



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 March 2011

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- North American steelmakers were scrambling to find sources of calcium carbide in the wake of a devastating March 21 explosion at Carbide Industries LLC, one of two U.S. producers of the essential product. (See item [12](#))
- A major wildfire that damaged some aerospace businesses, and burned a few hundred acres near Bob Sikes Airport in Crestview, Florida, was contained March 25. (See item [16](#))

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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 28, Zanesville Times Recorder* – (Ohio) **No injuries in Noble County gas plant explosion.** The Noble County Sheriff’s Office in Ohio continued to investigate a March 26 explosion at a gas plant. Dispatchers with the sheriff’s office said Ohio 821 between Caldwell and Belle Valley was closed for more than 3 hours as several departments responded to the explosion around 9:20 a.m. Dispatchers said the disposal plant is owned by Carper Well Service. No injuries were reported, but 1,000-pound storage tanks reportedly were launched 300 feet into the air. The cause of the incident is

unknown at this time. Responding to the scene were the Noble County Sheriff's Office; Caldwell, Belle Valley, Summerfield, Cumberland, and Pleasant City fire departments; Finley Fire Equipment of McConnelsville; United Ambulance; the Ohio Highway Patrol; and a wildlife officer and park ranger.

Source:

<http://www.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/article/20110327/NEWS01/103270315>

2. *March 28, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Marathon leak prompts brief shelter-in-place order in Texas City.** The east side of Texas City, Texas, was under a shelter-in-place order March 27, because of a leak of butane that contains small amounts of hydrofluoric acid at a Marathon refinery, emergency management officials confirmed. The shelter-in-place order was lifted at 6 p.m. about an hour after it was issued. The isolated order covered the area east of 21st Street from North Loop 197 to Bay Street, officials said. The leak was reported at about 4:45 p.m., the Texas City homeland security coordinator said. A Marathon spokeswoman said the hydrofluoric acid was a small amount within butane that leaked from one of the refinery's process towers. Crews isolated the leak, a Marathon spokeswoman said. There were no reports of injuries related to the incident, she said.

Source: <http://www.khou.com/news/local/Marathon-leak-prompts-brief-shelter-in-place-order-118762849.html>

3. *March 26, Port Huron Times Herald* – (National) **Enbridge's new oil pipeline under St. Clair River passes first major test.** The Enbridge pipeline under the St. Clair River has passed its first tests. But it will be months before oil is running through it. The pipeline was filled with water and pressurized for several hours the week of March 14 to make sure there were no flaws, a company spokesman said. The week of March 21, the barrier erected to limit sound in the construction area — which is in Marysville City Park in Marysville, Michigan — was removed, the spokesman said. Soon, new valves for the pipeline will be installed on the U.S. and Canadian sides of the river. Before the new pipeline can be switched on, oil must be removed from the old one, the spokesman said. All work should be complete by the end of June. The 30-inch pipeline was built in 1969 and runs from Griffith, Indiana, to Sarnia in Ontario, Canada. In 2009, the company discovered a dent in the line beneath the St. Clair River and reduced pressure. Enbridge announced plans to replace the damaged section shortly after another portion of the line sprang a leak in July, spilling more than 800,000 gallons of crude oil near Marshall, Michigan. Plans submitted to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in October show 3,600 feet of the pipeline was to be replaced.

Source:

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20110326/NEWS01/103260315/1002/news01/Enbridge-s-new-oil-pipeline-under-St-Clair-River-passes-first-major-test>

For more stories, see items [25](#) and [65](#)

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## Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 28, WSAZ 3 Huntington/Charleston* – (West Virginia) **Pipe leak causes fire at chemical plant.** A fire at the M&G Polymer Plant in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, started because of a broken seal on a pipe that allowed fluid to leak out, according to a human relations manager. Firefighters from the Valley Volunteer Fire Department responded just after 5 p.m. March 27. They said the fire originated from a pipe outside the plant and was kept contained, and that the only damage was to the insulation around the pipe. The manager said the chemical that leaked is not poisonous and there was no danger to nearby residents. He said to ensure the fire did not spread, the plant took extra precautions to put it out. “We have a fire suppressant system on site and it was containing the fire and knocking it down,” he said. “Our guys called the fire department just to make sure they came in and completely extinguished it .” M&G Polymer makes a component used in plastic food items, such as water bottles.  
Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/118743454.html>
  
5. *March 28, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **500 evacuations caused by train derailment in Trumbull County, crews still assessing scene for danger.** A train derailment in Newton Falls, Ohio, caused crews to evacuate hundreds of people the morning of March 28 after there was a fear of a chemical leak. The 111-car train derailed near North Center Street and Franklin Streets. Not all of the cars were knocked off the tracks, but some of the cars that derailed fell off a bridge and onto the road below. CSX officials told NewsChannel 5 that 14 cars derailed, striking a train that was stationary on the tracks. There were no chemical spills or injuries in the incident, the company said. The train was headed from Willard, Ohio, to Cumberland, Maryland, CSX said. According to the Newton Falls fire chief, four of the railcars were chlorine tankers, but they were not involved in the derailment and it is not known if they were full. He said he believes no chemicals spilled as a result of the derailment. Emergency crews at the scene said there was a concern that a refrigeration car was leaking ammonia, but that did not turn out to be the case. Hazmat teams remained at the scene to make sure there was no danger during the clean-up process. Once the derailed cars are moved, CSX expects the 500 evacuated residents to be able to return to their homes. The Ohio State Highway Patrol brought in a helicopter to fly over the area with hazmat workers to get a view of the scene from above. Newton Falls police blocked off about nine streets in that area. The FBI also responded.  
Source: [http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/train-derails-in-trumbull-county-unknown-chemical-leaking](http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/train-derails-in-trumbull-county-unknown-chemical-leaking)
  
6. *March 28, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Industrial fire rages into night.** A raging fire at a company that specializes in tire treading and repairing destroyed the business and sent black smoke billowing east across the Pioneer Valley in Chicopee, Massachusetts, March 27. The fire at the Bandag company at 920 Sheridan Street was reported at about 6:30 p.m. that night. By 7 p.m., it started burning through the roof of the metal-sided building. Despite non-stop efforts to pour water on the building, the blaze continued to spread and the building started collapsing before 9 p.m. Holyoke and Springfield firefighters were called to assist. The Pioneer Valley Chapter

of the American Red Cross was also called in to provide food to firefighters. When the fire proved too stubborn to extinguish with water, a foam truck from Westover Air Reserve Base designed to extinguish fires from jet fuel, was called in. While the foam helped, fires reignited quickly. Bandag is a multi-national company that specializes in replacing treads on truck tires. According to its Web site, it has about a dozen employees at the Chicopee site. Police said no employees were working that night. Firefighters were able to enter the building, but left when the fire started spreading. There were reports of hazardous materials inside, including vats of fuel, and rubber. The fire belched thick, black smoke for hours that could be seen from miles away. The cause will be investigated by the state fire marshal's office and the Chicopee Fire Department.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/metrowest/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-31/130130192215370.xml&coll=1>

7. *March 27, KKTV 11 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Chemical leak closed by hazmat crew.** Hazmat teams closed a chemical leak on the 3000 block of Delta in Colorado Spring, Colorado, March 27. Authorities said a metal washing company, Finishes Ltd., accidentally left a unit on. With the valve left open, chemicals spewed out and flowed towards a runoff into a nearby creek. Crews set up a temporary dam to prevent the chemicals from getting into the water. Authorities said the dam worked, preventing the chemicals from spilling into the creek. Twenty firefighters, and hazmat crews responded to the spill. Hazmat crews identified the leak as a second rinse cleaning solution. Authorities said that while they were initially concerned about the dangers of the chemicals getting into the creek, they determined the solution was not dangerous to “people, animals, or vegetation.” There was never a concern the leak could become a vapor hazard, so no evacuations were made in the area.

Source: <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/118736939.html>

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

8. *March 26, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (California) **Manual reactor trip when a loss of the 2-1 main feedwater pump occurred.** On March 26, operators at Diablo Canyon Power Plant Unit 2 in Avila Beach, California manually initiated a reactor trip in response to the loss of main feedwater pump 2-1. Operators think the pump tripped due to non-radioactive water spray on the control console. The spray was caused by leakage from the flange of the relief valve on the feedwater heater 2-1A condenser dump valve line. Emergency plan activation was not required. The unit was stable in mode 3 (Hot Standby) with off-site power supplied to all buses via the 230 kV startup circuit. Diesel generators 2-1 and 2-2 remained operable in standby. Diesel generator 2-3 remained unavailable due to pre-planned maintenance. All rods were fully inserted on the reactor trip. The reactor was being cooled by the auxiliary feedwater system with the condenser in service. All systems performed as designed

with no unexpected pressure or level transients.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>

9. *March 26, Gloucester County Times* – (New Jersey) **DEP forms task force to review New Jersey’s four nuclear generating facilities.** The Department of Environmental Protection has announced the creation of a task force to conduct a thorough assessment of operations and emergency preparedness plans for New Jersey’s four nuclear generating facilities. The review will determine whether any early lessons from the ongoing nuclear emergency in Japan could enhance New Jersey’s current comprehensive nuclear response protocols. The task force was set to begin analysis of New Jersey’s nuclear facilities the week of March 28 as it prepare to get a first-hand briefing on operations at each plant and to discuss current emergency response measures. The Exelon Corp. and PSEG, which own and operate the reactors, have pledged to participate in the reviews. Potential impacts from reactors in neighboring Pennsylvania and New York also will be examined. A regularly scheduled nuclear emergency preparedness drill will be held in May at Salem Unit One in Lower Alloways Creek Township. These drills are held quarterly, on a rotating basis at the state’s four nuclear reactors, and include state, federal, county, and local representatives.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/south/index.ssf/2011/03/dep\\_forms\\_task\\_force\\_to\\_review.html](http://www.nj.com/south/index.ssf/2011/03/dep_forms_task_force_to_review.html)

10. *March 25, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Utah) **Moisture density gauge stolen and recovered.** A Troxler Electronic Laboratories, Inc. Model 3430, portable gauging device, containing about 8.0 millicuries of cesium-137, and about 40 millicuries of americium-241/beryllium, was stolen from a licensee’s vehicle while parked at the Home Depot in Lindon, Utah, March 22. The cesium-137 source was in the safe shielded position when it was stolen and the transportation case was also secured. The device had been secured by two independent physical barriers, but both barriers were breached. The device was recovered at approximately 5:55 p.m. by licensee personnel. The transportation case had been opened, but the source rod was still secured in the shielded position. The licensee’s vehicle was an open bed pickup truck with a mechanism to secure the device as required.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110328en.html>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

11. *March 28, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Boeing Auburn plant shut through Tuesday a.m. by power outage.** The First, Second and Third operations at Boeing’s Auburn, Washington, plant were suspended through the morning of March 29, after multiple transformers failed at the site over the weekend of March 26 and 27, triggering an evacuation. The Boeing Co. ordered all employees out of the Auburn site after the March 26 outage, and the plant has been closed ever since. Only emergency operations personnel remain on the job. A Boeing spokesperson said the company was assessing

all of its buildings on site, and had restored power to some of them by March 27. The Auburn Boeing Plant, opened in 1966, is the largest airplane parts plant in the world with 2.1 million square feet and 265,000 parts being manufactured each year.

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/boeing/118745424.html>

12. *March 27, Metal Bulletin* – (International) **Carbide Industries blast puts supply in question.** North American steelmakers were scrambling to find sources of calcium carbide in the wake of a fatal explosion at Carbide Industries LLC in Louisville, Kentucky. The March 21 blast killed two employees and injured two others. The company continues to investigate the cause of the explosion, which occurred in a furnace producing calcium carbide, used by steelmakers as a desulfurizing agent. The explosion leaves Carbide Industries unable to supply its customers. With only one other U.S. producer of calcium carbide — Central Carbide LLC, of Pryor, Oklahoma, is the other — North American steel producers are left short of supply.

Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2795336/AMM-Carbide-Industries-blast-puts-supply-in-question.html>

13. *March 27, Associated Press* – (International) **With shortages looming at car dealerships and factories, the global auto crisis deepens.** The auto industry disruptions triggered by Japan's earthquake and tsunami are about to get worse. More than 2 weeks since the natural disaster, inventories of crucial car supplies are dwindling fast as Japanese factories that make them struggle to restart. Because parts and supplies are shipped by slow-moving boats, the real drop-off has yet to be felt by factories in the United States, Europe, and Asia. That will come by the middle of April. Much of Japan's auto industry — the second largest supplier of cars in the world — remains idle. Few plants were seriously damaged by the quake, but with supplies of water and electricity fleeting, no one can say when factories will resume production. Some auto analysts said it could be as late as this summer. Japanese carmakers, who have shut most of their domestic plants, are warning that some of their overseas factories will stop running, too, in an effort to conserve supplies.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5j3K7aNQSCCesJokeXTdYS5zwXh6w?docId=6383243>

14. *March 26, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Ford idles plant to conserve parts.** Ford Motor Co. is planning to shut down its auto plant in Genk, Belgium, for 5 days starting April 4, in an effort to conserve auto parts in the wake of the earthquake in Japan, a company spokesman said. The Genk plant had been scheduled to be idled for 5 days in May, but the company moved up the stoppage “to ensure we have parts availability going forward given the current situation in Japan,” the spokesman said. He said the plant's “second quarter production volume will not be affected” by the move. The move is the latest by Ford in reaction to the quake and tsunami that has shut down almost all auto production in Japan, and a large number of suppliers of parts and materials used in the auto industry. In the United States, Ford has stopped taking orders for some trucks and cars in certain colors because of a dwindling supply of a metallic pigment made in Japan. Ford's Genk plant, located about 60 miles east of Brussels,

produces the Ford Mondeo sedan, a compact minivan called the S-Max, and the Galaxy, a full-size minivan.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704474804576224651852610160.html>

15. *March 25, Associated Press* – (International) **Honda: Lack of parts may affect N. America plants.** Production will likely be interrupted at Honda Motor Co.'s six North America plants after April 1 due to a lack of critical parts as Japanese suppliers work to recover from earthquake and tsunami damage, the automaker said March 25. Interruptions were expected at Honda's two Ohio plants and at plants in Alabama, Indiana, Canada, and Mexico until the issues are resolved, a spokesman said. The company said on its Web site that a few suppliers in Japan are still working to re-establish operations, and that Honda is looking for other possible supply sources. "The vast majority of Honda's parts and materials are sourced here in North America. However, for global efficiency, a few critical parts continue to be supplied from Japan," the site said. The affected plants, which are responsible for more than 80 percent of the Honda and Acura vehicles sold in the United States, are in Marysville and East Liberty, Ohio; Greensburg, Indiana; Lincoln, Alabama; Alliston, Ontario, Canada; and El Salto, Mexico. In the United States, General Motors Co. halted production for a week at a Louisiana assembly plant, and had a partial shutdown an engine plant in New York. Toyota Motor Corp. said it expects to halt production at some of its 13 North American factories. The company already has suspended overtime and Saturday shifts at the plants. Subaru of America also has stopped overtime shifts at its sole North American plant in Indiana. Nissan has said its U.S. plants will operate at full production through April 1.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/25/general-specialized-consumer-services-us-japan-earthquake-honda-plants\\_8376104.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/25/general-specialized-consumer-services-us-japan-earthquake-honda-plants_8376104.html)

For another story, see item [16](#)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

16. *March 25, Florida Freedom Newspapers* – (Florida) **Wildfire threatens homes, businesses in Crestview.** A major wildfire that threatened businesses at Bob Sikes Airport and homes in nearby subdivisions in Crestview, Florida, March 24 was contained as of March 25. All businesses on Adora Teal Way near the airport were evacuated, but firefighters kept the blaze from causing significant damage to buildings. Area residents were prepared to evacuate, and traffic was blocked on John Givens Road, which serves the airport and businesses there, as firetrucks rushed in. The fire started about 1:30 p.m. A transformer near the EJM Aerospace building exploded with a loud blast about 1:50 p.m. Firefighters from Crestview, Dorcas, Holt, Almarante, Freeport, Argyle, Liberty, North Bay, Baker, Fort Walton Beach, Ocean City-Wright, Niceville, Harold, and Eglin Air Force Base responded to help the North Okaloosa Fire

District, which initially coordinated the battle against the blaze. As the fire spread to surrounding woods and residential areas, Okaloosa County's emergency task force was summoned and command was turned over to the Florida Division of Forestry. The North Okaloosa fire chief said the fire burned 200 to 250 acres. He said the first fire started in a grassy field off Adora Teal Road. The fire spread and jumped around the airport as high winds blew burning embers. Flames ignited behind the EJM Aerospace building on John Givens Road, which was being used by Qwest Air Parts as a warehouse, a BAE Systems employee said. Employees of airport tenants, including BAE, NEW Corp., and nonessential personnel at L-3 Crestview Aerospace were evacuated. Representatives with Emerald Coast Aviation, the airport's fixed-base operator, said the runway was closed during the fire. At one point the fire approached to within 75 yards of a small diesel fuel storage tank at the airport. The division of forestry was investigating the cause of the fire. The center manager for the Blackwater Forestry Center said a preliminary investigation indicated the fire was started by someone, but it was unclear whether it was intentional or accidental.

Source: <http://www.newsherald.com/news/threatens-92143-wildfire-businesses.html>

17. *March 25, Defense News* – (California) **All F-35s cleared to resume flight tests.** Faulty maintenance procedures were found to have caused the March 9 in-flight failure of the engine generators aboard an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft, the program office said March 25. Those procedures have now been revised, and the entire fleet of F-35s has been cleared to resume flight operations. The problem was revealed when a U.S. Air Force F-35A test aircraft, numbered AF-4, suffered a failure of the generators during a test flight from Edwards Air Force Base in California. In flight, the generator provides the aircraft's primary electrical power. The configuration of the generator on AF-4 and other, newer F-35s was different than the original installation on the first test aircraft, and the problem was traced to the newer, or alternate, configuration. Test aircraft with the earlier configuration were cleared March 14 to resume flight operations. Three other test aircraft remained grounded, along with the first two low-rate initial production F-35As, while the investigation continued. According to the program office, the investigation revealed the maintenance procedure for the alternate engine starter/generator configuration allowed excess oil in the generator's lubrication system. Even though previous procedures allowed a small amount of extra oil in the generator following servicing, extra oil churning inside a narrow air gap within the unit could cause internal temperatures to increase, the program office said. The high temperatures led to the generator failures.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=6063313&c=AME&s=TOP>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

18. *March 26, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah; National) **SEC: Ponzi scheme was run through payday loan company.** A Hyde Park, Utah man has been accused in federal court of orchestrating a Ponzi scheme under the guise of an online payday loan company. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) March 25 filed a complaint in U.S.



District Court against a 58-year-old man and his businesses, Logan-based Impact Cash and Impact Payment Systems. SEC alleged that between March 2006 and September 2010, more than \$47 million was raised from 120 investors who were promised lavish returns for funding payday loans. About \$4 million of that allegedly was raised for equity investments in the companies, while the rest came from investors who agreed to provide capital to the companies for payday loans. But the suspect diverted funds for personal use and outside business ventures, SEC alleged. He also used the money from new investors to pay off profits to initial investors, the complaint states. He built the scam through recruiting investors at trade shows, attending payday loan conferences and employing salespeople to recruit potential investors, the complaint states. Under pressure from investors, the man admitted to a family member who had invested in the companies that he had misappropriated funds, overpaid some investors, and compromised Impact Cash and Impact Payment Systems, according to the complaint. SEC is accusing the man of employment of a scheme to defraud, fraud in the offer and sale of securities, fraud in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, offer and sale of unregistered securities, and sale of securities by an unregistered broker.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/51503972-79/investors-clark-complaint-payday.html.csp>

19. *March 25, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **5 convicted in international bank fraud scheme.** Five people were convicted March 25 in connection with an international scam to defraud American banks by using fake Web sites and spam e-mails, according to the U.S. attorney's office. More than 40 others have already been convicted in the case. According to authorities, Egyptian-based hackers took bank account numbers and other personal information from customers to hack into American accounts. They worked with partners in the United States to transfer money out of those accounts, authorities said. Bank customers were tricked into giving up their personal information with bogus bank Web sites set up to appear legitimate using bank logos and legal disclaimers.  
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/03/5-convicted-in-international-bank-fraud-scheme.html>
20. *March 25, Las Vegas Sun* – (National) **Leader of anti-government group pleads guilty to money laundering.** The national leader of an anti-government movement pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and money laundering, Nevada's U.S. attorney said March 25. The 56 year-old Council, Idaho man pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, and 30 counts of money laundering. The man, who faces up to 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 on each count, will be sentenced June 24. According to a plea agreement, the man and an accomplice allegedly laundered \$1.3 million for undercover FBI agents in 2008 and 2009. The agents told the men the funds were proceeds from a bank fraud scheme, specifically the theft and forgery of stolen official bank checks. The men allegedly laundered the money through a trust account controlled by one of the men and through an account of a purported religious organization controlled by the other. The men took about \$74,000 and \$22,000, respectively, in fees for their money laundering services, officials said. The man who pled guilty March 25 was arrested with three other members of the anti-

government Sovereign Movement in May 2010 after a 3-year investigation by the Nevada Joint Terrorism Task Force. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Sovereign Movement is an anti-government organization whose members seek to overthrow the government through “paper terrorism” tactics, intimidation, harassment, and violence.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/25/leader-anti-government-group-pleads-guilty-money-l/>

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## **Transportation Sector**

21. *March 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Detroit-bound plane hit by lightning after takeoff from Atlanta.** An airplane bound for Detroit, Michigan from Atlanta, Georgia, was hit by lightning shortly after takeoff and returned to the airport as storms rumbled through the state. An AirTran Airways (ATA) spokesman said the plane was hit soon after it took off around 6:30 p.m. March 26. He said there was a brief, minor issue with one of the two engines, and the captain decided to return to the gate as a precaution. The Boeing 717 landed and taxied to the gate, where the 94 passengers disembarked. The ATA spokesman said a new plane was brought in, and the flight continued as planned.  
Source: <http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/detroit-bound-plane-hit-by-lightning-after-takeoff-from-atlanta-20110328-mr>
22. *March 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Alaska airlines cancel flights after outage, most now running on time.** Alaska Airlines and its Horizon Air affiliate said they have resolved a computer outage that led to the cancellation of 150 flights March 26, disrupting travel plans for more than 12,000 passengers of the regional airline. The company said most flights were operating on time March 27, though about a dozen were delayed due to crew scheduling issues. An Alaska Airlines spokeswoman said the outage occurred when a transformer blew and knocked out the company’s computer system for booking flights.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/03/27/alaska-airlines-cancel-flights-outage/>
23. *March 27, New York Post* – (New Jersey) **US airport security fails to spot knife on New Jersey-bound flight.** Transportation Security Administration (TSA) scanners failed to spot yet another knife when a pharmaceutical businessman carried a 5-inch ceramic blade onto a flight from Puerto Rico to Newark, New Jersey, according to sources cited March 27 in the New York Post. After the agents missed the blade March 25 in Puerto Rico, scanners in Newark spotted it as the 48-year-old suspect went through screening before his trip home to Puerto Rico. Sources said the 48-year-old suspect told them he carried the knife for protection and simply forgot that it was in a day planner. The Pfizer employee was not believed to be a terror threat, but he was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor weapon possession, sources said. “[The suspect], who was released ... is cooperating fully with law enforcement,” a Pfizer spokesman said. The missed knife came after a series of incidents in the past few months at New

York-area airports, including a man who carried a small stash of box cutters onto a plane.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/03/27/airport-security-fails-spot-knife-new-jersey-bound-flight/>

24. *March 27, Laramie Boomerang* – (Wyoming) **Man killed in semi tractor-trailer wreck.** A semi tractor-trailer driver was killed March 25 in a fiery wreck in Wyoming that shut down the eastbound lanes of Interstate 80 between Laramie and Cheyenne for more than 7 hours. The victim, 48, of Omaha, Nebraska, a driver for Fremont Contract Carriers Inc., was pronounced dead at the scene of a wreck involving two tractor-trailers that took place at 5:40 a.m. near milepost 335 on I-80, according to the Wyoming Highway Patrol. No hazardous materials were spilled, but the eastbound lanes were littered with debris and cargo, a trooper said.

Source:

<http://www.laramieboomerang.com/articles/2011/03/27/news/doc4d8d6b99c4152383781120.txt>

25. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Flights canceled after Miami airport fire.** Dozens of flights out of Miami, Florida, were canceled 3 days after a fire broke out at the airport. Miami International Airport said 97 flights were canceled March 26, and another 17 were delayed as a result of the March 23 fire. The fire left the airport's fuel pump operation unusable. A glitch has kept a temporary pumping system from working, so planes have to be fueled using tanker trucks. An airport spokesman said he hoped the pumping system would be running later March 26. It could take up to 4 months to install a new, permanent system. All told, hundreds of flights have been canceled at the airport because of the fire.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704474804576225171831193418.html?mod=WSJ\\_WSJ\\_US\\_News\\_5](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704474804576225171831193418.html?mod=WSJ_WSJ_US_News_5)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

26. *March 28, WDAF 4 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Suspicious package at IRS for second day in a row.** Firefighters were at the Internal Revenue Service Building in Kansas City, Missouri, for the second day in a row March 28, checking out a suspicious package. Crews responded March 27 to check out a powdery substance an employee found in the mail. It was determined the suspicious package received March 27 was not a threat, and the scene was also cleared March 26 with no report of any threat.

Source: [http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-another-suspicious-package-irs-2011328,0,4139247.story?track=rss&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+wdaf-news+\(FOX4KC+Local+News\)](http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-another-suspicious-package-irs-2011328,0,4139247.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+wdaf-news+(FOX4KC+Local+News))

27. *March 26, Nashua Telegraph* – (New Hampshire) **Police: Inmate sent envelope that prompted evacuation.** A convicted murderer is accused of sending an envelope labeled “anthrax spores” to the Hillsborough County, New Hampshire Superior Court clerk’s office, prompting its evacuation March 23, police said. Firefighters from the hazardous materials unit wore protective suits, went inside, ran some field tests, and concluded the substance was harmless, but it is being evaluated by the state public health laboratories to determine what it is, an official said. Police have identified the sender, but no charges have been filed as yet, a detective said March 25. The accused sender is an inmate serving life without parole in the state prison, he said.  
Source: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/913655-196/killer-sent-anthrax-spores-to-court.html>
28. *March 26, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **Package causes alarm at federal building.** A suspicious package caused a scare at the federal building in downtown Shreveport, Louisiana March 25, but the package turned out to be non-hazardous material for an employee inside of the building. The Shreveport Fire Department bomb squad responded to the building in 400 block of Fannin Street just after 10 a.m., after employees with the U.S. Marshal’s office ran the package through the X-ray machine and were alerted by the unusual-looking contents inside, an official with the fire department said. “They’re always careful when employees received unexpected mail,” he said. “And what they saw raised questions. And what we saw alerted us to take a better and closer look at it.” The building was not evacuated, but authorities shut down adjacent streets for about 45 minutes.  
Source: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011103260313>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

29. *March 28, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Salmonella outbreak linked to zeppole from DeFusco’s Bakery in Johnston.** The Rhode Island Department of Health investigation into an outbreak of salmonella linked to a bad batch of zeppoles that has sickened 25 people has found the pastries were sold from more sources than had been originally reported. Health officials said March 27 all 25 of those who fell ill directly, or indirectly, got their zeppoles from DeFusco’s Bakery in Johnston. Thirteen of the 25 tested positive for salmonella poisoning, and 10 were hospitalized after they experienced nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. A health department spokeswoman said the agency determined the bakery stored zeppole shells in used egg crates, possibly exposing the shells to raw egg residue. She said health officials learned American Bakery Supplies, a distributor in West Warwick, bought zeppoles from DeFusco’s Bakery and then distributed them to locations in West Warwick and Coventry. Meal Works served the zeppoles March 17 and 18 at West Warwick Manor Senior Center, St. John and Paul Church in Coventry, Sparrow Point, a senior facility in Warwick, and Crescent Park Manor, in the Riverside neighborhood of East Providence. The spokeswoman said the zeppoles were sold from all of DeFusco’s bakeries. They were also served at Colvitto’s Bistro in Narragansett, Sal’s Bakery in Providence, and

Focaccia World in Johnston. From March 16 to 20, all five Crugnale Bakery locations in Providence, East Providence, North Providence, Cranston, and Cumberland sold DeFusco zeppoles, she said.

Source:

[http://www.projo.com/ri/eastprovidence/content/ZEPPOLE\\_SALMONELLA\\_03-28-11\\_F3N7RUN\\_v10.1862679.html](http://www.projo.com/ri/eastprovidence/content/ZEPPOLE_SALMONELLA_03-28-11_F3N7RUN_v10.1862679.html)

30. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Blast topples old grain bin in Fremont.** A fire captain in Fremont, Nebraska, said an explosion knocked a grain bin off its foundation at an old alfalfa dehydration plant. The captain said firefighters who were dispatched a little before 5:20 a.m. March 28 found the bin lying across a street. Smoke was pouring from the foundation. No injuries were reported. Arson is not suspected. The captain said spontaneous combustion in old alfalfa pellets in the bottom of the bin likely contributed to the explosion. The captain said he was told March 28 that wisps of smoke were seen coming from the bin or nearby the week of March 21. He said he thinks it was likely that some pellets fell down through a vent on the bottom of the bin, letting in fresh air. The oxygen in that air could have fueled the explosion.

Source: <http://www.kgwn.tv/Global/story.asp?S=14333275>

31. *March 28, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Fire engulfs Palmer Feed Store in Orlando.** An overnight fire March 27 into March 28 engulfed the Palmer Feed Store in Orlando, Florida. The fire and heavy smoke damaged much of the store in the Parramore neighborhood. Orlando Fire Department officials said part of the building's roof collapsed as firefighters battled the blaze. Many of the chemicals, pesticides, and other hazardous materials sold in the store created thick smoke. Officials said some aerosol cans exploded as soon as they arrived at the store.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orange/os-fire-palmer-feed-store-orlando-20110328,0,6089081.story>

32. *March 28, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Heavy snowfall prompts evacuation at Pollock Pines Safeway.** Concerns the roof might collapse under heavy snow prompted an evacuation March 28 at a Safeway supermarket in Pollock Pines, California. The store has been closed as a precaution until building inspectors can take a look at the structure later in the day and the snow can be safely removed. The weight of the heavy snowfall caused other roofs in Pollock Pines to sag, including the Fifty Grand Steakhouse, the Knotty Pine Lanes bowling alley, and a True Value Hardware store.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/article/130684/29/Heavy-snowfall-prompts-evacuation-at-Pollock-Pines-Safeway->

33. *March 26, Pierce County Herald* – (National) **Corps admits electric barrier won't stop all Asian carp.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has admitted its electric fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal will not repel all Asian carp, the Pierce County Herald reported March 26. The barrier is currently operating at about half its potential strength because of the threat it would pose to canal barges carrying flammable materials. The Corps said the barrier would be effective for fish as small as

5.4 inches in length, but research suggests it would not stop smaller fish. The Corps said that is not necessary right now. The nearest carp are said to be over 100-miles away, and there could be safety problems if the voltage is raised without a real need to do so. Wisconsin and other states are trying to keep the bloated carp out of the Great Lakes because it eats up the food that native fish rely upon. Wisconsin officials said they are worried the carp could hurt the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry.

Source: <http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/34399/>

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## **Water Sector**

34. *March 28, Boston Herald* – (New Hampshire; Massachusetts) **Sewage disks wash up on Cape beaches.** Small plastic disks released by accident from a New Hampshire wastewater treatment plant earlier this month have landed on Cape Cod beaches in Massachusetts. The disks were reported along various northside Dennis beaches, including Mayflower Beach March 27. Truro police also received one call of some disks on Coast Guard Beach. According to the Associated Press, in early March between 4 million and 8 million disks and about 250,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater were released from the town-owned plant in Hooksett, New Hampshire, into the Merrimack River after heavy rain.

Source:

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20110328sewage\\_disks\\_wash\\_up\\_on\\_cape\\_beaches/srvc=home&position=recent](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20110328sewage_disks_wash_up_on_cape_beaches/srvc=home&position=recent)

35. *March 26, Burlington Times-News* – (North Carolina) **Sewage spills into Burlington creek.** A sewage overflow caused by rags and debris sent wastewater into a Burlington Creek, March 25 in Burlington, North Carolina. The City of Burlington had an overflow of approximately 81,300 gallons of untreated wastewater from its sanitary sewer collection system reach surface waters March 25, beginning at 1:36 p.m. along the 1300 block of Burch Bridge Road. The overflow discharged into Servis Creek. The obstruction was removed and flooding ceased by 4:10 p.m. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality was notified of this overflow.

Source: <http://www.thetimesnews.com/news/overflow-42443-burlington-creek.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

36. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Investigation finds more trouble at Ohio VA clinic.** Worker testimony in a Veterans Affairs (VA) investigation indicated the Dayton, Ohio VA Medical Center's dental clinic had problems stretching beyond a dentist accused of not changing gloves between patients and exposing them to potential diseases. Workers described the clinic as understaffed and said supervisors cut corners and put up with inappropriate behavior, the Dayton Daily News reported. It said a post-

investigation report found a second dentist performed unnecessary procedures, and that unlicensed students did dental work without required supervision. The VA has defended its response since the concerns surfaced, and said some complaints about the second dentist were not valid. A Dayton VA official also challenged the allegations about the dental students, saying fourth-year students received appropriate oversight and documentation of their work. “Based on my knowledge, the comments in the (investigative) report were not totally appropriate,” the acting chief of staff said. Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/news/2011/03/investigation-finds-more-trouble-ohio-va-clinic>

37. *March 26, Memorial Health Services* – (California) **MemorialCare notified 2,250 patients of privacy breach.** Memorial Health Services of Fountain Valley, California, announced it notified 2,250 patients who may have been impacted by a privacy breach in 2009 and 2010 by a former employee working in the central business office. At this time, there is no reason to believe the information was used in a malicious manner or one that would impact quality of patient care. The information accessed included the name, Social Security number, date of birth, home address, phone number, account number, and admit reason. Memorial takes this incident seriously and has reviewed computer security procedures and determined network security was not breached. It will continue to thoroughly review and strengthen its procedures to ensure the highest level of patient privacy possible, and take all necessary steps to safeguard personal information. Memorial is in compliance with state and federal reporting requirements. Source: <http://www.phiprivacy.net/?p=6264>
38. *March 25, KXII 12 Sherman* – (Oklahoma) **Investigation into death at Integris Medical Center.** One man is dead after an incident, allegedly involving an officer, at Integris Marshall County Medical Center in Madill, Oklahoma, March 24. The Marshall County Sheriff’s Office confirmed the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) and Madill Police are investigating an incident at the center. An OSBI special agent told KXII a man’s body was sent from the hospital to the medical examiner’s office in Oklahoma City for autopsy March 24. KXII spoke with the victim’s family who said the man had suffered from pneumonia, and they had taken him to several hospitals before arriving at Integris. Around 5 p.m., relatives said the man became agitated, possibly from a reaction to medication he was given. Shortly after that, family members said the man was tased by an officer, inside the hospital, and died. Source: [http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/Investigation\\_into\\_death\\_at\\_Integris\\_Medical\\_Center\\_118633584.html](http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/Investigation_into_death_at_Integris_Medical_Center_118633584.html)
39. *March 24, iHealthBeat* – (National) **Initiative aims to discern fiscal effects of health data breaches.** The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Shared Assessments Program have rolled out an initiative geared toward evaluating the financial impact of disclosures or breaches of personal health information (PHI), Health Data Management reports. ANSI develops standards for multiple industries, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) transaction sets used in

health care. The Shared Assessments Program is a coalition of industry members that works on ways to assess risks for outsourced vendor projects. The aim of the project — called the ANSI/Shared Assessments PHI Project — is to develop frameworks to measure the economic effects of patient data breaches. The initiative also aims to identify legal PHI protections that already are in place, and to identify areas in the health care system where there are risks of PHI exposure. The PHI initiative’s advisory committee, which launched the project, is made up of representatives from data security companies, identity theft protection agencies, standards developers, and privacy and security legal experts. The project will produce a report for entities that handle PHI. The report will provide information on how to protect PHI and how to respond to PHI breaches, according to Healthcare IT News.

Source: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2011/3/24/initiative-aims-to-discern-fiscal-effects-of-health-data-breaches.aspx>

For another story, see item [29](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

40. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Iowa school shooting drill canceled after threat.** An Iowa training drill involving a mock school shooting by a teen venting anger over illegal immigration was canceled March 25 after authorities said a real shooting was threatened at the high school where the drill was to take place. The Pottawattamie County sheriff said his office was notified about the threat that came to the school that morning from an out-of-state phone caller who threatened a shooting at Treynor High School, in Treynor, Iowa, the site of the 4-hour drill that was scheduled March 26 for police, firefighters, and other first responders. The caller stated something along the lines of, “Your school shooting drill may be a reality today,” the sheriff said. Three deputies went to the school March 25 as a precaution. It was not immediately clear when or if the exercise would be rescheduled. The drill gained attention amid concerns raised by groups opposed to illegal immigration that say the fictitious scenario had a political agenda in featuring a teen with ties to a white supremacist group and gun enthusiasts who were angry about immigration issues.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/03/28/iowa-school-shooting-drill-canceled-threat/>

41. *March 26, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Crews say NC Marine base fire mostly contained.** Authorities said March 26 crews were close to containing a wildfire that scorched more than 14 square miles at North Carolina’s Camp Lejeune. The North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) and the U.S. Marine Corps said in a joint news release the fire was 75 percent contained, and that cool, damp weather was aiding firefighting efforts. Investigators were working to confirm the cause of the blaze. Marines were conducting training exercises with weapons the day the fire started, but officials have not confirmed that as the cause. Firefighters hope to have the blaze extinguished in the next few days. NCFS and the Camp Lejeune Fire and Emergency Services Division are



coordinating the effort, with about 100 personnel assigned to it. Some residents had been evacuated, but have since returned home. No private buildings were reported damaged, though some minor damage was reported to military structures.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2014606233\\_apuscamplejeunewildfire.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2014606233_apuscamplejeunewildfire.html)

42. *March 25, Idaho State Journal* – (Idaho) **Pocatello woman charged in connection with threatening envelope left in courthouse.** A 49-year-old Pocatello, Idaho woman was cited with a misdemeanor in connection with a threatening envelope found March 16 taped to a wall inside the Bannock County Courthouse. The woman was charged March 24 with misdemeanor threats to a judicial officer, an Idaho State Police captain said. The discovery of the envelope led officials to evacuate the courthouse near the end of regular business hours and to call in a hazardous materials team. The envelope had the message written on it, “Look inside and you’re dead.” An arrow was drawn pointing to the judge’s name. It was tested, with negative results, for any harmful substances at the state’s crime lab.

Source: [http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article\\_fc7ac47a-5675-11e0-b5eb-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article_fc7ac47a-5675-11e0-b5eb-001cc4c002e0.html)

43. *March 24, KCPW 88.3 FM Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Watchdog group calls for improved oversight of Dugway Proving Ground.** A watchdog group is calling for Utah state and federal investigations of an incident at Dugway Proving Ground, KCPW reported March 24. In late January, a vial of a deadly nerve agent was misplaced, causing a 12-hour lockdown. The director of the Citizens Education Project said information his group received about the incident is “disturbing.” “It appears the governor’s office was not notified during this event, and that there was inadequate notification at best of the Utah Department of Public Safety (UDPS), and no notification whatsoever of the first responders in the Tooele County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO),” he said. The director said data obtained through a Government Records and Management Act (GRAMA) request show members of the governor’s office and TCSO learned of the incident from television news reports. UDPS and the Utah Division of Homeland Security failed to respond to GRAMA requests, and the director said he has yet to receive a response to a freedom of information request from Dugway. The Citizens Education Project is calling for state and federal investigations of the incident to determine whether there are procedures in place to inform first responders and keep the public safe during such incidents. The director said it may be time to consider re-establishing a Dugway oversight committee that was in place during the administrations of previous governors.

Source: <http://kcpw.org/blog/local-news/2011-03-24/watchdog-group-calls-for-improved-oversight-of-dugway-proving-ground/>

For more stories, see items [26](#), [27](#), and [28](#)

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## Emergency Services Sector

44. *March 28, WLKY 26 Louisville* – (Kentucky; Indiana) **Indiana police chase, shoot at stolen ambulance.** Indiana State Police said a man stole an Orange County EMS ambulance that was parked at the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on State Street in New Albany at about 6:30 p.m. March 26. A police sergeant said a crew member saw someone stealing the ambulance while they were on a break. The sergeant said an off duty trooper saw the ambulance a short time later heading north on Interstate 65 at the 10 mile marker in Clark County. Troopers caught up to the stolen ambulance in Scott County and attempted to stop it. The driver refused to stop and troopers pursued the vehicle into Jackson County, where stop sticks had been placed on the roadway, police said. Investigators said the driver tried to avoid the stop sticks and swerved, striking an Indiana State Police cruiser. A nearby trooper fired several shots, striking the ambulance several times. Troopers put down more stop sticks at the 49 mile marker. The ambulance hit the stop sticks but did not stop. It continued down the interstate where another set of stopsticks had been placed. The driver eventually stopped the ambulance and was apprehended. The suspect was taken to Floyd County Jail and charged with auto theft. Charges are pending in Clark, Floyd, Scott, and Jackson counties. Speeds reached up to 75 miles per hour.

Source: <http://www.emsworld.com/article/article.jsp?id=16538&siteSection=1>

45. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Emergency communications during Louisville plant explosions had gaps, mayor wants review.** A review of emergency radio transmissions during explosions at a Louisville, Kentucky, chemical plant that killed two workers has revealed communication gaps between the dozens of firefighters, police, and medical personnel who responded. The Courier-Journal reported the Louisville Metro Emergency Management Director ordered no public warning sirens or alerts during the March 21 explosions at the Carbide Industries plant, but soon afterward police told television stations to warn people to stay in their homes. A police lieutenant who may not have heard that announcement asked dispatchers later to advise residents to stay inside. That led to a National Weather Service alert warning residents to stay in their homes. Because the police lieutenant made his request using a cell phone, the director did not know about it. He said the problem is emergency responders are not thoroughly versed on using the year-old MetroSafe radio system. The mayor has requested a review to find ways to improve communications between responders and communications with the public. He announced March 23 the city would seek to buy a new public alert system in the coming months.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/397353f860844b94b375d6f90c2afff1/KY--Chemical-Plant-Fire/>

46. *March 26, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **State inaction hurts emergency radio upgrade effort.** Iowa police, firefighters, ambulances, hospitals, dispatch centers, and others will lose their ability to communicate via two-way radio at the end of 2012 if they do not make upgrades required by the federal government. Many small local agencies cannot cover this expense, but attempts to address the issue are stalled.

Without the upgrades, as of January 1, 2013, dispatch centers would still get 911 calls, but the emergency workers would no longer have working radios to receive details about the calls or to talk with each other once they reach the scene. The mandate “may result in approximately one-fourth of the state being without radio coverage unless some corrective steps are taken to ensure continued coverage,” according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency. Local emergency agencies that fail to upgrade face fines up to \$10,000 per day, cancellation of their Federal Communications Commission license to operate radios, and loss of communications capabilities, the analysis said.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110326/NEWS10/103260332/1094/SPOR-TS0206/?odyssey=nav|head>

47. *March 25, Emergency Management* – (Arizona) **NASCAR race offers testing ground for multiband radio.** The February 27 Subway Fresh Fit 500 NASCAR Spring Cup race provided a good opportunity to test multiband radios as race officials and the city’s ambulance provider were using UHF frequencies, firefighters were using VHF frequencies, while law enforcement was using 700 and 800 MHz frequencies, according to communications/IT project manager for the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department. The racetrack also provided an opportunity to test the radio’s noise-cancelling capabilities with responders working in the center of the track and cars whizzing by at 200 mph. An estimated 400 responders with agencies — including the Avondale Fire Department, Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office, Glendale police and fire departments, Phoenix police and fire departments, and the Arizona Division of Emergency Management — coordinated activities using 46 Harris Corp. Unity XG-100 radios. The test in Arizona was the first of four planned for the Unity XG-100 this year. Details of other tests have not been set, but the goal is to test the equipment in a variety of conditions, including deserts, the cold, and wet winters of the Northeast, and multistate border conditions. DHS received reports of responders unable to hear their radios over the sounds of the environments they operate in. “It was unintelligible,” an official said, “so they’ve had to redevelop the directional microphones and things like that and noise-cancelling software that will eliminate the background noise.”  
Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/NASCAR-Race-Multiband-Radio-032511.html>

48. *March 24, Emergency Management* – (National) **Unmanned aircraft offer new tools for the emergency response arsenal.** Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are changing the aerospace industry. No longer solely for military use, UASs have increasing potential for civilian and commercial applications, particularly with regard to emergency response and relief efforts. They can be used for environmental research, law enforcement, border surveillance, search and rescue operations, damage assessment, and recovery efforts following natural disasters. Ideal for situations where it is too dangerous or difficult to use manned aircraft, unmanned aircraft often cost less and can stay in the air longer — as long as 4 days without refueling. Already in use in some states, UASs successfully performed search and rescue missions in Louisiana and Texas during the 2008 hurricanes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration uses them to hunt down hurricanes and communicate data to the National Hurricane Center in Florida. Police departments in Houston and Miami have tested law enforcement programs using the systems. In California, NASA scientists developed an unmanned aircraft, called the Ikhana, which has proven useful in battling wildfires. Special heat sensors installed in the Ikhana map fire locations by temperature and transmit hot spot information to multiagency coordination centers and firefighters on the ground.

Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Unmanned-Aircraft-Emergency-Response-032411.html>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

49. *March 28, IDG News Service* – (International) **MySQL Web site falls victim to SQL injection attack.** Oracle’s MySQL.com customer Web site was compromised the weekend of March 26 and 27 by a pair of hackers who publicly posted usernames, and in some cases passwords, of the site’s users. Taking credit for the hack were “TinKode” and “Ne0h,” who wrote the hack resulted from a SQL injection attack. The vulnerable domains were listed as [www.mysql.com](http://www.mysql.com), [www.mysql.fr](http://www.mysql.fr), [www.mysql.de](http://www.mysql.de), [www.mysql.it](http://www.mysql.it) and [www-jp.mysql.com](http://www-jp.mysql.com). According to a post on the Full Disclosure bug mailing list March 27, MySQL.com ran a variety of internal databases on an Apache Web server. The information posted included a raft of password hashes, some of which have now been cracked. Among the credentials in a dump of the information posted on Pastebin were passwords for a number of MySQL database users on the server, and the admin passwords for the corporate blogs of two former MySQL employees.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215249/MySQL\\_Web\\_site\\_falls\\_victim\\_to\\_SQL\\_injection\\_attack](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215249/MySQL_Web_site_falls_victim_to_SQL_injection_attack)

50. *March 28, Softpedia* – (International) **Anonymous launches new DDoS attack against RIAA.** The Anonymous hacktivist collective has launched new distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks against the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), after the trade group sued LimeWire. LimeWire was discontinued last October after RIAA won a permanent injunction forcing its creator, Lime Wire LLC, to disable the program’s searching, downloading, uploading, file trading, and/or all of its functionality. Earlier in March, on behalf of music labels, RIAA filed a statutory damage claim of \$150,000 for each of the 11,000 songs illegally shared by LimeWire users. RIAA’s request was rejected by a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Despite RIAA’s request being denied, the Anonymous collective mounted a DDoS attack against the trade association’s Web site. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Anonymous-Launches-New-DDoS-Attack-Against-RIAA-191581.shtml>

51. *March 27, Computerworld* – (International) **Solo Iranian hacker takes credit for Comodo certificate attack.** A solo Iranian hacker March 26 claimed responsibility for stealing multiple SSL certificates belonging to several Web sites, including Google, Microsoft, Skype, and Yahoo. Early reaction from security experts was mixed, with some believing the hacker's claim, while others were dubious. During the week of March 21, conjecture had focused on a state-sponsored attack, perhaps funded or conducted by the Iranian government, that hacked a certificate reseller affiliated with U.S.-based Comodo. Comodo acknowledged the attack March 23, saying 8 days earlier, hackers had obtained 9 bogus certificates for the log-on sites of Microsoft's Hotmail, Google's Gmail, the Internet phone and chat service Skype, and Yahoo Mail. A certificate for Mozilla's Firefox add-on site was also acquired. Comodo's CEO said the week of March 21, circumstantial evidence pointed to a state-backed attack, and claimed the Iranian government was probably behind it. He based his opinion on the fact that only Iran's government — which could tamper with the country's domain name system to funnel traffic through fake sites secured by the stolen certificates — would benefit.  
Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215245/Solo\\_Iranian\\_hacker\\_takes\\_credit\\_f\\_or\\_Comodo\\_certificate\\_attack](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215245/Solo_Iranian_hacker_takes_credit_f_or_Comodo_certificate_attack)
52. *March 26, The Register* – (International) **Microsoft: Mystery bug blocks Syrian secure Hotmail.** Microsoft is blaming a mystery bug for preventing access to the encrypted version of Hotmail, denying that it deliberately blocked access to the service in Syria. Microsoft told The Register March 25 Hotmail users who had already enabled the HTTPS version of the popular e-mail service were still able to use it. Only Hotmailers trying to turn on HTTPS for the first time in certain countries and languages were being blocked, the company said. Microsoft said it still does not know what caused the bug, but it has been resolved and the company is investigating the cause. The company said users in the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Fiji were also affected.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/26/microsoft\\_https\\_hotmail\\_syria/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/26/microsoft_https_hotmail_syria/)
53. *March 25, H Security* – (International) **Another zero-day exploit for SCADA systems.** In addition to the 35 vulnerabilities and zero-day exploits in supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems reported at the beginning of the week of March 21, another vulnerability and another zero-day exploit have now been revealed. A security specialist has published code demonstrating a flaw in the Web-based virtualization software WebAccess from BroadWin. The code reportedly allows a flaw in WebAccess Network Service's RPC interface to be exploited allowing code to be injected. The researcher said he informed DHS's Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) in advance, and the team contacted the vendor. ICS-CERT said the vendor was not able to confirm the flaw. The researcher later wrote the vendor denied the flaw's existence, so he published the exploit. In lieu of a patch, ICS-CERT recommended BroadWin users protect their systems with a firewall and use VPNs for remote access. ICS-CERT said it found a SQL injection vulnerability in the IntegraXor software from Malaysian vendor Ecava. The team said attackers can exploit the flaw to manipulate the database and execute arbitrary code.

According to ICS-CERT, the software is used in 38 countries, including the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Poland, and Canada.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Another-zero-day-exploit-for-SCADA-systems-1215450.html>

54. *March 25, Help Net Security* – (International) **Randomization of code and binaries for evading AV solutions.** A detection evasion technique by a site that serves fake AV has recently been spotted by a Zscaler researcher. The site’s source code was randomized so that each time a user visits the site, he is presented with a different fake count of supposedly found malware and a different malicious binary masking as an AV solution to download. “The code contains different random variables and fake security warnings, which have been split into smaller variables in an effort to evade antivirus and IDS/IPS engines that may seek to match common string patterns,” the researcher noted. Even though the offered malware changes with each visit and the various files have different MD5 hashes, the size of the malicious binaries is always the same. All these files have a pretty low detection rate (around 19 percent on VirusTotal). “This demonstrates that pure pattern matching engines will fail to detect the attack based on pattern matching strings in source code,” the researcher concluded. “Randomization of malicious binaries will also evade good antivirus engines.”  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1675](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1675)

55. *March 24, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Security expert warns of targeted attacks on senior execs.** Attackers could use the practice of “vanity” searches to carry out targeted attacks, according to security experts. The chief executive of Trusteer suggested attackers could infect PCs belonging to high-level executives by lacing pages with search terms associated with the target’s name or company. He explained that, to keep tabs on news coverage, many executives have Google Alert settings that comb the engine for mentions of their own name, a practice known as a “vanity search.” An attacker could craft a malicious page with an exploit tool or attack code. The malicious page could then be loaded with words associated with the individual or company being targeted. The attack page would then appear on the target’s vanity searches, possibly luring an executive or other high-value target into a malware attack. Trusteer’s CEO said the potency of the attacks could be increased by the use of zero-day flaws in combination with personal information gathered through services such as LinkedIn.  
Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2036904/security-expert-warns-targeted-attacks-senior-execs>

### 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

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *March 28, WSOC 9 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Dozens evacuated after Charlotte hotel fire.** Dozens of people were forced out of their hotel rooms in Charlotte, North Carolina, March 28 because of an intentionally set fire, officials said. Police believe the fire was started in a stairwell after people attending a conference started fighting in the DoubleTree Inn next to SouthPark Mall. Police and fire officials were slowly letting people back into their hotel rooms. They reportedly have one person in custody. Patrons of the hotel said there were several parties going on at the hotel, and many people had asked to move rooms to a quieter area of the building. Now, some patrons said they plan to ask to leave the hotel altogether. No one was injured, but officials have not said how much damage was caused. Police closed Morrison Boulevard near the hotel for fire crews, but expected to have it reopened before 7 a.m March 28. Source: <http://www.heraldonline.com/2011/03/28/2942103/dozens-evacuated-after-charlotte.html>

57. *March 28, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Two perish in Columbus Junction blaze.** Two Columbus Junction, Iowa, residents died in a burning building March 26, and a firefighter suggested the building’s layout may have contributed to their deaths. The state fire marshal suggested the state might be able to do more to ensure residences are safe. The blaze in a residential part of a building broke out March 26. The chief of Columbus Junction’s volunteer fire department said the floor plan would “absolutely never” meet modern fire codes. He said the fire originated in the kitchen area at the front of the building, by the only exit. “They were trapped because the way it was laid out, the kitchen was in the front and the sleeping rooms were in the back,” he said. One victim was trapped in a sleeping room and was found dead March 26. The other victim was not found until early March 27 as firefighters cleared the damage, searching for the last tenant who had been unaccounted for. A fire official said the ceiling of the building collapsed, burying that person. Fire investigators have not determined the cause of the blaze. State fire codes still apply to buildings in these areas, but the state fire marshal said the state’s 16 inspectors are dedicated to checking state-owned properties and investigating fires. Unless a complaint is issued, a building may never be inspected, putting greater pressure on residents to raise their voices if they are concerned about their safety, he said. The building was part residential and part commercial. Fire officials said Fisher-Buffington Appliance & Heating made up one half, and that the other half contained eight or nine residential units with a common kitchen and bathroom. Source: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110328/NEWS/103280316/-1/GETPUBLISHED03wp-content/Two-perish-Columbus-Junction-blaze>

58. *March 27, KPSP 2 Cathedral City* – (California) **Pipe bomb explosion injures one near San Francisco.** A pipe bomb hidden inside a newspaper exploded when an elderly Vacaville, California man picked up the paper near his doorstep the morning of March 27, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) said. The man, who suffered “certainly serious, but not life-threatening injuries,” was airlifted to a hospital, a Vacaville city spokesman said. Residents of a dozen neighboring homes were evacuated for several hours, but they were allowed to return home later in the afternoon of March 27, the city spokesman said. Investigators were questioning neighbors and relatives to determine why the man may have been targeted by a bomb. It was not immediately known if the victim was targeted. “Neighbors are telling authorities that an unidentified man in camouflage was seen in the neighborhood last night (March 26),” the ATF spokesman said. A bomb squad from Travis Air Force Base and federal investigators combed the neighborhood with explosives-sniffing dogs in the Brown’s Valley section of the town, but they found no other explosive devices, the city spokesman said.  
Source: <http://www.kpsplocal2.com/Content/Headlines/story/Pipe-Bomb-Explosion-Injures-1-Near-San-Francisco/CcDYz1O68UaxjsjayI-rHw.csp>
59. *March 27, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **Colo. apartment fire leaves one dead, 15 injured.** One woman was killed and 15 people were injured when fire raced through an Aurora, Colorado apartment building March 26. The fire broke out at after 5 a.m. at the Aspenwood Apartments, located at 572 Potomac Avenue Aurora firefighters quickly called a third alarm after arriving. A woman died when she fell or jumped from a second-floor stairwell balcony as she tried to escape the blaze, authorities said. The woman’s son also plunged from the balcony and is recovering from a broken hip at a hospital. Aurora firefighters said they transported 12 residents from the apartment to area hospitals, including one who suffered critical injuries. Three Aurora police officers also were injured. A police spokesman said the injuries were minor and that the officers drove themselves to an area hospital. The fire began on the first floor of the complex near the inner courtyard. An Aurora Fire captain said 12 apartments were damaged in the blaze. He said the cause of the fire is under investigation. A search warrant was executed on the apartment where the fire is believed to have started to help investigators piece together what happened.  
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/colo-apartment-fire-leaves-1-dead-15-injured>
60. *March 25, KSAX 42 Alexandria* – (Minnesota) **Passengers evacuated after MN zoo monorail shuts down.** Visitors at the Minnesota Zoo were stuck on the monorail for about 2 hours after it shut down around noon March 25. An official with the Minnesota Zoo said an electrical malfunction cut power to the track. He said firefighters from the Apple Valley Fire Department used two ladders to help passengers evacuate. Once the evacuation was started, it took about 30 minutes until the riders had crawled down ladders. Rides were suspended March 25, but the monorail was expected to be up and running March 26.  
Source: <http://ksax.com/article/stories/S2035950.shtml?cat=10230>



61. *March 25, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Hazardous materials incident cleaned up at Memorial Auditorium.** The Burlington Fire Department set up a perimeter around Memorial Auditorium March 25, evacuated the building and called the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team to the scene to deal with a possible toxic hazard. The incident began during a class in the auditorium’s print studio on the evening of March 24 when a student, “as part of the artistic process,” the assistant fire marshall said, added zinc to a container of nitric acid and created an “orange-red-colored cloud.” Those in the print shop took the container outside, but no one called the fire department until the morning of March 25, he said. The hazardous-materials specialists identified the substance in the container, and the building was declared safe at about 2:30 p.m. March 25. One unidentified individual was said to have experienced “minor respiratory” problems, but there were no other injuries. Nine firefighters and seven members of the hazardous materials team were at the auditorium for about 4 hours March 25 as part of the cleanup.  
Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110325/NEWS02/110325009/-1/PluckPersona/Hazardous-materials-incident-cleaned-up-Memorial-Auditorium?odyssey=nav|head>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

62. *March 26, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **Avalanche danger is considerable in the Sierra.** California ski areas in the Sierra March 26 reported another 4 feet of snow on top of the 50-foot snowfall they have received this season. The National Forest Service said avalanche danger is considerable, so natural and human-triggered avalanches are possible. Chains are required on I-80 from Placer County to the Donner Lake interchange. There are no chain controls on Highway 50, but there is a high wind advisory from Sacramento to the El Dorado County line.  
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?section=news/state&id=8036553>
63. *March 26, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Fire in Santa Fe National Forest nearly contained.** Authorities said March 26 a fire burning in the Santa Fe National Forest in northern New Mexico was nearly contained after charring about 100 acres. Forest officials said the so-called Middleton fire began March 21. The fire is believed to have been started by a downed power line. The blaze has been burning ponderosa pine and mixed conifer about 3 miles northwest of Gallinas near Evergreen Valley. Crews said the fire was 78 percent contained by March 26 and should be fully contained by March 27.  
Source: [http://www.lcsun-news.com/las\\_cruces-news/ci\\_17707180](http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_17707180)
64. *March 25, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **Another slide closes Highway 1 farther south in Big Sur.** A mudslide closed Highway 1 March 24 on the south coast of Big Sur in California, and Caltrans officials were unsure when the highway might be

reopened. The slide occurred just south of Limekiln State Park, 20 miles north of the San Luis Obispo-Monterey county line. Motorists were being stopped at Nacimiento Fergusson Road, near Kirk Creek. A decision to suspend the road-clearing effort was made after a contractor's loader was struck by a large boulder, according to a news release. No one was injured. Some areas reportedly had mud and rock slides earlier March 23, and an area called "Elephant's Trunk" was slipping. Highway 1 is expected to remain closed to through traffic until mid-April because of a collapse of the highway from about Bixby Creek Bridge to Palo Colorado Road. Various agencies have been working toward some means of getting food, medicines, and other supplies to residents south of that slide who usually shop in the Carmel-Monterey area.

Source: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci\\_17699813](http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_17699813)

For more stories, see items [16](#) and [41](#)

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## Dams Sector

65. *March 28, WFIE 14 Madisonville* – (Kentucky) **Two separate barges lodged against Calhoun Lock & Dam.** The night of March 26, the motor vessel Hazel, a tow with four loaded coal barges, struck the upper wall of the Calhoun Lock and Dam number two, in Calhoun, Kentucky, causing all four barges to drift down river towards the dam. Three barges became stuck on the dam, and one barge managed to actually go over the dam, causing it to take on water. On March 27, another tow, The Motor Vessel Gentry B, with four empty barges, struck the same spot on the lock and dam, causing its barges to break partially free. The EMA deputy director said it is the first time in recent history two motor vessels became stuck at the exact same spot. Engineers with Crouse Corporation and the U.S. Coast Guard attempted to free Hazel's stuck barges the afternoon of March 27, especially the barge that had floated over the dam and began taking on water. The teams at the lock and dam worked on pumping water out, and were forced to start transferring coal from the three barges that were stuck long ways. They hoped that the barges would become light enough that the current would swing them around and carry them to shoreline. The chief officer said later that afternoon, the technique worked. The barges are now being inspected on the shoreline for damage, and it's still unknown how long it will be before they can continue downstream. Despite the transfer of coal and the partially waterlogged barge, no coal was lost during the situation.

Source: <http://www.14wfie.com/story/14331105/two-separate-barges-lo>

66. *March 28, KFGO 790 AM Fargo* – (North Dakota) **Cold weather won't delay clay levees.** The cold temperatures may have temporarily put the brakes on building sandbag flood dikes in Fargo, North Dakota, but it has not stopped construction of clay levees. Since March 25, a contractor hired by the city has been working to raise a nearly mile-long levee to protect Stockman's subdivision, north of Hector Airport. Work on the levee should be wrapped up March 29.

Source: <http://www.kfgo.com/fm-headline-news.php?ID=0000003581>

67. *March 26, Marysville Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Officials: Levee crack in south Sutter is larger, but earthen wall is stable.** A crack found on a levee near Verona in Sutter County, California, was larger March 26 when officials checked on it. However, the officials said the levee remains stable and continues to hold back water.

Reclamation District 1001 officials continue to monitor a 240-foot section of levee along the Natomas Cross Canal that developed cracking and first showed signs of slippage March 20. Sutter County and state department of water resources officials visited the site March 26 and met with District 1001 representatives to assess the levee's condition. No evacuations were called for and District 1001 engineers were determining if emergency repairs would be necessary. Last week, the section of levee was covered with visqueen, thick plastic sheeting, to keep rainwater from seeping into the cracks.

Source: <http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/levee-105199-officials-district.html>

68. *March 25, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Repairs to broken river levee north of Visalia holding.** Repairs to a levee along Cottonwood Creek near the Tulare County, California Juvenile Justice Center that breached twice the week of March 20 due to a series of storms were holding March 25. There was seepage, however, but the water flowing out of it was going into an adjoining field and not threatening the center to the south at Road 112 and Avenue 368, north of Visalia, a county emergency operations center spokesman said. Heavy rains from storms that hit starting March 20 caused the creek levels to rise, and part of the dirt levee had a small breach, which county crews filled with dirt March 21. Another breach occurred March 24 and that time crews filled it with asphalt. Still, the seepage from levee was heavy enough to flow west through the field and across Road 108. The flow was not enough to wash away or damage cars, but as a precaution, county officials closed 108 between avenues 368 and 384.

Source:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20110325/NEWS01/110325015/0/PARENTING/Repairs-broken-river-levee-north-Visalia-holding?odyssey=nav|head>

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