



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 March 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Nextgov.com reports DHS has relayed mitigation procedures to federal agencies that have installed RSA’s SecurID computer and network log-in tool because it has been compromised. (See item [39](#))
- According to Homeland Security Today, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents caught 11 undocumented aliens who entered the U.S. from Mexico traveling in a stolen U.S. government vehicle, and wearing U.S. Marine Corps battle fatigues. (See item [44](#))

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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 22, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. diesel pipeline that leaked is being repaired.** An interstate diesel pipeline was being repaired March 21 after it broke in southwestern Pennsylvania and sent fuel spurting at least 20 feet into the air before the leak was contained. The leaking fuel stopped short of the nearby Ohio River, but soil tests are needed to determine whether groundwater was otherwise contaminated, a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) spokeswoman said. The

line runs from a refinery in Mantua, Ohio, about 75 miles southeast to a terminal in Coraopolis, near Pittsburgh. Both facilities and the pipeline are owned by Buckeye Partners of Breinigsville. The cause of the break remained under investigation March 21, a Buckeye spokesman said, as did whether Buckeye will be cited, fined or otherwise disciplined by the DEP and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Source: <http://www.timesleader.com/news/ap?articleID=6744872>

2. *March 22, Racine Journal Times* – (Wisconsin) **Canadian Pacific line closed after propane report.** The Canadian Pacific Railway in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, was closed for nearly 3 hours March 21 after a reported propane leak, authorities said. South Shore Fire Department responded to the 2700 block of Wisconsin Street at about 2:30 p.m. for a report of a smell of propane gas in the area, the South Shore battalion chief said. Responders found a 1,000-pound propane tank had rolled off the side of the railroad right of way. It is normally there to keep the railroad switch warm in cold temperatures so it does not freeze. For unknown reasons, the tank rolled down the right of way and ended up in a swampy area west of the tracks, releasing propane gas into the air in the process, the chief said. No high levels of gas were detected in the air. “Because it’s a highly flammable gas, we didn’t want the friction of rail cars passing by to cause any sparks,” the chief said. There were no injuries or damage to property or the environment. A crane truck was used to get the tank upright, which was taken away by the vendor to be replaced later. Officials believed the incident happened over night or early March 21 because railroad officials saw the tank in its correct place March 20.
Source: http://www.journaltimes.com/news/local/article_1c0ff052-5479-11e0-bdd6-001cc4c002e0.html
3. *March 22, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **ND wind farm resumes operation after accident.** A wind energy project in Bismarck, North Dakota, has resumed generating power, a spokeswoman said March 21, a week after the rotor and three giant blades on one of its towers plummeted to the ground. The wind farm has 71 turbines perched atop steel towers just north of Rugby, about 150 miles northeast of Bismarck, and is capable of generating up to 149 megawatts of electricity. It was inspected after the March 14 accident and judged to be safe to resume operation, said a spokeswoman for Iberdrola the energy company that operates the wind farm. The spokesman said an investigation into the cause of the accident has not been completed. In a letter to North Dakota’s Public Service Commission, an Iberdrola senior permitting manager, said the tower suffered a “rotor assembly failure.” No one was injured. The wind turbine’s manufacturer, Suzlon Wind Energy Corp., described the mishap as “an isolated incident.”
Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/22/business-us-nd-wind-blades-fall_8368370.html
4. *March 21, McDowell News* – (North Carolina) **Gas leak forces evacuation.** A natural gas leak forced authorities to evacuate much of downtown March 21 in Old Fort, North Carolina, and reroute traffic from three different directions. The leak happened at around 1:25 p.m. as crews from the North Carolina Department of Transportation

(DOT) were working on Main Street. The bucket from an excavator ruptured a natural gas line that runs through town. Members of the Old Fort Fire Department and police department, DOT, McDowell County Emergency Management and the North Carolina Highway Patrol responded and closed off Main Street. The Old Fort fire chief said businesses along the north side of Main Street were evacuated as well as the Depot and the McDowell Tourism Development Authority. By around 2:40 p.m., the gas leak was repaired by PSNC, the natural gas company involved, and operations returned to normal.

Source: <http://www2.mcdowellnews.com/news/2011/mar/21/gas-leak-forces-evacuation-ar-879656/>

5. *March 21, KSLA 12 Shreveport* – (Louisiana) **Crews waiting out fire at explosives plant in Webster Parish.** Emergency crews in Webster Parish waited and watched a blaze inside an explosives plant at Louisiana's Camp Minden March 21. A one-half mile area was cleared around the plant just in case of any explosions occurred, although crews at the command post said after a certain point the possibility of an explosion was very low. Firefighting crews were also kept out of the cleared area. Officials said the fire started early March 21 at a plant owned by the Australian company Orica. It was formerly owned by a company called BST. The plant makes explosives for the mining industry. Emergency crews said an employee pulled an alarm at the plant about 7:20 a.m., and all 24 of the workers in the building got out safe. There have been fires similar to this at Camp Minden in 2003 and 2006, but this facility has never had a problem before. First responders said the fire does not pose a safety risk to any of the homes outside of the Camp Minden property.

Source: <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=14290137>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *March 22, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Second worker dies following explosion at Rubbertown Carbide plant.** A second man injured in a March 21 explosion at the Carbide Industries plant in Louisville, Kentucky died of third-degree burns March 22 at University Hospital, a deputy coroner said. Firefighters continued to work the fire at the plant as it continued to burn the morning of March 22, but there was no immediate threat of more explosions or the fire spreading as of 6:45 a.m., the assistant chief for Lake Dreamland Fire said. Another worker was killed and two others injured in the plant explosion that happened about 5:40 p.m. The two injured workers were treated at a hospital and released. The fire intensified late March 21, but it was under control in the early morning hours of March 22. The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's occupational safety and health program has conducted three inspections at the Carbide plant in the last decade, but issued no citations, a cabinet spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110322/NEWS02/303220031/Carbide-fire-still-burning-though-under-control-1-worker-dead-1-remains-critical-2-treated-released-overnight?odyssey=nav/head>

7. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Explosives truck overturns in western Ky.** An overturned explosives truck has been righted and a local evacuation of homes in western Kentucky has been canceled. People were told to leave seven homes near where the truck turned over on Kentucky 91 between Princeton and Fredonia March 21, according to the Paducah Sun. The truck was carrying bulk blasting powder, used in mining and quarrying. Authorities said the risk of an explosion was minimal, but blasting caps on board could have gone off if the rig had caught fire. It did not. The chief of the Princeton Fire Department said the truck was loaded with 21,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate mixed with diesel fuel. A cleanup crew mixed soil with the spilled explosives to render it safe to remove. The driver was slightly hurt.
Source: <http://www.fox19.com/Global/story.asp?S=14296026>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *March 21, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (International) **New reactor design lessens risks.** Experts said one reason four nuclear reactors in Japan failed as a result of the 9.0 earthquake — which was followed by an even more devastating tsunami — is they are old. The latest nuclear reactor designs could help avoid the overheating and explosions that have occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Newer designs feature the use of passive cooling systems that would not fail after a power outage, as happened in Japan, as well as other novel heat-managing approaches. Technology Review (TR) reports the reactors at the Japanese nuclear plant, built in the early 1970s, rely on active cooling systems that require electricity. Newer plant designs would lessen or eliminate the need for active cooling, making use of natural convection or a “gravity feed” system to cool reactors in the event of an emergency. TR notes that in one design, for example, the relatively new Westinghouse AP1000, water is suspended over the reactor housing. If pressure within the system drops, this allows the water to fall into the reactor area, submerging it in enough water to keep it cool. The passive systems could be better in the event of electrical failures, but they might not always be the safest systems. A research affiliate at MIT told TR that in an active system, it is easier to ensure coolant gets exactly where it needs to be — it is simply pumped to the right location. Designing passive systems, on the other hand, requires complex models of how fluids will behave in a system that could be rendered incorrect if the system is damaged.
Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/new-reactor-design-lessens-risks>
9. *March 21, St. Louis Business Journal* – (Missouri) **NRC sends inspectors to Ameren’s Callaway plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said March 21 it has begun a special inspection at Ameren’s Callaway nuclear plant in Auxvasse Township, Missouri. Inspectors arrived March 21 to determine if an auxiliary feedwater pump is properly lubricated. The pump is used to supply water to the plant’s steam generators, which cool the reactors during accidents. The inspection could take from 2 days to the entire week, an NRC spokesman said. An oil sample taken February 8 was discolored and contained particulate indicating the oil level may have been too low to properly lubricate the pump bearing, NRC officials said. The pump may not

have been able to run for a sufficient length of time to meet its safety function during an accident, according to the NRC. NRC staff said they felt a special inspection was appropriate due to a previous event in 2009 involving inadequate lubrication in the same system. The spokesman said the incident did not endanger public health or safety, and described it as one with “low safety significance.”

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2011/03/21/nrc-sends-inspectors-to-callaway.html>

10. *March 21, Boston Globe* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee has 20-year extension license in hand.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued the Vermont Yankee (VY) nuclear power plant a 20-year license extension March 21, but the plant must still get state legislative approval to continue operating after its license expires in 2012. The NRC instructed its staff to issue the renewal March 10, but then placed a hold on the license because agency staff were too busy aiding Japan. Opponents of the Vernon reactor near the Massachusetts border hoped the pause would translate into a deeper review of the plant, which has the same design as the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility in Japan that has released radioactive material. “Today’s action comes after five years of careful and extensive review and confirms that Vermont Yankee is a safe, reliable source of electricity and capable of operating for another 20 years,” a VY spokesman said. NRC officials said its staff had completed an in-depth review since VY first filed for an extension in 2006, including an environmental assessment in 2007 and safety evaluation in 2008. The independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards also reviewed the proposal. Vermont is the only state in the country that requires the Entergy-owned plant to get legislative approval for an extension. Last year, the state senate voted 26-4 to close the plant when its license expires next year. Entergy has declined to discuss its plans, saying it is a “legal matter.”

Source:

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/greenblog/2011/03/vermont_yankee_has_20-year_ext.html

11. *March 21, Reuters* – (International) **Stricken Japan nuke plant skipped inspections.** The operator of Japan’s tsunami-damaged nuclear power plant told safety regulators less than 2 weeks before disaster struck that it had failed to carry out some scheduled inspections at the facility. In a report submitted to Japan’s nuclear safety agency February 28, Japan’s largest power utility, Tokyo Electric Power Co, said it had failed to inspect 33 pieces of equipment in the 6 reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex. The equipment missed in scheduled inspections included a motor and a backup power generator for the number 1 reactor, the firm said in a report available on a company Web site. The exchange between the utility and safety regulators regarding safety misses at the plant has attracted attention because of its timing, and the equipment involved. The failure of backup power systems is a key element of the current crisis. In its response to the Tokyo Electric report, Japan’s Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency gave Tokyo Electric until June 2 to draw up a corrective plan for the plant. The nuclear safety agency said in its March 2 response that it did not believe there was an immediate risk to safety as a result of the missed inspections. The agency said it had been assured the equipment that had gone without inspection would

be tested in the near term by Tokyo Electric. The agency's deputy director general told a briefing March 21 he was not aware of the correspondence between regulators and the utility. He said he could not say whether the safety lapses played any role in worsening the crisis, which began March 11. The filings by Tokyo Electric and Japan's safety regulators were archived on their Web sites and first reported by Jiji Press.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42188550/ns/world_news-asiapacific/?GT1=43001

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

12. *March 22, Associated Press* – (International) **Power, parts shortages hamper Japan manufacturers.** Japanese companies Toyota, Sony, and Honda said March 22 they will further delay a return to normal production due to shortages of parts and power after the March 11 earthquake. The quake and following tsunami forced the closure of 11 of Japan's 54 nuclear power plants, and damaged factories belonging to producers of auto parts, electronics components, and industrial materials. Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. said they have extended their shutdown of auto production in Japan to the weekend of March 26 because of parts and power shortages. Sony Corp. said operations at five plants were suspended until the end of March. Those factories make broadcast equipment, camcorders, digital cameras, lenses for digital single-lens reflex cameras, cell phones, LCD TVs, microphones, and headphones.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=13191682&page=1>

13. *March 21, Reuters* – (New York) **GM idles some production at Buffalo engine plant.** General Motors Co. (GM) temporarily suspended some production at its Buffalo, New York engine plant due to a shortage of parts from Japan that forced the automaker to idle a pick-up truck plant in Shreveport, Louisiana, Reuters reported March 21. Fifty-nine of the 623 hourly employees at the Tonawanda engine plant were temporarily laid off the week of March 20. Most of the plant is still functioning, a GM spokeswoman said. The workers make engines for the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon, which are made at GM's Shreveport assembly plant. GM idled the plant the week of March 20. GM said no decision has been made on when the employees will return to work.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/gm-plant-idUSN2129724820110321>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

14. *March 21, Reuters* – (International) **UTC-built oxygen generator fails on U.S. submarine.** The machine that produces fresh air aboard the USS New Hampshire submarine failed during a mission under the ice cap of the Arctic Ocean the week of March 13, prompting the submarine to use an alternate oxygen candle system instead.

Hamilton Sundstrand, a unit of United Technologies Corp, is sending a representative to a temporary ice camp to investigate the problem with the oxygen generator, said a Navy commander, who is the captain of the nuclear-powered Virginia-class submarine. A Hamilton Sundstrand spokesman confirmed March 21 that company staff would travel to the ship to help repair the oxygen generator, but said it was too early to speculate on what caused the problem.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/us-unitedtechnologies-submarine-idUSTRE72K7U420110321>

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Banking and Finance Sector

15. *March 22, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Alleged ATM theft ringleaders arrested.** The suspected ringleaders of a network that allegedly burglarized ATMs in 6 Massachusetts counties, stealing more than \$340,000 in cash, were arrested and arraigned March 21. Authorities said suspects used stolen sport utility vehicles, blowtorches, and lookouts, and snapped wires to surveillance and alarm systems as part of their scheme targeting cash machines in Dracut, Framingham, and other communities in 2007 and 2008. The ring also stole items from businesses and apparently made plans to expand their criminal activities into other cities and towns. Indictments were issued last week against 16 people, and March 21 authorities arrested 4 of them. They face charges ranging from breaking and entering to larceny. The FBI worked in conjunction with state police and local law enforcement officials on an investigation that began in April 2007. A major break came when a confidential source divulged information about the ring's activities, officials said. Court records detail the incidents, suggesting the burglaries were well planned, well timed, and involved familiarity with the locations.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/03/22/alleged_atm_theft_ringleaders_arrested/

16. *March 21, Agence France-Presse* – (Texas) **U.S. man arrested in hacker stock fraud scheme.** U.S. authorities arrested and charged a Texas man March 21, accused of masterminding a scheme using a Russian hacker and an e-mail spam campaign to pump up the value of fledgling companies, the Justice Department (DOJ) said. The suspect was arrested by FBI agents on a federal indictment charging him with one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and transmit commercial e-mail messages with fraudulent information. The scheme employed hackers, including at least one in Russia, to distribute computer viruses to infect computers around the world and create "botnet" computers that were used to manipulate stocks, a DOJ statement said. "In addition to relying on unsuspecting investors to buy into the spam promotions, the hackers also hacked into the brokerage accounts of third parties, liquidated the stocks in those accounts, and then used those accounts to purchase shares of the manipulated stocks," the statement said. "This created trading activity in the manipulated stocks and increased the volume of shares being traded, further creating an impression that the

manipulated stocks were worth purchasing.” The scheme began as early as November 2007 and continued through February 2009, and allowed the perpetrators to gain control of so-called “penny stocks” which were not traded on major exchanges. In some cases, the conspirators would trade the stock among themselves to give the impression of trading volume to increase market interest. The conspiracy count with which the man was charged carries a maximum potential penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j5FXMVI3hQtPjTSjt-PleYqXfHWw?docId=CNG.a807bd69f3debaa7a6b4ca2383f9500b.1211>

17. *March 21, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **FBI seeks man in five Denver-area bank robberies.** The FBI is looking for the “Blessings Bandit”, who is suspected in five bank robberies in the Denver, Colorado area, including a Lakewood bank March 19, and a Centennial bank March 21. The TCF Bank branch at 7595 West Colfax Avenue in Lakewood was robbed at about 9 a.m., and the Chase Bank branch at 7490 South University Boulevard in Centennial was robbed just before 11 a.m. In each of the robberies, his note demanding cash and threatening violence ended with “God bless,” authorities said. He is described as white, 20 to 35 years old, about 6 feet tall with a slender build.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_17668467
18. *March 21, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (National) **Former bank president and senior loan officer indicted in multi-million-dollar fraud conspiracy.** An indictment unsealed March 21, charges two former top officers of FirstCity Bank of Stockbridge, Georgia with a variety of offenses, including conspiracy to commit bank fraud and bank fraud in connection with misconduct at FirstCity Bank in the years before the bank’s seizure by state and federal authorities on March 20, 2009. In addition to the conspiracy and bank fraud charges, the indictment charges the officers with conducting a continuing financial crimes enterprise at the bank between February 2006 and February 2008, during which the conspirators’ crimes allegedly generated over \$5 million in unlawful gross proceeds. The indictment charges the conspirators misrepresented the essential nature, terms, and underlying purpose of the loans and falsified documents and information presented to the loan committee and the board of directors. The conspirators then allegedly caused at least 10 other federally insured banks to invest in, or “participate in” the fraudulent loans based on these and other fraudulent misrepresentations, shifting all or part of the risk of default to the other banks. In the process of defrauding FirstCity Bank and the “participating” banks, the conspirators allegedly routinely misled federal and state bank regulators and examiners to conceal their unlawful scheme.
Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/atlanta/press-releases/2011/former-bank-president-and-senior-loan-officer-indicted-in-multi-million-dollar-fraud-conspiracy>
19. *March 21, WIS 10 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **RCSD: Suspect tried to open ATM with explosives.** Richland County deputies are asking for help identifying someone who tried to break into an ATM on Farrow Road in Columbia, South Carolina. The county sheriff said the attempt happened at the Carolina First Bank around 2:50 a.m.

March 16. Deputies responding to an alarm noticed that someone had used an explosive device and/or a cutting torch on the ATM, but failed to gain entry into the safe. The sheriff said surveillance cameras at the bank captured images of the suspect.

Source: <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14290523>

For another story, see item [52](#)

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Transportation Sector

20. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Labor Dept. notifies FAA of potential fire hazards at Lakefront Airport tower.** The U.S. Labor Department says it has notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that its Lakefront Airport air traffic control tower in New Orleans, Louisiana is exposing workers to possible fire hazards, Associated Press reported March 22. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identified the alleged workplace safety violations during an inspection last September. The department announced March 18 that it has sent notices to the FAA for six alleged repeat violations and one alleged serious violation of fire safety standards. The alleged violations included failing to correct deficiencies in its fire alarm system and failing to ensure fire drills are performed. The FAA has 15 business days to comply or request an informal conference with OSHA’s area director in Baton Rouge.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/df871fca632d48998a0a3c63799f9e05/LA-Lakefront-Airport-OSHA/>

21. *March 22, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **Police probe rollover of tour bus on NH highway.** Police are investigating the rollover of a tour bus on a snowy New Hampshire highway, Associated Press reported March 22. They said the bus was carrying about two dozen Korean citizens from Quebec, Canada, to Boston, Massachusetts, March 21, when the driver lost control on Interstate 93 and the bus rolled on its side into the median, injuring almost everyone aboard. State police said March 22 that 5 passengers were being treated for serious injuries, and 18 for lesser injuries. They said the slippery roadway was closed while the bus was removed from where it rolled over in Littleton. The tour bus accident is the third in the Northeast during March.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=13190595>

22. *March 21, Associated Press* – (New York) **N.Y. sting puts 14 buses off road after fatal crash.** A sting operation by New York state transportation investigators and law enforcement a week after a horrific fatal tour bus crash that killed 15 people included a single stop in Manhattan where all 14 tour buses pulled over were ordered off the road, state officials said March 19. State investigators reported nine “major issues” March 18 with drivers, including lack of an updated log book required to show how long a driver was behind the wheel, an official familiar with the investigation told Associated Press.

The New York Department of Transportation (DOT) investigators found 10 major vehicle issues and 40 minor infractions, the official said. The governor of New York directed the operation as part of his order to investigate the Bronx crash of the tour bus, while stepping up enforcement of all tour buses statewide. A DOT spokeswoman confirmed the 14 buses stopped March 18 were put out of service because of various violations against the driver and safety concerns. New York City police reported 54 criminal summonses were issued with 8 buses towed away because of violations. Other buses ordered out of service were driven away by qualified drivers. A DOT spokeswoman said the stepped up enforcement on top of the 160,000 bus inspections the state does annually will continue through March 30.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-03-20-bus-nyc_N.htm

23. *March 20, Grand Rapids Press* – (Michigan) **Delta officials say short in light bulb caused airplane evacuation in Grand Rapids.** Delta officials believe a light bulb that shorted out in the cockpit was the culprit that forced a connector flight to return to Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan, shortly after take-off March 19, airport spokespeople said. Delta Airlines flight 6626 bound for Detroit turned around for an emergency landing when pilots noticed smoke in the cockpit March 18. The plane landed at 8:39 a.m. and the 55 passengers and crew were evacuated from the plane on the tarmac. Nobody was injured. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokespeople said March 19 it typically takes several weeks before official investigation results are released. The FAA, not the National Transportation Safety Board, investigates incidents without casualties. An airport spokesperson said the airplane, a CRJ70, has left Grand Rapids and he assumes it has been fixed.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/03/delta_officials_say_short_in_l.html

24. *March 18, WBUR 90.9 FM Boston* – (National) **U.S. ports watch for radiation in Japanese cargo.** With Japan as one of the United States' top trading partners, consumers and importers are starting to wonder what effect radiation from the damaged nuclear reactors might have on Japanese products exported to America. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and port officials along the West Coast from San Diego to Seattle said consumers should not view the cargo that is arriving now as tainted. It takes about 10 days for a cargo ship to get from Japan to the United States. So, the ships that arrive the week of March 20 left Japan as radiation first began to leak from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. "We have a steady-state system, where every container is examined," the Port of Los Angeles' director of security said of efforts to monitor for radiation at the port. There is little risk that those ships are contaminated. The ports nearest the damaged reactors are closed; that means anything arriving on U.S. shores is coming from farther away. USCG also monitors for maritime radiation. So far, the agency has seen no cause for worry, a lieutenant commander said.

Source: <http://www.wbur.org/npr/134631534/u-s-ports-watch-for-radiation-in-japanese-cargo>

25. *March 18, Demotix* – (International) **Transformer explodes diverting flights.** A hydro transformer exploded March 18, blacking out North Etobicoke, Ontario, in Canada, and producing thick black smoke that closed the 401 highway and diverted the flights of travelers. The fire at The Richview Transformer Station blanketed the area in thick black smoke that caused Transport Canada officials at Pearson Airport to divert flights to alternative runways while Toronto Fire Service and Hydro workers battled the blaze. The smoke also necessitated the closure of Highway 401 in both directions during the height of the evening rush hour. The 401 is the busiest freeway in North America, and the period that the fire occurred was one of the busiest of the week. Police locked roadways and maintained a strict perimeter until given the all-clear by fire and environment ministry officials.

Source: <http://www.demotix.com/news/628629/transformer-explodes-diverting-flights-toronto>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

26. *March 22, Santa Maria Times* – (California) **Suspicious package closes Lompoc post office.** A suitcase found in the bushes in front of the Lompoc, California post office led to a partial closure of the building the March 21 while Lompoc police and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department investigated. "Inside was just a ruler, though," a post office supervisor said. After the suitcase was cleared around 10:30 a.m. the post office, including the service windows and P.O. boxes, was reopened. "We set up a perimeter around it, transferred it to (Ryon) Park and found it didn't contain anything dangerous," a Lompoc police sergeant said. A maintenance man had reported the suitcase around 7:30 a.m. and contacted police. During the partial closure, the 45 postal employees managed to continue working in the rear of the building, the post office supervisor said.

Source: http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/local/article_f468e772-5453-11e0-aa5d-001cc4c03286.html

27. *March 19, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (New Jersey) **New York man convicted in connection with terrorism hoax.** A 54-year-old from Chester, New York, was convicted March 19 by a federal jury in Newark, New Jersey of committing a terrorism hoax. According to evidence presented at trial, in February 2010, the man mailed an envelope containing a white powdery substance to the offices of the Star Ledger newspaper in Newark, New Jersey. At the time of the incident, he had been employed as a commercial driver for the Star Ledger for more than 15 years. Officials said he sent his supervisor a letter containing powder, after he was asked to submit his U.S. Department of Transportation time logs. Subsequent testing confirmed that the powder did not contain biological agents or toxins. During a post-arrest interview, the man said he wanted to scare his boss by sending him the envelope with powder in it.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/376170/new_york_man_convicted_in_connection_with_terrorism_hoax.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

28. *March 22, Food Safety News* – (National) **Whey protein recall now nationwide.** Ten days after whey protein was recalled by Vitalabs of Jonesboro, Georgia, a New Jersey company has announced a nationwide recall of its whey protein products because of the possibility they may be contaminated with Salmonella. Universal Nutrition of New Brunswick March 21 recalled specific lot numbers for Gain Fast, LAVA, Real Gains, Super Whey Pro, Torrent, Ultra Mass 4500, Ultra Whey Pro, and Uni-Syn because one ingredient, whey protein, has the potential to be contaminated. The products were offered in all 50 states through health food stores, gyms, and Internet-based, e-commerce sites. There have been no reports of illnesses associated with the whey protein.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/whey-protein-recall-now-extends-nationwide/>
29. *March 22, Food Safety News* – (Wisconsin; National) **Canned pickled sliced beets recalled.** Lakeside Foods Inc. of Manitowoc, Wisconsin recalled 3,000 cases of canned pickled sliced beets because some cans may have been under-processed and thus have the potential to be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum. There have been no reports of illness linked to the product. The 105-ounce canned pickled sliced beets were sold to food service distributors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin from December 2009 to January 2011.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/pickled-sliced-beets-recalled/>
30. *March 22, USA Today* – (National) **EPA warns of illegal pesticide sold online.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced March 21 it has warned more than 2,800 U.S. customers that they bought an ant-control product online containing an illegal, harmful pesticide. The product, Fast Ant Bait, contained mirex, a pesticide that was banned in 1978 because it can cause liver, skin, reproductive, and nerve damage, according to EPA, which said it was sold online through fastpestcontrol.com. EPA said it learned of the product from the Washington State Department of Health, which reported a woman became ill after using it in her home. It said it identified and warned three online companies — 2Checkout.com Inc., CCNow, Inc. and eBay Inc. — to stop selling the Chinese product. EPA said the three companies stopped processing orders, and consumers can no longer buy the product from fastpestcontrol.com, the original site offering it. The companies gave EPA sales data, enabling it to contact customers about the dangers and proper disposal methods.
Source: <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/greenhouse/post/2011/03/epa-warns-of-illegal-pesticide-sold-online-1>

31. *March 22, Wisconsin Ag Connection* – (National) **Snow melt causing major flooding in Midwest.** Excessive snow in the northern Great Plains and Midwest may spur floods that rival the record-setting deluge of 2009, threatening U.S. wheat crops and livestock as cities in the region stockpile sandbags. Since October, North Dakota, the largest wheat-growing state, South Dakota, and Minnesota got almost 3 feet more snow than usual, National Weather Service data show. According to Bloomberg News, more than 20 inches remain in some areas, about the same amount that was on the ground at this time in 2009, before floods along the Red River of the North caused about \$223.7 million in damage and killed more than 91,000 cattle. Planting delays may curb wheat output for a third year in the United States, the world's largest exporter. Global inventories of the grain already were eroded by floods last year in Australia and Canada, and a drought in Russia that sent wheat prices to a 2-year high in February. Almost half the United States has an above-average risk of flooding through April, with areas of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota among the regions with the highest threat, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said March 22. Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=604&yr=2011>
32. *March 21, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **Food contamination fears spread beyond Japan's borders.** Concern over food contaminated by radiation from areas surrounding the troubled nuclear plant in Fukushima, Japan, spread beyond the country's borders March 21 with world health officials warning of the potential dangers posed by the tainted food and one Japanese restaurant in Taiwan serving up radiation gauges alongside its meals. World Health Organization (WHO) officials told reporters March 21 Japan should act quickly to ban food sales from areas around the damaged nuclear plant, saying radiation in food is more dangerous than radioactive particles in the air because of accumulation in the human body. In a question and answer page on its Web site, the organization said that consuming food tainted with radioactive material, while indistinguishable to the naked eye, could lead to an increased likelihood of certain cancers. People living near the plant who may have consumed produce or animal products with radiation should seek medical attention, the organization said. Japanese officials said the weekend of March 19 and 20 that higher-than-normal levels of radiation had been detected in milk, spinach, and some water supplies from regions surrounding the plant damaged by the earthquake and tsunami. Officials have banned the sale of some food items at risk of contamination and advised residents of a village northeast of the plant not to drink tap water. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-fgw-japan-quake-food-20110322,0,100029.story>

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Water Sector

33. *March 21, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Ross Valley Sanitary District renews call for criminal investigation of sewage spills.** The Ross Valley Sanitary District in California asked the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to pursue a criminal investigation into the cause of the Ross Valley district's

massive December sewage spills and formally accused a contractor of severe negligence. In a 369-page report ordered by the water board, the district concluded the cause of the December sewage spills, which totaled 2.6 million gallons, was “severe contractor negligence by JMB Construction of South San Francisco and perhaps malicious vandalism.” According to the district, its analysis “proves that JMB was at the least partially responsible for excessive and unusual amounts of construction debris in the sewer system that blocked a siphon and was solely responsible for a crushed 27-inch sewer main that critically restricted its capacity.” The district initially asked the FBI to investigate possible “ecoterrorism” as the cause of the spills. The FBI turned the matter over to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A spokeswoman for the state water board said EPA has concluded its investigation; an EPA spokeswoman declined to comment on the investigation’s results.

Source: http://www.waterworld.com/index/display/news_display/1383116629.html

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

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

34. *March 22, Homeland Security Today* – (International) **World not prepared for devastating pandemic, infectious disease outbreak.** The new report of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Review Committee on the functioning of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and on the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza, concluded that “WHO performed well in many ways during the pandemic” and “confronted systemic difficulties,” the world nevertheless “is ill-prepared to respond to a severe influenza pandemic or to any similarly global, sustained and threatening public health emergency.” The report concluded, “Beyond implementation of core public health capacities called for in the International Health Regulations (IHR), global preparedness can be advanced through research, strengthened health-care delivery systems, economic development in low- and middle-income countries and improved health status.” The review committee report further found that while “the IHR helped make the world better prepared to cope with public health emergencies, the core national and local capacities called for in the IHR are not yet fully operational and are not now on a path to timely implementation worldwide.”
Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/world-not-prepared-for-devastating-pandemic-infectious-disease-outbreak/aae6cd61d5079b930811b2cf873971b3.html>

35. *March 21, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **250 evacuated after fire breaks out in Texas nursing home.** Firefighters spent most of the afternoon March 21 battling a fire at a Houston, Texas retirement home. The Houston Fire Department assistant chief said all residents were safely evacuated from the Treemont Retirement Community. There were no injuries, but a firefighter was taken to a local hospital after complaining of chest pains. The fire broke out just before 4 p.m. in the third-floor attic of one of the three buildings in the retirement complex. The fire, which initially sent thick clouds of black

smoke in the air, was contained mostly to the roof and attic area of the building. The assistant fire chief said firefighters safely removed 249 people from the building. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source:

http://www.kwtx.com/news/headlines/250_Evacuated_After_Fire_Breaks_Out_In_Texas_Nursing_Home_118401534.html?ref=534

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Government Facilities Sector

36. *March 22, CNN* – (International) **U.S. military considers mandatory evacuations in Yokosuka, Japan.** The U.S. military is considering the mandatory evacuation of thousands of American troops and their families in Japan out of concern over rising radiation levels, a senior defense official said. The official said there are no discussions to evacuate all U.S. troops across the country. The talks have focused exclusively on U.S. troops in Yokosuka, just south of Tokyo, the official said. Yokosuka is home to America's largest naval base in Japan. The military is monitoring radiation levels on a constant basis. As of March 21, the U.S. Navy had no more warships in port at the base. The aircraft carrier USS George Washington, which had been undergoing maintenance in Yokosuka, left port March 21 to get away from the plume of radioactive particles that could blow over the base. Because it left port with a much smaller than normal crew, the George Washington will not take part in the Japanese relief effort. The official said the talks originated with Pacific Command, the military authority that directly oversees U.S. troops in the region, but "discussions have since taken place here in Washington as well."

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/US/03/21/japan.military.evacuation/>

37. *March 21, Syracuse Post-Standard* – (New York) **FBI charges Syracuse man with emailing fake bomb threat to CIA.** A 41-year-old Syracuse, New York man was charged March 21 with sending an e-mail from a library computer in Onondaga County to the CIA, falsely claiming two bombs were hidden at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. FBI agents March 21 charged the man with making material false statements to the public Web site of a federal law enforcement agency. At 6:48 p.m. November 20, someone sent an e-mail to the CIA from a public computer at the Syracuse library, an affidavit from an FBI Special Agent said. "There are two tarps on the Ithaca Cornell campus not within 100 feet of a structure," the e-mail said. "Underneath these tarps is over 12 sq. ft enough space for a bomb to blow up the campus. Don't bother looking, you won't find it." The agent notified Cornell's police department. Cornell police told the FBI they had investigated a suspicious person on the campus 3 days before the e-mail was sent, court papers said. Federal agents arrested the suspect March 21 in family court, an assistant U.S. attorney said. If convicted, he faces up to 5 years in prison. The suspect told investigators he is schizophrenic and that on the day he sent the e-mail he was having a psychotic episode, the agent's affidavit said.

Source:

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/03/fbi_charges_syracuse_man_with.htm
1

38. *March 21, KBFX 58 Bakersfield* – (California) **HazMat incident prompts school closure.** Bill Williams Elementary School in Bakersfield, California, will be closed March 22 after a March 21 incident where 30 students were exposed to mercury. According to a city fire spokesman, one class was quarantined after a student dropped a vial of mercury. Bakersfield fire responded with its hazardous materials team and later brought out a decontamination trailer to treat affected students. Environmental health also responded, and students were released to their parents after being checked out. The district assistant superintendent said the school would be closed March 22 on the advice of environmental health. That will allow investigators time to assess other classrooms to make sure exposure levels are as they should be. If it turns out they are not, it will allow enough time for proper treatment. The school is set to reopen March 23.
Source: <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/health/118412384.html>
39. *March 21, Nextgov.com* – (National) **RSA security breach compromised federal network ID tool.** A product many federal employees use to log on to computers and networks should be regarded as compromised due to the infiltration of key information about the application during a cyberattack against manufacturer RSA, some security experts said. DHS has relayed mitigation procedures to federal agencies that have installed RSA's SecurID tools, the department announced March 18. A DHS official March 21 said the government is not recommending that agencies replace their SecurID products. The department is helping RSA and clients who control critical infrastructure deal with the threat to the devices, which are a single point of failure in the computer security ecosystem, according to some industry observers. Agencies "should consider [the ID tools] breached," said a former World Bank computer specialist and now an executive at Core Security Technologies, a firm that lawfully penetrates its clients' systems to identify network weaknesses. SecurID, which verifies the identities of authorized users, consists of a token — a portable physical object such as a smart card or USB drive that controls access to a system. The device displays a continuously changing code that the user enters, in conjunction with a personal identification number, or PIN, to log into a network through a process known as two-factor authentication.
Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110321_6511.php?oref=topstory
40. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Philly man admits threat to Rep. Schwartz's office.** A 44-year-old Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, man upset over his lost dentures admits he threatened a Pennsylvania congresswoman's staff. U.S. prosecutors said the man pleaded guilty March 18 to a misdemeanor threat charge. Authorities said the man told a member of the Democrat's staff that he was an ex-Marine who could jump on a bus and shoot everyone in the office. They believe he made the August 25 call from a Philadelphia hospital. The plea agreement said the staff had previously dealt with the suspect. He faces up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine when he is sentenced May 23. His public defender did not immediately return a call for comment.
Source: <http://www.wfmj.com/Global/story.asp?S=14280320>

41. *March 18, NextGov* – (International) **Cyberattacks against federal networks were up 40 percent in 2010.** The number of attacks against federal networks increased nearly 40 percent in 2010, while the number of incidents targeting U.S. computers overall was down roughly 1 percent for the same period, according to a new White House report to Congress on federal computer security. “Malicious code through multiple means,” such as phishing and viruses, “continues to be the most widely used attack approach,” Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials wrote. Phishing scams lure victims with fake e-mails apparently from legitimate organizations, such as banks, that instruct them to submit sensitive information, including passwords, on phony Web sites. In fiscal 2010, federal agencies reported 41,776 cyber incidents vs. 30,000 attacks in 2009, the year the Conficker worm installed malicious software on millions of home, business, and government computers. To deal with the growing cyber threat, information technology managers gradually are changing the way they monitor security by installing scanners that automatically detect abnormalities in real time, noted the latest report on agencies’ compliance with safeguards codified under the 2002 Federal Information Security Management Act. OMB submitted the annual report to Congress February 28 and published it online in March.
Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110318_4179.php

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Emergency Services Sector

42. *March 22, Jackson Clarion-Ledger* – (Mississippi) **8 deputies fired after jail fracas.** An investigation will determine whether eight Hinds County, Mississippi detention officers fired for using excessive force on inmates will be charged, according to the Hinds County sheriff. The sheriff revealed March 21 that six male and two female officers were fired March 18 as a result of an incident in the Raymond Detention Center earlier this month. The situation involved five or six inmates who were in a holding cell in the late afternoon of March 6. One of the inmates filed a complaint prompting an internal investigation. No one was injured badly enough to be hospitalized, the sheriff said, but he still found what he saw on the jail surveillance tapes to be excessive force. The video is not being released as it is still a part of the probe. The case has been turned over to the FBI to decide whether there was any violation of federal laws.
Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20110322/NEWS/103220338/8-deputies-fired-after-jail-fracas?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home>
43. *March 22, Star Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Newark carjacking suspects charged by U.S. authorities face up to 30 years in prison.** Using aerial surveillance, digital projections that pinpointed where carjackings were most likely to occur, and a police blitz in some of Newark, New Jersey’s most dangerous neighborhoods, a multi-agency task force created late last year to stem the tide has done just that, law enforcement officials said. On March 22 a U.S. attorney announced the task force has arrested 42 people since

December on carjacking and related charges. Twelve of those arrested will face federal charges that could land them in prison for up to 30 years, while 8 juveniles who were charged will be tried as adults in state court, an official said. In addition, authorities said, the number of reported carjackings had dropped from 60 in December to 8 last month. The task force, including Newark police, prosecutor office investigators, and FBI agents, flooded areas of the city with a “high propensity” for carjackings, allowing law enforcement to immediately pursue suspects, recover vehicles, and make arrests, the Newark police director said. They were aided by projections from the New Jersey State Police’s Regional Operations Center. State police and New Jersey National Guard helicopters also helped track carjacked vehicles. The agencies routinely shared information, and federal agencies who would not normally investigate carjackings — including the U.S. Marshal’s Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Drug Enforcement Administration — leaned on informants to help develop leads about the surge, an official said.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/03/newark_carjacking_suspects_cha.html

44. *March 22, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Illegals wearing USMC uniforms caught in allegedly stolen gov’t van.** About a week before the authors of a Center for a New American Security report warned the most dangerous threat to the United States and its allies in the Western Hemisphere is the growth of powerful transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), the U.S. Marine Corps Operations Center received a disturbing OPREP-3 report from the Marine Corps Air Station at Yuma, Arizona. It was a situation report that counter-cartel authorities told Homeland Security Today could represent a troublesome new development in the smuggling of illegals into the United States. It alerted that on March 11, 11 undocumented aliens who had managed to enter the U.S. from Mexico had been caught wearing U.S. Marine Corps Marine Pattern (MARPAT) desert digital Battle Dress Uniforms (BDUs). When they were stopped by alert Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents near Campo, California, the 11 illegals and the 3 U.S. citizens (who were wearing Marine woodland digital BDUs) traveling with them were driving an allegedly stolen official government vehicle with altered U.S. Government license plates. The three U.S. citizens apprehended with the illegals were processed on “alien smuggling charges,” an official said. In Mexico, it is not uncommon for legitimate law enforcement to encounter members of TCOs either wearing or having in their possession Mexican military and law enforcement uniforms and other official gear and equipment, including military munitions.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/blogs/the-kimery-report/blog/illegals-wearing-usmc-uniforms-caught-in-allegedly-stolen-gov-t-van/e852532c1109bd86f30cc0ec1b7ff164.html>

45. *March 21, WGHP 8 High Point* – (North Carolina) **Too many calls, not enough ambulances in Davidson Co.** Officials with Davidson County Emergency Services in North Carolina are in need of another ambulance. Right now the county covers nearly 163,000 residents and 600 square miles with 8 ambulances. The last time an ambulance was added to the fleet was in 2005. “We seem to have a tremendous stretching of our

resources lately,” the emergency services director said. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) officials said the constant population surge has led to 1,000 more emergency calls each year. The low number of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) sometimes leads to problems, such as in early March, when a Thomasville police officer drove a child who swallowed 22 blood pressure pills to the hospital instead of waiting on an ambulance. Emergency officials told the officer the nearest ambulance was in Denton, 15 to 20 minutes away. The ninth ambulance would go in the Southmont area, which currently has the longest response time, the emergency services director said. The extra ambulance, along with the extra staff to operate it, will cost roughly \$435,000 during its first year of operation.

Source: <http://www.myfox8.com/news/wghp-story-davidson-ambulances-110321,0,3643752.story>

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Information Technology Sector

46. *March 22, Computerworld* – (International) **Apple patches unused Pwn2Own bug, 55 others in Mac OS.** Apple March 21 patched 56 vulnerabilities, most of them critical flaws that could be used to hijack machines, as part of 2011’s first broad update of Mac OS X. Of the 56 bugs patched in the update for Snow Leopard, 45 were accompanied by the phrase “arbitrary code execution,” Apple’s term for rating the flaws as “critical.” According to Apple’s advisory, more than a dozen of the bugs can be exploited by “drive-by” attacks that execute as soon as a victim browses to a malicious Web site with an unpatched edition of Mac OS X. Several in that class resided in Apple Type Services (ATS), the operating system’s font renderer, and could be exploited using malicious documents embedded with specially-crafted fonts. Of those four vulnerabilities, two were reported by researchers from Google. Other drive-by attacks could be launched using malformed files exploiting six vulnerabilities in Mac OS X’s ImageIO component, another five in QuickTime and two in QuickLook, the operating system’s document preview tool.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214903/Apple_patches_unused_Pwn2Own_bug_55_others_in_Mac_OS

47. *March 22, Help Net Security* – (International) **Play.com breach compromises customer names and email addresses.** Play.com, one of the largest online retailers of CDs, DVDs, books, and gadgets, has notified its customers of a breach that possibly resulted in their names and e-mail addresses being compromised. According to the e-mail the company sent out, the breach happened to the company that handles part of its marketing communications. Play.com also made sure to point out no other personal customer information has been compromised. “Please do be vigilant with your email and personal information when using the internet. At Play.com we will never ask you for information such as passwords, bank account details or credit card numbers. If you

receive anything suspicious in your email, please do not click on any links and forward the email on to privacy@play.com for us to investigate,” the company advised its customers in an effort to prevent phishing attacks. Sophos advised Play.com customers to change their account password and watch their credit card transactions.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10773>

48. *March 22, The Register* – (International) **Dozens of exploits released for popular SCADA programs.** The security of software used to control hardware at nuclear plants, gas refineries, and other industrial settings is coming under renewed scrutiny as researchers released attack code exploiting dozens of serious vulnerabilities in widely used programs. The flaws, which reside in programs sold by Siemens, Iconics, 7-Technologies, Datasoft, and Control Microsystems, in many cases make it possible for attackers to remotely execute code when the so-called supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) software is installed on machines connected to the Internet. Attack code was released by researchers from two separate security camps over the past week, *The Register* reported March 22. The vulnerability release includes proof-of-concept code for at least 34 vulnerabilities in widely used SCADA programs sold by 4 different vendors. A researcher from the first group said the majority of the bugs allow code execution, while others allow attackers to access sensitive data stored in configuration files, and one makes it possible to disrupt equipment that uses the software. And a Moscow-based security firm called Gleg announced the availability of Agora SCADA+, which attempts to collect virtually all known SCADA vulnerabilities into a single exploit pack. The 22 modules include exploits for 11 zero-day vulnerabilities, a researcher said. SCADA software often runs on extremely old systems that are difficult to replace without causing disruptions to critical equipment. As a result, installing patches and upgrades is frequently avoided despite any security benefits.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/22/scada_exploits_released/

49. *March 21, Computerworld* – (International) **Japan disaster rocks computer chip supplies.** The disaster in Japan is putting a pinch on 25 percent of the worldwide production of silicon wafers used to make computer chips, according to a report released March 21. Two Japanese factories — Shin-Etsu Chemical’s Shirakawa facility and MEMC Electronic Materials’ Utsunomiya plant — have halted operations. Those two facilities alone make up a quarter of the global supply of silicon wafers used to make semiconductors, according to IHS iSuppli, a research company. Both companies supply wafers to semiconductor companies around the globe. “Because of this, the suspension of operations at these plants could have wide-ranging implications beyond the Japanese electronics industry,” iSuppli noted in its report. Researchers also noted Shin-Etsu’s Shirakawa plant is responsible for 20 percent of the worldwide silicon semiconductor wafer supply. There reportedly has been significant damage to the plant’s production facilities and equipment. According to iSuppli, Shin-Etsu is trying to shift production to other facilities, but it is not clear how long that will take.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214875/Japan_disaster_rocks_computer_chip_supplies

50. *March 21, Computerworld* – (International) **Adobe patches Flash zero-day bug in Reader.** Adobe patched a critical vulnerability in Adobe Reader March 21. The company promised to ship a fix for Flash Player later the same day. The patches follow an announcement by Adobe March 14 attackers were exploiting an unpatched, or “zero-day,” vulnerability in Flash Player using malicious Microsoft Excel documents attached to e-mail messages. Reader and Acrobat were also vulnerable because the same Flash flaw existed in the “authplay.dll” component of those two programs. Authplay is the interpreter included in Reader and Acrobat that renders Flash content inside PDF files. Adobe rolled out a patch for Reader and Acrobat around 3 p.m. March 21, but said the same fix for Flash would not appear until later in the afternoon. Previously, Adobe said while it has seen attacks exploiting the vulnerability via malformed Flash files embedded in Excel spreadsheets, it had not spotted any that targeted users with malicious PDF documents.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214874/Adobe_patches_Flash_zero_day_bug_in_Reader

51. *March 21, Softpedia* – (International) **PHP.net wiki server hacked.** The server housing the php.net developer wiki has been hacked by unidentified attackers who stole account credentials, thus sparking fears of rogue code commits. The php.net team announced the compromise March 19 and noted no other servers associated with the project’s infrastructure were affected. Based on the results of a preliminary investigation, the point of entry was a vulnerability in the DokuWiki software used on the platform. The attackers then managed to obtain root privileges on the device by exploiting a local Linux privilege escalation vulnerability. The biggest concern following the incident was stolen developer credentials might have been used to alter the official php source code. Because of this, a code audit which reviewed all commits since version 5.3.5 has been performed. No tampering was detected. As precaution, the php.net team completely wiped the compromised wiki server and will force a password change for all repository accounts.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/PHP-net-Wiki-Server-Hacked-190664.shtml>

For more stories, see items [12](#), [16](#), [39](#), and [52](#)

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

52. *March 22, The Register* – (International) **Sensitive data easily swiped from eBayed mobiles.** Second-hand mobile phones sold on by their owners often contain extensive personal and sensitive data that leave sellers open to identity theft and other privacy risks. Pre-owned mobile phones and SIM cards purchased on eBay or from shops were checked using readily available equipment to see what personal information was left on the handsets. Around half the handsets and chips examined by an ethical hacker still held sensitive information. The hacker was able to recover information using a mobile phone SIM Reader, SIM recovery software, and forensic examination software. A total of 247 pieces of data were recovered from a total 19 of the 35 mobile phones and 27 of the 50 SIM cards. Data left on these handsets and communication devices included many photos, bank details, log-in details for social networking sites, and PIN numbers as well as private texts and e-mails. In a separate poll, most sellers (80 percent) claimed they had wiped their mobiles before selling them, with 6 in 10 stating they were confident that no personal data was left on devices subsequently offered up for sale. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/22/sensitive_data_ebayed_mobiles/
53. *March 21, WSAZ 3 Huntington/Charleston* – (West Virginia) **Phone service restored for Mingo county residents.** Officials with the Williamson County, West Virginia fire and police department said all phone service has been restored to Fibernet customers in Mingo County who lost all their landline phone services causing problems for the Williamson fire and police departments, and the local 911 center March 18. A Williamson fire chief told WSAZ the service was restored around 6 p.m., about 90 minutes after service was lost. There is still no word on what caused the outage. Source: http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Phones_Out_in_Mingo_County_118391744.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

54. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Apartment complex evacuated after meth lab found.** Police evacuated an Ocoee, Florida apartment complex after finding what they believe was a meth lab in one of the units. Officials said one man was taken to the hospital just before 5 a.m. March 21, suffering from exposure to methamphetamines. Police said they found chemicals linked to the production of meth at the apartment. Residents from the remaining units at Oak Forest Apartments were then evacuated. Investigators were still sifting through evidence at the complex the morning of March 21. Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/21/2126099/apartment-complex-evacuated-after.html>
55. *March 21, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **At least 24 families displaced in three-alarm apartment fire.** At least 24 families were chased out of their homes following a large apartment fire in Clarksville, Tennessee March 21. It happened at the Eagle's Crest Apartments on Jack Miller Boulevard, near Outlaw Field and Cole Park Golf

Course. The fire marshal said the building was fully-involved when crews got on the scene around 4:30 p.m. The buildings adjacent to building F were also evacuated just in case the fire spread. The building is a 3-story building with 6 sections, and was built in 1974. The building was destroyed, and the roof is gone. Some 24 of the 34 units in the building were occupied. Investigators said two factors played a role in this fire going to three alarms. “We did have a bit of wind this afternoon. These apartments were built in 1974. In 1974 you didn’t have the requirement of fire stops. That’s another reason, right there,” according to the Clarksville fire marshal. Firefighters were on the scene for hours, well into the night. Investigators said the fire was so intense they may never know what started it. Clarksville’s fire marshal said this is the biggest fire the city’s seen in 6 years.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/14293435/at-least-24-families-displaced-in-3-alarm-apartment-fire?redirected=true>

56. *March 21, KLTV 7 Tyler* – (Texas) **Small fire evacuates East Texas church.** A suspicious fire broke out at a Tyler, Texas, church during services. Tyler fire Marshals said the fire broke out around 11:30 a.m. March 20 in one of the restrooms at Colonial Hills Baptist Church. Church members evacuated the building, and a church staff member put out the fire before firefighters arrived. The fire was under control in less than 20 minutes. No one was hurt. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but investigators are calling the fire suspicious.

Source: <http://www.kltv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14287726>

57. *March 19, Santa Cruz Sentinel* – (California; Oregon) **Harbor design may have contributed to damage: shallow water, sedimentation and narrow channel seemed to make the difference.** More than a week after a March 11 tsunami forced its way into the Santa Cruz, California, harbor like a rushing river, questions have surfaced about whether the port design and topography of its basin may have contributed to the surge’s estimated \$26 million in damage. At the Moss Landing Harbor District, just 24 miles to the south, the tsunami’s impact was far less severe. With a deeper harbor mouth and a channel that empties into several sloughs, Moss Landing experienced no loss to boats or docks. But in the shallower, more confined Santa Cruz harbor, 14 boats sank and a number of docks sustained major damage. At the similarly shallow Crescent City harbor near the Oregon border, docks and boats located in a walled-off inner basin were wiped out. The two harbors comprised much of the state’s \$35 million in damage tallied so far among six counties. Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor officials have readily acknowledged for years that the design of the harbor’s entrance, which is down coast from the San Lorenzo River mouth, is less than ideal, requiring dredging every winter to clear out drift. Designed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the channel narrows and veers off on an angle as it spills into the confined upper harbor, where the tsunami became magnified.

Source: http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_17650873?source=most_viewed

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

58. *March 21, Honolulu Star-Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Rain aids battle against 1,800-acre volcano blaze.** Hawaii Volcanoes National Park firefighters continued March 21 to map and monitor the Napau Fire located on the east rift of Kilauea Volcano, which has burned more than 1,800 acres since it was first triggered by the March 5 Kamoā'Ōmoa fissure eruption. Two days of rain have helped to slow the fire's spread, and fire crews have used the time to develop safety zones in cool areas within the fire perimeter and monitor vegetation that can act as fuel for the blaze. According to the Napau Fire information officer, pockets of high heat remain on the front and flanks of the fire. Park firefighters are waiting for more favorable conditions before engaging the fire for safety and practicality considerations. In the meantime, crews have been busy with precautionary and strategic tasks. Off Chain of Craters Road near the Pali, crews installed a temporary water storage tank, which will allow firefighters to draw water continuously without having to move their fire engine back and forth. Crews were also able to cut back brush to protect sensitive monitoring equipment used by the U.S. Geological Survey to track seismic activity.

Source:

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaiinews/20110321_Rain_aids_battle_against_1800acre_volcano_blaze.html

59. *March 21, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **All roads into Yosemite temporarily closed.** All roads leading into Yosemite National Park in California were temporarily closed March 21 due to snow, ice, mudslides, fallen trees, and downed power lines. According to a park press release, the storm that moved through dumped more than 3.5 feet of snow during a 24-hour period in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and Crane Flat, and approximately 9 inches in El Portal. Highways 41 (Wawona Road), 120 (Big Oak Flat Road), and 140 (El Portal Road) into Yosemite are closed due to snowy and icy conditions, and Caltrans has temporarily closed Highway 140 outside of the park boundary between El Portal and Mid Pines due to mudslides, rockfall, fallen trees, and downed power lines. The Badger Pass Road and the Hetch Hetchy Road are also closed.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/outposts/2011/03/all-roads-into-yosemite-temporarily-closed.html>

60. *March 21, Kern County Sheriff's Office* – (California) **Youth in church and boy scout camps seek evacuation from mountains.** The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Search and Rescue team was dispatched to the Frazier Mountain area in California, where two separate youth groups that had been camping over the weekend of March 19 and 20 had become stranded due to the large amount of snow that had fallen in the area. When search and rescue volunteers arrived they found both groups' vehicles were completely covered with snow and the campers were unable to get them unstuck. They also found both groups were out of supplies and had limited heat sources. With the assistance of Kern County fire and the U.S. Forest Service, all campers were safely escorted off the mountain. Snow cats, four-wheel drive trucks, and large buses were used. Both groups were visiting from the Southern California area. One was a church

youth group from Lancaster and the other was a youth group out of Los Angeles. All campers were found to be in good health and transported to waiting buses where they were taken back to their homes.

Source: http://mountainenterprise.com/atf.php?sid=8366¤t_edition=2011-03-18

61. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Willamette forest to close 132 miles of roads.** Beginning in the spring of 2011, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will start putting up earthen berms to block vehicles from roads in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon to help threatened fish and its maintenance budget. In all, the agency said, it will close 132 miles of roads in the Hills Creek Lake Area near Oakridge. The work is expected to take several years. The agency is short of maintenance money and wants to reduce runoff to help bull trout and spring Chinook salmon, the Eugene Register-Guard reported. Both fish were once common in the watershed and now are threatened. The agency's current budget allows for 500 miles of road maintenance work annually. During 2 years of planning, the agency had proposed to close 150 miles of roads in the Hills Creek Lake area, but trimmed the mileage after public comments. About 3,000 miles of road will remain open to vehicles in the Middle Fork District. The closures will not block access to major routes, trailheads, and campgrounds, USFS said. Source: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/state-and-regional/article_41f4b9dc-0ed8-56e3-96a6-16552e329921.html

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Dams Sector

62. *March 22, New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad* – (International) **169 flood victims evacuated in Perak.** One hundred and sixty-nine people from 43 families in two districts in Perak, Malaysia, were evacuated after their villages were flooded with water levels reaching between 0.5 and 1 meter deep March 21. Those involved were 81 from Hilir Perak and 88 in Kerian districts. The Kerian police chief superintendent said four villages affected in the district were Kampung Parit Abu Hasan, Permatang Mat Keling, Batu 40 Bukit Merah and Batu 38 Jalan Keretapi. They were moved out from 3 p.m. March 21 when water from the Bukit Merah dam overflowed after 2 days of rain, causing the villages to be flooded, he said when contacted March 22. Meanwhile in Hilir Perak district, 81 out of 19 families from Kampung Sungai Manik and Labu Kubung were moved to the surau and community hall as the river water there rose to 1 meter deep after 2 days of heavy rain. Out of those evacuated, 44 were placed at the community hall and 37 at the surau. A state assemblyman for Sungai Manik visited the flood victims March 22. Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nst/articles/169floodvictimsevacuatedinPerak/Article/>
63. *March 21, New Philadelphia Times Reporter* – (Ohio) **Zoar levee has unsatisfactory performance, officials say.** About 100 people attended a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers meeting at the Zoar United Church of Christ March 21 to discuss the Zoar, Ohio, levee and diversion dam. The commander of the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps, told the audience safety is his organization's No. 1 priority. He said the Zoar levee and

diversion dam has been classified as a Dam Safety Action Classification I (DSAC-I) which means it is urgent and compelling and a failure could cause significant loss of life or property. It was pointed out that failure in Corps language means the special project is not performing as it should. The levee has shown boils and seepage and has an unsatisfactory performance. A Corps Dam Safety study will take 18 months to complete and would provide alternatives to issues at the levee. The Corps is asking for photos and input from residents on what they want done to preserve the village. No decisions have been made about the levee and the course of action. Some measures to consider would be a cut-off wall which would be excavated and a large trench would be made to keep the wall from collapsing. This would be constructed through the center of the levee. Another option is acquisition, which can raise the homes, relocate, or flood-proof the structures. Some structure measures would be to modify the structure and reduce the risk by cut-off walls, seepage blankets/berms, relief wells/rehab pumps, relocate, or reconstruct the dam or replace the levee.

Source: <http://www.timesreporter.com/news/x1161124517/Zoar-levee-has-unsatisfactory-performance-officials-say>

64. *March 21, Pierce County Herald* – (Minnesota) **River roads in St. Paul closing.** Two sections of road are being closed along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minnesota March 21. A levee is going up by the river in St. Paul while Warner and Shepard roads are being shut down. The Mississippi is due to reach flood stage late the week of March 21. Flood warnings are taking hold throughout much of Minnesota, just as more wet weather is set to enter the state. Several inches of snow could fall across the upper half of Minnesota, starting late March 22. Mostly rain will fall over the southern third of the state, impacting river flows that are already at high levels. The National Weather Service also reported minor flooding along other rivers and streams across southwestern and southeastern Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/34265/>

65. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Rising river forces evacuation in Biddeford.** Rising waters on Maine's Saco River have forced some residents at a Biddeford apartment complex to temporarily find other places to stay. City officials said the river has breached a barrier wall that keeps river waters away from the 66-unit Saco Mill by the Falls apartment complex. Officials said the waters were lapping up against the outside walls of the complex, but had not entered any of the apartments themselves. Concerns about the rising water levels and strong currents prompted the landlord to temporarily relocate residents of six apartments March 19. Biddeford officials said the tenants can return home once the wall is fixed or the river subsides.

Source: http://www.wgme.com/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wgme_vid_7185.shtml

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