



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 March 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- According to Global Security Newswire, the United States is spending millions of dollars to help hospitals reduce the potential for terrorists to acquire sufficient amounts of medical isotopes to build a radiological “dirty bomb.” (See item [6](#))
- The West Chester PA Patch reports police arrested a suspect March 22 with large amounts of explosive material in a hotel room, who they said blew up a stick of dynamite in a crowded, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania bar. (See item [23](#))

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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 23, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Houston company accepts responsibility for oil spill off Louisiana.** A Houston, Texas-based oil company has accepted responsibility for a mysterious oil spill near Grand Isle, Louisiana, although it said it remains “surprised” that what it thought was a minor discharge from a long dormant well could have produced miles-long slicks. The Houston-based company put out a statement March 22. It said it was informed by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) that

it may be responsible for the spill, which has sent emulsified oil onto Louisiana shores. Anglo-Suisse also accepted responsibility for clean-up, even though the statement also said company officials were surprised by USCG's "suggestion" because the well is "non-producing and has been monitored closely for the last six months." The well is one the company was plugging for permanent abandonment, in the West Delta Block 117 west-southwest of Southwest Pass. In three reports to USCG since March 18, the company reported that less than 5 gallons of crude had escaped. But state wildlife and fisheries agents traced the oil to the Anglo-Suisse well at its Platform E facility March 21, and found a crew on a boat trying to close in the well with a remotely operated submarine.

Source: [http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2011/03/houston\\_company\\_accepts\\_respon.html](http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2011/03/houston_company_accepts_respon.html)

2. *March 22, National Public Radio* – (West Virginia) **New criminal charges stem from W.Va. mine explosion investigation.** The criminal investigation into last April's deadly coal mine explosion in West Virginia has produced a second set of charges. The new two-count criminal "information" just filed by the U.S. attorney in Charleston, West Virginia., does not directly involve the April 5 blast at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch mine in Montcoal, which killed 29 workers and injured 2 others. Instead, a former Upper Big Branch foreman is accused of falsifying the document that certified he was qualified to perform a foreman's work. The suspect, of Boone County, West Virginia, is also charged with lying to federal agents about his fake certification. A U.S. attorney alleged in a statement the man performed pre-shift and on-shift safety examinations at Upper Big Branch from January 2008 to August 2009 even though he was not qualified to do that safety work. The attorney also said the man told federal investigators someone at Massey subsidiary Performance Coal provided him with a false certification number. "In fact, [the man] invented the foreman's certification number," the statement said. Both charges are felonies and each is punishable by up to 5 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.  
Source: <http://www.vpr.net/npr/134772051/>

3. *March 21, Los Angeles Independent* – (California) **Storm moving out of L.A. County.** A late-winter storm that wreaked havoc across the Southland and shattered a handful of rainfall records was expected to move out of Los Angeles County, California, March 21, as crews worked to restore power to thousands of customers. During the storm activity March 20, about 41,000 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) customers were without electricity at times. By 11:15 am March 21, about 12,000 LADWP customers remained without electricity, including 3,000 in Valley Glen and 1,300 in Cheviot Hills. About 55,000 Southern California Edison customers — most of them outside Los Angeles County — were affected at times during the storm. As of 6 a.m., March 21, 1,120 SCE customers remained without electricity in Hawthorne, 916 in Lomita, 1,091 in Redondo Beach, 535 in Torrance, 635 in Bellflower, 105 in Pico Rivera, 110 in Temple City, and 366 in Lancaster. No one was injured, and those displaced were taken to a fire station for shelter, a spokesman said. There were more than 100 reports of downed trees, mostly in valley areas, and some fell on homes and vehicles.

Source: <http://www.laindependent.com/news/grapevine-closed-I-5-los-angeles-county-storm-rain-snow-118349579.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *March 23, WLKY 32 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **24 hours later, chemical plant still burning.** More than 24 hours after an explosion at a chemical plant in Louisville, Kentucky that killed two workers, the building was still burning. Officials said they have no idea when the fires will be put out. On March 23, firefighters were on the scene of the explosion, which happened at the Carbide Industries plant in Rubbertown March 21. Smoke was still billowing from the building throughout the day March 22. The furnace building where the blast occurred continued to burn that night, while neighbors' anxieties continued to rise. But despite the black smoke, officials were adamant it contained nothing harmful. "Right now, it's not posing any adverse effect on anybody in the community," the assistant chief with the Lake Dreamland Fire Department said. "There doesn't appear to be any immediate threats associated with what's burning," a spokesperson with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said. Firefighters explained the chemical inside the building can not come in contact with water so the strategy is to simply sit and wait. State fire investigators and a representative from the Occupational Health and Safety Administration were also at the scene March 23 investigating the cause of the explosion.

Source: <http://www.wlky.com/r/27287311/detail.html>

5. *March 23, Cleveland Daily Banner* – (Tennessee) **Chlorine spill cleaned up at King Edward Avenue site.** Cleveland, Tennessee Fire Department (CFD) officials stood by at a local chemical company March 22 after a chemical spill was contained and neutralized. Approximately 275 gallons of chlorine spilled into a trailer and onto the ground at Specialty Chemical Co. CFD officials arrived on the scene with haz-mat equipment and stood by while the bleach product was contained and neutralized, reports indicated. The incident occurred around 2:30 p.m. Bradley County Emergency Management Agency officials also consulted with haz-mat crews on the scene. Officials with the company contained and cleaned up the spilled chemical. No injuries were reported. Also assisting at the scene were Cleveland police, and Bradley County Emergency Medical Service.

Source: [http://www.clevelandbanner.com/view/full\\_story/12462783/article-Chlorine-spill-cleaned-up-at-King-Edward-Avenue-site?instance=crime\\_log](http://www.clevelandbanner.com/view/full_story/12462783/article-Chlorine-spill-cleaned-up-at-King-Edward-Avenue-site?instance=crime_log)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

6. *March 22, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **U.S. looks to safeguard medical isotopes from terrorists.** The United States is spending millions of dollars to help hospitals reduce the potential for terrorists to acquire sufficient amounts of medical isotopes to build a radiological “dirty bomb,” New York Newsday reported March 21. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is funding the effort as part of its initiative to assess and improve radioactive substance safeguards at almost 2,700 sites no later than 2020, according to the NNSA deputy director. In excess of 120 of the sites covered by the program are in New York state, including 50 facilities in New York City. Thirty facilities have already been examined in the city, including 18 hospitals. Before the end of 2011, officials want to see safeguard studies completed for all New York City hospitals. U.S. counterterrorism experts fear widely used and inadequately secured devices that house radioactive materials could create an opening for terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda to produce a dirty bomb, which would use conventional explosives to disperse radiological substance over a wide area. The Presidential administration requested \$25 million in fiscal year 2011 for a program to secure radioactive materials. Congress has not passed a final budget for the current budget year, which ends September 30, instead approving a series of continuing funding resolutions. The White House is seeking to increase funding for the program to \$51 million in fiscal year 2012. Washington is also training state and local law enforcement officials and hospital security guards, among others, at a specialized security facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The training includes countering a terrorist attempt to invade a hospital in order to obtain radioactive substances.

Source: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20110322\\_7770.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110322_7770.php)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *March 23, Savannah Morning News* – (Georgia) **City Market ATM found to have theft device.** Savannah-Chatham, Georgia, police are asking customers who may have used the Automated Transaction Machine at the SunTrust Bank in City Market near St. Julian Street at Jefferson Street to check their accounts for inappropriate charges. A customer alerted police he had discovered a “skimmer,” a device attached to an ATM to record bank card numbers and PIN numbers, March 17, a police spokesman said.

The device discovered last week recorded the information off the magnetic strip and stored it for retrieval later. Police feel they recovered the device before any information was provided, but advised customers who used the ATM to check with their banks. The sergeant in charge of Savannah's Financial Crimes Division said SunTrust Corporate Security advised him that similar devices have been found on ATMs in Tennessee.

Source: <http://savannahnow.com/crime/2011-03-22/johnson-square-atm-found-have-theft-device>

8. *March 23, Honolulu Star-Advertiser* – (National) **Three indicted for ID theft as drivers filled tanks.** An Oahu, Hawaii, grand jury returned an indictment March 22 charging three men from California with identity theft and credit card fraud for using information they “skimmed” from gasoline pumps. According to the indictment, the three men installed skimming devices at four Aloha Island Mini Mart gas stations on Oahu in September 2010, returned to California with the account data the devices recorded, and made counterfeit credit and debit cards using the information. They then stole more than \$150,000 from the 6 Hawaii financial institutions of the 156 account holders who used the compromised pumps. To install the devices, the defendants rented from United Truck Rental in HonoĀlulu a van equipped with side panel doors on both sides of the vehicle. They then parked the vehicle next to the gasoline pumps. As the accomplice and other defendants served as lookouts, created distractions, and blocked views to the front of the pumps, a ringleader of the group used a “master key” to open the pumps’ front panels and attached skimming devices to their internal hardware components, the indictment said. The defendants returned later and used the same techniques to retrieve the devices. Police in California said the ringleader did the same thing in Laguna Beach, California last summer. They arrested him at his home in Glendale, Arizona in January 2011 and charged him with using unauthorized credit card information to purchase items in California, Arizona and New Mexico.

Source:

[http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110323\\_3\\_indicted\\_for\\_ID\\_theft\\_as\\_drivers\\_filed\\_tanks.html](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110323_3_indicted_for_ID_theft_as_drivers_filed_tanks.html)

9. *March 22, Philippine Daily Inquirer* – (International) **PH named among major drug money-laundering countries.** The Philippines has been identified by the U.S. Department of State as one of the 63 “major drug money-laundering countries” in the world. In its 2011 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, the State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs said financial institutions in these countries “engage in currency transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from international narcotics trafficking.” Aside from the Philippines, other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the list are Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, and Myanmar (formerly Burma). Also on the list are: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, India, Macau, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Russia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States, among others. According to the report, the Philippines “continues to face challenges in the areas of drug production, drug trafficking and internal drug consumption.” It said the Manila government “takes drug trafficking and drug abuse seriously, and has made

substantial efforts to address these problems.” However, it pointed out that “lack of law enforcement resources, the slow pace of judicial and investigative reforms and lack of law enforcement inter-agency cooperation continue to hamper government efforts to investigate and prosecute higher echelons of drug trafficking organizations operating in the Philippines.”

Source: <http://www.asianjournal.com/dateline-philippines/headlines/9455-ph-named-among-major-drug-money-laundering-countries.html>

10. *March 22, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **SEC files fraud charges against Mountain View investment firm.** A Mountain View, California, firm allegedly defrauded its investors out of \$17 million while assuring them their money was safe, according to federal authorities. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced March 22 it filed charges in federal court against JSW Financial and five of its officers, seeking civil penalties and repayment of the defendants’ “ill-gotten gains.” SEC said in a statement that between 2002 and 2008, JSW and its predecessor created two real estate investment firms, called Blue Chip Realty Fund and Shoreline Investment Fund. “The defendants told investors, many of whom were seniors, that their investments were safe because they were being used for secured real estate loans,” the director of the SEC’s San Francisco regional office said in a statement. Instead, firm officers used the money to fund their own failing real estate projects, SEC said. As the firm lost money, officers sent investors fraudulent account statements claiming the funds were earning more than 10 percent in annual profits, SEC noted. JSW is in bankruptcy and has been out of business since November 2008. SEC also claimed two of the men charged in the case together used \$900,000 worth of investor money to purchase homes for themselves.  
Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_17677961?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17677961?nclick_check=1)
11. *March 22, WDRB 41 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Two men arrested for having 193 fake credit cards.** Two men were under arrest March 21, caught with almost 200 fake credit cards. The two men were stopped by police on the Gene Snyder Freeway, near Westport Road in Louisville, Kentucky. Officers said they had 193 fake credit cards. At least 140 of those had magnetic strips that had been encoded with false information. Police said the two men had recently moved to Louisville from Florida. On March 21, they were indicted on more than 190 counts for making and possessing fake credit cards.  
Source: <http://www.fox41.com/story/14298130/two-men-arrested-for-having-193-fake-credit-cards>
12. *March 22, Associated Press* – (International) **\$500,000 vanishes from tsunami-ravaged bank.** The earthquake and tsunami that pulverized coastal Japan crippled a bank’s security mechanisms and left a vault wide open. That allowed someone to walk off with 40 million yen (\$500,000). The March 11 tsunami washed over the Shinkin Bank, like much else in Kesenuma, and police said between the wave’s power and the ensuing power outages, the vault came open. “The bank was flooded, and things were thrown all over. It was a total mess. Somebody stole the money in the midst of the chaos,” said a police official in Miyagi prefecture, where Kesenuma is located. The

bank notified police March 22, 11 days after the disaster, said the official.  
Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42208038/ns/world\\_news-asiapacific/?GT1=43001`](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42208038/ns/world_news-asiapacific/?GT1=43001)

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## **Transportation Sector**

13. *March 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Bomb threat prompts plane search in San Francisco.** A spokeswoman for Philippine Airlines said a telephoned bomb threat that prompted authorities in San Francisco, California, to search a plane from Manila, Philippines, was a hoax, Associated Press reported March 23. The spokeswoman said all 337 passengers and 20 crewmembers were taken off the plane and searched after it landed March 22, before the plane was moved to a remote part of San Francisco International Airport. No injuries were reported among passengers or the crew. The spokeswoman said authorities ended the search after not finding any threats. A police sergeant called the threat “unsubstantiated.” The spokeswoman said the anonymous call was made to the airline’s cargo warehouse in the San Francisco Bay area.

Source:

[http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/national\\_world&id=8028862&rss=rss-ktrk-article-8028862](http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/national_world&id=8028862&rss=rss-ktrk-article-8028862)

14. *March 22, Associated Press* – (National) **United plane allowed to fly without repairs.** Associated Press reported March 22 a United Airlines plane with 112 people aboard was allowed to take off in May 2010 from New York, New York without repairs despite indications during 2 previous flights that the cockpit window was overheating, a condition long known to cause fires, according to evidence gathered by federal investigators. The Boeing 757 was about 30 minutes into a flight from New York to San Francisco, California, and had just leveled off at 36,000 feet, when pilots said they heard a hissing noise followed seconds later by 14- to 16-inch flames shooting from the cockpit window near the captain, documents recently released by the National Transportation Safety Board show. The captain, who had been flying the plane, told investigators he got out of his seat, grabbed a Halon fire extinguisher and put out the flames. But he said they quickly reignited. Another United captain who had flown the same plane earlier that day told investigators he reported fumes and an overheated electrical connection when he landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York, according to a summary of his interview with investigators.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hMNCIMHwDHXPGhOPdJEaJi6g8ETQ?docId=2fec68e33b914492b1bb85318f446695>

15. *March 22, Charlotte Observer; Boston Globe* – (North Carolina) **Airport breaches rile Massachusetts congressman.** A U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts who has been critical of security operations at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in North Carolina said he will ask a House subcommittee to study two recent cases where the

security fence at the airport has been breached, the Charlotte Observer and Boston Globe reported March 22. The Democratic Congressman will raise the issue with the Homeland Security Oversight Subcommittee, his office has confirmed. He has accused the Transportation Security Administration, DHS, and Charlotte's airport operations of lax security, after a 16-year-old boy died in Massachusetts, when he fell from a wheel well of a Boeing 737 plane he had board November 15, 2010 in Charlotte. The two latest security problems happened late March 11 or early March 12, and again March 14. In the first incident, airport officials confirmed someone cut a chain-link fence, broke into a construction trailer, and took about \$13,000 worth of equipment. Then, someone got through the airport perimeter and stole about \$150 worth of diesel fuel from a contractor March 14. A spokeswoman for the airport said the two most recent incidents were not serious.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/03/22/2163129/airport-breaches-rile-massachusetts.html>

16. *March 22, Associated Press* – (International) **Coast Guard to screen some ships coming from Japan.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) plans to screen any vessels in Guam that have sailed near a damaged Japanese nuclear power plant that is leaking radiation, Associated Press reported March 22. USCG said vessels that traveled in a 50-mile "precautionary area" surrounding the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant will be subject to additional screenings at ports in Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Officials have put a protocol in place that includes checking vessels at sea. They also will check all cargo offloaded from Japan in ports of Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The plan calls for emergency response teams to be available if dangerous levels of radiation are discovered. It was not clear if other ports outside of Guam had the same three-part plan in place. A USCG spokesman said he could only confirm personnel already employ radiological detectors every day when they conduct routine boardings. "We've been doing that for a long time. These are nothing new. These are not new procedures or protocol that we would employ," he said. USCG said so far, no vessels that traveled in the 50-mile zone have arrived at U.S. ports. They said the probability of contamination of hazardous radiation is low. The 50-mile zone was established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. State Department to ensure the safety of the global supply chain, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/mar/22/bc-hi-radiation-monitors-coast-guard/?news&nation-world>

17. *March 22, Evansville Courier and Press* – (Kentucky; Indiana) **Sensor failed to send alert of twin bridge hit.** The U.S. 41 bridges across the Ohio River between Henderson, Kentucky and Evansville, Indiana, are equipped with special monitors to alert highway officials when a barge strikes a pier. But when a barge struck the northbound bridge March 18, the sensors did not send an alert. Kentucky transportation officials said that was because the strike was not hard enough to trigger a response from the seismic sensors. Following federal regulations, both northbound and southbound bridges were closed at the peak of rush-hour traffic until bridge inspectors with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet could examine them. A cabinet spokesman said the sensors did not register the collision because the barge that struck the bridge was



empty, generating little impact. “These are kind of a version of seismographs that pick up earthquakes,” he said. The sensors were installed 3 years ago and have since been monitored by the Kentucky Transportation Research Center. Engineers from the research center initially had to decrease the sensitivity of the sensors because they were being triggered by semitrucks and other heavy traffic crossing the bridges.

Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/mar/22/sensor-failed-to-send-alert-of-bridge-hit/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

18. *March 23, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Birmingham officials shut streets to investigate suspicious package outside main post office.** Birmingham, Alabama, police and fire officials investigated a suspicious package at the downtown post office March 23. Police said the package was on a picnic table in front of the 24th Street North building on the south end of the facility. Officers arrived at the scene about 7 a.m. Police shut down 24th Street between second and fifth avenues as well as Third Avenue at 23rd Street.

Source: [http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2011/03/birmingham\\_officials\\_shut\\_stre.html](http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2011/03/birmingham_officials_shut_stre.html)

19. *March 22, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Report faults Army in 2001 anthrax mailings.** The U.S. Army scientist believed responsible for the 2001 anthrax letter attacks that killed five people and crippled mail delivery in parts of the country had exhibited alarming mental problems that military officials should have noticed and acted on long before he had a chance to strike, a panel of behavioral analysts has found, according to information released March 22. The anthrax attacks, the nation’s worst bioterrorism event, “could have been anticipated — and prevented,” the panel said. The analysts also concluded confidential records documenting the scientist’s psychiatric history offered “considerable additional circumstantial evidence” that he was indeed the anthrax killer. A copy of the panel’s 285-page report was obtained by the Los Angeles Times. The anonymous, anthrax-laced letters, were sent to news organizations and two U.S. senators in October and November 2001. Anthrax that leaked from one of the letters forced the closure of a Senate office building for 3 months. Fear of further contamination prompted a 6-day shutdown of the House of Representatives, and disrupted operations of the Supreme Court. The scientist, a microbiologist with expertise in cultivating anthrax, died July 29, 2008. He had taken an overdose of Tylenol PM as federal prosecutors prepared to seek his indictment for murder.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-anthrax-ivins-20110323,0,220890.story>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

20. *March 23, United States Department of Agriculture* – (Pennsylvania; National) **23,000 pounds of bologna recalled.** Palmyra Bologna Company, Inc., of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, recalled approximately 23,000 pounds of Lebanon bologna products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced March 23. Lebanon bologna is a fermented, semi-dry sausage. This beef product has an appearance similar to salami. The products subject to recall in packaging for consumers include: 6-, 12-, and 16-ounce packages of “Seltzer’s Beef Lebanon Bologna” with lot code “01351.” The products subject to recall were produced in December 2010 and were sent to distribution centers in California, Colorado, Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania for further distribution to retail stores.  
Source: <http://www.foodmanufacturing.com/scripts/ShowPR~RID~19904.asp>
21. *March 22, NewsCore* – (International) **FDA to temporarily ban foods imported from Japan amidst radiation fears.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said March 22 it will temporarily halt the import of all milk, vegetable, and fruit products coming from the four prefectures of Japan thought to be affected by radiation. The move, called an “import alert” amounts to a 180-day ban on imports and was authorized in “response to public fears about radiation from Japan’s crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant,” an FDA spokesperson said. “In order to complement the measures that Japan has taken and to strengthen the global food safety net regarding certain products, FDA has issued an Import Alert regarding the importation of all milk and milk products and fresh vegetables and fruits produced or manufactured from the four Japanese prefectures of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma,” the spokesperson added. “In addition, FDA will continue to flag all entries from Japan in order to determine whether they originated from the affected area. FDA will test all food and feed shipments from the affected area.”  
Source:  
[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/international/radioactive\\_materials\\_detected\\_nuclear\\_pHw1UZ8jCo4bvLeto28dPO](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/international/radioactive_materials_detected_nuclear_pHw1UZ8jCo4bvLeto28dPO)
22. *March 22, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Shopping center fire ruled arson.** Investigators said a fire that destroyed a business and severely damaged several others March 13 in Tulsa, Oklahoma was intentionally set by someone trying to cover up a burglary. The fire started in Mershon Catering. But the smoke, water, and structural damage spread throughout the neighboring businesses as well. Once the smoke cleared, it did not take long to figure out how the fire started. “They spread these cans of butane around and used them (aluminum canisters) as an accelerant. We had about eight of these we found that don’t belong in this area,” the owner of Mershon Catering said. The canisters are used to heat food during events his business caters. The back door of Mershon Catering was pried open, the phones system was ripped out, the alarm was disabled, and someone tried to use a pipe to open the safe in his office. The Tulsa Fire Department will remain the primary agency on the case, but the Tulsa Police Department’s Burglary Unit may help later on.  
Source: [http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/shopping-center-fire-ruled-arson](http://www.kjrh.com/dpp/news/local_news/shopping-center-fire-ruled-arson)

23. *March 22, West Chester, PA Patch* – (Pennsylvania) **Suspect arrested for possible dynamite explosion in crowded Phoenixville bar.** Police said a 51-year-old suspect arrested March 22 in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, put hundreds of people in danger March 12, and had enough bomb making materials in his hotel room to cause death and major damage. The Phoenixville man will be charged with the felonies of risking a catastrophe and arson, the Phoenixville police chief said. The man allegedly set off a stick of dynamite in the bathroom March 12 at Molly Maguire’s Restaurant and Pub during a downtown pub crawl. Someone had just left the bathroom and someone was getting ready to go in when the explosion occurred, the chief said. The force of the blast blew apart a bathroom stall, destroying tile and the ceiling. “Immediately when we looked at the damage, we thought that it had to have been at least a quarter stick if not a half stick of dynamite,” he said. A week or two prior to the incident, the chief said there was another explosion behind the Mainstay Inn on Bridge Street. The inn is directly across the street from Molly Maguire’s. Because the officer already had the suspect’s information, police went March 22 to question him. A maintenance worker was in the suspect’s room at the Mainstay, and pointed out dangerous materials. The room contained powder, scales, and tubes. The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office was contacted, as well as the county district attorney. The bomb squad had police create a 300-foot perimeter around the Mainstay Inn. The 100 block of Bridge Street was closed from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Source: <http://westchester.patch.com/articles/suspect-arrested-for-possible-dynamite-explosion-in-crowded-phoenixville-bar>

24. *March 22, Omaha World-Herald* – (Nebraska) **Entire garage just exploded.** The owner of Bromm Cattle Co. in Craig, Nebraska, said he estimated damage from a tornado March 22 at \$700,000 to \$1 million. “The bins that were empty are gone,” he said. Other corn-filled bins were heavy enough to remain in place. Still other equipment had been blown away and was “lying in a pile,” he said. A Bromm employee inside a semi was rattled but uninjured when winds lifted the vehicle off County Road 21. A preliminary damage assessment by the weather service suggested the tornado touched down a few miles east of Missouri Valley and tracked northeast for 12 miles. During the storm, the National Weather Service office in Valley recorded hailstones about the size of ping pong balls and winds estimated at 50 mph.  
Source: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20110322/NEWS01/703239997/743>

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## **Water Sector**

25. *March 23, DUQ 90.5 FM Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Energy company liable for pollution.** Houston based GenOn Energy Inc. could face as much as \$325 million in fines for water pollution violations at its power plant in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. A federal judge in Pittsburgh ruled March 22 that the wholly-owned subsidiary, GenOn Northeast Management Co., is liable for discharging metals into the Conemaugh River.

The suit filed by PennEnvironment and the Sierra Club alleged the violations date back to 2005. The judge found the facility committed 8,684 violations of the federal Clean Water Act. Each violation could carry a civil penalty of as much as \$37,500. In 2005, the plant was run by Reliant Energy, which later became part of GenOn. A U.S. magistrate judge must still decide what penalty to impose. Company officials refused to comment until the penalty phase is completed. It is expected GenOn will attempt to settle the 2007 lawsuit before the judge imposes a penalty.

Source: <http://wduqnews.blogspot.com/2011/03/energy-company-liable-for-pollution.html>

26. *March 23, Associated Press* – (International) **Radiation detected in Tokyo’s tap water; smoke prompts new evacuation of leaking nuclear plant.** A spike in radiation levels in Tokyo tap water spurred new fears about food safety March 23 as rising black smoke forced another evacuation of workers trying to stabilize Japan’s radiation-leaking nuclear plant. Radiation has seeped into vegetables, raw milk, the water supply, and seawater since a magnitude-9 quake and killer tsunami crippled the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant nearly 2 weeks ago. Broccoli was added to a list of tainted vegetables, and United States and Hong Kong officials announced a block on Japanese dairy and some produce from the region. Concerns about food safety spread March 23 to Tokyo after officials said tap water showed elevated levels: 210 becquerels of iodine-131 per liter of water — more than twice the recommended limit of 100 becquerels per liter for infants. Another measurement taken later at a different site showed the level was 190 becquerels per liter. The recommended limit for adults is 300 becquerels. A public health radiologist at the University of Manchester in Britain, blamed the spike in radiation on a shift in winds from the nuclear plant toward Tokyo. He predicted lower levels in coming days once the wind shifts back to normal patterns.

Source:

[http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/market\\_news/article.jsp?content=D9M4VURG0](http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/market_news/article.jsp?content=D9M4VURG0)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

27. *March 22, Portland Tribune* – (Oregon) **VA warns local veterans about missing medical ID cards.** Portland, Oregon’s Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA) is warning between 50 and 75 veterans in the region that identification cards with some personal information about them are missing. The VA staff contacted the veterans early this year to tell them tVeterans Information Cards (VIC) in their names had disappeared after being returned to the medical center because of inaccurate mailing addresses. Veterans use the cards to check in for VA appointments. To protect sensitive personal information, the VIC card displays only name, photo, and special eligibility indicators (military service-connected disability, Purple Heart, or former POW status) on the front. VA officials said the week of March 21 that although the Social Security number

and date of birth do not appear on the card, the information encoded in a barcode on the back can be revealed by some over-the-counter bar-code readers. On January 31, about 50 to 75 veterans' cards that were mailed and then returned between January 1 and 27 were discovered missing from the hospital's enrollment office. Despite a search and investigation, the missing cards have not been found. The medical center distributed a press release March 20 about the missing cards.

Source: [http://portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=130077068318729300](http://portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=130077068318729300)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

28. *March 23, Help Net Security* – (National) **63% of schools plagued by two IT security breaches a year.** With 63 percent of schools experiencing malware outbreaks or unauthorized user access at least twice a year, the results of a Panda Security survey indicate IT security is a resource-heavy, time-consuming effort schools struggle to manage efficiently. With malware on the rise and new threats propagated through social media every day, having the right security tools in schools has never been more important. According to the survey, 64 percent of schools have experienced significant downtime, reporting at least 2 incidents in the last year. Schools also struggle to upgrade IT security systems, with 72 percent identifying budget constraints as the primary barrier to advancement, and 38 percent identifying a lack of staff for these initiatives. Twenty-nine percent said IT staff have other priorities that take precedence over IT security system upgrades. Security issues consume staff time, diverting attention from the business of education. IT administrative staff at 38 percent of schools report removing viruses or malware from IT systems a few times a week, and 21 percent are doing this daily.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1673](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1673)

29. *March 22, Washington Post* – (Michigan) **FBI probing package with explosives left at Detroit federal building for 3 weeks.** The FBI is investigating a suspicious package containing explosives left unattended by security guards for 3 weeks inside a 26-story federal building in Detroit, Michigan, according to law enforcement officials. The package, containing “explosive components,” is at the FBI crime lab in Quantico, Virginia, for further testing as a federal investigation continues, an FBI special agent said. The Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building houses regional offices for the FBI, IRS, Social Security Administration, Peace Corps, and a U.S. Senator. A law enforcement source said a private security guard brought the suspicious package into the building, where it remained, unopened and unscreened, for about 3 weeks. The source said guards thought the package might have belonged to someone on a construction crew working outside the building. About 3 weeks later, security personnel decided to screen the package, became alarmed at the results, and called federal authorities and the Detroit police department's bomb squad. A private security guard involved in the incident has been suspended until further notice, a senior Federal

Protective Service (FPS) official said. FPS is a DHS agency that employs government and private contract guards to protect more than 9,000 federal facilities nationwide. Similar disciplinary action will be taken against contract and FPS-employed guards if the investigation determines others are culpable, the official said.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fbi-probing-package-with-explosives-left-at-detroit-federal-building-for-3-weeks/2011/03/22/ABOHMCEB\\_story.html?hpid=z3](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fbi-probing-package-with-explosives-left-at-detroit-federal-building-for-3-weeks/2011/03/22/ABOHMCEB_story.html?hpid=z3)

30. *March 18, Mesothelioma News* – (Massachusetts) **EPA fines GSA \$100,000 for asbestos violations.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has settled an enforcement action against the General Services Administration (GSA) and four of its contractors (Goody Clancy and Associates, ATC Associates, Suffolk Construction Company and Fleet Industrial Services) for violating the federal Clean Air Act requirements by failing to properly remove, handle, and dispose of asbestos during a supposedly “green” renovation project of the John W. McCormack Post Office and Court House Building in Boston, Massachusetts in 2007. The 22-story Art Deco building is home to the EPA’s regional headquarters, the U.S. departments of education, health and human services and homeland security, U.S. Bankruptcy Court and U.S. Trustees. GSA, which also has offices in the building, is the government’s real estate developer, facility manager, and owner/operator of the building. GSA said the renovation was carried out with an emphasis on green practices because the building has several environmentally sound features, but EPA and the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety discovered asbestos violations during joint inspections that put workers and the surrounding community at risk. For this mishandling, GSA and its contractors will collectively pay EPA a fine of \$100,000.  
Source: <http://www.mesothelioma.com/news/2011/03/epa-fines-gsa-100000-for-asbestos-violations.htm>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

31. *March 23, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **FCC continues investigation into Montgomery’s 911 service.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the utility that services the county’s emergency call center remain at odds over the cause of a glitch that disrupted 911 service earlier this year. FCC, which is continuing to investigate the outage, also is questioning whether Verizon — the sole provider of 911 services in Maryland — should have reported the failure to the federal agency, which it did not. About 8,300 calls to the county’s 911 center were met with busy signals January 26; meanwhile, in Prince George’s County, 1,700 calls were blocked. Verizon has said the disruption was limited to cell phone calls, but some county residents reported not being able to get through to 911 using land lines. Verizon officials said the company continues to cooperate with investigations. Now, Verizon will inform the county centers within 15 minutes if calls are not getting through, the company’s senior

vice president for federal regulatory affairs said in a March 10 memo to FCC. Verizon also is looking into possible electronic notifications that can go out instantly after a problem is identified, she said. Verizon also has tested equipment repairs that would prevent the 911 system from blocking all wireless calls.

Source: [http://www.gazette.net/stories/03232011/montnew185410\\_32539.php](http://www.gazette.net/stories/03232011/montnew185410_32539.php)

32. *March 22, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Mayor Greg Fischer says Rubbertown notification ‘not good enough,’ orders inquiry.** The warning system designed to alert residents in the Rubbertown section of Louisville, Kentucky of dangerous incidents showed serious holes after a chemical plant explosion March 21, the mayor said March 22 as he pledged to “take a look at what we can do better.” The mayor and emergency management director both stressed agencies acted responsibly to ensure safety but acknowledged there was some confusion, conflicting messages among emergency responders, and a failure to notify residents promptly. “The safeguard system did not function as quickly as it should,” the mayor said during a March 21 press conference. His acknowledgement came as the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board announced it was sending a team to Louisville March 23 to begin an investigation into the explosion that killed two workers and injured two others at Carbide Industries. While air tests at the scene showed no danger, that information did not get communicated to Louisville police, who called MetroSafe dispatchers to ask that the National Weather Service advise residents within 1 mile of the plant to stay indoors and close their doors and windows. It was not the only communication gap exposed by the explosion. Carbide officials acknowledged March 22 that it failed to promptly update RCALL, an emergency telephone notification system used by Rubbertown plants to notify residents about potentially hazardous incidents. RCALL did not get updated until about 90 minutes after the explosion, a Carbide employee said. He said it was the company’s fault for not updating information within a half hour, as is expected. Because of that, MetroSafe Communications will now assume responsibility for notifying the public during such emergencies, including updating RCALL until another process can be put in place, the city’s emergency management director said.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110322/NEWS01/303220057/0/FEATURES0201/Mayor-Greg-Fischer-says-Rubbertown-notification-not-good-enough-orders-inquiry?odyssey=nav|head>

33. *March 22, CNN* – (National) **Holder announces safety initiative after rise in officer deaths.** The U.S. Attorney General announced a Law Enforcement Safety Initiative March 22, calling the number of law enforcement officers killed in the United States so far this year “simply unacceptable.” His comments came as he met with a group of police chiefs and the heads of several federal law enforcement agencies to talk about the problem. He said the initiative will involve all U.S. attorneys around the country meeting with local police and others to discuss the issue and to try to find solutions. According to data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 49 officers have been killed this year through March 21, compared with 41 for the same period last year, an increase of 20 percent. The Attorney General said 23 of

those officers lost their lives due to gunshot wounds, including 5 who worked in federal law enforcement. He noted that after a 2-year decline, officer deaths “spiked by nearly 40 percent” with the loss of 162 officers in 2010. In 2009, 117 officers were killed. The U.S. Justice Department already has some programs in place to combat violence against police officers, the Attorney General said, including a program where the federal government provides bulletproof vests to officers around the country.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/03/22/law.enforcement.safety/index.html>

34. *March 22, Fargo Inforum* – (North Dakota) **Fargo divided on who makes evacuation call.** Fargo, North Dakota is still sorting out who should make the call to evacuate during a flood. The city commission voted 3-2, March 21, to hold off 2 more weeks on an overhaul of the emergency powers ordinance. The existing ordinance gives evacuation powers to the police chief. A new version of the policy presented March 21 makes the city administrator the decision-making “incident commander”, but requires consultation with the mayor and chief of police for an evacuation of areas smaller than 2 square miles. Larger areas require a vote of the full commission. The commissioner said he does not want to rush the changes. The mayor and commissioner voted against delaying the ordinance, which the commission has reviewed during the past three commission meetings. The city administrator said the changes would help give staff a clear line of authority in emergency decisions, such as the small-scale evacuations that occurred in Belmont Park and River Villi in 2009. The policy also gives the city administrator power to force closures or limit hours for businesses, but requires ultimate approval by the commission. Commissioners will submit changes to the policy for discussion at the April 4 meeting. In the meantime, Fargo will continue flood protection measures. City-constructed clay levees are almost finished, but overland flooding in the Timberline neighborhood had the city fighting water earlier than expected. Melt water in a nearby field broke through a snowbank and flooded the dry side of a newly constructed clay dike. Crews worked until almost midnight to shore up the water with a temporary dam, and no damage was reported, the public works director said.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/313211/>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

35. *March 23, The Register* – (International) **Fake Japan blackout alerts cloak Flash malware.** Scammers are taking advantage of the situation in Japan by distributing malware that poses as information about a rolling electricity blackout program. Malicious e-mails contain infected Excel attachments hosting a Flash exploit ultimately designed to drop a malicious executable on compromised Windows PCs. The emergence of an attack serves as a reminder of the need to update Adobe Flash, using a patch released earlier the week of March 21.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/23/japan\\_blackout\\_malware\\_scam/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/23/japan_blackout_malware_scam/)



36. *March 23, H Security* – (International) **Security flaw in RealPlayer**. For the time being, users of RealPlayer should be careful to check the origin of files in the “Internet Video Recording” before playing them. A heap buffer overflow that occurs when the file is parsed allows attackers to inject and execute code locally. Because RealPlayer also runs as a browser plug-in, users PC’s will become infected if they visit a specially crafted Web site. According to the researcher who discovered the vulnerability, the hole is in the Windows version of RealPlayer 14.0.2.633, though previous versions and other platforms such as Linux and Mac OS X are also likely to be affected. There is no update or patch, and Real probably only recently found out about the problem because the researcher generally does not inform vendors in advance, but publishes his reports without contacting them. As a workaround, users can disable or remove the plug-in and/or the browser’s ActiveX control. While RealPlayer not only plays RealMedia, but also many other formats, users can also switch to a wide range of other media players. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Security-flaw-in-RealPlayer-1213044.html>
37. *March 23, H Security* – (International) **SSL meltdown forces browser developers to update**. According to a Tor developer and a blog posting by the Mozilla Foundation, the Comodo SSL Certification Authority may have been compromised. As a consequence, criminals apparently obtained nine certificates for Web sites that already existed, including addons.mozilla.org. There is no official statement on whether the situation was caused by insufficient checks during the certification process or by a breach of Comodo’s infrastructure. However, what initially appeared to be a problem for Comodo is now forcing browser developers to take counter measures and release updates. Otherwise, criminals could, for example, redirect users to a bogus Firefox plug-in page and offer them infected add-ons to install — as the page would possess a valid server certificate for addons.mozilla.org, users would be unaware, and Firefox would not issue an alert. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/SSL-meltdown-forces-browser-developers-to-update-1213358.html>
38. *March 22, Help Net Security* – (International) **Malicious app found in Android Market**. To infect a mobile device, the Rootcager/DroidDream Trojan used two known exploits: exploit and rageagainstthecage. If the first one failed to root the device, the malware would attempt to use the second one. According to researchers from Lookout, a malicious application that uses the exploit exploit has turned up masked as a legitimate calling plan management application on unofficial Chinese app markets. Now, a version of the app has also been spotted on the Android Market. But, while the first one contains a binary called zHash that attempts to root a device using the aforementioned exploit, the one found on the official market has the same binary, but lacks the code required to invoke the exploit. Lookout warned the mere existence of the zHash binary on the device leaves it vulnerable to future exploits. “The app’s use of the backdoor shell is extremely limited and not clearly malicious, however, zHash creates a hole in the security layer of the phone, leaving it vulnerable to other applications wanting to take advantage of the device. If the device was successfully rooted by this app, any other app on the device could gain root access without the user’s knowledge.”

Lookout said Google has removed the application from the Android Market, and used the kill switch again, but the problem for users who downloaded the app from an unofficial market is the app is still there and working.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1672](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1672)

39. *March 22, Softpedia* – (International) **Spam received by Play.com customers possibly tied to Silverpop breach.** Play.com has apologized for a wave of malicious spam received by its customers and said it is possibly connected to a breach at the e-mail marketing company Silverpop. According to The Register, Play.com customers began receiving rogue e-mail messages March 21 that advertised Adobe Reader upgrades but led to malware. Affected individuals were able to track down the problem to Play.com, because they only registered their e-mail addresses with the Web site. After being notified of the problem, the company alerted all customers of the threat and apologized for the incident. Play.com's chief executive explained the company's systems have not been compromised, but the e-mail database might have been stolen from their e-mail marketing partner, Silverpop. Silverpop's systems were breached in 2010, and e-mail databases for more than 100 of its clients have been compromised. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Spam-Received-by-Play-com-Customers-Possibly-Tied-to-Silverpop-Breach-190940.shtml>

40. *March 22, threatpost* – (International) **Spam down 40 percent in Rustock's absence.** The takedown of the Rustock botnet has measurably reduced the amount of spam e-mail, according to an IBM Internet Security Systems report. IBM said it has observed a sustained drop off of between 35 and 40 percent in global spam levels almost 1 week after law enforcement in the United States and abroad, along with attorneys from Microsoft, seized servers used as the command and control infrastructure for the botnet. In early March, the United States was the second most common source of spam on the Web. Now, in the wake of Rustock, the United States ranks 15th. That is due to Rustock's heavy reliance on U.S.-based servers. IBM said the declines are not unprecedented in the spam industry, and are only about half of what they were when the spamming industry went on holiday at the beginning of the year. They noted that over time, global spam levels might return to the levels seen before the Rustock takedown.

Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/spam-down-40-percent-rustocks-absence-032211](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/spam-down-40-percent-rustocks-absence-032211)

For another story, see item [28](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto:sos@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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## Communications Sector

41. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Tower collapse knocks WI television station off the air.** A television station in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was knocked off the air March 22 after its transmitting tower in Fairchild collapsed. Witnesses said several pieces of equipment fell from the sky when WEAU 13 went off the air around 8:30 p.m. WAXX radio is also on the tower and also went off air at the time. The top of the tower is what sends broadcast signals over the air and into living rooms across western Wisconsin. The tallest point, which is about 2,000 feet, now sits in the snow. The tower fell in about three different directions. One part of the tower is across County Road H and will not be cleared until March 23. “There were no injuries, there are no homes around, there was no one around that I know of that even saw it come down,” a Fairchild Fire Department spokeswoman said. “The only damage would be to the TV-13 tower and the building, and there’s substantial tree damage from all the cables whipping around.” It is unclear exactly what caused the tower to collapse, but the weather March 22 was windy and icy. The station is now streaming its news broadcasts on WEAU’s Web site.  
Source: <http://www.kare11.com/news/article/915685/396/Tower-collapse-knocks-WI-television-station-off-the-air>
42. *March 23, The Register* – (International) **Facebook traffic mysteriously passes through Chinese ISP.** For a short time March 22, Internet traffic sent between Facebook and subscribers to AT&T’s Internet service passed through hardware belonging to the state-owned China Telecom before reaching its final destination, a security researcher said. An routing error is the most likely explanation for the circuitous route, but it is troubling nonetheless, according to an independent researcher who helped discover the anomaly. In the past, China has been accused of monitoring the Internet communications of dissidents, and in 2010, U.S. companies were the targets of a Chinese hacking campaign. During a window that lasted 30 minutes to an hour March 22, all unencrypted traffic passing between AT&T customers and Facebook might have been open to similar monitoring. The independent researcher said he has no evidence any data was in fact stolen, but he said the potential for that is certainly there because the hardware belonged to China Telecom, which in turn is owned by the Chinese government. Internet traffic has been diverted through Chinese networks under mysterious circumstances in the past.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/23/facebook\\_traffic\\_china\\_telecom/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/23/facebook_traffic_china_telecom/)
43. *March 23, WMUR 9 Manchester* – (New Hampshire) **N.H. phone outages affects 911 services.** Phone outages were reported for Comcast customers in 19 New Hampshire communities March 22, and emergency dispatchers said those affected may not be able to dial 911. A Comcast spokesman said some customers experienced intermittent phone issues March 22, primarily with long distance and international calling. As of about 6:30 p.m., he said 911 services were working properly. An investigation has been launched to determine what caused the outage. The state’s 911 dispatch center issued a warning to residents to have cell phones handy to call 911. Emergency crews said residents should have a cell phone ready for such an outage. Firefighters said any cell

phone, even old models, can be used to dial 911. The Concord battalion chief stated, “Any cell phone company in the U.S. — the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) mandates the 911 feature is still active.”

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topic/technology-and-communications/nh-phone-outages-affects-911-services-19-towns>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

44. *March 23, Wall Street Journal* – (California) **California city charts course in tsunami’s wake.** Japan’s 9.0-magnitude earthquake March 11, triggered a tsunami that killed thousands and yielded an unfolding nuclear disaster. No one was hurt when the tsunami arrived in Crescent City, California, but the wave destroyed its harbor, threatening the economic future of the 157-year-old fishing village just south of Oregon. The harbor master surveyed the damage to the small but vital fishing industry: 47 boats — many of them part of the commercial fishing fleet of about 100 boats — were damaged, and 16 more were sunk. The harbor’s wooden docks are in pieces; chunks of broken concrete are pushed to the edges of the harbor. Masts and bows poke out of the water as divers work to map the underwater wreckage. Smashed boats are crushed against each other and the harbor wall. The harbor master estimated the damage to the harbor — including the docks and a boat mooring area protected by a retaining wall — at between \$32 million and \$36 million. City officials hope the federal government will pay for the bulk of the costs, but that would take a Presidential declaration of a federal disaster. The governor of California has declared a state of emergency in six counties, including Del Norte County, which includes Crescent City. Officials from the U.S. Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game said they are moving as quickly as they can to remove debris and oil pollutants. As of March 22, crews had pulled out one sunken boat, and removed 1,200 cubic yards of wood and concrete from the harbor and surrounding waters. Crescent City has been hit repeatedly by tsunamis, in part because of its location on the shallow side of an underwater cliff, which directs tsunamis toward the city.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703512404576208573297960528.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703512404576208573297960528.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

45. *March 23, CNN* – (Washington) **Suspect in attempted bombing at MLK Day parade to be arraigned.** A suspect in the attempted bombing of a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in Washington State is expected to be arraigned on federal charges March 23. A grand jury indicted the 36 year-old Colville, Washington man on one count of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and one count of possessing an unregistered explosive device. The man was arrested March 9 outside his home in Addy, about 55 miles from Spokane, where on January 17 a bomb was found in a backpack along the route of the city’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade. Three workers found the device before the event began, and a bomb squad rendered the device inert. Officials called the situation an instance “of domestic terrorism” that could

have caused “mass casualties.” A conviction for attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, prosecutors said. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, the suspect frequently posted his beliefs on white supremacist Web sites.  
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/03/23/washington.mlk.day.bomb/>

46. *March 22, Bellingham Herald* – (Washington) **Fire at Bellingham church may be arson.** The Whatcom County, Washington, Fire Marshal’s Office is asking anyone who saw suspicious activity near the Center for Spiritual Living-Bellingham church March 19, to come forward. A fire occurred at the church, 2224 Yew Street Road, around 4 a.m. The fire burned down a shed that contained various garden tools, according to the Center’s Facebook page. An investigator is still trying to determine the cause of the fire, but he has ruled out almost all accidental causes, the fire marshal said. The fire is “definitely suspicious,” he said. If the fire proves to be arson, it will have been the second time the church has been targeted in less than a year. In August 2010, the church was vandalized with swastikas, pentagrams and the numbers 666. In addition, a four-foot wooden angel, carved and donated to the church as a gift to a former minister, had been doused in gasoline and lit on fire. The fire marshal said his would work with the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office on this latest case.  
Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/03/22/1929704/fire-at-bellingham-church-may.html>
47. *March 22, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Propane leak forces evacuations in Anne Arundel County.** Dozens of people were evacuated from businesses near a large Anne Arundel County mall in Hanover, Maryland, March 22 after a cylinder carrying 250 gallons of highly flammable propane began leaking. The leak erupted when the cylinder fell from a forklift and broke a valve, a spokesman for the Anne Arundel County Fire Department said. The incident occurred shortly after 9 a.m. on the construction site of a LongHorn Steakhouse restaurant on Arundel Mills Circle. People within a half-mile radius of the site — most of them in businesses — were told to leave the area, the spokesman said. No single-family homes were affected and neither was the Arundel Mills shopping mall, which is near the site of the leak but not close enough to be included in the evacuation area, he said. A hazardous-materials team from the fire department attempted to plug the leak but was unable to, and had no choice but to allow the gas to vent. The liquid gas turns to vapor when vented and can cause respiratory distress, the spokesman said, although no one had been sickened by early afternoon. Fire crews remained on alert for the possibility a fire could be sparked by the gas, or that the tank itself might explode.  
Source: [http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-03-22/news/bs-md-propane-leak-20110322\\_1\\_leak-evacuations-propane](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-03-22/news/bs-md-propane-leak-20110322_1_leak-evacuations-propane)
48. *March 22, Arlington Heights Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **McHenry men charged in arson.** Police said they have linked two McHenry, Illinois, men to a Molotov cocktail thrown through a McHenry auto shop’s window March 19. A patrol officer found the two men in possession of two unused Molotov cocktails at 12:41 a.m. March 19, police announced March 22. Later that morning, police responded to the Car-X shop at 4705

W. Elm St. and found a Molotov cocktail had been lit and thrown through a window. Police said they discovered evidence at the scene linking the homemade device to the two men. One of the men has been charged with unlawful use of a weapon, arson, and possession of incendiary devices. The other suspect was charged with unlawful use of a weapon. Police said they were able to link one of the men to the business but would not elaborate on the relationship. The fire inside the auto shop caused more than \$1,000 in damage, mainly to hydraulic lines in the shop's floor, a McHenry police detective said. Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20110322/news/703229864/>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

49. *March 23, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Roads shut, power off around Yosemite after storm deposits more snow.** California transportation workers worked to remove a boulder from Highway 41 south of Oakhurst near Yosemite National Park, where several mud and rock slides were reported after a strong storm blew through the area March 21. Drivers on Highway 41 north of Oakhurst encountered a roadblock where the road was closed by multiple downed trees. The park remained closed for a second day March 22 because of a power failure and roads blocked by heavy snow, fallen trees, and mud. Several hundred tourists evacuated the park, although campers at 6 sites and 150 guests of park hotels chose to remain. Pacific Gas and Electric Co. said the park would be without electricity 3 to 6 days because a rock slide broke a transmission pole that serves Yosemite and El Portal, cutting power to 585 customers. All park access roads remained closed to traffic, park officials said, though one lane of Highway 120 was open for visitors wanting to leave the park. Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/22/3496979/roads-shut-power-off-around-yosemite.html>
  
50. *March 22, Fort Collins Coloradoan* – (Colorado) **Feds: Grey Rock fire west of Fort Collins sparked by warming fire.** Federal investigators have concluded the Grey Rock fire that burned 17 acres northwest of Fort Collins, Colorado, was sparked by a warming fire March 14. In a final statement on the fire, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) said a “warming fire” — there was no evidence anyone was camping nearby — sparked the blaze that burned a mile south-southeast of Greyrock Mountain near the Poudre Canyon in the Roosevelt National Forest. The forest fire started at about 1:30 p.m., USFS said. A Regional Forest Service spokeswoman said investigators are still interviewing witnesses, and no suspects have been identified. Source: <http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20110322/UPDATES01/110322013/Feds-Grey-Rock-fire-west-Fort-Collins-sparked-by-warming-fire?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

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## Dams Sector

51. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Davenport water plant to build levee for flood.** The company that supplies water to residents in Davenport, Iowa, and nearby areas is planning to build a levee to protect its treatment plant from Mississippi River floodwaters. An Iowa American Water spokeswoman said March 22, the company was concerned about one prediction showing that, in a worst-case scenario, the river could crest above 27 feet, 5 feet above the plant's seawall. She said the company will hire a contractor to build a 2,000-foot earthen levee around three sides of the plant. The work will begin after the National Weather Service issues an updated forecast for flooding March 24 so the company knows how high to build. The plant takes water from the Mississippi River and cleans it. She said the company will do what it takes to protect the water supply.  
Source: [http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/article\\_1771c090-5549-11e0-a8a5-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/article_1771c090-5549-11e0-a8a5-001cc4c03286.html)
52. *March 22, Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon; International) **Quiet Danger: The Army Corps of Engineers looks to Japan's aftermath for lessons about Oregon's dams.** A dam breached during Japan's March 11 earthquake. The Fujinuma Dam, an earth and gravel structure about 45 miles inland, failed during the earthquake, and the resulting flood swept away homes and left people missing in its wake. The geotechnical team leader for the Corps' Portland, Oregon office said such incidents help the federal agency better understand the impact of earthquakes on dams. "Every time there's an earthquake, this is how we learn," the team leader said. "We go and visit dams that fail. We come back and reassess our projects and incorporate the lessons." Whether the Corps' nine local dams would hold up is difficult to assess, the chief scientist at the state department of geology and mineral industries said. "Very few dams in Oregon were designed to deal with subduction zone earthquakes," he said. "It doesn't mean they can't handle it, but they weren't designed to handle it." However, there are few other active faults inland that might threaten the dams, especially in the southern Willamette Valley. On March 18, Lane County's emergency manager met with Corps engineers, and fire, police, and other emergency responders to begin working on an evacuation plan for the 10,000 residents of the Highway 58 corridor between Oakridge and Goshen, in the event of a breach at Hills Creek and Lookout Point dams. The meeting was scheduled more than a week before the Japan quake, which added urgency to the planning effort, the emergency manager said.  
Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/web/newslocalnews/26017254-57/dams-corps-dam-earthquake-failure.html.csp>
53. *March 22, Marysville Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Crack being repaired on levee in south Sutter County.** A cracked levee in Sutter County, California had volunteers and a crew scrambling March 22 to keep it from getting worse before another round of storms rolls. The north-facing crack, about a mile and a quarter east of Garden Highway on the Natomas Cross Canal, was discovered March 21 by an inspection crew from Reclamation District 1001. The district manager said after county and state officials were notified, a team from the California Conservation Corps and local

farmers began work on sealing the crack, now 240 feet long, with a plastic substance known as Visqueen. Secured with sandbags, the Visqueen is meant to prevent more rain from getting in the crack and making it worse. Otherwise, she said, the levee could theoretically fail and flood mostly agricultural land north of the canal. The canal water level is about 35 feet, or a little more than half the levee's 60-foot height. If there is a flood, the affected area has about 100 homes, along with dozens of agricultural operations that could be damaged. Crews were patrolling the levee because the 35-foot mark puts the levee in "monitor" mode for possible flood danger. The director said she did not know what caused the crack, but said there had been no major work on the levee's north land side in several years.

Source: <http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/county-105059-levee-crack.html>

54. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Corps: 2011 goal for New Orleans will be met.** The Army Corps of Engineers said it will meet its deadline after Hurricane Katrina to greatly improve the New Orleans, Louisiana area's hurricane-protection system by the start of the 2011 storm season. Corps officials said March 22 the agency was on track to meet the June 1 deadline to have New Orleans ready for a major hurricane — or what's known as a 100-year storm. Officials said reaching the milestone will help New Orleans meet minimum standards for flood insurance coverage. The Corps continues work on bigger and more complex pieces, such as three large floodgates. Once the Corps completes the \$14 billion in work Congress authorized after Katrina, the system will be handed over to state and local agencies, which will still need money for routine upgrades.

Source: <http://www.wyvtv.com/news/national/story/Corps-2011-goal-for-New-Orleans-will-be-met/JTF2tblqoUCvjPiJ5m-61g.csp>

55. *March 22, New Hampshire Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Fix seen for Dorrs Pond dam.** The dam at Dorrs Pond, which has poor safety ratings, could be strengthened by spending a relatively small amount of money to stabilize it with large rocks and concrete, a Manchester, New Hampshire official said March 21. The recommendation, drawn up by engineers working with the city, is the latest recommendation on shoring up the high-hazard dam, which has been graded deficient by state officials. Previous recommendations had called for raising the dam height, adding a secondary spillway to Dorrs Pond, or replacing the dam altogether. The latest plan calls for replacing rip-rap on the downstream side with grouted rock, the city's parks director said. "What they're talking about is much bigger stones with concrete in between so it's very strong," he said. Were floodwater to top the dam, it would fall on the stones and not cause dam-weakening erosion, he stated. The dam is located at Livingston Park, and the 25-acre Dorrs Pond is a focal point for a natural area. T.F. Moran, the engineering company that devised the recommendation, said the reinforced dam could withhold a flood that is 250 percent of a 100-year flood, the level required by the state. City and state officials have been studying the dam since February 2010, when heavy rains prompted officials to evacuate downstream homes for fear the dam would collapse.

Source:



<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Fix+seen+for+Dorrs+Pond+dam&articleId=1fde133c-c959-4b9b-b278-10782148f14a>

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