



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 March 2011

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- According to WINK-TV, 4 Colombian men were indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami, Florida, for trying to export 22 F-5 jet fighter engines to Iran. (See item [11](#))
- The Miami Herald reports at least 169 flights were canceled at Miami International Airport in Florida, March 24, after a massive overnight fuel tank farm fire. (See item [19](#))

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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 24, Los Angeles Times* – (Louisiana) **Pipe kept blowout preventer from stopping BP oil spill, report says.** The blowout preventer designed to shut down a BP well in an emergency could not stop a gusher of deep sea oil into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana because a damaged piece of drill pipe got in the way, according to a federal report released March 23. When the Deepwater Horizon rig crew lost control of the well in April, the force of rushing oil buckled a section of drill pipe, which then became stuck in the blowout preventer. The safety device was activated, but the mangled pipe made it impossible for shearing rams to close and plug the flow of oil.

The report was compiled by Det Norske Veritas for the Interior Department after the contracting firm examined the blowout preventer as part of a series of investigations into the cause of the massive BP oil spill. A key piece of emergency equipment, the blowout preventer was raised from the seafloor in early September and hauled to a NASA facility in New Orleans for forensic testing. Had it worked, the blowout preventer might have averted the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. The next in a series of U.S. Coast Guard hearings on the disaster, scheduled for early April in Louisiana, will deal with the findings on the blowout preventer.

Source: <http://www.fox40.com/news/nationworld/la-na-oil-spill-20110324,0,3573452.story>

2. *March 24, Batavia Daily News* – (New York) **Fuel tanker, vehicle in serious accident in Bergen.** Route 33 was closed after a serious accident March 24 at West Bergen Road in Bergen, New York. A fuel oil tanker rolled onto its side and pinned a vehicle beneath. The tanker — which reportedly holds about 9,500 gallons — was leaking for about 75 minutes before it was reported contained about 8:55 a.m. The victim beneath the tanker was reportedly conscious but trapped, and had since been extricated. It was estimated Route 33 would be closed for up to 3 hours between Griswold and Dublin roads, according to the state department of transportation. Several fire departments and at least four ambulances were dispatched, along with the Genesee County’s HAZMAT team. A triage area has been established south of the intersection. Mercy Flight has also responded. Units from Bergen, Le Roy, Byron, South Byron, Stafford, the Town of Batavia, Churchville, and Pavilion were among those at the scene. It is unclear exactly how much fuel leaked from the tanker.

Source: http://thedailynewsonline.com/news/article_893cbb84-560d-11e0-9da7-001cc4c03286.html

3. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Fuel tanker truck explodes after crash in Memphis; 3 sent to hospitals, traffic snarled.** Police said a fuel tanker truck crashed with two other vehicles on Interstate 55 in Memphis, Tennessee, causing an explosion, snarling traffic and sending three motorists to hospitals. Memphis police officials said the truck carrying 86,000 gallons of fuel crashed with the other vehicles and caught fire March 23. Memphis Fire Department crews worked to put out the fire and clean up the highway. The three drivers were taken to area hospitals in non-critical condition. Three exits on I-55 were closed and the interstate was shut down in both directions during rush hour.

Source: <http://www.whnt.com/news/sns-ap-tn--tankertruckcrash,0,810752.story>

For more stories, see items [17](#), [19](#), and [45](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 23, KCBD 11 Lubbock* – (Texas) **Homes evacuated in Slaton after chemical spill.** Several businesses and homes were temporarily evacuated in Slaton, Texas,

March 23 because of a chemical spill at the Slaton Rail Park. The regional hazmat crew was called out around 3:15 p.m. after a bystander saw a railcar leaking a fluid, which crews identified as sulfuric acid. Slaton Fire Department and police also responded to the spill where railroad authorities estimate about 50 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked. The railcar is capable of carrying 90,000 pounds, but hazmat crews quickly contained the leak and residents were allowed back in their homes. Rail road hazmat crews from Amarillo also inspected the leak and were taking necessary precautions to fix the railcar or tracks. The Slaton fire chief said the leak could have been caused by a pop-off valve getting too hot with pressure expanding the valve.

Source: <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=14310180>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *March 24, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **NRC Inspector: U.S. nuclear plants not reporting equipment defects.** Nearly 30 percent of U.S. nuclear power plants fail to report equipment defects that present “substantial” safety risks because of contradictions in the federal law, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) inspector general (IG). If the issue is not resolved, “the margin of safety for operating reactors could be reduced,” the IG said. In a new report, the IG said U.S. nuclear plants are confused about what they are required to report to federal regulators. That is because one section of the law, known as Part 21, requires them to report defects that can cause a loss of safety functions while another section of the law requires them to report only actual losses of safety functions. “Licensees representing at least 28 percent of the operating reactor fleet do not, as standard practice, notify NRC of defects under Part 21 unless they are reportable under event reporting regulations,” the report said. NRC has been aware of the reporting lapses since at least 2009. In that time, the commission identified 24 instances, between December 2009 and September 2010, where nuclear plants did not report defects under Part 21. These instances pose “a substantial safety hazard” and prevent federal regulators from spotting manufacturer defects that could surface at other plants around the country, the IG said. Because U.S. plants are failing to report defects as a result of confusion over the law, the NRC has not imposed violations or civil penalties. It has not imposed any civil penalties or significant enforcement actions for the reporting failures in at least 8 years, the IG said. Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201103241018dowjonesdjonline000372&title=nrc-inspector-us-nuclear-plants-not-reporting-equipment-defects>
6. *March 24, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Feds: Hixson man faked inspection records at nuclear plant.** A 31-year-old Hixson, Tennessee man pleaded not guilty March 24 to federal charges of falsifying paperwork on a nuclear power plant. The man was indicted on two counts of making false statements. According to the indictment, the man falsified documents, claiming he had measured and inspected electrical work

for a safety system at the Watts Bar Nuclear facility in Rhea County, Tennessee — the only U.S. site where a nuclear reactor is under construction. The indictment contends the man never made the measurements or the inspections that he claimed in the Tennessee Valley Authority-required forms. “We always take the falsification of federal records very seriously, especially given the nature of these records at these facilities. Cutting corners on the construction of our nuclear power plants is a serious matter. Our prosecution will be vigorous and thorough,” a U.S. attorney said in a release. If convicted of both counts, the man faces up to 10 years in prison, \$500,000 in fines, and 6 years of supervised release. A trial date has been set for May 23.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14313199>

7. *March 23, Platts* – (National) **U.S. NRC to check seismic risk of 27 nuke units; Indian Point first.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will conduct a seismic risk assessment of Entergy’s Indian Point plant in Buchanan, New York in 2012, the first of 27 reviews of nuclear power units at 17 plants, an agency spokeswoman said March 22. Separately, the NRC Chairman “has personally committed to inspect Indian Point,” located about 35 miles north of New York City, although “no date has been determined” for the visit, the spokeswoman said. NRC reported these nuclear units will receive the seismic review next year: Indian Point 2, Indian Point 3, Limerick 1, Limerick 2, Peach Bottom 2, Peach Bottom 3, Seabrook, Crystal River 3, Farley 1, Farley 2, North Anna 1, North Anna 2, Oconee 1, Oconee 2, Oconee 3, St. Lucie 1, St. Lucie 2, Sequoyah 1, Sequoyah 2, Summer, Watts Bar 1, Dresden 2, Dresden 3, Duane Arnold, Perry 1, River Bend, and Wolf Creek. The earthquake risk review is part of a new assessment NRC conducted based on 2008 revised U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data of seismic activity in the eastern and central United States, an NRC spokesman said. The spokesman categorized the findings as a “very broad bush indicator” that is not sufficient to determine the odds for earthquakes at a given site. NRC plans to send letters to plant operators late in 2011. “The expectation is this analysis would show where plants could improve what already is an acceptable response to seismic events,” he said. The 27 units selected for review showed the largest increase in seismic risk from a 1980s-era USGS study, he said. The Indian Point site was selected as the first to be inspected by NRC because the revised seismic data showed the largest increase in seismic risk increase from the previous study.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/ElectricPower/8698136>

8. *March 22, Associated Press* – (National) **U.S. spent-fuel storage sites are packed.** The United States has 71,862 tons of the waste in more than 30 states, according to state-by-state numbers obtained by the Associated Press. But the nation has no place to permanently store the material, which stays dangerous for tens of thousands of years. Plans to store nuclear waste at Nevada’s Yucca Mountain have been abandoned, but even if a facility had been built there, the United States already has more waste than it could have handled. Three-quarters of the waste sits in water-filled cooling pools like those at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex in Japan, outside the thick concrete-and-steel barriers meant to guard against a radioactive

release. The rest of the spent fuel from commercial U.S. reactors has been put into dry cask storage, but regulators only envision those as a solution for about a century, and the waste would eventually have to be deposited into a Yucca-like facility. The U.S. nuclear industry said the waste is being stored safely at power-plant sites, though it has long pushed for a long-term storage facility. Meanwhile, the industry's collective pile of waste is growing by about 2,200 tons per year; experts said some of the pools in the United States contain 4 times the amount of spent fuel they were designed to handle. While the U.S. Department of Energy previously reported figures on overall spent fuel storage, it no longer has updated information available. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman said the capacities of fuel pools are public record, but exact inventories of spent fuel are tracked in a government database kept confidential for security reasons. The United States has 104 operating nuclear reactors, situated on 65 sites in 31 states. There are another 15 permanently shut reactors that also house spent fuel.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/22/us-japan-quake-us-spent-fuel/>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *March 24, Associated Press and Reuters* – (International) **Toyota's Prius factory to restart, Honda extends shutdown.** Toyota Motor Corp. said it will soon resume production of three hybrid models while Honda Motor Co. has extended its Japan auto shutdown until early April in the aftermath of the massive earthquake and tsunami, Associated Press reported March 24. Toyota plans to restart production of the Prius and two Lexus hybrids from March 28. As for the company's nine other factories in Japan, Toyota has only said shutdowns will last at least until March 26. Honda Motor Co. said March 24 the suspension of car production at its Saitama and Suzuka factories will be extended to April 3. It had previously said production was halted until March 27. It is restarting production of motorcycles at its Kumamoto factory March 28. Japanese automakers suspended production after the March 11 earthquake due to damage to suppliers' factories in northeastern Japan and power shortages. Toyota said March 24 it expected to idle its pickup truck assembly plant, south of San Antonio, Texas, due to supply disruptions caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. In a statement, Toyota said it did not know what other North American facilities would be affected, or how long the suspensions might last. It gave no indication how many employees might be affected. The company said the impact should be limited because a majority of parts used by its North American factories came from suppliers there. It said the facilities are still receiving parts from Japan sent before the quake. Toyota made about 8.5 million vehicles in 2010, including about 4 million in Japan. About half the vehicles made in Japan were exported. But nearly 70 percent of Toyotas sold in the United States are made in its 13 plants in North America.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110324/AUTO01/103240421/1361/Toyota-s-Prius-factory-to-restart--Honda-extends-shutdown>

10. *March 24, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Lasko recalls box fans due to fire hazard.** Lasko Products Inc., of West Chester, Pennsylvania, has issued a recall March 24 for about 4.8 million box fans. An electrical failure in the fan's motor poses a fire hazard to consumers. Lasko has received seven reports of fires associated with motor failures, including two house fires and one barn fire, resulting in extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported. The box fans were sold at mass merchandisers nationwide from July 2002 through December 2005.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11183.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *March 23, WINK 9 Fort Myers* – (International) **Undercover agent thwarts conspiracy to export jet engines from Miami to Iran.** Four Colombian men were indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami, Florida, for illegally trying to export 22 F-5 jet fighter engines to Iran, WINK-TV reported March 23. It was an online ad that caught the attention of Homeland Security Investigations. For sale: J-85-CAN-15 aircraft engines used primarily in F-5 fighter jets. F-5s are currently only used in two countries — Venezuela and Iran. An undercover agent responded to the ad, posing as a broker January 20. The undercover agent said Iranian buyers were willing to purchase the 22 engines for \$320,000. Arrangements were made to ship them from Miami to Panama to Iran, a violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act banning exports to Iran. The four men were charged in the conspiracy March 8, and the 22 engines were seized.
Source: <http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2011-03-23/Undercover-agent-thwarts-conspiracy-to-export-jet-engines-from-Miami-to-Iran>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *March 24, WSAU 550 AM Wausau* – (Wisconsin) **Guilty plea in Manson insurance fraud case.** A woman who kept the books at the Manson Insurance offices in Tomahawk and Minocqua, Wisconsin, pled guilty March 23 to being part of a multi-million dollar fraud scheme. The 60-year-old admitted the company kept insurance payments that were intended for clients. She's being charged separately from the company president. The woman was in federal court in Madison, and pled guilty to concealing a felony. She'll be sentenced June 22, where she could get up to 3 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The president of the company is also expected to plead guilty next month. Prosecutors believe he stole more than \$9 million from more than 800 Manson customers.
Source: <http://wsau.com/news/articles/2011/mar/24/guilty-plea-manson-insurance-fraud-case/>

13. *March 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif man facing 25 years in \$6M Ponzi scheme.** A southern California investment adviser has pleaded guilty to securities fraud for bilking elderly residents in a \$6 million Ponzi scheme. Federal prosecutors in Orange County said the 58-year-old man is facing a 25-year prison term when he's sentenced August 8. The owner of Santa Ana's Innovative Advisory Services pleaded guilty March 23 to a count of mail fraud and a count of securities fraud, both felonies. The man placed advertisements in Orange and Los Angeles newspapers promising safe investments for a minimum \$50,000 investment. But prosecutors said he took investor money and paid off prior customers or traded in securities not authorized by the investors. Investigators estimate victims lost more than \$6 million.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_17689760

14. *March 23, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Police arrest bank robbery suspect on Northeast side.** The FBI said it captured a serial bank robber after a foiled heist on Indianapolis, Indiana's Northeastside March 23. A 45-year-old Indianapolis man was arrested outside Huntington National Bank, 6930 Lake Plaza Drive at 11:21 a.m. FBI Safe Streets Task Force agents arrested the suspect after he robbed the bank of an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect had the money in his pocket when he was nabbed, agents said. The FBI said the man is a suspect in several robberies in Marion County going back a year. Five banks on the Northeast side have been robbed in 10 days, but police did not disclose whether he was a suspect in those robberies. The suspect in the March 23 robbery, however, didn't show a gun. None of the other suspects on the Northeastside showed a gun either, but one of them was a white man and the suspect arrested by the FBI March 23 is black. FBI agents took the suspect to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's North District substation for interviewing.
Source:
<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110323/NEWS02/103230383/1282/NEWS02/Man-held-string-Northeastside-bank-robberies>

15. *March 23, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Founder of A&O Entities convicted in \$100 million fraud scheme.** A 39-year-old Houston, Texas man was convicted by a federal jury March 23 for his role in a \$100 million fraud scheme with more than 800 victims across the United States and Canada. The conviction was announced March 23 by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and an Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division. On Sept. 7, 2010, a federal grand jury returned an 18-count indictment against the man and two other principals of A&O Resource Management Ltd. and various related entities that acquired and marketed life settlements to investors. The man was convicted on one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, two counts of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, two counts of money laundering, and one count of securities fraud. At sentencing he faces up to 20 years in prison on each count except the securities fraud count, on which he faces up to 5 years in prison. Evidence at the trial established that during the man's involvement with the company, A&O obtained about \$80 million from approximately 500 investors. The indictment alleged the A&O fraud scheme as a whole exceeds \$100 million and affected more than 800 investors, many of whom were

elderly. Evidence at trial showed the man routinely used investor funds for personal enrichment, including a \$2 million home, a Lamborghini Spyder, and a 15-carat diamond ring, among other property. In total, five individuals have pleaded guilty in connection with the A&O fraud scheme.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/March/11-crm-367.html>

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Transportation Sector

16. *March 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Sleeping air traffic controller sparks investigation.** Federal aviation officials are reviewing air traffic controller staffing at airports around the country after two airliners landed at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Arlington, Virginia without clearance from the airport tower because they were unable to reach anyone there. An aviation official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the incident, said an air traffic supervisor, the lone controller on duty around midnight March 23 when the incident occurred, had fallen asleep. The pilots of the two planes were in contact with controllers at a regional Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) facility about 40 miles away in Warrenton, Virginia, a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) spokesman said March 23. After pilots were unable to reach the airport tower by radio, they asked the Warrenton controllers to call the tower, the spokesman said. Repeated calls from the regional facility to the tower went unanswered, he said. The Transportation Secretary responding to the incident, said in a statement he has directed FAA to put two air traffic controllers on the midnight shift at DCA. NTSB is gathering information on the incident to decide whether to open a formal investigation, an NTSB spokesman said. Regional air traffic facilities handle aircraft within roughly a 50-mile radius of an airport, but landings, takeoffs, and planes within about 3 miles of an airport are handled by controllers in the airport tower. The planes involved were American Airlines flight 1012, a Boeing 737 with 91 passengers and 6 crew members on board, and United Airlines flight 628T, an Airbus A320 with 63 passengers and five crew members. “The NTSB is conducting an investigation and we are doing our own review,” an United spokesman said in an e-mail. An FAA spokeswoman said the agency “is looking into staffing issues and whether existing procedures were followed appropriately.” But the incident raises serious questions about controller fatigue, a longstanding safety concern, a former NTSB board member said.

Source: http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/national_world&id=8030586

17. *March 24, WLBT 3 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Barges strike MS river bridges closing commercial traffic.** Barges struck the I-20 and Highway 80 bridges over the Mississippi River in Vicksburg, Mississippi March 23, temporarily shutting down all westbound traffic. A WLBT viewer captured cell phone images of the tow boat and barges colliding first into the Old River Bridge March 23. The Warren County sheriff said the tow was pushing 30 barges when it hit both the old and new bridges. “This is a

very dangerous curve in the river because of the positioning of the river anyway, but when the river is up as you know, it's very close to flood stage right now, that just increases the hazards," the sheriff said. The U.S. Coast Guard reported the barges were carrying grain and coal and no hazardous materials. One hauling beans turned sideways and struck a pier on the new bridge and sank. Another barge carrying wheat went under north of the Rainbow Casino. Ergon Marine volunteered tow boats to assist with wrangling the scattered barges. Traffic was backed up for about 5.5 miles on the Mississippi side of the river. Mississippi Department of Transportation engineers and their Louisiana counterparts inspected the bridges and reopened traffic around 4:45 p.m.

Source: <http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=14308251>

18. *March 24, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Suspicious package at Miami International Airport deemed safe.** Miami-Dade police in Miami, Florida reopened Miami International Airport's concourse J after a suspicious package investigation March 24. Aerial footage by WSVN showed a package outside of concourse J about 8:40 a.m. Miami-Dade police evacuated the area, and reopened it about 10 a.m.
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/24/2131585/report-miami-international-airport.html>

19. *March 24, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Fuel fire cancels dozens of flights at Miami International Airport.** At least 169 flights were canceled at Miami International Airport (MIA) in Miami, Florida, March 24, after a massive overnight fuel tank farm fire that has created a major disruption for American Airlines, the airport's biggest carrier, and stranded or delayed thousands of passengers. Firefighters worked through the night to extinguish the fire, which started late March 23 and was under control early March 24. In addition to American — which makes up about 70 percent of MIA's traffic — other airlines also reported flight delays. The fire, on the airport's fuel farm on the southeast corner of the airport, near LeJeune Road, cut off at least 40 percent of the airport's fuel supply, an airport spokesman said. Airport authorities are still investigating the cause. An American Airlines spokesman said the afternoon of March 24, the airline doesn't know how long it will take for the flight schedule to return to normal. In addition to cancelling flights, he said American was "trying to do some creative things" such as landing airplanes with a little more fuel than normal so they can avoid refueling at Miami and then stop at nearby airports — including Tampa, Orlando, San Juan and Fort Lauderdale — to fuel up there. A Miami-Dade Fire Rescue captain said the fuel tank farm exploded on the southeast corner of the airport, near LeJeune Road. The fire was not near runways or terminals and no one was hurt, he said. Also, it began when few flights were scheduled to land. The captain said fire rescue initially had 20 units on scene, all working to contain the blaze. Their strategy, he said, was to let the tanks already on fire burn off.
Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/23/2131149/large-fuel-fire-breaks-out-at.html>

20. *March 23, WUSA 9 Washington, D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package cleared at Navy Yard metro.** The Metropolitan Police Department, Metro Transit

Police, and Washington, D.C. Fire and EMS responded to a suspicious package at the Navy Yard Metro (train) Station in Washington D.C. They said the scene is now clear. The package was retrieved from a trash can, authorities said, but they did not elaborate about what the package contained. The New Jersey Avenue entrance to the station was closed but the Half Street entrance to the station remained open. The New Jersey Avenue entrance has reopened. According to a D.C. fire employee, several blocks of M Street were closed to traffic while authorities conducted their investigation.

Source: <http://wusa9.com/news/article/143103/373/Suspicious-Package-Cleared-At-Navy-Yard-Metro>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *March 24, Nashua Telegraph* – (New Hampshire) **Hazmat unit called to county courthouse.** A “suspicious substance” inside a package mailed to the Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, Superior Court caused a great deal of concern but no apparent harm March 23. Firefighters and police were called out about 8:43 a.m. after an employee in the clerk’s office opened a package and found something that caused alarm, the Nashua fire marshal said. Both he and police declined to describe the substance or the package, but confirmed the package arrived via the U.S. Postal Service, and was opened by an employee in the clerk’s office. The office was closed and evacuated in the morning until firefighters from the hazardous materials unit went inside, ran some field tests on the substance, and found it appeared to be inert and harmless, the fire marshal said. More comprehensive testing will be performed at the state crime lab, said a detective. No one suffered any ill effects.
Source: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/913295-196/hazmat-unit-called-to-county-courthouse.html>

22. *March 23, TCPalm.Com* – (Florida) **‘Improvised explosive device’ destroys mailbox in Port St. Lucie.** One of two “improvised explosive devices” found March 22 in residential mailboxes had apparently exploded, but caused no injuries in incidents a police spokesman described March 24 as a “random act of vandalism.” One of the devices apparently destroyed a woman’s mailbox in the 2800 block of Southeast Pace Drive. She said a construction worker performing work at her residence was leaving and told her her mailbox had exploded. St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office bomb disposal officials came to investigate. The device was in a plastic water bottle with a Sam’s Choice label and appeared to have “functioned by way of a thermal chemical reaction,” a police report states. Not far from there in the 2800 block of Southeast Peru Street, another woman found a “suspicious bottle” in her mailbox. “I pulled it out and my fingers started burning,” she said. A police report indicates the bottle was a Sam’s Club water bottle and that she returned it to her mailbox. A police spokesman said he thought the incidents were connected. “It could have done damage, any metal, any particles of the metal ... could have gotten in somebody’s eye or damaged their face or

their hand,” he said.

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/mar/23/145improved-explosive-device-goes-off-in-port-st/>

23. *March 23, WNCT 9 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Suspicious package cleared, business reopened.** Hazmat crews were called to a local business in Greenville, North Carolina after reports of a suspicious package March 23. Greenville police and hazmat teams were called to the Harris Histology Relief Services building on Eastgate Drive after reports of a suspicious package containing an unknown substance in a red plastic bag. Officials said the package was shipped by FedEx. Up to a dozen people were evacuated from the area. Authorities said two people started coughing after the package arrived. No one was taken to the hospital. Hazmat crews put an air monitor into the building. North Carolina Emergency Management, fire rescue, and a physician were on site. The physician treated 11 employees. The scene was cleared shortly after 3:30 p.m. Employees were back at work March 24.

Source: <http://www2.wnct.com/news/2011/mar/23/13/hazmat-crews-investigate-suspicious-package-greenv-ar-885597/>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *March 23, Washington Post* – (Virginia; International) **Destructive beetle seized at Dulles.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Washington Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia found Khapra beetle larva inside a rice-filled burlap bag packed inside one of three suitcases brought to the United States via Saudi Arabia. The insect is one of the world’s most destructive beetles. A second larva was found on the outside of the bag. The larva was identified by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist. USDA considers Khapra beetles one of the most invasive species worldwide, officials said. The beetle is considered a “dirty feeder” because it damages more grain than it consumes, and because it contaminates grain with its body parts and hair, CBP officials said. Consumption of infected grain can cause stomach irritation and is especially serious in infants.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/destructive-beetle-seized-at-dulles/2011/03/23/ABtYZoJB_blog.html

25. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Ammonia leak at Ky. meat plant spurs evacuation.** An anhydrous ammonia leak March 23 at a meat-packing plant in Louisville, Kentucky, forced 1,000 employees to evacuate and nearby residents to stay indoors for hours. A faint ammonia odor was detectable a few blocks away from the JBS Swift plant east of downtown Louisville for more than an hour after the leak. One worker was sent to the hospital after complaining of burning eyes, nausea, and vomiting, the Louisville Fire Department captain said. There were no other reported injuries, authorities said. The workers were evacuated about 11:30 a.m. Sirens were set off about an hour after the accident in the plant’s engine room to warn nearby residents when authorities determined the situation was serious enough that they could be at risk.

Those living within a mile of the site were told to stay indoors and to avoid using air conditioning or heating. The leak was stopped about 2.5 hours later, and an all clear was issued to area residents.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/03/23/ammonia_leak_at_ky_meat_plant_spurs_evacuation/?rss_id=Boston.com++Boston+Globe+++National+News

26. *March 23, Food Safety News* – (Pennsylvania; North Carolina; New Jersey) **14 ill in E. coli outbreak tied to beef bologna.** Fourteen people in three states have been sickened with E. coli O157:H7 in an outbreak linked to beef bologna. As a result, Pennsylvania-based Palmyra Bologna Co. is recalling about 23,000 pounds of Lebanon bologna that may be contaminated with E. coli, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced March 22. In a news release, FSIS said the four case patients are from New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. The onset of their illnesses ranged from January 28 to February 2. FSIS was notified of the outbreak cluster March 10, and has been working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state public health partners in investigating the outbreak.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/e-coli-o157h7-outbreak-tied-to-beef-bologna/>

27. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Kan. man pleads guilty to tainted salsa scheme.** A 31-year-old Shawnee, Kansas man pleaded guilty March 22 to scheming with his wife to poison salsa at a Mexican restaurant after losing his job. The man admitted in federal court he was angry about losing his job in June 2009 at Mi Ranchito in Olathe, Kansas. Prosecutors said he and his wife devised a plan to get revenge by putting pesticide in the salsa at a Mi Ranchito in nearby Lenexa where the wife was a waitress. A dozen diners became ill after eating lunch August 11, 2009. The second incident, about three weeks later, sickened 36 dinner patrons. The wife pleaded guilty earlier and was sentenced to 87 months in prison. The man faces up to 10 years when he is sentenced June 28.

Source:

http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?show=localnews&pnpID=348&NewsID=997309&CategoryID=20365&on=1

28. *March 23, Reuters* – (National) **Fresh Del Monte Produce recalls cantaloupe.** Food company Fresh Del Monte Produce said March 22 it recalled almost 5,000 cartons of cantaloupes that may be contaminated with a form of salmonella. The cantaloupes were distributed through warehouse clubs in Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, the company said. They also stated the cantaloupe recall followed notification from U.S. health regulators, there was a link between the cantaloupes and about 12 reported cases of salmonella panama, which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, the elderly, and others with weakened immune systems. The company said it put on hold the production and distribution of the product from the affected farm. It said it and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would continue investigating where in the supply chain the contamination occurred.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/23/freshdelmonteproduce-idUSLDE72M0O020110323>

For more stories, see items [17](#), [45](#), and [53](#)

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Water Sector

29. *March 23, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire; Massachusetts) **NH orders town to cleanup sewage plant disks.** The State of New Hampshire has given the town of Hooksett 10 days to come up with a plan to collect millions of plastic disks that were swept from a wastewater treatment plant into the Merrimack River and are littering beaches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Associated Press reported March 23. Between 4 million and 8 million disks, and about 250,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater were released from the town-owned plant into the river after heavy rain in March. About 1 million disks have been picked up from Massachusetts beaches, officials estimate, and hundreds of volunteers have been helping do the same in New Hampshire. The state department of environmental services took administrative action against the town March 21, concluding it violated state law by discharging sewage and debris into the river. The order gives the town 10 days to clean up debris on the plant property and to submit a plan on how it will collect the rest of the disks and reimburse communities and individuals who have spent money on the cleanup. The state also gave the town 14 days to submit a written report on what led to the release of the disks, and 60 days to demonstrate how the disks can be used in a way that will prevent a recurrence of the incident. The order does not prevent the state from taking further action, including administrative fines and criminal charges. The plant uses 2-inch-wide disks covered with mesh screens to promote the growth of bacteria that feeds on waste. Officials have said they pose little health risk, but have urged those helping with the clean up to wear gloves.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2011/03/23/nh_orders_town_to_cleanup_sewage_plant_disks/

30. *March 23, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **Untreated sewage from broken pipes will flow into Tampa reservoir.** Some of the 4 million gallons of untreated sewage from a pair of broken pipes will flow into Tampa, Florida's reservoir on the Hillsborough River in 2 days, but should not pose a problem for water customers, a water department official said March 23. The city's water treatment plant is designed to handle contaminants in river water, including bacteria from sewage, the city's water director said. The untreated sewage that flowed from two sewer line breaks the week of March 13 near Trout Creek is working its way through the tributary to the Hillsborough River. Environmental officials consider it a major spill, but do not expect the pollution to cause long-term damage to the river or a large fish kill, the manager for the county environmental protection commission said. The 4 million gallon figure is an estimate. The city is still trying to determine how much sewage spilled from the two breaks that

were repaired March 17. The city will continue testing river water until bacteria counts drop to safe levels.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/mar/23/231540/untreated-sewage-from-broken-pipes-will-flow-into-/news-breaking/>

31. *March 23, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Two sewage spills reported in DeKalb.** About 17,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled into DeKalb County, Georgia, waterways March 22. County water reports show a 12,000 gallons spilled into the North Fork of Peachtree Creek from the 2300 block of Chamblee-Tucker Road in Chamblee. A 4,980-gallon spill was also reported in Snapfinger Creek from the 4500 block of Birch Ridge Trail in Stone Mountain. In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandated the county upgrade its sewage system after more than 800 spills were reported in 5 years.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/dekalb/two-sewage-spills-reported-883164.html>

32. *March 21, Ada Evening News* – (Oklahoma) **Lead found in Ada water samples.** For the first time since mandatory testing began in 1992, Ada city officials said the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has issued the city a “notice of exceedance” in regard to the presence of lead in test samples. Officials explained a notice of exceedance is not a violation. It represents an “action level” — an indicator for a water system to review its water process. Seven of 30 tap water lead/copper samples submitted by the city between June 1, 2010, and September 30, 2010, for analysis had concentrations of lead greater than 0.015 milligrams/liter. There is no immediate explanation for the first-time exceedance levels. Water from Byrd’s Mill Spring, the city’s water source, is not thought to be the cause. Lead in drinking water is usually found to be due to the presence of lead pipes or lead solder in older homes. The presence of lead in test samples is usually due to leaching from lead pipes, joints, and solder. The test sites that yielded excessive lead levels were older homes, leading city officials to suspect lead pipes or lead solder may be the sources. Additional sampling is being conducted to determine the cause of the exceedance.

Source: <http://adaeveningnews.com/local/x814643198/Lead-found-in-Ada-water-samples>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *March 24, St. Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Fire causes problem for hospital phones.** A fire in a computer server caused a telephone problem March 23 at St. Cloud Hospital in Minnesota. A malfunction inside the computer equipment caused the fire, according to the St. Cloud Fire Department. The fire was reported at 11:39 a.m. The fire caused hospital switchboard operators to have limited telephone access until extra staff and phones were put in place. Callers can still call St. Cloud Hospital in an emergency, but they might get a busy signal and might have to try repeatedly to get through. Staff has access to the phones for internal use, and outside callers can still contact staff by using direct extensions, the hospital’s communications and marketing specialist said. The

telephone repair is expected to be completed by March 24.

Source: <http://www.sctimes.com/article/20110324/NEWS01/103240035/1009/Fire-causes-problem-hospital-phones>

34. *March 23, NBC News* – (National) **Medical records point to doctor in anthrax attacks, report says.** Medical records of the microbiologist blamed by the FBI for the September 2001 anthrax mail attacks, “support the Justice Department’s determination that he was responsible,” a panel of behavioral experts and psychiatrists said in a report released March 23. Twenty-two people who received or handled letters containing anthrax spores were infected, 5 of whom died. The doctor, a civilian researcher at the U.S. Army’s Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Maryland, committed suicide in July 2008. He displayed behavioral problems that should have led his Army employers to look closer at his medical history, the report said. Such an examination should have prevented him from obtaining the security clearances needed to work with dangerous pathogens, the panel members said. The panel’s chairman said the medical records “document behavior he claimed he undertook and provide an indication of a strong component of revenge, including graphic plans to engage in violent behavior.” But even though he repeatedly waived confidentiality and gave Army background investigators permission to obtain his medical records, such a step was never taken. The report said he acted out of a desire for revenge against his critics, “a desperate need for personal validation,” and a hope the response to the attacks would revive the government’s efforts to develop an anthrax vaccine — a program where he was a key researcher.

Source: http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/42235097/ns/us_news-security/

For another story, see item [45](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

35. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Student detained after two suspicious fires damage middle school.** A female student was detained and a Houston, Texas school called off classes following two suspicious overnight fires. Classes were canceled March 24 at Heights Middle School because of fire damage in the auditorium and a third-floor classroom. Houston Independent School District police responded about 2:30 a.m. March 24 to a burglar alarm, followed by a fire alarm. Firefighters put out the blazes, which left behind smoke and forced cancellations of classes.

Source: http://www.ktxs.com/texas_news/27305767/detail.html

36. *March 24, WXYZ 7 Detroit* – (Michigan) **Arrest imminent in case of explosive device at federal building in downtown Detroit.** A bomb found at the McNamara Federal Building in Detroit, Michigan, had been present for several weeks before being removed March 18, and sources said the bomb was brought inside the building by a guard and left there unattended. The Federal Protective Services was made aware of the device March 18, and a bomb squad was called in. The explosives were found in a

nylon bag. The bag contained a metal box with wires and powder. It was found in the security area of the McNamara building. Sources said a suspect in the case has been identified and an arrest could come very soon. The person who discovered the device was an on-site contract guard who is now on suspension, while officials investigate the situation. A special training team is being dispatched to the McNamara Federal Building to go over protocol at the facility. The device itself was taken to Belle Isle. A spokeswoman for the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office said so far no one has been arrested in connection with the case.

Source: <http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/detroit/arrest-imminent-in-case-of-explosive-device-at-federal-building-in-downtown-detroit>

37. *March 23, Scranton Times-Tribune* – (Pennsylvania) **City school evacuated for natural gas odor, students dismissed.** Frances Willard Elementary School in Scranton, Pennsylvania, was evacuated March 22 for the second time this month because of a suspected gas leak. After a 9:18 a.m. call to the Lackawanna County Communications Center reported a natural gas odor at the school, its 620 students were taken to West Scranton High School, where they were dismissed at 11 a.m. The superintendent said UGI Penn Natural Gas advised school officials to evacuate the building “just for precaution.” The school was evacuated March 3 for gas leaking from a pipe outside the building and from a boiler inside. Students returned to the school after repairs were made. A UGI spokesman said when workers arrived at the school March 22, they could not detect any natural gas in the air with their equipment. After digging up the underground pipe, workers still could not find a leak, but crews decided to replace the pipe. The school was set to reopen March 23.

Source: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/city-school-evacuated-for-natural-gas-odor-students-dismissed-1.1121971#axzz1HWtsKwJv>

38. *March 23, WITN 7 Washington* – (North Carolina) **Fire shuts down two Onslow County high schools; Highway 17 closed.** A wildfire on Camp Lejeune in North Carolina closed two Onslow County schools and Highway 17 March 23. Dixon Middle and Dixon High Schools closed at 11 a.m. A school system spokeswoman said the schools were shut down because of the potential for flare-ups and wind directions. Highway 17 was shut down again, because of the smoke. The highway is closed at the Highway 210 intersection. A Camp Lejeune spokesman said two wildfires consumed thousands of acres on the base. He said crews from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina Forestry Service, and three volunteer fire departments were working on the fire. Crews from the U.S. Forest Service were expected March 23. The fire is believed to have started after training in the Greater Sandy Run area.

Source:

http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/Highway_17_Open_After_Fire_Causes_Detour_118539869.html

For more stories, see items [21](#), [34](#), and [53](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

39. *March 24, Homeland Security News Wire* – (Arizona; National) **Smart traffic system to reduce first responder deaths.** Nearly 13 percent of the firefighters and police officers who die in the line of duty are killed in vehicle-related incidents, and fire trucks are involved in 10 times as many collisions as other heavy trucks. University of Arizona (UA) researchers have teamed up with the Arizona's Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to create a system to make intersections safer for emergency responders and the general public. Their efforts are part of a national push to create smart vehicles that communicate with one another and with traffic control systems. The MCDOT intersections at Anthem will be equipped with dedicated short-range communications radios. Daisy Mountain Fire District trucks, Maricopa County REACT vehicles, and some transit vehicles also will carry the short-range radios. All the vehicles will be tracked by GPS. The vehicles also will communicate with the Arizona 511 network to alert motorists to the traffic problems, allowing them to select alternate routes. This will help cut down on congestion and prevent secondary accidents that often occur when distracted motorists are faced with traffic disruptions. The UA researchers and Maricopa County also plan to adapt the system to freeway entrance ramps that are controlled by traffic signals.
Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/smart-traffic-system-reduce-first-responder-deaths>
40. *March 24, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Wilksburg, city police may merge.** With a merger of fire departments a step away from completion, Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, and Pittsburgh officials acknowledged March 23 a police consolidation could be next. During an appearance before Pittsburgh City Council, which gave preliminary approval to the fire merger, the Pittsburgh public safety director confirmed Wilksburg officials broached the idea of a police deal, too. He said he told them he preferred to complete one merger before considering another. Pittsburgh will hire the 25 or so Wilksburg firefighters who want to make the transition, take over some of Wilksburg's equipment, and keep one of the borough's two fire stations open. Pittsburgh has a residency requirement for all employees, so the Wilksburg firefighters must move into the city within a year. As part of the deal, the city will provide hazardous materials, rescue, fire prevention, and education services to Wilksburg firefighters. The city's two financial oversight boards and Wilksburg council have approved the merger. Wilksburg said the deal will cut \$600,000 each year from its firefighting budget of about \$2.2 million. Wilksburg's police budget is about \$3 million.
Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11083/1134373-56.stm>
41. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Suspicious envelope empties WA sheriff's office.** The King County sheriff's Seattle, Washington, office was briefly evacuated after an envelope that an employee considered suspicious arrived at the front desk. A sheriff's spokesman said Seattle police and a Seattle fire hazmat unit responded after the envelope arrived March 23. Several nearby streets were blocked off and Metro buses were briefly rerouted. Shortly after 6 p.m., the sheriff's spokesman reported that

nothing dangerous or hazardous was found.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014584591_apwasheriffenvelope1stltdwritethru.html

42. *March 23, Firehouse.com* – (New York) **FDNY pilot program focuses on firefighter accountability.** The Fire Department for the City of New York (FDNY) recently launched a pilot program officials hope helps reduce the number of line of duty deaths. The Electronic Fireground Accountability System (EFAS) was rolled out for several companies 6 months ago, and the chief of safety said he expects the program to expand during the course of the year. Currently, when a firefighter signals a Mayday through a handheld radio, their ID number is transmitted. But once another transmission is made, that ID is cleared out, leading to confusion as to which firefighter sounded the alert. The new system uses existing radios and sends information through software to a device controlled by the incident commander. The program contains detailed data for each firefighter and when a Mayday is made, their name become highlighted among the list of names. The department instituted an injury reduction program where officers visit each firehouse and show firefighters videos and photographs of near-miss calls they can learn from. Other programs the departments is working on include an Electronic Command Board, which will compliment the EFAS, improved seat belt systems that are currently being installed, and a safety kiosk to provide firefighters with information, set to debut in a Staten Island firehouse May 1.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fdny-pilot-program-focuses-firefighter-accountability>

43. *March 22, Homeland Security News Wire* – (New Jersey) **Automatic license plate reader helps Jersey police fight crime.** The Evesham, New Jersey police department recently installed a high tech automatic license plate reader on one of its squad cars; the license plate reader, attached to the outside of a police car, relies on an infrared camera to photograph license plates and automatically runs it through several databases; the searches are designed to alert officers if the plates are linked to criminals, unregistered vehicles, or unpaid fines; in 1 month, Evesham police scanned 69,000 plates, returning 1,400 alerts of interest including several unregistered vehicles that led to large narcotics busts; officers see this technology as way to increase efficiency and do more with less given budget constraints. So far Evesham has only installed one of the devices as it costs \$20,000 per license plate reader. But, as local governments and states continue to struggle with tight budgets, many officers see this new technology as a way to increase capabilities, despite its cost.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/automatic-license-plate-reader-helps-jersey-police-fight-crime>

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Information Technology Sector

44. *March 24, The Register* – (International) **Hackers make off with TripAdvisor’s membership list.** Travel site TripAdvisor warned subscribers to expect more spam following the theft of its member database. The travel review and information Web site said an unspecified vulnerability allowed miscreants to make off with a portion of its e-mail database. TripAdvisor does not collect members’ credit card or financial information, and no passwords were obtained as a result of the breach. TripAdvisor has promised to tighten its security in the wake of the incident, which is under investigation internally. The U.S.-based Web site, which serves an international client base, has also reported the matter to police. No malware campaigns have been seen as a result of the TripAdvisor breach.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/24/tripadvisor_email_database_breach/
45. *March 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **SCADA vulnerabilities prompt U.S. government warning.** Software vulnerabilities found in a variety of industrial control systems have prompted vendors to begin developing patches, following a warning by the U.S. government’s Computer Emergency Readiness Team (CERT). The security problems were found in SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) systems made by Siemens, Iconics, 7-Technologies, and Datac by a researcher whose findings appeared on his Web site and the vulnerability site Bugtraq. The U.S. CERT’s Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team issued four alerts March 21 regarding the researcher’s findings. All of the products have remotely exploitable vulnerabilities, the most dangerous kind. If the systems are connected to the Internet, hackers could find ways to exploit them from afar and get inside the systems to steal or manipulate data. The systems affected are Siemens’ Tecnomatix FactoryLink, which is used in the food, pharmaceutical, and metals industries, among many others. Siemens said in 2007 that it would pull FactoryLink from the market in October 2012 and help customer migrate to its WinCC product. According to material published by Siemens in 2008, more than 80,000 FactoryLink systems have been installed worldwide. Other companies hit by the disclosure include Iconics, whose Genesis32 and Genesis64 software is used in industries such as oil and gas and pharmaceuticals, and Datac, which makes RealWin.
Source:
[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214990/SCADA_vulnerabilities_prompt U.S. government warning](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214990/SCADA_vulnerabilities_prompt_U.S._government_warning)
46. *March 23, Softpedia* – (International) **Harnig botnet abandoned after Rustock takedown.** A large botnet acting as distribution platform for Rustock and other malware seems to have been abandoned by its creators in an attempt to erase their tracks. Dubbed Harnig, the botnet has been part of Rustock’s propagation scheme for around 2 years. This means the bot client might exist on many of the 1 million Rustock-infected computers. The Rustock botnet, one of the world’s primary sources of e-mail spam, was taken down in a coordinated effort that saw the participation of Microsoft’s Digital Crimes Unit (DCU) and the U.S. Marshals Service. Authorities seized hard drives from hosting providers in seven U.S. cities, which were providing resources for the Rustock operation. Soon after the take down action, all Harnig command and control (C&C) servers were wiped out by the botnet’s masters in a surprising move.

This is even more surprising since unlike Rustock, which hosted most of its C&C servers in the United States, Harnig's infrastructure was much more widespread. In addition, Harnig's client list extended well beyond Rustock. According to FireEye, the botnet was seen distributing trojans like SpyEye, Zbot, or Ertfor. The fact Harnig's owners chose to delete everything and gave up on their entire pay-per-install operation, enforces the idea they are close to the Rustock gang, or are part of it.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Harnig-Botnet-Abandoned-After-Rustock-Takedown-191057.shtml>

47. *March 23, CNET News* – (International) **Google, Yahoo, Skype targeted in attack linked to Iran.** A malicious attacker that appears to be the Iranian government managed to obtain supposedly secure digital certificates that can be used to impersonate Google, Yahoo, Skype, and other major Web sites, the security company affected by the breach said March 23. Comodo, a Jersey City, New Jersey-based firm that issues digital certificates, said the nine certificates that were fraudulently obtained, including one for Microsoft's Live.com, have already been revoked. A fraudulent certificate allows someone to impersonate the secure versions of those Web sites — the ones that are used when encrypted connections are enabled — in some circumstances. The Internet Protocol addresses used in the attack are in Tehran, Iran, said Comodo, which believes that because of the focus and speed of the attack, it was “state-driven.” Spoofing those Web sites would allow the Iranian government to use what is known as a man-in-the-middle attack to impersonate the legitimate sites and grab passwords, read e-mail messages, and monitor any other activities its citizens performed, even if the connections were protected with SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) encryption.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-31921_3-20046340-281.html?tag=mncol;txt

48. *March 23, The Register* – (International) **Zeus cybercrime cookbook on sale in underground forums.** Cybercrooks are offering what purports to be source code for the Zeus cybercrime toolkit through underground forums. The would-be seller, nicknamed IOO, has lent credibility to the offer by including screenshots of what appears to be portions of the source code for Zeus to his sales pitch. IOO offers to discuss the sale to prospective buyers via either Jabber or ICQ. He is prepared to accept payment via any escrow service. The screenshots make reference to peinfector.cpp, a project of Zeus known as “Murofet”. Security researchers — while unable to verify the sale is genuine — are taking the potential offer seriously. “Prior to this there were several rumors that the Zeus/Zbot code was sold to the creator of SpyEye,” writes an eCrime specialist who works for Danish security consultancy CSIS Security. “This is also currently unconfirmed — however what is certain is the fact that someone besides the author of the Zeus/Zbot has access to the code.” Whether the specific sale by IOO is genuine or not, the eCrime specialist is sure that the secret recipe of Zeus has become accessible to more people over recent weeks. “We have also seen compile logs confirming that Zeus/Zbot code is available to broader audiences,” he told The Register.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/23/zeus_source_code_sale/

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

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *March 24, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Firefighters battle Transylvania Co. church blaze.** Transylvania County dispatchers said nine fire departments were on the scene of a church fire on See Off Mountain Road in Brevard, North Carolina. Firefighters from Conestee said the back rooms of Dunn’s Creek Baptist Church have suffered major damage. Fire officials said the church is 140 years old. The congregation had services March 23, but adjourned about an hour before the fire call came in. No one was inside the church building at the time.
Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/news/27302995/detail.html>

50. *March 24, WSFA 12 Montgomery* – (Alabama) **Oxygen-filled balloons blow up car.** A Nissan Pathfinder filled with inflated balloons exploded about 12:30 p.m. March 20 in Union Springs, Alabama, injuring 2 people. The vehicle was filled with inflated balloons for a baby shower. The owner of the vehicle had driven to the parking lot of the Nutrition Site and was outside her vehicle when the explosion occurred. She was seriously injured in the explosion and is in UAB Hospital in Birmingham in intensive care suffering second degree burns, according to the investigator. She was taken via RCS Ambulance. Another woman was standing a short distance away when the explosion occurred. She was taken to the Bullock County Hospital with minor injuries. She was not hospitalized. Authorities told the Herald the balloons had been filled and were inside the vehicle when the explosion took place. The vehicle was totaled from the explosion that was heard 4 blocks away. Others said it shook the ground about 2 blocks away. Police told the Herald the balloons had been filled with pure oxygen instead of helium. The explosion was caused by over-heated oxygen. Authorities said they do not know why oxygen instead of helium was used. The state fire marshal’s office is investigating the explosion.
Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=14312597>

51. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Day care operator pleads not guilty in fatal fire.** A woman accused of fleeing to Nigeria after a fire killed four children at her

Texas home day care center pleaded not guilty to manslaughter and other charges March 23, 2 days after she was returned to the United States. The 22-year-old woman is facing 13 state charges related to the February 24 blaze that also injured 3 children. Her attorney entered the plea during an arraignment hearing in Houston. The suspect is being held without bond and could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of the most serious charges. Authorities believe she left all seven children alone while she went shopping, and the fire was ignited by a stove-top burner that was left on at her Houston home. She caught a flight to Nigeria 2 days later, as investigators scrambled to convince prosecutors to file charges. The suspect also pleaded not guilty to injury to a child and child abandonment charges. The manslaughter and injury to a child charges each carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. She also faces a federal charge of leaving the country while trying to avoid prosecution.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/top/all/7488368.html>

52. *March 23, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Fire officials continue investigation of explosion at Balise Honda that killed one worker.** Fire officials are investigating a blast that killed one man and injured another at Balise Honda on Riverdale Street March 23. “It was a fairly substantial explosion,” the vice president and owner of Balise Motor Sales said. The explosion was reported at about 9:40 a.m., the West Springfield fire chief said. Crews arriving at the scene found the victim who had died during their initial search of the building. The dealership owner said an additional worker went to an area hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. Investigating are West Springfield fire and police departments, and state police assigned to the fire marshal’s office and to the Hampden district attorney’s office, a fire department spokeswoman said. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is conducting a separate investigation. The flames that followed the explosion were too powerful for sprinklers to extinguish, although they did help keep the fire from spreading, the deputy fire chief said. The presence of solvents in the building hampered firefighters’ efforts to extinguish the blaze. The deputy chief said it took firefighters about an hour to put out the flames. “Water wouldn’t do it; we needed to try to get some foam on there to suppress the flames,” he said. A spokesperson for Balise said the explosion happened in the wash bay.

Source:

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/03/balise_honda_explosion_investigation_continues.html

53. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Fire damages businesses near UIUC campus.** A fire has damaged several businesses near the University of Illinois campus in Champaign, Illinois March 23. A Champaign Fire Department spokeswoman said the fire was reported just before 8 a.m., and was largely contained about 2 hours later. No injuries were reported. It isn’t clear if anyone was in the buildings at the time. The university is currently on spring break. Authorities said the roof of the building that houses Zorba’s Restaurant partially collapsed. The same building also houses university offices, Mia Za’s Cafe, Pitaya clothing store and an apartment. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.kwqc.com/Global/story.asp?S=14307411>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

54. *March 24, Charleston Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **Wildfire now 98 percent contained, authorities say.** A wildfire burning at least 1,100 acres near the South Santee River in South Carolina was 98 percent contained, authorities said March 24. U.S. Highway 17 north of McClellanville was reopened about 8 a.m. The highway was closed March 23 after a 200-acre brush fire quickly spread into an 1,100-acre fire. The fire is still burning, but crews working throughout the night were able to surround most of it. The Awendaw Fire Department battalion chief said crews from Mount Pleasant to Cross would arrive on the scene March 24 to soak a wet line to keep the fire from jumping to several homes in the South Santee area. South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) firefighters will also be on site to make sure the fire line surrounding the blaze is secured. A SCFC spokesman said the origin of the fire and its cause have not been pinned down. An investigation may begin March 24. Authorities were working to protect several private plantations and Hampton Plantation State Park, site of a pre-Revolutionary War mansion. A separate wildfire damaged a structure along Steed Creek Road and was being managed by forestry officials, who were using firebreaks to contain the blaze.
Source: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/mar/24/1100-acre-wildfire-rages/>
55. *March 24, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **Grassfire burns 400 acres in Hale County.** The Texas Forest Service (TFS) assisted area fire departments in battling a grassfire March 23 that scorched 400 acres west of Hale Center. TFS reported it sent two engines and overhead resources to the fire near County Road Q shortly after 4 p.m. The initial call came at 3:40 p.m. for a fire at Highline Road and FM 1914, according to the Hale County Sheriff's Office. Hale Center, Abernathy, Floyd County, Petersburg, and Halfway fire departments responded. Three homes and two structures were threatened in the blaze; the two structures were destroyed.
Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2011-03-24/grassfire-burns-400-acres-hale-county>
56. *March 24, Sierra Vista Herald* – (Arizona) **Blaze near Patagonia 20 percent contained.** More progress has been made in containing the Duke Fire burning south of Patagonia, Arizona. Now 20 percent contained and measuring 5,100 acres, the fire has yet to damage any structures, according to the National Forest Service. The human-caused fire started around noon March 20 about 12 miles south of Patagonia, and spread rapidly that night due to high winds, a spokeswoman for the Coronado National Forest said. As of March 23, approximately 190 personnel were involved in fighting the blaze, including 5 fire crews using 12 fire engines, 4 water tenders, and an air tanker on standby. Burnout operations were scheduled to continue March 24.
Source: <http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2011/03/24/blaze-near-patagonia-20-percent-contained>

57. *March 23, Honolulu Star-Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Fight continues to spare rain forest from Big Island wild fire.** National Park Service (NPS) firefighters in Hawaii spent the week of March 20 trying to prevent the wild fire ignited by Kilauea Volcano from spreading through a protected rain forest inhabited by endangered Hawaiian plants and animals. Nearly 100 acres of the 2,750-acre east rift zone’s special ecological area, an intact lowland rain forest, have already been destroyed in the fire ignited March 5 by an eruption at the Kamoamoa fissure. As of March 23, the Napau wildfire on the east rift of the Big Island’s Kilauea volcano has destroyed 2,000 acres approximately 7 miles southeast of the Kilauea Visitor Center. NPS firefighters were aided by rain in the area March 23. Strong trade winds with gusts up to 40 miles per hour hampered firefighters’ efforts. Helicopters have been shuttling NPS firefighting crews and equipment into the fire area. About 40 NPS firefighters from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Olympic and Yosemite National Parks, the Pacific West Regional Office of NPS, National NPS Fire Office in Boise, and the Eldorado, Sequoia, Stanislaus, and Los Padres National Forests are being used. Source: <http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/118563494.html>

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Dams Sector

58. *March 24, Elk River Star News* – (Minnesota) **Firefighters help open dam gates.** Elk River, Minnesota firefighters assisted Elk River Municipal Utilities in opening the gates at Orono Dam March 21 to allow the level of Lake Orono to drop. The fire chief said firefighters helped dislodge the ice that formed around the gears. A spokesman of Elk River Municipal Utilities said he wanted to make sure he could run the dam’s gates to lower the lake level if necessary. It is especially critical this time of year with spring run-off and higher water levels. Source: <http://erstarnews.com/2011/03/24/firefighters-help-open-dam-gates/>
59. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Stillwater delays temporary levee on St. Croix.** Stillwater, Minnesota, is delaying construction of a temporary levee on the St. Croix River until it gets a firmer flood forecast, Associated Press reported March 24. The police chief said March 17 the National Weather Service is now projecting a lower crest of 686 feet sometime around the middle of the week of March 27 because of the colder weather. The estimate is down 4 feet from what the city was expecting March 24. The chief still believes the Stillwater Lift Bridge will close. The St. Croix historically is one of the last Minnesota rivers to crest during spring flooding. The city anticipates a second crest, but officials are not sure at what level or when. The city said all resources are in place to begin construction on the temporary levee on very short notice. Source: http://www.leadertelegram.com/news/daily_updates/article_8e3f929e-5628-11e0-924a-001cc4c03286.html
60. *March 24, Jakarta Post* – (International) **13 dams seriously damaged in Bogor.** Thirteen dams in the West Java regency of Bogor, Indonesia, are suffering from

serious damage as a result of repeated flooding during rainy seasons, resulting in droughts during dry seasons in surrounding areas. A Bogor public works and irrigation agency official said there was nothing the local administration could do regarding the damage, saying the dams were under the authority of the public works ministry. He added that among problems were leakages and declining water levels, which had disrupted their functions. Among the worst damaged are the Cibolang and Cijantungeun Ilir dams in Jasinga district, Wadana and Cijapar dams in Parung Panjang, Cimanggis dam in Bojonggede, Cogreg dam in Ciseeng, and the Curug Serpong dam in Gunung Sindur, he said.

Source: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/03/24/13-dams-seriously-damaged-bogor.html>

61. *March 23, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Road across Boca Dam to close for security plan.** The federal Bureau of Reclamation will close the road across Boca Dam on the Little Truckee River in California to car and truck traffic beginning April 1 to implement the security plan for the dam, the Sacramento Bee reported March 23. The closure is expected to last through the summer. Limiting public access to the dam is necessary to address security concerns and provide protection for public lands downstream, according to a Bureau of Reclamation news release. Pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle use of the road across the dam will be allowed during the road closure. Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/23/3499631/road-across-boca-dam-to-close.html>

62. *March 23, KARE 11 Minneapolis* – (Minnesota) **Flooding causes highway to collapse near Mankato.** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) reported March 23 that Highway 22 between St. Peter and Mankato was closed due to flooding concerns. A portion of the highway collapsed March 23. MnDOT officials said a levee broke, causing water to spill out and erode the area. Dirt under the road eroded, causing the road to collapse. The highway is expected to be closed for several weeks and could take months to repair. Highway 22 is a popular route for motorists who travel from St. Peter to the western side of Mankato. It also connects with Highway 14, which takes motorists to southeastern Minnesota. Nobody was on the road when it collapsed. Source: <http://www.kare11.com/news/article/915765/14/Flooding-causes-highway-to-collapse-near-Mankato>

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