



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 March 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- Associated Press reports a Michigan doctor was arrested and accused of unlawfully distributing 5 million doses of narcotics between 2008 and 2010, and fraudulently billing Medicare more than \$5.7 million. (See item [30](#))
- According to CBS and WISH-TV, a suspended student was is in custody after shooting a fellow student at Martinsville West Middle School in Martinsville, Indiana. (See item [35](#))

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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 25, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. may lower fines for utility in fatal blast.** California regulators proposed March 24 to fine a utility for a deadly pipeline blast as little as \$3 million, instead of moving ahead with a prior plan to charge the company about \$1 million per day for shoddy record-keeping. The California Public Utilities Commission unanimously approved a motion March 24 ordering Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) to appear March 28 at a hearing for a discussion of the new proposed agreement that could significantly lower the penalties. Last week, the panel’s

executive director had said PG&E could face fines of \$1 million per day or more for failing to hand over key safety records for its transmission lines, including for sections of the aging natural gas line that blew in San Bruno, California. The September 9, 2010 explosion killed 8 people and destroyed 38 homes. If PG&E does not pressure-test certain high-risk lines or experiences any unexcused delays, fines could rise to \$6 million, a spokesman added. Regulators ordered PG&E to provide detailed engineering records soon after the accident. The utility provided summary documents, but company officials acknowledged they could not find key safety records for 8 percent of lines running through populated areas.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/25/general-multiutilities-ca-pipeline-explosion\\_8374410.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/25/general-multiutilities-ca-pipeline-explosion_8374410.html)

2. *March 24, Wall Street Journal* – (Louisiana; Texas) **U.S. Coast Guard says tests link spill to Anglo-Suisse well.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) said samples of oil that washed up on Louisiana beaches the weekend of March 7 match crude Anglo-Suisse Offshore Partners LLC reported spilling from one of its Gulf of Mexico wells. But the closely held Houston, Texas oil producer said it still disagrees with the findings. Anglo-Suisse argues although a few gallons of oil spilled from a shallow-water well it was working to permanently seal, the crude that has fouled stretches of Louisiana’s shoreline is not its responsibility. Anglo-Suisse “continues to question these findings, given that the well in question is non-producing and has been monitored closely for the last six months,” the company said March 24. Although Anglo-Suisse agreed to join the cleanup and take the lead beginning March 25, it said it has hired an independent laboratory to help prove the crude that made landfall did not come from its operations. USCG said tests performed by its own scientists and by Louisiana State University concluded oil collected from beaches at Grand Isle and Elmer’s Island, a state wildlife sanctuary, are chemical matches to samples from an Anglo-Suisse well located about 30 miles offshore. As such, it has named the company as the party responsible for paying all costs associated with cleaning up the crude.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704604704576221214051522074.html>

3. *March 24, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Sierra snow prompts explosion warning.** A string of Sierra snowstorms has dumped so much snow that Placer County, California, emergency officials are issuing a warning about the potential for gas leaks and carbon monoxide poisoning. “There are definite challenges in the Tahoe area,” the Placer County emergency services manager said. He said snow piles were so high and so heavy it is possible gas lines leading into Sierra weekend getaway homes could crack and gas vapors could build up inside those structures. Furthermore, with snow piles approaching 30-feet high in spots, the emergency services manager is advising residents to make sure snow is not blocking ventilation areas. Without proper ventilation, carbon monoxide can build up inside homes, the emergency manager said.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/r/27311295/detail.html>

4. *March 24, KARE 11 Minneapolis* – (Minnesota) **Gas leak plugged, University Avenue reopens in St. Paul.** Utility crews have finally plugged a gas leak that triggered evacuations and a complete shutdown of a section of University Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota March 24. Xcel Energy said a cap came off of a 12-inch main gas line while crews were doing maintenance and relocation work connected to the LRT Central Corridor project. The leak occurred at University Avenue and Fry Street, about a block west of Snelling just before 11 a.m. A KARE 11 photographer on the scene reported the smell of gas was strong, and hissing could be heard as gas escaped from the line. Police blocked off the area, and shut down traffic on University between Snelling and Fairview. More than a dozen buildings were evacuated as a precaution. It was nearly 1 hour before the gas leak was plugged, and emergency officials deemed it safe to reopen the busy road and allow business people and residents to return to their buildings. Service was restored to the area, and a spokesman for Xcel said crews will go door-to-door to relight pilot lights for 1,200 customers affected by the gas shut-off. No injuries or fires were reported.  
Source: <http://www.kare11.com/news/article/915890/396/Gas-leak-plugged-University-Avenue-reopens-in-St-Paul->

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *March 24, KKTV 11 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Fire near Pueblo Chemical Depot contained.** A small grass fire burning on the Pueblo, Colorado Chemical Depot post spread to 5,000 acres and burned both on and off post before being contained by 9 p.m. March 24. The fire was caused by a power pole that was knocked down March 24. It started small and began on post and quickly spread off post. It destroyed one shed-type structure near the Lynda Ann Reservoir. No injuries were reported. As a safety precaution and to keep traffic congestion at a minimum for firefighters as they worked, 600-700 employees and construction workers at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant were evacuated from the construction site and administration buildings at about 4:50 p.m. March 24.  
Source: <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/118616344.html>
6. *March 24, WLKY 32 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Fire finally out days after explosion.** A blaze at Carbide Industries that has been burning in Louisville, Kentucky, since the March 21 explosion that killed two workers is finally out. There were several fire and hazmat teams at the plant the morning of March 24 attempting to make as many safe entrances into the building where the fire has been burning. The fire was on the third level of the building, which firefighters said made it difficult to put out. There was also concern about the chemical inside the damaged building. If it comes in contact with water it could explode. Officials said they do not know how long the area will be dangerous. City leaders are hoping to ease community concerns over current notification systems in potentially dangerous situations. The city has already taken

control of the Rubbertown R Call alert hot line, and plans to upgrade the current citywide alert system. “We call it the dialogic notification system. It allows us to make notifications to geographic areas and call out limited information,” a spokesman with Metro Emergency Management said. He said the system was used successfully March 23 for Butchertown residents during an ammonia leak at the JBS Swift meat-packing plant.

Source: <http://www.wlky.com/r/27311528/detail.html>

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

7. *March 25, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Glitches hamper radiation warning system in California.** The federal government’s radiation alert network in California is not fully functional, leaving the stretch of coast between Los Angeles and San Francisco without the crucial real-time warning system in the event of a nuclear emergency. Six of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 12 California sensors — including the 3 closest to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant near San Luis Obispo — are sending data with “anomalies” to the agency’s laboratory in Montgomery, Alabama, said the EPA’s radiation program manager. The problem delays from 30 minutes to several hours the updating of a database critical for warning the public in case of a sudden radiation danger. The troubled transmissions are part of the federal RadNet system “designed to protect the public by notifying scientists, in near real time, of elevated levels of radiation so they can determine whether protective action is required,” EPA said. Without immediate information from RadNet, state and local emergency managers would be dependent on the private owners of nuclear power facilities to alert them in the first hours of a dangerous radiation leak from a domestic source. At the outset of the Japanese crisis, environmentalists noticed a map on EPA’s Web site showing the locations of the monitors nationwide indicated that only about half were “running.” Most of the others were producing data “undergoing quality review.” The Web site has since been updated to say data from the problematic monitors “is being reviewed at EPA’s National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory” and that sensors are still collecting data. A spokesman said the data, transmitted via satellite to the Alabama lab every hour, arrive with problems that mean it cannot be added to the database automatically. Instead, a staff member has to manually review the information, a process that can take up to several hours.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-me-radiation-california-20110325,0,7916094.story?track=rss&dlvrit=142902>

8. *March 23, WWLP 22 Springfield* – (Massachusetts) **No uranium found at Armory sites.** Officials of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the inspection team testing for materials containing depleted uranium in the former Springfield Armory sites found no trace of the material. Based on recently located records from the U.S. Army, DPH learned materials containing small amounts of

depleted uranium had been used in weapons testing in the late 1960s. The week of March 14, the department tested seven locations in Springfield that had been used by the armory for manufacturing. The final radiological survey of the Hill Shops Area will be done the weekend of March 26 and 27 in coordination with the manager for that property.

Source: <http://www.wvlp.com/dpp/news/local/hampden/No-uranium-found-at-Armory-sites>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *March 25, Associated Press* – (International) **WA man pleads guilty in arms export case.** A Washington State man accused of trying to sell sensitive military and aerospace technology to China has pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the Arms Export Control Act, Associated Press reported March 25. Federal prosecutors alleged the man, of Woodinville, tried to export 300 semiconductors that the U.S. government has said have no purpose outside of military or aerospace use. The Seattle Times said the man was arrested in December after he reportedly offered to purchase the radiation-hardened semiconductors used by the military in satellites for \$700,000 from undercover FBI agents. A federal complaint said he and unidentified co-conspirators deposited a \$60,000 down payment in an account set up by the agents. He was arrested in a sting as he was dropping off a \$20,000 payment. The man entered his plea March 24 in federal court in Seattle. Sentencing is set for June 30.

Source: <http://www.bradenton.com/2011/03/25/3061433/wa-man-pleads-guilty-in-arms-export.html>

10. *March 24, Defense News* – (National) **Aircraft oxygen-generating systems under investigation.** The U.S. Air Combat Command is investigating whether the On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS) found on many Air Force warplanes, including the F-22 Raptor, might be defective, Defense News reported March 24. A Lockheed Martin spokesman confirmed the restriction has been in place ever since an F-22 based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, crashed in November. Lockheed is the prime contractor for the F-22, a next-generation stealth fighter jet. One Air Force source said an OBOGS malfunction might have been responsible for the incident, which resulted in the death of an F-22 pilot assigned to the 525th Fighter Squadron. “Air Combat Command is conducting an investigation to assess on-board oxygen generating systems on several platforms, including the F-22,” said a spokesman for the command, which is responsible for training and equipping the service’s combat air forces. “The investigation is designed for mishap prevention and is a prudent measure to ensure the

OBOGS are operating safely,” he added. “Air Force operational commanders have temporarily restricted F-22 flight operations to an altitude at or below 25,000 feet for routine training missions,” he said. Despite the restrictions, the Raptor remains fully operational and could carry out combat tasks if needed, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=6041977&c=AME&s=AIR>

11. *March 24, Nextgov* – (National) **Protection of U.S. nuclear arsenal faulted by experts.** The federal agency charged with protecting the country’s nuclear weapons arsenal is not effectively securing its facilities, according to a report released March 24 by the National Research Council (NRC). The report faulted the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the Energy Department, for lacking a comprehensive understanding of different enemy attack scenarios that could threaten NNSA storage facilities, and warned security at the agency’s sites would remain “out of balance” without strengthened agency leadership and a “major shift in approach.” NNSA leaders also do not understand the full extent of the “interactions and dependencies among security [systems],” the NRC asserted.

Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20110324\\_3475.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110324_3475.php)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

12. *March 24, Bloomberg News* – (National) **SEC sues Connecticut feeder fund, manager over alleged fraud.** A Connecticut hedge fund and its manager were sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for disgorgement of gains made while sending hundreds of millions of investors’ dollars to a fraud scheme operator. The SEC complaint was filed March 24 against the manager and his Greenwich, Connecticut-based Acorn Capital Group LLC. The complaint also names as a defendant Stewardship Investment Advisors LLC, another firm controlled by the manager. The manager “funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to a scheme operator and his notorious Ponzi scheme” from 2001 through 2008, taking in more than \$459 million from about 165 people and sending most of it to entities owned by the scheme operator, according to the complaint in federal court in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The scheme operator is serving a 50-year federal prison sentence after being found guilty in December 2009 of running the \$3.5 billion scam. He was convicted of bilking hundreds of investors who thought they were financing short-term transactions involving consumer electronics. The hedge fund manager concealed evidence of the fraud, including by engaging in \$187 million in “round-trip” transactions designed to hide the scheme, SEC said. During the fraud, the manager pocketed \$90 million in fees, an SEC assistant regional director for the Chicago Region said. The agency is seeking disgorgement of at least that sum together with an order freezing the man’s assets, including a \$14 million payment he is slated to receive from the scheme operator’s receivership as early as March 25, according to SEC.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-25/sec-sues-petters-feeder-fund-manager-for-disgorgement-of-gains-from-fraud.html>



13. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Maine park users warned of credit card breach.** A security breach may have exposed credit card information from people who bought Maine state park passes through an online vendor used by the state conservation department, and the potential breach could be much larger and involve consumers in other states, Maine officials said March 24. The company that handled the online park pass purchases warned a malware attack potentially exposed credit cards used in transactions last year from March 21 to December 22, a conservation spokeswoman said. State officials learned of the problem in February. Notices were sent to 970 credit card holders in Maine, and no one to date has reported any fraudulent charges, she said. Maine officials sought to reassure residents the problem was limited to park passes and did not affect any other state computer operations. The online park pass transactions were handled by InfoSpherix, a Maryland company and subsidiary of San Diego-based Active Network. The scope of the security breach was unclear as of March 24. Active Network manages online registration, payment processing, donations and transactions for businesses and organizations nationwide. The company told Maine officials the problem could go far beyond the state because hackers managed to breach several servers containing credit card numbers and expiration dates, an assistant attorney general said. Names associated with those cards were kept on another server, he said. As a precaution, the Maine attorney general's office alerted attorneys general in other states. Maine officials said the number of credit cards that may have been exposed was around 1,000. State law required that notifications be mailed to card holders in Maine, and they were advised to report any suspicious activity.  
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/03/24/state/n140746D12.DTL>
14. *March 24, Echo Park Patch* – (California) **'All Ears Bandit' tied to Saturday's attempted bank robbery.** Surveillance camera photos sent to the FBI after an attempted robbery at the Echo Park, California, Bank of America (BoFA) March 19 now link the suspect to two other bank robberies within a week's time. One was at a Citibank March 12 in Bell Gardens. The other was at another BoFA in Carson March 14. Dubbed the "All Ears Bandit" by law enforcement, the suspect came in to the Echo Park BoFA just after 1 p.m. March 19 and slipped a teller a note saying he had a gun and demanding money. According to the FBI's Los Angeles office, the suspect used a similar note in the Bell Gardens and Carson thefts. The suspect fled the Echo Park bank without taking money. Los Angeles Police Department detectives interviewed witnesses to the Echo Park incident. They coordinated their efforts with the FBI, who helped link the suspect to the other robberies. According to the FBI, the suspect also fled the Carson Bank of America without any cash. The suspect is believed to be a Latino male in his late 20s or early 30s.  
Source: <http://echopark.patch.com/articles/all-ears-bandit-tied-to-saturdays-attempted-bank-robbery>
15. *March 24, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (Illinois) **Former insurance agent admits to multi-million dollar fraud investment scheme.** A St. Louis, Missouri woman faces up to 30 years imprisonment and/or \$250,000 in fines after pleading guilty to defrauding clients of more than \$6 million, a U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois said.

According to court documents, the 58-year-old woman pleaded to one count of mail fraud and one count of engaging in a monetary transaction over \$10,000 in property derived from specified unlawful activity. The woman was a licensed insurance agent and securities broker with Tower Squares Securities, Inc., a MetLife Company, in an office out of Swansea, Illinois. She admitted that between January 2003 and January 2010, she enticed clients into paying for investment and insurance products that she never purchased. She diverted, deposited, and commingled the funds into personal accounts, which she then used for travel, increasing personal wealth, to purchase and rehab rental properties, and to finance a chain of clothing stores (Essential Elements, Elements of Denim). She will be sentenced on July 8. In addition to jail time, she faces mandatory restitution and up to 3 years of supervised release.

Source: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/251176/3/Local-woman-admits-to-fraud-investment-scheme>

16. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Illinois; New Jersey) **SEC: Illinois money manager took \$6 million.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed a civil complaint March 24 against an eastern Illinois money manager accusing him of stealing more than \$6 million from investment plans he managed. The News-Gazette in Champaign reports the complaint accuses the 55-year-old Urbana man of taking shares from plans he managed for employees of other companies. According to the complaint, he then sold those shares and moved the money to accounts he controlled. The man worked for New Jersey-based Comprehensive Capital Management. He has not been charged with a crime.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-moneymanageraccus,0,1225922.story>

17. *March 24, KXXV 25 Waco* – (Texas) **FBI asking for help finding serial bank robber.** The FBI is asking the public for help locating a serial bank robber striking across Central Texas. Authorities said the man is suspected in four bank robberies from Killeen to Austin since September 2010. In all of them, the suspect entered the bank, threatened the teller with a gun, and then demanded money. This same man reportedly fled on foot after robbing the Eisenhower National Bank in Killeen in September 2010. There is a possibility he is living outside the Austin-Killeen corridor. “We definitely have a Killeen-Austin corridor connection, he possibly lives in Waco on one side of I-35, or on the other side of I-35 being San Antonio,” an FBI spokesperson said. The suspect is described as a white male 25 to 35 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, muscular build, brown hair (short), may have shaved head, blue or hazel eyes, and clean shaven or with a brown goatee.

Source: <http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14318061>

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *March 25, Sioux Falls Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Flooding closes South Dakota roads.** More roads are being closed in eastern South Dakota because of flooding, the



Argus Leader reported March 25. Officials have closed a 19-mile stretch of state Highway 28 in Hamlin County between Highway 25 and Lake Norden because of a pipe washout. State Highway 21 in Hamlin County also is closed south of Hayti. State Highway 38 east of Mitchell is closed at the Davison-Hanson county line because of James River flooding. Workers have contained the overflowing James on U.S. Highway 14 at Huron. A segment of South Dakota 44 at the James River was closed March 24 after water overtopped the highway east of Parkston between mile markers 363 and 364. The Renner fire chief said all roads going east and west between Dell Rapids and Interstate 90 are closed. He said officials will be taking shifts manning the fire station and keeping an eye on the waters until the flood is over.

Source:

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20110325/NEWS/103250324/1001/Flooding-closes-South-Dakota-roads>

19. *March 25, WTVJ 6 Miami* – (Florida) **Fire causing more MIA delays, cancellations.** People flying in or out of Miami International Airport (MIA) in Florida March 25 expect a slow process as workers scramble to fuel planes following March 23 night's massive fire. As of 10 a.m. March 25, there were 96 canceled departures and 96 canceled arrivals, and 20 delayed departures and 3 delayed arrivals, according to the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. The massive blaze, which struck MIA's fuel tank farm and was put out March 24, led to over 180 flight cancellations and over 140 delays March 24 as workers were forced to fuel planes with tanker trucks instead of an underground pipe line, slowing down the process. The fire destroyed 14 pumps and required over 100 firefighters to help put it out.  
Source: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Fire-Could-Cause-More-Delays-at-MIA-118643479.html>
20. *March 25, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia; Maryland; Virginia) **Metro to have cameras outside all 86 rail stations.** Surveillance cameras are being installed outside the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (Metro) 86 rail stations in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, in an effort to thwart crime. Officials said March 24 a \$2.8 million grant from DHS will be used to purchase 105 color cameras. Installation was expected to begin by March 24. The cameras will be the first to film the exterior of the entrances to Metro stations. The agency's police said robberies and larcenies in and around rail stations have increased from 800 to 1,000 from 2009 to 2010. Metro has been concerned about teenagers hanging around the stations, saying youth committed 27 percent of the crimes during that period. Authorities also said a 23-year-old man was stabbed by teenagers March 9 outside the Gallery Place-Chinatown station in Washington D.C.  
Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=654&sid=2320158>
21. *March 24, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Reagan National controller drug tested, suspended after sleeping on the job.** The air traffic supervisor who dozed off in the Ronald Reagan National Airport control tower in Arlington, Virginia March 23, forcing passenger plane pilots to land on their own, was drug-tested by federal authorities before being suspended from his job, federal officials said. The Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA) declined to confirm the testing or to comment on the results. An FAA administrator suspended the veteran controller supervisor March 24, saying he was “personally outraged” after 2 planes carrying a total of 165 people landed without help from the control tower. The National Transportation Safety Board March 24 initiated a formal investigation into the incident, and the U.S. House Transportation Committee planned to conduct a formal review.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/reagan-national-controller-drug-tested-and-suspended-after-falling-asleep-on-the-job/2011/03/24/ABPzu5RB\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/reagan-national-controller-drug-tested-and-suspended-after-falling-asleep-on-the-job/2011/03/24/ABPzu5RB_story.html)

For more stories, see items [1](#), [4](#), and [29](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

22. *March 24, TCPalm.com* – (Florida) ‘**Acid bomb**’ is 3rd improvised device found this week in Port St. Lucie mailboxes. A third apparent improvised explosive device turned up March 24 in a mailbox at a home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, and police suspect all three are related. The third device, described in a report released March 24 as an “acid bomb,” was found at an address in the 3200 block of Southeast Quay Street. That incident was reported to police March 23, while the two others were reported March 22. The two reported March 22 were in the 2800 block of Southeast Pace Drive, and the 2800 block of Southeast Peru Street. Those addresses are close together, while the Southeast Quay Street address is farther away.

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/mar/24/145acid-bomb-is-3rd-improvised-device-found-this/>

23. *March 23, Northwest Cable News* – (Washington) **Suspicious letter evacuates King County Courthouse.** Police and fire officials found nothing dangerous after a suspicious letter was reported at the King County Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, March 23. The large envelope was delivered to the King County Sheriff’s Office inside the courthouse, and contained various legal papers, said a spokesman. Also inside the envelope was a smaller envelope that an employee believed contained a gray powder, he said. Emergency crews were notified of the letter before 5 p.m. Hazmat crews located it in the sheriff’s office section of the courthouse, and evacuated the area. By 6:20 p.m., investigators deemed it not hazardous. King County Metro Transit advised bus riders of possible delays near 3rd Avenue and James Street in Seattle due to police presence.

Source:

<http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fId=118546209&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10212>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

24. *March 24, Bloomberg* – (Texas; National) **Worst Texas drought in 44 years eroding U.S. wheat, beef supply.** The worst Texas drought in 44 years is damaging the state’s wheat crop and forcing ranchers to reduce cattle herds, as rising demand for U.S. food sends grain and meat prices higher. Texas, the biggest U.S. cattle producer and second-largest winter-wheat grower, got just 4.7 inches of rain on average in the 5 months through February, the least for the period since 1967, a state climatologist said. More than half the wheat fields and pastures were rated in poor or very poor condition March 20. Dry conditions extending to Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado may cut crop yields in the United States, the world’s largest exporter, as too much moisture threatens fields in North Dakota and in Canada. Wheat futures in Chicago are up 50 percent in the past year, after drought in Russia and floods in Australia hurt output and sent global food prices surging. Wholesale beef reached a record the week of March 21, and the U.S. cattle herd in January was the smallest since 1958. Crop yields in the United States this year may be comparable to 2007, when dry weather trimmed winter-wheat output to 41.7 bushels an acre, said an agricultural economist at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Since 2000, national yields have averaged 43.8 bushels, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.  
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2011/03/24/bloomberg1376-LIIXQQ07SXKX01-3U0L81RMKSADCSNUFLVG872AIM.DTL>
25. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Arizona; International) **Feds find pot mixed with peppers at Ariz. border.** Federal authorities March 23 seized more than 1,600 pounds of marijuana that was concealed in a shipment of bell peppers. Officers with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) stopped a tractor-trailer from Mexico at the Mariposa port near Nogales, Arizona. A narcotics detection canine alerted officers to the cargo area and authorities found 64 bales of marijuana mixed in with the bell peppers. They said the marijuana had an estimated street value of \$700,000. The big rig’s driver was a 33-year-old Mexican man from Mocorito, Sinaloa. Authorities said he was arrested and turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations for further investigation.  
Source: <http://www.kgun9.com/Global/story.asp?S=14318240>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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## Water Sector

26. *March 24, WQAD 8 Moline* – (Illinois) **Hazmat crews respond to chemical spill at Rock Island water treatment plant.** It was just before 1 p.m. March 24 when hazmat crews were called to the Rock Island, Illinois, water treatment plant for a chemical spill coming from a tanker truck. “It’s a corrosive agent that the water treatment plant uses, overflow caused spillage out of the building onto driveway behind me,” the Rock Island assistant fire chief said. As plant employees evacuated, crews began suiting up and working quickly to stop the leak that had begun eating through concrete. “They stopped the leak using some earthen berms, dirt, sand, and commercial boom

equipment. We had it pretty much contained to this facility within a short amount of time” he said. The chemical, hydrofluorosilicic acid, is used to add fluoride to the plant’s water. Although it poses a burn risk to skin, those living nearby were in no immediate danger. After several hours, crews were able to clean up the leak, allowing operations to return to normal. “Had to close off area but as far as treatment of water and amount being used by the public, no effect on it at all,” he said. There was no word on how much of the chemical actually spilled.

Source: <http://www.wqad.com/news/rock-island-hazmat-water-treatment-plant-03242011,0,4540527.story>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

27. *March 25, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **Newark man arrested on suspicion of embezzling from San Leandro company.** A Newark, California man is being charged with one count of embezzlement after he was arrested on suspicion of stealing 127,481 pounds of lead from his employer and selling it for nearly \$70,000, authorities said. Police arrested the 37-year-old man on suspicion of stealing the lead from Nelco, an international company that builds specialized medical facilities, including physical therapy rooms, and manufactures medical equipment, such as X-ray machines, police said. When arrested February 8, the man told police he stole lead, valued at about \$153,000, from Nelco’s San Leandro plant, a police lieutenant said. The man, Nelco’s plant operations manager from 2006 to 2010, sold the lead to a San Leandro scrap metal company for \$69,701 during a 13-month period. On at least 11 occasions from December 19, 2009, to January 20, 2011, he each time transported several tons of lead to Alco Iron and Metal, and left with thousands of dollars in cash, according to police. The smallest transaction occurred October 2, 2010, when he sold 7,774 pounds for \$4,665. The largest cash transaction, January 15, 2011, involved 14,993 pounds in exchange for \$9,745, according to police. The man said the lead he was selling was scrap or lead that was damaged or left over from canceled inventory.  
Source: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci\\_17692999](http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_17692999)

28. *March 24, KCBS 2 Los Angeles* – (California) **Drug-resistant ‘Super Bug’ hits LA County hospitals, nursing homes.** A deadly drug-resistant bacteria is spreading to more patients in nursing and long-term care facilities in Los Angeles County, California, according to local health officials. KNX 1070 reports a study conducted by the department of public health has found over 350 cases throughout the county, primarily in elderly patients. An infectious disease expert at Harbor UCLA Medical Center said there is no current treatment for CRKP bacteria — and there might not be any in the future either. “There’s been a complete collapse in the development of new antibiotics over the last decade and in the next decade there isn’t going to be anything that becomes available that’s going to be able to treat these bacteria,” he said. A medical expert of Primary Caring in Malibu cautions hospital visitors that there is no need to panic, but advises people visiting their loved ones to examine the standards of the intensive care units. Officials said so far only 6 percent of the so-called “super bug”

cases in the county were found in hospitals.

Source: <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2011/03/24/drug-resistant-super-bug-hits-la-county-hospitals-nursing-homes/>

29. *March 24, USA Today* – (Georgia; National) **Study suggests outbreaks on cruise ships worse than reported.** The number of people who get sick during outbreaks of norovirus on cruise ships often is higher than is officially reported, a new study suggests. Researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, writing the week of March 21 in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* report 40 percent of passengers who fell ill during a closely studied outbreak of norovirus on a ship in 2009 failed to inform the vessel’s infirmary, leaving them uncounted in official tallies. The researchers said an investigation of the outbreak while it was ongoing by CDC staffers who boarded the ship found 15.4 percent of passengers had become sick, but only 60 percent of the ill passengers had made their illness known to ship officials. The researchers said data from questionnaires given to passengers during the January 2009 outbreak showed many did not report their illnesses because they did not feel all that sick and/or had their own medications to treat symptoms. A number of passengers said they did not report symptoms because they wanted to avoid being ordered into isolation while on vacation. A small number also said they did not report their illness to the infirmary because they were worried about having to pay for treatment. The researchers noted the cruise line was offering free treatment for outbreak-related illness, so such a response highlights “the importance of proper communication” to passengers during an outbreak.

Source: <http://travel.usatoday.com/cruises/post/2011/03/cruise-ship-norovirus-disease-outbreak-cdc-study-/149118/1>

30. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Michigan doc arrested for prescribing 5M doses of narcotics, \$5.7M Medicare fraud.** A Michigan doctor has been arrested, accused of prescribing more than 5 million doses of narcotics between 2008 and 2010 and fraudulently billing Medicare for more than \$5.7 million. The man was arrested March 23 after authorities searched his office in Monroe, the U.S. attorney’s office in Detroit said. He is charged in a criminal complaint with health care fraud and unlawfully distributing prescription drug controlled substances, including the painkiller Oxycontin. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison, a \$1 million fine, or both. The complaint said the doctor prescribed controlled substances for as many as 250 patients per day, paying bonuses to employees when the number exceeded 200. Authorities said he saw few of the patients, and had patients get medical tests without regard to their symptoms or medical conditions. The government also claimed the doctor was aware of some patients selling their prescriptions in the parking lot but did not take steps to stop that.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2011-03-24-mich-health-care-fraud.htm>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *March 25, WVIT 30 New Britain* – (Massachusetts; Connecticut) **Arrest in threat to blow up college.** A 23-year-old North Branford, Connecticut man was charged with threatening to blow up Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. He was arrested March 24. He is accused of sending threatening text messages to a female student at the college. “Yea do me a favor. Be at Stonehill the day I blow it up,” one of the texts read, according to the criminal complaint against the suspect. The man was a student at Stonehill until he was dismissed in 2009 after an assault arrest on campus. He is also accused of threatening to kill two staff members at the college. The texts were allegedly sent March 17 and March 18. The female student who received them was a friend of the suspect, but had moved to end their friendship. She notified authorities about the threats. “With the assistance of three law enforcement agencies, the Easton Police, the Massachusetts State Police and the FBI, the Stonehill Police Department responded swiftly and professionally,” the Stonehill Police Chief said. The suspect is expected to be arraigned March 28.

Source: <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/CT-Man-Threatened-to-Blow-Up-College-Cops-118652939.html>

32. *March 25, Associated Press* – (International) **Ex-Army analyst pleads guilty to theft.** A former U.S. Army analyst who tried to board a flight to China with electronic files containing restricted Army documents pleaded guilty March 24 to theft of government property in a case the defense insisted was about carelessness, not espionage. The 26-year-old man entered the plea in U.S. District Court in Lawton, Oklahoma, and was sentenced to 3 years of probation by a U.S. magistrate. The man faced up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine on the misdemeanor charge. An assistant U.S. attorney had asked for 5 years of probation but did not seek a fine. The former field artillery analyst at Fort Sill entered the guilty plea 7 months after he was detained August 24 at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minnesota following a security screen before a Tokyo-bound flight with China as its final destination. Investigators found copies of Army field manuals on multiple launch rocket systems on his computer equipment. The man admitted he obtained the manuals through his employment at Fort Sill, and that they were still on his computer as he tried to leave the United States. The man lost his security clearance August 16 after Army officials learned he had not reported getting married as required. The man’s wife is a Chinese citizen.

Source: <http://newsok.com/ex-army-analyst-pleads-guilty-to-theft/article/3551538>

33. *March 25, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Man linked to explosive will get mental exam.** A judge ordered a mental health exam March 25 for a 42-year-old man charged with leaving an explosive outside a federal building in Detroit, Michigan, after the suspect said in court he was a former president and the governor of California. The U.S. magistrate judge said he was influenced by the suspect’s behavior in federal court, the suspect’s first court appearance after being arrested a day earlier. He is charged with leaving a metal box containing electrical components outside the McNamara Federal Building in Detroit February 26. It was taken inside by a guard but sat for 20 days before a bomb squad destroyed it miles away at a city park the week of March 14. The man lives in the Upper Peninsula and appeared at the closest federal courthouse.



He said he was a one-term president, a co-governor of California, a Secret Service officer, and a U.S. marshal, WXYZ-TV reported. The judge ordered the man to remain in custody and be taken to a federal psychiatric center for no more than 45 days. His family released a statement saying he has suffered from paranoid schizophrenia for years and often fails to take medication. The exploded materials included pieces of PVC pipe, a timer and black electrical tape, along with a handwritten note that read, “1. Turn Switch 2. Plug, in,” an FBI agent wrote in an affidavit filed in court. The FBI is not calling it a bomb; all pieces are still being examined by experts.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Man-linked-to-explosive-will-get-mental-exam-1290788.php>

34. *March 25, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Wildfire burns 4K acres in NC’s Camp Lejeune area.** A wildfire burning in an area that includes Camp Lejeune has grown to 4,000 acres as a state of emergency continues in eastern North Carolina. A Camp Lejeune spokesman said officials March 25 reopened U.S. Highway 17 and permitted evacuated residents to return home. But the blaze is not contained, and new evacuations are likely if winds pick up again. The fire began March 19 on the 125,000-acre military base and may have been sparked by Marines who were conducting training exercises in a wooded area. The cause of the fire, which has burned about 2,000 acres on the base, is under investigation. Onslow County officials said no structures have been destroyed and no injuries have been reported. Firefighters are working to establish a perimeter.

Source: <http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20110325/APA/1103251320?tc=ar>

35. *March 25, CBS and WISH 8 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Indiana school shooting: Martinsville schools on lockdown.** A 15-year-old is in custody following a shooting about 7 a.m. March 25 at Martinsville West Middle School in Martinsville, Indiana, according to police. Indiana State Police said the suspect, a suspended student, opened fire with a handgun. Police told CBS affiliate WISH that one person, also a student, was shot twice in the stomach. He was flown from the scene to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. There is no word as to the extent of his injuries. All Martinsville schools were on lockdown as police investigated. Police said there was no longer any danger. Parents were told the school was on lockdown via text message. Martinsville Police, Morgan County Sheriff’s Deputies, and Indiana State Police are investigating. WISH found the suspected gunman’s Facebook page where the most recent post was from the morning of March 25. It reads: “Today is the day.”

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083\\_162-20047124-504083.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20047124-504083.html)

36. *March 24, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Wisconsin) **Wisconsin man charged with threatening federal judge.** A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin in Madison, returned the following indictment March 24. A 50-year-old Milwaukee, Wisconsin man was charged with threatening a federal judge. The suspect was charged in a two-count indictment with threatening to kidnap and murder a federal judge. The indictment alleges that February 16, 2011, the suspect threatened to kidnap and murder a federal judge of the Northern District of Illinois, to retaliate against the judge on account of the performance of his official duties. The man faces a maximum

penalty of 10 years in federal prison on each count. The charges against him are the result of an investigation by the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, and Wisconsin State Patrol.

Source:

[http://7thspace.com/headlines/376663/wisconsin\\_man\\_charged\\_with\\_threatening\\_federal\\_judge.html](http://7thspace.com/headlines/376663/wisconsin_man_charged_with_threatening_federal_judge.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

37. *March 25, msnbc.com, Associated Press and Reuters* – (National) **Mexico violence hasn't spread to U.S.** The U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security said March 24 security on the southern U.S. border “is better now than it ever has been” and that violence from neighboring Mexico has not spilled over in a serious way. She said DHS will deploy 250 more border agents and expects to have 300 more under their next budget, if it is approved. She stated DHS is investing “millions of dollars in the side of commerce and trade” to improve infrastructure and technology along the border. However, she added there is a need to correct wrong impressions about the border region. She said border towns are safe for travel, trade, and commerce. She said the total value of imports crossing the Southwest border was up 22 percent in fiscal year 2010. Raging drug violence in Mexico has claimed more than 36,000 lives since the Mexican president took office in late 2006 and sent the army to crush the drug cartels. The Secretary also cited a reduction of 36 percent in the number of illegal immigrant detentions, a key number to estimate the total of illegal border crossings, and the increase in trade as reasons to believe the situation along the border has improved. Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42264713/ns/us\\_news-security](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42264713/ns/us_news-security)
  
38. *March 25, Laredo Sun* – (Texas; International) **CBP Officers at Del Rio port of entry seize four assault rifles, two tec-9 handguns, 9mm pistol, magazines.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Del Rio, Texas Port of Entry conducting outbound examinations on March 22 seized four assault rifles, two Tec-9 semiautomatic handguns, a 9mm pistol, and seven assorted gun magazines from a vehicle driven by a San Angelo, Texas woman. The seizure occurred during an outbound (southbound) examination at the Del Rio International Bridge. A CBP officer referred a 2007 Dodge Caliber driven by a 39-year-old female U.S. citizen from San Angelo for a secondary examination. At one point during the inspection, the driver threw down her purse and attempted to flee but was quickly subdued by CBP officers. During an intensive examination of the vehicle, CBP officers discovered and seized an assortment of weapons, including 4 assault rifles (3 rifles of the 7.62 x 39 mm-caliber and one AR-15 5.56mm-caliber rifle), 2 Tec-9 semi-automatic 9mm handguns, 1 Hi-Point 9mm pistol, 7 gun magazines of various calibers and a nylon rifle case. CBP officers turned the driver over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-

Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) special agents for further investigation.  
Source: <http://www.laredosun.us/notas.asp?id=14926>

39. *March 25, Firehouse.com* – (Connecticut) **Conn. fire chief: NIMS helped at plant explosion.** The chief of the South Fire District of the City of Middletown, Connecticut said he was never a fan of National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, but he was converted into a believer, following the explosion of a natural gas plant in Middletown, Connecticut just over a year ago. On February 7, 2010, a blast at the Kleen Energy plant that was under construction killed 6 workers and injured 40 others. It was the largest natural gas explosion in the world. Shortly after the explosion occurred, the chief said local, state, and federal agencies began responding. Since the plant is located in his district, the chief had to find a way to maintain order amid the chaos. In all, there were 11 engines, 3 truck companies, 3 rescue companies, Connecticut's USAR team, police from Middletown and Meriden, and the state police. He said NIMS training allowed for the integration of all of the different agencies. It took about 8 to 9 hours for the initial walk through, but took about a day and a half to complete. The plant is now scheduled to open in April and the chief said fire departments must prepare for the possibility of a potential disaster as more natural gas plants pop up across the country.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/conn-fire-chief-nims-helped-plant-explosion>

40. *March 24, FoxNews.com* – (International) **Northern border security goes high tech.** DHS unveiled its newest high-tech tool to fight terrorism and secure America's northern border March 24. The Operational Integration Center (OIC) allows security analysts to monitor a critical part of the Northern border 24/7, relying on cameras and radars along the St. Clair River separating Michigan from Canada. The \$12 million OIC facility features a 30-foot video panel to watch various sections of the border. Real time video feeds into the situational awareness room from 11 towers equipped with high-tech cameras and radars built along 35 miles of the St. Clair River. The towers are the result of a \$20 million investment in technology as part of DHS's Secure Border Initiative. The Northern border accounts for nearly 4,000 miles of land and water between the United States and Canada. A recent report from the Government Accountability Office revealed only 32 miles of the border, just 1 percent, had an "acceptable level of control." Border protection officials admit there is room for improvement, but this latest technology is a major step forward. In 2010, U.S. Border Patrol made more than 7,400 arrests along the Northern border. Nearly 1,700 arrests took place along the 863 miles that make up the Detroit Sector, which is the largest of the border's 8 sectors.

Source: <http://liveshots.blogs.foxnews.com/2011/03/24/northern-border-security-goes-high-tech/?test=latestnews?test=latestnews?test=latestnews>

For more stories, see items [6](#), [7](#), and [20](#)

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## Information Technology Sector

41. *March 25, H Security* – (International) **Chrome 10 update patches security vulnerabilities.** Google has released version 10.0.648.204 of its Chrome Web browser, a maintenance and security update to the Chrome 10 stable branch. The update addresses a total of six vulnerabilities in the WebKit-based browser that can be “exploited by malicious people to compromise a system” and rates all of them with a “High” priority. Secunia rates the vulnerabilities as highly critical. According to Google, one of the high risk issues relates to a buffer error in base string handling, while two others have to do with use-after-free, where memory is deallocated but later accessed, in the frame loader and in HTMLCollection. The other issues range from a stale pointer in CSS handling and in SVG text handling, as well as a DOM tree corruption bug. The update also includes several performance and stability fixes, and adds support for the browser’s password manager on Linux systems.  
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Chrome-10-update-patches-security-vulnerabilities-1215069.html>
  
42. *March 25, The Register* – (International) **Spotify splattered with malware-tainted ads.** Users of the ad-supported version of Spotify were hit by a malware-based attack March 24. The assault takes advantage of a Java-based exploit to deposit trojan horse malware or exploit kits on vulnerable Windows machines. Only users of the free version of the music streaming service seem to be affected. In response, Spotify pulled its ad feed March 25 while it investigated the problem. The Joint Academic Network is reportedly looking into incidents of viral warnings linked to Spotify. “We’re not investigating any specific infections at this moment, but our community is asking for more info,” it said. The malware was inserted via malicious third-party ads, a factor that shows the threat is not persistent and may be region specific. This makes it harder for anti-virus firms to pin down the outbreak. The problem was far from isolated, with several Twitter users reporting the same issue.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/25/spotify\\_malvertisement\\_attack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/25/spotify_malvertisement_attack/)
  
43. *March 24, Help Net Security* – (International) **Linux Kernel ROSE multiple vulnerabilities.** Some vulnerabilities have been reported in the Linux kernel. These can be exploited by malicious, local users to cause a denial of service and potentially gain escalated privileges, according to Secunia. The vulnerabilities are caused due to various errors within the implementation of the ROSE protocol and can be exploited to cause memory corruptions via specially crafted FAC\_CCITT\_DEST\_NSAP or FAC\_CCITT\_SRC\_NSAP fields.  
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10787>
  
44. *March 24, Help Net Security* – (International) **Twitter tests XSS attack prevention on its mobile Website.** Twitter has been testing and has now implemented Content Security Policy — a new standard developed by Mozilla to block cross site scripting (XSS) attacks — on its mobile Web site. “In a typical XSS attack, the attacker injects arbitrary Javascript into a page, that is then executed by an end-user,” Twitter said. “When a website enables CSP, the browser ignores inline Javascript and only loads

external assets from a set of whitelisted sites. Enabling CSP on our site was simply a matter of including the policy in the returned headers under the CSP defined key, 'X-Content-Security-Policy.' “ The policy also contains a “reporting URI” to which the browser sends JSON reports of any violations, Twitter noted. This feature not only assists debugging of the CSP rules, it also has the potential to alert a site’s owner to emerging threats. The testing executed in the last few weeks revealed situations that triggered a report without being malicious attempts. Twitter engineers said this is a big step towards thwarting XSS attacks. They plan to implement it across the rest of Twitter in upcoming months.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10791>

45. *March 24, Softpedia* – (International) **Japanese earthquake spam starts distributing German ransomware.** Security researchers from Kaspersky Lab warned recent spam run using the Japanese earthquake as lure has been modified to spread ransomware. This is the same campaign that used fake news articles many days ago to direct recipients to Java-based malware. “Instead, the payload is now Ransomware (detected as Trojan-Ransom(dot)Win32(dot)PornoBlocker(dot)jtg), disguising itself as a fake warning message from the German Federal Police,” one Kaspersky Lab researcher said. Once installed, the malicious application prevents users from using their system and displays a fake message on the desktop claiming illegal content, such as child pornography, was detected on the computer. The warning purports to come from the German Federal Police and asks the user to pay a 100 Euro fine within 24 hours if they do not want their hard drive erased. The payment is requested via Ukash, which relies on prepaid cards with unique codes. Cyber criminals prefer this payment method because it cannot be tracked or reversed. To increase the credibility of their message, the warning page displays the logos of McAfee, Symantec, Kaspersky Lab, and Microsoft as well as the German police. Upon installation, the ransomware adds itself to the start-up sequence, suspends explorer.exe, and blocks taskmgr.exe (task manager) from running.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Japanese-Earthquake-Spam-Starts-Distributing-German-Ransomware-191376.shtml>

For another story, see item [9](#)

### **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**

46. *March 24, IDG News Service* – (National) **Quakes called signal of danger to cell networks.** Citing how mobile networks were damaged by an earthquake in New Zealand versus one in Haiti, the chairman of Trilogy International Partners called attention to the vulnerability of U.S. networks, IDG News Service reported March 24. The way mobile infrastructure is deployed in the United States and many other developed countries, with cell sites designed to be unobtrusive and shared among carriers, could make it vulnerable to widespread disasters like the recent earthquake in Japan, he said. In the January 12, 2010, quake in Haiti, Trilogy-owned carrier ComCEL lost 26 cell sites out of more than 300, the chairman said. A key reason for the network's resilience was each cell site had its own battery and generator, and a long-lasting supply of fuel. In the United States, carriers rely on portable generators distributed around the country and count on being able to deploy those to the scene of a disaster where cell sites have failed, the chairman said. "The wireless systems are not, in general, serviced by more than a couple of hours of battery backup and not serviced by generators," he said. "The premise in the U.S. is essentially that a disaster will be isolated."

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215040/Quakes\\_called\\_signal\\_of\\_danger\\_to\\_cell\\_networks](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215040/Quakes_called_signal_of_danger_to_cell_networks)

47. *March 24, Victoria Advocate* – (Texas) **Satellite and cable companies continue fight against piracy.** Recent lawsuits filed against residents in Crossroads, Texas, are indicative of satellite companies' continued efforts to crackdown on satellite television piracy nationwide. Two men from Victoria were sued in federal court in March for stealing satellite television programming by purchasing subscriptions to a pirate television service operated by www(dot)dark-angel(dot)ca, thus unlawfully circumventing the DISH Network security system and receiving copyrighted, subscription-based DISH Network satellite television programming without authorization and without payment. In a separate lawsuit, DISH Network sued Dark Angel in Canada and seized the pirate television service's computer server and business records, which showed the two men had been subscribers. The supervisor of Corporate Communications for Suddenlink Communications, said his company did not have any information that would indicate an increase in cable theft in the Victoria area. The lack of area cable theft is most likely because of the transition from analog to digital signals, which industry experts have attributed to the decrease in siphoned cable.

Source:

[http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/mar/24/gp\\_stolenprogramming\\_032111\\_133339/?news&local-news](http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/mar/24/gp_stolenprogramming_032111_133339/?news&local-news)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

48. *March 24, WGGB 40 Springfield* – (Massachusetts) **Lighter sparks vapors, causing West Springfield explosion.** Officials have determined the cause of a deadly explosion at Balise Honda in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Through a joint investigation by



the state fire marshal's office, West Springfield police and fire departments, and the Hampden County District Attorney's office, it was determined the explosion likely occurred when a worker used a disposable lighter to look inside a 55 gallon drum of tire cleaning solvent, a fire marshal's spokeswoman said. It is believed the lighter "ignited the flammable vapors inside," she said. The vice president of Balise told the Springfield Republican it appears the victim was on the phone with his chemical supplier when he used the lighter to look inside the barrel to determine the level of product left inside the barrel. Firefighters were called to Balise on Riverdale Street around 9:30 a.m. March 23 after an explosion and fire occurred in the service bay of the dealership. The victim was declared dead at the scene. One other person was injured and suffered smoke inhalation. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is conducting its own investigation.

Source: <http://www.wggb.com/Global/story.asp?S=14315834>

49. *March 24, KHON 2 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Statewide tsunami damage totals \$30.6 million.** The governor of Hawaii March 24 formally requested an Administrative Disaster Declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help Hawaii Island homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits affected by the tsunami that swept across the state March 11. Work is also underway on a request to the U.S. President for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This declaration would enable counties (Hawaii County, Maui County, and the City and County of Honolulu) damaged by the Honshu (Tohoku) Tsunami to recoup some of the costs of rebuilding and repairing damaged public infrastructure, such as buildings and harbors. The governor asked SBA to provide low-interest disaster loans to private individuals, businesses and nonprofits on Hawaii Island to repair or replace materials damaged from the tsunami. Damages sustained on the other islands did not qualify for disaster loans under SBA guidelines. According to estimates reported to the state civil defense, the preliminary damage estimates from the tsunami that hit Hawaii after the Honshu earthquake in Japan totals \$30.6 million.

Source: <http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Statewide-tsunami-damage-totals-30-6-million/7GucjQUUmk-kt4NccfKcWw.csp>

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [4](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

50. *March 24, WCSC 5 Charleston* – (South Carolina) **Firefighters monitor 2 major hot spots in 2,500-acre wildfire.** The South Carolina Forestry Commission estimates the massive McClellanville wildfire damaged more than 2,500 acres. The fire is the largest in the forestry commission's coastal operating region in 10 years. On day two, firefighters were watching areas along Highway 17 and Rutledge Road that were still burning. Firefighters monitored two major hot spots threatening to spread. They were also monitoring a bridge area. Earlier March 24, the sheriff's office helicopter assisted with a flyover to assess the damage and make sure the fire was contained and that wet

lines were holding. Later in the day as high wind gusts were blowing up to 37 mph, the U.S. Coast Guard assisted with flyovers. State forestry officials and local fire departments prepared for a 5-day detail, but officials expected to have the fire contained before then. The 2,500-acre wildfire is being called “The Windy Fire” by officials on the ground. It is about 85 percent contained, which is a slight decrease from the 98 percent reported earlier March 24.

Source: <http://www.live5news.com/Global/story.asp?S=14313725>

51. *March 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Feds: Parks scientists erred in oyster farm study.** Errors were made but there was no criminal conduct by National Park Service (NPS) scientists assessing the environmental impact of a disputed oyster farm in Northern California, a federal investigation has found. The Interior Department’s Solicitor’s Office said the scientists made mistakes that eroded public confidence when studying whether the operation of Drakes Bay Oyster Co. hurt seal populations and the environment in the pristine waters of Point Reyes National Seashore. “Specifically, several NPS employees mishandled research in the form of photographic images showing the activities of humans, birds and harbor seals at upper Drakes Estero,” the Interior Department said March 22. Interior’s probe came after a separate study by the National Academy of Sciences found park service officials exaggerated the operation’s negative impact on the environment. The academy’s investigators did not receive some 250,000 surveillance photos showing the oyster boats’ interaction with harbor seals. At issue is whether the 71-year-old oyster farm — the only such facility in the Point Reyes National Seashore — can extend its lease, which runs out in 2012. The farm, which produces 40 percent of the state’s commercial oysters, is located in a bay tucked in the park, about 50 miles north of San Francisco. The company has been in a feud for years with park officials who want to convert the estuary to official wilderness. Later this year, NPS is expected to release its draft environmental impact statement, which will help determine if the farm can stay.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_17691301?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_17691301?nclick_check=1)

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

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## **Dams Sector**

52. *March 25, Bangkok Post* – (International) **Bangkok Post : No dam damage from earthquakes.** The irrigation department confirmed March 25 the earthquakes in Burma had not caused damage to any major dams in the north. “The department ordered a structural inspection of the dams in Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai and found that all dams were undamaged by the quake,” the department’s director-general said. “There are no cracks at all in the dams. The four major dams in Chiang Rai-Mae Tak, Mae Sruay, Huay Chang, and Nong Ngu were unaffected,” he said. Two powerful earthquakes hit northern Burma March 24, sending shock waves that shook buildings in many parts of Thailand and rattled the nerves of high-rise residents in Bangkok. People living near the dams were worried their structural integrity might have been affected and sought

reassurance.

Source: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/228597/no-dam-affected-by-burma-quake>

53. *March 24, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Levees in Des Moines will now need to be even taller.** Flood levees that are being rebuilt in Des Moines, Iowa, need to be even higher than engineers planned. New data that show a greater risk of severe flooding along the Des Moines River have prompted federal officials to increase the height of the new Birdland and Central Place levees. The reconstructed levees were already designed to be taller and wider in most places than their predecessors. However, the new designs were completed in January 2010, several months before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could work with the findings of a new river flow study of the Des Moines River. That study shows the river has risen higher and more often in recent decades. Major floods like those in 1993 and 2008 are more likely in the future than previously thought, the study found. In response, the Corps will pack another 6 to 12 inches of watertight clay atop the Birdland levee, and up to 6 inches will be added to the Central Place levee. Both levees are in north-central Des Moines.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110324/NEWS/103240343/Levees-in-Des-Moines-will-now-need-to-be-even-taller?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|News>

54. *March 24, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Levee breaks along Salinas River.** There has been a levee break along the Salinas River, just north of Gonzales, California, KCRA reported March 24. Water from the river has flooded between 150 and 200 acres on the Merrill Ranch, located on the southwest side of Highway 101, near River Road. There were no reports of any road closures or danger to buildings.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/r/27315216/detail.html>

55. *March 23, International Water Power and Dam Construction* – (International) **Sayano-Shushenskaya probe complete, seven charged with safety breaches.** A probe into the August 2009 accident that killed 75 people at the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydroelectric project in Russia has been completed, with 7 people charged with safety breaches at the plant. A spokesman for the investigative committee at the Russian prosecutor general's office said charges had been filed against the plant's former head and his deputies, RIA Novosti reported. Those charged could face up to 5 years in jail if found guilty of violating safety rules at the plant. The plant was damaged during an incident on August 17 2009, when water flooded the machinery hall; power and auxiliary equipment were damaged and the frameworks of the machinery hall building collapsed. Restoration work on the plant — owned by RusHydro — is currently on schedule and the project is expected to be fully operational again in 2014. Details of the inquiry are expected to be released over the next few days.

Source:

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2059219>

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