



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 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 a natural gas line exploded in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 17, scorching many vehicles, shutting down highways, and forcing the evacuation of many homes and businesses. (See item [1](#))
- According to the Indianapolis Star, a former lawyer was arrested March 16 on charges he masterminded a fraud that bilked thousands of Ohio families out of more than \$200 million. (See item [14](#))

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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 17, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Fiery explosion forces evacuations in south Minneapolis.** A natural gas line exploded in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 17, sending flames shooting high into the sky, scorching nearby vehicles and forcing authorities to temporarily evacuate nearby residents. The assistant fire chief said the gas has been shut off, and that there are no known injuries. The initial blast around 8:30 a.m. left a large hole in the road in front of a Cub Foods supermarket near the

interchange of Interstate 35W and Minnesota 62. Cars in the parking lot were scorched in the blast. The assistant chief said a second explosion rocked the area a little later. The flames died after authorities shut off the gas line at about 10:30 a.m. Gas levels in the air had reached 80 parts per million but are back down to zero, the assistant chief said. A major trunk gas line for that section of Minneapolis exploded, and state pipeline safety officials are on the scene, according to a spokeswoman for CenterPoint Energy. She said it was too early to determine the cause. An apartment complex, day care and church near the scene were evacuated, and people inside the grocery store were told to leave through the back. One school was evacuated and put on lockdown. School officials planned to keep students indoors for the rest of the day. By late morning people were being allowed to return to everywhere but the immediate area around the supermarket.

Source: [http://www.twincities.com/ci\\_17634598](http://www.twincities.com/ci_17634598)

2. *March 16, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration* – (Louisiana) **OSHA fines Louisiana oil refinery \$207.5K for safety violations.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Calumet Lubricants Co. LP in Cotton Valley, Louisiana, a subsidiary of Indianapolis, Indiana-based Calumet Specialty Products Partners LP, with 45 alleged serious and 13 other-than-serious violations for exposing workers to possible fires, explosions and other hazards. Proposed penalties total \$207,500. OSHA inspected the refinery under its Petroleum Refinery Process Safety Management National Emphasis Program (PSM). The PSM standard emphasizes management of hazards associated with highly hazardous chemicals and establishes a comprehensive management program that integrates technologies, procedures and management practices. Serious violations include failing to: conduct adequate inspections and testing of piping and pressure vessels; ensure employees in process and administrative buildings were provided adequate protection in case of an explosion; implement written operating procedures; resolve recommended actions resulting from compliance audits; provide an adequate confined space program; and provide an adequate lockout/tagout program for the control of hazardous energy.

Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/southcentral/2011/03/16/180824.htm>

3. *March 16, Platts* – (California) **PG&E to pressure test or replace 12% of key gas transmission pipelines.** Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) plans to hydrostatically pressure test or replace about 12 percent of its 1,805 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines in high-consequence areas, it said. The decision is the result of a study of pipeline records the state of California ordered following the September 9, 2010 fatal pipeline explosion in San Bruno. The company submitted a 154-page report to the California Public Utilities Commission on a study it conducted of its records on pressure tests and records of historical operating pressure on lines in its gas transmission pipeline system. As a result of the study, the company said it would pressure test or replace 150 miles of pipe “with records similar in vintage or other characteristics to the records” of the segment of pipe involved in the San Bruno explosion, for which no pressure test records were found. In a statement, PG&E’s President said the firm was “not satisfied with the results to date,” of its search for

records documenting pressure tests conducted on its pipelines and he vowed to “continue to search for and review our files for additional pressure test records.” It is not clear whether the tests were never conducted in the first place or if the results of the tests could not be located because of poor record-keeping. A PG&E spokesman said March 16 that of the 150 miles of line earmarked for testing or replacement, “most of the segments will be hydro-tested,” while certain shorter segments likely would require replacement. PG&E estimates the cost of pressure testing ranges from \$150,000 to \$500,000 per mile.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/6915291>

4. *March 16, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Barges break loose on Ohio River, strike other barges.** Two empty barges broke loose from a tug boat and struck a third barge hauling petroleum down the Ohio River March 16, causing that vessel to go adrift, according to U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) officials. It happened near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The two empty barges may also have struck a barge loaded with anhydrous ammonia that was moored along the Ohio River, a USCG spokeswoman said. The two loose barges were corralled by a tug boat, she said. “At this time it is uncertain whether the barge with anhydrous ammonia was actually struck because there is no evidence of damage,” the spokeswoman said. She added that no chemicals leaked from the vessels involved. Anhydrous ammonia is used as an agricultural fertilizer and industrial refrigerant and can be fatal at high concentrations, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The barges involved in the incident, which occurred shortly after 5 p.m., belong to Consol Energy, according to the spokeswoman. The vessel carrying lubricating oil stopped just before a main support for the West End Bridge when it was grounded by a sandbar. It was listing to the right, but did not appear to have taken on any water.

Source: [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s\\_727763.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_727763.html)

5. *March 15, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Vandals damage West Jordan power substation.** Vandals entered and damaged a power substation in West Jordan, Utah, March 15, and crews had to shut down electricity to more than 3,000 customers for about a half hour to repair the vandalism. Rocky Mountain Power would not detail the damage at the 7000 South substation on 3200 West, but warned of the safety risks of entering an electrical power facility. “Our facilities are kept fenced and locked for a reason. Any attempt to break in could result in serious injury or even death” a Rocky Mountain Power spokesman said. He encouraged anyone who sees suspicious activity at a power substation to call police.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/51436460-76/power-substation-west-jordan.html.csp>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *March 17, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (National) **Train derailment near Siouxland Ethanol Plant.** Authorities were at the scene of a train derailment involving an ethanol spill

west of Jackson, Nebraska March 17. The accident was reported just before 5 a.m. It happened along U.S. Highway 20 near the Siouxland Ethanol Plant. That plant is powered by methane from the Gill Hauling Incorporated Landfill. It is not clear how many rail cars have gone off the tracks, but at least one tanker was on its side and was said to be leaking. Emergency crews from Ponca, Dakota City and Norfolk were dispatched to the scene.

Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14269028>

7. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Officials: hazmat incident downtown would cause huge problems.** Traffic started moving again along I-71 in Oldham County, Kentucky, just before noon March 16. The interstate had to be shut down for several miles near Louisville while emergency crews cleaned-up from a fiery truck crash involving hazardous materials. More than 40,000 pounds of zinc alloy metal made the fire even tougher to fight. A tractor trailer caught fire around 2:30 a.m. March 16. Metro responders said a similar situation could create huge problems if it happened at Spaghetti Junction or another more populated area. It is already one of the worst bottlenecks in the country. That is why Louisville haz-mat teams train every week for the worst.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/story/14264678/officials-say-hazmat-incident-downtown-could-be-devastating>

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## Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. fears depleted uranium at Springfield Armory.** Massachusetts environmental experts are preparing to investigate the possible presence of depleted uranium at the site of the historic Springfield Armory in Springfield after the U.S. Army and Nuclear Regulatory Commission said they do not have documents proving they have removed the radioactive material. The state bureau of environmental health director said March 16 the depleted uranium was used for military testing and training at the site that is now home to the Springfield Technical Community College and other facilities. She said 10 inspectors will begin conducting radiology tests at the western Massachusetts site from March 17 to 18. Instantaneous reading from their portable devices should enable experts to determine whether there is depleted uranium at the location.

Source:

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20110316mass\\_fears\\_depleted\\_uranium\\_at\\_springfield\\_armory/srvc=home&position=recent](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20110316mass_fears_depleted_uranium_at_springfield_armory/srvc=home&position=recent)

9. *March 16, United Press International* – (International) **Toronto-area nuke plant reports small leak.** A nuclear power plant 25 miles east of Toronto, Canada, leaked 19,000 gallons of water into Lake Ontario, Canadian atomic regulators said March 16. The incident happened just before midnight March 14 at the Pickering facility, but

officials did not make a statement until March 16, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said. A faulty pump seal was blamed for allowing the leak of demineralized water used to cool the reactors, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission said. “The radiological risk to the environment and people’s health is negligible,” the commission said, which would suggest the water had not yet been exposed to the radioactive core. The federal regulator gave no indication why the news was not released sooner.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2011/03/16/Toronto-area-nuke-plant-reports-small-leak/UPI-5110130031772/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/03/16/Toronto-area-nuke-plant-reports-small-leak/UPI-5110130031772/)

10. *March 16, Associated Press* – (New York) **Judge upholds NRC waiver for nuclear plant.** A federal judge has upheld the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) exemption from its fire-protection rules for the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York, Associated Press reported March 16. The exemption lets Entergy keep using material that protects critical electronic cables found to withstand fire for only 27 to 48 minutes instead of the 1 hour normally required. That flaw in the material was discovered in 2005. A U.S. district judge concluded the NRC did a comprehensive safety evaluation that meets the underlying purpose to prevent, control, and promptly extinguish fires and protect reactors. The company said even a half-hour is sufficient with other safety measures at the plant. According to the judge, the chief of the NRC’s Fire Protection Branch in 2007 requested detailed information on exemption revisions and the specific areas, including combustibles. The NRC concluded that potential ignition sources in the area had only “combined fire severity of less than 10 minutes,” the judge wrote. Also, the cables were jacketed with asbestos, any fire would be quickly detected, and there were suppression systems to put it out.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9M0BECG3.htm>

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

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

11. *March 17, Reuters* – (International) **Honda recalls 21,700 Civics in U.S., Canada.** Honda Motor Co. is recalling about 21,700 of its current-model compact Honda Civic cars due to the possibility fuel will leak in a roll-over crash, the company and U.S. regulators said March 17. “If a vehicle is involved in a roll-over crash, a cracked roll-over valve may allow fuel leakage from the gasoline tank into the evaporative emissions canister,” Honda said in a statement. “No crashes or injuries have been reported related to this defect.” More than 18,000 cars will be recalled in the United States and more than 3,600 in Canada, the company said. The fuel valve issue is related to cars built in the United States and in Canada. Honda said about 1 percent of the recalled 2011 model year vehicles are likely to have the problem. In a roll-over crash, a fire could occur, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. Owners of the recalled vehicles will be informed by mail by mid-April, the company stated.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/17/us-honda-recall->

[idUSTRE72G2TR20110317?feedType=RSS&feedName=businessNews&utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+reuters/businessNews+\(News+/+US+/+Business+News\)](http://idUSTRE72G2TR20110317?feedType=RSS&feedName=businessNews&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed:+reuters/businessNews+(News+/+US+/+Business+News))

12. *March 16, Associated Press* – (International) **Japanese auto companies extend plant shutdowns.** Japanese auto companies extended shutdowns of car-assembly plants affected by the country's devastating earthquake and tsunami March 16, however, some parts factories in Japan plan to resume production later the week of March 13. Toyota Motor Corp. said March 16 it will extend production halts at its car plants through March 22, affecting about 95,000 vehicles. The company halted production March 14 and originally thought it would restart it March 17. Toyota, however, will resume production March 17 at factories that make replacement parts for vehicles already on the road. And it will restart plants March 21 that make parts for overseas factories. Nissan Motor Co. said it was resuming production at two car-assembly factories March 17 and 18 for as long as its inventory of parts lasts. Three other Nissan plants are suspending production until March 20. Nissan has not disclosed the number of vehicles affected by the production cuts.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/16/general-specialized-consumer-services-us-japan-earthquake-autos\\_8359528.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/16/general-specialized-consumer-services-us-japan-earthquake-autos_8359528.html)

13. *March 16, Appliance Magazine* – (International) **Panasonic early earthquake assessment: Some injuries, plant closures.** According to Appliance Magazine March 16, early assessments by Osaka, Japan-based appliance and electronics maker Panasonic Corp. of damage from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami revealed some minor injuries to employees in various group companies, including AVC Networks Company Fukushima Factory (which makes digital cameras), AVC Networks Company Sendai Factory (making optical pickups), Panasonic Electric Works Koriyama Co., Ltd. (manufacturing electronic materials), and Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. Tokyo Plant located in Gunma (manufacturing commercial air conditioners, showcases etc). Panasonic said it was suspending operations in factories affected by the earthquake.

Source:

<http://www.appliancemagazine.com/news.php?article=1475414&zone=0&first=1>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

14. *March 17, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana; Ohio) **Durham is charged in \$200 million fraud.** Twenty years after he left a top Indianapolis, Indiana law firm on his quest to become the richest man in the world, a lawyer was arrested at his Los Angeles, California-area home on charges that he masterminded a fraud that bilked thousands of Ohio families out of more than \$200 million. Federal prosecutors announced the charges March 16 in Indianapolis, much to the relief of residents across Ohio stung by the implosion last year of Fair Financial, a small finance company authorities said the three men looted to support a lavish lifestyle. The lawyer and two co-conspirators each were charged March 15 on 12 separate counts of conspiracy and wire and securities fraud related to the operation of the finance company in Akron, Ohio. Securities and Exchange Commission regulators weighed in as well, filing a civil lawsuit March 16. It contends two of the men used loans from Fair “to pay their daily living expenses and to support lavish personal lifestyles.” Splashy FBI raids in November 2009 shut down Fair Financial and the lawyer’s main investment firm, Obsidian Enterprises in Indianapolis.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110317/NEWS02/103170406/1003/BUSINESS/Durham-charged-fraud-scheme-cost-Ohio-investors-200M?odyssey=nav|head>

15. *March 17, New York Post* – (New York) **4 busted in ATM-card \$kim scam.** Four scam artists have been busted on charges of skimming debit-card info at a pair of banks in Queens, New York — and putting the data on Starbucks and Century 21 gift cards they programmed to work at ATMs, the New York Post has learned. They allegedly made \$30,000 in purchases before they were busted. The four accused in the plot managed to set up skimmers at ATM machines in two Chase banks in Astoria, authorities said. They allegedly used the information they obtained to program the gift cards to function as ATM cards — and withdrew cash at Chase branches in Manhattan March 12, cops said. Two of the accused pilfered \$6,000 at an East 23rd Street branch before bank officials were alerted to a suspicious pattern of transactions, authorities said. Cops nabbed the duo and recovered 18 fraudulent gift cards. The other two members of the group, who had 78 bogus gift cards, allegedly stole \$24,000 from accounts at a Midtown Chase branch.

Source:

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/busted\\_in\\_atm\\_card\\_kim\\_scam\\_2e4hnW0f4U06HbD3VQIDxM](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/busted_in_atm_card_kim_scam_2e4hnW0f4U06HbD3VQIDxM)

16. *March 17, Detroit Free Press* – (National) **Clinton Township finance firm accused in connection with \$45-million Ponzi scheme.** A Clinton Township, Michigan, firm, Cash Flow Financial, is accused of taking part in a \$45-million Ponzi scheme that bilked more than 600 clients, according to a complaint filed the week of March 14 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which filed the complaint, claims that two men linked to Cash Flow fraudulently solicited and accepted money as part of a commodity pool to trade futures contracts and securities. None of the defendants has ever been registered with CFTC. The commission alleges the two men falsely represented the commodity pool was profitable. The complaint said the pair failed to disclose material facts from at

least November 2007 through the present, and had solicited money through monthly conference calls and Webinars. The complaint also said one of the men, who controls day-to-day operation of the pool, misappropriated money for his family's expenses. Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20110317/BUSINESS06/103170583/Clinton-Township-finance-firm-accused-connection-45-million-Ponzi-scheme>

17. *March 16, Denver Post* – (National) **'Ho-Hum Bandit' strikes again in Edgewater.** A man suspected of being "The Ho Hum Bandit," a multi-state serial bank robber, has a growing reputation after the robbery of an Edgewater, Colorado, bank just after noon March 16. The robber with a laid back demeanor has also robbed banks in San Diego and Los Angeles in California, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Seattle, Washington, and the Denver metro area, the FBI office in Denver said March 16. Banks in Southern California pooled together a \$15,000 reward after a dozen robberies there last summer. The suspect is described as white, in his early 30s, about 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs about 150 pounds. Authorities said he asked for money from a teller at the Chase Bank branch at 1705 Sheridan Boulevard. Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_17629605](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_17629605)
18. *March 16, Wall Street Journal* – (New York) **Man charged with using fake bomb in real heists.** A Long Island, New York man was charged March 16 with committing bank robberies over the summer in which he strapped a fake bomb to his body. The 59-year-old man was charged with twice robbing the Chase Bank on Sunrise Highway in West Babylon and holding up the HSBC Bank on Walt Whitman Road in Huntington Station. In those robberies, which occurred in July and August of 2010, the robber wore simulated explosive devices beneath a dress suit, police said. Suffolk County police also charged the man, a resident of West Babylon, with a fourth robbery August 10 at the HSBC Bank in Commack iwhere the robber did not claim to have a bomb. Police in Nassau County arrested the man in September and charged him for a bank robbery there. The accused robber was awaiting arraignment the evening of March 16. According to prison records, he was paroled on a robbery case on May 26, 2010. Source: [http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2011/03/16/man-charged-with-using-fake-bomb-in-real-heists/?mod=google\\_news\\_blog](http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2011/03/16/man-charged-with-using-fake-bomb-in-real-heists/?mod=google_news_blog)
19. *March 16, Connecticut Post* – (National) **FBI busts \$465,000 credit card scam.** Federal investigators arrested and indicted a former Bridgeport, Connecticut resident who they say orchestrated a scam in which foreign nationals applied for and received credit cards on which they charged up to \$465,000 worth of goods before leaving the country with the banks holding the tab. A federal grand jury March 16 indicted the man the FBI said headed the operation that recruited Arab nationals. The man faces a charge of conspiring to commit wire fraud and the reputed head is under arrest and facing seven charges of wire fraud. An affidavit filed by the FBI Special Agent claims he was paid \$5,000 to come to Connecticut from Florida to oversee the ring. He helped recruit Arab nationals to apply for credit cards, run the cards to their maximum, pay off a portion with fraudulent checks and then apply for larger credit lines. The credit cards were used to buy merchandise as well as gamble at the Mohegan Sun Casino. A \$26,000 car was purchased at a Rye, New York dealership. At some



point, the cards were maxed out and the individuals left the area and in some cases, the country. One participant had 64 different cards on which \$238,000 was drawn. Among the victims were American Express, Bank of America, Chase, and People's Bank. Source: <http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/FBI-busts-465-000-credit-card-scam-1161368.php>

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## **Transportation Sector**

20. *March 17, CNN* – (International) **Airlines monitoring radiation, making adjustments to flights in Japan.** Air carriers were watching the situation at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant closely, making contingency plans and routing adjustments to keep operations running smoothly and protect passengers and crew from radiation risks March 17. German airline Lufthansa and Italian carrier Alitalia rerouted flights to and from the Tokyo area to other Japanese airports. Lufthansa's flights to and from Frankfurt and Munich were going to Osaka and Nagoya instead of Tokyo/Narita "in an effort to ensure that [the airline's] operations to Japan remain as stable as possible and provide sufficient capacity for its passengers," Lufthansa said in a statement. The altered schedule is expected to last through the weekend of March 19 and 20 at least. Since March 13, the airline has been scanning aircraft returning from Japan for radiation. U.S. airlines are in close contact with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other agencies and regulators in the U.S. and abroad, monitoring conditions around the nuclear facility, the FAA said. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/03/16/airlines.japan.radiation/index.html>
21. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Rock slides close 4-lane highway in eastern Ohio.** Persistent rock slides closed all 4 lanes of a highway for about 3 miles in eastern Ohio's Jefferson County March 16. The Ohio Department of Transportation said in a statement that officials were unsure how long the closure would last on state Route 7, which hugs the Ohio River on the eastern border. A hillside along the road south of Wellsville has been plagued by rock and mud slides following recently heavy rains and snow. WTOV-TV in Steubenville reported residents of the area complained the detours around Route 7 were long and potentially unsafe, along winding roads. Source: [http://www.abc6onyourside.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.regional.oh/3c76f977-www.abc6onyourside.com.shtml](http://www.abc6onyourside.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.oh/3c76f977-www.abc6onyourside.com.shtml)
22. *March 16, Reuters* – (Massachusetts; Michigan) **Man detained after alleged false air marshal claims.** An airline passenger was detained March 16 after he was overheard falsely identifying himself as a federal air marshal on board a flight bound for Boston, Massachusetts officials said March 16. An actual federal air marshal on board Delta flight 1922 from Detroit, Michigan to Boston intervened and detained the man, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials said in a statement. Law

enforcement and TSA authorities met the plane upon arrival and took the passenger into custody. The matter remained under investigation, according to the TSA. Federal authorities will handle the incident, the Suffolk County, Massachusetts District Attorney's office said. The incident was not terror-related, a Logan International Airport spokesman said. Since the September 11, 2001 attacks, armed federal air marshals have significantly increased their presence on domestic and international flights as a deterrent to such attacks. But they do not identify themselves and are dressed as typical passengers.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/16/us-plane-marshal-idUSTRE72F8HT20110316>

23. *March 16, Associated Press* – (National) **Five dead in California small plane crash.** A twin-engine plane crashed in Long Beach, California shortly after takeoff March 16, killing five people and critically injuring a sixth, authorities said. A privately-owned Beechcraft King Air turboprop had taken off but was circling back when it went down at about 10:30 a.m. local time, the Long Beach Municipal Airport director said. He did not immediately know why the plane turned around. The aircraft exploded, he said. Five people were pronounced dead at the scene and a man was taken to the hospital in critical condition, the airport director said. The burning plane sparked a small ground fire that was quickly extinguished, a deputy fire chief said. The front half of the plane and its wings came to rest on a grass median between two taxiways, which are used by planes to enter and leave runways. The deputy fire chief said the crash closed the two taxiways and one of the airport's five runways. Commercial flights were not affected, he said. The plane was departing for Salt Lake City, Utah when it went down, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/03/16/dead-california-small-plane-crash/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

24. *March 17, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Armed robbers hit Chestnut Hill post office.** An armed-robbery duo held up a Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania post office March 16, according to police. The men got away with an undisclosed amount of money after bursting into the post office on Germantown Avenue near Southampton about 2:15 p.m., police said. No one was injured. Police described the thieves as tall black men wearing hoods and masks. A \$50,000 reward was offered for information leading to the robbers' arrest and conviction. Source: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/118152534.html>
25. *March 16, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Man arrested in post office burglary.** A 20-year-old Metaline Falls, Washington man faces federal charges for allegedly burglarizing the town's post office the weekend of March 12. He is in the Spokane County Jail without bail after investigators determined he stole a digital

camera and three money orders worth \$585 from the post office between closing March 12 and opening March 13. Two people who cashed the money orders at a bank in Ione, Washington, told a U.S. Postal Inspector that they had cashed them for the suspect. He admitted to breaking into the post office and stealing the items from packages.

Authorities found other stolen items in his apartment March 14, according to court documents. Two men arrested in a similar break in at a Spokane Valley post office in February are to be sentenced in June.

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/sirens/2011/mar/16/man-arrested-post-office-burglary/>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

26. *March 17, Food Safety News* – (National) **New standards for reducing pathogens in poultry.** Trying to cut the risk of foodborne illnesses caused by contaminated raw poultry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) March 16 announced stricter standards to reduce Salmonella and Campylobacter in young chickens and turkey. The new baseline standards take effect in July. USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) estimated that 2 years of enforcing the tougher standards should result in about 5,000 fewer Campylobacter infections, and 20,000 fewer Salmonella infections. According to an FSIS news release, poultry slaughtering establishments have made significant strides in reducing the prevalence of Salmonella and Campylobacter, but there remains too high a risk of consumers being exposed to these pathogens through broiler chickens and turkey. Under the revised standards, no more than 7.5 percent of raw chickens can test positive for Salmonella. The previous tolerance was 20 percent. Under the inaugural standards for Campylobacter reduction, no more than 10.4 percent of raw chickens and no more than 0.79 percent of raw turkeys sampled can test positive for the pathogen.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/new-standards-for-reducing-pathogens-in-poultry/>

27. *March 17, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **After 60 become ill, health department investigates possible norovirus in Spring Hill.** A Hernando County, Florida, Health Department spokeswoman said at least 60 people have complained of a severe gastrointestinal illness, many of whom ate at the same restaurant on U.S. 19 between March 6 and March 11. The spokeswoman would not name the restaurant because the matter is still under investigation, but said nearly all of the complaints were linked to the same restaurant. A joint inspection by the Hernando County Health Department and the state department of business and professional regulation, which licenses Florida restaurants, found only minimal violations pertaining to food preparation, service, and storage. Based on the similarities of the symptoms, the investigation is centering around a possible contamination by a food-borne norovirus, which can be transferred by food, water, and from person to person. Stool samples were collected from customers and restaurant employees and sent to a Tampa laboratory. Hernando County Health Department has not been able to determine whether any food was the source of

the virus.

Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/after-60-become-ill-health-department-investigates-possible-norovirus-in/1157764>

28. *March 16, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey; National) **Baby formula popular with shoplifters who resell it.** A theft from the Bordentown Avenue grocery store in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in early February was one of a rash of baby formula thefts reported by New Jersey police departments during the month. In some cases, baby formula is stolen by people who need it to feed their children. In other cases, law enforcement officials said baby formula is stolen and repackaged to unsuspecting consumers, or the substance is used as a cutting agent for illegal narcotics. The vice president of industry relations for the Food Marketing Institute, an Arlington, Virginia-based organization that represents retailers and wholesalers, sees the thefts as part of a growing problem with organized retail crime. Baby formula is a “staple” item for shoplifting rings because baby formula, at around \$20 a can, is expensive and always in demand, he said. Shoplifters, also called boosters, supply stolen baby formula and other items to fences who in turn resell them in other stores, online, and at flea markets, he said. He said people who buy shoplifted formula do not necessarily realize it is stolen.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20110316/NJNEWS10/103160372/Baby-formula-popular-with-shoplifters-who-resell-it>

29. *March 16, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (Nebraska) **Worker burned at Tyson Foods Dakota City, NE plant.** A worker at the Tyson Foods plant, in Dakota City, Nebraska, was recovering from burns he suffered on the job March 16. A Tyson Foods spokesperson said the worker was working the by-product rendering portion of the plant. The worker suffered “minor” burns, but the injuries were not considered life-threatening. The man was rushed to a hospital in Sioux City, Iowa. There was no word on the man’s condition.

Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14266626>

30. *March 14, Deseret News* – (National) **Company recalls protein powder over salmonella concerns.** The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is alerting Utah consumers of a food recall involving possible salmonella poisoning. Vitalabs Inc. of Jonesboro, Georgia, voluntarily recalled four specific lot numbers of Whey-26 Protein Powder due to concerns over potential salmonella contamination. The recall — issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — extends to various parts of the United States including Utah, Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington as well as in Aruba, Ontario, Canada, and Poland abroad. The recalled product was offered through a variety of distribution channels, including health food stores, clinics, fitness centers, and Internet-based companies, but is not generally sold in grocery stores.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705368679/Company-recalls-protein-powder-over-salmonella-concerns.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [37](#)

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## Water Sector

31. *March 17, North Andover Eagle-Tribune* – (New Hampshire) **NH: Millions of disks in river.** "The town of Hooksett (New Hampshire) now believes 39 million disks were in the tanks, not the previously reported 9 to 10 million, and that 10 to 20 percent of the [bacteria-eating white plastic] disks may have been released," a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services spokesman said March 16. A previous estimate by the state placed the figure in the "hundreds of thousands." The disks, officially known as Biofilm Chip M Media, are not much larger than the size of a quarter. They were introduced in the Hookset treatment plant in November 2010 as a new sewage treatment method. Four days after the discharge, the half-dollar-sized disks began washing up on Seabrook Beach, about 50 miles downstream. By March 12, disks were spotted on Plum Island beaches, Salisbury Beach, Deer Island in Amesbury and Newburyport's shoreline. In response, officials in most of those communities closed beaches and waterfront areas. As of March 16, disks were being found on Beverly beaches, 25 miles beyond the mouth of the Merrimack River. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has conducted two tests on the disks and determined they do contain human waste bacteria, but at ranges not exceeding levels of concern. New Hampshire officials believe the accident took place when screens designed to keep the 39 million disks inside treatment tanks became clogged with the objects after days of heavy rain raised water levels inside the tanks, and the tanks overflowed.

Source: <http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x977552813/NH-Millions-of-disks-in-river>

32. *March 17, Pocono Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Car crashes at East Stroudsburg sewage plant.** Rescue crews had to free an elderly woman from her car the March 16 after she crashed through a gate and into a mechanical building at the sewage treatment plant off Forge Road in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. The woman became trapped after bricks from the building fell onto her car. She was taken from the scene by ambulance. The assistant fire chief said the woman lost control of the car at about 4 p.m. and slammed into the gate. The car then took the gate along with it as it slammed into the building. The car also hit a hydrant, causing water to spew out.

Source:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110317/NEWS/103170327/-1/NEWS01>

33. *March 17, Kennebec Journal* – (Maine) **Oil from camp spills into lake.** Environmental crews were back on Maranacook Lake in Readfield, Maine, March 16 mopping up 300 gallons of home heating oil that spilled from a camp some time last week. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) is overseeing the clean up. Crews were slated to return March 17 to finish recovering the

fuel. A MDEP oil and hazardous material specialist said the spill occurred when a filter broke off a home heating oil tank. “It’s pretty much all in the lake,” he said, “but it’s contained by ice in the one area. The spill occurred at a remote camp off Beaver Dam Road when the basement flooded with water, causing the filter to break. “It’s not clear exactly when it occurred,” he said. “It was discovered [March 16], but it likely happened sometime in the last week.” Crews plan to chip all the ice and snow away and load it into a water-tight container. The ice and snow will then be melted and disposed of as oily water. Crews will then use a vacuum truck to skim off the remaining oil and water mixture from the surface. Then there will be a more focused effort to collect the last drops of oil.

Source: [http://www.kjonline.com/news/oil-from-camp-spills-into-lake\\_2011-03-16.html](http://www.kjonline.com/news/oil-from-camp-spills-into-lake_2011-03-16.html)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

34. *March 16, Agence France-Presse* – (Georgia) **U.S. seizes execution drug from state of Georgia.** U.S. authorities seized Georgia’s imported stock of thiopental, used in lethal-injection executions, because of questions about its origin, sources said March 16. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) confiscated the drug some death-penalty states now import because it is no longer manufactured in the United States. “DEA is working with the Georgia Department of Corrections to ensure that they are in compliance with federal DEA regulations regarding controlled substances,” the DEA said in a statement. The drug’s sole producer in the United States, Hospira, announced in January it was permanently ending production. In response, states including Oklahoma, Ohio, and Texas decided to switch to pentobarbital, an anesthetic used to euthanize animals. Georgia and other states opted to import thiopental manufactured in Great Britain. Prison officials, under court orders, released documents showing the product was manufactured by a little-known laboratory in London.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i0otnB0dbBytArB6Z1ms78cXhQHQ?docId=CNG.0af06a235b3fa5689ba5127dac77bed9.f11>

35. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota hospital says nurse suspended amid criminal investigation into unusual infections.** A Minnesota hospital said it has suspended a nurse pending an investigation into whether the nurse inadvertently introduced unusual bacterial infections into more than 20 patients while stealing pain medication from IV bags. St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud said March 16 that none of the patients became seriously ill or died as a result of the infections. The 23 infected patients have been notified. The hospital’s chief nursing officer said the nurse apparently used a syringe to remove the pain medication from IV bags and replaced it with either saline or air to make it appear the level of pain medication had not changed. The bacteria involved are not usually found in people. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are investigating.

Source: <http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-us-unusual-hospital-infections,0,3513118.story>

36. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Potential source of Ohio Legionnaires' cases found.** Tests have found the bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease were present in the hot water system at a new part of Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, where 11 patients got sick. Officials said the test results released March 14 also show superheating the water system and treating it with large amounts of chlorine killed the bacteria. The hospital's president and chief executive said in a statement that steps have been taken to make sure the water in the hospital's new 12-story addition is safe for drinking, bathing, and washing. The 11 cases of Legionnaires' include a 73-year-old man who died February 22; however, the Dayton Daily News reported the death certificate does not mention Legionnaires'.

Source: <http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/article/20110316/NEWS01/103160314>

37. *March 16, Food Safety News* – (National) **Online map tracks antibiotic resistance trends.** An online tool called ResistanceMap, on The Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy Web site, can be used to track the rise in antibiotic-resistant pathogens like methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and ciprofloxacin-resistant E. coli in the United States. Created by Extending the Cure, a research project supported in part by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the maps will be updated monthly. According to an RWJF news release, policy makers and researchers can use the maps to chart areas in need of better infection control, enhanced surveillance, or better antibiotic stewardship. RWJF said the maps provide a graphic view of trends from 2000 to 2009, for example, how the resistance of E. coli toward cipro has increased by one-third each year and the possibility that this common therapy for urinary tract infections is becoming obsolete. Or that by 2005 some areas of the United States already were showing resistance rates to MRSA exceeding 70 percent. Planned to be added soon on the ResistanceMap are interactive features, data on resistance rates in other countries and new rates of U.S. antibiotic use.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/online-map-tracks-antibiotic-resistance-trends/>

38. *March 15, USA Today* – (National) **Experts plan for how to deal with nuclear terror strike.** A terrorist nuclear strike in a major U.S. city would kill and injure so many people that disaster planners rewrote the rules for dealing with casualties. Their analysis is part of a comprehensive effort to develop a medical response plan for dealing with a 10-kiloton nuclear bomb, which would pack roughly the explosive force of the Hiroshima blast or 5,000 Oklahoma City truck bombs. Demand for medical care would be almost inconceivable. In Washington D.C., a city with 38 ambulances, and neighboring communities, at least 930,000 people would seek medical care. More than 70,000 would need hospitalization, vastly overflowing the city's 3,600 hospital beds. There would be at least 1,000 severely injured trauma patients for every available operating room, said the co-author, a radiation expert at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The reports were released March 14 in the Journal Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. Any medical centers left standing for miles around ground

zero would be overwhelmed by dazed and bleeding survivors, who would quickly drain stockpiles of supplies that might take days to replenish, the analysis finds. The research indicates first responders who lack medical supplies can save more lives by focusing on victims with moderate injuries rather than on those whose injuries are severe — usually the top priority on the battlefield and in more common disasters. An ethical analysis concluded it would be appropriate to use scarce medications to provide pain relief and comfort to those who may not make it.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-03-15-nukemed14\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-03-15-nukemed14_ST_N.htm)

For another story, see item [27](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *March 17, The Nation* – (International) **Protesters try to attack U.S. consulate.** Police wielded batons, fired warning shots, and resorted to tear-gas shelling as hundreds of protesters attempted to attack the U.S. Consulate building March 16 in Lahore, Pakistan. The recent release of a CIA spy sparked countrywide angry protests. In Lahore, police also badly tortured the reporting crew of Wqat News while they were covering the protests live from the site. As protesters tried to attack the U.S. consulate, police opened warning shots and fired tear-gas shells. Dozens of protesters also sustained injuries as police resorted to baton-charge to disperse them. The surrounding of the press club turned into a battlefield as the protesters pelted the policemen with stones and water bottles.

Source: <http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/17-Mar-2011/Protesters-try-to-attack-US-consulate>

40. *March 17, Bradenton Herald* – (Florida) **Palmetto man arrested after library attacks.** A 24-year-old Palmetto, Florida man was arrested March 16 after attacking several people outside the Palmetto branch of the Manatee County Public Library, the Palmetto Police Department reported. The incident started around 5 p.m., the library's closing time, when the suspect tried to steal a purse from a 46-year-old woman, police said. The victim resisted, and the suspect could not get the purse. Library staff intervened and ordered the man to leave, police stated. Once outside, the suspect began chasing a 14-year-old girl, police said. The girl's father retrieved a metal pipe from his vehicle and attempted to defend his daughter. The suspect got the pipe from the man and began striking him with it. Palmetto police arrived and immediately took the suspect into custody. The man received minor injuries. The other victims were unhurt. The suspect was charged with robbery by sudden snatching, aggravated battery and assault, police stated. He was being held without bond at the Manatee County jail.

Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/2011/03/17/3040093/palmetto-man-arrested-after-library.html>

41. *March 17, Idaho State Journal* – (Idaho) **Hazardous materials team removes suspicious envelope from courthouse.** Members of the local Idaho Hazardous



Materials Response Team removed a suspicious envelope March 16 after everyone was evacuated from the Bannock County Courthouse in Pocatello, Idaho. A spokesperson with the Pocatello Police Department confirmed that contents of the package included a death threat aimed at one of the judges. Results from the test will not be available for 24 hours.

Source: [http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article\\_1c8b8e74-502d-11e0-8af7-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article_1c8b8e74-502d-11e0-8af7-001cc4c03286.html)

42. *March 17, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. authorizes American evacuations out of Japan.** The United States has authorized the first evacuations of Americans out of Japan, taking a tougher stand on the deepening nuclear crisis and warning U.S. citizens to defer all non-essential travel to any part of the country as unpredictable weather and wind conditions risked spreading radioactive contamination. The U.S. President placed a telephone call March 16 to Japan's prime minister to discuss the country's efforts to recover from the devastating earthquake and tsunami, and the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. The President promised the prime minister the United States would offer constant support for its close friend and ally, the White House said. The travel warning extends to U.S. citizens already in the country and urges them to consider leaving. The authorized departure offers voluntary evacuation to family members and dependents of U.S. personnel in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Nagoya and affects some 600 people. A senior State Department official said chartered planes would be brought in to help private American citizens wishing to leave. A Pentagon spokesman said it would coordinate departures for eligible Defense Department dependents.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gjjJVN43zYjY8fuf\\_7YUeTHB0M3g?docId=c2ebb9994512443f98eeb743d5c4525f](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gjjJVN43zYjY8fuf_7YUeTHB0M3g?docId=c2ebb9994512443f98eeb743d5c4525f)

43. *March 17, WHTC 1450 AM Holland* – (Michigan) **Suspicious package found after arrests at state capitol.** Authorities said a suspicious package was found outside Michigan's state capitol in Lansing just hours after several people were arrested in the building's rotunda. The Michigan State Police bomb squad was called to investigate the package, which was discovered March 16 near the west entrance of the capitol. Thousands of people had gathered in Lansing to protest the governor's budget proposals and following the rally, several protesters entered the capitol rotunda. Police arrested 11 people who refused to leave the building.

Source: <http://www.whtc.com/news/articles/2011/mar/17/suspicious-package-found-after-arrests-state-capit/>

44. *March 17, WHYY 90.9 FM Philadelphia* – (International) **Temple University evacuates Tokyo campus.** Temple University of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has decided to evacuate its campus in Tokyo, Japan, based on a warning about radiation from Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant. The university president wrote, "We are working with our contracted partner for international emergencies, International SOS, to arrange for a charter that will take our estimated 200 remaining U.S. students from Tokyo to the U.S. via Hong Kong." Some students have already left, and faculty are

welcomed to participate in the evacuation. Most of the Tokyo campus' non-U.S. students will remain in Japan for now.

Source: <http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/the-feed/item/15464-temple-university-evacuates-tokyo-campus>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [8](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

45. *March 17, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Va. Dept. alters training after death of recruit.** Recruits eager to join the Norfolk, Virginia, Police Department will no longer have to endure strikes to the head — or defend themselves in training when they are exhausted. The changes will help prevent recruit injuries and improve the department, the acting chief of police and a panel of experts said March 15. The new procedures follow the death of a recruit, who was injured in training in December and is the only recruit to ever die in Norfolk police training. A four-member panel reviewed the department's defensive-tactics training. Changes include: Providing training to instructors from medical professionals on how to recognize head trauma; teaching all recruits in upcoming academies about head trauma and the importance of reporting it, whether it involves themselves or a fellow recruit; and teaching defensive tactics classes in 1- or 2-hour segments to reduce fatigue-related injuries.

Source: <http://officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=57339>

46. *March 16, Opelika-Auburn News* – (Alabama) **Smiths Station volunteer firefighter charged with arson.** A Smiths Station, Alabama volunteer firefighter was arrested March 16 and charged with one count of second-degree arson, police said. He is a suspect in a March 11 fire that destroyed a vacant home in the 1600 block of Lee Road 298 in Smiths Station. If convicted of the felony charge, he could face 2 to 20 years in prison. The Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) received a 911 call at 10:42 a.m. March 11 from a Smiths Station resident reporting an apparent explosion and smoke coming from the residence. A joint investigation by the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office and the LCSO determined the fire was deliberately set. The volunteer firefighter became a suspect after witnesses reported seeing a man fleeing the scene before the explosion. The suspect was held at the Lee County Detention Facility after being arrested March 16. He was released on \$10,000 bond.

Source: <http://www2.oanow.com/news/2011/mar/16/smiths-station-volunteer-firefighter-charged-arson-ar-1589525/>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

47. *March 17, IDG News Service* – (International) **Taiwan expects multiple impacts on tech from Japan quake.** Taiwan’s economic ministry expects its semiconductor and display panel industries to take a hit from the earthquake in Japan the week of March 6 as supplies were suspended due to factory damage or transportation snarls. Local display-panel giants AU Optronics and Chimei-Innolux will see “a rather large impact” if Hitachi Chemical slows production of anisotropic conductive film, an epoxy that binds chips to glass or circuit boards, the ministry’s industrial development bureau said in a report March 16. Hitachi provides about 50 percent of the world’s supplies of the film. Semiconductor makers in Taiwan face a “fight to get raw materials” as 50 percent of the world’s silicon wafer stock comes from two Japanese firms, Shin-Etsu and Sumco Corp., both affected by the earthquake, the bureau’s report said. “In terms of the ripple effect on the majority of our country’s industries, it should come from flat screens, semiconductors and solar panels as they use of a lot of upstream materials and key components,” the report said. The ministry did not give a timeline for possible quake impacts or estimate how much they would end up costing local tech firms in Taiwan, which builds components and contracts to make PCs for the world’s top brands. A lead tech researcher with Bank of America Merrill Lynch said March 16 the supply chain would take as long as 6 months to return to normal.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214722/Taiwan\\_expects\\_multiple\\_impacts\\_on\\_tech\\_from\\_Japan\\_quake](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214722/Taiwan_expects_multiple_impacts_on_tech_from_Japan_quake)

48. *March 17, Reuters* – (International) **Toshiba LCD plant out for a month; Lenovo frets about supplies.** Toshiba Corp. said an assembly line in Japan making small liquid crystal displays (LCDs) would be closed for a month and PC maker Lenovo voiced worries over parts, highlighting the threat to global supply chains from Japan’s devastating earthquake, Reuters reported March 17. Hitachi Ltd. also said production of small LCDs will be halted at its factory near Tokyo for a month as it deals with damage and power outages. Toshiba’s assembly line at a plant near Tokyo making LCDs for smartphones and other devices will be closed to repair sensitive equipment knocked out of alignment by the quake, a Toshiba spokeswoman said March 17. The Toshiba plant supplies the mobile phone industry and auto makers for navigation displays, and its two factories including the one still operating account for about 5 percent of the global small LCD display market, an analyst at Macquarie Capital Securities in Japan said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/17/japan-supplychain-idUSTOE72G01N20110317>

49. *March 17, The Register* – (International) **Spam levels plummet as Rustock botnet taken down... for now.** Spam volumes shrank March 16 after the Rustock botnet fell silent, reportedly as a result of a takedown action. Rustock, which is made up of a network of compromised (malware-infected) Windows PCs, turns an illicit income for its unknown controllers by being the biggest single source of global spam. The botnet is particularly active in advertising unlicensed net pharmacies. A security blogger suggested the respite of spam from Rustock is the possible result of a takedown action against the zombie network’s command and control system. “Dozens of internet servers used to coordinate these spam campaigns ceased operating, apparently almost

simultaneously,” he wrote. “Such an action suggests that anti-spam activists have succeeded in executing possibly the largest botnet takedown in the history of the internet.” Details of who took this action are unclear at present, though security firms were able to confirm the security researcher is correct in attributing a sharp drop in spam levels to the shut-down (at least temporarily) of Rustock. The Rustock botnet is made up of an estimated 815,000 compromised Windows PCs, controlled via a network of about 26 servers.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/17/rustock\\_botnet\\_takedown/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/17/rustock_botnet_takedown/)

50. *March 16, Computerworld* – (International) **Google first to patch Flash bug with Chrome update.** Google updated Chrome March 15, patching a flaw in the browser’s copy of Flash Player. Users of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, and Opera will not receive a Flash update from Adobe until the week of March 21. Adobe announced March 14 attackers are exploiting an unpatched, or “zero-day,” vulnerability in Flash Player using malicious Microsoft Excel documents attached to e-mail messages. Adobe said it would patch Flash Player for Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux sometime the week of March 21. Google pushed a Chrome update to users running the stable and beta builds of the browser March 16. “This release contains an updated version of the Adobe Flash player,” a Chrome program manager said March 15. After updating Chrome to version 10.0.648.134, the browser reports it is running Flash Player 10.2.154.25, a step up from the 10.2.154.18 bundled with the last update of the browser.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214689/Google\\_first\\_to\\_patch\\_Flash\\_bug\\_with\\_Chrome\\_update](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214689/Google_first_to_patch_Flash_bug_with_Chrome_update)

51. *March 16, Help Net Security* – (International) **73,000 malware strains created daily in 2011.** The number of threats in circulation during 2011 has risen in comparison to 2010. In the first 3 months of 2011, PandaLabs identified an average of 73,000 new malware strains, most of which were trojans. Moreover, there was a 26 percent increase of new threats compared to the same period in 2010. While PandaLabs observed a quarter-over-quarter increase of new malware in 2010, the rise was not nearly as notable as the one experienced over the last several quarters. Trojans remain the most popular type of threat to computer systems, and now account for 70 percent of all new malware. This is because it can be incredibly lucrative for cybercriminals to commit fraud or steal money from Internet users through the online banking channel. Taking a look further at the subtypes of malware, PandaLabs found banker trojans have decreased, bots have remained steady, and fake anti-virus or rogueware has decreased in popularity. However, the number of “downloaders” has increased significantly.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1670](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1670)

52. *March 16, The Register* – (International) **Microsoft malware removal tool takes out public enemy no. 4.** Microsoft the week of March 13 used its Malicious Software Removal Tool to take out Win32/Renocide, the fourth-biggest threat in automated program’s history, which dates back to at least 2005. The malware is a backdoor-enabled worm that spreads through removable drives, network shares, and popular file-

sharing applications. Once installed, it drops copies of itself on all removable drives, possibly by randomizing the file names. It also spreads by scanning machines on an infected computer's local network and pasting a copy of a file called autorun.inf, which many versions of Windows automatically execute when the drive is attached. Renocide also plants copies of itself in shared folders of file-sharing applications and cleverly disguises them as titles of popular games and apps currently shared on popular torrent sites.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/16/renocide\\_meets\\_msrt/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/16/renocide_meets_msrt/)

### 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>

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## Communications Sector

53. *March 17, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Cable theft disrupts phone service in Chapmanville area; Frontier establishes tip line.** Frontier Communications said a recent cable theft caused telephone outages for about 300 customers March 17. The utility's general manager in Logan, West Virginia, said Frontier immediately sent technicians to restore service after the outage the week of March 7 in the Chapmanville area. Frontier utility's general manager told the Logan Banner that cable theft has become a serious problem in the region and is viewed as a threat to public safety because it could prevent people from contacting fire departments, police, and ambulance services. Frontier has established a hot line for people to report cable thefts.  
Source:  
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e505b52506494b7c82af1aff2bda6d72/WV--Cable-Theft/>

54. *March 15, Tnooz.com* – (International) **Expedia outage went global, included Hotels.com as Japan quake shook.** On March 11, as large parts of the world were glued to the Internet or television sets as events in Japan unfolded in real-time, Expedia and sister site Hotels.com were having some pretty serious performance issues. Local versions for almost every Expedia site, except the U.S. version, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and Germany were down for around 90 minutes to 2 hours. The same was true for some Hotels.com sites. At the time, some Expedia officials said privately that traffic spikes may have caused the problem, but it soon became clear the outages were part of a wider issue. It turns out that an update to the system did not go according to plan, and customers were not able to access home pages. No other details have been given for the outage, although it is not believed to have been caused by the events which took place off the coast of Japan. An official said, "The support teams have worked to fix this issue and we are confident that this

has been resolved.”

Source: <http://www.tnooz.com/2011/03/15/news/expedia-outage-went-global-included-hotels-com/>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

55. *March 17, KTNV 13 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **Sandwich shop owner accused of setting downtown fire.** A fire ripped through a Las Vegas, Nevada building after 2 a.m. February 9, and now one of the tenants is accused of setting it. By the time it was over, 4 businesses were damaged. The 43-year-old owner of the Strip Sandwich Shop is accused of starting the fire. The damage was upwards of \$200,000, but tenants said it would cost a lot more to rebuild. The fire department will not say how the fire started or why they believe it is arson, leaving both tenants and the owner with a lot of questions. The suspect has pleaded guilty in two different burglary cases in the past 6 months.

Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/story/14267905/sandwich-shop-owner-accused-of-setting-downtown-fire>

56. *March 17, KSAT 12 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Fire at strip club called suspicious.** Arson investigators have determined that someone deliberately started the fire March 17 that damaged an outside wall of a strip club in San Antonio, Texas. The acting battalion chief for the San Antonio Fire Department said a passer-by noticed smoke and flames around 5:45 a.m. coming from the back wall of The Beach. Firefighters arrived and put out the fire, taking care to keep it from spreading to the inside of the building, the battalion chief said. Firefighters checked the business for any workers who may have been inside but found it to be empty. The chief said firefighters found a gas can outside the building, and noticed several small fires that had erupted due to spilled gasoline. Arson investigators arrived after the fire was out and quickly ruled the cause as arson.

Source: <http://www.ksat.com/news/27224676/detail.html>

57. *March 17, KIRO TV 7 Seattle* – (National) **Woman burned In Tacoma apartment fire.** An apartment block was evacuated and one person hospitalized with burns March 17 after a fire blazed through an apartment unit in Tacoma, Washington. The fire broke out at around 3 a.m. at the Tanara Village Apartments. Some of the residents of the 55 and over community were evacuated because the main doors of the apartment face a central hallway that connects it to other homes. A KIRO 7 Eyewitness News reporter spoke with one of the dozen people who was evacuated. The neighbor said the person who lived in the unit where the fire broke out was a woman. The victim suffered burns to her feet and hands. She was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. No one else was hurt. The residents have been allowed back into the building. Damage is estimated to be between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/27224859/detail.html>

58. *March 16, Darkreading* – (National) **Hospitality industry on mission to curb cyberattacks.** Three major hospitality trade associations have banded together to warn hotels nationwide about the rise in cyberattacks on their industry and to spell out the specific security measures the establishments should take to protect credit and debit card data. The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA), Hotel Technology Next Generation (HTNG), and Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) issued a rare joint statement that dispels the myth among some franchisees and smaller hospitality establishments that it is up to vendors or credit card brands to properly lock down credit and debit card data. Hotels and motels are increasingly becoming targeted by cybercriminals trolling for credit and debit card data. The goal is to get industry members to speed up on security. The groups specify three security steps each hotel should take. The first is to change all default passwords in the network on everything from servers to routers and firewalls. The second is to close holes in remote access network points. That includes removing default passwords and strengthening administrative and remote-access credentials, as well as instituting stronger authentication for vendors and staffers. And third, the groups are calling on smaller hotels to develop network firewalls.  
Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/authentication/167901072/security/attacks-breaches/229301147/hospitality-industry-on-mission-to-curb-cyberattacks.html>

For another story, see item [1](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

59. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Fires still spreading from Hawaii volcano.** Authorities said March 16 lava-ignited fires from a volcano eruption in Hawaii continue to spread across Volcanoes National Park. Park firefighters said the blaze has burned more than 1,166 acres since March 13. The fire was sparked from the Kamoamoa eruption. A fire prevention expert said the wind-driven fire was flowing through Ohia forest in an area that has been burned at least twice due to lava flows. Authorities said firefighting resources were ordered from California and are expected to arrive by March 18.  
Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_17631610?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17631610?nclink_check=1)

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## **Dams Sector**

60. *March 17, Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Federal authorities seek identity of man trespassing at dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants help identifying someone who snuck onto Lookout Point Dam in Eugene, Oregon, and may have been taking pictures while trespassing there. The federal agency that operates the dams in the Willamette Basin is offering up to \$1,000 as a reward for information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of the person captured by a Corps camera. The incident occurred

at 1:30 a.m. March 2, when Corps employees saw a white male inside the fenced perimeter of the dam, 22 miles southeast of Eugene near Lowell. The man appeared to be dressed in camouflage clothing, had a camera and was taking pictures. He left the area minutes before police arrived, the Corps said in a news release.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/web/newslocalnews/26014699-41/corps-dam-information-camera-federal.html.csp>

61. *March 17, WCHS 8 Charleston* – (Kentucky) **New levee helping prevent flooding at Smithland.** A levee built 6 years ago in western Kentucky is getting its first test in the current flood. The earthen levee is holding at Smithland, the Paducah Sun reported. A Livingston County judge-executive said without the levee, the water would be about 6 inches deep over a section of U.S. 60 and would threaten local businesses. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said the levee was built in 2005 to protect the lower part of Smithland and eliminate the need to sandbag each time the Cumberland and Ohio rivers rose. A pump pulls rainwater out of the district and into the streams. There are five drainage valves along the levee and, so far, three have been closed because of the rising rivers.

Source: <http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/ky/news3.shtml>

62. *March 16, Fargo Inforum* – (North Dakota) **Tiny North Dakota town prepares for troubled dam.** The mostly elderly residents of Kathryn, North Dakota, are bracing for another possible evacuation this spring if snow runoff again eats through a dilapidated earthen dam, which has yet to see even the first phase of \$1.8 million worth of renovations that was to have been completed months ago. Kathryn's 55 residents fled the town — which consists of little more than a bar, a church and post office — for a few days in April 2009 after flooding began to erode the Clausen Springs Dam's spillway, which is 6 miles uphill. While the town dodged trouble last year, current conditions are similar to the spring of 2009. The first phase of dam renovations to protect the town was supposed to be completed months ago, but local officials said a Minnesota company hired to do the work has done nothing since December. Sellin Brothers Inc. was the lowest bidder and won the contract in October to perform the repairs. An engineer with Moore Engineering Inc., said Sellin did some grading work, but a requirement to place 85,000 square feet of interlocking concrete blocks along the eroded spillway by December had not even started. A project manager for Sellin would not comment on why the company did not complete the work. "I guess at this point attorneys are involved and I'll leave it at that," he said. Town residents, meanwhile, have crafted and distributed an evacuation plan. The dam, built in 1967 for fishing and recreation, is about 50 feet high and 700 feet long and holds back a lake about the size of 50 football fields.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/312558/>

63. *March 13, New York Times* – (International) **Japan's seawalls were little security against tsunami.** At least 40 percent of Japan's 22,000-mile coastline is lined with concrete seawalls, breakwaters or other structures meant to protect the country against high waves, typhoons or even tsunamis. They are as much a part of Japan's coastal scenery as beaches or fishing boats, especially in areas where the government estimates



the possibility of a major earthquake occurring in the next 3 decades at more than 90 percent, like the northern stretch that was devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Along with developing quake-resistant buildings, the coastal infrastructure represents postwar Japan's major initiative against earthquakes and tsunamis. But while experts have praised Japan's rigorous building codes and quake-resistant buildings for limiting the number of casualties from the earthquake, the devastation in coastal areas and a final death toll predicted to exceed 10,000 could push Japan to redesign its seawalls — or reconsider its heavy reliance on them altogether. Some critics have long argued the construction of seawalls was a mistaken, hubristic effort to control nature as well as the kind of wasteful public works project that successive Japanese governments used to reward politically connected companies in flush times and to try to kick-start a stagnant economy. Supporters, though, have said the seawalls increased the odds of survival in a quake-prone country, where a mountainous interior has historically pushed people to live along its coastline.

Source:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/world/asia/14seawalls.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/world/asia/14seawalls.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all)

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