



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 March 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- United Press International reports the FBI said a suspicious package left March 18 near a federal building in Detroit, Michigan that houses several agencies, contained explosive components. (See item [43](#))
- According to Associated Press, a steak knife-wielding man, who gained access through an employee entrance, held police and security guards at bay for nearly an hour just before a basketball game at Staples Center arena in Los Angeles, California. (See item [58](#))

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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 21, WTAE 4 Pittsburgh** – (Pennsylvania) **Diesel pipeline burst sends fuel shooting into air.** Crews are cleaning up after a pipeline carrying diesel fuel burst in Shippingport, Pennsylvania, March 20, sending diesel fuel shooting 20 feet into the air. The break sent emergency and environmental crews into action along the Ohio River. Their first concern was stopping the oil from getting into the water supply for hundreds of thousands of people. Channel Four Action News reported the pipeline rupture is 10

inches in diameter and spilled thousands of gallons of diesel fuel an hour before it was stopped. Containment booms were set up on the Ohio River, but many residents said they were concerned about their drinking water, even though officials said they were confident no fuel leaked into the river. Buckeye Partners maintains the pipeline. The company shut it down March 20 and began using vacuum pumps to get rid of some of the diesel. The company also prepared a clamp to repair the ruptured pipe. Crews are investigating what caused the pipeline to burst. “It was a pressurized release from something that failed on the line. We don’t know what that was,” the Beaver County Emergency Services director said. Emergency crews said they are not aware of how much diesel fuel spilled.

Source: <http://www.wtae.com/r/27259108/detail.html>

2. *March 20, Oklahoma City Oklahoman* – (Oklahoma) **Oil rig explosion burns worker.** One person was burned when an oil rig exploded March 19 near Dacoma in Woods County, Oklahoma, an Oklahoma Corporation Commission spokesman said. He said the well is operated by Tulsa-based Eagle Energy Co., and Dan D Drilling was contracted to do the drilling. The spokesman said investigators have not determined what caused the blast, but preliminary reports indicated a gas pocket may have been hit, causing the rig to ignite. The worker was taken to an Oklahoma City hospital, but the spokesman said he did not know the worker’s condition.

Source: <http://newsok.com/oil-rig-explosion-burns-worker/article/3550378>

3. *March 20, WUPW 36 Toledo* – (Ohio) **Fire forces manhole covers to explode.** Firefighters blocked off several streets in downtown Toledo, Ohio, after an underground fire caused sewer manhole covers to explode. Adam Street between Erie and Huron streets was closed March 19 while crews dealt with the situation. Firefighters found burning insulation belonging to Toledo Edison electric company. There were no reported injuries.

Source: <http://www.foxtoledo.com/dpp/news/local/Fire-forces-manhole-covers-to-explode>

4. *March 19, Bangor Daily News* – (Maine) **High winds cause power outages in five Maine counties.** Strong gusts of wind caused numerous power outages March 18 in parts of Piscataquis, Penobscot, Hancock, Washington and Somerset counties, in Maine. Wind gusts of 40 to 45 mph were recorded in the area, according to a National Weather Service forecaster in Caribou. More than 2,000 Bangor Hydro-Electric Co. customers were still without power March 19. At 9 p.m. March 18 Central Maine Power Co. had an estimated 6,400 customers out of power systemwide, a spokeswoman said. Bangor Hydro had 10,881 outages late March 18. The bulk of those outages, nearly 5,700, were in northern Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. Central and southern Penobscot county had nearly 3,000 customers without power, while Hancock County was showing almost 2,200.

Source: <http://new.bangordailynews.com/2011/03/18/news/bangor/high-winds-cause-power-outages-in-five-maine-counties/>

5. *March 18, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Increase in number of coal cars derailed.** Bismarck, North Dakota police said 10 to 15 BNSF Railway coal cars derailed March 18 in the east part of the city, but no injuries have been reported. A police sergeant said officers responded to the derailment report just before 5 a.m., according to the Associated Press. The conductor told an officer that the eastbound engine, which had been pulling 20 to 30 cars full of coal, lost air supply and several of the cars flipped over, spilling their contents. The sergeant said some coal from a rail car fell on a white 2000 GMC van that belongs to Guardian Lock and Safe, causing \$500 in damage.
Source: <http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/46072/group/homepage/>

For another story, see item [24](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *March 21, WOWK 13 Huntington* – (West Virginia) **Chemical leak stopped at DuPont plant.** Hazmat and the Belle Fire Department were on standby March 20 at the DuPont Plant in Belle, West Virginia, after an amine leak, Metro 911 dispatchers said. Emergency crews were put on standby around 9:45 p.m., but released about 45 minutes later. Residents of Kanawha City were advised to stay indoors for at least an hour following the leak to allow time for the odor to dissipate, the Kanawha County Emergency Services Director said. A spokesman from DuPont Operations Public Affairs issued the following statement: “At 9:40 tonight, the DuPont Belle plant sounded the fume alert due to a small leak in the Amines area. The plant emergency response team responded and stopped the leak. No one was injured. The Belle Fire Department responded to the plant gate as a precaution per our normal joint protocol. The all-clear was sounded at 10:23 p.m. Our initial calculations indicate that the quantity released was approximately 10 gallons, which is below the reportable threshold quantity. The amines solution has a fishy odor that is easily detected at a very low concentration and odors have been detected off-site. We are continuing our investigation to finalize our calculations on the quantity released and determine the cause of the leak. All appropriate government agencies have been notified.”
Source: <http://wowktv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=96283>
7. *March 21, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Hazmat called to Appleton paper for chemical leak.** A haz-mat team was called to the Appleton paper plant in West Carrollton, Ohio, for a chemical spill. The spill happened just before 3 a.m. March 21 at the plant on Alex Bell Road. Authorities said a railroad car at the plant was leaking sodium hydroxide, a chemical commonly used in the paper making process. Officials said between 200 and 500 gallons of the chemical leaked. Appleton workers put on protective gear and began cleaning up the spill before West Carrollton firefighters and the Montgomery County haz-mat team arrived. No one was injured. Officials said the leak was caused by a hose or valve that broke at the top of the tanker car as workers were transferring the chemicals. Appletown Paper called in an outside environmental

cleanup company to finish cleaning up the spill.

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/27260185/detail.html>

8. *March 19, WDIV 4 Detroit* – (Michigan) **Explosive fire rocks Detroit warehouse.** A fire broke out March 19 at Preferred Filter Recycling in Detroit, Michigan, on Gratiot near French road. The call went out shortly before 2 a.m. and was immediately declared a 2-alarm fire. Firefighters said they heard several explosions coming from the building. Fire crews had their hands full as heavy flames and smoke could be seen for miles. However, firefighters were unable to enter the building because of the possibility of chemical concerns from what was in the plant. The business recycles and processes metals. No injuries were reported. At the time of this update, the fire was still smoldering and had not completely been put out yet by Detroit Fire.

Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/27247959/detail.html>

9. *March 18, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Bayer drops plan for toxic MIC production in W.Va.** Bayer CropScience said March 18 it is abandoning plans to resume production in West Virginia of a toxic chemical that killed thousands of people in Bhopal, India, in the world's deadliest industrial disaster. Bayer broke the news during a federal court hearing in a lawsuit brought by residents seeking to stop the company from restarting the unit that produces methyl isocyanate. The chemical typically known as MIC killed about 15,000 people and sickened about a half-million when it leaked from a former Union Carbide plant in Bhopal in 1984. Bayer halted MIC production at the plant in Institute last summer. Bayer uses methyl isocyanate to manufacture pesticides at the plant, and had hoped to resume production before the 2011 growing season. The operation is about 10 miles west of Charleston in the heavily populated Kanawha Valley. Bayer decided March 17 it would not restart production because it faced at least a 1-month delay because of an ongoing federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspection, their lawyer told the Chief U.S. District Judge. The plant in Institute is the only one in the nation that still stores MIC in large volumes. Bayer originally planned to phase out MIC use at the plant in mid-2012. MIC is used to produce Temik, a pesticide Bayer has agreed to stop selling under an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9M1PBH00.htm>

For more stories, see items [35](#) and [59](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *March 19, St. Joseph Herald-Palladium* – (Michigan) **Hydrogen leak fixed; Cook Unit 1 goes back on line.** Cook Nuclear Plant's Unit 1 in Bridgman, Michigan, is back online after a planned outage to stop a slow hydrogen leak in the unit's main generator. A spokesman said the unit was brought back online at 10:52 p.m. March 17, following an outage that lasted 5 days and 20 hours. In a phone interview March 18, he said repairs were successful and the hydrogen leak had been stopped. A public relations

official said that when workers noticed a loss in the system's hydrogen inventory, they originally thought a seal was leaking, but that turned out not to be the case. He said retorquing some bolts on an end plate on the system solved the problem. There never was any danger to the public or workers at the plant, which is owned by Indiana Michigan Power. The generator building housing the turbines for Cook's two nuclear reactors is separate from the reactor building and is not in a radiological area.

Source: http://www.heraldpalladium.com/articles/2011/03/19/local_news/3957016.txt

11. *March 18, KFSN 30 Fresno* – (California) **Tracking radiation levels on the West Coast.** There are already a dozen radiation monitors spread throughout California. One is in Fresno. There are radiation monitors throughout California to filter the air and provide real-time data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the results are available online. On March 18, the EPA detected minuscule amounts of radiation from Japan at a sensor in Sacramento. The levels are extremely low. A spokesman said some particles are expected, but not at levels to cause concern. Radiation from Japan is not likely to register anything beyond the normal background range. "The California Department of Public Health and our Emergency Management Agency are in constant contact with the federal agencies responsible for monitoring radiation levels in California, and we will tell the public if any precautions become necessary. However, there is no cause for alarm," the governor of California said.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=8019785>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *March 20, Bloomberg* – (International) **Buffett's Japanese toolmaker evacuates staff in Fukushima after earthquake.** An American investor's tool-making unit, Iscar Metalworking Cos., said sales may decline in Japan after the company evacuated most of the 1,400 employees from its local headquarters as radiation leaks from a nuclear plant, Bloomberg reported March 20. Iscar's Tungaloy Corp. subsidiary halted work at its factory in Iwaki, Fukushima prefecture, and postponed opening a second plant in the area after the record-strong March 11 earthquake and tsunami, Iscar's chairman said in an interview March 19. The American investor and the company's chairman canceled a visit to the Tungaloy operations, where buildings and machinery were damaged in the magnitude-9 earthquake. The chairman did not quantify the sales impact and was unable to say when operations in Japan would return to normal because of a lack of information about the damage.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-20/buffett-s-japanese-toolmaker-evacuates-staff-in-fukushima.html>

13. *March 18, Wheels.ca* – (International) **Japanese auto plants still in limbo.** After being hit by a massive earthquake March 11, Japan's seven big automakers started to resume partial automotive production following short-term parts shortages, power outages, and concerns about damaged export facilities. The long-term effects caused by the disruption in the Japanese parts supply chain have yet to be determined. As of March

18, Toyota had halted auto production in Japan until March 22. Replacement part production had restarted, however, and production for overseas parts was expected to resume March 21. Including its two Canadian plants, Toyota is suspending overtime and Saturday production at its North American facilities. Japan's second-biggest carmaker, Nissan, has reopened two Japanese plants using inventory parts. Three other Nissan plants suspended operation until March 20. Depending on the parts supply, the automaker said all of its North American facilities would continue to operate. As long as there are parts in inventory, Mitsubishi will operate three plants shut after the quake. Mazda's Japanese plants were also to be closed until March 20, but its Michigan plant remained open as of March 18. Parts shortages were blamed for Honda suspending operations at its six Japanese plants. Honda's two Canadian plants continue to operate. Subaru said its Japanese operations would remain closed until March 20, and that it would stop overtime and weekend shifts at its Indiana plant. Suzuki planned to keep all factories in Japan closed until March 21.

Source: <http://www.wheels.ca/article/794536>

14. *March 18, Shelby Star* – (North Carolina) **Fire causes evacuation at Shelby auto parts plant.** Four auto parts manufacturing workers were evaluated for possible smoke inhalation after they put out a fire at the Cleveland Yutaka Corp. plant in North Carolina March 18, according to a company official. The employees were taken to Cleveland Regional Medical Center for observation, but all were believed to be unhurt, a company human resources manager said. They used a fire extinguisher to stop a machine fire from spreading. The human resources manager said the fire started around 4:30 p.m. at the 2081 West Dixon Boulevard plant. Cleveland Yutaka is a precision auto parts machining manufacturer and a subsidiary of Japan-based Yutaka Industry Co., according to its Web site. Thirty-one people are employed at the 56,788 square-foot facility in Shelby. After workers extinguished the fire, the plant was evacuated and ventilated to allow the smoke to dissipate, the human resources manager said, adding there did not appear to be any smoke damage to the building. Shelby Fire and Rescue firefighters and emergency medical technicians from Cleveland County EMS and Shelby Rescue responded.

Source: <http://www.shelbystar.com/news/fire-54159-cleveland-plant.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

15. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Military flare company cited for fire in Toone.** Officials have cited Kilgore Flares with 14 violations and proposed fines of \$348,000 in response to a fire September 14, 2010, that severely burned three workers at its plant in Toone, Tennessee, Associated Press reported March 18. The Tennessee Division of Occupational Safety and Health has yet to release the findings of its investigation into the cause of the explosion and fire at the plant. But March 17, the division said the military flare manufacturer has been cited for 14 safety violations

under the headings “serious” and “willful,” the Jackson Sun reported. Violations cited by the state include a failure to identify and address the control of five hazards involved in the manufacturing process, and a failure to develop or implement written operating procedures.

Source: <http://www2.wjtv.com/lifestyles/2011/mar/18/military-flare-company-cited-for-fire-in-toone-ar-1597569/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *March 21, Reuters Legal* – (National) **Federal Reserve opponent convicted for circulating fake money.** A North Carolina man who led a group opposed to federal monetary institutions was convicted for creating and distributing a counterfeit currency that was very similar to the real dollar, a U.S. Attorney said March 21. The man accused in the case minted Liberty Dollar coins and bills in the value of \$7 million with the goal of competing with the official currency. He claimed the Liberty Dollar was inflation proof and that it was redeemable for gold and silver. The conviction concludes an investigation started in 2005. The coins looked similar to official American currency, carrying the dollar sign and the words dollar, USA, Liberty, and Trust in God. Liberty Dollars were so widespread the U.S. Mint and the Department of Justice issued a release in September 2006, warning consumers the money was fake. Under a 2009 indictment, the man and others were charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, and under provisions of the federal code that address currency swindles. The suspect has been associated with organizations that question the legitimacy of the Federal Reserve and the U.S. system of currency. The statement said he founded the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve and Internal Revenue Code in 1998, and remained its president and executive director until 2008. According to the indictment, the organization had tiers of executives and employees who marketed and distributed the currency. He also promoted the currency at conferences. He faces a sentence up to 25 years in prison and must forfeit 16,000 pounds of the minted money. Source: http://westlawnews.thomson.com/National_Litigation/News/2011/03_-_March/Federal_Reserve_opponent_convicted_for_circulating_fake_money/
17. *March 21, New York Post* – (New York) **Credit-card scammer targeting Apple products is busted at JFK car-rental agency.** A Brooklyn, New York credit-card fraudster with a taste for Apple tech products managed to skirt U.S. Secret Service agents for over a year before being nabbed at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in Queens, New York March 20, authorities said. The man had been running a ring that used stolen credit-card numbers to buy hundreds of thousands of dollars in Apple goodies, according to the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. He once had been part of a similar million-dollar scheme helmed by a Rikers Island inmate — but decided to strike out on his own when he realized the potential profits, authorities said. The Secret Service had been looking for him for at least 18 months. But he kept giving

agents the slip by changing cars at the National Rental Car office at JFK, law-enforcement sources said. He'd used as many as a dozen cars in recent weeks — aided by a National “executive card” that allowed him to slip in and out of the lot without having to talk to workers, sources said. Finally, an agent showed the office manager a photo of the man and said, “If you see this guy, let us know,” a source said. The man showed up March 20 to return a silver 2011 Jeep — and Port Authority cops pounced. The suspect allegedly tried to escape but ended up driving over spikes in the asphalt designed to prevent thefts at the lot. He faces raps ranging from grand larceny to reckless endangerment.

Source:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/queens/jfk_bust_for_credit_con_man_EqLoKn7N0dx7H2SJgYm7VN

18. *March 18, WAGA 5 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Oconee Co. debit card fraud investigated.** Dozens of Oconee County, Georgia residents are facing bank account problems after suffering debit card fraud. The unauthorized charges stem from dining out at a restaurant. Investigators are warning people to keep a close watch on their accounts since dozens of residents have noticed hundreds of dollars drained from them. Investigators said only the card numbers are being used. The debit cards affected were swiped between March 5 and March 11. Investigators said more than 50 victims have come forward. They say the one thing each victim has in common is they used their cards at a local restaurant. Investigators said several restaurants in Athens use the same debit card payment processor. They believe a scammer hacked into a database and stole hundreds of numbers at once. In the days after their meals, investigators said victims noticed out of state transactions on their bank statements. Police said the restaurants didn't have any knowledge of the thefts, and some have already changed their debit card processor after learning the company was likely hacked.
Source: <http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/oconee-co.-debit-card-fraud-investigated-031811>
19. *March 17, Newport Beach Daily Pilot* – (California) **Father-son duo suspected of mail fraud.** Postal inspectors are looking for a father and son who used businesses they ran in Costa Mesa, California to allegedly bilk hundreds of investors out of more than \$20 million. The men were indicted March 17 on 14 counts of mail fraud charges, the U.S. Postal Service Inspection Service said in a news release. The whereabouts of the men are unknown and postal officials in Los Angeles asked for the public's help in tracking them down. The indictment alleges the men defrauded more than 300 investors. The news release said they operated the scheme under various names of Costa Mesa-based businesses: Brookstone Capital, Brookstone Biotech Ventures II (BBV II) and Lincoln Funds International. The businesses claimed to be selling investment services. “Sale agents for the companies solicited investors with various claims and promises, including that the elder of the men had significant business experience and that investors' money would be used to purchase stocks,” the release said. “According to the indictment, the men failed to tell potential investors that the older man had a criminal history and had been sued by California regulators. Additionally, the men allegedly failed to file taxes for the businesses and

misappropriated investors' funds." Postal inspectors, the FBI, and the Securities and Exchange Commission participated in the investigation.

Source: <http://www.dailypilot.com/news/education/tn-dpt-0318-carvers-20110317,0,6481114.story>

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Transportation Sector

20. *March 21, KDVR 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **Jefferson Co. fire grows to 700 acres; fire danger extreme today.** A wildfire burning in the foothills just west of Denver, Colorado, grew to more than 700 acres March 21 with no containment, authorities said. An 11-mile long stretch of U.S. Highway 6 was closed between Highway 93 and Highway 119 because of the fire. Firefighters at the Indian Gulch Fire west of Golden were preparing for a difficult day. Gusty winds along with warm, dry conditions were forecast March 21. A Red Flag fire warning was issued for the Front Range and eastern Colorado.

Source: [http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-golden-fire-text,0,1837279.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+kdvr-news+\(KDVR+-+Local+News\)](http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-golden-fire-text,0,1837279.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+kdvr-news+(KDVR+-+Local+News))

21. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Iowa; South Dakota) **High water forces Iowa-South Dakota bridge closure.** Floodwater fed by rain and heavy snowmelt in the Big Sioux River forced officials to close the state Highway 48 bridge into South Dakota, near Akron in northwest Iowa. Akron emergency services director told Sioux City television station KTIV that the bridge was closed March 20. He said the ground is very saturated, so there is nowhere for rain and snowmelt to go. It ends up in drainage ditches and streams that eventually empty into the Big Sioux. The Akron emergency services director said the river was expected to pass flood stage, but that it would not pose a risk to homes or businesses in town. He said the bridge likely will remain closed through the end of the week.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-iowa-bridgeclosed,0,6514723.story>

22. *March 21, KTHV 11 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Robert Graham dies in Wrightsville train derailment.** KTHV has learned the tracks are now repaired after a deadly train derailment March 20 in Wrightsville, Arkansas. Crews finished the work around 6 a.m. March 21. The first train came through later. Deputies said a man from Little Rock died. The remaining work entails fixing rail-road crossing equipment; like the signal box that communicates with the crossing signs. Some signs must be reinstalled as well. Street barricades were up all of March 21. KTHV spoke with the Pulaski County sheriff who said they are working closely with Union Pacific Railroad (UP) determine a cause of the accident. He said, "Whether it was a malfunction of the track or the train that caused it to jump or whether the vehicle may have driven into the side of the train

causing it to derail, but it's going to take some time for reconstruction experts to determine the exact cause." The sheriff said he was not aware of any witnesses, but he did hear reports of people hearing it the night of March 21. A UP spokeswoman said five railcars left the tracks and one of them hit the vehicle. One commentator said the rail car crushed the vehicle. Motorists coming off of I-530 will need to take a different exit to connect to Highway 365. Motorists coming off of Highway 365 will need to take a different route to access I-530.

Source: <http://www.todaysthv.com/news/article/149674/2/Update-Man-identified-in-deadly-train-derailment>

23. *March 20, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **False alarm halts light-rail train in Tempe.** A misunderstanding via text message prompted the evacuation of a light-rail train March 20 in Tempe, Arizona. Police evacuated 50 passengers after receiving reports of a suspicious package on the train. It was stopped at a station near Washington Street and Center Parkway. Police and bomb-sniffing dogs were at the scene at 7 p.m. and cleared the area about 8:45 p.m. A public-information officer for Tempe police said no explosives were found. According to police, a passenger on the light rail was texting a friend and mentioned the word "explosion." The friend, who was not on the bus, misunderstood and told police there might be a suspicious package on the light rail. "Light-rail services in the area resumed about 8:30 p.m.," a public-information officer for Metro light rail said. Light rail and vehicle traffic was stopped along Washington Street from Mill Avenue to Priest Drive while police cleared the scene.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/03/20/20110320tempe-suspicious-package-stops-light-rail0320.html>
24. *March 20, Associated Press* – (California) **Spring storm dumps snow in mountains, rain in LA.** A storm brought strong rains to the Los Angeles, California area and heavy snow in the mountains on the first day of spring March 20, shutting down major highways, cutting power to thousands and forcing dozens of evacuations over threats of mudslides or rising rivers. Rain caused rock slides in Malibu and closed parts of the Pacific Coast Highway, while snow and ice force the shutdown of parts of Interstate 5 connecting Los Angeles with northern areas. The National Weather Service said Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley received at least 3 inches of rain — its average rainfall for the month of March — which led to closure of several streets. More than 1.5 inches pelted coastal cities and more than 2 inches fell on Hollywood, the service said. In Ventura County and Santa Barbara County, torrential rain brought flash-flood warnings. Rain on a flooded street in Oxnard stranded several cars and swept away another, the weather service said. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jclK4iMjmc3BtH59Ys3ya2tumX8Q?docId=d7f2beb2c82a4e3ea995f6ff631c27df>
25. *March 18, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (National) **US 41 Twin Bridges at Henderson closed by barge hit.** The US 41 Twin Bridges at Henderson, Kentucky, were early the evening of March 18 due to a barge hit. Early reports indicate barges broke loose from

a mooring upstream and hit piers on both of the bridges. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) reports the Motor Vessel Yvonne Conway was headed downstream with 12 empty barges when 2 struck one of the piers of the northbound bridge. Seven of the barges broke free after the impact. USCG said the incident happened about 4 p.m. The crew of the tow boat did not indicate why they delayed reporting the incident. A Kentucky Transportation Cabinet bridge inspection team was called to inspect the bridges. The bridges were expected to remain closed until at least 6:30 p.m. to allow a safety check of the structure. The US 41 Twin Bridges, also known as the Bi-State Viet Nam Gold Star Memorial Bridges, are located at US 41 mile point 19.6 about 1 mile south of the Kentucky-Indiana State Line. They carry approximately 40,000 vehicles per day across the Ohio River between Henderson, Kentucky, and Evansville, Indiana.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=14280986>

26. *March 18, Los Angeles Times and KTLA 5 San Diego* – (California) **Wildfire closes Highway 395 near Bishop; homes threatened and residents evacuated.** Firefighters are battling a 2,000-acre wildfire southwest of Big Pine, prompting the closure of state Highway 395 between Bishop and Independence, authorities said. The fire broke out around 3:19 p.m. March 18, and by 8:30 p.m. it had jumped Highway 395 near Big Pine. More than 200 firefighters have been called to the blaze, the Cal Fire Web site said. About 300 homes were threatened, and mandatory evacuations were under way for everything west of Main Street in Big Pine and the Night Manor, Rolling Green and Terrace neighborhoods, officials said. Voluntary evacuations were in effect on the eastern side of 395 near Big Pine. Strong winds were fanning the flames, and there was zero containment as of 8:30 p.m. Evacuation centers have been set up in Bishop and Big Pine, authorities said. Highway 395 is a heavily-traveled route this time of year for skiers and boarders heading for Mammoth Mountain.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/03/wildfire-closes-highway-395-near-bishop.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

27. *March 21, WLEX 18 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Nicholasville suspicious package not a bomb.** Officials said the suspicious package discovered outside of the Nicholasville, Kentucky post office March 21 was not a bomb. The package was discovered around 8 a.m. outside of the main entrance. Officials said a bomb squad robot X-ray showed wires and electronics inside the package, so the bomb squad blew it up. Turns out the package contained a device used in commercial fire alarms. Police said they don't have any idea why the package was left outside of the post office, but it appears it was left intentionally. South Main Street was closed along the 400 block while crews cleaned up.

Source: <http://www.lex18.com/news/nicholasville-suspicious-package-not-a-bomb>

28. *March 19, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Norfolk courts evacuated over suspicious powder.** Norfolk Circuit Court in Norfolk, Virginia was evacuated March 19 for about an hour after a clerk found a suspicious white powder in an envelope sent to the court. Emergency officials arrived and evacuated the courthouse around 3:15 p.m. after a clerk opened a letter from a prisoner at Hampton Roads regional jail and discovered white powder, a circuit court clerk said. The clerk’s office re-opened around 4:30 p.m. A hazardous materials team shut down the building’s air conditioning system and investigated the powder but found nothing dangerous, a chief deputy clerk said. The material was cleaned up and a sample will be sent to Richmond for analysis, he said. No one was reported ill, he said. The chief judge canceled afternoon court hearings.
Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2011/03/norfolk-courts-evacuated-over-suspicious-powder>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

29. *March 21, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Iowa) **Fire breaks out at Bluffs packing plant.** Firefighters in Council Bluffs, Iowa, found smoke pouring from the north side of the Tyson packing plant March 21. Crews were called to the plant around 1:15 a.m. No one was hurt, but dozens of workers were forced from the building for nearly 2 hours while firefighters worked to keep the fire from spreading. A fire investigator was called in to help find a cause for the blaze.
Source: <http://www.ketv.com/r/27260487/detail.html>
30. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **2 people hurt in small explosion during repair work at Iowa City grocery store.** Two people were hurt in a small explosion March 19 at an Iowa City grocery store. An Iowa City fire department spokesman said a contractor was working on a refrigeration unit at the Hy-Vee store when the blast happened about 9:30 a.m. The contractor and a store employee were taken to a hospital. Their injuries were not believed to be life threatening, but their conditions were not released. The store was closed for about an hour as firefighters ventilated the store.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/4b4dd4c2aa68491eb62bef973cb0ed46/IA--Store-Explosion/>
31. *March 19, KTVB 7 Boise* – (Oregon) **Tillamook Cheese Factory halts production amid E. coli concerns.** The Tillamook Cheese Factory in Tillamook, Oregon, halted production and stopped serving food March 18 and 19 after fecal coliform and E. coli bacteria were found in the local water supply. The Kilchis Regional Water System, which includes the cheese factory, Bay City, Northwood, Latimer, and Juno, was under a boil water alert after the contaminants were detected March 17. “The presence of fecal coliforms and E. coli bacteria indicates the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes,” the Tillamook County Emergency Management (TCEM) statement read. “Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea,

headaches, or other symptoms.” The boil water alert ended March 19. TCEM released a statement assuring residents the water was safe to drink. The Tillamook Cheese Factory was open throughout the duration of the boil water alert, but did not serve food and retained only limited staff on the premises.

Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/news/regional/Tillamook-Cheese-Factory-halts-production-amid-E-coli-concerns-118309734.html>

32. *March 19, Associated Press* – (International) **Japan finds tainted food up to 75 miles from nuclear site.** Officials said March 19 that radiation levels in spinach and milk from farms near the tsunami-crippled nuclear complex in Japan exceeded government safety limits. Minuscule amounts of radioactive iodine were found in tap water March 18 in Tokyo and elsewhere in Japan — although experts said none of those water tests showed any health risks. Japan’s chief cabinet secretary insisted the contaminated foods “pose no immediate health risk.” An expert in the United States also said the risk appeared limited and urged calm. Tainted milk was found 20 miles from the plant, a local official said. The spinach was collected from 6 farms between 60 miles and 75 miles south of the reactors. Those areas are rich farm country known for melons, rice, and peaches, so the contamination could affect food supplies for large parts of Japan. More tests were being done on other foods, and if they show further contamination, food shipments from the area would be halted. Iodine levels in the spinach exceeded safety limits by three to seven times, a food safety official said. Tests on the milk detected small amounts of iodine-131 and cesium-137.

Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/world/japan-finds-tainted-food-up-to-75-miles-1333751.html>

33. *March 18, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Arizona citrus may face quarantine.** Arizona citrus and citrus trees are expected to be put under a federal quarantine the week of March 21 because a fungal disease known as sweet orange scab has been found at several orchards in Maricopa and Yuma counties, the Arizona Department of Agriculture said March 18. Fruit can still be exported but will require extra cleaning and disinfecting to remove fungal spores. Arizona citrus trees themselves probably will not be exportable. Sweet orange scab does not affect the quality of fruit, but because it leaves ugly lesions that make it unsellable, federal, and state agriculture officials have been imposing quarantines to prevent it from spreading to other states and countries, the quarantine-program coordinator with the Arizona Department of Agriculture said. Arizona citrus growers in Yuma County, where most of the state’s crop is produced, are already under quarantine and subject to strict preparation procedures because of citrus-greening disease.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2011/03/18/20110318arizona-citrus-may-face-quarantine-orange-scab.html>

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Water Sector

34. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Coast Guard: Gulf sludge likely caused by river sediment.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) said March 21 tests showed a miles-long patch of sludge floating in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana was likely caused by river sediment. USCG tested the patch March 20 and found only trace amounts of petroleum. A news release said the substance is believed to be from sediments brought down the Mississippi River. The investigation began after reports came in March 19 of an oil sheen. USCG said it was also investigating reports of an oily substance washing up in Grand Isle and other areas nearby. Samples are being tested, but the substance is not believed to be from the massive BP oil spill in 2010. Boom was being laid in environmentally sensitive areas.
Source: <http://www.khou.com/news/Coast-Guard-Gulf-sludge-likely-caused-by-river-sediment-118361589.html>
35. *March 20, Bay City News Service* – (California) **San Jose: Water quality not affected by spill at treatment plant.** Operations and water quality were unaffected March 19 following the spill of aqueous ammonia from a broken instrument probe that initially threatened residents near a Santa Clara Valley water treatment plant, officials said. Authorities lifted the shelter-in-place warning about 2:15 p.m., after crews sealed a leak on a 5,000-gallon holding tank at the Santa Clara Valley Water District's plant in San Jose, California, the city fire captain said. The fire department's hazardous-materials team responded about 11:15 a.m. to reports of a leak at the plant, and the warning was issued at about noon after crews discovered about 250 gallons had spilled from the tank, he said. The warning applied to residents of Graystone Lane at Via Santa Teresa; Rosalind Lane; Skuse Court; and Carriage Hill Drive. The San Jose Police Department notified about 25 residences door-to-door during the warning. The Santa Teresa plant is currently shut down for construction and maintenance. No injuries were reported.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17658741?nclick_check=1
36. *March 19, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Tainted wells cost San Joaquin Valley residents, study says.** More than 1 million San Joaquin Valley, California residents get drinking water tainted by fertilizers, sewage, and animal waste, a new study shows. Poor families must buy bottled water, costing more than they should pay for safe drinking water. The cost to fix the problem would be at least \$150 million, said the Pacific Institute, an Oakland think tank. The study, released March 16, is the first to link the extent of the contamination with residents' financial burden. It focuses on drinking water tainted by nitrates, chemicals that move into wells from agriculture and septic systems. Using the latest state monitoring data available, the study said three-quarters of California's nitrate violations in 2007 occurred in the San Joaquin Valley, especially in the south. Tulare County is the epicenter of the problem, the report noted. The state tested 181 wells in 2006, finding more than 70 tainted with nitrates.
Source: <http://www.modbee.com/2011/03/19/1607444/tainted-wells-cost-residents-study.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [31](#), and [69](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

37. *March 19, WGN 9 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Boys hospitalized after electrical explosion.** An electrical explosion on Chicago, Illinois' far north side landed two teenage boys in the hospital. It happened around 8:30 p.m. March 18, on the roof of the former Edgewater Hospital and Medical Center, at 5654 block of North Ashland Avenue. The fire department said two 15-year-old boys were on the roof playing with a live transformer. One boy was hit with a jolt of electricity, and the other was hit by debris. Both are in serious condition at area hospitals.
Source: <http://www.wgntv.com/wgntv-electrical-explosion-mar19,0,3863262.story>
38. *March 18, CNNMoney* – (National) **Beware of 'fake' potassium iodide: FDA.** In the wake of the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised consumers to beware of inadvertently buying fake iodide products that are supposed to help protect against radiation, according to information released March 18. "We're alerting consumers to be wary of products that falsely claim to prevent radiation and protect consumers, or are not FDA-approved," an FDA spokeswoman said. The demand for potassium iodide in the U.S. has spiked as the situation in Japan has worsened, she said. But health experts said there is no need for U.S. consumers to stock up on potassium iodide. Products to watch out for include fake tablets and liquids purporting to be iodide, as well as dietary supplements and other products that say they protect against radiation, the spokeswoman said. The agency added information about radiation safety on its Web site that includes more details about what to beware of before buying iodide products. There are only three FDA-approved potassium iodide products that protect against radiation. The agency's Web site identifies them as Iosat, made by Anbex; ThyroSafe from Recipharm AB; and ThyroShield from Fleming & Co. At all three companies, the products are currently out of stock, according to their Web sites.
Source:
http://money.cnn.com/2011/03/18/news/economy/CDC_iodide_radiation_advisory/
39. *March 18, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Doctors: More measles ahead in Minnesota.** Minnesota health officials confirmed a total of 5 new cases of measles in Minneapolis, 3 among Somali children who had not been vaccinated because of fears about the vaccine's safety, according to information released March 18. Health officials are trying to contain the outbreak that has already sickened 6 children and appears to be spreading, especially in the Somali community. Four of the children were hospitalized, and all are now recovering, the state epidemiologist said. She predicted more cases would surface. Until 2011, only 6 cases of measles had been reported in Minnesota since 2005. Now, health officials are working with families in the Somali community to try to head off any wider spread. "Measles vaccine is extremely effective," she said. "I think we need to remember that we have these very effective tools for a reason, because the diseases can be really severe." Fifty years ago, more than 441,000 cases of measles were reported in the United States, compared with 140 cases in 2008, according to government statistics.
Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/118247269.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUHPYDi aK7DUiacyKUzyaP37D MDua eyD5PcOiUr>

40. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Oregon; National) **Oregon US attorney: 15 indicted in pain drug ring.** Fifteen people have been indicted in Oregon on federal charges that allege a multistate conspiracy to sell massive quantities of oxycodone pain pills and launder more than \$1.7 million in drug money. Federal authorities in Portland, Oregon, said March 17 participants used bank accounts in Florida, Nevada, Oregon and New York and bought expensive cars, including Bentleys and Mercedes-Benzes. The U.S. attorney's office for Oregon said federal agents and state and local police served search warrants in Oregon, Washington, and several other states, seizing bank accounts, guns, cash, crack cocaine, marijuana, and thousands of suspected oxycodone pills.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP046762f07df44738aa79133b75962503.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

41. *March 21, Associated Press* – (International) **Chile: Bomb causes minor damage at U.S. cultural institute.** Police in Chile said a small bomb exploded and broke some windows at a U.S. cultural institute hours ahead of the U.S. President's arrival. No one was injured in the attack, which happened in Vina del Mar, a seaside city far from the U.S. President's activities in the capital of Santiago. The police captain said the bomb caused only minor damage. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack at the Chilean-North American Institute, where people can read books in English and receive language lessons. The Presidential family's visit comes under tight security, with sharpshooters and more than 2,000 police deployed in the capital.
Source: <http://www.goalert24.com/readNews.aspx?ID=1482791>
42. *March 20, Stars and Stripes* – (International) **Nearly 8,000 military family members signed up to evacuate Japan.** No flights were scheduled March 20 to carry U.S. military family members out of Japan, although thousands were still hoping to flee the country's ongoing nuclear crisis. According to estimates provided by the military and compiled by Stars and Stripes, more than 7,900 residents at bases in central and northern Japan want to flee on flights sponsored by the U.S. military. There were 233 family members on the first voluntary evacuation flight from Yokota to Seattle, Washington, March 19 as Japan continued spraying water on reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant about 130 miles north of Tokyo. So far, only Yokota has ferried residents out of Japan, but more flights are expected in the next 2 days. A flight was scheduled to leave Naval Air Facility Atsugi at 12:20 p.m. March 21, according to a statement from the base commander. U.S. Forces Japan said there is another flight planned March 22 from Yokota. The military is working to schedule flights through contractors because no military aircraft will be used for the voluntary departures, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman said. Atsugi plans to move out 2,000 residents, who were prioritized into 4 categories, with top priority given to pregnant women.

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/news/nearly-8-000-military-family-members-signed-up-to-evacuate-japan-1.138362>

43. *March 19, United Press International* – (Michigan) **FBI investigating suspicious package.** The FBI said it is trying to determine if a suspicious package left March 18 near the McNamara Federal Building — home of the FBI — in Detroit, Michigan, was a bomb. The Detroit Bomb Squad detonated the package March 18 on Belle Isle and FBI agents were trying to determine its contents, The Detroit News reported March 19. An FBI special agent stopped short of saying the package was a bomb, but said “explosive components” were found — the investigation is ongoing.” The device was discovered in a dumpster near the federal building, prompting police to close the area. A bomb squad officer wearing protective clothing removed the metal box. It was the second suspicious package found in Detroit in a week. The high rise in downtown Detroit also houses offices of the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Social Security Administration, and other government agencies.
Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/03/19/FBI-investigating-suspicious-package/UPI-28191300554979/
44. *March 18, Associated Press* – (California) **Marine Corps investigates death on Calif. base.** The U.S. Marine Corps said it is investigating the death of a Marine March 17, who was on the ground in the flight line of the hangar area at Miramar Air Station in California. A Miramar spokesman said March 18 he had no other details regarding the death that occurred on the base, northeast of San Diego. The spokesman said officials are trying to determine the cause of death.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_17645287?nclick_check=1
45. *March 18, Reuters* – (South Carolina) **South Carolina teen faces adult charges for school attack.** A high school student accused of stashing pipe bombs in his backpack and shooting and wounding a school resource police officer can be prosecuted as an adult, a judge ruled March 18. The suspect, a 14-year-old student at the time of the incident, faces attempted murder and weapons charges for the September 21 incident at Socastee High School, located just south of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. A subsequent search after the attack located two pipe bombs in the student’s backpack and more bombs and bomb-making materials at his home, as well as evidence he intended an attack similar to the 1999 Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, authorities said. The suspect has been in state custody since his arrest. He faces up to 30 years in prison on the attempted murder charge and 2 to 25 years on each of 3 bomb charges. He has not entered a plea. A charge of threatened or attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction for an act of terrorism was dropped.
Source: <http://www.fox43.com/news/nationworld/sns-rt-usreport-us-crime-ptre72h7vo-20110318,0,5249744.story>
46. *March 18, Bloomberg* – (Delaware) **Dover Air Force Base evacuated; bomb scare resolved.** Dover Air Force Base in central Delaware was evacuated for more than 2 hours March 18, and a nearby highway was temporarily closed as security guards dealt with a bomb scare. The incident at the base, home of the C-5 and C-17 cargo planes

supporting U.S. military operations worldwide, involved “a suspicious vehicle,” a civilian spokesman at the base said. Delaware State Police closed Route 1 for a few hours during the incident. The 3,900-acre base is home to more than 6,000 military personnel, as well as civilian contractors, and 5,000 dependents, and houses one of the largest military mortuaries in the world.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-18/dover-air-force-base-evacuated-bomb-scare-resolved-2-.html>

For more stories, see items [28](#) and [54](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

47. *March 21, Emergency Management* – (National) **First-ever National EAS test will come from the White House.** For the first time, the White House will take over the nation’s airwaves to speak to the American public through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently ordered all participants in the EAS to take part in a national test later this year. The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), in partnership with the FCC, is responsible for the EAS. Exact timing of the test currently is unknown. Date, time of day, and length of the test are White House decisions, a spokesman told the broadcasters’ town hall meeting. Officials will, however, be sensitive to timing, he said, adding that they would like to avoid hurricane season, Thanksgiving, elections, and the Christmas advertising season. Timing ultimately will be critical, particularly considering that most radio stations, TV stations, cable outlets, and certain satellite programming in the nation will be broadcasting the same message at the same time, including attention-getting tones. Considering the magnitude, public overreaction is a concern. Outreach will be an important part of the test, broadcasters and federal officials said. A FEMA assistant administrator said several levels of outreach are needed. The first is public outreach, “so when people see the message, they won’t think it’s an emergency.” In addition to broadcasters, local emergency management, and other public safety officials will also be encouraged to spread the word to the public to help avoid over-reaction. Officials said 911 organizations will need to know about the test to prepare for calls from concerned citizens.

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/National-Test-EAS-032111.html>

48. *March 20, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. law enforcement role surges in Mexico drug war.** At one time, the slaying of a notoriously cruel cartel boss was considered a rare success in U.S.-Mexico law enforcement cooperation. Now, unprecedented numbers of U.S. law enforcement agents work in Mexico, and high-profile arrests occur monthly. U.S. drones spy on cartel hideouts, while U.S. tracking beacons pinpoint suspect’s cars and phones. The bilateral cooperation is touching off Mexican sensitivities about sovereignty, while stoking U.S. debate about the wisdom of inserting American operatives so deep into the fight. More than 35,000 people have

been killed in drug trafficking violence since Mexico's president launched a crackdown 4 years ago, and the killing of a U.S. agent last month prompted the U.S. Congress to schedule hearings into the role of American personnel. The U.S. agents generally provide intelligence and training, while Mexicans do the hands-on work. Neither side will say exactly how many agents are in Mexico, citing security concerns, but the Associated Press was able to identify several hundred. The U.S. has spent \$364 million of the \$1.5 billion promised for Mexico since 2008 under the Merida Initiative, a U.S.-Central American joint anti-crime effort, and Mexico will spend about \$10.7 billion on public security this year. All U.S. agents living and working in Mexico get diplomatic status.

Source: <http://newsok.com/u.s.-law-enforcement-role-surges-in-mexico-drug-war/article/3550413>

49. *March 18, National Journal* – (International) **Senator seeks interagency border security task force.** The U.S. government should create an interagency task force to coordinate Southwest border-security operations and resolve conflicts between agencies, a U.S. Senator from Texas, said March 17. Speaking at the U.S.-Mexico Congressional Border Issues Conference, he said he does not believe the U.S. President's administration has an adequate strategy for stopping illegal activity along the border. He said a "good model" to replicate along the border would be the Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West, Florida. The task force is made up of officials from multiple agencies that target illicit trafficking in the waters of the Atlantic. The DHS Secretary, who spoke separately at the event, touted the Administration's efforts to beef up security along the border with Mexico. According to her, the Administration has increased the number of Border Patrol agents to about 21,000; doubled the number of personnel assigned to Border Enforcement Security Task Forces; and deployed about one-quarter of all Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to the Southwest border region — which she said is the most ever. She added the U.S. and Mexican governments have an unprecedented collaboration when it comes to law-enforcement cooperation, intelligence-sharing, and joint operations.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0311/031811border-security.htm>

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Information Technology Sector

50. *March 21, The Register* – (International) **Tumblr blames human error for 'minor' security breach.** Blogging platform tumblr has downplayed the significance of a security breach the weekend of March 19 and 20. Tumblr admitted human error led to the exposure of "sensitive server configuration information", but not the rumored disclosure of users' log-in details. Tumblr, which fixed the problem a few hours after its discovery, is reviewing its procedures to make sure similar mishaps are avoided in future. "We're triple checking everything and bringing in outside auditors to confirm, but we have no reason to believe that anything was compromised," a status update on an official tumblr page explained. "We're certain that none of your personal

information (passwords, etc.) was exposed, and your blog is backed up and safe as always.” Tumblr is a microblogging platform designed to make it easy for users to post images, videos, and general musing on life onto a short-form blog. The service has 15 million users.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/21/tumblr_security_snafu/

51. *March 21, Reuters* – (International) **Sony, Nissan restart some factories; power cuts linger.** Sony Corp said it would partially restart a lithium ion battery factory in Japan’s Tochigi prefecture March 22, leaving six plants, which make a range of devices from integrated circuit cards to Blu-ray discs, still closed. The consumer electronics giant is one of dozens of Japanese companies to shut factories and slash output following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami which have disrupted supplies. Nissan Motor Co. restarted limited operations at five plants in Japan March 21, with vehicle production expected to start later in the week. Nissan said in a statement it would resume production of repair parts and parts for overseas manufacturing at several plants. Vehicle production is planned to start March 24 and will continue while supplies last, it said. Restoration of its Iwaki engine plant is expected to take longer than the other plants, it added. Toshiba said March 21 output was still halted at a factory in Iwate prefecture making system LSI chips for microprocessors and image sensors. It has begun work to bring the factory back online, but has no timeframe to resume output. Toshiba said an assembly line at a plant in Japan making small liquid crystal displays for smartphones and other devices will be closed for a month to repair damaged machinery. Sony is not sure when its plants will resume operations. Some of the plants’ output is supplied to other manufacturers, including customers overseas. Renesas, the world’s number five chipmaker, has halted operations at eight of its facilities and is also unsure when production will resume. The company said it was unlikely to start some of its plants until the threat of power cuts, expected to last until the end of April, diminished.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/japan-sony-idUSL3E7EL0IX20110321?pageNumber=1>

52. *March 21, H Security* – (International) **Adobe releases Flash 10.2 for Android, patches vulnerabilities.** Adobe has released version 10.2 of its Flash Player for Android. The latest update brings support for devices with multi-core processors, such as the dual-core Motorola Atrix, and includes several performance enhancements for viewing video and interactive content. Deeper integration with the Android browser rendering engine and support for hardware accelerated video rendering for H.264 have been added for devices running version 3.0 of Android “Honeycomb” -- the developers note that the release is “initially a beta” for Android 3.0 and that the 3.0.1 system update is required. This Android version of Flash also addresses a number of security vulnerabilities which were fixed in version 10.2.152.26 of its desktop counterpart in February.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Adobe-releases-Flash-10-2-for-Android-patches-vulnerabilities-1211560.html>

53. *March 21, IDG News Service* – (International) **Google says China blocking Gmail access.** China is blocking Gmail in the country with methods that make it look as if the access problems lie with Google, the search engine company said March 21. In the last several weeks, Internet users in China reported greater difficulty with visiting the Gmail site, posting on microblogs the e-mail service is either slow or inaccessible. Google said the Chinese government is responsible for the access problems. “There is no technical issue on our side. We have checked extensively,” a Google spokesperson said. “This is a government blockage carefully designed to look like the problem is with Gmail.” The recent access problems have not qualified as significant interruptions, according to Google’s online traffic report. The blocking of Gmail coincides with China’s recent efforts to suppress any mention relating to the “Jasmine Revolution,” which began as an online call urging the Chinese people to protest the government.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214845/Google_says_China_blocking_Gmail_access

54. *March 18, ABC News* – (International) **Department of Defense, major private contractor potentially vulnerable in cyber attack.** RSA, a U.S. cyber security company charged with protecting computers for the U.S. government and thousands of private clients has itself been the target of a hacking attack, potentially compromising the security of software used by the Department of Defense and major defense contractor Lockheed Martin. While the U.S. government has been aware of the attack and working with the company on plugging the security breach for more than a week, according to sources familiar with the investigation, it was only March 17 that the company alerted the public. RSA, the security division of EMC, claims over 25,000 clients and 40 million users of its security token technology worldwide. In addition to the U.S. government, according to its Web site, RSA SecurID customers include major American corporations, healthcare institutions and charities, as well as banks and institutions that cater to high net worth individuals, such as Rolls Royce and Bentley Motors. The state of Kansas is also listed as a SecureID customer. Other RSA clients include the FBI, Northrop Grumman, and the German government.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/dod-private-contractors-potentially-vulnerable-rsa-cyber-attack/story?id=13162204&page=1>

55. *March 18, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft urges Office users to block Flash Player attacks.** Microsoft March 17 urged users of older Office suites to install and run a complicated tool to protect themselves against ongoing attacks exploiting an unpatched bug in Adobe’s Flash Player. “For users of Office prior to 2010, the Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit (EMET) can help,” said a manager and security engineer with the Microsoft Security Response Center. “Turning on EMET for the core Office applications will enable a number of security protections called ‘security mitigations’,” the pair wrote in a March 17 post to the company’s Security Research & Defense blog. EMET is a tool that manually enables ASLR (address space layout randomization) and DEP (data execution prevention) for specific applications. ASLR and DEP are two anti-exploit technologies included with Windows. Adobe confirmed March 15 that attackers were exploiting an unpatched bug in Flash Player by

sending potential victims malicious Microsoft Excel documents.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214795/Microsoft_urges_Office_users_to_block_Flash_Player_attacks

For another story, see item [56](#)

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

56. *March 21, The Register* – (International) **How to slay a cellphone with a single text.** Attacks that crash most older cellphones are frequently compounded by carrier networks that send text messages to the target handset over and over. In other cases, they are aided by a “watchdog” feature embedded in the phone, which takes it offline after receiving just three of the malformed messages. The so-called SMS of death attacks were unveiled late in 2010 at a hacker conference in Germany. They use special binary characters and overflowed headers to temporarily crash most older models made by manufacturers including Nokia, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, LG, Motorola, and Micromax. Carrier networks often aggravate the attacks by bombarding the target with the same malicious message, making them an inexpensive way to take a phone completely offline. Feature phones may have lost much of their cachet to smartphones over the past few years, but they are still relied upon by almost 80 percent of the world’s mobile phone users, the researchers said. The attacks could be used in targeted attacks against social enemies and business rivals, but the researchers said there is also the potential for the vulnerabilities to be exploited in a more widespread fashion by using bulk SMS services, smartphone-based botnets, or SS7, a series of telephony signaling protocols the researchers said are becoming increasingly accessible to companies and individuals.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/21/sms_of_death_explained/

For another story, see item [47](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

57. *March 21, Associated Press and WSPA-TV 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **LLR: Inspector failed to report problems with mini train.** Six people are in the hospital

and amusement trains are shut down statewide in the wake of a fatal train crash at Cleveland Park in Spartanburg, South Carolina March 19. The train crash at Cleveland Park killed a 6-year old boy and injured about 30. South Carolina's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) shut down operation of all amusement trains in the state March 21. The train did not have seatbelts, but officials said they are not required and probably would not have played much of a role in the accident. The governor of South Carolina said the inspector of a train that crashed has been terminated for falsifying documentation. The train involved in the crash, one of two inspected March 16, had a dead battery, so the speed of the train could not be checked during the inspection. The LLR director said the inspector should have held the permit for the train's operation, but cleared the train anyway. The inspector's national certification had lapsed, according to the director.

Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/mar/20/55/train-overturned-cleveland-park-ar-1601189/>

58. *March 20, Associated Press* – (California) **Man with knife arrested in Staples Center standoff.** A steak knife-wielding man held police and security guards at bay for nearly an hour at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, in a bizarre scene that played out just before the Los Angeles Clippers hosted the Cleveland Cavaliers in a National Basketball Association game March 19, authorities said. The center's general manager said the man entered the venue through an employee entrance. He said security officers tried to block him, but the man was brandishing the blade. The man ran to the arena floor, where he was met by 25 security staffers who surrounded him until police arrived. The Staples Center general manager said the man made no demands nor offered a motive for his actions. Police detained him after he made a move toward a tunnel leading off the court.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/wireStory?id=13175183>

59. *March 20, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **Dozens treated for respiratory ailments from South Lubbock hotel pool.** Dozens of people, mostly children, were treated for unknown respiratory ailments March 19 after swimming in a Lubbock, Texas, hotel pool. First responders set up a medical triage in front of Embassy Suites hotel, Slide Road and South Loop 289, to treat 24 people who started having trouble breathing while in and around the hotel's indoor swimming pool. None of the patients' ailments were considered life-threatening, the director of Lubbock EMS said. Investigators with the city and fire marshal's office believe the problem happened when an automatic pool chlorination system released too much of the cleaning agent into the water. Several parents and children who were in the pool area at about 5 p.m. said they noticed an overwhelming smell of chlorine coming from the pool. Many of the children in the pool started coughing and immediately evacuated the room. By 7 p.m., a fire marshal's office spokesman said chemical levels in the pool area had been reduced and there was no remaining threat of chlorine to people in the hotel.

Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2011-03-20/dozens-treated-respiratory-ailments-south-lubbock-hotel-pool>

60. *March 20, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Fire damages Black Rock businesses, apartments.** Fire ravaged five Fairfield Avenue businesses, displaced more than a dozen tenants in the heart of Fairfield, Connecticut’s Black Rock section March 19, and brought out more than 200 spectators spread over several blocks to watch the blaze. A chef at Marty’s Brick Pizza and More, was cleaning some equipment in the kitchen before the restaurant opened when employees at Varsity barber shop next door alerted him that smoke from the restaurant was seeping into their business. The chef then alerted the restaurant’s owner that the building was on fire. Bridgeport fire officials believe the blaze started in the basement of the building at 2916 Fairfield Avenue, then spread upward rapidly. No one was injured in the blaze, which was reported at 11:16 a.m., and drew more than 50 firefighters and 7 aerial trucks.
Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-us.cfm?articleID=92685>
61. *March 19, Kalispell Daily Inter Lake* – (Montana) **Two small bombs set off in town.** Law enforcement officials are investigating two homemade explosive devices that were apparently thrown from a vehicle March 17 at two Kalispell, Montana locations, including one aimed at a pro-life prayer vigil. No one was injured, though the devices — made up of an unknown chemical, a plastic bottle, and aluminum foil — did explode. According to the Kalispell Police Department, the first device was reported by an off-duty officer in front of a department store at Mountain View Plaza at 6:05 p.m. and the second was along Meridian Road at 6:17 p.m. The Kalispell Police Department are investigating the reports, but the timing and proximity of the devices appear to point to a sole perpetrator. The second device was reported at the intersection of Meridian Road and Liberty Street where a woman was participating in 40 Days for Life, a national campaign that sponsors pro-life prayer vigils outside abortion providers.
Source: http://www.dailyinterlake.com/news/local_montana/article_2460dac6-51bf-11e0-9e41-001cc4c002e0.html
62. *March 17, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Fire erupts at mosque in Clear Lake area.** A small fire damaged part of a Clear Lake-area mosque in Texas March 17. It is the second suspicious fire at the mosque in a week, and now Muslim civil rights leaders are asking for a federal investigation. There was no electricity and the only source of light came from open doors, but afternoon prayers continued March 18 at the Clear Lake Education Center on Sea Lark and Ramada, even as fire debris littered a storage area in back. Mosque members first smelled smoke around 8:30 p.m. A few days before this recent fire, a small fire was started in a grassy area behind the mosque. That was quickly put out. Much of the damage from the March 17 fire was to the back of the building. The two fires caused the civil rights group Council on American-Islamic Relations to ask for the FBI to get involved.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8019961>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

63. *March 20, KHON 2 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Firefighters continue to battle blaze in Hawaii Volcanoes Natl. Park.** Firefighters in Hawaii were still trying to put out a brushfire March 20 at the Volcanoes National Park. The fire has been burning since March 15. “The ground is very uneven, it’s not flat,” the fire information officer said. “There’s other obscure things we can’t see, so it’s pretty treacherous footing to hike in.” The fire was ignited by lava from the Kamoamoa eruption. So far, more than 1,800 acres have burned ... and it is expected to grow. Firefighters from California were scheduled to arrive March 21 to help contain the blaze.
Source: <http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Firefighters-continue-to-battle-blaze-in-Hawaii/4nzjNHplMUig9BXvEuEY2Q.csp>
64. *March 20, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Fire in Santa Fe forest 60% contained.** Authorities said a fire in the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico is 60 percent contained after charring almost 70 acres. The so-called Valle Canyon Fire was reported March 17 on the forest’s Espanola Ranger District about 3 miles west of Los Alamos. The cause of the fire still is unknown, but authorities said no structures were threatened and no evacuations were needed. A hot-shot crew, 10 engine crews, two helicopters, and other personnel were working the blaze March 19. By March 20, the operation was scaled down slightly, but crews continued to attack the blaze from the air and on the ground.
Source: <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2025848.shtml?cat=525>
65. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Fire in Iron Range mine nearly out.** Officials said a fire that started March 17 in an underground mine on Minnesota’s Iron Range was nearly out. A Minnesota Interagency Fire Center spokesman said March 20 that cameras sent into the mine showed very little smoke. The cameras also showed minimal damage, and the temperature of the mine was back to normal. Minnesota Public Radio News reported firefighters would enter the mine once it is considered safe. The fire in the Soudan Underground Mine State Park began when timbers in the elevator shaft caught fire. Crews capped it off to starve the fire of oxygen, and sprayed foam and 50,000 gallons of water into the shaft. The Soudan mine closed in 1962. It is now an Iron Range tourist site and home to a University of Minnesota physics lab.
Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=14286572>

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Dams Sector

66. *March 21, Illawarra Mercury* – (International) **Residents evacuated, more rain predicted.** An immediate evacuation order has been issued for residents living near Jerrara Dam, west of Kiama, Australia. The dam was threatening to break its banks and the state emergency service was evacuating the area March 21. Lake Illawarra police urged motorists to drive with extreme caution as roads closed due to flooding begin to reopen. A sergeant said road conditions in the southern suburbs were likely to be hazardous over the coming days. Weather conditions eased late March 21, but more

heavy showers were predicted to hit March 22.

Source: <http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/residents-evacuated-more-rain-predicted/2109502.aspx>

67. *March 20, Bridgewater Courier News* – (New Jersey) **Contractor pleads guilty to Clinton dam fraud.** A contractor hired to restore the Clinton Town dam across the South Branch of the Raritan River in New Jersey will be sentenced June 10 after he pleaded guilty on March 19 to fraud charges. The man pleaded guilty to two counts of making false representations to obtain government contracts before a superior court judge in Flemington. The charges were also related to a bridge project in Hope Township. “This contractor fraudulently concealed that he was barred from public contracts and did not have the required insurance or bonds to perform them. As a result, he put workers at risk and imposed thousands of dollars in additional costs on taxpayers,” the state attorney general said. The contractor pleaded guilty to using a stolen identity, a fake company, and fraudulent documents to win bids on the public projects, although his companies were barred by the state from taking such projects.

Source:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20110319/NJNEWS/110319004/1025/EDUCATION/Contractor-pleads-guilty-Clinton-dam-fraud?odyssey=nav|head>

68. *March 20, Los Angeles Times and KTLA 5 San Diego* – (California) **A dozen homes evacuated in Woodland Hills; flooding closes streets.** Residents from 12 homes in Woodland Hills, California were evacuated March 20 as a flow of debris and mud threatened a retaining wall in the area, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. Some 30 people were ushered out of homes near the retaining wall at 4855 N. Regalo Road, a fire department spokeswoman said. She said the evacuations began about 7 p.m., and some families were sent to a fire station at 21050 Burbank Boulevard. Elsewhere in the San Fernando Valley, the Los Angeles Police Department announced that four other streets had been closed because of flooding. The streets will not be reopened until the water recedes, the LAPD said.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/03/a-dozen-homes-evacuated-in-woodland-hills.html>

69. *March 18, Moscow-Pullman Daily News* – (Idaho) **Dam spills oil into Snake River.** Between 80 and 90 gallons of hydraulic fluid spilled into the Snake River March 20 due to human error in Moscow, Idaho. An operator reportedly overfilled a bearing in one of the turbines at Lower Granite Dam, 26 miles southwest of Pullman. The liquid spilled and resulted in an oily sheen about a mile long in the river. A Department of Ecology spokesperson said they have not seen environmental damage so far. This kind of oil, he said, tends to dissipate quickly because it is light, unlike diesel or other thicker oil. That means it can be carried away by water much faster. Workers at the scene did what they could to clean the spill at the source, but much of the oil had already joined with the flowing water — it is so thin that it cannot be cleaned at this point.

Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/business/news/4980964/dam-spills-oil-into-snake-river>

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