



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 March 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Associated Press reports water levels dropped precipitously inside a nuclear reactor in Japan March 14, twice leaving the uranium fuel rods completely exposed and raising the threat of a meltdown. (See item [12](#))
- According to ABC News, 15 people died after a horrific tour bus crash on a New York City highway that authorities believe may have been caused by speeding. (See item [25](#))

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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 14, KPIC 4 Roseburg* – (Oregon) **Thousands in Douglas County still without power after storm.** Crews working March 14 in the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon areas made progress in restoring electricity to Pacific Power customers affected by a significant storm system that rocked the Northwest March 13. Crews worked to repair damage in more than a dozen communities. After the storm, as many as 74,000 customers were without power due to more than 2,000 individual outages. By March 14, local repair crews augmented by Pacific Power and contract crews mobilized to

hardest hit areas had cut that total to about 13,000 customers, derived from 1,300 separate outages. Transmission, distribution, and substation equipment have been impacted and/or damaged and must be repaired in many areas. A helicopter was deployed to assist in pinpointing damaged equipment. Pacific Power has issued a “all hands” call and is moving multiple crews into southern Oregon and the Willamette Valley from northern California, Pendleton, Hood River, Bend, and Portland. Pacific Power has also enlisted contract crews from throughout Oregon and Washington to help restore power.

Source: <http://www.kpic.com/news/local/117935409.html>

2. *March 13, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **3 oil tanks burn near Gillette, no one hurt.** A cluster of large oil tanks caught fire east of Gillette, Wyoming, over the weekend and sent flames a hundred feet into the air. The Campbell County Fire Department division chief said the fire broke out around 5 p.m. March 11 about 20 miles from Gillette near the Crook County line. The division chief told the Gillette News-Record that three tanks caught fire. Each was used to store about 500 barrels of oil. When firefighters arrived, one of the tanks already had exploded and sent a large plume of smoke into the air. Another blew up an hour later. No one was hurt in the blaze, which investigators say was sparked by a faulty electric motor. It is unknown how much damage the fire caused. Ultimately, firefighters decided to let the oil burn. The division chief said a dirt road that led to the tanks was reduced to mud, making it difficult to get to the fire.
Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/national/1110ap_us_oil_tank_fire.html
3. *March 13, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **PG&E created own pipe safety rule, document shows.** Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) avoided time-consuming and costly inspections of natural-gas transmission pipelines like the one that exploded in San Bruno, California by creating its own weaker safety standard that federal officials said was an “incorrect” interpretation of government safety regulations, the San Francisco Chronicle has learned. PG&E decided in 2008 it would test for weld problems on its older lines only if pressure on the pipes had spiked to a level 10 percent above a standard defined under federal rules, according to an internal company document instructing its operators how to manage the gas-transmission system. Under those federal regulations, however, such inspections are supposed to be conducted after any incident in which an older, potentially faulty pipeline’s pressure level exceeds the standard by even the slightest amount. Officials with the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, in response to inquiries by the Chronicle, said PG&E’s 10 percent add-on was “incorrect.” However, they said they would need more documentation to determine whether the company had “misapplied” federal regulations.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/03/12/MN671I7DED.DTL>
4. *March 13, Columbus Telegram* – (Nebraska) **Pipeline power line delayed.** TransCanada has temporarily halted construction on infrastructure needed in advance of its proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The Nebraska Public Power District

(NPPD) operations manager advised the utility's board of directors March 11 that TransCanada had canceled any potential work in the state until 2012. Before segments of the 1,980-mile pipeline can become operational in Nebraska, NPPD must build 74 miles of 115,000-volt transmission lines to power 3 pumping stations along the proposed route. The \$49.4 million project was expected to begin this fall, however, an NPPD official reported March 11 that TransCanada has pushed the in-service date back from May 1 to October 1, 2012. By postponing work planned for 2011, he said, TransCanada has created a "tight window" for NPPD to complete the lines prior to the October 1, 2012 deadline.

Source: http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/article_72f5c316-4d2a-11e0-85d5-001cc4c03286.html

5. *March 12, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Gas leak scare at AGE refinery.** Witnesses said a strong odor accompanied a spewing gas leak at the AGE refinery in San Antonio, Texas March 12. San Antonio fire, police, hazmat, and CPS Energy crews responded to the scene. The refinery was shut down and vehicular access to South Presa Street was blocked near the intersection of Southeast Military Drive. CPS crews were able to shut the line down and secure the area. After about an hour, South Presa was re-opened and the area was given the all clear.
Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/27177354/detail.html>

6. *March 11, Holbrook Tribune-News* – (Arizona) **No injuries reported in explosion at bulk plant.** An explosion at the Love's bulk plant southwest of Winslow, Arizona, March 2, did some damage to the site and especially to the tanker truck involved, but no one was injured, according to a report to the Winslow City Council March 8, provided by the Winslow Fire Department. The event happened at about 4 a.m. and the explosion was loud enough to be heard by some in Winslow. It was quickly determined that there were no injuries and that the incident was accidental. All of the safety precautions expected appeared to have been working. There were apparently fumes in the tanker truck which caught fire from a spark of some kind and blew out the west side of the truck. It also did some damage to another truck and other facilities. A piece of debris from the truck landed on railroad tracks. The investigation and possible remedies to the situation are being handled by the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The plant is currently closed and will not be reopened until such action is approved by those agencies.
Source: <http://www.azjournal.com/2011/03/11/no-injuries-reported-in-explosion-at-bulk-plant/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *March 14, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Probe starts into Mass. chemical plant blast.** Investigators who will try to determine the cause of a chemical plant explosion that shook a Massachusetts neighborhood and sent four people to the hospital were waiting for clearance from structural engineers to get into the building. The state

fire marshal's office, other state agencies, local authorities and federal agencies will look into the March 13 blast and fire at Bostik Inc., which makes adhesives and sealants, the fire marshal said March 14. There was no word on a cause, but the explosion and four-alarm fire in Middleton are not considered suspicious at this point, he said. The state department of environmental management said air quality testing found low levels of the solvent toluene at the plant, but not in the surrounding residential neighborhood. The environmental testing of the air and nearby Ipswich River is ongoing. Some neighbors reported a chemical odor in the air, but the fire marshal and the fire chief said there is no chemical threat to the public. The four injured people were all workers at the plant. They went through a decontamination procedure at a hospital and were released. Homeowners near the plant described the explosion at about 7:30 p.m. as feeling like an earthquake, or like a car or tree hitting their house. The blast could be heard and felt for several miles around.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110314/ap_on_re_us/us_chemical_plant_explosion

8. *March 14, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Chemical spill in LaGrange sends 8 to hospital.** Eight workers at a LaGrange, Illinois, manufacturing plant the morning of March 14 suffered nausea caused by a chemical spill and were taken to a local hospital for observation, officials said. An acetone spill occurred at Grayhill Inc., 541 W. Hillgrove Avenue, a maker of keypads for electronic devices, said the LaGrange fire captain. Firefighters and paramedics responded to the west suburban plant about 6:30 a.m. None of the injuries appeared serious, he said. The workers were taken to Advocate LaGrange Memorial Hospital.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-chemical-spill-in-lagrange-sends-8-to-hospital-20110314,0,7460751.story>
9. *March 13, KTVX 4 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Semi truck spills magnesium chloride, causes road closures.** A semi truck overturned near Riverdale, Utah, March 12, spilling magnesium chloride and causing road closures. Utah Highway Patrol Troopers said the semi was traveling southbound on Interstate 15 pulling a flatbed trailer with containers of magnesium chloride. The driver lost control on the curve and overturned on the overpass to I-84 causing the containers to burst open on impact and spill all over the roadway including onto I-15 below. The semi truck and trailer were blocking both lanes of traffic on I-84 at approximately mile post 81. The driver of the semi was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. Hazmat crews responded to the scene to help clean up the spill, and roads were closed for about three and a half hours while the scene was cleared.
Source: <http://www.abc4.com/content/news/state/story/Semi-truck-spills-Magnesium-Chloride-causes-road/mjABr8Mxvk29yekJJP2jIg.csp>
10. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **No injuries in chemical spill in Fort Dodge.** Officials said no one was injured in a collision that caused a chemical spill in Fort Dodge, Iowa, but authorities are monitoring the Des Moines River. The Messenger in Fort Dodge said the spill happened March 10 when a tanker truck hauling an ammonia solution collided with a van at an intersection. Police said as the truck

swerved, the tank hit a boom mounted on top of the van, tearing a 1-foot long gash in the tank. The fire department captain said some of the chemical, commonly used as fertilizer, entered the storm sewers and flowed to the river before emergency crews arrived. He said state environmental officials found high levels of ammonia in the river March 10, creating the possibility that fish would be killed.

Source: <http://www.kwqc.com/Global/story.asp?S=14237183>

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

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

11. *March 14, WWAY 3 Wilmington* – (North Carolina) **Nuclear Regulatory Commission sends special inspection team to Global Nuclear Fuel plant.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has sent a Special Inspection Team to Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas, LLC, March 14 to examine the circumstances associated with an event in which the licensee failed to maintain required process control over a small quantity of enriched uranium. The nuclear fuel manufacturing facility is located in Wilmington, North Carolina. The event, reported to the NRC March 2, occurred in a grinding station in one of the facility's process lines. A quantity of uranium dioxide beyond prescribed limits was found to have accumulated in a filter in the grinding station. Upon discovery of the condition, all of the facility's grinding stations were shut down to assess their conditions. No other examples of powder accumulation were discovered. Other process controls and systems ensured the event posed no danger to plant employees or the public. The three-member NRC special inspection team will determine the safety implications of the event and the adequacy of the licensee's corrective actions. The NRC will issue a publicly available inspection report documenting the findings within 30 days after the inspection is completed.
Source: <http://www.wwaytv3.com/2011/03/14/nuclear-regulatory-commission-sends-special-inspection-team-to-global-nuclear-fuel-plant>

12. *March 14, Associated Press* – (International) **Meltdown threat rises at Japanese nuclear plant.** Water levels dropped precipitously inside a nuclear reactor at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in Japan March 14, twice leaving the uranium fuel rods completely exposed and raising the threat of a meltdown, hours after a hydrogen explosion tore through the building housing a different reactor. Water levels were restored after the first decrease, but the rods remained partially exposed late March 14, increasing the risk of the spread of radiation and the potential for an eventual meltdown. A top Japanese official said the fuel rods in all three of the most troubled nuclear reactors appeared to be melting. Of all these troubles, the drop in water levels at Unit 2 had officials the most worried. "Units 1 and 3 are at least somewhat stabilized for the time being," said a nuclear and industrial agency official. "Unit 2 now requires all our effort and attention." Workers managed to raise water levels after the second drop, but they began falling for a third time, according to a nuclear agency official. They are now considering spraying water directly on the container to cool it. In some

ways, the explosion at Unit 3 was not as dire as it might seem. The blast actually lessened pressure building inside the troubled reactor, and officials said the containment shell had not been damaged. In addition, officials said radiation levels remained within legal limits. A similar hydrogen blast destroyed the housing around the complex's Unit 1 reactor March 12, leaving the shell intact but resulting in the mass evacuation of more than 185,000 people from the area.

Source: <http://www.katv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14248009>

13. *March 11, U.S. Department of Justice* – (Illinois) **Honeywell pleads guilty in Illinois to illegal storage of hazardous waste.** Honeywell International Inc. pleaded guilty March 11 in federal district court in Benton, Illinois, to one felony offense for knowingly storing hazardous waste without a permit in violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Honeywell was also sentenced to pay a criminal fine in the amount of \$11.8 million. Honeywell, a Delaware corporation with corporate headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey, owns and operates a uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) conversion facility in Massac County, Illinois. Honeywell is licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to possess and otherwise manage natural uranium, which it converts into UF₆ for nuclear fuel. The Metropolis facility is the only facility in the United States to convert natural uranium into UF₆. In April 2009, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency special agents conducted a search warrant and found about 7,500 illegally stored drums containing waste that was radioactive and hazardous. Honeywell began storing the potassium hydroxide mud drums in compliance with the terms of its RCRA permit in approximately March 2010.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/March/11-enrd-314.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

14. *March 13, New York Times* – (International) **Japan's auto plants closed as companies take stock.** Most Japanese auto assembly plants will remain closed March 14, even though the factories are outside the hardest-hit regions and did not experience significant damage from the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan March 11. Automakers scrambled March 10 to determine whether they would be able to build and export cars in light of the rolling power blackouts and the damage to Japan's infrastructure. The three major automakers — Toyota, Nissan, and Honda — have American plants that produce most of the models they sell in the United States. But many luxury cars, like the Lexus, or the smaller, fuel-efficient cars, like the Toyota Prius and Honda Fit, are built in Japan. A Toyota spokeswoman said all of its plants in Japan would be closed March 14, but that no information was available about supplies of the Prius or other Japanese-built models. Honda said some plants would remain closed at least through March 14. Several Honda hybrid models, including the Insight and CR-Z, and the Acura RL and TSX are made in Japan. Nissan said all of its plants in Japan would remain closed March 14, but that most appeared to have avoided major damage. Officials were evaluating the facilities and had not made a decision about when they would reopen. Nissan dealers are not expected to experience any immediate

effects, but there could be supply problems for Infiniti, Nissan's luxury brand, which is built in Japan.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/business/global/14auto.html>

15. *March 11, WDAY 6 Fargo* – (Minnesota) **Man arrested in connection with the New York Mills bomb threat.** An arrest has been made following the investigation into the bomb threat that led to the evacuation of the Brunswick/Lund Boat Factory in New York Mills, Minnesota, March 8. At 6:40 p.m. March 10, a 37-year old-man from New York Mills was arrested by the local police department. The man was transported and booked into the Otter Tail County Jail in Fergus Falls. Charges are pending.
Source: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/44653/>

16. *March 11, Charleston State Journal* – (West Virginia) **Fire and explosion reported at Felman Production in Mason County.** Emergency crews responded to a fire with explosion March 11 at the Felman Production plant in Mason County, West Virginia. The incident was reported just before 8 p.m. When crews arrived on scene of the alloy manufacturing plant, they encountered fire and heavy smoke, according to a news release from the information officer at the New Haven Fire Department. Firefighters got the blaze under control around 8:30 p.m. Two workers were taken to an area hospital with minor injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=95807>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

17. *March 11, Military Times* – (California) **F-35 tests suspended after airborne glitch.** Flight testing of F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters has been suspended after an Air Force aircraft experienced a dual generator failure and oil leak during a test sortie March 9, prime contractor Lockheed Martin said March 11. The incident occurred at Edwards Air Force Base, California, which is the main Air Force flight test facility, on aircraft AF-4, the fourth Air Force test plane. The plane, an F-35A, returned safely to base, but further test flights are being delayed while engineers figure out the cause of the problem. Unlike previous fighter jets, the F-35's flight control surfaces are moved by electro-hydrostatic actuators powered by electricity. As such, an electrical failure could be especially problematic.
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/03/defense-f35-tests-halted-031111m/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

18. *March 12, Associated Press* – (International) **Ind. AG: Donate responsibly to earthquake relief.** Indiana’s attorney general advised people wanting to give money for Japanese earthquake relief to check out the charities carefully. He warned scam artists might try to solicit donations. He urged potential donors to use the Web site www.CharityNavigator.org to check whether a charity uses donations for intended purposes. He suggested donating to established organizations with strong track records of providing disaster relief. He also said donors should initiate the donation themselves rather than responding to online or telephone solicitations. Donors should look for “https” in the organization’s Web address to confirm an online donation site is secure. He said many new and untested relief groups solicited donations online and by e-mail after the Haiti earthquake in 2010.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-ap-in-earthquakerelief-0,4744271.story>
19. *March 12, Softpedia* – (Florida; National) **Phishers start targeting regional credit unions.** Security researchers warn phishers are becoming more focused in their attacks and have begun targeting regional credit unions. Traditionally phishers have targeted large financial institutions to reach the highest number of potential victims. However, people tend to be less suspicious of e-mails received from smaller, obscure institution. It appears phishers are catching on researchers from messaging security vendor AppRiver noted, citing a recent campaign targeting members of the Grow Financial Credit Union in Tampa Bay, Florida. The rogue e-mails pose as security alerts warning recipients their accounts have possibly been compromised. In order to restore access, users are asked to complete a form attached to the e-mail. The attachment displays a clone of the Grow Financial Web site with a form to input account number and password, as well as credit card details. The use of attachments for phishing is not a new technique, but not a traditional one either. It appears to have become more common during the past year. “Since most people are very cautious of clicking links in e-mails, perhaps the cybercriminals feel that delivering the entire Web page will increase the perceived legitimacy of the message,” an AppRiver researcher explained.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Phishers-Start-Targeting-Regional-Credit-Unions-189189.shtml>
20. *March 12, Willoughby News-Herald* – (Ohio) **Duo sought in connection with area bank robberies.** A recent rash of robberies in the Cleveland, Ohio area have kept authorities on their toes with their eyes peeled. An FBI Special Agent said the city has taken the brunt of the recent wave, but Lake County hasn’t been immune as the county has already seen four bank robberies since the first of the year. As a reference point, the county had just one bank robbery in 2010 — at a Willoughby bank that did not happen until late December. Since then, robberies have taken place at three more Willoughby banks and one Mentor bank. An FBI spokesman said three of those robberies were likely conducted by a duo that has been hitting banks throughout the area over the past few months. “We know it’s a couple of guys working together,” he said. “They’re hitting us pretty hard all around the Cleveland area.” He said the duo is likely responsible for a majority of the 19 bank robberies so far in 2011 in Cuyahoga County, including the robberies of 2 Euclid banks in a matter of minutes February 7.

Source: <http://news-herald.com/articles/2011/03/12/news/nh3749933.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

21. *March 11, Northern Valley Suburbanite* – (New Jersey; New York) **Tenaflly police looking for suspect in ATM fraud.** Detectives are looking for a man they allege placed a skimming device on an ATM at a Bank of America branch in Tenaflly, New Jersey, February 21. A police captain said the suspect was recorded by surveillance equipment placing the device on the machine at 1:44 p.m. and retrieving it 2 hours later. A police spokesman said such devices are used to mine information about ATM users and then obtain money fraudulently from cash machines. He said that customers who used the Tenaflly machine have reported a total of \$4,000 has been stolen from their accounts so far. The captain said the fraudulent transactions were in Teterboro, Hackensack, and New York City. They took place February 26, 27, and 28.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/117802428_Tenaflly_police_looking_for_suspect_in_ATM_fraud.html

22. *March 11, Beverly Hills Courier* – (California) **Disbarred attorney charged in \$9.5 mil. investment scam.** A disbarred attorney from Beverly Hills, California, was set to be arraigned March 14 on charges he conned at least 10 victims out of more than \$9.5 million by promising huge profits from phony investments in oil ventures. The man allegedly solicited funds from investors who were told their money would be put into various oil companies and oil-related ventures in Oklahoma and California. Claiming investments would be made in various companies, he promised substantial returns, according to the indictment. The indictment alleges that instead of using investors' money for the oil ventures, the man and his then-wife spent the cash for their own personal use, including the purchase of a Beverly Hills home and an interest in the now-closed Prego restaurant, also in Beverly Hills. Federal prosecutors further allege the suspect failed to tell victims he had previously been convicted of mail fraud; that he had been disbarred from the practice of law by Nevada; and that a federal judge in Texas had ordered him and Westar Oil to stop violating securities law and to pay \$3 million in penalties to settle a lawsuit filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Source:

http://www.bhcourier.com/article/Local_News/Local_News/Disbarred_Attorney_Charged_in_95_Mil_Investment_Scam/75086

23. *March 11, KXRM 21 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Men who allegedly robbed 8 banks arrested.** Police in Colorado Springs, Colorado, arrested two men they said are responsible for eight robberies in the city since December 28. Police arrested a 30-year-old and a 28-year-old March 8, shortly after the two allegedly robbed Air Academy Credit Union. The duo had a system where one would go into a bank with a gun demanding money, while the other waited in a getaway car. The robbery unit, tactical enforcement unit, and FBI officers investigated throughout the 10-week robbery period. They found critical evidence March 3. Investigators recognized the Air Academy robbery as part of the pattern. They responded to the 2100 block of Collier Avenue,

where the suspects were seen leaving in two separate cars. Police pulled them over in separate locations and found more evidence, including large amounts of cash. Police also found weapons in a garage in the 1000 block of E. Rio Grande Street. The garage belongs to a relative of one of the men, and detectives found four semi-automatic guns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. The two were co-workers and workout partners.

Source: <http://www.coloradoconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=591861>

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Transportation Sector

24. *March 14, CNN* – (California) **As U.S. damage measured, emergency declared in California counties.** One person was reported dead and numerous boats and harbors suffered damage in the United States after the tsunami triggered by the massive earthquake off Japan swept across the Pacific Ocean at jet speed March 11. The fatality was reported in northern California's Del Norte County, where a 25-year-old man was declared dead March 11 after being swept out to sea off a beach while trying to photograph the tsunami's arrival, said a spokesman for the county's emergency operations center. California's governor declared a state of emergency for four coastal counties March 11 as the ocean surge inundated beaches, ports and harbors and prompted the opening of emergency shelters. In addition to Del Norte, the declaration covered Humboldt, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties in northern California. Harbors in California and Hawaii bore the brunt of scattered damage in the United States. In Crescent City, a commercial fishing center near the Oregon state line, docks and about 35 vessels in its harbor suffered damage, spokesman for the county's emergency operations center said.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/03/11/tsunami/?hpt=Sbin>

25. *March 14, ABC News* – (New York) **New York tour bus crash claims 15th victim.** A fifteenth victim died March 14 after a horrific tour bus crash on a New York City, New York highway March 12. The 70-year-old man died from his injuries at about 7:30 a.m., police said. Several more injured passengers remain hospitalized, most in critical condition. While an exact cause is still under investigation, authorities believe the accident may have been caused by the bus driver speeding rather than, as he told police, a tractor trailer clipping the bus. Several witnesses told authorities that the bus traveling a high rates of speed, south on Interstate 95 before it flipped on its side, skidded 100 yards along a guard rail and struck a pole, which sliced the discount tour bus nearly in half at the passenger seat level. In a statement March 14, a U.S. Senator and Congresswoman from New York called on the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate the safety regulations of discount tour buses. "The low-cost intercity bus travel industry along the Northeast corridor has expanded rapidly in recent years and it appears safety regulations haven't kept pace," the Congresswoman said in the statement. The board has previously pushed for tougher regulations on driver fatigue.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/15th-victim-dead-tour-bus-crash-york/story?id=13132219&page=1>

26. *March 13, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **BART train derailment may hamper morning commute.** A Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train jumped off the tracks March 13 sending three people to the hospital. The crash happened just south of the Concord BART station. The train was heading to the airport when it derailed, leaving the train teetering on the tracks and dozens of passengers briefly stranded. BART crews were expected to be at the scene all night March 13 working on the problem. Service between Pleasant Hill and Pittsburgh-Bay Point was still disrupted late March 13. While there was no major damage to the system, crew needed to repair a portion of the electrical rail.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=resources/traffic&id=8010868>
27. *March 13, WHAM 13 Rochester* – (New York) **Rochester airport reopens after bomb scare.** Rochester International Airport in Rochester, New York, was reopened to traffic after a bomb threat shut down the airport March 13. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said around 6 a.m., 32-year-old suspect of Cantina, Sicily approached the ticket counter and told an employee he had a bomb in his luggage. The ticket agent called authorities. Airport officials, with help from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Border Patrol, and Transportation Security Administration (TSA), began working immediately to secure the airport. A K-9 bomb squad team screened three of the suspect's bags on the scene. All passengers on the JetBlue flight being boarded were taken off the plane and re-screened by airport security. Four additional flights were delayed as a result of the threat. About 100 other travelers in the airport lobby who had not been through security were placed in a quarantine room while authorities secured the scene. The suspect claimed he was joking when he made the threat, but the airport director said his demeanor led the ticket agent to believe he was serious. The suspect is charged with falsely reporting an incident. He could face additional charges pending an investigation by the FBI and TSA.
Source: <http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story/Rochester-Airport-Reopens-After-Bomb-Scare/32v0J6TXsUK3naqZZVvo7Q.csp>
28. *March 13, Arizona Daily Sun* – (Arizona) **Suspicious package closes Page Airport for 7 hours.** Page Municipal Airport in Page, Arizona was evacuated and closed for 7 hours March 11 after an airline passenger made a statement that included the word "bomb" to a TSA screener and was found to have luggage items with suspicious wiring. Page police said the suspect, 40, of Arnold, Missouri, was arrested and booked into the Coconino County Jail in Page on a charge of disorderly conduct for engaging in disruptive behavior which resulted in the closing of the airport, and disrupting normal flight operations. A news release said officers responded to a 5:46 a.m. call for assistance. Great Lakes Airlines was preparing for its 6 a.m. departure to Phoenix at the time. The initial call was to remove an intoxicated subject. The subject, later identified as the suspect, had purchased a ticket and was scheduled to fly out on Great Lakes. He was contacted and escorted off the property. The terminal was evacuated and Page police and fire units responded. The airport was closed until the articles in the suspects' luggage were deemed to be safe. The investigation was aided by agents of the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and bomb technicians of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Source: http://www.azdailysun.com/news/local/article_1928c103-833a-500f-a366-f1cd357a1c06.html

29. *March 13, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **New Jersey floodwaters crest, 2,000 homes evacuated.** In Paterson, New Jersey, a few hundred homes were evacuated, access to several bridges cut off and some motorists who ignored warnings not to try to traverse flooded areas were rescued by emergency workers, the city’s mayor said. In Little Falls, although voluntary evacuations were done in advance, fire officials responded by boat in some cases to evacuate residents in flood zones, the deputy fire chief said. He estimated water on some streets was between 2 and 6 feet deep. Four bridges across the Passaic River were impassable due to the threatening flood waters. State, county and federal emergency management officials flew over the flooded areas to assess the damage March 13. New Jersey’s governor convened a conference call with senior state officials to discuss the flooding, a spokeswoman for the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/13/us-newjersey-flooding-idUSTRE72C33W20110313?pageNumber=1>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

30. *March 13, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Four workers evaluated after suspicious powder found at Bethesda post office.** A suspicious powder found at a Bethesda, Maryland March 12 did not contain any hazardous material, according to Montgomery County’s fire and rescue service. At around 10:30 a.m., emergency crews responded to a report of an unconfirmed powder and persons exhibiting signs of illness at the post office, at 10421 Motor City Drive, the assistant chief said. Hazardous material teams evaluated the post office, employees and equipment. Post office customers were not exposed to the powder. The powder was discovered in an employees-only area. There were no signs of the substance inside any packages or envelopes. Four employees had signs of irritation to the skin. After being decontaminated at the post office, they were taken to a hospital for treatment, fire officials said. Skin irritation was the only reported symptom. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service will conduct its own investigation.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/03132011/montnew144852_32566.php

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Agriculture and Food Sector

31. *March 14, Food Safety News* – (National) **Coconut drink recalled due to mold problem.** One World Enterprises, LLC, of Los Angeles, California, recalled one lot of its coconut water beverage because a problem with packaging may permit the growth

of mold. The recall of O.N.E. Coconut Water, packaged in 11.2 oz. Tetra Pak cartons, was announced after the company received a small number of consumer complaints. In a news release, the company said it was working with the Georgia State Department of Agriculture to determine the cause of the consumer complaints, which it said were limited to a single lot number. The results of tests conducted by the Georgia agriculture department were negative for pathogens, the company stated, and internal testing at the manufacturing plant indicated no contamination. One World said it is utilizing Corrective and Preventative Action procedures to identify why the problem exists, and investigating the possibility that problems occurred during transport that caused potential oxidation. The affected product was distributed to various retail outlets in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, New York, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/coconut-drink-recalled-due-to-mold-problem/>

32. *March 12, Pottsville Republican & Herald* – (Pennsylvania) **Ammonia leak prompts evacuation in Hazleton.** A leaking ammonia tank discovered March 11 at Michael’s European Specialties, a bakery in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, prompted firefighters March 11 to close down an entire city block and disrupted school dismissals. As of 7 p.m., emergency personnel slowed a leak detected in a 1,000-gallon cylinder, the deputy fire chief said. The compound anhydrous ammonia is commonly used for refrigeration purposes. It is a corrosive, toxic gas that can irritate the eyes, lungs and mucus membranes. As a precaution, Cedar, Mine, Broad and Poplar streets were closed to traffic. Residents 2 blocks from the bakery were “held in place,” or asked to stay inside their homes with the windows and doors closed, the fire chief said. As of 7 p.m., that precaution was still in effect. City firefighters worked with officials from Luzerne County and West Hazleton hazardous materials teams, the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to track down the property owner. County crews and federal environmental officials monitored the air and took samples.
- Source: <http://republicanherald.com/news/ammonia-leak-prompts-evacuation-in-hazleton-1.1117874>

33. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Oak Farms plant recalls 64,000 units.** The Oak Farms Dairy plant in Waco, Texas, is voluntarily recalling 64,000 units of milk distributed in 10 Texas cities. Routine testing found alkaline phosphatase, an enzyme naturally present in raw milk, but not present in pasteurized milk. No illnesses have been reported. The milk was distributed in San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Temple, Killeen, Hillsboro, Mexia, Wichita Falls, Lindale, and Jacksonville through retailers, schools, and food service settings. The recall includes only half gallon plastic bottles of whole chocolate milk, half-pint paper cartons of whole chocolate milk, and half-pint paper cartons of 1 percent chocolate milk that carry the Oak Farms Dairy name and the plant code 48-3302. Packages are printed with a “Best by” or “Sell by” date of March 22, 2011 (printed as MAR 22 on paper half pints, 03/22/11 on plastic half gallons) and a UPC code of 4127100724, 7002635006 or 7002635007.
- Source:

[http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/Oak Farms Plant Recalls 64000 Units 117859024.html](http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/Oak_Farms_Plant_Recalls_64000_Units_117859024.html)

34. *March 11, WDIO 10 Duluth* – (Minnesota) **Duluth meat company recalling some packaged jerky.** Old World Meats of Duluth, Minnesota, recalled 83 pounds of Hot and Teriyaki-flavored red meat jerky due to mislabeling of the product. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service said the jerky contained several allergens, including soy, wheat, and milk, which were not noted on the packing. Products sold February 16, March 2-3, or March 8 are affected. Individual packages bear the establishment number “EST. 3448” inside the USDA mark of inspection.
Source: <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S2013909.shtml?cat=10349>

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Water Sector

35. *March 14, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **3 pumping stations are pumping a mixture of storm and sanitary wastewater into Ohio River.** Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) of Louisville, Kentucky, reported that three of its stations are pumping a mix of storm and sanitary wastewater, due to Ohio River levels March 14. Those stations are the 34th Street location, the Starkey station, and Fourth Street station. The total amount discharged is unknown but, MSD says it will be significant ... in the millions of gallons per day. Contact with river water is discouraged because of this, and also because of unsafe currents and debris.
Source: <http://www.wave3.com/story/14243975/3-pumping-stations-are-pumping-a-mixture-of-storm-and-sanitary-wastewater-into-ohio-river>
36. *March 14, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire; Massachusetts) **NH sewage plant disks closing Mass. beaches.** Thousands of small plastics disks from a Hooksett, New Hampshire, sewage treatment plant are washing up on the sea shore in New Hampshire and Massachusetts prompting health officials to close beaches in the two states. The disks are about twice the diameter of a quarter and have a screen mesh on them. Officials said the disks are intended to collect bacteria and help to digest the wastewater. The disks have washed up on beaches in Hampton and Seabrook as well as in Massachusetts along Plum Island, Salisbury Beach and all along the Merrimack River. WMUR-TV said the disks washed out of the Hooksett sewage treatment plant the week of March 7. There is no immediate word what caused the problem.
Source:
http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20110314nh_sewage_plant_disks_closing_mass_beaches/
37. *March 12, Richmond Register* – (Kentucky) **Plant cited for release of toxic chemicals.** The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) issued 10

notices of violation March 10 to the plant formerly known as Tokico, for its release of wastewater contaminated with a toxic pollutant. The department's Environmental Response Team (ERT) responded February 4 to a report from Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas Inc. officials of the presence of a green-colored substance in the company's storm water retention basin, according to a press release from the agency. Sampling of the basin water revealed the presence of elevated levels of hexavalent chromium, which is used in the plant's automotive manufacturing processes. Hitachi manufactures brakes, shocks and suspension systems for the auto industry and employs 1,100 people. The water's discoloration was unrelated to the chromium, but was caused by a harmless coolant product, the DEP said. The ERT ordered the plant to stop discharges of wastewater into and out of the basin, and ordered the removal of the contaminated storm water by tanker trucks to approved off-site disposal facilities. Sampling on the plant site and off site in streams has been ongoing since the spill was discovered. The DEP's data has shown in-stream concentrations are now within acceptable levels and do not threaten public drinking water supplies. The company is working to stop any further discharges, investigate the cause and test water samples. Source: <http://richmondregister.com/localnews/x977547753/Plant-cited-for-release-of-toxic-chemicals>

38. *March 11, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **Wastewater spills in Henderson County.** The City of Hendersonville's Wastewater Collection System experienced 10-wastewater spills of about 188,610 gallons, March 9 due to excessive rainfall in and around the Hendersonville, North Carolina area. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Water Quality was notified of the event and is reviewing the matter. Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/mar/11/wastewater-spills-henderson-county-ar-1568811/>
39. *March 10, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Heavy rains cause flooding throughout Maryland.** Flooding closed the Jones Falls Expressway near Penn Station during rush hour March 10 and forced evacuations in Baltimore, Maryland, as a steady rain punctuated by heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms soaked the region with more than 2.5 inches of precipitation. The governor declared a state of emergency as the rain intensified, and the National Weather Service added a flash flood warning for the evening on top of the earlier coastal and flood warnings. Emergency managers across the region waited for an evening high tide that forecasters said could rise 2 feet to 3 feet above normal levels. Baltimore's Department of Public Works reported the heavy runoff had infiltrated a sanitary sewer at 401 E. Eager Street, causing at least 10,000 gallons of untreated sewage to spill. Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-03-10/news/bs-md-rain-flooding-20110310_1_flash-flood-warning-flood-waters-rains

For more stories, see items [7](#) and [10](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

40. *March 14, WVIT 30 New Britain* – (California; Connecticut) **Health Net breach could affect 25,000 in Connecticut.** Medical and personal data for almost 25,000 Connecticut residents might have been compromised in a nationwide data breach in early February, the Connecticut attorney general said, and he has asked Health Net for identity theft and credit protection. Nine unaccounted for server drives in Health Net’s Rancho Cordova, California operations, contained protected health information and personal information for 24,599 Connecticut residents, including 18,279 Medicare subscribers and 700 Medicaid subscribers, and 5,620 commercial subscribers, he said. Beginning March 14, letters will go out to the Connecticut customers, Health Net said. The attorney general is also looking for information about breach status. This is the second recent Health Net breach. In July, the state reached a settlement with Health Net of the Northeast, Inc., over a computer disk drive lost in May 2009 that contained names, addresses, Social Security numbers, protected health information, and financial information.
Source: <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/Health-Net-Breach-Could-Affect-25000-in-Connecticut-117937639.html>
41. *March 14, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Bomb scare causes evacuation at Pinellas health department.** St. Petersburg, Florida police evacuated the Pinellas County Health Department office at 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street N., March 14, while officers waited for a bomb squad to inspect a suspicious package. Also, southbound traffic on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street was detoured near Fourth Avenue North. Police were called about 9:45 a.m. after a man left a duffel bag outside the health department’s main entrance and told bystanders the bag contained a bomb, the St. Petersburg Police Department said. Someone told a worker in the health department, and police were called. Officers found the duffel bag and waited for the Tampa Police Department’s bomb squad to arrive. Witnesses described the man as white with a shaved head and goatee and wearing a black windbreaker and khaki pants.
Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/mar/14/141145/bomb-scare-causes-evacuation-at-pinellas-health-de/>
42. *March 11, Reuters* – (National) **Walgreen accused of selling patient data.** A lawsuit filed in California March 8 accuses national drug-store chain Walgreen Co of unlawfully selling medical information gleaned from patient prescriptions. Unlike suits that focus on privacy, the plaintiffs accuse Walgreen of depriving them of the commercial value of their own prescription data. According to the suit, brought by a man on behalf of his two daughters and the rest of the class, Walgreen sells the information to data mining companies who resell it to pharmaceutical companies for marketing purposes. The practice allows drugmakers to target physicians considered high-volume prescribers and those most willing to prescribe new medications, it said. As a measure of the data’s value, the suit cites Walgreen’s 2010 annual filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which lists “purchased prescription files” as intangible assets worth \$749 million. “We believe this information belongs to the patient who paid for the drug, not the pharmacy,” said the plaintiffs’ lawyer. The

plaintiffs also blame the practice for driving up medical costs by perpetuating the sales of high-priced brand drugs instead of cheaper generic alternatives. The focus of the latest suit shifts from privacy to unlawful business practices. Without identifying individuals, Walgreen sells data that includes the patient's sex, age group, state, the ID number of the prescribing doctor, and the name of the drug.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/11/us-walgreen-prescriptions-idUSTRE72A83I20110311>

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Government Facilities Sector

43. *March 14, New York Times* – (International) **Navy says 17 Americans were treated for contamination.** U.S. Navy officials in Japan said March 14 that 17 military personnel who had been aboard three helicopters assisting in the earthquake relief effort had been exposed to low levels of contamination. A spokesman for the American Seventh Fleet in Japan said the Navy personnel — who apparently had flown through a radioactive plume from the damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant — were ordered to dispose of their uniforms and to undergo a decontamination scrub that had successfully removed radioactive particles. “They received very, very low levels of contamination,” he said in a telephone interview from Japan. “It certainly is not cause for alarm,” he said. The Navy personnel aboard the three helicopters had received the equivalent of one month's natural background radiation from the sun, rocks or soil, he said. The helicopter crew members had landed aboard the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier whose on-board sensors had indicated that the warship, too, had been exposed to airborne contamination at very low levels. The helicopter crew members were tested individually with hand-held radiation monitors. The carrier and its strike group were operating about 100 miles northeast of the damaged power plant at the time, but the helicopters had flown closer to assist in relief missions near Sendai, the city that bore much of the brunt of the tsunami after the March 11 earthquake.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/world/asia/14military.html?src=mv>

44. *March 12, Springfield State Journal-Register* – (Illinois) **More details revealed of alleged attempt to bomb courthouse.** Details of the government's case against the alleged would-be Springfield, Illinois, federal courthouse bomber emerged March 7 in a motion seeking to bar the man from using an entrapment defense. The suspect allegedly proposed using two bombs — the second to kill emergency responders — and more than once expressed his willingness to die a martyr, the prosecution motion said. The man allegedly bought electronics components after being told Al Qaida would use them to kill U.S. soldiers and said he would leave the country after the bombing with the hope of returning in a couple of years to “do it again.” The motion, filed March 7 in U.S. Court in East St. Louis, indicates the government's evidence includes video and audio recordings of the suspect, 30, planning and carrying out what he thought would be the destruction of the Paul Findley Federal Building in Springfield on September 23, 2009. The suspect was charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction

against U.S. property and with attempting to murder a federal officer or employee. The government alleges the man thought he was detonating a van loaded with a ton of explosives parked near the federal courthouse. He did not know he was working with the FBI and not al-Qaida agents, and the van contained no real explosives.

Source: <http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x1777804158/More-details-revealed-of-alleged-attempt-to-bomb-Findley-courthouse>

45. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Sender of threats to state officials identified.** The Wisconsin Department of Justice said it has identified one of the people who sent at least two death threats to elected officials over the past month. The department said the suspect was identified and located March 10. No other information about the person was released. The department said the investigation is ongoing and no more information will be released pending notification of the district attorney in the appropriate jurisdiction. Wisconsin's senate majority leader and his brother the assembly speaker have both said they received threats. They are Republicans who voted for a bill passed the week of March 7 taking away collective bargaining rights for public workers.

Source:

http://www.weau.com/home/headlines/Sender_of_threats_to_state_officials_identified_117825918.html

46. *March 11, Associated Press* – (International) **State Department issues warning of possible attack on U.S. interests.** The U.S. State Department is warning of a possible imminent terrorist attack against U.S. interests, including the American embassy and American school, in the West African nation of Mali. The U.S. Embassy in the capital of Bamako said March 10 it has “credible information of a possible attack in the immediate future” against the embassy and the school. In a security alert to U.S. citizens in Mali, the embassy also said it had “credible information of a possible kidnapping plot targeting Americans and other Westerners in Bamako.” The notice said Americans should increase their security precautions, especially in areas of Bamako frequented by Westerners but gave no details about the potential attacks. Al-Qaida affiliates have in the past carried out attacks in Mali.

Source:

http://www.whsv.com/nationalap/headlines/State_Department_Issues_Warning_of_Possible_Attack_on_US_Interests_117806979.html

47. *March 11, KSTP 5 St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **Explosions spray acid, shrapnel inside Mpls high school.** Two chemical explosions detonated inside a Minneapolis, Minnesota, high school 11 days apart, spraying flesh-burning acid and plastic shrapnel but not wounding any students, police and district officials said. Police said two 17 year-old juniors at Southwest High School are suspects in the case and have been suspended. Neither is under arrest or has been charged, but police said both could be prosecuted for making an explosive device, a felony. The teens are accused of mixing two common chemicals and pouring them into a plastic soda bottle and then placing the bottle into garbage cans in a hallway. The first explosion occurred February 24, but the district did not notify police or the school resource officer assigned to the school until a

day after the second explosion March 7, according to the district.

Source: <http://kstp.com/article/stories/s2014124.shtml>

48. *March 11, WFMY 2 Greensboro* – (North Carolina) **UNCG data center evacuated twice Friday morning.** A building on the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) campus that houses the university's IT department in Greensboro was evacuated twice March 11 due to fires. At 8:50 a.m., the McNutt Data Center filled with smoke and the fire alarm system went off, according to a news release from UNCG. The fire department scanned the building with a thermal scanner but was unable to identify the source of the fire. At 10:45 a.m., IT staff was inspecting equipment in the data center when a piece of server infrastructure suddenly burst into flames, filling the room with smoke and triggering the fire alarm system, the release said. The data center was shut down at 11:15 a.m. Fire investigators said the cause was determined to be a single server that overheated and burned up a wiring harness, according to the release. All servers were back online by 2 p.m. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=165791&catid=57>

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Emergency Services Sector

49. *March 14, WTVQ 36 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Police deactivate device.** A suspicious package was deactivated March 13 after someone dropped it off at the Paris Police Department in Paris, Kentucky. Paris police said the person found it along Fords Mill Road just before 6 p.m. and took it to the police station. Lexington police and Kentucky State Police hazardous device units were called in to deactivate it. Police said the device contained black gun powder and firework paper.

Source: <http://www.wtvq.com/news/7447-police-deactivate-device>

50. *March 13, Bristol Herald Courier* – (Virginia) **Two Buchanan County Sheriff's deputies, suspect die in shooting; two other deputies in serious condition.** Two Buchanan County, Virginia, sheriff's deputies remained hospitalized in serious condition — one with life-threatening injuries — after they were shot March 13 by a man who had earlier killed two of their fellow deputies using a high-powered, long-range rifle. The deputies who died were responding to an emergency call regarding a larceny in progress at the Rogers Service Center in Vansant, Virginia, a state police sergeant said. They were shot from a distance, by a man hiding in the woods on the nearby mountain. The injured deputies were shot some time later, officials said, as they were helping to set up a search perimeter for the law enforcement officers from a half dozen agencies in the region who were arriving to help apprehend the suspect. During a news conference held near the scene late March 13, a spokesman said the suspect also was shot and killed, several hours after the initial 911 call.

Source: <http://www2.tricitie.com/news/2011/mar/13/two-buchanan-county-sheriffs-deputies-suspect-die--ar-903503/?hpt=T2>

51. *January 1, Southern Maryland Online* – (Maryland) **Greenbelt police vehicle fire bombed in Mechanicsville.** The Maryland state fire marshal reported a marked Chevrolet Impala police cruiser, belonging to the Greenbelt Police Department, was firebombed March 11. Investigators said unknown suspect(s) threw a molotov cocktail against the vehicle sometime between midnight and 9 a.m. while it was parked in Golden Beach in Mechanicsville. Deputy fire marshals investigated and said minor damage resulted; the financial loss was placed at \$250. No firefighters were called to the scene. The damaged vehicle was discovered and reported by an off-duty Greenbelt police officer.

Source: <http://somid.com/news/headlines/2011/13411.shtml>

For another story, see item [44](#)

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Information Technology Sector

52. *March 14, IDG News Service* – (International) **Taiwanese semiconductor firms face supply shortages in Japan.** Taiwan’s major semiconductor manufacturers, a crucial link in the global tech supply chain, scrambled March 14 to gauge how their access to raw materials from Japanese suppliers will be affected by the powerful earthquake in Japan. United Microelectronics, ProMOS Technologies, and other companies said they were unsure how long inventories of wafer stock such as silicon would last and how disruptions in transportation or power following the quake on will upset supplies. Most can get by for 1 to 2 months, analysts believe. Japan supplies an estimated 50 percent of raw 12-inch wafers and 30 percent of raw 8-inch wafers to Taiwan. Any halt in supplies would likely raise prices paid by semiconductor customers such as Apple, and ultimately by buyers of PCs, smartphones, and electronic gadgetry.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214438/Taiwanese_semiconductor_firms_face_supply_shortages_in_Japan

53. *March 14, Help Net Security* – (International) **Spoofed reported attack pages lead to ransomware.** A recent malicious campaign spotted by GFI researchers uses a variation of spoofed reported attack pages, which spurs users to install an “update” for Internet Explorer. The offered update is fake and the downloaded code actually locks the user out of his/her PC and plasters a warning across the the screen telling him/her that 19 “unlicensed software, movies and music” files have been found on the computer, along with “materials with pornographic content (including homosexual content pornography).” While threatening to send the “evidence” to the police, the scammers offer the user a way out by calling a phone number and paying a ransom fee.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1667

54. *March 12, IDG News Service* – (International) **New attacks leverage unpatched IE flaw, Microsoft warns.** An Internet Explorer flaw made public 2 months ago is now being used in online attacks. The flaw, which has not yet been patched, has been used

in “limited, targeted attacks,” Microsoft said March 11 in an update to its security advisory on the issue. Google concurred, and offered a few more details. “We’ve noticed some highly targeted and apparently politically motivated attacks against our users,” Google said in blog post. “We believe activists may have been a specific target. We’ve also seen attacks against users of another popular social site.” The attack is triggered when the victim is tricked into visiting a maliciously encoded Web page — a Web drive-by attack. It gives the attacker a way of hijacking the victims browser and accessing Web applications without authorization. The flaw lies in the Windows MHTML (Mime HTML) parsing software used by Internet Explorer, and affects all currently supported versions of Windows. It was disclosed on the Full Disclosure mailing list in January. Microsoft has released a Fixit tool that users can download to repair the problem, but has not said when, or even if, it plans to push out a comprehensive security update to all users.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214259/New_attacks_leverage_unpatched_IE_flaw_Microsoft_warns

55. *March 11, Reuters* – (International) **4-Japan quake hits Toshiba chip plant, shipments.** Japan’s biggest-ever earthquake halted production briefly at Toshiba’s chip plants March 11 and could delay crucial shipments, although partner SanDisk said output losses were minor. Toshiba Corp. and SanDisk share cutting-edge facilities in Yokkaichi, where they make NAND chips increasingly in demand by Apple and other mobile device makers. A SanDisk spokesman told Reuters some silicon wafers in the delicate manufacturing process had been spoiled, while Toshiba warned of delivery delays due to problems with road, rail, and other transportation. Japan is a major electronics manufacturer, accounting for 14 percent of the global production of computers, consumer electronics, and communications gear in 2010, according to IHS iSuppli.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/12/japan-quake-electronics-idUSN1121658420110312>

56. *March 11, Softpedia* – (International) **SpyEye now capable of launching DDoS attacks.** The SpyEye banking trojan has been updated with distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) functionality and is being used to attack a command and control (C&C) blacklisting project. According to experts from RSA FraudAction Research Lab, the new DDoS plug-in was added to SpyEye v.1.3.10 specifically to attack abuse.ch. Abuse.ch is a project created by a Swiss security researcher several years ago to track C&C servers for the most prevalent botnets. The effort started with ZeuS Tracker and expanded with SpyEye tracker and more recently Palevo Tracker. All of these services track C&Cs in real time using a variety of techniques and they provide useful data for ISPs and companies who use it to block the offending IPs at network level. According to an independent security journalist, the abuse.ch trackers are so effective that high profile SpyEye botnet masters have recently began brainstorming to find methods to destroy them or at least throw them off track, including DDoS and credibility attacks, both of which are to be executed with the help of SpyEye botnets. The latest SpyEye variants come with a DDoS plug-in and specify legitimate Web sites as backup C&Cs

in their configuration files.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/SpyEye-Now-Capable-of-Launching-DDoS-Attacks-189186.shtml>

57. *March 11, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft: No Pwn2Own bug in IE9.** On March 10 Microsoft said its Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) does not contain the bug exploited the week of March 6 by an Irish researcher at the Pwn2Own hacking contest. But while IE9 is not vulnerable to attacks using the same Pwn2Own exploit, up to 99 percent of IE’s users may be at risk. A researcher from Harmony Security chained three exploits to hack the older IE8 March 9. Shortly after the hacking success, Microsoft said it had the vulnerabilities in hand and had started investigating. IE9, however, will not need a patch. “The vulnerability was addressed in the RC [release candidate] and RTM [release to the Web] versions of Internet Explorer 9,” said a group manager with the Microsoft Security Response Center. “This update is already in the pipe for down level-versions of Internet Explorer.” Microsoft launched IE9 RC a month ago, and planned to make IE9 RTW available for download March 14. But because IE9 has such a small share of the browser market, the overwhelming majority of IE users will have to wait for a patch aimed at the older versions. According to the latest statistics from Web metrics company Net Applications, IE6, IE7, and IE8 make up 99 percent of all versions of Internet Explorer in use. Although the Microsoft spokesman said that a fix is “already in the pipe,” Microsoft declined to specify a patching timetable.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214210/Microsoft_No_Pwn2Own_bug_in_IE9

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

58. *March 14, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Rush to fix quake-damaged undersea cables.** Asia’s major telecom operators scrambled March 14 to eliminate the impact on their operations from damage to several submarine cables following the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Many operators were reporting some disruptions in Internet access, though the partial restoration of service was accomplished by rerouting traffic over undamaged cables and via satellites. About half of the existing cables running across the Pacific are damaged and “a lot of people are feeling a little bit of slowing down of Internet traffic going to the United States,” the chief executive of Hong Kong-based cable-network operator Pacnet said. He declined to name the damaged cables operated by other companies, but said Pacnet’s cable system

connecting Japan to the U.S. is not damaged so far. Most international Internet-data and voice phone calls are transmitted as pulses of light via the hundreds of undersea fiber-optic cables. The cables, which can cost hundreds of millions of dollars, are typically owned by consortia of telecom companies, who share costs and capacity. While the clusters of glass fibers are enclosed in protective material, they remain vulnerable to undersea earthquakes, fishing trawlers, and ship anchors. There are also many choke points around the globe, where a number of cables converge. While the extent of the damage to undersea cables is unclear and financial losses unknown, operators said they are undergoing an inspection and looking to expedite restoration.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704893604576199952421569210.htm?mod=WSJ_Tech_LEFTTopNews

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Commercial Facilities Sector

59. *March 14, KZTV 10 Corpus Christi* – (New York) **Dozens injured in Brooklyn apartment fire.** Fire officials said the number of injuries from a March 13 fire at an apartment building in Brooklyn, New York, has risen to 40. Nine are in critical condition. The blaze at the 4-story building at 61st Street broke out around 5 a.m. and was brought under control about two and a half hours later. The fire department said eight people were critically hurt, four of them with life-threatening injuries. A firefighter also suffered non-life-threatening critical injuries. The fire department said 11 other firefighters and 20 civilians suffered minor injuries. Fire officials initially said a total of 31 people were injured in the fire. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.kztv10.com/news/dozens-injured-in-brooklyn-apartment-fire/>

60. *March 14, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **Several injured, including jumpers, in North Side apartment blaze.** Several people were seriously injured, some after jumping from a burning 4-story apartment building in the North Side Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, near Loyola University's campus. The fire was reported about 9:50 a.m. March 14 in a 48-unit building, a fire media affairs spokesman said. The fire was in the back of the building, and firefighters rescued several people. The fire was extinguished although firefighters remained at the scene as of 10:30 a.m., the spokesman said. At least two people jumped from the building and were taken to area hospitals in critical condition, one with a broken leg, unconfirmed fire dispatch reports indicated. Several others were seriously injured and suffered smoke inhalation injuries. At least four people were taken to hospitals in critical condition, dispatch reports indicated. The fire media affairs spokesman could not immediately confirm the number of injuries.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/4311003-417/several-injured-including-jumpers-in-north-side-apartment-blaze.html>

61. *March 13, WGRZ 2 Buffalo* – (New York) **Hotel evacuates 79 people after CO leak discovered.** A Hampton Inn, a hotel, in West Seneca, New York, was evacuated March 12 after carbon monoxide was detected. Police responded to a call about several people feeling ill. As soon as officials entered the building, carbon monoxide meters were reading upwards of 100 parts per million. All guests were evacuated from the building. The ECMC S.M.A.R.T. team treated 79 patients at the hotel, and 9 others were sent to Millard Gates Hospital to be treated for carbon monoxide exposure. A hospital spokesperson said all were released from the hospital by mid-afternoon. The hotel was ventilated until officials allowed guests back into the building around 8 a.m. West Seneca police said the leak was caused by a malfunctioning rooftop heating unit, and also a pool heating unit.
Source: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/article/113751/1/Hotel-Evacuates-79-People-After-CO-Leak-Discovered>
62. *March 12, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Fire ravages 14 Ocean Grove buildings; 28 people evacuated.** At least 28 people were evacuated March 11 as fire ripped through 14 buildings clustered in the middle of a block in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, leaving 2 firefighters injured and 2 residents treated for smoke inhalation. Investigators plan to sift through the charred remains looking for what caused the blaze that destroyed at least nine structures, including a former hotel that was being converted into condominiums, and caused damage to five other homes on a block between Surf and Atlantic avenues, officials said.
Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20110311/NJNEWS/103110360/0/NJNEWS/Fire-ravages-14-Ocean-Grove-buildings-28-people-evacuated?odyssey=nav/head>
63. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Three people injured in Jacksonville shooting at apartment complex.** Police in Jacksonville, Florida, have charged a 26-year-old man with attempted murder for a shooting at an apartment complex. Jail records showed March 12 that the suspect was also charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer. According to the sheriff's office, officers responded to the scene March 11 and found the suspect shooting at three people. Most of the gunfire stopped when police arrived, but authorities said the suspect kept firing even when officers ordered him to drop his weapon. One officer fired two shots at him. The suspect is in critical condition in the hospital. The two people the suspect is accused of shooting are also in critical condition.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/d95fbab6e4e04765a2cf7918bef75e62/FL--Jacksonville-Shooting/>

For more stories, see items [24](#) and [36](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

64. *March 13, National Park Service* – (Hawaii) **West Hawaii National Parks remain closed after Kona tsunami.** Pu’uhonua o Honaunau and Kaloko Honokohau National Historical Park staff March 13 continued to assess damage to park resources, trails, and coastal areas in Hawaii. The tsunami came ashore at Pu’uhonua and Kaloko parks March 11, entered into the near coastal regions of the parks, overtopping walls, and surged inland hundreds of feet. At Kaloko, the unimproved road to Kaloko Fishpond was closed as the coastal trail, picnic and parking area at the pond have been damaged, and debris cover the ground far inland. Much of Pu’uhonua park will remain closed as resource crews assess damage and begin clearing debris. The royal grounds, picnic area, coastal, and 1871 trails all remain closed to entry. At Pu’uhonua, the tsunami surges entered the royal grounds and fish ponds throughout the day March 11, scattering marine debris and coastal vegetation throughout the park grounds.
Source: <http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2011/03/13/west-hawaii-national-parks-remain-closed-after-kona-tsunami/>
65. *March 13, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Wildfire burning west of Nogales.** Crews worked March 13 to contain an active wildfire burning in the Coronado National Forest about 10 miles west of Nogales, Arizona. The Pena Fire is burning in steep terrain between Alamo and Walker canyons on both sides of the border. About 80 percent of the fire is burning in Arizona, and 20 percent in Mexico. The fire had burned 1,300 acres, as of March 13.
Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=14242422>
66. *March 13, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **Lefthand Canyon fire 80 percent contained.** Authorities March 13 had almost gained control of a wildfire northwest of Boulder, Colorado. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) said the fire was 80 percent contained that evening and had burned 622 acres. USFS said the increase in acreage, up from 400 acres March 12, was due to better mapping of the fire. Firefighters had two helicopters and one air-tanker on hand March 13, but sent one helicopter and the air-tanker back to their bases. Fourteen hand crews were expected to be on scene March 14 along with one of the helicopters. Firefighters said smoke and flames would still be visible to residents in the fire area. The fire originally broke out March 11 in Chaos Canyon. Authorities evacuated 223 homes that day after the fire began, and high winds drove the flames through the pine trees and dry grass.
Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/article/187180/188/Boulder-fire-80-percent-contained->

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Dams Sector

67. *March 13, Evansville Courier and Press* – (Indiana) **Daviess County, Ind., flood crisis ending, official says.** Although a breached levee caused 30 billion gallons of floodwater to inundate about 11,000 acres of land in western Daviess County, Indiana, this past week, no rescues were needed. No homes were reported damaged and the worst seems to be in the past, a the Daviess County emergency management director

said March 13. He and other officials, however, would not go so far as to say no one was affected. Because the flooded area was mostly farmland, several farmers will feel the impact of the floodwaters. Residents in 49 households in a vulnerable area were asked to evacuate March 11. But no one went to the shelter set up by emergency officials. So everything is fine for now, he said, but a heavy rain in the next few weeks could cause fears to resurface. It all started when a breach occurred in a levee on the White River March 6. It happened near county roads 650 North and 375 West. The cause of the break, about 25 feet wide, still is unknown. The river level was about 23.2 feet on March 6, and although the levee is about 28 feet high, the break caused water to leak unabated for several days. Flood stage is 15 feet. That water traveled about 5 miles south and created a situation the director said officials never experienced: A reverse flood. In the past, when the White River has flooded, the 11-foot Bennington Levee near county roads 150 North and 450 West would keep the floodwaters to the west at bay. But the breach 5 miles north allowed water to flood the side that usually stays dry. Officials intentionally breached the Bennington Levee to siphon water from the eastern shore and back into the White River. The director said he is waiting for the river to drop farther so officials can fix the initial levee break and so that the farmland can dry. “We’ve got 11,000 acres in farmland that’s not ready for production right now. That’s a lot of our economy. We’ve got to get it back and going.”

Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/mar/13/daviess-flood-crisis-ending-official-says/>

68. *March 12, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Huntsville Creek flows over banks.** Most major streams and creeks in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, stayed within their channels except for Huntsville Creek, which flooded Hillside Road and a section of Chase Road near the five corners at the Huntsville Dam. Water rushing over the Huntsville Dam caused parts of Huntsville Road to be closed Friday in Kingston Township. The township supervisor said the creek began flooding around 2 a.m. March 11 due to excess water spilling over the dam. The assistant regional director for the state department of environmental protection, said the Huntsville Reservoir was 9 inches above normal around 2 a.m. “There are no issues with the dam,” she said. The dam is classified as a high-hazard dam, not because of its age and structure, but because of the potential risk downstream in the event of a failure, she said. A county engineer inspected the dam March 11 and found no structural problems. White sandbags, stacked two high, were placed down the center yellow line of Hillside Road and appeared to contain the flooding waters to the northbound lane.

Source: http://www.timesleader.com/news/Huntsville_Creek_flows_over_banks_03-11-2011.html

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