



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 May 2011

Top Stories

- According to msnbc.com, 1 person is dead, and 73 people in 35 states have been sickened in an outbreak of salmonella poisonings linked to clinical and teaching microbiology laboratories. (See item [35](#))
- United Press International reports Texas wildfires have scorched more than 2,390 square miles, and noted that as of April 28, officials were battling 15 major fires, burning more than 664,000 acres. (See item [59](#))

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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 29, Athens News-Courier* – (Alabama) **Power outages create fuel panic.** From Madison to Lauderdale counties in Alabama, there is a shortage in gasoline supply, the Athens News-Courier reported April 29. Because power was knocked out in Madison County and much of Limestone, open gas stations were in short supply. Some people were seen walking with gas cans in an effort to find fuel for stranded vehicles. At nearly every gas station from Athens to Florence, long lines and waits of up to 2 or 3

hours were reported. Some stations ran out of gas and were forced to turn customers away. A spokesman with the Limestone County Emergency Management Agency said Athens is low on fuel, but believes stations would receive more over the next 24 hours. He said fuel should be reserved for emergency workers who were carrying out search and rescue efforts and advised residents to stay off the roads. There was an unconfirmed report a Rogersville gas station had tried to raise the price of gas by \$1 while customers waited in line, a violation of the state's anti-gouging laws enacted during an emergency declaration. Police officers reportedly responded to the matter and issued a citation to the station's manager. A spokesman said residents should understand that first responders should have top priority in the gas lines. He said residents should also be prepared to face temporary fuel shortages because fuel hubs in Cullman and Tuscaloosa — two of the hardest hit cities in the states — may be slow to truck gas to other parts of the state.

Source: <http://enewscourier.com/local/x976269024/Power-outages-create-fuel-panic>

2. *April 28, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **State regulators insist PG&E test or replace 705 miles of pipe.** Overruling PG&E's plea, California state regulators April 27 said they want the utility to replace or perform water pressure tests on 705 miles of its oldest natural gas pipes, declaring they have "become increasingly uncomfortable" with the utility's claim it can set safe pressure levels for those pipes using "assumptions." If the recommendation from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff is approved, the hydro-tests could disrupt gas service for untold numbers of customers, cost the company upward of \$350 million, and take 5 years to complete. CPUC had ordered PG&E to calculate safe pressure levels for its gas lines based on the pipes' construction, inspection, and other records. In response, PG&E argued the week of April 18 it "does not believe it will find specific records of every component" and asked to base the pressure levels on its assumptions about the lines, using what files it has. But that request drew a rebuke April 27 from the director of CPUC's safety branch. "We do not believe that reliance upon indirect evidence of the material condition of PG&E's natural gas transmission system is sufficient," he wrote in a letter to the utility.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county/ci_17942364?source=rss&nclick_check=1

3. *April 28, Eastern Group Publications* – (California) **State agency is investigating PXP oil spill in Montebello.** Authorities of the California Department of Fish and Game are investigating whether PXP broke water pollution laws after 40 gallons of crude oil and 10 barrels of "produced water" spilled from a "broken pipe" in the Montebello Hills into storm drains and the Rio Hondo River April 19. Clean up of the spill sites have concluded, said a spokeswoman for the state agency, and they are now determining how the spill occurred and whether they should refer the matter to the district attorney's office for prosecution. An investigator is assessing the location where the spill occurred and conducting interviews to determine if the spill could have been prevented, she said. "If you have oil and it's a product you're carrying, you are responsible for that oil and for what happens," she said, adding the company has a right to due process. A spokesman for PXP said they noticed a leak from a pipeline that

“transports oil and produced water within the Montebello Field from a well to the handling facility” prompting them to shut the well down. An initial inspection indicates a gasket failed on a flange of the flowline.

Source: <http://egpnews.com/?p=25263>

4. *April 28, Port Huron Times-Herald* – (Michigan) **Firefighters battling oil fire at DTE plant.** Firefighters from three departments have responded to an oil fire at DTE Energy’s Belle River Power Plant in China Township, Michigan. The St. Clair Fire Department received the call at 9:20 p.m. April 28 and responded with four units together with firefighters from Marine City and Marysville. A spokesman for DTE Energy said the fire appeared to have been caused by a leaking oil line at one of two power generating units. He said the unit has been shut down and that no one was injured. The plant’s other generating unit still is operating, the spokesman said. The fire does not affect the company’s capacity to generate electricity, he said.

Source:

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20110428/NEWS05/110428027/Firefighters-battling-oil-fire-DTE-plant?odyssey=nav|head>

5. *April 28, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas monitors got bad data in refinery blackout.** Texas environmental regulators said they gathered incorrect data when they used handheld devices to measure air emissions during a power outage that knocked several major Texas City refineries offline. In a statement issued April 28, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said it correctly ordered nearby residents to remain indoors overnight April 25 and early April 26 until it was clear the refineries were not emitting excessive toxins. Officials had said April 26 that they had not measured dangerous levels of emissions. But April 27, the commission said emissions were higher than their monitors could record, or more than 999 parts per million. It said normal readings in an industrial area ranged from 0 to 10 parts per million. Its statement April 28 said it conferred with the manufacturer and now believes its data was inaccurate.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9MSU0300.htm>

6. *April 27, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Gas leaks reported throughout Birmingham area due to storm.** Gas leaks were reported throughout Birmingham, Alabama, after severe storms and tornadoes swept through the area April 27. A strong odor of natural gas had been smelled by residents along the U.S. 31 corridor in Gardendale and Fultondale, but other areas are affected as well. An Alagasco spokeswoman said that when trees are uprooted from strong winds, it can cause gas lines to leak. She said the state’s largest natural gas utility has been responding to such calls since the storm April 27.

Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2011/04/major_gas_leaks_reported_throu.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *April 29, WAKA 8 Montgomery* – (Alabama) **Acid spill on U.S. Highway 80 in Lowndes County.** Hazmat crews are cleaning up a hazardous chemical spill on U.S. Highway 80 in Lowndes County, Alabama. The Burkeville Fire chief said crews are still cleaning up 500 gallons of phosphoric acid near White Hall. He said a tank fell off of a flatbed truck onto the highway the afternoon of April 28. The cleanup was expected to take all night. There were no injuries and an evacuation was not needed. Source: <http://www.waka.com/news/west-alabama-news/7075-acid-spill-on-us-highway-80-in-lowndes-county.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *April 28, Associated Press* – (National) **NRC chief questions blackout plans for US plants.** The nation's top nuclear regulator cast doubt April 28 on whether reactors in the United States are prepared for the type of days-long power outage that struck a nuclear power plant in Japan. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has only required plants in this country to cope without power for 4 to 8 hours. After that time, it assumes some electrical power will be restored. The NRC chairman questioned whether 4 to 8 hours is enough time, even though it is unlikely a nuclear power plant would lose power from both the grid and emergency diesel generators as the Japan plant did. Requirements put in place after the September 11 terrorist attacks could lengthen plants' ability to withstand a blackout. "Four hours doesn't seem to be a reasonable time to restore off-site power if you lost the diesels immediately," he said at an NRC meeting. "In the event there is a station blackout that is externally driven, I'm not convinced that in that situation four hours" is enough time to restore off-site power. In the United States, such a "station blackout" has only happened once, at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant in eastern Georgia in 1990. There, power was restored in 55 minutes. Of the 104 nuclear reactors in the United States, 87 can cope for 4 hours in a blackout. Another 14 can cope for 8 hours, and 3 can last for 16 hours.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jFaWOGNH8PAjRDewFMbtZPI82Tw?docId=f8bf982786ae4b468da4502d07857b70>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *April 29, American Metal Market* – (Midwest) **Midwest river floods stifle supply to mills.** Increased flooding along two of the country's largest waterway segments — the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers — has stifled the supply of raw materials to some steel and aluminum mills in the region, American Metal Market reported April 29. Top executives of some of the country's largest scrap companies said the inability of Midwest steel mills to receive scrap and other raw materials could go so far as to

prevent scrap prices from an expected fall in May. “A lot of scrap is not going into the area. This will push prices or at least level them because a lot of steel mills rely on just-in-time deliveries. They do not build inventories. So if there’s a glitch in supply, it will have an impact,” the vice president of a large scrap company said.

Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2815931/AMM-Midwest-river-floods-stifle-supply-to-mills.html>

10. *April 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Kia recalls small cars due to fuel tank problem.** Kia Motors Corp. is recalling more than 58,000 Spectra compact cars registered in cold-weather states because the gas tanks could drop to the ground and cause a fire. The recall affects Spectra LD models from the 2004 to 2007 model years in 20 states and Washington, D.C., the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said on its Web site April 29. The cars, built from November 7, 2003, through March 6, 2007, have straps that hold the gas tank to the frame. When exposed to road salt, the straps can rust and the tank can fall to the ground, causing a fuel leak and possibly a fire. Documents filed with NHTSA did not state whether the problem had caused any fires or injuries. Dealers will replace the fuel tank straps with zinc-coated parts at no cost to owners. Kia will mail letters to car owners in June, after dealers get parts to fix the problem.

Source:

http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_KIA_RECALL?SITE=NDBIS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-04-29-09-18-37

11. *April 29, American Metal Market* – (National) **Floods, tornados, power outages hit mills.** Deadly tornadoes swept across the southern United States late April 27, killing at least 280 people and leaving a path of destruction through one of the country’s biggest steelmaking regions. The storms and twisters cut raw material supplies and left some major U.S. steelmakers struggling with power outages. Most plants suffered only minor damage or none at all, although one Alabama tube mill was devastated.

Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2815972/Carbon-steel/AMM-Floods-tornados-power-outages-hit-mills.html>

12. *April 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Tornadoes shut auto and other manufacturing plants in Alabama; could disrupt region’s recovery.** The devastating tornadoes that swept across Alabama and other southern states April 27 caused widespread power outages, shut down several large manufacturing plants, and could disrupt the region’s fragile economic recovery. Boeing Co., Northrop Grumman Corp., Toyota Motor Co., and Mercedes said they have idled plants in Alabama, mostly because the factories have lost power. The plants generally were not damaged by the storms and will likely reopen after a few days. In the past decade, many overseas auto companies have set up shop in southern states, including Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Those plants, in turn, have spawned networks of parts suppliers located nearby. If those parts suppliers are badly damaged, auto production in the region could face a longer disruption. Most of the companies were still checking on their suppliers as of April 28.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/tornadoes-shut-auto-and-other->

[manufacturing-plants-in-alabama-could-disrupt-regions-recovery/2011/04/28/AFhyIk8E_story.html](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-shuttle-launch-20110430,0,7986332.story)

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *April 29, Los Angeles Times* – (Florida) **Space shuttle launch delayed until Monday at the earliest.** The space shuttle Endeavour and its six-member crew were poised to embark on their final mission April 29 when NASA officials delayed the launch until May 2 at the earliest because of a problem with one of the spaceship's power units. NASA made the announcement roughly 3 hours before the designated launch. At that time, Endeavour had been loaded with a half-million gallons of rocket fuel on launch pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Shuttle Endeavour's launch now will take place no earlier than May 2.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-shuttle-launch-20110430,0,7986332.story>

14. *April 28, Nextgov* – (Alabama) **Tornadoes knock out power to Redstone Arsenal and Marshall Space Flight Center.** The tornadoes that moved through Alabama April 27 and 28 knocked out power to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, headquarters of Army logistics and missile commands and the home of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. The power outage and center's subsequent closure was not expected to affect the launch of the space shuttle Endeavor planned for April 29. The Huntsville center has responsibility for the shuttle propulsion systems, the external fuel tank, and operations center, which supports shuttle launches. A spokesman for Marshall, said the Huntsville Operations Support Center is running on backup generators "and launch support operations are up and running." He said engineers from Huntsville "are on the ground at Kennedy Space Center who monitor and evaluate the main engines, solid rocket boosters and external tank to ensure they are ready, performing well and safe to fly." A spokesman for the headquarters of the Army Installation Management Command in San Antonio, Texas, said Redstone will remain closed until the storm-damaged statewide power grid can provide power to the base. A spokesman for the southeast region of the Installation Management Command in Atlanta, Georgia, said communications systems are for the most part inoperable at Redstone due to the power outage, including e-mail and videoconferencing systems. The base's emergency operations center is running on backup power, with sporadic communications. Only mission essential personnel are working at Redstone, headquarters for the Army Materiel Command, Aviation and Missile Command, and Space and Missile Defense Command, he said. A Redstone spokesman said the base does have some connectivity on secret networks and is working to restore service in unclassified networks.
Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110428_2259.php

For another story, see item [12](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

15. *April 28, Bank Info Security* – (Florida) **Tax fraud hits Florida.** So far, more than 70 South Florida victims have been affected by fraudsters hijacking their identities and filing fraudulent tax returns, Bank Info Security reported April 28. Among the known cases are two public works employees in Fort Lauderdale, and six employees of the Miami Association of Realtors. Most of the fraudulent returns were filed electronically, according to reports, using someone else's name and Social Security number. In most cases, the thieves had funds electronically routed to bank accounts, and then quickly withdrew the funds using debit cards at ATMs. No connection has been reported between these incidents and the recently discovered breach at the Social Security Administration (SSA), which exposed personally identifiable information for some 37,000 people between May 2007 and April 2010. The SSA breach, announced earlier in April in an audit summary compiled by the SSA Inspector General, involved the sale information in the Death Master File that erroneously contained information about living people. The Death Master File contains information about persons who had Social Security numbers and whose deaths have been reported to the SSA. The IRS is not commenting on the South Florida tax fraud incidents, but the head of the Identity Theft Resource Center said the identities were likely stolen from an outside source months or even years ago.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3584&opg=1

16. *April 28, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Police interrupt NJ bank robbery; suspect wounded.** On April 28, police in Rutherford, New Jersey interrupted a bank robbery in progress and pursued a suspect onto Union Avenue. The confrontation ended with the unidentified suspect injured and taken to a local hospital, the Bergen County prosecutor's office said. There was no immediate word on his condition, or on whether any money was stolen or recovered. The robbery attempt occurred at a Chase Bank branch across from a middle school. In an e-mail, the FBI's Newark division said no police or bystanders were injured. It was not immediately clear whether the suspect fired any shots at police.

Source: <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Police-interrupt-NJ-bank-robbery-suspect-wounded-1357117.php>

17. *April 28, Reuters* – (International) **Sony breach could cost card lenders \$300 million.** Credit card lenders could be facing more than \$300 million of card replacement costs if customers affected by the Sony Corp. data breach decide to replace their credit cards. Analysts have previously estimated the incident could cost Sony more than \$1.5 billion, but this is the first time they have put a price tag on how much major lenders will also suffer. The FBI is working with federal prosecutors in San Diego, California as agents try to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged crimes, an FBI spokesman said April 28. Each customer request to replace a credit card would cost lenders about \$3 to \$5 per card, several analysts told Reuters April 27 and 28. Those costs would include the new piece of plastic itself, postage, and

various customer service costs. Credit card lenders could also lose business from customers affected by the breach, even if they were quick to replace the cards. Consumers may also be reluctant to use a card they perceive as higher risk because it might have been involved in a hacking episode, even if the breach of security was not the issuer's fault. The Sony breach was one of the biggest online data infiltrations ever. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/29/us-sony-creditcards-cost-idUSTRE73S0FL20110429>

18. *April 27, Bergen County Record* – (New Jersey) **Man admits robbing banks in Hackensack, Rutherford and three other towns.** A Warren County, New Jersey, man who was once part of a bank robbery duo dubbed “Bonnie and Clyde on heroin” pleaded guilty April 27 to stealing \$18,000 from banks in Hackensack, Rutherford, and three other towns during a 6-week crime spree earlier this year. The 46-year-old admitted to a U.S. district judge in Trenton, New Jersey that he held up five banks in three counties between January 29 and March 10. The man voluntarily surrendered to police 2 days after his last robbery, telling detectives the crimes weighed heavily on his conscience. He confessed to carrying a fake plastic pistol during the robberies, but never displayed it. He also told officers the robberies were driven by his heroin addiction. He pleaded guilty to five counts of bank robbery “by force, violence and intimidation.” He faces up to 20 years in prison on each count. In 1997, the man was sentenced to more than 6 years in federal prison for a string of bank holdups he staged with a getaway-car driver. The couple admitted robbing banks in Hackensack, Union City and Hasbrouck Heights, netting \$10,000 to support their heroin habits. Source: http://www.northjersey.com/news/crime_courts/042711_Man_admits_robbing_banks_in_Hackensack_Rutherford_and_three_other_towns.html

19. *April 26, Northfield Patch* – (Minnesota) **FBI says Northfield Bank robber is suspect in Tuesday's bank robberies.** The FBI believes the man who robbed the US Federal Credit Union in Northfield, Minnesota, April 14 is responsible for two other bank robberies and one attempted bank robbery April 26. In less than 2 hours April 26, the FBI believes the man made a stop at three banking establishments. It is also believed the same man robbed the Sterling Bank in Savage April 11. The alleged Northfield robber is described as white and about 25-years-old, the FBI said. The man is about 5 feet 10 inches tall and between 190 and 210 pounds. He wore a black-hooded jacket, a dark mask that covered his face from below his nose, blue jeans, dark gloves, and black and white sneakers, the agent said. Source: <http://northfield.patch.com/articles/faribault-bank-robbed-police-suspect-same-man-who-robbed-northfield-credit-union>

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Transportation Sector

20. *April 29, Associated Press* – (Illinois; Tennessee) **Flooding stops Memphis-Carbondale trains.** Flooding along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers has shut down train

travel between Memphis, Tennessee, and Carbondale, Illinois. An Amtrak spokesman said service was shut down the week of April 25 on the City of New Orleans, which runs between Chicago and New Orleans. He told WSIU Radio there was not a way to reliably get between the cities by rail. The spokesman said it did not seem prudent to charter buses because of the flooding, so Amtrak will give customers refunds instead. It is not clear when Carbondale-to-Memphis travel will resume. He said Amtrak hopes to restore rail service sometime early during the week of May 2.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/14538435/copy-flooding-stops-memphis-carbondale-trains>

21. *April 28, California Beat* – (California) **NTSB faults operator error, MUNI for West Portal train crash.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) faulted a San Francisco Municipal Railway transit system (MUNI) Metro operator for crashing his train into another stopped streetcar at the West Portal Station in 2009, injuring 48 people. The NTSB released findings from a federal investigation into the July 18 accident, blaming the operator of the L-Taraval streetcar for switching his train from automatic to manual mode without approval from MUNI's Central Control. The operator of the L-Taraval train, who was hired by MUNI in 1979, told NTSB investigators he had "blacked out" when he set his train into manual mode and collided with the stopped LRV in front of him. Investigators discovered the red emergency brake button on the operator's console had not been activated and that the "T-stick" was in full acceleration mode after the collision, indicating the operator did not try to stop the train. Investigators said a heart condition, which the operator underwent surgery for 5 days after the accident, likely caused him to momentarily lose consciousness. The operator has since retired from the railway.

Source: <http://www.californiabeat.org/2011/04/28/ntsb-faults-operator-error-muni-for-west-portal-train-crash>

22. *April 28, KSAT 12 San Antonio and CNN* – (Texas) **Chemical odor causes plane to turn around.** A Continental Airlines jet had to make an emergency landing April 28 in San Antonio, Texas, because of a strong chemical odor on board. Medical personnel checked out the passengers on the tarmac. At least one person had to be taken to the hospital. The flight had just taken off from the San Antonio airport, heading to Houston, Texas when it turned back. Airport officials isolated the plane away from the passenger terminal. The odor's cause was not immediately known.

Source: <http://www.wdam.com/story/14536633/chemical-odor-causes-plane-to-turn-around>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *April 28, KSTU 13 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Haz-mat crew called to fed building over suspicious substance.** A hazardous materials crew was dispatched to the James V.

Hansen Federal Building in Ogden, Utah April 28 after a suspicious substance was found in a letter. It happened just after noon. The haz-mat crew was unable to identify the substance and it was sent to the FBI for further testing. Internal Revenue Service workers who were in the immediate vicinity of the substance were quarantined, then decontaminated before they were allowed to leave.

Source: <http://ogden.fox13now.com/news/news/haz-mat-crew-called-fed-building-over-suspicious-substance/52984>

24. *April 28, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **FedEx truck explodes on SR-518 In Tukwila.** The tractor of a FedEx truck exploded April 28, disrupting the morning commute in Tukwila, Washington. Firefighters were called to eastbound state Route 518 near Southcenter around 5:45 a.m. Dispatchers said the incident started when the semi truck collided with a car. Fuel leaked from the truck, which later caught fire. Video from KIRO 7 Seattle showed two explosions coming from the tractor of the FedEx truck, along with a stream of ignited fuel. Dispatchers said the driver of the FedEx truck escaped unhurt. Video showed the damage was limited to the tractor of the truck, and the trailer appeared to have little damage. Two lanes of eastbound state Route 518 and the offramp to Southcenter Mall were closed while crews cleared the wrecked truck and cleaned up spilled fuel.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/27701023/detail.html>

25. *April 28, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **Alter cockpit leadership style, NTSB urges in Lubbock crash report.** Future pilot training should take steps to reduce the “steep authority gradient” in the cockpit that may have contributed to the crash of a FedEx cargo airplane in Lubbock, Texas in January 2009, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said April 26. That recommendation was the first of nine the NTSB made to the Federal Aviation Administration arising from the January 27, 2009, crash that left the pilot seriously injured while the first officer suffered minor injuries. The NTSB released a summary of the final investigative report April 26, stating the crash was probably caused by the flight crew’s “failure to monitor and maintain a minimum safe airspeed,” which led to the plane stalling and crashing short of the runway at Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport.

Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2011-04-28/alter-cockpit-leadership-style-ntsb-urges-lubbock-crash-report>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *April 29, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **County concludes salmonella investigation.** The Frederick County Health Department in Maryland concluded its investigation of salmonella infantis infections linked to food eaten at a March 5 benefit pancake breakfast at Trinity United Church of Christ in Thurmont, a county health officer said. Eighteen cases of infection were reported, nine of which were considered confirmed by stool sample testing and based on symptoms developed. Nine were probable because some people reported symptoms consistent with salmonella, but no

stool samples were taken. No deaths were reported. All of those hospitalized were treated and released, she said. The infections were linked to sausage and meat pudding consumed at the benefit breakfast. The meat products were originally from a Frederick County 4-H Camp and Activities Center butchering event held January 27 at the Mount Pleasant Ruritan Club. A press officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service said the investigation is ongoing. The USDA investigation includes tracing the pork products' origin.

Source:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=120456>

27. *April 29, Grand Haven Tribune* – (Michigan) **280 pigs killed in Michigan barn fire.** Almost 300 pigs were killed in a barn fire April 27, according to the Olive Township fire chief in Michigan. The barn was a total loss. Firefighters were called at 7:26 p.m. after a motorist saw a “strange-colored steam” coming out of the cooling fan areas, and stopped to investigate, the fire chief said. Eight area fire departments responded. The section of 120th Avenue between Blair and Tyler was closed to traffic until Olive Township firefighters cleared the scene at 12:18 a.m. April 28. Firefighters could not save the pigs or the barn, the chief said. Their initial effort was concentrated on protecting two nearby buildings and keeping the fire away from a large propane tank located behind the blazing barn. The pigs belonged to a man who was renting the space from the property owner. The pigs were ready to go to market and would have been shipped out in the next day or two, the chief said. A preliminary investigation indicated an electrical fire started in the northwest corner where the electrical service enters the barn, but the cause is still under investigation. Firefighters from Blendon and Robinson townships assisted at the scene. Port Sheldon, Allendale, Holland, and Zeeland townships provided tankers, while a light truck came from Zeeland. The Ottawa County Sheriff's Department provided traffic control.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topic/firefighter-safety/mich-fire-killed-280-pigs-was-cooking-says-chief>

28. *April 29, Reuters* – (International) **Morocco says Marrakesh blast an act of terrorism.** Morocco said April 29 a bomb that killed 15 people, many of them foreigners, in its busiest tourist destination was a terrorist act. The blast ripped through a cafe overlooking Marrakesh's Jamaa el-Fnaa square, a spot often packed with foreign tourists, at lunch-time April 28. Moroccan officials have not said who was responsible but western security analysts said it was likely to have been the work of Islamist militants in an attempt to damage the tourism industry, one of the country's biggest sources of revenue. The interior ministry issued a statement saying 7 of the 15 dead had so far been identified. They included two French citizens, two Canadians, a Dutch national, and two Moroccans. The attack, in which 23 people were also wounded, is the deadliest Morocco has seen since suicide bombers killed 33 people in coordinated strikes on the business hub Casablanca 8 years ago. “Preliminary investigation ... suggests that this was a terrorist act caused by an explosive device,” the official MAP news agency quoted the interior minister as saying.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/29/morocco-attack-idUSLDE73S15520110429>

29. *April 28, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy News* – (International) **Report ranks food-pathogen pairs by disease impact.** Most of the foodborne illnesses in the United States are caused by a fairly short list of pathogens in a limited number of foods, with Salmonella, Campylobacter, and poultry ranking high, the University of Florida’s Emerging Pathogens Institute said in a lengthy report released April 28. The report cites Salmonella as the leading foodborne pathogen, while Campylobacter-tainted poultry leads a list of the 10 food-and-pathogen combinations causing the biggest burdens on public health. Also, poultry leads a list of the 12 food categories associated with the most disease. The researchers said the report, *Ranking the Risks: The 10 Pathogen-Food Combinations with the Greatest Burden on Public Health*, is the first comprehensive ranking of such combinations that has been done for the United States. The researchers focused on 14 pathogens and 12 different types of foods, estimating the impact of 168 food-pathogen pairs. Overall, the report estimated the 14 pathogens cost the nation \$14.1 billion a year and cause 8.9 million illnesses, 53,678 hospitalizations, 61,461 quality adjusted life years lost, and 1,322 deaths. But more than 90 percent of the burden can be traced to five pathogens, in order: Salmonella, Toxoplasma, Campylobacter, Listeria monocytogenes, and norovirus. Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food-disease/news/apr2811food.html>
30. *April 28, Alpine Avalanche* – (International) **New regulations issued for cooked poultry meat, eggs from Mexico.** Regulations regarding bringing cooked chicken and turkey meat and hard-boiled eggs into the United States from Mexico are changing, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) informed Customs and Border Protection that it is immediately implementing new requirements for processed (including cooked) poultry meat and hard-boiled eggs brought by passengers arriving from regions where APHIS considers exotic Newcastle disease to exist. According to the new requirements, processed poultry meat brought by passengers arriving from Mexico must be accompanied by government certification confirming the meat was cooked to a minimum internal temperature of 74 degrees Celsius, or by an APHIS Veterinary Services import permit. Source: http://www.alpineavalanche.com/news/article_07599386-7196-11e0-ba3d-001cc4c03286.html
31. *April 28, Harrisburg Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Flash flood closes Harrisburg-area dairy plant.** The Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) plant in Lower Allen Township, Pennsylvania, had to halt production and send workers home because of a flash flood April 28. Flood waters surged out of nearby Cedar Run around 6:30 a.m. Employees first moved their cars, but water eventually overtook them. The water eventually entered the 4825 Gettysburg Road plant. Most workers had to leave their cars behind. Binding together, they waded through water to reach a spot to wait for rides. A spokeswoman for DFA said employees were still assessing the damage, but it seemed likely the water had not risen high enough to seriously damage equipment. She predicted the plant would re-open within a few days. About 40 employees were inside when the flood hit, an employee said. DFA is part of a national network of dairy

cooperatives. The Lower Allen facility makes Frappuccino, which is sold by Starbucks. The flood water rose out of a concrete-encased stretch of Cedar Run that is often dry. Higher-than-usual ground water levels combined with storm runoff to cause the flood, the building and zoning coordinator for Lower Allen Township said.

Source:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/04/flash_flood_closes_harrisburg.html

For more stories, see items [33](#) and [34](#)

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Water Sector

32. *April 29, Owosso Argus-Press* – (Michigan) **Raw sewage pours into Shiawassee River.** The Shiawassee County Health Department in Michigan April 28 announced the cities of Durand and Owosso were experiencing sewage overflows into the Shiawassee River because of high water events. The Owosso director of public utilities said the untreated sewage was entering the river from manholes that were inundated. The Shiawassee River was above its 7-foot flood stage beginning early April 28. The river crested at 7.54 feet and was still at 7.15 feet at 1 a.m. April 29. According to the health department, sewage was discharged into the Shiawassee River from multiple manholes located in Owosso. Approximately 500,000 gallons was discharged and the event was continuing the night of April 28. Also that day, sewage was discharged by the Durand Wastewater Treatment Plant into the Holly Drain north of the plant near Durand Road. Approximately 30,000 to 40,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater was discharged. The Holly Drain flows into the Shiawassee River near Vernon.

Source: http://www.argus-press.com/news/community/durand/article_15b4a5ea-7242-11e0-a47d-001cc4c002e0.html

33. *April 28, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Mix-up with chemicals at Arkansas water plant causes evacuation; drinking water not threatened.** A mix-up involving chemicals at the water treatment plant in the central Arkansas town of England led to an evacuation of several businesses April 28 near the facility. Police in the Lonoke County community cleared the area for several hours after they said a chemical company worker mistakenly poured fluoride into a storage vat containing chlorine. Between 50 and 75 people were forced to leave from restaurants and other businesses, the England Police chief said. He said the chemical worker poured about 10 to 20 gallons of fluoride into a container holding around 150 gallons of bleach before realizing his mistake. The chemical reaction, which happened around 11 a.m., created a dangerous gas. A water plant worker and an employee from a nearby fertilizer company were treated for breathing problems at the scene. “It could have been a more serious situation had it happened in an enclosed area,” he said, adding the doors of the building were open, which allowed the gas to circulate. He said there was no threat to the city’s drinking water because the container where the chemicals were mixed was only used for storage. The Pulaski County Hazmat team had the area cleaned up by 2

p.m.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f26fbe5fb57b44b7bb84dcf08285b66c/AR--Water-Plant-Evacuation/>

34. *April 27, Columbia State* – (South Carolina) **Summerton water restored.** A failure of the South Carolina town of Summerton’s water system that forced schools and some businesses to close for the day has been repaired and testing is under way to make sure the water is safe, the town’s mayor said April 27. The mayor said a well pump outage coupled with a previously unknown waterline leak caused pressure to drop throughout the 800-customer system. Schools in Clarendon District 1 and Clarendon Hall, a private school, were among those customers, and classes were canceled for all. Some restaurants also closed for the day. After working through the night, city workers were able to restore water pressure around 1 p.m. April 27.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/2011/04/27/1794838/summerton-loses-water-clarendon.html>

For more stories, see items [3](#) and [63](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *April 29, msnbc.com* – (National) **Salmonella outbreak linked to microbiology labs.** One person is dead and at least 10 have been hospitalized in an outbreak of salmonella poisonings linked to clinical and teaching microbiology laboratories across the nation, government health officials reported. Some 73 people in 35 states have been sickened by the bacteria since August, including some by a strain of Salmonella Typhimurium sold commercially for use in lab settings, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said April 28. The ill include students and employees of the labs, as well as children who live in households of people who study or work at the labs. CDC officials warned that bacteria used in the labs can be transmitted through contaminated lab coats, pens, notebooks, car keys, and other items brought into the labs. Illnesses likely began August 20, 2010, with the most recent illnesses reported March 8, the CDC report said. Ill patients ranged in age from less than 1 to 91, with a median age of 24. Cases that developed after March 19 may not yet be included in the total because of the lag time in assessing and reporting illness. Illnesses have been tied to labs from Alaska to New York, with most reporting one or two cases. Five cases have been reported in Washington state and four in Minnesota. The CDC is working with local and state health departments, the American Society for Microbiology, and the Association of Public Health Laboratories to track the outbreak.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42812122/ns/health-infectious_diseases/

36. *April 29, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Spokane hospital fighting Legionnaires Disease.** Patients at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, were being given bottled water to drink while the hospital cleans its water system to remove the

bacteria that causes Legionnaires Disease. Three patients have come down with the disease since January and one has died, although the hospital said the bacteria likely were not the cause of the death. Sacred Heart called in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testing confirmed April 27 that Legionella is in the water supply. The hospital has been cleaning its water tanks and is adding extra chlorine.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014905910_apwahospitallegionnairesdisease.html

37. *April 28, Bloomberg* – (National) **Armadillos spread Leprosy to people in southern U.S.** Armadillos are the most likely cause of unexplained cases of leprosy among people with the disease in the southern United States, where the animals are hunted and eaten, a study found. Using genomic analysis, researchers identified the same strain of leprosy in 28 of 33 wild armadillos and 25 of 39 patients who lived in states where the animals are common, according to the study published April 28 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Exposure to fresh armadillo blood or tissue raises the risk of leprosy infection, researchers said. In the United States, only about 150 new cases of leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease, are reported each year, the majority of which occur in people who lived or worked in places outside the country where the disease is more prevalent, the study said. About one third of U.S. cases are not linked to a cause, and the study helps doctors understand how many of those infections occur, researchers said. “It’s extremely likely that the people who have never been exposed to a human who has leprosy, it’s very likely they got leprosy from exposure to an armadillo,” said the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Armadillos are found in Texas, Louisiana, Mexico, and areas of Central and South America. They are the only nonhuman animals known to harbor leprosy infection. The researchers analyzed leprosy DNA in 50 people with the disease and 33 wild armadillos captured in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. Armadillos outside these states have not been found to carry leprosy.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-27/wild-armadillos-spread-leprosy-to-people-in-southern-u-s-research-finds.html>

38. *April 27, Tuscaloosa News* – (Alabama) **DCH missed severe damage, running on generators.** DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, missed most of the severe damage April 27, but was running on emergency diesel generators. A nearby power substation was hit, and the connection to the hospital was severed, a DCH spokesman said. Engineers told him the building would be running on emergency power for the near future. All necessary functions of the hospital can run on the emergency power, and the diesel tanks are refillable. “All the stuff you need to be a hospital are fine; just not necessarily all the things you need to run an office,” he said. Air-conditioning and computers were down, as were all elevators except one that was reserved for staff and emergency use only. Although they were unable to alert workers via cell or text, all medical personnel were expected to be on duty in anticipation of storm-related injuries, he said. “We are on disaster mode,” the spokesman said. “We are prepared to take mass casualties.” Aside from the power outage, some windows were damaged on the higher floors on the south side of the building, closest to where

the storm passed down 15th Street. Wood, some of it from splintered trees and other pieces of it apparently from a condominium development nearby, had damaged several cars, breaking windows, on the top floor of the south parking deck. Areas outside were roped off around broken glass and debris. Most of the glass damage came from south-facing rooms on the sixth and seventh floors. But the building itself was primarily sound, the spokesman said.

Source:

<http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20110427/NEWS/110429725/1291?Title=DC-H-missed-severe-damage-running-on-generators>

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Government Facilities Sector

39. *April 29, Lake County News* – (California) **Additional details released on Thursday bomb threat at courthouse.** A bomb threat called into the Lake County Counsel’s Office April 28 prompted a complete evacuation of the Lake County Courthouse and U.S. district attorney’s office in California. The buildings, located in Lakeport, were closed for more than 3 hours, according to a captain of the Lake County Sheriff’s Office. At about 9:15 a.m., staff at the Lake County Counsel’s Office received a call from an unidentified man, who reportedly sounded “very angry” and said, “don’t mess with the marijuana users,” the captain said. The caller went on to state, “A bomb had been placed in the courthouse that was set to go off at 10:30 a.m.” The call was made less than an hour before a public hearing was scheduled to commence before the Lake County Planning Commission in the board of supervisors’ chambers to discuss an ordinance for the dispensing of medical marijuana in Lake County. Within minutes of the phone call, as many as 10 sheriff’s deputies and command staff members responded to the courthouse and the adjacent district attorney’s office. Police began evacuation procedures of the superior court staff, county employees, and the public. Sheriff’s deputies closed off the surrounding streets, directed evacuees to designated staging areas, and then conducted a sweep of both buildings to assure they were empty. An explosive ordinance disposal K-9 detection team responded from the Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield.

Source: <http://lakeconews.com/content/view/19499/919/>

40. *April 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Former Navy sailor pleads guilty to theft.** A former Coronado, California-based U.S. Navy sailor pleaded guilty April 28 in San Diego, California federal court to stealing military items from his unit’s armory and selling them through eBay. An assistant U.S. attorney told City News Service the man admitted that between October 2008 and September 2009 he stole items, including laser-aiming devices and night vision items, and sold them on the Internet. The U.S. attorney said the man also admitted he illegally exported some of the stolen items to Hong Kong. The suspect agreed to repay the Navy more than \$170,000 as part of a plea bargain. He will be sentenced August 1.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_17953482?nclick_check=1

41. *April 28, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas comptroller apologizes for records release.** The release of personal information of 3.5 million Texans — including addresses and Social Security numbers — was a result of “human error” and was not done maliciously, the state comptroller said April 28, while also adding authorities were still going to investigate. She said there was no indication the data, which in some cases included birth dates and driver’s license numbers, had been misused. “We believe it’s inadvertent, but that’s why we also called in the (attorney general’s) office, and we are, of course, working closely with them,” she said, speaking to several media outlets for the first time since her office announced April 11 the information was posted on public servers controlled by her office and remained there in some cases for more than a year. “It’s basically human error,” she said. “There were policies for deleting files, there were policies for not uploading files, and none of the policies and the procedures were followed.” Four employees in her office have been fired. The Texas attorney general’s office and the FBI are trying to determine how and why the data was posted on a comptroller FTP site accessible to the public. Authorities have refused to comment on whether any of that data may have been used in cases of identity theft or other criminal matters, citing their ongoing investigation.
Source: <http://www.lakewyliepilot.com/2011/04/28/1106611/texas-comptroller-apologizes-for.html>
42. *April 28, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Middle school evacuated over bomb scare.** A school in Eloy, Arizona, was evacuated April 28 because of a bomb scare. Police said a suspicious device was found in a classroom at Toltec Middle School. The bomb squad was called in. No children were ever in danger, police said, and they determined the device was not going to explode and removed it. The device had paper sticking out of one end as if it were a wick or fuse, and the paper had burn marks as if it had been set on fire. But there were no explosives, police said. The device barely burned. Police said they have the student thought to be responsible. Once they finish their investigation, the school district will determine what to do.
Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/27712963/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [14](#), [23](#), [34](#), [35](#), [43](#), and [45](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

43. *April 29, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **First multi-state earthquake drill held.** Over 3 million people in 11 states adjacent to the New Madrid earthquake fault line from Oklahoma to South Carolina participated April 28 in the first Great Central U.S. “Shake Out”, a mass earthquake preparedness drill initiated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The drill, the first multi-state earthquake preparedness exercise in the United States according to DHS, included more than 2,016 schools, 268 businesses, and 611 local government agencies. The drill, which centered around a simultaneous drop, cover, and hold drill commenced April 28 at 10:15 a.m. The Great Central U.S. Shake Out was partly planned to coincide with the 200-year

anniversary of huge earthquakes which occurred around Memphis and southeast Missouri in 1811. According to an administrator of FEMA, the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan made the drills especially timely.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/first-multi-state-earthquake-drill-held/d8301e4be8e83beb6e56c4a1be15ff0a.html>

44. *April 28, WLTX 19 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Police: shooting suspect had explosives, other weapons.** Columbia, South Carolina police have released new details about a violent encounter with a man that left an officer wounded and a suspect dead. The details dealt with discoveries made after the death of the 22-year-old suspect. Police said he shot the officer during a traffic stop at 5 a.m. April 27. Investigators said the suspect then went back to his duplex. After spending an hour talking to police negotiators, officers said the suspect came out of the home, fired at police with an AK-47 rifle, and was shot by SWAT officers. According to information released April 28, state law enforcement division bomb squad units found homemade explosive devices on the suspect's body. They said inside the residence, they found other materials to make explosives. Investigators also said they found cocaine and other weapons in the home. There was also a woman in the home who had to be transported to the hospital after she became unresponsive. She is said to be cooperating with the investigation. The officer survived the shooting because he was wearing a bulletproof vest. He was treated and released from the hospital.

Source: <http://www.wltx.com/news/article/134616/2/Police-Shooting-Suspect-Had-Explosives-Other-Weapons>

45. *April 28, Snohomish Daily Herald* – (Washington) **Accidental tear-gas leak sickens 18 in Darrington.** As many as 18 people were hospitalized and later released April 28 after tear gas leaked from expended cartridges dumped in a Darrington, Washington garbage bin. The tear gas belonged to the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, a spokeswoman said. The cartridges were expired and had been emptied before they went into the trash. Residual gas apparently leaked out after the trash can was moved. That happened while the town's garbage truck driver was making his rounds about 9:45 a.m., the Darrington mayor said. Within a half-hour, seven people were en route to the hospital in ambulances, a Cascade Valley Hospital spokeswoman said. Their symptoms included burning sensations to the eyes and mouth, tightness in their chests, and other breathing problems. The patients all were decontaminated and evaluated, a spokeswoman said. A total of 11 emergency crew members who came into contact with them went through the same process. Everyone was in stable condition by 2 p.m., she said. They all were released a few hours later. Among those taken to the hospital were the garbage truck driver and town public works crew members. The town hall, the library, the fire district office, and the sheriff's offices were closed to the public for some time after the leak.

Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110428/NEWS01/704289843/0/SPORTS>

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Information Technology Sector

46. *April 29, H Security* – (International) **Mozilla patches Firefox and Thunderbird.** The Mozilla project has released new versions of Firefox and Thunderbird to address several critical issues found in the previous releases. The first update to Firefox 4.0, version 4.0.1, addresses a total of three vulnerabilities, two of which are rated as critical. The browser's WebGLES feature contains bugs that could lead to crashes, potentially resulting in the execution of malicious code. The Windows version of Firefox was also found to have been compiled without ASLR which could allow an attacker to bypass ASLR's protection against malicious code if a memory corruption flaw was found. Several critical memory safety bugs in the browser engine used by Firefox have also been corrected. These bugs reportedly contained evidence of memory corruption under certain circumstances. The developers presume that, with enough effort, some of them could be exploited to run arbitrary code. Updates have also been issued for the 3.5.x and 3.6.x branches of Firefox. These updates, versions 3.5.19 and 3.6.17, address the same memory safety bugs noted above, as well as five other vulnerabilities. The legacy branches of Firefox contain two further critical holes, a privilege escalation problem in the Java Embedding Plugin (JEP) which shipped with Mac OS X versions, and multiple dangling pointer vulnerabilities. Two moderate risk bugs and one low risk bug have also been corrected. The developers note that version 3.5.19 of Firefox will be the last planned security and stability update for the 3.5 branch and encourage all users to upgrade to the 4.0.x branch of Firefox. Mozilla has also released an update for Thunderbird, version 3.1.10. According to the release notes, the update includes several performance, stability and security fixes.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/open/news/item/Mozilla-patches-Firefox-and-Thunderbird-1234784.html>

47. *April 28, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft fixes Office flaws found in Patch Tuesday updates.** Microsoft April 28 issued a fix for a problem in its Outlook 2007 e-mail client caused by an update that shipped 2 weeks ago. It was the second time in the last 6 days that Microsoft patched bugs introduced in Office applications by updates it issued April 12. "After installing the April 2011 Public Update, some Outlook 2007 users reported difficulty with print previewing messages," Microsoft acknowledged in a post to its Office Updates blog. "To correct this issue, we have issued a public hotfix which you can download and install." Although not a security update, the original Outlook 2007 fix appeared on Patch Tuesday, Microsoft's monthly roll-out of bug updates. The April 12 update for Outlook was described as offering "stability and performance improvements." Users quickly began reporting problems after installing the update, with some saying they could no longer send or receive e-mail, while others claimed that they could not print. Microsoft pulled the update from its Windows Update service. "This update was recalled by Microsoft and will be re-released shortly," a company support document read.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216264/Microsoft_fixes_Office_flaws_found_in_Patch_Tuesday_updates

48. *April 28, Softpedia* – (International) **Obama birth certificate image search results poisoned.** Security researchers warned that Google Image searches for the U.S.

President's birth certificate have been poisoned with malicious links that lead users to scareware. This new black hat SEO campaign was prompted by the White House's decision to release the President's long-form birth certificate in order to put to rest the controversy surrounding his birthplace. News of the extended version being released has led to a lot of Google Image searches for "[President's name] birth certificate," which in turn provided an opportunity for attackers. Security researchers from GFI Software warn that links leading users to drive-by download attacks have made their way on the first page of results returned for the aforementioned keywords. The malicious pages load an exploit for a known Java vulnerability. If successful, the attacks result in the installation of a scareware application called "Security Shield" on the victims' computers. The fake antivirus program currently has a very low detection rate according to an Virus Total scan, however it is not the only malicious application distributed as part of this campaign. According to a senior security researcher at GFI, other results distribute a well known rogue AV program called XP Anti-Spyware 2011. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Obama-Birth-Certificate-Image-Search-Results-Poisoned-197485.shtml>

49. *April 28, H Security* – (International) **Microsoft releases out-of-schedule update for anti-malware tool.** Microsoft will support the FBI in its efforts to combat the Coreflood/Afcore botnet by releasing an out-of-schedule update for its Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool (MSRT). The company usually only updates the tool on the second Tuesday of every month, and it seems that the criminals behind Coreflood were aware of this as they circulated new variants of the worm at about the same time as Microsoft released its April MSRT update. Microsoft said the update also provides additional enhancements to the MSRT engine for other malware families. Coreflood is considered one of the longest-running botnets ever. Experts estimate the botnet has already been active for 10 years and could have infected more than 2 million computers during that time. Large parts of Coreflood are now controlled by the FBI. If an infected computer contacts a U.S. government-controlled command and control server, the bot will receive instructions to terminate. However, the termination is only valid until the next reboot. Users who want to permanently remove the malware from their systems must use an anti-malware tool such as MSRT. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-releases-out-of-schedule-update-for-anti-malware-tool-1233887.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

50. *April 29, Help Net Security* – (National) **DSL Reports intrusion compromises over 9,000 accounts.** DSL Reports — the information and review site on high speed Internet services which operates over 200 forums — was hit with a blind SQL injection attack, which resulted in the compromise of at least 9,000 accounts. The founder of DSL Reports posted a notification about the intrusion on the forum dedicated to the site, in which he specified that no log-in names, zip codes, or private posts were compromised. The attack went on for 4 hours April 27, and it was blocked before it had completed more than 8 percent of its work. All the same, the attackers managed to obtain a large number of e-mail/password pairs.
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10963>
51. *April 28, Computerworld* – (National) **Verizon restores LTE data network after outage.** Verizon Wireless said its 4G LTE network was back “up and running” April 28 after a nationwide outage that began late April 26. As a result of the nationwide LTE outage, which lasted more than a day, Verizon customers could not get the faster LTE data service on their smartphones and were reverted to slower 3G service or the even slower CDMA 1xRtt service, Verizon said in a statement April 27. Voice and text service were not affected on Verizon’s first LTE phone, the ThunderBolt, because LTE only handles data.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216253/Verizon_restores_LTE_data_network_after_outage
52. *April 28, Associated Press* – (International) **Yahoo email outage frustrates free service’s users.** Yahoo’s e-mail service suffered an outage that may be preventing a large number of users from getting into their in-boxes. The company apologized for the breakdown that occurred April 28 without specifying how many people were affected. Most users had no problem logging into their Yahoo e-mail accounts. ComScore Inc. indicates Yahoo Inc. had 284 million e-mail users worldwide in March, which means hundreds of thousands could have been locked out of their inboxes, even if the trouble only affected a small fraction of Yahoo’s users.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9MSRQV00.htm>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

53. *April 28, Meridien Record-Journal* – (Connecticut) **Meriden apartment building residents displaced after transformer fire.** Residents of the Atrium apartment building in Meriden, Connecticut, will be displaced until at least April 29 after a transformer connected to the building malfunctioned April 28. The Meridien Fire chief said the transformer, which was located on the west side of the building, began sparking and smoking at around 9:30 a.m. Some smoke flowed into the building, and it was evacuated. Connecticut Light & Power crews arrived on scene just after 10 a.m., and determined the transformer would have to be replaced. The fire chief said the replacement would likely only take until April 28, but noted wiring inside the building

had been damaged and the owner would need to pay for its repair. The residents of the 94 units could not stay because fire alarms, smoke detectors, and emergency lighting were not operable. Residents were asked to make arrangements for a place to stay until the building was reopened, although the American Red Cross was on scene to help anyone with nowhere else to go, the fire chief said.

Source: http://www.myrecordjournal.com/meriden/article_7b8cfe6a-71a4-11e0-914c-001cc4c03286.html

54. *April 28, CNET News* – (New York) **Yankees’ error leaks personal data on 21,000 fans.** A sales rep for the New York Yankees accidentally e-mailed a spreadsheet containing names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and seat numbers of more than 21,000 season ticket holders to thousands of clients April 25. “There are no credit card numbers, but there are account ID numbers. And on Yankees.com, licensees need only their account ID number and password to access their accounts,” a report released April 28 said. “With the spreadsheet, we have all the account IDs and can probably guess more than a few passwords via spouse’s names, street names, and good old ‘abc123.’ At the very least, the list email addresses are valuable to spammers.” Later, the Yankees sent an e-mail to season ticket subscribers confirming a rep had inadvertently included an attachment with ticket holder information to an e-mail sent April 25. The mistake puts affected fans at risk of phishing attacks and people should be wary of e-mails or phone calls from people claiming to be affiliated with the Yankees and asking for sensitive information.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27080_3-20058500-245.html

55. *April 28, Harrisburg Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Tornadoes hit York and Lebanon counties, damaging homes and businesses.** Damage at Roundtop Mountain Resort in Warrington Township, York County, Pennsylvania has all the markings of a tornado, according to National Weather Service (NWS) scientists. They declared it an EF-1, which means it is considered a weak tornado with winds between 86 mph and 110 mph. Workers from Whitetail Resort, in Mercersburg, drove east to help saw and haul away toppled trees. Office staff helped sweep up glass and rake debris into piles. A damage estimate wasn’t immediately available from Roundtop. Roundtop officials said storm damage will not interfere with the weekend’s paintball games, ropes course, and other regular warm-weather activities. In Lebanon County, another EF-1 tornado with winds less than 90 mph touched down April 28 near the Klick Lewis car dealership in Palmyra, a NWS meteorologist said. The western end of Lebanon County was hit particularly hard by the April 28 storms. The damage included a roof blown off a home in Palmyra and a house and barn collapse in East Hanover Township. The Susquehanna River is also expected to crest April 29.

Source:

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2011/04/ski_roundtop_damage_has_markings.html

56. *April 28, KRDO 13 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Homemade bomb explodes in parking lot.** For the second time this week, Colorado Springs, Colorado, police said a homemade chemical bomb exploded at an apartment complex. The latest incident

happened around 2:30 a.m. April 28 in the parking lot of the Villages at Woodmen. Police said they found a bomb-type device with a mixture of chemicals and a fuse that had been lit. Police said there was a small flash fire and explosion, but noted there was no serious damage and no one was hurt. A neighbor said he saw flames from the apartment above him just before the explosion. Just after 11 p.m. April 25, a similar device exploded at the Stonebrook Apartments. Police first received a report of shots fired. Officers found a bomb consisting of a soft drink bottle, chemicals, and aluminum foil. No one was hurt, and firefighters neutralized acid from the device.

Source: <http://www.krdo.com/news/27703413/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [26](#), [28](#), [33](#), and [43](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

57. *April 28, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Dirt roads to remain closed in Eldorado National Forest until soil, weather conditions improve.** Recent storms led Eldorado National Forest officials in California to extend the seasonal dirt road closure to May 13. Storms have left many dirt roads too wet to handle vehicle traffic without causing damage to resources. A forest supervisor said the roads would remain closed until soil and weather conditions improve. The forest received 160 percent of normal precipitation during the 2010-2011 winter season, and many areas are still under a significant snow pack, a U.S. Forest Service news release said.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/04/28/3587803/dirt-roads-to-remain-closed-in.html>
58. *April 28, KRQE 13 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Two wildfires continue to burn.** New Mexico was on a fire alert April 28 as two significant wildfires burned uncontained. The U.S. Forest Service reported firefighters built a containment line around about 60 percent of the Last Chance Fire burning near Queen. The wildfire destroyed one structure and damaged two others at the Sitting Bull Falls recreation area, which was closed indefinitely. The blaze burned almost 50,000 acres and continued to threaten the community of Queen in the Lincoln National Forest. And a fire in the Rio Grande bosque south of Socorro continued to burn. The San Pedro fire started April 26 across the river and south of the town of San Antonio. An estimated 30-40 acres of thick brush were burned along with one outbuilding. The fire threatened an estimated 20 structures including homes. The cause of both fires were under investigation.
Source: http://www.kasa.com/dpps/weather/wildfires/two-wildfires-continue-to-burn_3795531
59. *April 28, United Press International* – (Texas) **Texas wildfires scorch 2,390 square miles.** Texas wildfires have scorched more than 2,390 square miles across the drought-stricken state, the Texas Forest Service (TFS) said April 28. “The state has responded to 886 fires that have burned 1.53 million acres,” a spokeswoman said in an e-mail. The

acreage figure translates to slightly more than 2,390 square miles. Three people were reported killed in the fires, including two volunteer firefighters, and an estimated 400 homes were destroyed, officials said. Dozens of other homes and ranches were threatened. The service said April 28 it was “working on 15 major fires burning more than 664,000 acres” in 17 counties. Firefighters from 34 states fought the blazes on the ground and from the air, with helicopters fitted with tanks, known as helitankers, and with air tankers, also known as water bombers, dropping hundreds of thousands of gallons of retardant on the blazes. Low humidity and heightened winds were making containment difficult, TFS said. The weather was forecast to stay dry until May 2, when isolated thunderstorms were predicted for some areas. Ninety percent of the windswept fires were started by humans, officials said.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/04/28/Texas-wildfires-scorch-2390-square-miles/UPI-29521304007695/

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Dams Sector

60. *April 29, Watertown Daily Times* – (New York) **Dams on Raquette River safe, expert says.** A top safety expert at Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. said there is no danger that any of the dams holding back water on the upper Raquette River in New York could fail, as the company’s reservoirs continue to swell from melting snow and spring rains. Brookfield’s chief dam safety engineer said all of the company’s dams, including that which holds back the 3,100-acre Carry Falls Reservoir above South Colton, are inspected annually, and are not near capacity.

Source: <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20110429/NEWS05/304299943>

61. *April 29, Associated Press* – (Missouri; Illinois) **Fed. judge gives corps OK to break Missouri levee.** A federal judge April 29 gave the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the go-ahead to break a Mississippi River levee and flood Missouri farmland if the agency deems it necessary to spare a flood-threatened Illinois town upstream. A day after hearing 5 hours of testimony over Missouri’s bid to block any intentional levee break, the judge found the Corps’ plan to breach the Birds Point levee appropriate to ensure navigation and flood-control along the still-rising Mississippi. “This court finds that the Corps is committed to implementing the [floodway] plan ‘only as absolutely essential to provide the authorized protection to all citizens,’ “ he said in his ruling. The Corps has proposed using explosives to blow a 2-mile-wide hole through the levee in Missouri’s Mississippi County, to ease waters rising around the upstream town of Cairo, Illinois near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee all want the Corps to move forward. Missouri had sought a temporary restraining order to block the detonation. The Corps halted its preparation April 28 saying it needed until the weekend to assess whether a sustained crest of the Ohio at Cairo would demand the extraordinary step. The river’s crest at the Cairo flood wall could reach 60.5 feet — a foot above its record high — as early as May 1 and stay that level before slowly retreating by May 3, according to the National Weather Service. Cairo’s wall protects the town up to 64 feet, but there is concern the lingering

crest could put extra pressure on it and earthen levees protecting other parts of the city. The region's Corps spokesman said the agency remained "in a wait-and-see stage" April 29, with twin barges loaded with explosives still docked 6 hours downriver from the Bird's Point levee. "We're hoping we can get a handle on this and sincerely hope we won't have to operate the floodway," he said. "Our intent is to make sure that if we have to move on to the next step [and breach the levee], everyone would have at least 24 hours' notice."

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/top/all/7543183.html>

62. *April 28, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Bonnet Carre Spillway likely to open as levee inspections intensify along Mississippi River.** The Bonnet Carre spillway in Louisiana will likely be opened sometime between May 7 and May 13 to help ease pressure on levees from high water in the Mississippi River, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman announced April 28. He said it is still unclear how many of the spillway's 360 bays would be opened or for how long, but he said the Mississippi is expected to stay high for several days after its predicted May 22 crest at 17 feet above sea level at the Carrollton Gauge. This would mark the ninth time the spillway has been used since it was opened in 1932. Built in response to the historic 1927 flood, the spillway's 350 bays are each 20 feet long.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/weather/index.ssf/2011/04/corps_louisiana_officials_incr.html

63. *April 28, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Dam collapses, huge pond empties into Saratoga Springs water supply.** Saratoga Springs, New York, officials were monitoring the city's water supply after heavy rains washed away an earthen dam in Wilton and sent water and debris from a huge pond into Loughberry Lake. Lewiston Pond, an approximately 400-foot-by-250-foot lake on the east side of Route 9 in Wilton, washed away the dam April 27 and emptied near Hillside Drive, sending tons of water, silt, and dirt into the lake, which is the city's drinking water supply, officials said April 28. The pond, which had been there since the early- to mid-1800s, is completely gone, Wilton's code enforcement officer said. Torrential rain from thunderstorms caused the pond to swell, and officials believe water infiltrated into the earth-made dam, weakened it and caused it to collapse. The water and debris from the pond escaped into Loughberry Lake, creating increased turbidity in the city's water supply, but no health threat, the Saratoga Springs Public Works commissioner said. City officials are working with the state health department, but its water treatment plant has removed much of the new sand and materials, he said. "At no point was it ever a danger in terms of quality of the water," he said. The dam is owned by National Grid and is located on an old railroad bed the company uses as a right-of-way for power lines.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Dam-collapses-huge-pond-empties-into-Saratoga-1356665.php>

64. *April 28, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **About 20 homes evacuated in Dyer County.** Authorities said about 20 homes in the West Tennessee town of Dyersburg were evacuated after a levee was intentionally breached to ease pressure on the swollen

Mississippi and Obion rivers. The Dyer County sheriff said an area of mostly rural farmland about 1.5 to 2 miles wide and about 14 miles long was flooded April 27 after the levee was breached. The sheriff said people moved farm equipment and other vehicles out of the area before the breach. Roads were closed. He said the evacuation was organized and controlled. Officials were not sure when the residents will be allowed to return to their homes. Authorities throughout West Tennessee were monitoring river levels and weather forecasts as they prepare for possible flooding. Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14533400>

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