



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 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 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a “comprehensive review” of the safety of all U.S. nuclear plants in the wake of the situation at Japan’s damaged nuclear reactors. (See item [5](#))
- According to United Press International, two Michigan sisters wanted in a \$9.1 million Medicare scam were arrested in Colombia. (See item [32](#))

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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, KTVB 7 Boise** – (Idaho) **I-84 in Southern Idaho reopens after semi crash spills 2,000 gallons of gas.** A stretch of Interstate 84 in Boise, Idaho, was reopened March 17 after a tanker truck crashed late March 16. The truck spilled at least 2,000 gallons of gas onto the road. A 13-mile stretch of I-84 westbound was closed past Mountain Home for about 11 hours after the crash as hazmat and fire crews contained the spill. Traffic was diverted through Mountain Home. Idaho State Police said the

driver of the tanker lost control while going around a curve. He then crashed into the median, overturning the tanker. The driver was trapped inside his truck but crews were able to get him out. The driver was taken by air ambulance to St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and was in critical condition.

Source: <http://www.nwcn.com/news/I-84-in-Southern-Idaho-reopens-after-semi-crash-spills-2000-gallons-of-gas-118174259.html>

2. *March 17, YorktownPatch* – (New York) **Drivers fill up tanks with bad gas.** Bad gasoline, delivered to a Yorktown, New York, gas station the week of March 14, caused damages to a few cars which had to be towed and fixed. Approximately 1,000 gallons of bad gas were delivered March 14 to the Shell gas station on Route 202, he acting director for the Westchester County Office of Consumer Protection said. Anyone who filled up their gas tank March 14 through 15 was affected. One Yorktown resident said after he filled up his tank at the gas station, his new Honda Accord shut down. On March 15, Westchester County Department of Weights and Measures personnel visually inspected the purity of the gasoline sold and determined the gas was contaminated with water. The gas station was forced to close down, remove the contaminated gas, test and purge its systems. The station is expected to reimburse drivers for the purchase of the bad gas, and for damages caused by the gas.
Source: <http://yorktown.patch.com/articles/drivers-fill-up-tanks-with-bad-gas>
3. *March 17, NBC Montana* – (Montana) **Propane leak causes evacuation.** A propane leak forced evacuations just south of Kalispell, Montana. Responders said the frost on the night of March 16 caused concrete under the tank to shift and break a nozzle. A propane company worker noticed something was wrong March 17 and called 911. Crews clamped off the leak quickly, but it was only a temporary fix. Workers had to empty the propane into a truck, and because of the safety risk, evacuated a quarter mile stretch of road. The area evacuated was on Highway 93, 3 miles south of Kalispell, in between Auction Road and Demerfsville Road. There are no homes there, but several businesses. Responders evacuated all the businesses in the area, nearly 40 people. Safety officials said now that the tank has been emptied, it is no longer a threat.
Source: <http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/27233042/detail.html>
4. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Texas) **EPA proposes regulating mercury from coal plants.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced a proposal to regulate emissions from coal-fired power plants, including rules limiting mercury pollution for the first time. If the proposals become law they would have the greatest impact in Texas, which is home to more coal-fired power plants than any other state. Texas has at least 17 such plants and another dozen in various stages of permitting. The agency is under a court order to regulate mercury and other air pollutants.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9M0D7D04.htm>

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *March 18, Associated Press* – (National) **NRC to review safety of all US nuclear plants.** Associated Press reported March 18 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will conduct a “comprehensive review” of the safety of all U.S. nuclear plants following what U.S. officials are calling the dangerous and complicated situation at Japan’s damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors. The U.S. President called upon the independent commission to conduct the review. “When we see a crisis like the one in Japan, we have a responsibility to learn from this event and to draw from those lessons to ensure the safety and security of our people,” he said March 17. There are 104 nuclear reactors in the United States, providing about 20 percent of the nation’s electricity. “Nuclear energy is an important part of our own energy future,” he said. A White House spokesman said the fact the President had taken the rare step of asking the NRC — an independent regulatory agency that is not under the President’s control — to undertake a review of U.S. reactor safety in light of the Japanese disaster “only adds to the urgency of that mission.” Representatives of the nuclear energy industry said March 17 operators of U.S. reactors already had begun taking steps to better prepare for an emergency.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h0vdCsLyRvqvo4dh6syoHIs4E21A?docId=eb2025d88b5b45279262681304a13406>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

6. *March 18, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Honda uncertain on restarting Japan plants.** Honda Motor Co. said March 18 it will suspend automobile and motorcycle assembly operations in Japan through March 23, as some of its suppliers need more time to restore their production facilities damaged by the devastating March 11 earthquake. The statement followed a warning from Honda to U.S. dealers that it is not sure if it will be able to resume full production at certain Japanese plants before May, a sign the auto industry may face greater disruption due to the earthquake and tsunami than previously feared. Honda and several other Japanese auto makers have halted production in Japan due to the chaos. None have given a target date for when production will restart. Honda said March 18 it is exploring the possibility of resuming production of parts from March 21. A Honda spokesman said about 30 percent of the company’s 110 suppliers for its 4- and 2-wheeled vehicles based in the quake-hit area are finding it hard to resume operations anytime soon. Its production halt since March 14 will result in a production loss of 27,000 cars and light trucks and 4,000

motorcycles, the spokesman said. Currently, the quake has had a limited impact on Honda's operations in North America. About 80 percent of the vehicles it sells in North America are made there.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703328404576207633556801062.html>

7. *March 18, Soundings Trade Only* – (International) **Yamaha closes four factories until next week.** Yamaha Motor Co. announced its outboard motor factories and PWC factory in Japan will be closed March 18 through March 23. Operating plans for the remainder of the week of March 20 and beyond will be announced by March 23, the company said. The company also temporarily suspended operations through the middle of the week of March 20 at its motorcycle and automotive engine factories. ATV and golf cart production is suspended through March 23, although generator production will continue, the company said. Yamaha said its boat factory will continue to operate as usual.

Source: <http://www.tradeonlytoday.com/home/509692-yamaha-closes-four-factories-until-next-week>

8. *March 17, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **GM to shut Louisiana plant due to parts shortage.** General Motors Co. said it would temporarily idle its pick-up truck plant in Shreveport, Louisiana, due to a parts shortage stemming from the crisis in Japan, Reuters reported March 17. GM said it had “sufficient” vehicles to meet consumer demand and that it hoped to open the plant as soon as possible, although it did not specify a timeframe. The largest U.S. automaker builds two pick-up truck models, the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon, at the Shreveport plant. The company said its other North American plants are operating normally. The plant closure was a sign of the growing stress on the global auto industry after the March 11 earthquake. Toyota Motor Co. and Honda Motor have shut plants in Japan until the week of March 20. North American production is likely to be affected unless Japanese suppliers revive their plants and send parts within the next 10 days, a Wolfe Trahan and Co. analyst said. He said infrastructure issues in Japan threatened to extend the time these plants are idled.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/18/gm-plant-idUSN1726229920110318>

9. *March 17, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Kawasaki Motor recalls backpack blowers due to fire hazard.** Kawasaki Motor Corp. U.S.A., of Irvine, California, has issued a recall March 17 for about 3,400 gasoline-powered backpack blowers. The gasoline tank can split and leak fuel, posing a fire hazard to consumers. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The backpack blowers were sold by authorized service dealers nationwide from August 2008 through February 2011.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11174.html>

10. *March 17, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Maruyama U.S. recalls backpack blowers and Mister Dusters due to fire hazard.** Maruyama U.S. Inc., of Denton, Texas, has issued a recall March 17 for about 18,000 gasoline-powered backpack blowers and Mister Dusters. The gasoline tank can split and leak fuel, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Maruyama has received 25 reports of leaking tanks. No injuries have been reported. The backpack blowers and Mister Dusters were sold by authorized service dealers nationwide from April 2008 through December 2010. Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11175.html>

11. *March 16, Canandaigua Messenger Post* – (New York) **Richmond, Bristol firefighters respond to fire at Honeoye plant.** Richmond and Bristol fire departments in New York responded with extensive equipment to a report of smoke coming from an out building at Stone Construction Equipment, Inc., at 8662 Main Street in Honeoye, around 1:51 p.m. March 16. Upon arrival, firefighters found a small contained fire, which was extinguished in about 10 minutes, the Richmond fire chief said. The Richmond fire company sent a rescue truck, ladder truck, tanker truck, and ambulance to the scene. The Bristol Fire Department also responded, sending its tanker, and pumper trucks. The fire was contained in a filter housing, which extracts welding gases from inside the building. “We are assuming a hot ember got stuck up into the filter housing, igniting the filter,” the Richmond chief said. According to the company’s plant manager, there was minimal damage, and the fire was under investigation. Source: <http://www.mpnnow.com/features/x1777814183/Richmond-Bristol-firefighters-respond-to-fire-at-Honeoye-plant>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *March 18, Bloomberg* – (California) **Lockheed Martin’s first Littoral Combat Ship cracks, Navy says.** Lockheed Martin Corp.’s first new Littoral Combat Ship developed a crack as long as 6 inches through its hull during sea trials, prompting a U.S. Navy investigation of the design, Bloomberg reported. The Navy is analyzing the crack to determine if changes are required for future Lockheed Martin hulls, a Naval Sea Systems Command spokesman said March 17. This includes reviewing “the design, construction drawings and welding procedures,” he said. During a heavy-weather ocean trial on the USS Freedom in mid-February, he said, sailors discovered a 6-inch horizontal hull crack below the waterline that leaked 5 gallons an hour. Inside the hull the crack measured 3 inches. It originated in a weld seam between two steel plates. The ship returned to its home port in San Diego, California, avoiding rough seas, after the commanding officer judged the leak rate “manageable,” the spokesman said. Smaller cracks that indicated welding “defects” showed up in the welds of the vessel’s aluminum structure during sea trials in 2010, the spokesman said. Initial analysis of the second Lockheed-built vessel, the USS Independence, showed improved welding, he said. A Lockheed Martin spokesman said the company “is working closely with the Navy to confirm the root cause” and has made all necessary repairs to the ship.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-18/lockheed-martin-s-first-littoral-combat-ship-develops-cracks-navy-says.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *March 18, Summit County Citizens Voice* – (Colorado) **Breckenridge: Credit card fraud linked to software scheme.** The Breckenridge Police Department and the FBI are investigating a string of credit card fraud cases originating out of Breckenridge, Colorado. Law enforcement officials believe there is an illegal intrusion occurring through a software program. The police department has 17 active cases at this time and believes there are more victims who have not reported this crime to the police department. The Breckenridge police chief is asking individuals who are aware their credit card was compromised in Breckenridge and used to make fraudulent purchases to come forward and report the crime.
Source: <http://summitcountyvoice.com/2011/03/18/breckenridge-credit-card-fraud-may-be-linked-to-software-scheme/>

14. *March 17, Long Island Press* – (New York) **17 charged in \$20M mortgage fraud case.** Seventeen people were rounded up in connection with an alleged \$20 million mortgage fraud scheme in Nassau County, New York — the largest in its history — which authorities say ripped off homeowners, banks, and county taxpayers. Two Westbury men accused of being the ringleaders in the 5-year scheme are facing more than 108 charges, along with 15 other suspects, after they duped homeowners whose houses were for sale or in foreclosure, prosecutors said March 16. Members of the “Sweet Deal” Ring — mortgage brokers, real estate brokers, bank employees, attorneys, an appraiser, a financial consultant, and a U.S. Postal Service worker — face charges including enterprise corruption, larceny, money laundering, identity theft, and conspiracy. The alleged ringleaders negotiated with sellers to purchase properties at a higher price than the seller was asking for. They would then arrange to keep the difference between what the bank lent and the seller’s price. “Sweet Deal” members would impersonate the seller, buyer, and legal representatives and set up fake closings, using fake identities to secure mortgages and sell homes. They allegedly kept the proceeds and let the house go into foreclosure. The ring, according to the district attorney, made millions of dollars in mortgage proceeds from the sale of at least 6 Westbury homes.
Source: <http://www.longislandpress.com/2011/03/17/17-charged-in-20m-mortgage-fraud-case/>

15. *March 17, New York Times* – (National) **F.D.I.C. sues ex-chief of big bank that failed.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) sued the former chief executive of Washington Mutual (WaMu) and two of his top lieutenants, accusing them of reckless lending before the 2008 collapse of what was the nation’s largest savings bank. The civil lawsuit, seeking to recover \$900 million, is the first against a major bank chief executive by the regulator and follows escalating public pressure to hold

bankers accountable for actions leading up to the financial crisis. Washington Mutual's longtime chief executive led the bank on a "lending spree" knowing the housing market was in a bubble, and failed to put in place the proper risk management systems and internal controls, according to a complaint filed March 17 in federal court in Seattle, Washington. WaMu's president of home lending and its chief operation officer were also accused of negligence for their roles in developing and leading the bank's aggressive growth strategy. Although the F.D.I.C. is mainly known for its role in shuttering failed lenders, the agency has a legal obligation to bring lawsuits against former directors and officers when it finds evidence of wrongdoing. So far, the F.D.I.C. has brought claims against 158 individuals at about 20 small banks that failed during the recent crisis. The agency is seeking a total of more than \$2.6 billion in damages. But the \$900 million case against the former WaMu officials is its biggest and most prominent action to date.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/18/business/18bank.html?src=busln>

16. *March 17, WTOP 103.5 FM Washington D.C.* – (Washington D.C.) **Serial bank robbery suspect nabbed.** A man suspected in 11 bank robberies in the Washington D.C. area since 2009 was arrested and has allegedly confessed to the crimes, WTOP has learned. The man was arrested at his home March 16, hours after allegedly robbing a SunTrust bank. The man, who has only been charged with the SunTrust robbery, is being held without bond after making an initial appearance in federal court. In the criminal complaint entered in U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, a confidential informant earlier in 2011 suggested the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force look at the man as a suspect in the string of robberies that began in November 2009. According to documents, in most robberies the perpetrator would write a demand note on a withdrawal slip, implying he had a gun and a pipe bomb. The suspect always wore a hat or hood during the robberies. After the March 16 robbery, authorities showed surveillance photos to two unidentified individuals who have each known the suspect for more than a year. Each positively identified the suspect in the photos.
Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=109&sid=2311166>

17. *March 16, FoxNews* – (National) **Lawmakers ask treasury to stem flow of cash to Mexico on prepaid gift cards.** Three U.S. Senators are asking the Treasury Department to finish long-awaited rules on prepaid gift and credit cards that cross the U.S. border with Mexico bypassing anti-money laundering requirements that anyone transporting more than \$10,000 declare his holdings. Several Senators wrote in a letter penned March 14 to the Treasury Secretary the substitution of cash for prepaid cards is enabling drug traffickers to escape anti-money laundering laws. "Under current law, a criminal, drug trafficker, or terrorist with hundreds of thousands of dollars on prepaid cards could literally walk across the U.S.-Mexico border without penalty. While the department continues to contemplate a rule, law enforcement's hands are tied as they observe stored value cards crossing to Mexico and are unable to do anything," the lawmakers wrote. Stored value cards are currently not subject to any reporting requirements. Treasury developed interim rules published last June that included excluding from reporting any cards that have a \$1,000 maximum fill-up or cards meant solely for specific retailers. But the final rules have not been completed. The Aite

Group, a research and advisory firm dealing with financial services, estimated in 2007 that branded and private label prepaid card transactions would total \$178 billion by 2010.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/03/16/lawmakers-ask-treasury-stem-flow-cash-mexico-pre-paid-gift-cards/>

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Transportation Sector

18. *March 18, CNN* – (International) **Increased screening on flights from Japan yields radiation blips.** Heightened radiation screening on flights arriving in the United States from Japan has triggered several low-level alerts. An American Airlines plane that arrived at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport from Tokyo March 16, created a blip on equipment being used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to screen inbound flights for radioactivity. Officials found a very low level of radiation in the plane’s cargo compartment, with isotopes consistent with medical supplies, an American Airlines spokesman said. “No aircraft entering the United States has tested positive for radiation at harmful levels,” according to a CBP statement March 17. Last year, 580,000 radiation alerts were detected, a DHS official said. All of the alerts were cleared and most were attributed to medical isotopes or naturally occurring radiation, the official said. “And this is very very consistent with what we would expect based on the pretty sophisticated monitoring of radiation levels in Tokyo, which is where we fly in Japan,” the American Airline spokesman said. Also on March 16, cargo being unloaded from flights from Japan tested positive for radiation in Chicago, Illinois, the DHS official said. The levels were deemed safe. United and Continental airlines operate 183 flights from Japan to the United States each week, according to a United spokesman. No passengers or baggage have tested positive for radiation, he said. On March 16, CBP announced close monitoring of flights from Japan “out of an abundance of caution.”

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/03/17/japan.flights.radiation/index.html>

19. *March 18, BBC News* – (International) **Terror plot BA man Rajib Karim gets 30 years.** A former British Airways (BA) software engineer has been jailed for 30 years for plotting to blow up a plane. The 31 year old BA engineer, from Newcastle, used his job to access information for an al-Qaeda preacher based in Yemen to target BA’s flights in the United States. Sentencing him at Woolwich Crown Court, the justice said, he was a committed jihadist who planned offenses “about as grave as could be imagined”. The Justice said the suspect had worked “incessantly” for terrorist purposes. The BA engineer, who had sought a British passport, had kept his true intentions secret from colleagues at BA, the justice added. He also said the BA engineer was a “willing follower” who could have brought serious harm and death to civilians had his planning with others come to anything.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12788224>

20. *March 18, London Daily Mail* – (California) **Landslide shuts Californian Highway 1 as a big chunk falls into the sea.** A 40 foot section of California's Highway 1 fell into the Pacific Ocean after a landslide March 16. The highway is expected to be shut for several days. Despite being new asphalt, all of the southbound lane is now gone, and the soil under the northbound lane also is giving way. The California Highway Patrol closed the lane at Palo Colorado Road and drivers going north were stopped at the Bixby Creek Bridge. No one was injured in the slide. State transportation workers are working to repair the highway. It is not immediately clear what caused the slide or how long the highway will be closed.
Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1367404/Landslide-shuts-Californian-Highway-1-big-chunk-falls-sea.html>
21. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Nashville police investigating after laser pointed at 4 aircraft.** An investigation is under way after someone used a laser pointer on four aircraft near Nashville International Airport in Nashville, Tennessee. One of the craft was a Vanderbilt University Medical Center helicopter. A spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Atlanta, Georgia, said the other three craft were commercial airliners on approach to the airport. A Vanderbilt LifeFlight flight nurse said a green laser was pointed into the helicopter at about 11:30 p.m. March 17. He said the flight crew consisted of the pilot and two flight nurses. The pilot saw more than one person running into a house below. Using a global positioning system, the pilot located the house and called Metro Nashville Police. No one answered the door when police knocked.
Source: <http://www.wreg.com/news/sns-ap-tn--helicopter-laser,0,4391017.story>
22. *March 17, New York Daily News* – (National) **Mentally-ill man held after sneaking past security at JFK, boarding flights without a ticket.** A Maryland man with a history of mental illness was ordered held without bail March 16 on charges he boarded a jetliner at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York without a ticket. The suspect, 30, of Chevy Chase, breached security in Terminals 2 and 4 before managing to board a Delta flight bound for San Francisco, California February 24, according to the complaint filed in Brooklyn Federal Court. The plane was taxiing to the runway when flight attendants noticed the man did not have a seat and all the rows were filled with passengers, a police detective with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey stated. When the plane returned to the gate, the suspect admitted he stole a boarding pass from the Delta ticket counter to get through Terminal 2, then bypassed the Transportation Security Administration checkpoint in Terminal 4 by sliding behind a removable partition, the detective stated. Earlier in the day, the man had also tried to board a Virgin American flight and another Delta flight without a ticket. A Brooklyn magistrate noted the suspect had a history for petty crimes all over the country when he was supposed to be receiving psychiatric treatment.
Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/03/17/2011-03-17_mentallyill_man_held_after_sneaking_past_security_at_jfk_boarding_flights_witho_u.html

23. *March 16, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* – (Oregon) **More vessels using risky alternative to Oregon Inlet.** The sand clogging Oregon Inlet in North Carolina is putting more than just Dare County’s economy at risk. Vessels are increasingly using an unmarked, unprotected channel beneath the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge, a trend that has caught the attention of officials who fear it puts the safety of boaters and vehicle drivers at risk. Oregon Inlet — a waterway that fishermen and the U.S. Coast Guard depend on to access the ocean — is filling up with sand at a rate faster than daily dredging can remove. The process, called shoaling, has increased in recent weeks for reasons not yet understood. Especially affected is the widest span beneath the Bonner Bridge, where a fender system protects the bridge from boats that lose control while passing underneath. As a dredge from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fights to keep that passageway navigable, more fishing vessels are using the span to the immediate south — where bridge pilings are vulnerable to collision. One waterman said March 15, that he knows of at least three incidents in which boats have hit the structure in the past few weeks. An employee of Wanchese Fish Co. said mariners often do not report such incidents to the Coast Guard because doing so would almost certainly require that the boat be hauled from the water for inspection.
Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2011/03/more-vessels-using-risky-alternative-oregon-inlet>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [27](#), [55](#), and [56](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *March 17, KGMB 23 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **No radiation detected from mail or people arriving from Japan.** Government officials and commercial airlines reassured Hawaii residents that mail, cargo, and people arriving from Japan do not pose a health risk, according to information released March 17. Concerns about radiation affecting people in Hawaii started following the nuclear crisis that continues after the catastrophic quake and tsunami in Japan. “There have been no mail, mail parcels that have alerted us to any higher levels of radiation that would be harmful or hazardous to life of health,” said a U.S. Postal Inspector. The U.S. Postal Service, the customs agency, and the postal police all work together to screen incoming goods and people. They said efforts to detect any radiological threat is standard procedure and has not been ramped up in the wake of the Japan crisis.
Source: <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=14274649>
25. *March 17, YourNabe.com* – (New York) **Mail thefts hit 300 in Queens Village: Resident.** Some residents of the 105th Avenue block in Queens, New York received a letter February 25 from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, telling them “mail was stolen from your letter carrier’s route.” A spokeswoman for the FBI said the agency was not involved in the investigation and would only take the lead in the probe if the Postal Inspection Service believed the theft was carried out by a criminal enterprise. The U.S. postal inspector who sent a letter notifying residents of the theft, said March

15 that about 300 homes were affected. “We don’t have an exact number because the mail truck was broken into,” she said, noting the investigation that started last month is still ongoing.

Source:

http://www.yournabe.com/articles/2011/03/17/queens_village_times/news/qv_qv_mail_folo_20110317.txt

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *March 18, Food Safety News* – (Ohio) **Listeria test prompts recall of wieners, sausages.** Sugar Valley Meats of Sugarcreek, Ohio, recalled approximately 200 pounds of ready-to-eat wieners, beef wieners, and small-link smoked sausage because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. According to a news release, the potential problem was discovered as a result of routine sampling by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The department has not received any consumer complaints or reports of illness. Package labels bear the establishment number (Est. 165) inside the Ohio Department of Agriculture inspection legend. The products involved were sold through Sugar Valley’s retail store from February 23 through March 15. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/listeria-test-prompts-recall-of-wieners-sausages/>

27. *March 17, Grand Island Independent* – (Nebraska) **Semi overturns, spills fertilizer.** A semi and trailer carrying fertilizer overturned on the on-ramp from northbound Highway 281 onto westbound Interstate 80 at about 10:45 a.m. March 17 south of Grand Island, Nebraska. The driver said he was all right but suffered minor scrapes and bruises. He was wearing a seat belt. The truck ended up facing west while lying on its right side on the on-ramp and right lane of southbound 281. Some of the fertilizer on board, Thio-Sul or ammonium thiosulphate, drained into a nearby drainage ditch and through to the other side of the on-ramp. The trailer was estimated to have between 5,000 and 5,500 gallons of material, and at least half spilled. The Grand Island Fire Department, hazardous materials truck, emergency management, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Department of Roads, and state patrol responded. Sand was brought in to help with the cleanup and briefly closed the on-ramp from southbound 281 to Interstate 80. Traffic was slowed on southbound 281 so the semi could be set upright and towed.

Source:

<http://www.theindependent.com/articles/2011/03/17/news/local/doc4d8257328e419862501038.txt>

28. *January 12, Wallet Pop* – (National) **Kashi recalls Southwest Style Chicken meals because of packaging mistake.** Natural foods company Kashi recalled about 2,790

pounds of Kashi Southwest Style Chicken meals because the packages may have a different meal — Kashi Chicken Pasta Pomodoro — packaged in the box, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said. The pasta meal contains egg, which may cause an allergic reaction in some consumers. The problem was discovered when customers complained the product was not correctly labeled, USDA said. So far, no one has gotten sick from eating the meals. Included in the recall is the 10-ounce Kashi Southwest Style Chicken entrees with the UPC code 1862729292 and the lot code of DEC28 11 RF B1. Request Foods Inc. of Holland, Michigan produced the chicken entrees for Kashi on December 28, 2010, and shipped the meals to stores nationwide.

Source: <http://www.walletpop.com/2011/03/18/kashi-recalls-southwest-style-chicken-meals-because-of-packaging/>

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Water Sector

29. *March 18, Salem Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **More rain in March than usual, but no new record.** Rainfall caused 1.25 million gallons of sewage to overflow into the Willamette River in Salem, Oregon March 16. The Union Street pump station began overflowing about 10:15 a.m. and stopped shortly after 4 p.m. “When the system reaches its limit, the Union Street pump diverts into the river to avoid a backup in to businesses and homes in the downtown area,” the stormwater and wastewater collection manager for the City of Salem said. The sewer system was at or over capacity in several Salem locations because of heavy rainfall and saturated soil. City officials investigated all overflows and placed warning signs where appropriate. At only halfway through the month, March has been more rainy than average but not record-breaking. According to the National Weather Service, 5.54 inches of rain fell in Salem from March 1 through March 16. That is 3.18 inches more than the monthly average.

Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110318/NEWS/103180338/More-rain-March-than-usual-no-new-record?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|News>

30. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. man, company accused of dumping gas wastewater.** A Pennsylvania waste hauler and his company were charged March 17 with dozens of criminal counts for what prosecutors said was years of dumping millions of gallons of wastewater from natural gas drilling, sewage sludge, and restaurant grease into streams and mine shafts. The state attorney general’s office filed 98 criminal counts against the man, and 77 counts against his company. Prosecutors said he told his drivers to open valves at natural gas drilling wells, often at night or during rainstorms, so the wastewater would run into nearby waterways. He also is accused of telling drivers to dump the contents of their trucks into a floor drain that led directly to a nearby stream. The charges come as environmentalists raise concerns the natural gas drilling rush sweeping Pennsylvania is contaminating rivers and aquifers

that supply drinking water around the state. “This was a calculated and long-running scheme to personally profit by illegally dumping wastewater, regardless of the potential for environmental damage,” the acting attorney general said. Prosecutors said the dumping took place between 2003 and 2009. The state has said an initial round of tests showed no contamination problems.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/17/general-us-gas-drilling-dumping-charges_8362365.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *March 18, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **West Side nursing home fire called suspicious.** A fire at the Columbus Manor nursing facility in Chicago, Illinois, that sent one patient to the hospital with smoke inhalation March 18 was highly suspicious, fire officials said. Fires broke out in three separate rooms in closets at the nursing home, located at 5107 W. Jackson Boulevard in the South Austin neighborhood. The building’s sprinkler system put out the fires. A female patient in her 60s was taken to Loretto Hospital with smoke inhalation. She was in a second-floor room where a mattress was set on fire. “It’s highly suspicious because the fire started in more than one room at the same time,” a fire department spokesman said. Originally, an EMS Plan 1 was called for the fire, which sent 5 ambulances to the 2-story facility about 4:15 a.m. Residents were reported back in their rooms by 4:50 a.m. According to a Web site, the privately owned nursing home has more than 130 residents. Police bomb and arson squad members were being called in to investigate.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-nursing-home-fire-sends-1-to-hospital-20110318,0,3997048.story>

32. *March 16, United Press International* – (Michigan) **Sisters arrested in \$9M Medicare scam.** Two Michigan sisters wanted in a \$9.1 million Medicare scam were arrested in Colombia, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary said. She announced the arrest March 15 at a Medicare fraud conference in Detroit, Michigan, the Detroit Free Press reported. The government said the Detroit area has been a hotbed of such activity. The sisters, fugitives for 4 years, were on a federal most-wanted list for Medicare fraud. They were caught March 13 as they tried to board a plane in Colombia after tipsters called a hotline, san investigator said. The sisters were charged with a scam at their Dearborn Medical and Rehabilitation Center, a drug infusion clinic that serves people with AIDS, hepatitis, and other chronic illnesses. They were charged with \$9.1 million in fraudulent Medicare billings. They moved to Michigan in 2005 to escape an investigation for similar accusations in Miami, Florida, federal court records show.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/03/16/Sisters-arrested-in-9M-Medicare-scam/UPI-97191300307435/

For another story, see item [21](#)

Government Facilities Sector

33. *March 18, Tinley Park Southtown Star* – (Illinois) **Blue Island school to stay closed after haz-mat situation.** A Blue Island, Illinois school intermediate school remained closed March 18 as officials clean up a hazardous materials situation that hospitalized at least 30 students and staff and figure out its cause. At least 22 pupils, all fourth- and fifth-graders, and 10 school staffers, including the principal, were taken to area hospitals from Paul Revere Intermediate School March 17 and the building was evacuated, the Blue Island mayor said. Ambulances took students from the school to at least seven different hospitals for evaluation, one of which was as far away as St. Margaret Mercy Hospital in Dyer, Indiana, the mayor said. The first 10 were taken to MetroSouth Medical Center in Blue Island. Conditions were not available late March 17, but some patients already had been treated and released. A janitor who was mixing bleach and a drain cleaner in a janitor's closet was the first individual overcome by the fumes, the mayor said. The fumes did not get into classrooms, but officials believe students were exposed to a strong bleach smell while exiting rooms into the hallway, the Cook County School District 130 superintendent said. The pupils taken to the hospital mostly complained of shortness of breath, he said.
Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/4369244-417/haz-mat-situation-at-bi-school.html>
34. *March 18, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **New charges filed in alleged murder plot.** Fairbanks-area militia members in Alaska face new charges they plotted to kill a federal judge, a member of the judge's family, and an IRS employee, and, as part of a larger group, gathered illegal weapons to carry out the attacks, according to a U.S. attorney. The U.S. Attorney for Alaska announced new charges March 17 against four Fairbanks-area residents who were arrested on different charges the week of March 7. State prosecutors described all four as senior members of the Alaska Peacekeepers Militia. She said there were two indictments: a 55-year-old man and his 64-year-old wife were charged with conspiracy to murder a U.S. District Court judge who was presiding over a case involving their unpaid taxes, and with threatening to kill the judge and the judge's family member. They are also accused of conspiring to kill an IRS employee, and the man is charged with illegally possessing a handgun with a silencer. For the male suspect, the new indictment replaces earlier charges he alone threatened the judge. In the second indictment, the 27-year-old militia founder, the 55-year-old man, and a 36-year-old suspect were charged with conspiracy to possess unregistered destructive devices, and other weapons charges. The militia founder is accused of illegally having a machine gun and a silencer.
Source: <http://www.adn.com/2011/03/17/1761531/new-charges-in-case-to-kill-judge.html>
35. *March 18, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Lab tech pleads guilty to killing Yale student.** An animal lab technician pleaded guilty March 17 to the 2009 slaying of a doctoral student at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, averting what was expected to be a high-profile trial. The suspect, whose father said he was burdened by a

tortured heart, pleaded guilty to murder and criminal attempt to commit sexual assault. As part of a plea deal, the 26-year-old suspect will be sentenced to 44 years in prison, a prosecutor said. He is tentatively scheduled to be sentenced May 20. The sexual assault plea was entered under the Alford doctrine, meaning the suspect does not admit guilt but acknowledges there is probably enough evidence to convict him. The suspect had pleaded not guilty to murder and felony murder, but his lawyers the week of March 14 said he would change his plea as part of a deal. Police found the victim's body stuffed inside a wall at the Yale Animal Research Center September 13, 2009, the day she was to be married. She had been strangled, and her jaw and collarbone were broken.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-yale-killing-20110318,0,7874778.story>

36. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Washington) **WA boy, 12, gets year for school threats.** A 12-year-old boy who threatened fellow Snoqualmie Valley middle school student and his family was sentenced to more than a year in a Washington state juvenile facility. Court papers said the boy's mother told police her son said he planned to kill about 20 students who teased him at Tolt Middle School in Carnation, Washington, and planned to kill teachers and his family members. The boy was expelled from school in October 2010. Charging papers said police found two shotguns and a 9 mm pistol in a camper where the boy had been staying near his home. A King County deputy prosecutor said the boy pleaded guilty March 17 in juvenile court to felony harassment for threatening to kill his family and a fellow student, to harassment for threatening another student, and to assault for choking his sister.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014529609_apwastudentthreatssentence.html

37. *March 17, WEAU 13 Eau Claire* – (Wisconsin) **Senator Kapanke's car damaged; gets death threats.** A Republican state senator in Wisconsin said he has changed his work schedule after getting death threats and having his car damaged. The senator said he had to get his windshield fixed after someone cracked it in Madison. He noticed the damage after the collective bargaining reform bill passed March 9. The senator received threats by e-mail and people have rallied outside his home.

Source:

http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/Senator_Kapankes_car_damaged_gets_death_threats_118215739.html?ref=739

38. *March 17, Associated Press* – (International) **Security company picked to guard U.S. embassy in Afghanistan fired for failure to perform work.** The State Department has fired the contractor it hired to guard the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, leaving protection of the key diplomatic outpost in the hands of another company the department has been trying to replace for more than a year. The State Department said in a statement March 17 it ended its agreement for embassy security with EOD Technology of Lenoir City, Tennessee, because the company was not going to be able to start work May 1, as the contract required. EOD won the \$274 million award less than 6 months ago. The company was set to replace ArmorGroup North America. In

late 2009, the State Department said it was cutting ties with ArmorGroup after guards were caught engaging in lewd behavior and drinking excessively at their living quarters a few miles from the embassy.

Source: <http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-us-afghanistan-embassy-security,0,7686633.story>

39. *March 17, Military Times* – (North Carolina; National) **Reservist faces 15 counts in espionage case.** A U.S. Navy intelligence specialist accused of trying to sell classified documents has waived his right to a pretrial hearing and was formally arraigned on multiple counts of attempted espionage and mishandling classified information during a hearing March 17 at Norfolk Naval Station in Virginia. The reserve intelligence specialist 2nd class faces a general court-martial that will begin no earlier than May 19, the military judge in the case said. The man is charged with 4 counts of attempted espionage and 11 counts of mishandling classified information. He was arrested December 1 at a hotel near Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina, by agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and the FBI after selling classified documents to an undercover FBI agent posing as a foreign intelligence agent, according to NCIS and a federal search warrant. According to the warrant, the man accepted a total of \$3,500 from an undercover FBI agent in exchange for dozens of pages of documents that were classified either secret or top secret. The suspect is being held in the Naval Brig in Norfolk, Virginia.

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/03/navy-espionage-charge-reservist-031711w/>

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *March 17, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **State police dispatcher faces criminal charge.** A Connecticut state police dispatcher who allegedly used a work computer to look up information about her mother's criminal case has been arrested. A dispatcher at the Troop H barracks in Hartford was arrested February 17 and charged with third-degree computer crime. Her next court date is March 25. According to the warrant for her arrest, the dispatcher improperly accessed a statewide computer system called COLLECT, on June 2, 2010. COLLECT provides users with a link to the National Crime Information Center database. It is intended for criminal justice and law enforcement purposes only and is not meant for "personal reasons or curiosity," the warrant states. When the police sergeant told the suspect he was investigating her, she admitted she had accessed the system to get information about her mother's pending criminal case. The suspect's mother pleaded guilty to risk of injury to a minor on January 24, 2011, and was sentenced to 7 years in prison, suspended after 6 months.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-dispatcher-arrested-0318-20110317,0,799049.story>

41. *March 17, Stickney Suburban Life* – (Illinois) **Berwyn Police Department unveils new emergency notification system.** The Berwyn, Illinois Police Department is

unveiling a new emergency notification system that will help them reach residents more efficiently during emergencies. The new system uses voice over internet protocol, or VOIP, to notify the department's entire directory within minutes. Currently, the system only has phone numbers for landlines within the city. E-mail addresses can also be registered. The new system, designed by Global Connect Systems, gives the police department advanced features like one-touch call back for residents receiving emergency phone calls who need assistance, customized mapping capabilities to notify just a portion of the city, and remote access and deployment, which lets any emergency management official send out a call using any phone.

Source: <http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/stickney/newsnow/x713420168/Berwyn-Police-Department-unveils-new-emergency-notification-system>

42. *March 17, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **DOJ cites New Orleans police for rights violations.** The New Orleans, Louisiana Police Department (NOPD) too often uses excessive force, conducts illegal stops and arrests, and has a pattern of discriminating on the basis of race, gender, and sexual orientation, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said in a report March 17. The report — which stemmed from a request for an investigation by the mayor of New Orleans — outlined problems with training, recruiting, supervision, and interrogation practices. The report said the police department encourages under-investigating violence against women and found a systemic police failure to respond quickly to calls from people who do not speak English fluently. It identified “a troubling racial disparity” in use of force, finding that in all 27 instances between January 2009 and May 2010 in which police intentionally fired guns at people, the subjects were African American. Federal officials called for reforms to improve training, foster better community collaboration, and eliminate bias. The NOPD superintendent said he wants permission from the city council to reorganize the department and pick new senior leaders. The mayor said he expects the city and DOJ will enter a consent decree that outlines steps required to address problems and timelines for completing each step.
- Source: <http://www.fox43.com/news/nationworld/sns-rt-usreport-us-neworletre72g8el-20110317,0,3228510.story>

43. *March 17, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans man accused of sending threatening e-mails to FBI agent is arrested.** A New Orleans, Louisiana, man accused of sending threatening e-mails to an FBI agent was arrested March 15 and booked with two counts of cyberstalking, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court records show. The suspect allegedly sent an FBI agent two bizarre e-mails within a week of each other after he ran into the FBI agent and his young son while walking in the Warehouse District March 4, according to a police report. The agent had interviewed the man last month during an investigation into “inappropriate” e-mails he sent to various judges and their employees, the report said. During the sidewalk encounter, the suspect walked up to the FBI agent with a “wild, glazed look” on his face and tried to ask him about his son. The agent excused himself and kept walking with his son. The next day, the suspect allegedly sent the agent an e-mail with the subject line “your son” that read in part: “You have no idea how strange it was to run into you and your son last night ... Your son is now connected to this bizarre story.

Being connected to me is not usually a good thing. I am sorry.” On March 11, the suspect sent another e-mail with another cryptic warning. “You got your son involved. Why? ... A lot of people who are connected (to) me are dying ... YOU SHOULD ALL BE VERY CAREFUL,” according to the police report. An FBI spokeswoman would not say whether federal authorities might seek charges against the suspect as well, noting the pending case is being handled by the district attorney. If convicted of the cyberstalking charges, the suspect could be fined up to \$2,000 and imprisoned for a year. He remained in the Orleans Parish jail March 17 on a \$300,000 bond, according to sheriff’s office records.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2011/03/new_orleans_man_accused_of_sen.html

44. *March 15, WNBC 4 New York* – (New York) **NYPD to get new high speed counter-terror boat.** The New York City Police Department (NYPD) is about to get a second powerful, high tech speed boat to help handle security in New York harbor. The boat, similar to one already in use by the U.S. Coast Guard, will be 72 feet long and run by jet propulsion. The police commissioner said March 15 the boat is designed to help speed as many as 30 heavily armed NYPD officers to any crisis. The boat will be used to help secure ferries and landmarks like Liberty Island and Ellis Island. The boat is also equipped with secure compartments so officers can respond to a chemical or biological attack, the commissioner said.

Source: <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/NYPD-To-Get-New-High-Speed-Counter-Terror-Boat-118050504.html>

For more stories, see items [18](#), [21](#), and [23](#)

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Information Technology Sector

45. *March 18, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Sony says six Japan plants remain halted.** Japan’s Sony Corp. said March 18 six of its manufacturing plants that make various devices and components, including Blu-ray discs, and lithium-ion batteries, remain closed following the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck the country March 11. Research firm IHS iSuppli Corp. said in a report that at least five components of Apple Inc.’s iPad 2 are sourced from Japanese suppliers, adding that electricity and transportation disruptions in Japan could potentially impact global shipments of the tablet device launched earlier this month. “While some of these suppliers reported that their facilities were undamaged, delivery of components from all of these companies is likely to be impacted at least to some degree by logistical issues now plaguing most Japanese industries in the quake zone,” the research firm said. Depending on the facility, the Sony sites make magnetic tapes, optical devices, integrated circuit cards, and semiconductor lasers. A spokeswoman said the company expects that in the near term, there will be an impact on Sony’s ability to supply components and devices. On the matter of whether a disruption in component supply will impact the company’s ability to deliver and make electronic gadgets, she said:

“We’re currently investigating the matter.”

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704608504576207843282272846.htm>
1

46. *March 18, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Slick cyber attack hits US security titan RSA.** U.S. computer security company RSA said March 17 hackers broke into its computers and swiped data that could be used to breach defenses of some systems guarded with its technology. RSA is the security division of EMC Corporation in Massachusetts. Some of the pilfered data related to SecurID “two-factor authentication products” that lets computers connecting online reliably identify one another, according to the firm’s executive chairman. “While at this time we are confident that the information extracted does not enable a successful direct attack on any of our RSA SecurID customers,” he said, “this information could potentially be used to reduce the effectiveness of a current two-factor authentication implementation as part of a broader attack.” RSA is working with authorities to investigate the attack.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110318/ts_alt_afp/usitinternetcrimesoftwarersa

47. *March 18, The Register* – (International) **MS claims credit for Rustock botnet takedown.** Action taken by Microsoft and law enforcement agencies was responsible for the takedown of the Rustock botnet, the software company said March 18. Anti-spam firms were taken by surprise by the abrupt cessation of junk mail from zombie clients in the Rustock botnet network March 16. The reason for the respite, revealed March 17, was a lawsuit by Microsoft that resulted in a series of coordinated raids targeting systems identified as being integral to the botnet’s command and control network. The raids involved the seizure of kits at seven U.S.-based hosting facilities by U.S. Marshals who teamed up with investigators in Microsoft’s digital crimes unit to run the exercise, codenamed Operation b107. The operation followed similar tactics used in the takedown of the Waledac botnet in 2010. Microsoft’s most pressing priority on Rustock is to work in co-operation with national CERTs to organize the clean-up of the estimated 1 million zombie PCs that formed the botnet – and which remain infected. Rustock, which specialized in sending junk mail adverts for sites that sell unlicensed pharmaceutical drugs, was responsible for sending about 39 percent of global spam in circulation in 2010, according to Symantec.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/18/ms_claims_credit_for_rustock_botnet_takedown/

48. *March 17, H Security* – (International) **Under the phishing filters’ radar.** Criminals are reportedly using a new phishing technique that allows them to bypass the fraud warnings issued by modern browsers such as Firefox and Chrome. On its blog, security firm M86Security reports the trick involves attaching an HTML document instead of sending a link. It remains unclear how many users have become victims so far. E-mail recipients opening the HTML document in their browsers are, for example, presented with a bogus PayPal form with the usual request to enter their access data due to alleged security issues. As the form is being processed locally on the user’s computer,

the phishing filter does not issue a warning because it only filters external URLs. A click on the “Submit” button then transmits the entered data to a PHP script on a (hacked) server using a POST request. According to M86Security, the browser does not warn about this either.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Under-the-phishing-filters-radar-1209754.html>

49. *March 17, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **40 evacuated after chemical spill at Mesa business.** Fire officials were called to the International Rectifier semiconductor manufacturing plant in Mesa, Arizona, March 17 with report of leaking chemicals, officials said. Crews from Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, and Phoenix were called to mitigate the potential hazards at the facility near Extension and Baseline roads around 2 p.m. A Mesa Fire Department spokesman said a line carrying a liquid regularly used in the semiconductor industry sprung a leak inside the building. After the release of the chemical, the system shut itself down and sounded a warning to employees, he said. The building’s 40 employees were safely evacuated. Seven employees were evaluated by paramedics on scene but none were transported to the hospital, the fire department spokesman said. Fire officials were able to secure the point in the line where the leakage occurred and contain the spill inside the facility.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/03/17/20110317Mesa-chemical-spill-abrk.html>

50. *March 17, H Security* – (International) **PHP 5.3.6 closes five security holes.** The PHP developers have released PHP 5.3.6, a maintenance update to the PHP interpreter. Among over 60 bug fixes are a number of fixes for security related problems. A format string vulnerability in the phar extension of PHP 5.3.5, CVE-2011-1153, may allow attackers to view memory, cause a denial of service, or execute arbitrary code. There was also an integer overflow in the shmop_read() function which allowed for denial-of-service (CVE-2011-1092). Other flaws included crashes with crafted tags in exif metadata and ziparchive with empty archives. Security has also been enhanced in the protocol parsing done by the fastcgi process manager (FPM SAPI). Some of the flaws reportedly affect all versions of PHP 5.3.x and earlier.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/PHP-5-3-6-closes-five-security-holes-1210147.html>

51. *March 17, Darkreading* – (International) **Office 2010 immune to new zero-day Flash attacks.** Microsoft March 17 addressed new, targeted zero-day attacks revealed by Adobe the week of March 14 that hide a Flash Player exploit inside Excel spreadsheet documents — confirming Office 2010 is safe from the attack due to built-in security mitigation features, and offering stopgap protection measures for earlier versions of its software. Adobe plans to issue a patch the week of March 21 for the flaw, which affects Adobe Flash Player versions 10.2.152.33 and earlier. According to Microsoft’s analysis of the exploit, the exploit loads shellcode into memory, executes heap-spraying, and then loads the Flash byte stream from memory to exploit the previously unknown CVE-2011-0609 flaw. Users of earlier versions of Office should run Microsoft’s EMET, which helps block targeted attacks exploiting unpatched vulnerabilities with mitigations

for third-party apps and older Microsoft apps.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/database-security/167901020/security/attacks-breaches/229301226/office-2010-immune-to-new-zero-day-flash-attacks.html>

52. *March 14, Electronics Weekly* – (International) **Japan quake closed seven chip factories, says Renesas.** Renesas Electronics has said the impact of the earthquake in northern Japan March 11 has forced a number of production facilities to close. The semiconductor manufacturer has confirmed that 7 out of 22 of its factories in Japan have temporarily shut down production. Among these factories, Renesas Yamagata Semiconductor Tsuruoka Factory is currently beginning its startup procedures to restart its manufacturing. The company said it was “assessing the extent of the status of the remaining six factories.” Renesas Electronics also said that its factories and offices would close at specific times due to the blackout measures announced by Tokyo Electric Power Company.

Source: <http://www.electronicweekly.com/Articles/2011/03/14/50679/japan-quake-closed-seven-chip-factories-says-renesas.htm>

For another story, see item [13](#)

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

53. *March 17, Portland Press Herald* – (Maine) **Cape E. man charged with threatening NPR hosts.** A former University of Southern Maine (USM) student is facing federal charges for allegedly sending e-mail threats to two National Public Radio (NPR) hosts. The suspect, 38, was arrested in late January by FBI agents and indicted late last month in U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine. The man was arrested inside the USM library as agents found a shotgun and shells in his Volvo station wagon, according to court records. According to an FBI affidavit, the suspect sent a series of threatening messages to the NPR hosts. A January 17 message said the NPR host “is helping to destroy me to use me as a human sacrifice. She will be raped, beaten, tortured, and murdered very soon,” according to the affidavit. That e-mail was traced to the Starbucks on Congress Street in Portland. Because the e-mails crossed state lines, the suspect was charged with transmitting threatening communications in interstate commerce. The suspect was being held in Cumberland County Jail.

Source: <http://www.pressherald.com/news/maine-portland-NPR-threats-USM-hosts.html>

54. *March 17, Philadelphia Daily News* – (Pennsylvania) **Sports radio talkers forced to evacuate.** Two radio hosts were forced off the air for 40 minutes on March 17, after the 10-story Lower Merion, Pennsylvania building where Sportsradio 610 WIP broadcasts from was evacuated when employees smelled smoke. The fire alarm went off at about 5 p.m. March 17 and most evacuated the building at Bala Plaza near City Avenue, WIP's program director said. It is not clear whether there was an actual fire but, according to WIP program director, firefighters located a fan in a lower level garage that may have been responsible for the smell. WIP was back on-the-air by 6:05 p.m.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20110317_Sports_radio_talkers_forced_to_evacuate.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

55. *March 17, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Woman, man arrested after hostage situation in Biscayne Boulevard motel.** A man trying to evade police held a mother and child hostage for several hours March 16 inside a Miami, Florida motel, police said, forcing busy Biscayne Boulevard closed while officers worked to get everyone out safely. Late March 16, police arrested the alleged hostage-taker, who was wanted in a robbery case in Miami, a police spokeswoman said. Police went to the Saturn Motel to look for the suspect, she said. The man ran into a motel room that had a mother and child inside. He then called the police station, police said, threatening to hurt the pair. SWAT officers were brought in, and traffic was diverted away from the motel. About 8 p.m., police had everyone out of the motel without injuries, and the man was arrested. Police found no weapons, the spokeswoman said.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/17/2120443/police-man-apparently-barricades.html>

56. *March 17, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Section of Gallery mall evacuated due to fire.** An entire section of The Gallery at Market East in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was evacuated after a store fire March 16. The fire was reported at the NET Kids store just after 4:30 p.m. The fire was described as a small one, and the blaze was placed under control within 20 minutes. However, the section of The Gallery known as Gallery One was evacuated due to the fire. That portion of the mall remained closed the rest of the day. Fire officials said the blaze was extinguished before firefighters arrived. Firefighters arrived to check on the ventilation, officials said. The 900 block of Market Street was closed because of fire equipment on the scene.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8019355>

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

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

57. *March 17, East Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Snake River National Trail closed temporarily.** The U.S. Forest Service closed a 1-mile section of the Snake River National Recreation Trail in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area in Oregon because of unsafe conditions. A spokeswoman for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest said a rock retaining wall near Half Moon Bar has become unstable and the trail is collapsing. “Several rocks have dislodged from the structure and there are large holes and eroded soil on the trail surface,” she said. Because the retaining wall is against the face of a steep rock overhang, no alternate routes are available and repair work will be complicated, officials said.
Source: http://www.eastoregonian.com/news/snake-river-national-trail-closed-temporarily/article_cdd24f9e-50c6-11e0-a661-001cc4c03286.html
58. *March 17, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Pair accused of tagging national monument to face federal charges.** A 22-year-old and a 20-year-old suspect were indicted March 17 in Jacksonville, Florida, on charges of malicious mischief and violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. The Jacksonville residents are accused of spray painting the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in St. Augustine January 20. The National Park Service investigated the case. The Castillo de San Marcos is a more than 300-year-old Spanish fort, built “to protect and defend Spain’s claims in the New World,” according to the Park Service’s Web site. It was more recently used by the U.S. Coast Guard for training exercises and ceremonies during World War II, the site said. If convicted, the suspects could face up to 3 years in federal prison, officials said.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-spray-paint-indictment-jacksonvill20110317,0,4665936.story>
59. *March 17, KTXS 12 Abilene* – (Texas) **Texas Forest Service says Callahan County fires suspicious.** The Texas Forest Service (TFS) said three small grass fires started the morning of March 17 in Callahan County appeared to be suspicious. The TFS said crews were called out to the fires, located just south of I-20 and the Putnam Road exit, just after 2 a.m. TFS investigators were on the scene trying to determine how the fires were set. The fires burned about 30 acres and are now out, according to spokesmen.
Source: http://www.ktxs.com/big_country_news/27228793/detail.html
60. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Indiana approves firewood rules to combat invasive insects.** Indiana state wildlife officials March 15 approved new restrictions on using firewood at Indiana’s state-owned properties as part of an effort to combat infestations of invasive insects. The policy, approved by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission, allows the state to immediately impose the restrictions while the proposed permanent measure works its way through the normal rulemaking process. State officials said the goal is to protect state-owned properties from the spread of the emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and other pests and pathogens that can be transported in firewood. The change means that with few exceptions, only bundled firewood with a U.S. Department of Agriculture or Indiana state certification compliance stamp can be brought into state parks. Firewood must be purchased on site or be kiln-dried construction lumber.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110317/NEWS02/303170041/1071/NEWS0106/Indiana-approves-firewood-rules-combat-invasive-insects?odyssey=nav|head>

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Dams Sector

61. *March 18, WFMY 2 Greensboro* – (North Carolina) **Chief: explosive device was not a risk to Randleman Dam.** An improvised explosive device (IED) was found at the Randleman Regional Reservoir March 17 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The Greensboro police chief told WFMY News 2 March 18 the device was small, was not close to the dam, and could not compromise the dam. But, he added, it was big enough that it could have hurt people. The chief also said the device was put in the water at Randleman Lake not long ago. He said this was a device someone created to explode and could not have been a device used by construction or road crews. It was found on the northeast shoreline of the reservoir near the Randleman dam off of Jesse Small Road, according to a Greensboro Police Department news release. The fire chief said it was unclear if someone was targeted as there are no homes or development in the area where the IED was found. No injuries or property damage was reported from the event. The remaining shoreline of the reservoir was searched for additional suspected IED. The search resumed March 18 in an effort to help ensure reservoir waters are safe, the release said.

Source: <http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/166892/57/Improvised-Explosive-Device-Found-At-Randleman-Regional-Reservoir>

62. *March 17, KGO-TV 7 San Francisco* – (California) **Japan dam failure renews focus on California dams.** Experts have not yet determined what caused the dam to fail in Japan. The duration of ground shaking during the earthquake, which lasted roughly 3 minutes, may have contributed to the breach. However, the failure has led to concern about dams in California. “In California we do not have the kind of tectonic setting that would produce extremely long durations,” said a professor of civil and environmental engineering at University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) “California probably has the safest inventory of dams in the world. Having said that the possibility of a dam failure is not zero,” said a different UC Berkeley civil and engineering professor. “There is a process called structural Darwinism. An earthquake shakes a large area and if you miss something the earthquake finds it,” he said. Many older dams in California are in need of seismic retrofitting. A number of dams in Santa Clara County are running at diminished capacity, after restrictions were imposed by the California Division of the Safety of Dams. “The problem is significant,” the chairman of the Santa Clara Valley Water District board, told Homeland Security News Wire. “You have to understand that these dams are 80 years old. The earthquake standards back then were not what they are today.” The catastrophe in Japan makes clear the importance of strong regulations, California’s governor told reporters.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/state&id=8019607>

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