



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 March 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- IDG News Service reports a former engineer with U.S. military contractor L-3 Communications is facing as much as 20 years in prison on charges he illegally exported military data to China. (See item [16](#))
- According to the Baltimore Sun, Maryland health officials said nearly 100 people reported symptoms of viral gastroenteritis after a swim meet at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. (See item [37](#))

### Fast Jump Menu

#### PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

#### SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

#### SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

#### FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

### 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 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Call logs detail concern of gas pressure surges before CA pipeline explosion.** New call logs from the San Bruno, California, pipeline explosion that killed eight people show that utility crews were scrambling to stop gas pressure surges and feared they would cause a “major, major problem.” The records show that shortly before the September blast in San Bruno, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. operators knew a botched repair job at a control station was allowing gas

to flow unabated. They were powerless to fix the problem remotely. One operator said, “We’re screwed, we’re screwed.” A half-hour later, a fireball ignited about 30 miles northwest of that control station. It killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes in a San Francisco Bay neighborhood. The call logs are among the documents released by the National Transportation Safety Board the week of February 28. The agency is still probing what caused the explosion.

Source: <http://newstalk1290.wordpress.com/2011/03/09/call-logs-detail-concern-of-gas-pressure-surges-before-ca-pipeline-explosion/>

2. *March 9, The New New Internet* – (National) **NERC sets up cyber task force to protect power grid.** The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is setting up a cyber-attack task force to evaluate and help protect the U.S. power grid in the event of a Web assault, according to a release from the electric reliability organization. The 40-volunteer strong task force will identify opportunities to boost existing protection, resilience, and recovery capabilities associated with power system practices, plans, and procedures, as well as the tools and systems operators rely upon to manage the reliable operation of the bulk power system. “Operators are trained to spot anomalies and take the appropriate actions in real time,” said the director of IT risk management at Dominion, who also chairs the task force. “The Cyber Attack Task Force will build on that existing knowledge with recommendations that make it easier to detect and respond to indicators of an organized attack.” Last year, NERC and the Energy Department released the report “High-Impact, Low-Frequency Event Risk to the North American Bulk Power System,” which found the best approach to handling risks would be through an organized combination of industry-led task forces and NERC staff initiatives.  
Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2011/03/04/nerc-sets-up-cyber-task-force-to-protect-power-grid/>
3. *March 8, Meriden Record-Journal* – (Connecticut) **Tanker rollover shuts down I-91.** Traffic on Interstate 91 in North Haven, Connecticut, was at a near standstill in both directions for hours March 8 after a tanker truck rolled over, spilling gasoline onto the median. Cars were forced onto secondary roads as the traffic jam stretched into the night. The accident happened between exits 12 and 13 just before 1 p.m. When state police arrived, they found the truck on its side in the median. It had been traveling north when a sedan veered into its lane, clipping it and sending it out of control, a state police spokesman said. Three people were injured, two of whom were treated at the scene. The third was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. Both sides of the highway were shut down as emergency workers worked to clear the scene, and the stretch of I-91 remained closed into the evening as thousands of gallons of gasoline were pumped from the tanker to another truck. The Associated Press reported that only about 30 gallons of gas were spilled. Wallingford police said officers helped direct the extra traffic, especially on Route 5, which was the main detour. Firefighters from Wallingford, North Haven, Hartford, and New Haven responded. Hazardous materials and environmental cleanup crews were also called in after gasoline was discovered leaking from the tanker.

Source: [http://www.myrecordjournal.com/talkaboutit/article\\_794a4aa8-4a04-11e0-be62-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.myrecordjournal.com/talkaboutit/article_794a4aa8-4a04-11e0-be62-001cc4c03286.html)

4. *March 8, KABC 7 Los Angeles* – (California) **Ruptured pipeline sends oil onto Faria Beach.** A big cleanup effort was under way March 8 in Ventura, California, where crude oil from a broken pipeline spilled onto a beach. A minor landslide caused the break in the oil fields near Faria Beach, about 10 miles northwest of Ventura. Officials said about 55 gallons of oil flowed down the ravine and made its way to the sand. Ventura City and County hazardous materials squads along with the Coast Guard were working with environmental health officials to clean up the mess. The cause of the spill was under investigation. No reports of injured wildlife had been received as of March 8.

Source:

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/ventura\\_county&id=8002354](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/ventura_county&id=8002354)

5. *March 8, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Exploded transformers take out power to thousands.** Thousands of customers lost electricity March 8 in Torrance, California, when several transformers exploded at a nearby substation, authorities said. The incident occurred just before 4 p.m. in the vicinity of Ocean Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). Ocean Avenue north of PCH was closed, according to Torrance police, who responded along with firefighters and crews from Southern California Edison. An Edison spokesman said the problem originated at the utility's substation at 3:51 p.m. and affected more than 15,000 customers in Torrance and parts of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. A fire was reported at the facility. No injuries were reported, the spokesman said, and efforts were under way to isolate the damage and restore power.

Source: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_17568169?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_17568169?nclick_check=1)

6. *March 4, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **U.S. may reject off-shore drilling permits due to ruling.** The U.S. Presidential administration said it may have to reject seven permits for deep-water drilling that have become the subject of high-profile legal and political battles if a federal judge in New Orleans, Louisiana, forces the government to make a quick decision on the applications. In court filings March 4, the Interior Department said the permit applications are flawed or incomplete, and that the judge's order that it decide on them before the end of the month disrupts the normal back-and-forth negotiations between oil companies and regulators. The government asked the judge to stay his order while it appeals his ruling, which was made in mid-February. The appeal comes just days after the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement issued its first new deep-water drilling permit since an explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010 killed 11 workers and resulted in the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry. In mid-February, the judge called the slow movement of permits "increasingly inexcusable" and ordered the government to act on 5 permits within 30 days. A later ruling added two additional permits. The slowdown in Gulf of Mexico oil and gas drilling activity has become in recent weeks a political issue, with Republican politicians seizing on rising oil and gasoline prices to charge the U.S. Presidential administration with needlessly delaying permits. Federal offshore regulators have said

they need to make sure the companies are prepared to drill safely and have adequate equipment to control an uncontrolled deep-water spill.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704570904576181320408324148.htm>  
1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *March 8, Livingston County News* – (New York) **Arkema reports two-ton chemical spill.** The Arkema plant at 3289 Genesee Street in York, New York, experienced a spill of potassium hydroxide at 10 a.m. February 28. A recent press release from the company indicated a leaking flange was discovered in a raw materials pipe carrying the potassium hydroxide. Within minutes of discovering the leak, the supply valve was closed and the leak was stopped. The amount of potassium hydroxide was a “reportable quantity” under New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) rules, but all released material was contained within the plant site. Cleanup is underway in coordination with the DEC. The plant manager said the amount of potassium hydroxide spilled was 4,025 pounds, all dissolved in water. Potassium hydroxide has a high pH and is therefore corrosive to materials or skin, but the chemical poses no danger of explosion. The accident necessitated no extra emergency measures and there was no Livingston County Hazardous Materials response. The potassium will “buffer out” as stormwater drains through the soil and will be managed in the plant’s treatment basin. The spill will additionally require soil remediation. As a precautionary measure, Arkema has scooped out the affected soil. This soil will eventually be disposed of at a managed landfill site.

Source: <http://thelcn.com/2011/03/arkema-reports-twoton-chemical-spill/>

8. *March 8, KTXL 40 Sacramento* – (California) **Acid drum spill evacuates business.** A business in Rancho Cordova, California, was evacuated after reports a 55-gallon drum of acid spilled and caused a haz-mat situation. Firefighters said there were no injuries, and the spill was contained. Just after 8 a.m. March 8, the PSC Environmental along White Rock Road was evacuated. Workers wearing all of their protective gear were mixing chemicals when the incident occurred. A Sacramento Metro Fire spokesman said the spill was low level, and it happened in a facility that can handle this type of material. Nitric acid is a corrosive and toxic acid, commonly used as a strong oxidizing agent.

Source: <http://www.fox40.com/news/headlines/ktxl-acid-drum-explosion-evacuates-business,0,4474221.story>

9. *March 8, WBAL 11 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Hazmat crew cleans up 1,800-pound chemical spill.** Harford County, Maryland officials worked to clean up a large hazmat spill at a building in Belcamp March 8. The Harford County Fire Department went to the Riverside Industrial Park at 4:45 p.m. Investigators said about 1,800 pounds of the chemical xylene spilled. The chemical is used in fragrances and flavoring products. The

building was evacuated to clear the air. No one was injured. It is not exactly clear how the spill happened.

Source: <http://www.wbaltv.com/r/27126067/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

10. *March 8, Augusta Chronicle* – (South Carolina) **Inspectors serve Savannah River Site facility 5 notices.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) most recent round of inspections at the U.S. Department of Energy's mixed oxide fuel facility in South Carolina yielded five notices of violation for minor procedural infractions, according to a report. The violations included failure to follow a requirement that substandard parts or materials be segregated from usable materials. On August 26, a metal plate used in construction was not properly segregated and flagged, and on October 20 it was found installed on a concrete wall form. The other violations included failure to properly document minor design changes; failure to accurately translate American Welding Society code requirements into design documents; failure to properly implement a procurement change for embed plate studs; and failure to verify welding of carbon steel studs to stainless steel embed plates met code requirements, according to the 49-page report. The violations identified by the NRC were assigned the least serious priority on the agency's scale. All have since been corrected, the report said.  
Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2011-03-08/inspectors-serve-savannah-river-site-facility-5-notices>
  
11. *March 8, Power Generation Worldwide* – (Virginia; Texas) **Two U.S. nuclear power projects delayed.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has told Dominion and Luminant in separate letters their license applications to build new nuclear power plants in Virginia and Texas will be delayed by at least 18 months after changes in the design of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' (MHI) Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (APWR). Luminant plans to use the 1,700 MWe APWR design for units 3 and 4 at the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant in Texas. Dominion plans to use the APWR for the proposed third unit at the North Anna plant in Virginia. Under the NRC's new schedule for reviewing Luminant's application, the safety review for Comanche Peak units 3 and 4 will be completed by June 2013. The safety review for North Anna unit 3 is now expected to be completed in July 2013. MHI made structural changes to the US-APWR design since the 2008 approval that required performing a new seismic analysis. The NRC is reviewing the new seismic re-analysis technical reports submitted by MHI.  
Source:  
<http://www.powergenworldwide.com/index/display/articledisplay/0900626969/articles/powergenworldwide/nuclear/reactors/2011/03/US-projects-delayed.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

12. *March 8, Perham East Otter Tail Focus* – (Minnesota) **Employees back to work after bomb threat.** The Lund-Crestline factory in New York Mills, Minnesota, was evacuated March 8 after a bomb threat was reported. At 1:27 p.m., a 911 call was placed and a male caller said, “There is a bomb in the factory,” and hung up, according to the New York Mills police chief. Police were in the process of tracking the call. Brunswick Corporation, which owns and operates the factory, evacuated all employees shortly after the call, according to the police chief, who also said streets were blocked off and school buses were rerouted. A team with a bomb-sniffing dog was in the process of checking the entire facility at 4 p.m. The police chief said it would take several hours to check the facility, but once completed and if nothing is found, employees could return to work. The New York Mills Police Department, state patrol, Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Office, and New York Mills Fire and Rescue assisted at the scene.  
Source: [http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/17547/publisher\\_ID/17/](http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/17547/publisher_ID/17/)
13. *March 8, WXIN 59 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Worker killed, another seriously injured in steel mill accident.** One man was killed and another seriously injured in New Castle, Indiana, when the scissor lift they were standing on tipped over March 8. The accident happened inside the ATI Allegheny Ludlum Corporation on State Road 38. The men fell 30-40 feet to the concrete floor, according to the man who runs New Castle Emergency Medical Services. “There’s a crane that’s up toward the top of this facility that runs across I-beams all the way back from front to back and that crane lifts big rolls of steel. They were up on a scissor lift working on that crane, when, for whatever reason, that crane tipped over, fell, whatever, throwing the two gentlemen from the crane,” he said. One man later died at Henry County Hospital. The co-worker is listed in serious condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He suffered severe head injuries but was reportedly responsive during his trip to the hospital.  
Source: <http://www.fox59.com/news/wxin-steel-mill-accident-employees-injured-in-accident-at-new-castle-steel-mill-20110308,0,759675.story>
14. *March 8, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Sanus Elements surge protectors recalled by Milestone AV Technologies due to shock hazard.** Milestone AV Technologies LLC (importer), of Savage, Minnesota, has issued a recall of about 2,500 low-profile power conditioners/surge protectors. The manufacturer was Rite-Tech Industrial Co., Ltd., of Taiwan. Improper grounding of the case and inadequate insulation for the circuit breaker poses an electrical shock hazard to consumers. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The items were sold by independent home theater dealers from June 2009 through December 2010.  
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11158.html>
15. *February 22, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Texas) **US Department of Labor’s OSHA fines San Antonio manufacturing company for serious workplace safety and health hazards.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Aggregate Plant Products Co. February 22 with 12 serious and 4 other-than-serious violation following a safety and health inspection at the company’s San Antonio, Texas facility. OSHA began its inspection December 8,

2010, at the company's facility on N. W.W. White Road, where employees manufacture equipment used in the oil and gas industry. Serious citations allege a failure to provide training on the use of forklift equipment; provide the required machine guarding; correct electrical deficiencies, such as replacing missing grounding prongs on electrical equipment and allowing employees to use extension cords as permanent wiring; repair exposed fixture wiring; and correctly mount switches and outlets.

Source:

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=19308](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=19308)

For another story, see item [32](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

16. *March 8, IDG News Service* – (New Jersey; International) **Defense contractor charged with stealing secrets on laptop.** A former engineer with U.S. military contractor L-3 Communications is facing as much as 20 years in prison on charges he illegally exported military data to China, IDG News Service reported March 8. He was charged March 4 in United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, but the complaint was not unsealed until March 8, the date the suspect was set to appear in federal court in Chicago. The man was stopped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers November 29, 2010, after flying back from a speaking engagement at a highly technical nanotechnology conference hosted by local universities and Chinese government officials. Border agents became suspicious when the agents found a conference lanyard in his luggage during a secondary inspection at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport. The suspect had said he had been in China to visit family. "Customs officers found a folder containing multiple pages of technical language, pictures of military weapons systems, and documents written in Chinese," wrote an FBI special agent in an affidavit. Border guards also found a laptop. After obtaining a search warrant, federal investigators then discovered hundreds of company documents on the man's computer, including several that contained technical data on guidance and control systems governed by U.S. arms export control laws.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/221676/defense\\_contractor\\_charged\\_with\\_stealing\\_secrets\\_on\\_laptop.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/221676/defense_contractor_charged_with_stealing_secrets_on_laptop.html)

For another story, see item [29](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

17. *March 9, KVOA 4 Tucson* – (Arizona) **12 Arizonans charged in \$24 million mortgage fraud scheme.** Twelve Arizonans have been indicted, allegedly for conspiring to commit mortgage fraud in Tucson and Scottsdale, Arizona, to obtain loans totaling almost \$19 million, and \$5 million in “cash back” loan proceeds. The indictment alleges the defendants knowingly submitted a materially false loan application, or other false documents, to banks and lending institutions for the purchase, refinance, or home equity financing of 18 residential properties. The total cash back received by the co-conspirators was about \$2.9 million — most of the properties went into foreclosure. The indictment alleges similar activity — that false loan applications containing misinformation about the borrowers’ income and liabilities were submitted to lending institutions, with over \$2.5 million in loan proceeds ultimately directed back to the defendants. “Mortgage fraud has contributed to the collapse of our real estate market in Arizona,” said a Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.  
Source: <http://www.kvoa.com/news/12-arizonans-charged-in-24-million-mortgage-fraud-scheme/>
18. *March 8, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Star witness in mortgage fraud conspiracy case testifies against police officers.** Testimony continued March 8 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in the federal mortgage fraud trial of six Broward law enforcement officers. Prosecutors said the five cops and one federal agent secured \$16.5 million in mortgage loans during the boom by falsifying documents and lying on loan applications for 68 properties. Facing conspiracy charges are former or current Plantation police officers, a Lauderhill police officer, and an FBI special agent. The defendants claimed they did not lie about anything. The mortgage brokers handling their transactions lied and falsified the documents, duping the officers and agent as well as several banks and mortgage lenders. Two men claimed they persuaded lenders to approve the applications, by making up fake lease agreements for properties the defendants already owned, to try to show non-existent rental income. Many of the fake leases used the names of one man’s high school classmates and in-laws. The two men also falsely told lenders the defendants planned to make the investment properties their primary residences. The ultimate goal, the man said, was to secure better interest rates and larger loans for the defendants.  
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/07/2104783/star-witness-in-broward-conspiracy.html>
19. *March 8, ATM Marketplace* – (Missouri) **Two men pled guilty to ATM Solutions robbery.** Two men have pleaded guilty to the robbery of ATM Solutions Inc.’s St. Louis, Missouri office and warehouse before escaping with \$6.6 million in the summer of 2010. The suspect admitted March 3 to being one of four gunmen who robbed the business August 2. Another man pleaded guilty to four counts of superseding information, charging him with armed robbery. The U.S. Attorney’s Office filed the complaint January 21 with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis. The two men are St. Louis residents. The holdup occurred when four robbers, armed with assault rifles and handguns, forced their way inside ATM Solutions offices at 5 a.m., just as a security guard arrived for work. The robbers



disarmed him and waited for a second security guard to arrive. They also took his gun and forced the security guards to open the safe. After tying up the guards, the robbers loaded the cash into an armored car and escaped. ATM Solutions, which is based in Cincinnati, offered a reward of up to \$150,000 for information leading to the arrest and capture of the gunmen. FBI agents arrested one man after \$250,000 was found in the trunk of his Dodge Charger. In addition to his car, FBI agents found money taken in the robbery in the attic of the man's home and in a storage locker.

Source: <http://www.atmmarketplace.com/article/179828/Two-men-pled-guilty-to-ATM-Solutions-robbery>

For more stories, see items [39](#) and [53](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation Sector**

20. *March 9, New York Post* – (New York) **Repeat intruder sneaks onto plane at New York's JFK airport.** Security measures at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York, came under scrutiny after a Maryland man boarded a plane without a ticket, the New York Post reported March 8. The suspect, 30, eluded Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints and boarded Delta flight 127 to San Francisco, California, with another passenger's stolen boarding pass. The security breach occurred shortly before the aircraft was due to take off February 24 and came just 6 days after the suspect bypassed TSA in San Francisco and boarded a commercial flight to Denver, Colorado, without a ticket, sources said. He is now the subject of an ongoing FBI-Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation that could lead to new federal charges against him as early as March 9, sources said.

Source: [http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpps/news/repeat-intruder-sneaks-onto-plane-at-jfk-airport-dpgonc-20110309-fc\\_12231311](http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpps/news/repeat-intruder-sneaks-onto-plane-at-jfk-airport-dpgonc-20110309-fc_12231311)

21. *March 9, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **U.S., EU near air-safety pact.** After a delay of almost 2 years, the United States and the European Union (EU) appear ready to cement an air-safety pact that both sides said should improve aviation oversight and save millions of dollars annually by eliminating duplicate efforts. The agreement was reached in 2008 but languished amid opposition in the U.S. Congress. That fight now appears resolved. As a result, the EU gave its final approval of the pact March 7, which could come into force as soon as May 1. Under the deal, U.S. and EU air-safety agencies will recognize each other's inspections and analysis. That should allow the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the European Aviation Safety Agency to share data and avoid duplicating efforts, officials said. The coordination also will help harmonize air-safety rules in the world's two biggest aviation markets, reducing costs and confusion for airlines, pilots, and manufacturers. In coming days, the two sides expect to exchange diplomatic notes, officially sealing the pact, the Agreement Between the U.S. and the European Community on Cooperation in the Regulation of Civil Aviation.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703662804576188622512907848.htm>  
1

22. *March 8, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Lab results back on acid found on GRTC bus seats.** Authorities are investigating the discovery of acid on seats in a Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) Transit System bus in Richmond, Virginia, that left a girl with leg burns March 6. A Richmond fire lieutenant said the girl was taken to VCU Medical Center for treatment of second-degree burns on her knees after coming in contact with one or more seats in the bus. The lieutenant said results of state lab testing came back March 8 and showed the chemical was a strong acid. “We believe it was an accidental release of product,” he said. The incident occurred aboard the Route 32 bus, which serves a large portion of the city’s downtown state government complex and the Ginter Park area of North Richmond, and apparently happened near First and Marshall streets. GRTC buses are outfitted with interior and exterior security cameras, and in this case, the cameras showed a man with a dark-colored bag sitting in one of the seats where the acid was found, according to the lieutenant.

Source: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/mar/08/2/tdmet01-acid-found-on-grtc-bus-seats-girl-burned-ar-889661/>

For more stories, see items [3](#), [4](#), [12](#), and [63](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. *March 9, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **500 evacuated as mysterious package investigated.** A UPS shipping error led to the evacuation of about 500 employees March 8 at Christian Book Distributors in Peabody, Massachusetts while a state police bomb squad, regional hazardous materials team, and city fire and police officers investigated a mysterious package. The 42-pound package contained “a dense, powdery material” that tests later revealed was titanium dioxide, a common compound used in paints and sunscreen, the Peabody fire chief said. According to police, the substance can be slightly hazardous, but cleanup is as simple as soap and water. An employee at Christian Book Distributors opened the large, square box around 10 a.m. and found the mysterious white substance in two plastic containers, according to a police statement. The package originated from Little Rock, Arkansas, and the label did not match the material in the box. UPS confirmed delivery was made to the wrong location. Employees were evacuated around 11 a.m. and were not allowed to return to the building until after 2 p.m.

Source: <http://www.salemnews.com/local/x1498145987/500-evacuated-as-mysterious-package-investigated>

24. *March 8, Annandale Advocate* – (Minnesota) **Arson suspected.** Officials suspect a fire that destroyed a vacant building on Main Street in South Haven, Minnesota March 5 and threatened the post office two doors down was deliberately set. Firefighters from

South Haven and three neighboring towns were able to protect the post office and another vacant building between it. Postal officials closed the building temporarily the week of March 7 because of the strong smell of smoke and moved operations to the Annandale post office. No one was injured in the fire, which started just before 5 p.m. March 5 in a building on the northeast corner of Main and Grant Streets and burned it to the ground.

Source:

<http://www.annandaleadvocate.com/main.asp?FromHome=1&TypeID=1&ArticleID=1035&SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1>

25. *March 8, Associated Press* – (New York) **Suspicious powder at NY IRS office is baking soda.** Nearly 60 workers at an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) office in Holtsville, New York were briefly evacuated March 8 after an employee opened an envelope containing a suspicious powder. An IRS spokeswoman said the substance was later determined to be baking soda. There were no injuries. The IRS spokeswoman said the evacuation happened around 10 a.m. About 55 workers and 3 managers were evacuated from the building and hazardous materials rescue teams examined the substance. The IRS spokeswoman said by 11 a.m. the evacuation was over and all employees were back at work. The spokeswoman said she could not recall similar incidents at the Long Island office occurring in the past.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/APd4a034cc2de549c79963dae056483c28.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

26. *March 9, U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (National) **Ground beef products recalled due to possible E. coli.** Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, an Arkansas City, Kansas, establishment, recalled approximately 14,158 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced March 9. According to the USDA Web site, the products were distributed to firms in North Carolina. Each case label bears the establishment number "EST. 27" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These products were produced February 22 and were shipped to firms in Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington for further processing and/or distribution. The products may have been repackaged into consumer-size packages and sold under different retail brand names. The problem was discovered through third-party lab results.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20110309/NEWS/303090062/Ground-beef-products-recalled-due-possible-E-coli?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Frontpage|s>

27. *March 9, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Gaston County woman says restaurant tea was tainted with chemicals, felt like fire in throat.** A Gaston, North Carolina, woman said she had to go to the emergency room after taking a swig of what was supposed to be sweet tea from a McDonald's restaurant in Gaston County. The

Gaston Gazette reported the woman said doctors diagnosed a probable allergic reaction to chemicals. The woman bought the drink and a biscuit March 5. The owner told the woman the staff uses a bleach-type sanitizer that may have been in the beverage. He apologized and offered to pay her medical bills. He said the restaurant was inspected March 7 and no problems were found. The Gaston County Environmental Health Department is investigating.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/cbc3804655844beeb3e1e404fd100b8c/NC--Bad-Tea/>

28. *March 8, CNN* – (California) **Officials: Lack of oxygen likely cause of fish kill in California.** A fish kill in King Harbor Marina in Redondo Beach, California, that authorities identified as “millions” of sardines is the product of natural forces, officials said March 8. “All evidence points to oxygen deprivation as cause of death,” a California Department of Fish and Game spokesman said. Authorities said the sardines likely sought calm waters inside the 1,400-vessel marina the evening of March 7 when winds were gusting up to 45 mph and the waters were rough. A police sergeant said authorities are confident of test results showing oxygen deprivation caused the massive fish kill because the other part of the sardine school is alive and well in the mouth of the harbor. The floating fish are a foot deep, and clean-up boats will spend the next few days removing them by net. The harbor’s algae may have contributed to the lack of oxygen, and then when the fish started dying, the resulting bacteria also consumed oxygen, said the program director of the SEA Lab, a hands-on coastal science education center in Redondo Beach.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/03/08/california.dead.fish/index.html?hpt=Sbin>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Water Sector

29. *March 9, mydailybiz.com* – (Maryland) **Portion of Triumph Explosives site added to Superfund Priorities list.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the addition of the Dwyer Property Ground Water Plume located north of Elkton, Maryland to the Superfund National Priorities List. The National Priorities List is a national list of sites where hazardous contaminants could impact public health and/or the environment. These sites undergo a thorough investigation to determine the full nature and extent of contamination. EPA or the parties responsible for the contamination then address whatever risks the sites pose to human health and the environment. The site, which is currently abandoned and heavily overgrown, is on the list because the groundwater is contaminated with levels of trichloroethene (TCE) that are above EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels for potable water. The property is a portion of a former industrial facility, Triumph Explosives, Inc., which primarily manufactured explosives for the Department of Defense from the 1930s through the end of World War II.

Source: [http://www.cecilwhig.com/business/article\\_10392fac-49eb-11e0-8952-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.cecilwhig.com/business/article_10392fac-49eb-11e0-8952-001cc4c002e0.html)

30. *March 8, Associated Press* – (New York) **Thousands of plastic pieces escape NY sewage plant.** Thousands of small white plastic disks escaped from a sewage treatment plant in the New York suburbs and are showing up on Long Island Sound beaches. The Westchester County Health Department said the quarter-size disks are not dangerous. It said anyone who finds them can throw them in the garbage. A spokeswoman said the plastic pieces are used to grow bacteria that attack nitrogen in wastewater to prevent the loss of oxygen in the sound. She said they escaped during heavy rains March 6 when a tank at the plant in Mamaroneck overflowed and screening was not in place. The health department said March 8 the county is hiring a contractor to retrieve the disks, which have already washed up on beaches from New Rochelle to Rye.  
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/APc6a41604d7f34b9983d807d1045e9a8e.html>
31. *March 8, San Rafael Patch* – (California) **Sanitary District releases report on December's 2.6 million gallon sewage spills.** Just over 2 months after 2 spills dumped 2.6 million gallons of sewage in the area behind Kent Middle School and along the Corte Madera Creek in Creek Park, California, the Ross Valley Sanitary District released a 369-page report prepared for the regional water quality board documenting the circumstances that led to the spills. The board will then make its decision on the culpability of the district and possible fines. The district's report found debris in the pipe, in addition to crushed pipe in the area under the Kent Middle School track, caused the spills. The district in its documentation blames either contractor negligence on recently finished work on that pipe, or vandalism that dumped excessive debris into the system. A spokesman points primarily to the fact that in October, a 5-inch rain event did not result in any spills, despite the Kentfield pump station being turned off and the district relying on a smaller bypass pipe during that time. With that same bypass system and the pump station being off-line, the 2-inch rainfall December 17 caused an 842,000 gallon spill in the area behind Kent Middle School and College of Marin. The report argued something had changed and blocked the pipes during that time.  
Source: <http://sanrafael.patch.com/articles/sanitary-district-releases-report-on-decembers-26-million-gallon-sewage-spills-2>
32. *March 8, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Colorado) **EPA adds Anaconda Copper Mining Co. Smelter and Refinery in Cascade County to Superfund site list.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with support from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), March 8 announced the addition of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. Smelter and Refinery (ACM) site in Cascade County, Montana, to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. The ACM site is now eligible for federal cleanup funds that will support an extensive investigation and a comprehensive, long-term cleanup using the Superfund process while EPA seeks to recover costs from responsible parties. Listing also guarantees public participation in cleanup decisions, provides opportunities for a qualified community group to receive a technical assistance grant, and enables the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to initiate a health assessment in the area. The ACM site contains contamination from historic smelting and refining activities at Anaconda Copper Mining Company's Great Falls Reduction Department. The five areas being considered for investigation and potential cleanup include residential soils, the former smelter site,

areas along the railroad bed, Missouri River sediments and surface water, as well as groundwater.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/99138deb5939d66d8525784d0076c9e0?OpenDocument>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minneapolis clinic damaged by fire.** A 3-alarm fire damaged a medical clinic in Minneapolis, Minnesota March 9. Fire at the Bloomington Lake Clinic broke out just before 3 a.m. Firefighters were briefly evacuated from the clinic while fighting the flames because of concerns the roof would collapse. The assistant fire chief said a family was evacuated from a nearby home as thick smoke blanketed the neighborhood.  
Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=14216133>
34. *March 9, Salem Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Hospital parking structure fire damages several cars.** A fire damaged multiple vehicles on the roof level of the Salem Hospital parking structure in Salem, Oregon, March 8. Hospital staffers saw the fire about 2:11 p.m., a hospital spokeswoman said. A visitor's car, a Crown Victoria, caught fire and flames and heat damaged two employees' vehicles, she said. The cause of the fire is undetermined but is not suspicious, a Salem fire official said. The parking structure sustained minimal damage. There were no injuries.  
Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110309/NEWS/103090425/Hospital-parking-structure-fire-damages-several-cars?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|News|s>
35. *March 9, WTVR 6 Richmond* – (Virginia) **Hazmat incident at VCU Medical Center building.** Richmond, Virginia hazmat crews are investigating a fire at a Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center building. Just after 3:15 a.m. March 9, firefighters were called to the 1200 block of E. Marshall Street to the medical sciences building for a fire alarm. When fire crews arrived they found a piece of equipment that was labeled "radioactive" smoking. Eight people were quarantined for possible radiation exposure. Haz-mat crews determined that there were not any heightened radioactive levels, and the material inside the machine was not released.  
Source: <http://www.wtvr.com/wtvr-hazmat-incident-at-vcu-medical-center-building-20110309,0,116119.story>
36. *March 9, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Prescription fraud suspects rounded up.** Tampa Bay, Florida authorities had hoped to round up nearly 100 suspects in the March 8 sweep involving prescription fraud and other drug-related offenses, known as Operation No Appointment Necessary. However, only 33 suspects were arrested. Five people had died in recent months — four from suspected overdoses and one by suicide. Twelve others were in custody before March 8. Four other suspects were found already

in jail in the Tampa Bay area. The remainder of those sought will be arrested in coming days, authorities said. The investigation mainly targeted people suspected of passing fraudulent prescriptions, though some were being sought for other drug offenses such as doctor shopping. The investigation was initiated in 2010 after complaints about suspicious and criminal activity at pharmacies and doctors' offices throughout Pinellas County, deputies said. Much of the fraud involves prescription slips from various doctors' offices that had been illegally copied. The task force was formed and tracked suspects who passed bogus prescriptions for oxycodone, methadone, and alprazolam. No doctors were targeted. A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office spokesman said the identities of 27 doctors in Pinellas were pilfered by suspects, who used that information to forge prescriptions.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/mar/09/PMENEWSO3-prescription-fraud-suspects-rounded-up/>

37. *March 8, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Nearly 100 ill after weekend swim meet at Naval Academy.** Nearly 100 people reported symptoms of viral gastroenteritis after a swim meet at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, state health officials said. Several athletes got sick on the pool deck during the finals session of the Maryland State Swimming Championships March 5, according to a letter on the Maryland Swimming Web site. Of the 99 people who reported illnesses to Maryland Swimming after the events, 89 were swimmers, about 7 or 8 others were officials or coaches on the pool deck, and others were parents or spectators, said the organization's general chair. "This is unprecedented," he said. The state health department is still testing stool samples from people who were sick to determine what pathogen caused the illness, said the chief of the health department's center for surveillance, infection prevention, and outbreak response. The symptoms match those of viral gastroenteritis, which typically passes within 24 to 48 hours, she said. Gastroenteritis is caused by noroviruses, which are normally transmitted through contact with an infected person, such as sharing food or a water bottle, or on dirty towels or bathroom doorknobs — "anything where the virus would be on the material," she said. The naval academy follows federal guidelines for maintaining the pool and cleaning it after biologic material has entered the water. "It would be unusual in a chlorinated pool where they were doing proper protocol for that to be the source of transmission," she said. One swimmer, at the conclusion of a March 5 event, vomited on the pool edge as he left the water. Meet officials stopped the competition for at least 45 minutes to clean up the area, treat the water and check disinfectant levels, which were within the proper range, he said. About 20 percent of scheduled participants did not return to the venue March 6. Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-md-ar-swim-meet-gastroenteritis-20110308,0,2367500.story>

38. *March 2, Brockton Enterprise* – (Massachusetts) **Fire official: Worker caused Brockton fire.** Workers repairing electrical service to a Brockton, Massachusetts industrial building that had been damaged by a roof collapse accidentally triggered a fire March 1, a fire official said. The building, which houses the company First Boston Pharma, suffered a partial roof collapse under heavy, wet snow February 2. On March 1, a worker from Meserve Electric Inc. of East Bridgewater accidentally knocked a

fiberglass ladder against an electrical cabinet, sparking a small explosion that ignited a fire, the deputy fire chief said. He said the company is not facing any penalties and that the incident “was a complete accident.” No one was injured. The fire was confined to an electrical cabinet that contained the building’s connection to high-voltage power lines. After electricity to the building was shut off, firefighters were able to use water to extinguish the fire. The damage appeared to be fairly extensive, the deputy chief said. About 50 workers were evacuated from the building, which was shut down for the rest of the day following the fire.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/brockton/news/x1923550966/Electrician-triggers-Brockton-fire#axzz1G7RIAgj8>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *March 8, IDG News Service* – (International) **French gov’t gives more details of hack: 150 PCs compromised.** The French National IT Systems Security Agency released further details of the recent attack on French government computers, saying cyberspies were targeting the Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G-20) meeting. Around 150 IT staff spent the weekend of March 5 and 6 on a massive cleanup operation to undo the effects of the attack on computers at the French Ministry of Economy, Finances, and Industry, the security agency’s director-general said March 7. The attack compromised around 150 of the ministry’s 170,000 PCs, the agency director-general said. The attack began with a wave of e-mail messages with malware-laden attachments that exploited then-unknown or unprotected flaws in the software running on the PCs. The attackers had access to mailboxes and servers over the course of several weeks. It took the agency until the week of February 28 to figure out what the Trojan was doing, and just how far it had spread. While attacks on other French government computers were made during this time, none of them appeared to have succeeded, the director-general said. The French budget minister said this latest attack was probably from outside France.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9213741/French\\_gov\\_t\\_gives\\_more\\_details\\_of\\_hack\\_150\\_PCs\\_compromised](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9213741/French_gov_t_gives_more_details_of_hack_150_PCs_compromised)

40. *March 8, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Device found at Tinker Air Base called hoax.** Airmen at the Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma dealt with two scares early March 8. Base authorities said the incidents began when a person was found on base with a gunshot wound. That prompted investigators to try to find out how the person got a gun on the base in the first place. Tinker’s director of public affairs said the investigation continues and it may lead to security changes. At about 8 a.m., base security got another call when a member of base personnel found a suspicious object in Building 2136. The building was evacuated, a perimeter set up, and the Oklahoma County Sheriffs Bomb Squad was called in to investigate. About 2 hours after the report initially came in, authorities were able to determine that the object was not a threat. Air Force investigators and the FBI said the package was placed there as a



hoax. They are still looking for the person who did it.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/r/27117616/detail.html>

41. *March 8, Canton Repository* – (Ohio) **Arrests made in Stark State College bomb threat.** Footage from a surveillance camera and fingerprints on a pay phone in Canton, Ohio, led authorities to a suspect in one of the recent bomb threats at Stark State College. A 25-year-old Nimishillen Township man, was arrested March 8 and charged with calling in the threat March 2 to Stark State. Police continue to investigate 6 similar threats that have plagued the school in recent months. Camera footage and the fingerprints led to the suspect and an accomplice, the police chief said. According to police, the suspect told detectives and an Ohio Adult Parole Authority officer March 8 that he made the call and said: There’s a bomb in the building that was “going to blow up.” The suspect faces felony counts of disrupting public service and inducing panic. Police also charged a second man, a 25-year-old Canton man, in connection with the March 2 threat. The police chief said the accomplice knew what the suspect did and did not alert authorities. He is charged with failing to report a crime, a misdemeanor.  
Source: <http://www.indeonline.com/news/x750985956/Suspect-arrested-in-Stark-State-bomb-threats>
  
42. *March 7, Trentonian* – (New Jersey) **Two Trenton bomb threats in one day; high school evacuated.** Police, firefighters, and dogs that sniffed out explosives March 7 because of a bomb scare at Trenton Central High School (TCHS) in New Jersey were needed when another telephoned bomb threat was made on the Catholic Charities offices in the south ward. No bombs were found — and authorities could think of no reason why TCHS and Catholic Charities would serve as targets on the same suspect’s bomb list. The two calls caused an evacuation of TCHS students, who were initially led back to the football field to sit in the bleachers there before they were dismissed for the day about a half-hour later. The intense attention and activity by law enforcement at the school stretched manpower all over the county. The initial 11:30 a.m. call seemed to indicate a bomb had been planted in the school’s cafeteria, a spokesman for the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office said. “We sent three dogs,” he said. “Ewing Township sent a dog, West Windsor, the New Jersey State Police, the FBI. The school was searched top to bottom. By 3:30, the search was ended, and there was no indication of any bomb.”  
Source:  
<http://www.trentonian.com/articles/2011/03/07/news/doc4d751650820f5299311188.txt>
  
43. *March 7, NextGov* – (International) **CIA website disruption may have been work of a prankster.** Federal officials as March 7 were still investigating the cause of a cyber incident March 3 that knocked offline the public Web site of the CIA and its unclassified e-mail system. Some cyber experts said the disruption may have been caused by a denial of service attack perpetrated by pranksters to show off their skills, rather than a terrorist act committed by a foreign government. Contrary to previous news reports, the interference was isolated to CIA networks. The U.S. Computer Emergency Response Team (US-CERT) received no reports from agencies other than the CIA experiencing technical problems with their unclassified Web sites or e-mail systems, Homeland Security Department officials said March 7. The CIA site, which

the spy agency recently retooled to attract more visitors, was back online by 11 a.m. March 4, and employee e-mail is also now working, CIA officials said March 7.  
Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20110307\\_1120.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110307_1120.php)

44. *March 7, McAllen Monitor* – (Texas) **DPS worker arrested in FBI sting.** FBI agents arrested a Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) employee March 2 after a sting operation revealed she had conspired to illegally sell driver’s licenses, according to federal court filings. The 32-year-old McAllen woman conspired with four other people to sell real Texas driver’s licenses based on stolen data, according to a sworn complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She confessed to arranging 16 licenses in exchange for bribes, and worked with others to sell stolen Social Security numbers and birth certificates. An FBI informant agreed to pay \$10,000 to a middleman who helped secure the woman’s services, part of a year-long sting operation.  
Source: <http://www.themonitor.com/articles/arrested-47795-fbi-sting.html#>

For more stories, see items [16](#), [25](#), and [47](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

45. *March 9, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Bomb squad called to Dayton crime lab.** The Dayton, Ohio, bomb squad and other emergency personnel responded to the Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory March 8. While technicians were taking inventory, technicians found a small canister filled with an old chemical that crews determined could be hazardous. Instead of handling the chemical, the bomb squad was called to the scene. The bomb squad determined it would be best for them to remove the chemical and dispose of it properly. “It’s a safety issue. They determined that it could be unstable because of its age and it’s an issue that we want to be safe with our staff in the building and obviously the community,” the crime lab’s director said.  
Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/27127285/detail.html>
46. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas officer hurt when tactical grenade explodes.** The commander of a police tactical squad in Alice, Texas, was hospitalized March 8 after a tactical grenade exploded in his hand. The tactical commander was in critical but stable condition at Christus Spohn Hospital-Memorial in Corpus Christi after he was airlifted from the scene, according to a hospital spokeswoman. The Alice police chief said the 25-year veteran of the police force was loading equipment into his squad car when a flash-bang grenade exploded in his hand. The chief said the commander’s hand was injured and his car damaged severely, but protective clothing prevented more serious injury. The flash-bang grenade is used to startle and distract suspects when officers rush to subdue them.  
Source: [http://www.myfoxlubbock.com/news/state/story/Texas-officer-hurt-when-tactical-grenade-explodes/68SV97IfhUaTxwaFe9Jy\\_A.csp#](http://www.myfoxlubbock.com/news/state/story/Texas-officer-hurt-when-tactical-grenade-explodes/68SV97IfhUaTxwaFe9Jy_A.csp#)

47. *March 8, Marple Newtown Patch* – (Pennsylvania) **Suspicious package found, Township buildings evacuated.** A suspicious package was found March 8 near the side of the Marple Police station in Broomall, Pennsylvania, about 7 p.m., prompting the evacuation of the police and municipal buildings and library. According to a Marple police lieutenant, the suspicious package was contained in an approximate 8-inch by 6-inch box. People were safely evacuated out of the buildings at approximately 7:15 p.m., the lieutenant said. “We were just being overly cautious,” he said. He said there have been occasions when people have dropped off old war relics to the police department, but the contents of this package are still under investigation. The Delaware County bomb squad also responded.  
Source: <http://marpleneutown.patch.com/articles/suspicious-package-found-township-buildings-evacuated>
48. *March 8, Homeland Security News Wire* – (National) **Police turning to Facebook to fight crime.** Local police departments across the United States have begun to use Facebook and Twitter to communicate with local residents and track down criminals and missing persons. Departments have successfully apprehended suspects minutes after posting photos online. Police have also received tips on the whereabouts of wanted criminals, and Facebook has become a part of the investigative process. Facebook’s traditional functions of outreach and communication have helped departments keep residents informed and build trust. Critics of police patrolling Facebook and Twitter for tips say it is an invasion of privacy, and police have been careful to only use publicly posted information that users choose to display. Aside from helping to solve crimes, Facebook’s traditional functions of outreach and communication have helped departments keep residents informed. Police departments around college campuses have come under fire for raiding parties they learned about on Facebook, and in 2010 the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security drew criticism after it hired a firm to monitor activists on social-networking sites and send information to law enforcement officials.  
Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/police-turning-facebook-fight-crime>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information Technology Sector**

49. *March 9, IDG News Service* – (International) **Tests find security tools failures.** A new round of antivirus testing found some products fail to detect malware that tries to infect a computer via a different attack vector, such as through a local network fileshare or a USB drive. The tests, conducted by NSS Labs, sought to find out how effective security products are at detecting malware from various attack vectors. Malware can be delivered to a computer via rigged Web sites, e-mail attachments, and USB flash drives, among other ways. Although drive-by downloads remain the most common attack vector, about 15 percent of attacks are delivered via e-mail with a malicious attachment, such as a PDF document. Many security products allow users to download all of their e-mail to their inbox by default and not scan it, even if it contains malware. “Surprisingly, many products tested did not remove malware from the inbox by

default,” according to the report, titled “Socially-engineered Malware Via Multiple Attack Vectors.” Of the 10 products tested, the average protection rate was just 36 percent. NSS Labs said if a company runs a centralized, server-based security product that is integrated with the e-mail servers, such as Microsoft’s Exchange or IBM’s Lotus Notes, the malware may be removed before it reaches an end user.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9213859/Tests\\_find\\_security\\_tools\\_failures](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9213859/Tests_find_security_tools_failures)

50. *March 9, H Security* – (International) **Apple releases Java security updates.** Apple has issued Java updates for versions 10.5 Leopard and 10.6 Snow Leopard of its Mac OS X operating system, patching a number of security holes and bringing its two latest versions of OS X up to date. The updates include Java SE 6 Update 24 from the middle of February, which addressed a floating point vulnerability that affected Java. Update 4 for Mac OS X 10.6 fixes 16 vulnerabilities, while Update 9 for Mac OS X 10.5 closes 27 holes. According to Apple, many of the issues could allow an untrusted Java applet to execute arbitrary code outside the Java sandbox when visiting a malicious Web page. Java for Mac OS X 10.6 Update 4 requires version 10.6.4 or later, and Java for Mac OS X 10.5 Update 9 requires 10.5.8 or later.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Apple-releases-Java-security-updates-1204690.html>

51. *March 9, H Security* – (International) **Google releases Chrome 10 stable, improves JavaScript performance.** Just over 1 month after the previous stable channel release, Google has issued version 10 of the Chrome Web browser into the stable channel. This major update to the WebKit-based browser was previously only available in the Beta channel and moves the full version number up to 10.0.648.127. The update addresses a total of 25 security vulnerabilities in the browser, a majority of which are rated as “high-risk” by Google. The security issues range from memory corruption problems to script handling, crashing bugs, text rendering, and same origin bypass holes. Further details of the vulnerabilities are being withheld until “a majority of users are up-to-date with the fix.”

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Google-releases-Chrome-10-stable-improves-JavaScript-performance-1204493.html>

52. *March 9, H Security* – (International) **Microsoft closes critical holes in Windows Media Player and Media Center.** Microsoft has released three updates to close four holes. MS11-015 fixes two bugs in its Windows Media Player and Media Center software. Attackers can exploit a bug in the code for processing DVR-MS files (Microsoft Digital Video Recording) to inject and execute arbitrary code. Microsoft said that visiting a specially crafted Web page is all that is required to become a victim. The company considers it likely functioning exploits will appear. The second hole in the Media Player and Media Center is a further instance of the problem known as DLL hijacking or binary planting that has been around for months. If a developer has not explicitly stated the path of a DLL, Windows successively searches various folders to find it. In the worst case, the program will retrieve the DLL from a network volume that has been compromised by an attacker. The remaining two updates for the Remote

Desktop Client (RDP) and the Office Groove collaboration software also deal with the same problem.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-closes-critical-holes-in-Windows-Media-Player-and-Media-Center-1204390.html>

53. *March 9, The Register* – (International) **DDoS botnet attacks gold miners and wine makers.** Security researchers have discovered a strain of DDoS botnet agent that launches an attack against large corporate investment groups and mining-related interests. The JKDDOS botnet launches packet-flooding attacks on targeted Web sites from malware-infected zombie PCs. Targets over the months have included gaming sites and online stores as well as more obscure and unusual targets. For example, an investment firm was repeatedly targeted for attack, DDoS mitigation tool firm Arbor Networks reports. “A well-known investment company based in New York City was attacked by a JKDDOS botnet on six separate occasions during the 10-day period starting on October 21, 2010, with the shortest and longest attacks lasting approximately three and 33 hours, respectively,” a security researcher at Arbor, writes. “Three different victims have some connection to the gold mining industry, and one victim was a manganese miner.” The botnet, seeded from exploit-serving Web sites in China and the United States and controlled through a command infrastructure in China, has also attacked a “a corporate holding company that invests in major wineries.”  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/09/gold\\_mine\\_site\\_botnet/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/09/gold_mine_site_botnet/)
54. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota man sentenced for stealing \$388K from computer parts manufacturer.** A Minnesota man has been sentenced to more than a year in prison for scheming to cheat computer parts maker Cisco Systems Inc. out of about \$388,000. The U.S. Attorney’s office said the 46-year-old of Brooklyn Park was sentenced March 8 to 15 months in prison on one count of mail fraud. The man was manager of network services for Woodbury-based Postal Credit Union. In his plea agreement, he admitted that from June 2007 to October 2009 he falsely notified Cisco that parts in PCU’s computer systems were faulty. He sold the Cisco replacement parts online and returned cheap secondhand units to Cisco as the allegedly defective parts.  
Source:  
[http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/market\\_news/article.jsp?content=D9LR9SM82](http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/market_news/article.jsp?content=D9LR9SM82)

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [39](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto: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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Communications Sector

55. *March 8, Homeland Security News Wire* – (Wisconsin) **Wisconsin introduces law to ban fake caller IDs.** Republican legislators in Wisconsin have introduced a bill that would make it illegal to use caller ID services that can generate fake numbers, Homeland Security News Wire reported March 8. The law drafted by a Wisconsin senator and a state representative prohibit people from using a fake caller ID number to “defraud, cause harm, or gain anything of value.” In 2010, Congress passed a similar bill that banned the use of “phone spoofing” technologies. Companies like SpoofTel and SpoofCard allow an individual to choose what number they wish to appear on another person’s caller ID when they call. The new bill would allow law enforcement officials to target individuals making prank calls in addition to prosecuting companies that provide spoofing technology.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/wisconsin-introduces-law-ban-fake-caller-ids>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *March 9, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Goose Creek teen arrested on explosives charge.** A 17-year-old was arrested on an explosives charge March 9 in connection with a crudely fashioned fragmentation bomb found in a Goose Creek, South Carolina roadway March 5. He is charged with possessing, manufacturing, or soliciting an explosive device with the intent to cause damage, a Goose Creek police captain said. The suspect appeared before a Goose Creek municipal judge March 9 for a bond hearing. Bail was set at \$10,000. About 11 p.m. March 5, police were summoned to Saint James Avenue near Immaculate Conception Church, where they saw a 2-liter bottle smoldering in the road. Firefighters responded and extinguished the small fire. The bottle had been filled with paint thinner and 14 live, .22-caliber cartridges, according to a police incident report. Officers found a foxhole covered with a tarp nearby and two juveniles, who were detained and identified after a brief foot chase. A third person eluded arrest March 5 and was being sought. The police said that third person was the teenager arrested March 9.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/2011/03/08/1728757/goose-creek-teen-arrested-on-explosives.html>

57. *March 8, Associated Press* – (International) **Man held in Scotland over Sweden terror attack.** Police in Scotland arrested a 30-year-old man March 8 on suspicion of aiding a suicide bomber who targeted Christmas shoppers in Stockholm, Sweden in December. Strathclyde Police said the suspect, who is not British, was detained just after 6 a.m. in Glasgow as part of an “intelligence-led” operation into the Swedish attack. The Stockholm attacker, an Iraqi-born Swede who went to university in Britain, killed himself and injured two others when explosives he was wearing exploded in a busy shopping street. Police said the suspect arrested March 8 posed no direct threat to Scotland. Sweden’s security police said the arrest was the result of joint work between

officials in Scotland and Sweden. It said “the investigation, so far, shows that there could be a link between the arrested person and the terrorism act in Stockholm on December 11.” Officials have said they suspected the attacker had accomplices.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110308/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/eu\\_britain\\_sweden\\_terrorism](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110308/ap_on_re_eu/eu_britain_sweden_terrorism)

58. *March 8, Associated Press* – (California) **Man pleads guilty in northern Calif. mall blaze.** A 24-year-old man has admitted setting a fire that caused more than \$55 million in damage to a Northern California regional shopping mall. The U.S. Attorney’s office in Sacramento said the perpetrator pleaded guilty March 8 to one count of arson for the October 21 blaze that destroyed a quarter of the Westfield Galleria in the Sacramento suburb of Roseville. He pleaded guilty to a second arson for a smaller fire that day at a Wal-Mart. He also agreed to plead guilty to setting a fire that damaged his grandmother’s Sacramento home. The man’s attorney said his client had substantial mental health issues. He could face up to 20 years in prison on each federal charge when he is sentenced May 24, but prosecutors recommend 10 years for all three fires.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_17568250?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_17568250?nclick_check=1)

For more stories, see items [4](#), [30](#), and [37](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

59. *March 8, KSPR 33 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Vandals target Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.** A maintenance worker at Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield in Republic, Missouri, noticed March 7 one of the cannons at Guibor’s Battery did not look right. Vandals had stolen a component known as an elevation screw from one of the guns and cut the cables holding another in place. The worker notified a law enforcement park ranger, who searched the rest of the park for further damage. The ranger found a cannon at Bloody Hill had been cut free from its moorings and moved in front of another, muzzle to muzzle. And at Pulaski Battery, the cannon had been cut loose and rolled down a large hill. The barrel had come free of the carriage, leaving a large scrape along the side. The carriage itself was also significantly damaged in the incident.

Source: <http://www.kspr.com/news/local/kspr-vandals-target-wilsons-national-battlefield-20110308,0,98764.story>

60. *March 8, KRWG 22 Las Cruces* – (New Mexico) **Wildfire near Silver City eases; 100 evacuated.** New Mexico officials said activity on a wind-driven wildfire that destroyed up to 15 homes has eased, and crews were able to build containment lines overnight March 7 into March 8. A New Mexico Forestry spokesman said the wildfire in a rugged rural area south of Silver City had burned nearly 1,800 acres, or almost 3 square miles, by early March 8 — up from 500-1,000 acres burned as of late March 7. High winds had prevented firefighters from calling in water-dropping helicopters or planes after the blaze started March 7. Winds were expected to pick up again March 8. About 100 people were evacuated. The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a

grant that will cover 75 percent of the cost of fighting the fire.

Source:

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kwrg/news/news.newsmain/article/1/0/1772560/Regional/Wildfire.Near.Silver.City.Eases.100.Evacuated>

61. *March 8, WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **Fire dangers increased in North Dallas with high winds.** The Texas Forest Service (TFS) issued a warning about the increased fire danger due to high winds, especially in West Texas. The danger was high March 8, according to forest officials, because of extreme weather conditions. Red Flag warnings were issued from the New Mexico state line to west of Fort Worth, Texas. Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Fire-danger-warnings-issued-with-increased-winds-117594233.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Dams Sector**

62. *March 9, Associated Press* – (North Dakota; Minnesota) **Army Corps of Engineers drawing down reservoirs.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is drawing down 4 of its reservoirs in the Red River watershed to prepare for the flood battle ahead. There is normally no drawdown for Mud Lake, which is downstream of Lake Traverse, near Wheaton, Minnesota, a city located where Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota meet. But the Corps is lowering by 2 feet so it can hold more snowmelt. Lake Traverse is already down 2 feet from its usual level, and the Corps plans to lower it another foot by the end of the month. The Corps will begin its final drawdown at Homme Reservoir, near Park River, North Dakota, following a partial drawdown last November. Orwell Reservoir, near Fergus Falls, is targeted to reach its maximum drawdown by March 18. It is currently 9 feet below its usual level with 5 feet remaining. Source: <http://www.kttc.com/Global/story.asp?S=14215087>
63. *March 8, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (National) **Four barges sink at Dam 25 in Winfield.** The Army Corps of Engineers is using an additional guide boat at Lock and Dam 25 to assist tows bound downriver after four loaded barges broke loose and sank March 6 in Winfield, Missouri. While the barges are not in the navigation channel, their location has altered the current enough that a smaller “helper boat” has been brought in to assist tows entering the lock chamber from the upstream side. The extra utility boat will help keep barges headed downriver pressed up against the lockwall. Without it, the currents could pull the barges toward the dam. Four loaded barges being pushed downstream by Motor Vessel Julie White impacted the river wall bullnose while approaching Lock 25 March 6. The barges loaded with gravel broke free and sank. On March 8, they were resting against piers on the dam and posed no risk to navigation or the dam’s structure. There were no injuries. ARTCO and Corps personnel met with a salvage company March 8 to assess the barges and determine the best and safest way to remove them. The U.S. Coast Guard is currently investigating the cause of the incident. Source: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/248236/3/Four-barges-sink-at-Dam-25-in-Winfield>



64. *March 8, WTHI 10 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **Levee gap widening, miles of Valley remain flooded.** A hole in a Wabash Valley levee has gotten large, keeping miles of Daviess County, Indiana, under water. The 70-year-old Bennington levee failed March 6. It is on the west fork of the White River. Emergency officials believe the gap has flooded 8 square miles of farmland northwest of Washington. Emergency officials said March 7 the gap was about 100 feet wide. That is 4 times bigger than it was March 6. Emergency officials said water levels were going down in the northern part of the county, but noted it may be some time before they fall below the base of the levee. Source: <http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/local/levee-gap-widening-miles-of-valley-remain-flooded>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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