding the decade-old mailing list, he asked for input from people in the open-source software security industry about its usefulness in the current context. But, before any meaningful discussion had a chance to start, the hackers realized they were detected, re-entered, and destroyed the system.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Private-Open-Source-Software-Security-Mailing-List-Shuts-Down-After-Hacking-188103.shtml>

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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

47. *March 8, The Register* – (International) **IPv6 intro creates spam-filtering nightmare.** The migration towards IPv6 will make it harder to filter spam messages, service providers warn. While the expansion to IPv6 allows far more devices to have a unique Internet address, it creates many problems for security service providers, who have long used databases of known bad IP addresses to maintain blacklists of junk mail sources. Spam-filtering technology typically uses blacklists as one key component in a multi-stage junk mail filtering process that also involves examining message contents. “The primary method for stopping the majority of spam used by e-mail providers is to track bad IP addresses sending e-mail and block them – a process known as IP blacklisting,” explained a senior solutions architect at spam-filtering company Cloudmark. “With IPv6, this technique will no longer be possible and could mean that e-mail systems would quickly become overloaded if new approaches are not developed.” Other technologies also track IP addresses for various purposes, including filtering out sources of denial of service attacks, click fraud, and search engine manipulation.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/08/ipv6_spam_filtering_headache/

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Commercial Facilities Sector

48. *March 8, WITN 32 Washington* – (North Carolina) **Fire damages Havelock shopping center.** Five businesses were damaged in a fire at the Slocum Shopping Center in Havelock, North Carolina, March 8. Havelock firefighters said all businesses between the laundromat and Food Fare received smoke damage and most received some water damage as well. Five businesses were actually damaged by the fire. Firefighters said the blaze was brought under control in about an hour, but they remained on scene as a precaution. Fire departments from Havelock, Cherry Point, Newport, Harlowe, Township 6, and Wildwood responded, and there were no reports of anyone injured.

Source:

[http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/Fire Damages Havelock Shopping Center 117577374.html](http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/Fire_Damages_Havelock_Shopping_Center_117577374.html)

49. *March 7, KMBC 9 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Pipe bomb found in Excelsior Springs.** Excelsior Springs, Missouri police said a Kansas City bomb squad helped detonate a suspected pipe bomb found in the area of Saratoga and Broadway streets March 7. Investigators said they were called to the area after someone spotted a suspicious device wrapped in duct tape and left on a sidewalk. Police said it appeared to be a homemade explosive device. Kansas City’s Bomb Squad brought its robot to the scene, moved the package to the Piburn Field park area and detonated it. Investigators said that after inspecting the exploded debris, they said it appeared to be a homemade plastic pipe bomb. Police said neighbors complained that people in the area had been recently detonating “sparkler bombs,” including some activity over the weekend of March 5 and March 6.
Source: <http://www.kmbc.com/news/27108042/detail.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

50. *March 8, CNN* – (New Mexico) **Gusts whip up New Mexico wildfire.** A brush fire near Silver City, New Mexico, burned as many as 15 buildings and forced authorities to evacuate a neighborhood threatened by flames, according to the state forestry department. Winds gusting up to 50 mph spread the fire March 7 from 50 acres early in the day to 500 to 1,000 acres by nightfall, according to a spokesman for the New Mexico State Forestry Division. Those winds made efforts to attack the blaze by air impossible, he said. Authorities evacuated a neighborhood in Silver City, about 230 miles south of Albuquerque, but were able to stop the fire before it reached the homes, according to the fire information site maintained by state and federal officials in New Mexico. At least five other homes were burned in the fire, along with an unconfirmed number of barns, sheds, and other structures, the spokesman said March 7. Residents were being evacuated to the local civic center ahead of the fire. Forestry officials said human activity was the likely cause of the blaze.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/03/08/new.mexico.wildfire/index.html?hpt=T2>

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Dams Sector

51. *March 7, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Newly built flood-protection levee is cracking.** Cracks have formed in a Cocodrie levee, one of the newest to be constructed as part of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane-protection system in Houma, Louisiana. Levee officials said the cracks are not serious enough to cause a failure in the levee, but the district is taking steps to monitor and repair them if they worsen. A project manager

and engineer with Shaw Coastal in Houma told the Terrebonne Levee Board about the cracks during a meeting March 2 in Houma. She said the flaws appeared in different sizes and were showing up in five areas of the levee. The cracks are being caused as pieces of the levee settle at different rates in areas where it was built over pipeline canals and other waterways, the Terrebonne levee director said. “These cracks, if not observed and corrected, it could lead to failures,” he said. “At this time, [the engineers] don’t have a concern of failure. With the rain we’ve been having, we’ve been told some are sealing themselves up.” He said the levee district voted to stockpile 37,000 cubic yards of dredged dirt at a cost of \$175,000 and may also purchase some special fabric used to armor levees to keep on hand in case emergency repairs are necessary. In the meantime, the district will continue to monitor the cracks to make sure they do not become more serious.

Source:

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20110307/ARTICLES/110309592/1030/OPINION02?p=all&tc=pgall&tc=ar>

52. *March 4, International Water Power and Dam Construction* – (Colorado; National) **Study to look at hydro potential in irrigation canals.** Colorado State University and engineering firm Applegate Group will research the potential for utilizing low-head hydro turbines in Colorado’s irrigation canals following the award of \$50,000 grant from the state’s department of Agriculture. The water resource engineer in the Glenwood Springs offices of Applegate and a research scientist and adjunct mechanical engineering professor at Colorado State received the grant, which is part of the Advancing Colorado’s Renewable Energy (ACRE) Program to promote energy-related projects beneficial to Colorado’s agriculture industry. In the study, the researchers will examine hydrokinetic turbines that could generate power from an elevation drop in an irrigation channel of 5-30 feet. Water in irrigation canals moves fast enough to produce anywhere from 100kW to 2MW of power. Interest in this type of hydrokinetic power is growing as technology improves. The state of Colorado currently has a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to streamline the permitting process for low-impact hydropower projects in existing canals.

Source:

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2059034>

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