



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 April 2011

### Top Stories

- KSDK 5 reports it will take a year for full repairs to be made to a Missouri Air National Guard base in St. Louis that suffered more than \$10 million in damage from an April 22 tornado. (See item [34](#))
- According to Wired, Sony thinks an “unauthorized person” has access to all PlayStation Network account data and passwords, and may have obtained the credit card numbers of the service’s 70 million users. (See item [41](#))

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### Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 27, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **More than 57,000 power outages after Ark. storms.** Nearly 58,000 homes and businesses remained without electricity April 27, following severe storms across Arkansas that left at least 11 people dead. Entergy Arkansas reported more than 47,000 outages April 27 with the largest number being more than 9,400 in Garland County. Entergy also had more than 4,700 outages in Faulkner County where a tornado struck Vilonia April 26 and left four people dead. Six other people died in flooding in the state. Another person was killed April 26 in a storm

in Sharp County, but details have not been released. First Electric Cooperative reported nearly 9,400 outages April 27 with more than half, nearly 5,800, in Saline County. Southwest Power Company reported almost 1,200 outages.

Source: <http://www.stuttgartdailyleader.com/newsnow/x1146479806/More-than-57-000-power-outages-after-Ark-storms>

2. *April 27, Monroe News Star* – (Louisiana) **Entergy reports 55,000 without power.** As many as 55,000 Entergy Louisiana customers in northern Louisiana were without power April 27 following strong overnight storms, an Entergy spokesman said. The spokesman said the outages were widespread throughout the company’s system. “All of our resources are secure and working here in our area,” the spokesman said. “We didn’t send any of our crews to Arkansas because of the anticipation of this storm. Every network we have has some damage. [We’re] restoring power as quickly as we can.”  
Source: <http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20110427/UPDATES01/110427008>
3. *April 27, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Holly Corp. refinery facilities disrupted by fire, unit failure.** There was a substantial fire at the Holly Corp. east refining plant in Tulsa, Oklahoma, possibly caused by lightning. The fire did not injure anyone or affect production, according to Holly Corp. officials April 25. A more serious yet unrelated problem surfaced in the crude unit at the west plant April 25. A structural or mechanical failure forced crews to shut down the unit, taking about 60,000 barrels of crude production per day off the market for at least a week. The crude unit, also called a distillation tower, takes hot crude oil and works it up the various fractionation columns into component parts such as gasoline, diesel, and lubricants. Crews will quiet the unit so they can go inside and look for any structural problems. Possibilities include seam or welding holes. Crews will need several days to prepare the unit for going inside. Once there, they will need a few more days to identify any problems and fix them, a spokesman said.  
Source:  
[http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20110427\\_49\\_E1\\_Friday688696](http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20110427_49_E1_Friday688696)
4. *April 26, North County Times* – (California) **Flawed hardware may have caused fire at SDG&E power plant.** Flawed design or faulty construction was probably to blame for the electricity transformer explosion in December 2010 at the Palomar Energy Center in Escondido, California according to an initial report by San Diego Gas and Electric Co. (SDG&E) submitted in April to state regulators. The report describes the results of an investigation SDG&E conducted to explain why its transformer burst into flames December 22. The investigation was inconclusive, but SDG&E officials said it appeared the hardware was the culprit. The company said it did not find evidence the equipment was not properly maintained. “It appears as though there was a piece of insulation inside that somehow was compromised, and it caused a very short burst of extra energy to ignite the mineral oil in the transformer before the circuit breaker for the transformer shut the system down,” a California Energy Commission spokesman said. He noted that parts of the transformer were destroyed in the fire, which makes it difficult to determine exactly what went wrong. The spokesman said the commission

will review SDG&E's report, and may conduct an independent investigation if officials see a need for more investigation or analysis. SDG&E plans next month to examine a second transformer that is the same model as the one that exploded, according to the report. Officials said they hope to identify any construction flaws and correct them to prevent a similar malfunction.

Source: [http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article\\_2c1a7e08-2b80-5c88-8f6e-ca3c999d17e8.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article_2c1a7e08-2b80-5c88-8f6e-ca3c999d17e8.html)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

5. *April 27, WRC 4 Washington D.C.* – (Virginia) **Sulfuric acid leak at Alexandria plant.** A hazardous material team was called to the GenOn power plant in Alexandria, Virginia, April 27. Fire officials said a 5,000 gallon tank of sulfuric acid had sprung a leak. The acid spilled out into a collection pan directly below the tank, so that the spill was contained. In total, 1,300 gallons of acid ran out of the tank into the pan. Alexandria fire officials said the leak posed no threat to the public, because the acid was not fuming into the air. Streets surrounding the plant, located on the Potomac River, had initially been closed, but by sunrise all roads were reopened. According to the plant, the acid tank is used to recycle waste produced by the coal-burning power generating facility. A private contractor was on the way April 27 to collect the spilled acid.  
Source: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/DC-Sulfuric-Acid-Leak-at-Alexandria-Plant-120768694.html>
  
6. *April 26, Sheboygan Press* – (Wisconsin) **4 firefighters injured in Aldrich Chemical fire near Sheboygan; fire is out.** Four firefighters suffered minor injuries during a fire April 26 at the Aldrich Chemical Co. in Wilson, Wisconsin, the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department reported. All of the injured firefighters were taken to St. Nicholas Hospital. They all had non-life threatening injuries, and were expected to be treated and released. In a press release issued about 4:30 p.m., a fire spokesman said the fire is out at Aldrich and that county Highway V has been reopened to regular traffic. Scanner reports said the firefighters were exposed to a chemical and scrubbed down at the scene. They were showing no more symptoms but were transported as a precaution. The fire was reported about 12:40 p.m. in Lab 1, on the western side of Aldrich, 5485 Highway V, a lieutenant of the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department said. It drew firefighters and equipment from at least six area departments. He said the fire was under control as of 1:20 p.m. No evacuations were needed. No information was immediately available on the extent of damage, but second-shift employees were told to report to work. Responding to the fire were firefighters from the Wilson, Oostburg, Cedar Grove, Sheboygan, and Sheboygan Falls, he said. Also responding were sheriff's deputies and Wisconsin State Patrol personnel. The first firefighters on scene were asked to hang back while commanders spoke with Aldrich officials about the types of

chemicals involved in the fire. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is not suspicious in nature.

Source:

<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20110426/SHE0101/110426106/Update-4-firefighters-injured-fire-Aldrich-Chemical-fire-out?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|SHE-News>

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

7. *April 27, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Ohio) **NRC: High radiation levels at Ohio’s Perry Nuclear Power Plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has started a Special Inspection to review the circumstances around work activities that led to higher than expected radiation levels in a work area at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Perry, Ohio. The plant is operated by FENOC Nuclear Operating Co. The issue involved the removal of a source range monitor from the reactor core April 22, as the plant was shut down for a refueling outage. A source range monitor measures nuclear reactions during start up, low power operations, and shutdown conditions. While performing the activities to remove the monitor, workers identified an increase in radiation levels. The workers stopped and immediately left the area when the higher than expected levels were identified. The licensee does not believe they received radiation in excess of NRC limits. The plant is in a safe condition and there has been no impact to workers at the plant or the public. The special inspection team began work April 25 and will review the circumstances surrounding the higher than expected radiation levels. The team will gather data to establish a sequence of events, review the utility’s work planning and engineering actions, determine if there were human performance factors that may have contributed to the event, and evaluate the actual radiological consequences including exposure. The team will also evaluate the utility’s root cause report.

Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/187321/3/NRC-High-radiation-levels-at-Ohio-Perry-Nuclear-Power-plant>

8. *April 26, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Vogtle reactor back to full capacity.** Plant Vogtle’s Unit 1 reactor in Burke County, Georgia was restored to 100 percent generating capacity early April 26 after its unexpected automatic shutdown April 22. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the reactor was running at 30 percent capacity April 25, gradually powering up to full capacity April 27. A Southern Nuclear spokeswoman said no additional fluctuations are anticipated. “We do work a checklist whenever we are bringing a unit back to power, but at this point we think it will remain up at 100 percent.” Engineers, meanwhile, were continuing to examine and test the equipment associated with a tripped breaker that caused the unit to shut itself down. The equipment was replaced with new components that appear to be working properly, she said. There have been no problems with Vogtle’s Unit 2, which has

remained at 100 percent capacity throughout the past week.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-04-26/vogle-reactor-back-full-capacity>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *April 27, Pierce County Herald* – (Minnesota) **Fire crews called to extinguish blaze on roof of 3M plant.** Area emergency crews were called to help extinguish a fire April 25 on the roof of a manufacturing building at 3M Cottage Grove Center in Minnesota. 3M officials notified their internal emergency squad of a fire around 3 p.m., the 3M site director said. The company then called in Cottage Grove fire crews to assist in extinguishing the fire. St. Paul Park fire officials also responded. It was not immediately known where the fire started, but it was observed in duct work on the roof. There was minimal damage, the site director said, but a concern about the fire spreading prompted the call for help. Film and automotive products are manufactured in the building. The fire was associated with the automotive part of the building, but there was “very minimal damage” and no chemicals within the building caught fire, the site director said. The building was evacuated immediately. There were no reported injuries. 3M will conduct an internal investigation into the cause of the fire, according to the site director.

Source: <http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/35318/>

10. *April 26, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Toro recalls Power Clear Snowblowers and Recycler Mowers due to fire or burn hazard.** The Toro Company, of Bloomington, Minnesota, issued a recall April 26 for 18,000 Toro Power Clear Snowblowers and 6,000 Toro 20” Recycler Mowers. The carburetors on both products develop fuel leaks and can ignite when exposed to an ignition source, posing a fire or burn hazard. There have been about 500 reports of carburetor leaks. There were no reports of fire or injury. The snowblowers and mowers were sold at Toro dealers in the United States from September 2009 to March 2011.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11207.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

11. *April 27, Bloomberg* – (National) **Alliant Techsystems missile glitches corrected, U.S. Navy says.** According to the U.S. Navy, Alliant Techsystems Inc. has corrected software and manufacturing glitches that halted combat testing and delayed a potential \$1.1 billion Pentagon production decision on a new anti-radar missile, Bloomberg reported April 27. “The anomalies experienced in the first operational test period have been corrected and verified,” a Navy program manager said. “The weapon is performing very well and the team has been able to meet the affordability goals. We are confident we will successfully complete” combat testing, which may resume in June if

a Pentagon review confirms the corrections in flight tests, he said. The missile will miss its scheduled May date to be declared initially ready for combat, however. The test results will determine whether the Pentagon will order full production of the missile. The weapon is designed to seek enemy air-defense radar and weapons.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-27/alliant-techsystems-missile-glitches-corrected-u-s-navy-says.html>

12. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **Navy suspends contracting at RI facility.** The U.S. Navy said a submarine research laboratory in Rhode Island temporarily will not be able to issue contracts after an employee and a Navy contractor were charged in a multimillion-dollar kickback and bribery scheme. The Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) said April 26 it had suspended the contracting authority of Newport's Naval Undersea Warfare Center. Prosecutors said a Navy contractor paid \$8 million in bribes to a civilian employee at the Newport facility. Authorities said the civilian employee then increased funding to the Navy contractor's now-defunct company, Advanced Solutions for Tomorrow. The firm was based in Roswell, Georgia, with offices in Rhode Island. An internal NAVSEA investigation revealed several contracting problems it said enabled the scheme. NAVSEA headquarters will take over contract duties until the Newport facility addresses the problems.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode\\_island/articles/2011/04/26/navy\\_suspends\\_contracting\\_at\\_ri\\_facility/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2011/04/26/navy_suspends_contracting_at_ri_facility/)

13. *April 26, United Press International* – (International) **Army upgrading Patriot missiles.** The U.S. Army is upgrading 131 Patriot Advanced Capability 2 missiles under a \$58 million contract given to Raytheon of Massachusetts, United Press International reported April 26. Under the follow-on award from the Army Aviation and Missile Command in Alabama, Raytheon will upgrade the missiles to the Guidance Enhanced Missile-Tactical configuration. The Patriot GEM-T missile upgrades include the replacement of select components that increase reliability and extend the service life of the missile.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Security-Industry/2011/04/26/Army-upgrading-Patriot-missiles/UPI-86421303849216/](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/04/26/Army-upgrading-Patriot-missiles/UPI-86421303849216/)

14. *April 26, Raleigh News and Observer* – (International) **Marine pleads guilty to taking gifts.** A major in the U.S. Marine Corps will spend a year in prison after pleading guilty in federal court to receiving illegal payments and gifts from companies doing business with the Marines in Iraq. The man also faces a year of supervised release once his prison term is over. He was sentenced in federal court April 25. In 2005, the man was deployed to Camp Fallujah in Iraq, where he acted as a liaison between contractors and the Marines, according to the U.S. attorney's office. That year, he sought and received three Rolex watches and \$35,000 from a company that provided gym equipment, and received another Rolex watch from another company interested in contracts involving vehicles, according to the U.S. attorney's office. He shipped the money in a trunk to his home in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and carried the watches with him.



Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/04/26/1154184/marine-pleads-guilty-to-taking.html>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

15. *April 27, BankInfoSecurity.com* – (International) **New wave of wire fraud strikes banks.** Between March 2010 and April 2011, 20 incidents of wire fraud hit small and mid-sized U.S. businesses after online banking credentials were compromised. All of the transfers — typically ranging between \$50,000 to \$985,000 — were routed to Chinese economic and trade companies located near the Russian border. This news comes from an advisory issued by the FBI, the Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and the Internet Crime Complaint Center about the unauthorized wire transfers being routed to China. Most of the small-business victims hold accounts with community banks and credit unions, some of which use third-party service providers for online banking services. So far, the 20 incidents tracked by the FBI total \$20 million in fraudulent transfer attempts. Actual losses associated with fraudulent transactions, however, total \$11 million. Phishing appears to be the point of entry for most of the attacks.  
Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=3583](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3583)
  
16. *April 27, H Security* – (International) **Zeus trojan adds fake investment adverts.** The Zeus trojan toolkit has added a new armament to its weapons of mass deception — advertising. Trusteer has reportedly found a new configuration of the fraudsters digital toolkit which injects banner advertisements offering high rates of interest, from 7 to 32 percent per day, into Google and Bing pages. Those adverts linked to a site at [http://ursinvestment\(dot\)com/](http://ursinvestment(dot)com/) which allowed people to “open” investment accounts and wire transfer money to the fake company. The URS Investment pages are no longer online, but the IP address of the site, as reported by Trusteer, is host to pages of a similarly dubious nature which are fake versions of a legitimate company’s Web presence. For example, a “Trustwave” logo on the page, when clicked for verifications, appears to show the site is trusted but on closer examination, is showing the verification status for the U.S. online retailer NewEgg. The trojan configuration also targeted sites such as Forbes and Yahoo Finance, injecting fake articles into pages suggesting the sites were partnered with “URS Investments” and were recommended by Forbes and Yahoo, and offer links to sign up with the site. Other sites which are targeted by the trojan’s configuration include AOL, Amazon, Apple, CNN, Citibank, and ESPN.  
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Zeus-trojan-adds-fake-investment-adverts-1233415.html>
  
17. *April 26, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Whitehouse Station woman pleads guilty to \$13.6 million Ponzi scheme.** The owner of a Branchburg, New Jersey-based investment firm pleaded guilty April 25 to defrauding investors of more than \$13.6 million in a Ponzi scheme, and using \$7 million to settle gambling debts and pay for travel and personal expenses, a U.S. attorney announced. The 59-year-old woman of

Whitehouse Station solicited investments for her firm, Systematic Financial Associates, Inc., by telling people a number of stories, the most popular being she would use their money to fund loans to doctors for their quarterly pension plans, the attorney said. Some investors thought they were buying Medicare “bonds” and their money would be backed by the federal program. Others believed their money was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or personally guaranteed by the woman. On occasion, she directed her clients to transfer money from other investments into her scheme. To persuade investors to believe her story, she made up doctors that needed help or forged names of real doctors on promissory notes, sometimes giving investors schedules reflecting when they could expect a return on their money, usually 6 to 11 percent. After maintaining the fraud for more than a decade, she collected about \$13.6 million from about 127 investors. She faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$5 million fine for the securities fraud count, and 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for transacting with money fraudulently obtained. Sentencing is scheduled for August 3.

Source:

[http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2011/04/fraud\\_ponzi\\_scheme\\_investment.html](http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2011/04/fraud_ponzi_scheme_investment.html)

18. *April 26, Detroit News* – (Michigan) **Farmington investment adviser pleads guilty in \$7 million fraud.** A Farmington Hills, Michigan investment adviser accused of spending an estimated \$7 million in investor funds on strippers, gambling, and personal expenses pleaded guilty April 26 to bank fraud charges in federal court. The 56-year-old man told clients to liquidate their securities investments and invest the money through him, according to court records. The case involves up to 20 victims, many elderly, according to court records. The man, however, deposited the money into his own accounts and made some “interest” payments to other investors to perpetuate the scheme, court records show. He faces up to 30 years in prison. He is currently serving a 1-year sentence in the Macomb County Jail for stealing more than \$100,000 from an elderly Macomb County client.

Source:

[http://www.detnews.com/article/20110426/METRO/104260425/1361/Farmington-investment-adviser-pleads-guilty-in-\\$7-million-fraud](http://www.detnews.com/article/20110426/METRO/104260425/1361/Farmington-investment-adviser-pleads-guilty-in-$7-million-fraud)

19. *April 21, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (New Jersey; New York) **Staten Island businessman arrested on fraud charges for operating multi-million-dollar Ponzi scheme.** A man from Staten Island, New York, was arrested April 21 on charges arising out of his alleged operation of a \$12 million Ponzi scheme from 2007 to 2010. The founder and president of the Great Atlantic Group, Inc., a Staten Island-based real estate and financial consulting company, was charged with securities fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering in a federal indictment unsealed April 21 in federal court in Brooklyn. As alleged in the indictment, the man solicited investments in Third Millennium Enterprises, Inc. and 150 West State Street Corp., both associated with Great Atlantic that supposedly invested in real estate projects and provided private mortgages. He told prospective investors he would invest their money in real estate projects, including projects in Trenton, New Jersey, a warehouse in Utica, New York, and a golf course development project. From 2007 through 2010, investors contributed about \$12 million to Third Millennium and 150 West State Street. As of December



2010, the combined closing balance of the bank accounts associated with the two companies was less than \$15,000. Some investors were encouraged to obtain mortgages on their homes and to invest the proceeds with Third Millennium or 150 West State Street, and other investors, typically senior citizens, were encouraged to apply for reverse mortgages on their residences and to invest the proceed. The indictment charges that, by as early as January 2007, the suspect had virtually stopped investing in real estate projects, and instead operated Third Millennium and 150 West State Street as a Ponzi scheme.

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/newyork/press-releases/2011/staten-island-businessman-arrested-on-fraud-charges-for-operating-multi-million-dollar-ponzi-scheme>

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## **Transportation Sector**

20. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma Department of Transportation says 4 highways still closed because of flooding.** Oklahoma transportation officials said four highways remained closed or partially closed April 26 because of flooding from heavy rain in the eastern part of the state. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) said in Cherokee County, Oklahoma Highway 80 between Hulbert and State Highway 251A, and Oklahoma 10 in several locations along U.S. 62 were shut down. In Okmulgee County, Oklahoma Highway 16 west of Beggs was closed. And in Sequoyah County, Oklahoma Highway 101 west of Short was open but restricted to one lane. ODOT officials urged drivers to remain alert to changing conditions and to not drive into water on roadways.

Source:

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/2cc91a24782b49ce860bf88624dd598d/OK--Flooding-Roads-Closed/>

21. *April 26, Tampa Bay Online* – (Florida) **Delta flight trying to land lost contact with Tampa control tower.** A Delta airliner trying to land at Tampa International Airport in Tampa, Florida April 23 was unable to talk with the control tower for nearly 90 seconds and had to make a second approach before landing safely. The communication problem prompted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to change the radio handsets for Tampa airport controllers after finding no problems with radio frequencies used at the tower, an FAA spokeswoman said. The pilot was always able to speak with radar controllers in another part of the tower who contacted the tower controller, the person in charge of aircraft activity on runways and planes within about 5 miles of the airport. The controllers in the radar center told the pilot to circle the airport and make a second attempt to land, called a missed approach, she said. The Tampa airport handles about 600 landings and takeoffs on a typical Saturday with 487 of those commercial flights and 40 charter flights. The rest are private aircraft.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/news/breaking-news/2011/apr/26/1/delta-flight-trying-to-land-lost-contact-with-tamp-ar-202704/>

22. *April 26, Bloomberg* – (National) **Storms snarl U.S. air traffic, send plane sliding off runway.** Thunderstorms, wind, and low clouds tied up air traffic at seven airports in the U.S. Northeast and Midwest, and sent a Southwest Airlines Co. plane sliding off a runway in Chicago, Illinois. No one was injured when Flight 1919, a Boeing Co. 737-700, ran off the tarmac in heavy rain at Midway Airport at about 1:30 p.m. April 26. A Southwest spokeswoman said in an e-mail the plane carried a crew of 5 and 139 passengers, including 5 children young enough to be sitting on their parents' laps. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said it was investigating. In a statement, the NTSB said it would interview the flight crew and review data from on-board voice and data recorders and air traffic controllers' communications. At least 383 flights were canceled April 26, according to FlightAware tracking data.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-26/storms-snarl-air-traffic-in-northeast-midwest-faa-reports.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. *April 26, KXL 101FM Portland* – (Oregon) **Powder in envelope found not hazardous.** Oregon State Police (OSP) investigated an incident April 26 at the State Capitol Mall Department of Revenue mail room in which an employee opened an envelope and discovered a suspicious white powder. Following a brief partial evacuation and analysis by Salem Fire and Hazardous Materials personnel, the powder was determined to be a baking product and not hazardous. The incident occurred at about 9:32 a.m. when a mail room employee opened the envelope. The mail room and basement floor were evacuated. Evacuated employees were allowed to return at 10:40 a.m., after the substance tested non-hazardous. There was no threat associated with the letter or incident and the investigation is closed.

Source: <http://www.kxl.com/Powder-In-Envelope-Found-Not-Hazardous/9707740>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

24. *April 27, Global Security Newswire* – (National) **Food-based bioterrorism a growing threat to U.S., experts say.** The United States imports much of its food from other nations, giving terrorists multiple avenues for attempting to lace goods with harmful substances for potential consumption by U.S. residents, the Kansas City Star reported April 27. Experts at a conference on agroterrorism said it is growing more difficult to safeguard consumers here from food that has been accidentally or deliberately contaminated. While new U.S. regulations and enhanced monitoring by domestic food suppliers of their products have addressed the potential for such an attack, threats remain from food sources imported into the country. Approximately one half of the U.S. food supply comes from another nation. "There are more firms registered with the

Food and Drug Administration to supply food to the U.S. from outside the country than there are inside the country,” the deputy director of National Center for Food Protection and Defense said.

Source: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20110427\\_6562.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110427_6562.php)

25. *April 26, Associated Press* – (California) **TB detected in Calif. cow headed to slaughter.** California and federal officials said April 26 they detected bovine tuberculosis in a dairy cow from a San Bernardino County herd during a routine examination at a slaughterhouse. A suspicious mass on the cow tested positive for the disease March 25, and three other animals in the same herd were later identified as also being infected, a California Department of Food and Agriculture spokesman said. The discovery does not pose a risk to humans because almost all milk sold in California is pasteurized, which kills tuberculosis, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokesman said. Cows at the state’s two raw-milk dairies are regularly tested for the disease, according to a joint statement by the state and USDA. Other animals in the herd found to be infected were slaughtered and all the animals they came into contact with are also tested, the USDA spokesman said. All cattle designated for consumption are inspected for signs of tuberculosis at the slaughterhouse and are rejected if they show signs of it. The last known case of bovine tuberculosis in California was in 2009. Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/TB-detected-in-Calif-cow-headed-to-slaughter-1353311.php>

26. *April 26, KXII 12 Sherman* – (Oklahoma) **Drought conditions affecting Okla. ranchers, farmers.** Many parts of Southern Oklahoma are facing severe drought conditions. Oklahoma typically receives most of its rainfall for the year in April and May, but so far counties west of Interstate 35 in southern Oklahoma are struggling. Experts said what has already been a tough season for farmers and ranchers could get even worse if the rainfall totals do not improve. According to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, 2011 is the fourth driest year on record so far. A senior agricultural consultant for the Noble Foundation said the severe to moderate drought conditions would affect the amount of hay, grass, and water resources available to livestock. Source: [http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/Drought\\_conditions\\_affecting\\_Okla\\_ranchers\\_farmers\\_120741309.html](http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/Drought_conditions_affecting_Okla_ranchers_farmers_120741309.html)

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## Water Sector

27. *April 26, KTVU 2 Oakland* – (California) **Toxic chemical discovered at Devil’s Slide Tunnel site.** Earlier this month, the nearly \$1 billion Devil’s Slide twin tunnel project in California was temporarily shut down after a routine water test found traces of the toxic element hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium-6. Caltrans did not take

any chances that it might have a toxic tunnel. The tunnel construction is continuing after quick action and a quick fix helped keep the project on schedule. Inspectors found the water that constantly drained from the Devil Slide tunnel project contained high levels of chromium-6. “This could be a carcinogen and a contaminant, when it’s in our drinking water,” said a chemist with Environmental Working Group. It can be from natural sources like the geology in the area and it can also be from a lot of industrial sources, she noted. “We determined, through several tests, that it actually came from the concrete,” a Caltrans spokesman said. The discovery led Caltrans to temporarily shut the project down. Caltrans said the tunnel project has a self-contained water drainage system designed to keep all runoff from any drinking water source. Nonetheless, it installed a special chemical filter. “And what that does is it changes chromium-6, which is dangerous, to chromium-3, which is benign,” he said. Caltrans said once the concrete dries and hardens, there will not be a chromium problem at all when the tunnel opens late next year.

Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/27667532/detail.html>

28. *April 26, Trenton Trentonian* – (New Jersey) **Hazmat scare shakes up Trenton Water Filtration Plant.** The Trenton, New Jersey Fire Department’s Hazmat Task Force determined a feared spill of hazardous materials inside the Trenton Water Filtration Plant was actually that of potassium permanganate, used to disinfect and deodorize Delaware River water that becomes drinking water. The incident occurred at 1 p.m. “The DPW located a piece of pipe in the potassium permanganate system,” said the city’s acting director of public works in a press release. “The situation was isolated and contained in the containment system. It did not flow to any other area of the plant or interfere with any operation of the plant.” A Trenton fire captain said the hazmat team identified potassium permanganate as the chemical, then turned the problem over to a cleanup company and the plant superintendent.

Source:

<http://www.trentonian.com/articles/2011/04/26/news/doc4db7a2bb3e530548643148.txt>

For another story, see item [50](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. *April 26, Homeland Security Today* – (International) **Landmark agreement improves global preparedness for flu pandemics.** An open-ended working-group of member states of the World Health Assembly coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO) “successfully agreed upon a framework to ensure that in a pandemic, influenza virus samples will be shared with partners who need the information to take steps to protect public health,” the group declared following a meeting the week of April 18. “The new framework includes certain binding legal regimes for WHO, national influenza laboratories around the world and industry partners in both developed and developing countries that will strengthen how the world responds more effectively with the next flu pandemic,” said a WHO statement. The group said that “during an

influenza outbreak, knowing the exact makeup of the virus is critical for monitoring the spread of the disease, for knowing the potential of the virus to cause a pandemic and for creating the life-saving vaccines as well as other technological benefits.” However, the WHO noted that developing countries often have limited access to vaccines for several reasons, specifically: They often do not have their own manufacturing capacity; global supplies can be limited when there is a surge in demand as is seen during pandemics; and vaccines can often be priced out of the reach of some countries. Under the new framework, international cooperation in the event of another global pandemic “will help ensure more equitable access to affordable vaccines and at the same time, also guarantee the flow of virus samples into the WHO system so that the critical information and analyses needed to assess public health risks and develop vaccines are available,” the group’s statement said.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/landmark-agreement-improves-global-preparedness-for-flu-pandemics/f5000c2e4a57474ad32fa6712c1c2a9b.html>

30. *April 25, GovInfoSecurity.com* – (National) **10.8 million affected by major breaches.** The federal list of major healthcare information breaches that have occurred since September 2009 now includes 265 cases affecting a total of more than 10.8 million individuals. In the past month, 16 incidents that occurred in 2010 or 2011 were added to the tally, which the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regularly updates. These include the largest breach on the list so far — the Health Net incident, which affected 1.9 million — and a breach at Eisenhower Medical Center, which affected more than 500,000. Although only 11 incidents that occurred this year have made it to the federal list so far, those cases affected a combined total of 2.5 million. At least four state agencies are investigating the Health Net incident in January, which involved hard drives missing from a data center managed by IBM. These cases have placed a spotlight on the need to take adequate precautions to keep data centers physically secure and to protect backup tapes with encryption. In an interview, a security expert of SecureState said any device or media that stores sensitive patient data, including backup tapes, should be encrypted. To help call attention to the value of encryption and other protections, the Privacy and Security Tiger Team has recommended that participants in Stage 2 of the HITECH Act electronic health record incentive program be required to verify how they protect stored patient information.

Source: [http://www.govinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=3576&opg=1](http://www.govinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3576&opg=1)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *April 27, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Baton Rouge judge quits murder case after he receiving death threat from accused killer.** The judge in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who presided over a first-degree murder case for the past 4 years disqualified himself after revealing he received a death threat from the accused killer. The state district judge, who has twice found the suspect competent to stand trial, ordered the case sent

to the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court's Office for random allotment to another judge April 26. The Baton Rouge Advocate reported the suspect's attorneys had filed a motion in March asking the judge to recuse himself due to circumstances — the death threat — beyond his control. The suspect is charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the April 2007 slayings of an 80-year-old woman, her 46-year-old daughter, and a 73-year-old married couple.

Source:

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/a9b973d77b074497bfb391e35c1015db/LA--Double-Slayings/>

32. *April 27, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **2 students arrested after pop-bottle bomb found on Kansas State campus.** Two Kansas State University students were charged after a pop bottle bomb was found April 23 on the Manhattan campus. University police said the two 18-year-old suspects from Overland Park were charged April 25 with criminal use of explosives. The suspects were arrested in their dorm room and released from the Riley County jail on \$2,000 bond each. The Manhattan Mercury reported police said the explosive was made from mixing several chemicals and sealing them in a bottle, which eventually explodes.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/bc1cbde419e048eeb4e72dfcbb82dc52/KS--KSU--Pop-Bottle-Bomb/>

33. *April 27, Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* – (Florida) **Suspicious device prompts evacuation of Broward College's North Campus library.** Sheriff's deputies in Broward County, Florida, evacuated the library April 26 at Broward College's North Campus in Coconut Creek while they investigated a suspicious device reported inside the building, officials said. The Broward Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad found the device did not contain any explosives, but it did closely resemble a pipe bomb, a Broward Sheriff's Office spokesman said. An employee working in the library alerted a deputy who was at the library working a detail, and the deputy alerted other authorities to the suspicious device. About 300 people were later evacuated from the library at the campus shortly before 8 p.m. A bomb squad robot removed the item from the library and safely destroyed it in a paved area outside of the building at about 9:30 p.m., the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/crime/suspicious-device-prompts-evacuation-of-broward-colleges-north-1436409.html>

34. *April 26, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **National Guard base sustains \$10 million in damage.** The Missouri Air National Guard determined a tornado April 22 in St. Louis caused more than \$10 million in damage, leaving several buildings at the facility in need of serious repair and the base covered in debris. The Missouri Air National Guard base is home to the 131st Mission Support Group and several tenant units — about 350 military personnel. The first round of tornado sirens began at 7:30 p.m. and the storm rolled in around 8 p.m., the Missouri Air National Guard said April 26. While the north side of the base went largely untouched, 16 buildings on the south side were hard hit and sustained damage. Airport luggage carts from nearby Lambert Airport were blown



onto the base. An antenna array sitting atop one of the base buildings was bent in half. The base suffered from the same level of damage as the neighborhoods that surround it — downed power lines, collapsed walls, and cars that were tossed around like toys. Nearly 150 civilian and military personnel are involved in cleanup and recovery efforts at the base. A commanding officer said she expects the base to be between 75 and 100 percent operational by no later than May 1. Full repairs are expected to take a year at the 46-acre facility.

Source: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/256437/3/National-Guard-base-sustains-10-million-in-damage>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

35. *April 27, Homeland Security Today* – (International) **Arizona gov. presses for extension of National Guard’s border security mission.** Arizona’s governor wrote to the U.S. President to appeal for an extension of the border security mission of the National Guard along the southwest border, her office revealed April 26. Striking a conciliatory tone with the President, the Republican governor said she feared the loss of any progress in border security made along the international borders of four U.S. states should the 1,200 guardsmen stand down, as they are scheduled to do in June. The National Guard has assisted in about 19,000 observations, 10,000 apprehensions, and helped with 235 drug seizures of roughly 18 tons of marijuana since their operation began, the Arizona governor reported. While she encouraged extension of the border security mission, she further requested that the President’s administration not take money from other border security efforts to fund it.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/arizona-gov-presses-for-extension-of-national-guard-s-border-security-mission/03c5c08c1e67404a938e29c6b1ab66f8.html>

36. *April 27, Sioux Falls Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **County to upgrade emergency pagers.** More than 600 firefighters and ambulance personnel in Minnehaha County, South Dakota will get new digital pagers soon, thanks in part to changing federal regulations and a government grant. The Minnehaha County Commission April 26 approved using \$37,000 from a special county fund — referred to as the Fire Fund — to help pay the nearly \$165,000 cost of the new pagers. The rest of the money will come from the members of the Minnehaha County Fire Chief’s Association, \$37,500, and a Homeland Security grant, \$90,000. The pagers will put the county in compliance with a Federal Communications Commission mandate for all emergency communications to go to what is called “narrow band” operations by January 1, 2013.

Source:

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20110427/NEWS/104270310/1001/County-upgrade-emergency-pagers>

37. *April 26, Delmarva Now* – (Delaware) **Delaware launches nation’s first statewide E-911 database.** The state has launched a database designed to help emergency

responders and citizens with special needs prepare for an emergency before it happens. The Emergency Preparedness Voluntary Registry is a secure Web-based application tied into the state's 911 system. It makes important information — such as special medical needs or conditions and emergency contacts — immediately available to first responders. On April 19, Delaware's governor and secretary of Delaware's Safety and Homeland Security, launched the registry. It is the nation's first statewide database and has been in the works for more than 2 years. It cost about \$35,000 and was funded by the state's E-911 board, and a federal grant. Along with sharing specific medical conditions, such as Alzheimer's, epilepsy or autism, the registry allows first responders to know if a resident has mobility issues and the exact location of those who are confined to hospital beds, the state 911 administrator said.

Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110426/DW01/104260360/Delaware-launches-nation-s-first-statewide-E-911-database?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Delaware|Wave|s>

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

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## **Information Technology Sector**

38. *April 27, Softpedia* – (International) **SpyEye adds support for Chrome and Opera.** According to reports from the cyber criminal underground, the latest version of the SpyEye trojan comes with form grabbing support for Google Chrome and Opera, two browsers largely untouched by malware so far. A security researcher has published a screenshot taken from the trojan's latest "builder" version and it has checkboxes for the anti-Rapport and Firefox webinjects plugins, as well as for Opera and Chrome form grabbers. These two new components are aimed at stealing information typed into Web forms. While this is not as advanced as injecting code into displayed Web pages, it represents a serious attack against users who believe that using alternative browsers keeps them safe. It is not yet entirely clear how these new form grabbers work, whether the malware hooks into the browsers' DLLs or is using extensions. The hooking approach appears more likely because the APIs available to Chrome and Opera extensions are limited. In addition, only version 11 of Opera supports extensions. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/SpyEye-Adds-Support-for-Chrome-and-Opera-197026.shtml>
39. *April 27, The Register* – (International) **Free and subdomain hosting lets phishing sites live longer.** A growing numbers of phishers are using free domains and subdomain to register net fraud sites, a move that seem to have allowed phishing sites to stay online longer. Official figures from the Anti-Phishing Working Group records that around 11 percent of all phishing attacks took advantage of either the free .TK domain registration service or the CO.CC subdomain service during the second half of 2010. The Group found that 11,768 phishing Web sites were hosted on subdomain services, up 42 percent from the first half of 2010. The increased use of the sub-domain tactic seems to be designed to make it harder to get offending sub-domains taken down.

As a result of this, in part, the time offended domains get to live has increased to a 3-year high.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/04/27/phishing\\_trends\\_apwg/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/04/27/phishing_trends_apwg/)

40. *April 26, Bay City News Service* – (California) **Explosion at Agilent plant in Santa Rosa injures 3.** An explosion at the Agilent Technologies facility in Santa Rosa, California, April 27 left 3 people injured and prompted the evacuation of about 100 employees, a company spokesman said. The explosion happened at about 10:30 a.m. in Building One at 1400 Fountaingrove Parkway. It occurred in a ground-floor laboratory, in an area where integrated circuits are made using molecular beam epitaxy, the Agilent spokesman said. The explosion injured two employees. One was a man who was cleaning a machine when there was a chemical flash, the spokesman said. He said cleaning the machine generally involves wearing a protective body suit, but he did not know whether the man was wearing one when the incident occurred. The other employee, a female contract employee from Volt, was injured when something fell and hit her on the head outside of the laboratory, the spokesman said. A Santa Rosa firefighter who was one of the first to respond to the incident was also injured. About six engines from the Santa Rosa Fire Department responded. Rincon Valley Fire Department offered mutual aid, with four fire engines, one truck and two chief officers. Agilent's own chemical emergency response team also responded. No flames were found, but there was some damage to the lab, the spokesman said. The cause of the explosion is under investigation. There were about eight chemicals involved, according to a fire inspector. She did not know what those chemicals were.

Source: <http://www.baycitizen.org/blogs/pulse-of-the-bay/explosion-agilent-plant-santa-rosa-3/>

41. *April 26, Wired* – (International) **PlayStation Network hack leaves credit card info at risk.** Sony thinks an “unauthorized person” now has access to all PlayStation Network account data and passwords, and may have obtained the credit card numbers of the service's 70 million users, Wired reported April 26. The PlayStation maker said it believes hackers have access to customers' vital data, including names, birthdates, physical and e-mail addresses, and PlayStation Network/Qriocity passwords, logins, handles and online IDs. Credit card information, purchase histories and other profile data stored on the PlayStation Network servers also could be compromised, the Japanese company said in a blog post April 26. “While there is no evidence at this time that credit card data was taken, we cannot rule out the possibility,” reads the post, which Sony said it will e-mail to all PlayStation Network account holders, as well as users of its Qriocity streaming-media service. “If you have provided your credit card data through PlayStation Network or Qriocity, out of an abundance of caution we are advising you that your credit card number (excluding security code) and expiration date may have been obtained.” The PlayStation Network, which provides online gameplay and digital game shopping for owners of PlayStation 3 and PSP devices, has been down since April 20, following what Sony called an “illegal intrusion” on its servers. The company said it expects to restore “some services” within a week.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/gamelifelife/2011/04/playstation-network-hacked/>

## 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

42. *April 26, Progressive Railroading* – (National) **NTSB restores online safety recommendations database.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recently restored Web access to its safety recommendations database, which had been offline for about 5 months. The database has been audited and verified, and features a few non-visible changes designed to improve information accuracy, according to the NTSB. To date, the database includes 13,450 total safety recommendations, 2,156 railroad and transit recommendations, and 239 open-status recommendations from railroads, transit agencies, governments and associations, according to the NTSB. Source: <http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article/NTSB-restores-online-safety-recommendations-database--26428>

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### Commercial Facilities Sector

43. *April 27, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Possible tornado damages Hardin County Fairgrounds.** Around 8:45 p.m. April 26, Glendale, Kentucky firefighters got a call of a possible funnel cloud at the Hardin County Fairgrounds. When firefighters arrived, they found at least three destroyed buildings, including the large livestock and show barn. Also seriously damaged was the oldest building at the fairgrounds — the family restaurant where many meals have been served for decades. The Glendale fire chief told WAVE they will try to figure out how bad the damage is April 27. The storm puts the Hardin County Fair Board in a tough position — they will have only weeks to rebuild before the fair opens July 11. Source: <http://www.wave3.com/story/14520998/possible-tornado-damages-hardin-county-fairgrounds>
44. *April 26, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Hyannis homes evacuated after live rockets found.** About a dozen people had to leave their South Street homes in Hyannis, Massachusetts, April 25 after an oil delivery man discovered three unexploded World War II rockets under a holly tree. No one was injured when the unexploded ordnance, likely loaded with TNT, was removed from the area next to a house currently home to four veterans. Three of them were home at the time, said one of the home's residents. Barnstable police and fire responded to 438 South Street around 11:40 a.m. They later called in the state police department's fire and explosion investigation section and a

naval ordnance disposal unit from Newport, Rhode Island. “They’re really old and corroded, and they can be unstable,” the Hyannis Fire chief said of the rockets, which are similar to those that often wash ashore on the islands. The unexploded rockets had likely been nestled in the undergrowth for years. It is not uncommon for old munitions to end up in a yard, officials said. State police dispose of about 15 military explosives a year a state trooper said. It remains unclear how these particular rockets landed on South Street. They had been placed, not buried, in the dirt and gradually sank lower and became covered with debris. A landscaper cleared out the area not long ago, and recent windy and rainy weather uncovered even more.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110426/NEWS/104260315/-1/NEWSMAP>

45. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Lightning injures 9 at Kalamazoo park.** A fire official said lightning struck a park in Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 26, where children and adults were practicing soccer. The lightning strike seriously injured one young adult and sent at least eight others to hospitals. The lightning struck about 6:45 p.m. as storms crossed Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. Emergency crews took the injured people to Bronson and Borgess hospitals. The Portage Fire battalion chief said several soccer groups were practicing at Westfield Park when the storm hit. He said lightning injured at least nine people, age 10 and up. He said the most seriously injured person was in stable condition. He said crews took seven people to Kalamazoo hospitals, and two others sought treatment on their own. The National Weather Service said the storms brought 1.25-inch hail and 50 mile-per-hour gusts.

Source: <http://www.foxtoledo.com/dpp/news/michigan/Lightning-injures-7-at-Kalamazoo-park>

46. *April 26, New York Post* – (New York) **B’klyn man charged in Sunset Park fire that injured 40 says it was an ‘accident’.** A Brooklyn, New York man charged with setting a Sunset Park apartment building on fire March 13 and injuring 40 people said it was all an “accident.” The 56-year-old unemployed construction worker from Bensonhurst pleaded not guilty April 26 to 108 counts of arson, assault, and burglary. He was charged with starting the blaze at the 4-story apartment building at 510 61st Street after authorities reviewed video-surveillance tapes. The man had his original \$100,000 bail revoked during his appearance April 26 before a Brooklyn Supreme Court judge and was taken back into custody. He is due back June 27. Authorities said 40 people — including 12 firefighters — were injured during the fire. The suspected arsonist through a translator told cops he lit a match for a cigarette while in the building’s vestibule and then threw the lit match into a trash basket before leaving the building smoking the cigarette. However, the video surveillance shows the man entered the building and soon headed to the area where the fire originated, prosecutors said. Once the fire ignited, he is soon seen leaving the building — but without a cigarette. A city fire marshal said in a court filing, that the man “admitted” setting the fire and “when asked whether he intended to make a small fire as opposed to a larger one,” the fire marshal said he observed the suspect “nod.” The suspect’s lawyer said it appears the suspect did not know anyone in the building and could not explain why he was

there.

Source:

[http://www.nypost.com/p/blogs/brooklyn/brooklyn\\_accident\\_charged\\_was\\_sunset\\_0A8izP9YNZqdIR597e5DLO](http://www.nypost.com/p/blogs/brooklyn/brooklyn_accident_charged_was_sunset_0A8izP9YNZqdIR597e5DLO)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

47. *April 27, KXAN 36 Austin* – (Texas) **Kimble Co. fire forces evacuations.** A large brush fire in Kimble County, Texas, continued to grow April 26, causing Kimble County Sheriff's Office (CSO) to ask some residents to evacuate. The Texas Forest Service said the fire started the afternoon of April 26 and as of 9 p.m. that evening, burned 2,000 acres near the South Llano River State Park. Kimble CSO implemented a mandatory evacuation around 8:30 p.m. that night, from KC 130 all the way to the state park. U.S. Route 377 was closed near the state park.

Source: <http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/texas/kimble-co.-fire-forces-evacuations>

48. *April 26, KREM.com and National Weather Service* – (Washington) **40 fallen trees block highway access to Mt. Spokane.** Highway 206 in North Spokane County, Washington, re-opened April 26 near Mount Spokane State Park after more than 40 trees fell along the roadway. Those trees blocked the highway for people heading up to Bear Creek Lodge. Road crews called it the worst tree falls in the Mount Spokane area since 1959, according to the National Weather Service. Possible causes include heavy snow and strong winds in the area overnight.

Source:

<http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fId=120742244&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10222>

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## **Dams Sector**

49. *April 27, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Corps: Wait for weekend to decide on levee break.** An Army Corps of Engineers spokesman said April 27 the agency will wait until the weekend of April 20 and May 1 to decide whether it is necessary to punch a massive hole in a levee to protect an upstream Illinois town from the rising Mississippi River. The Corps has said it may have to blow holes, perhaps using explosives, in the Birds Point levee to ease rising waters near the Illinois town of Cairo, which has a population of about 2,800 and sits near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Missouri has filed a federal lawsuit to block the effort because it would swamp farmland. A hearing was scheduled for April 28. A Corps spokesman told the Associated Press that even if a judge gives the go-ahead, the agency will wait until it gets a better forecast of the river crests to see if the breach is necessary. That decision is not likely to come until at least this weekend. Missouri government leaders argue the levee's destruction would flood up to 130,000 acres of land. The Missouri attorney general said floodwaters would leave a layer of silt on farmland that could take a



generation to clear and also could damage 100 homes. Cairo's mayor endorses the plan for the intentional levee breach, saying it puts people's lives ahead of farmland. Much of the decision to breach the levee with explosives, he said, hinges on whether the levee is apparently going to break on its own. Equipment was being sent to the levee on barges accompanied by a towboat, but Corps officials have refused to be specific about that equipment except to say there would be explosives. If a decision is made to breach the levee, a Corps spokesman said, the tiny town of Pinhook, with a population of about 50 people, will have to be evacuated.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hTGToFITIcyK\\_PmAw-icnljAiJlw?docId=1235d50b9aaa4383b31b6f49e960dbc3](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hTGToFITIcyK_PmAw-icnljAiJlw?docId=1235d50b9aaa4383b31b6f49e960dbc3)

50. *April 27, KMOV 4 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Officials monitoring Crystal City levee erosion.** The Army Corps of Engineers is closely monitoring a Jefferson County, Missouri, levee that is eroded. The levee in Crystal City, about 30 miles south of St. Louis, is not threatening homes, but could damage a local sewer plant. Before the city can permanently repair the levee, the ground will have to be dry. Crews have been working on a temporary repair to the levee, however, and have installed a plastic coating around the area held by sandbags.  
Source: <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Officials-monitoring-Crystal-City-levee-erosion-120757044.html>
51. *April 27, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Illinois) **Brookport residents asked to leave homes.** The Mayor of Brookport, Illinois, asked her citizens to leave their homes April 26 before the Ohio River moved in. "The entire town needs to be forewarned because if this levee breaches there's nothing to stop the Ohio River," she said. The problem is the weak spot in the 70-year-old levee at the end of 3rd Street. "If there was a trickle we'd have the time and there would be cars and buses to take you somewhere," the mayor noted. "If it blew that doesn't happen. You go to the second floor of your home, you go to the bridge, you get to the east side of town and get on the flood wall and hope for the best." Many residents were already packing up their belongings and getting out of town. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency are keeping a close eye on the Brookport Levee. And the American Red Cross has set up an evacuation shelter at the Waldo Baptist Church.  
Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/14520734/brookport-residents-asked-to-leave-homes>
52. *April 27, WAPT 16 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Army Corps of Engineers prepares for historic flooding.** As the Mississippi River continues to rise, so do concerns about its effect on the region. In Vicksburg, Mississippi, the river could reach its second highest level since 1927 next month. The recent high water has prompted a team of local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pitch in, sending 30 people to Missouri, where the flooding has already started. "All the way from New York to Montana, all that water, all the rain that falls there comes down to us," said a Corps spokesman. The team will temporarily divert water, where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers meet, into a floodway. If implemented, the project will send water rushing to more than 100,000 acres. The

spokesman said it would mean some farmers would lose their crops, but it is a risk familiar to people who plant inside a floodway. The Corps said the plan would ease pressure for a few days, but eventually the water would go back into the river. Engineers said the levees that broke in 1927 were made out of dirt, and if the river rises in Vicksburg next month to 53.5 feet, it will be up against wider levees that are fortified with clay. The Corps, however, said the levees only protect a downtown area a few miles long, and they will not be much help to people living north of the flood wall, such as the neighborhoods off Ford Road. The Corps said the nation has invested more than \$13 billion into the Mississippi River Tributaries project for such incidents.

Source: <http://www.wapt.com/r/27683313/detail.html>

53. *April 26, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Breached Mo. levee failed inspection.** The damaged agricultural levee protecting the southern Missouri town of Poplar Bluff failed a federal inspection after a 2008 flood. The chief of the emergency management office for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Little Rock, Arkansas, told the Associated Press April 26 that the levee protecting farmland and homes near Poplar Bluff from the rain-swollen Black River received an “unacceptable” rating in 2008. That is the lowest of three rankings the Corps gives. He said the private district that operates the levee was unable to make repairs. Because the problems were not addressed, the levee no longer qualifies for a Corps program that provides money for flood-related repairs. Water from the Black River is flowing over the top of the levee, which was breached in one spot April 25. The flood danger has displaced about 1,000 people and put homes in and around the small town in danger. The Corps official said the levee was breached in several spots and overtopped in 2008. He said an “unacceptable” rating can be caused by many factors, but the reasons for the rating were not immediately known April 26. He said the rating is common to smaller levees, and he called it a “systemic problem.” He said many levees are more than 50 years old, and districts that manage them do not have enough money to maintain them. A 2009 Corps report shows three other levees in the same county also failed inspection.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jNkeSNFefJAuA6Irpj3BSwM4Ymg?docId=87e8031ca67e4a9782a6d3d400700cc7>

54. *April 26, WLEX 18 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Henry County dam deemed safe; evacuated residents to return.** The Henry County Emergency Operations Center in Kentucky said April 26 the dam at Lake Jericho, which they believed may have been in danger of failing due to high waters, has been deemed safe, and nearby residents that had been evacuated as a precaution would be allowed to return to their homes. Officials said engineers worked during the day April 26 to assess structural integrity of the dam, and found it to be sound. Emergency management officials had asked residents living below the dam along the Little Kentucky River to evacuate to a shelter set up at the Henry County fairgrounds.

Source: <http://www.lex18.com/news/henry-county-dam-deemed-safe-evacuated-residents-to-return>

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