



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 May 2011

Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, a train derailment near Portland, Oregon ignited several tanker cars full of ethanol May 4, touching off a massive fire that prompted the evacuation of nearby residents and blocked a major highway for hours. (See item [1](#))
- The Washington Post reports Swiss bank UBS agreed to pay the U.S. government \$160 million to settle charges it reaped millions in illegal profits by rigging at least 100 municipal bond transactions in 36 states. (See item [16](#))

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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. *May 4, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Oregon firefighters extinguish train derail blaze.** A train derailment ignited several tanker cars full of ethanol May 4, touching off a massive fire near Portland, Oregon, that prompted the evacuation of nearby residents and blocked a major highway for hours. No injuries were reported, a Portland Fire & Rescue spokesman said. A stretch of U.S. Highway 30 northwest of Portland, Oregon was closed for hours, and fire officials said a half-mile area around the blaze was temporarily evacuated May 4. About 250 firefighters battled the two-alarm blaze,

extinguishing it after 4 hours, a spokesman said. The spokesman said two freight trains were involved — one carrying mainly logs and the other a 20-car train that included 12 tanker cars of ethanol. Two tanker cars — each carrying 28,000 gallons of ethanol — caught fire, as did a freight car from the log train, he said. The Oregonian reported that a Portland & Western Railroad train, with 59 cars mainly carrying logs, was heading westbound when several cars derailed, according to a spokesman for Genesee & Wyoming, which owns Portland and Western, a short distance carrier. The derailed cars then hit part of the 20-car train. The resulting fire was visible for more than a mile. Representatives of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state department of environmental quality responded to assess the environmental impact due to runoff from the firefighting effort, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/nation/oregon-firefighters-extinguish-train-derail-blaze-1454466.html>

For another story, see item [8](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

2. *May 3, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Eastbound I-64 reopened after tractor-trailer crash.** The eastbound lanes of Interstate 64 in Charleston, West Virginia, were closed May 3 for about an hour near the Eugene Carter Bridge after a tractor-trailer that was carrying helium and ethanol jackknifed. The driver of the truck was not injured, and no chemicals were spilled, according to a Kanawha County Metro 911 dispatcher. Traffic was tied up all around the area during the afternoon’s rush hour. The dispatcher said the driver of the truck was not injured, but there was damage to his tractor-trailer. The dispatcher also said none of the chemicals was released or spilled in the accident. The road was re-opened less than an hour after it was shut down.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201105030875>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

3. *May 4, Natchez Democrat* – (Mississippi) **Radioactive water released into river at Grand Gulf.** An unknown amount of radioactive water was released accidentally into the Mississippi River April 28 at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station near Port Gibson, Mississippi. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was investigating the incident, but suggests the release poses no public health hazard. Entergy Nuclear, which operates Grand Gulf, filed a report with the NRC explaining that crews located standing water at the plant after the area experienced heavy rains. Water was found April 28 at the Unit 2 turbine building — which is an abandoned, partially constructed building — and began pumping the water into the river. An alarm apparently alerted

workers to the presence of tritium, a byproduct of the nuclear reactor processes. The pumps were turned off stopping the flow. Investigators are not certain why tritium was in the stormwater or how it got there. “Although the concentrations of tritium exceeded EPA drinking water limits, the release should not represent a hazard to public health because of its dilution in the river,” said a public affairs officer with the NRC, Region IV.

Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/2011/05/04/radioactive-water-released-into-river-at-grand-gulf/>

4. *May 4, Bloomberg* – (National) **Nuclear fuel in dry casks needs better security, watchdog says.** U.S. regulators need to improve the security for used nuclear fuel stored in steel and concrete containers, a government watchdog said in a report. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has no central database of security-related information for so-called dry cask storage, and does not have a comprehensive document outlining the roles and responsibilities of staff, according to a report by the agency’s inspector general. Regional offices also use different groups of employees to monitor dry-cask installations, so there is no forum for communication, the report said. “This could negatively impact NRC’s mission to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment,” according to the report, released in an NRC e-mail May 4. A White House commission is studying alternatives to the storage of commercial nuclear waste after the U.S. President’s administration scrapped plans for a central repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Used reactor fuel is stored in dry casks at 57 U.S. sites, the May 3 report said. Of those, 47 were at operating reactors.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-04/nuclear-fuel-in-dry-casks-needs-better-security-watchdog-says.html>

5. *May 4, Platts* – (Pennsylvania) **US NRC elevates oversight on Susquehanna-1 nuclear reactor.** Federal regulators were stepping up oversight at the Susquehanna-1 nuclear reactor in Salem Township, Pennsylvania, which was already under closer supervision than most reactors in the United States, documents show. In a letter made public May 4, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) notified plant operator PPL Susquehanna that the reactor was moved from the “regulatory response column,” which is the second lowest oversight level, to one level above — the “degraded cornerstone column.” The higher level of oversight took effect “beginning in the first quarter of 2011,” the agency said. NRC said Susquehanna-1 has had “greater than three unplanned” shutdowns per 7,000 hours when the reactor is critical, a condition the agency said has “crossed the Green-to-White threshold.” The four unplanned shutdowns happened in 2010 on April 22, May 14, July 16, and on January 25, 2011. The most recent one was triggered by a steam leak. Susquehanna-1 will receive an “increase in the NRC’s inspection and assessment oversight” as a result of its elevation into Column 3, NRC said in the letter. Specifically, the agency said it will perform a supplemental inspection when the plant operator notifies NRC it is ready. Susquehanna-2, the other unit at the plant, which sits 70 miles northeast of Harrisburg, is in the “licensee response column,” of column 1, which requires the least amount of NRC oversight.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/ElectricPower/6054671>

6. *May 4, BBC News* – (International) **Sellafield nuclear site terror suspects released.** Five men arrested close to the Sellafield nuclear site in Cumbria, England, under Britain’s Terrorism Act have been released without charge. The men, all from London and in their 20s, were arrested May 2 after a stop check on a vehicle close to the Sellafield site, in Cumbria. The BBC understands the men were taking photographs near the site. The North West Counter Terrorism Unit led the investigation. It was supported by Cumbria Constabulary. The men, all thought to be of Bangladeshi origin, were held in Carlisle overnight May 2 and then moved to Manchester May 3. Under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, a police officer can arrest anyone they “reasonably suspect” of being a terrorist. The Sellafield site is responsible for decommissioning and reprocessing nuclear waste and fuel manufacturing on behalf of England’s Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13284968>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *May 5, Attleboro Sun Chronicle* – (Massachusetts) **Fire destroys Rehoboth foundry.** A raging four-alarm fire fueled by an accidental chemical reaction poured into molds destroyed the G&W Foundry in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, May 4, leading to a physical loss estimated in the millions of dollars. The fire took firefighters from Rehoboth and several surrounding communities about 2 hours to get under control and was still smoldering the night of May 4, according to the fire chief. Employees said there were six to nine workers in the building at the time, and they and fire officials said all made it out of the building safely. No firefighters were reported injured battling the blaze reported just before 8 a.m. The fire erupted after an employee mistakenly mixed two reactive chemicals, producing a great amount of heat and flammable gas, fire officials said. “The reaction developed into a rapid fire,” the fire chief said, prompting the activation of the Bristol County Fire Task Force when local firefighters realized the fire’s scope. Employees said the fire started in the rear of the building. It created heat so intense it melted metal girders and led to the collapse of the roof in about a half-hour, a foundry worker said. The business specializes in mold casting in all types of metals, including aluminum, bronze, stainless steel, and malleable iron. Plumes of smoke initially drifted toward Route 44, prompting authorities to keep students inside at the Palmer River and Beckwith schools, about a mile away, as a precaution because of the chemical nature of the fire. Some neighborhood homes also were evacuated. The state’s department of environmental protection and a fire services hazardous materials teams, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and local health officials, responded.
Source: <http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2011/05/05/news/9261627.txt>

8. *May 4, Steel Market Update* – (Alabama) **Nucor and Severstal mills unable to produce new steel coils.** Three mini-mills in Alabama continue to be without sufficient power to run the melt segment of their mill operations, Steel Market Update reported May 4. The three mills are: Nucor Decatur, Severstal Columbus, and to a lesser degree Nucor Tuscaloosa. All three mini-mills, which means they make steel through the use of an electric arc furnace, have been unable to melt new steel due to power outages associated with storms in the southern United States the week of April 25. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has completed 95 percent of the customer electrical power connections which were interrupted from the storms. The TVA reported May 3 there are seven connection points remaining to be repaired and they will be the most difficult to fix.

Source: <http://www.steelmarketupdate.com/pub/blog/posts/2011/5/4/nucor-and-severstal-mills-unable-to-produce-new-steel-coils/>

9. *May 4, Reuters* – (National) **GM recalls 2011 Cruze cars to inspect steering shaft.** General Motors Co. (GM) is recalling 154,112 of its top-selling Chevrolet Cruze compact cars to check that the steering shaft was properly installed, the automaker said May 4. These cars represent all of the Cruze cars built at its plant in Lordstown, Ohio, from the start of production during the summer of 2010 through April 21, 2011, when changes at the plant were completed to keep the issue from reoccurring, GM said. The cars were sold in the United States and Canada since September 2010. Of those vehicles, more than 120,000 with an automatic transmission will also be inspected to ensure the transmission shift linkage was properly installed, GM said. “Very few” of the vehicles should have either problem, and GM has made quality process changes to ensure neither error happens again, GM’s vice president of global quality said in a statement. A GM spokesman said the wider steering shaft issue was discovered when a customer lost steering control in a parking lot, but did not have an accident. The issue regarding Cruze models with automatic transmissions was discovered when customers brought in their cars under warranty, GM said. GM said no accidents or injuries had been reported.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/05/us-gm-cruze-idUSTRE7437Y420110505>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *May 5, Bloomberg* – (National) **Boeing overcharged Army for helicopter parts.** Boeing charged the U.S. Army excessive prices for helicopter spare parts, including \$644.75 for a tiny black plastic motor gear that cost another Pentagon agency \$12.51, according to a report by the Defense Department’s inspector general, Bloomberg reported May 5. Boeing refunded \$556,006 on the “spur gear” earlier in 2011 after an audit draft was issued. The second-largest defense contractor issued an additional \$76,849 Army refund for a dime-size plastic “roller assembly” that costs \$7.71; Boeing had charged the Army \$1,678.61 apiece. Both are installed on the CH-47 Chinook. The refunds were among \$1.6 million Boeing made during the auditing phase

or after the draft was issued. The audit cites excessively priced parts or costs based on pricing data that were not current, complete, or accurate. The defective pricings stem from two Army depot contracts, valued at about \$970 million.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2011/05/05/boeing_overcharged_army_for_helicopter_parts/?rss_id=Boston.com++Boston+Globe+++National+News

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *May 5, Courthouse News Service* – (National) **Priest, attorney accused in Ponzi scam.** A grand jury accused two attorneys — one of them a priest — and a British real estate speculator of running a \$52 million Ponzi scheme. An FBI agent called it the biggest Ponzi scam in the history of the Eastern District of Missouri. Prosecutors said that from 2000 to 2010, U.S. investors loaned \$52.5 million to one of the men through the British Lending Program. Lenders believed they were loaning money for legitimate real estate developments, but the men kept most of the money, or used it to pay interest and principal to other lenders, the indictment states. Prosecutors said one of the men involved in the scheme, a priest and bishop in the church of the American Anglican Convocation, reaped nearly \$8 million from the scheme and used it to support an affluent lifestyle. In addition to conspiracy, the priest is charged with 9 counts of wire fraud, 6 counts of mail fraud, and 6 counts of money laundering. A forfeiture count would require the man to forfeit \$52.5 million to the government, as well as personal property.

Source: <http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/05/05/36349.htm>

12. *May 4, WGHP 8 Sophia* – (North Carolina) **Thousands of Guilford mortgage documents could be fraudulent, county officials say.** Thousands of mortgage documents in Guilford County, North Carolina could potentially be fraudulent, the county's register of deeds said. The register of deeds said his office noticed signature discrepancies in more than 4,500 mortgage and foreclosure documents submitted between August 2006 and April 2010. While the same name was signed to documents, the signature characteristics were different, he said. The signatures were produced in companies the register of deeds calls "mortgage mills," which banks use to speed up the processes of selling, extending loans and charging more fees. One of these companies, Georgia-based Doc-X, submitted more than 6,100 documents in Guilford County during the investigation period. Two North Carolina-based banks used Doc-X to process the claims, the register of deeds said. Wells Fargo processed 54 percent of those documents, while Bank of America processed 14 percent.

Source: <http://www.myfox8.com/news/wghp-story-guilford-mortgage-fraud-110504,0,379574.story>

13. *May 4, WFMZ 69 Allentown* – (Virginia; Pennsylvania) **Escaped convict accused of robbing 3 banks nabbed in Va.** The manhunt for an escaped convict suspected of

knocking off three banks in three days is over after the FBI said it arrested the man May 5 during an attempted bank robbery in Richmond, Virginia. The 32-year-old man escaped April 23 from the Wernersville Community Corrections Center in Berks County, Virginia. A short time after the man's escape, police said he robbed the Citizens Bank at North 5th and Penn streets in Reading, Pennsylvania. On April 25, police said he robbed the First Trust Bank at 7th and Hamilton streets in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Then he returned to Reading and allegedly robbed the Fulton Bank in the 200 block of North 5th Street. In May 2004, the man robbed the same Citizens Bank in Reading that he robbed April 23.

Source: <http://www.wfmz.com/berksnews/27775115/detail.html>

14. *May 4, Associated Press* – (Connecticut; Florida; International) **Venezuelan accountant pleads guilty in Conn. fraud.** A Venezuelan accountant pleaded guilty May 4 to charges he helped a Connecticut-based hedge fund adviser attempt to cover up a massive, 5-year pyramid scheme that could cost investors hundreds of millions of dollars. The man was accused of falsifying a document to throw off federal investigators targeting a Venezuelan-American financier who used unregistered hedge funds in Stamford, as cover for one of the biggest frauds in state history. U.S. prosecutors called the case against the Venezuelan-American financier Connecticut's biggest white-collar federal prosecution. The 42-year-old New Canaan man was accused of transferring money among investment accounts without telling clients to cover up huge financial losses, and then falsifying documents to deceive investors, creditors, and investigators. A pension fund for Venezuela's state oil workers accounted for most of the investment totaling hundreds of millions. As one of several co-conspirators, the 44-year-old accountant expected to receive \$1 million for agreeing to sign a fabricated letter indicating falsely one of the funds had made \$275 million in outstanding loans to Venezuelan companies, prosecutors said. A payment of \$250,000 for the accountant had already been delivered when he was arrested in March by FBI agents in Florida — money he agreed to forfeit as part of the plea agreement. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$2.5 million. The plea agreement does not put a lower cap on any prison sentence, although he waived a right to appeal a sentence involving less than 33 months in prison. Prosecutors also agreed not to pursue any additional charges against him.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jaxxTRxvwHnWNihW6fKNbuSqdTcQ?docId=f89fdde2ad814f0b88295a21dc6c887e>

15. *May 4, Reuters* – (National) **Five former Brooke execs settle SEC fraud charges.** Five former executives at Brooke, which franchised insurance agencies and made loans to its franchisees, settled U.S. regulatory charges May 4 that they fraudulently hid worsening finances that led to the company's bankruptcy, and the failure of several regional banks. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said May 4 the executives used "virtually any means necessary" in 2007 and 2008 to hide Brooke's condition, including its "almost weekly" liquidity crises, and fast-deteriorating loan quality. Two affiliates, Brooke Capital and Aleritas Capital, were

publicly traded, and loan losses of hundreds of millions of dollars by Aleritas caused the bank failures, the SEC said in a complaint filed in Kansas City, Kansas, federal court. One of Aleritas' biggest lenders obtained funds from the U.S. Treasury Department's Troubled Asset Relief Program, the SEC added. Two brothers, who were Brooke's chairman and chief executive, agreed to pay fines and disgorge profit in sums to be determined by the court, the SEC said. Three other former executives agreed to pay sums ranging from \$130,000 to \$414,000. None admitted wrongdoing. A sixth person has yet to settle. Brooke had been based in Overland Park, Kansas. It filed for Chapter 11 protection on October 28, 2008, showing assets of \$512.9 million and liabilities of \$447.4 million.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/id/42902310>

16. *May 4, Washington Post and Bloomberg* – (International) **UBS bank admits cheating U.S. municipalities out of millions.** Swiss bank UBS reaped millions of dollars of illegal profits by rigging at least 100 municipal bond transactions in 36 states, the U.S. government said May 4. In a settlement, UBS agreed to pay \$160 million. The case was part of an ongoing federal probe of manipulation in the market where municipalities borrow money to finance debts and pay for projects such as schools, roads, and hospitals. Instead of helping municipalities get the best deals, the federal authorities charged, UBS was cheating them. Under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), UBS “admits, acknowledges and accepts responsibility for illegal, anticompetitive conduct” by former employees, the department said. Four former UBS executives were previously charged, and one has pleaded guilty. In December, Bank of America settled a similar case by agreeing to pay \$137 million. The broader investigation includes the Securities and Exchange Commission, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, bank regulators and state attorneys general. UBS's offenses occurred from 2001 through 2006, the DOJ said. After issuing tax-exempt bonds, municipalities ordinarily invest the proceeds until they are ready to spend. UBS was involved in the process by which they selected temporary investments. It was supposed to involve arms-length competition, but UBS used techniques to rig the bidding and extract large profit margins, the government alleged. In some cases, UBS gave favored bidders information on competing bids. In other cases, it arranged for certain parties to make purposefully losing bids to help other parties win.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ubs-bank-admits-cheating-us-municipalities-out-of-millions/2011/05/04/AFLa3trF_story.html

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Transportation Sector

17. *May 5, TheTrucker.com* – (Arkansas) **Eastbound I-40 still open as of 11 a.m., but flood waters creeping closer to highway.** The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) said May 5 that as of 10 a.m., the eastbound lanes of Interstate 40 remain open between Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, but that the

flood waters of the White River, which caused the westbound lanes of I-40 to be closed the afternoon of May 4, were continuing to rise, threatening to cover the eastbound lanes and thus close I-40 completely. Interstate 40 crosses the White River in Prairie County. The ATHD May 4 announced the closing of the westbound lanes, and said at the time that the closing of the eastbound lanes was imminent. Those lanes remained open throughout May 4 and into the morning of May 5.

Source: <http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2011/5/5/EastboundI-40stillopenasofI1ambutfloodwaterscreeingclosertohighway.aspx>

18. *May 5, Plattsburgh Press-Republican* – (New York) **Amtrak, freight service suspended.** Bridge Road in Cross Point, New York is down to one lane, Route 9N/22 is closed near Port Henry, and the trains have stopped running. Flooding that continued May 4 from overnight rains kept maintenance crews busy trying to reopen roads and rails. Amtrak's Adirondack line, which runs one train each way between New York City and Montreal, Canada, daily, has been suspended until the water recedes and the tracks are inspected. The Essex County emergency service director said, "There are currently no trains, freight or passenger, operating on the (northern) line due to the flooding situation. They indicated work trains are on the line, and they hope to have it reopened."
Source: <http://pressrepublican.com/archive/x528374807/Amtrak-freight-service-suspended>
19. *May 4, KMSP 9 Eden Prairie* – (Minnesota) **Delta flight sees emergency evacuation.** Delta flight 220 from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Minneapolis, Minnesota, faced an emergency evacuation at about 2:30 p.m. after landing at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport May 4. The Delta spokesman said there were 159 passengers on board and 6 crew members. All were evacuated, some via the emergency slide. A ground worker reported seeing smoke from the brakes and the pilot deployed chutes, which is rare, but up to the pilot's discretion. According to the ground worker, on landing and while the plane was being taxied to the terminal, there was a report of "hot brakes," which could have caused a fire. Fire crews responded but said there were no signs of fire or smoke. No one was injured during the evacuation, but passengers had to wait about 20 minutes before they could get back aboard the plane to collect their belongings.
Source: <http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/nevada/delta-flight-sees-emergency-evacuation-may-4-2011>
20. *May 2, Courier Carrier Journal* – (National) **PHMSA releases 2011 report on hazmat incidents.** The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has released an online report ranking both the top hazardous materials and transportation processes that were related to serious incidents and fatalities from 2005 to 2009, Courier Carrier Journal reported May 2. The Top Consequence Hazardous Materials Commodities Report is part of a series of steps that will help PHMSA identify areas of concern, target risks for particular types of hazardous materials, and plan how to mitigate future incidents. The report's data also will help educate enforcement authorities, inspectors, and first responders on trends in the transport of

hazmat, which will help them set priorities to better deal with the materials and modes of transportation that could have the most damaging effects.

Source: <http://www.ccjdigital.com/phmsa-releases-2011-report-on-hazmat-incidents/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *May 5, The Saginaw News* – (Michigan) **State police say Saginaw Correctional Facility prisoner attempted to mail ‘suspicious white powder’ with a threatening letter.** The mysterious white powder and “threatening letter” that led to the evacuation of the Saginaw Correctional Facility mailroom in Tittabawassee Township, Michigan about 9 a.m. May 4 came from an inmate, state police investigators said. “Alert prison officials intercepted the letter which had not yet been circulated beyond the prison grounds,” state police officials said in a press release. The FBI Hazardous Materials Response Unit and teams from five municipal fire departments said preliminary analysis of the substance indicates it “did not contain any known hazardous materials or pose immediate danger.” A state police detective is investigating the matter. It is unknown who the package was addressed to and what the threatening nature of the letter was. The Saginaw Correctional Facility houses over 1,200 level I, II, and IV prisoners.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/05/state_police_say_saginaw_corr_e.html

22. *May 4, Springfield News-Leader* – (Missouri) **UPS uniform warning a hoax, company says.** A hoax warning that United Parcel Service (UPS) uniforms might be in the hands of terrorists just keeps rolling along. People in southwest Missouri have been receiving e-mails advising them to be on the lookout for people using UPS uniforms purchase in bulk on e-Bay, warning they might be terrorists. The message supposedly sent by a DHS employee in 2003 is false, a UPS spokeswoman said. DHS and the FBI tried to locate a woman named in the original warning who was described as a DHS employee. An investigation revealed the woman does not exist, the spokeswoman said. The warning advises people who doubt the identity of UPS employee to ask for identification.

Source: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20110504/NEWS01/110504029/1007/UPS-uniform-warning-hoax-company-says)

[leader.com/article/20110504/NEWS01/110504029/1007/UPS-uniform-warning-hoax-company-says](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20110504/NEWS01/110504029/1007/UPS-uniform-warning-hoax-company-says)

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Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *May 5, Texas Farm Bureau* – (Texas) **USDA combats plague against Texas prairie dogs.** Texas prairie dogs are in danger, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been called in to help. Hundreds of prairie dogs have died on a West Texas ranch, and a plague is suspected. Experts have dusted deltamethrin, an insecticide that is non-toxic to mammals, on portions of the 40,000-acre Texas ranch. The insecticide kills disease-carrying insects such as fleas, bedbugs, ticks, and other pests. Fleas are considered to be the culprit of the plague outbreak. The USDA's primary concern is preserving the endangered black-footed ferrets, which feed on the prairie dogs. Black-footed ferrets have been listed on the U.S. endangered species list since 1967. The Texas prairie dogs also support some raptors and the swift fox.
Source: <http://newsradio1420.com/newsradio/newsMaker.asp?storyID=24355>
24. *May 5, Plattsburgh Press-Republican* – (New York) **Farmer heard explosion, discovered fire.** A fast-moving fire killed 40 cows and destroyed a large barn May 4 near Churubusco, New York, minutes after the owner heard an explosion from his home. The explosion happened about 8:30 a.m. Firefighters from several Clinton and Franklin county departments responded. Hundreds of hay bales were burned. Everything on the south-facing end of the barn closes to the house was lost, but “the fire department did a good job saving the back part,” the owner said.
Source: http://pressrepublican.com/0100_news/x528374835/Farmer-heard-explosion-discovered-fire/
25. *May 5, KNTV 13 Las Vegas* – (National) **USDA issues salad recall for possible Salmonella contamination.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Safety and Inspection Service announced a recall of ready-to-eat salads because of a possible Salmonella contamination. Taylor Farms Pacific, located in Tracy, California, recalled approximately 22,000 pounds of ready-to-eat fresh salad products that contain meat and poultry because the grape tomatoes used in these products may be contaminated with Salmonella. The problem was discovered when Taylor was notified by its tomato supplier, Six L's, that a specific lot of grape tomatoes may have been contaminated. The products subject to recall were produced from April 20-24, 2011, and were sent to distribution centers in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and Washington for further distribution to retail stores.
Source: <http://www.ktnv.com/story/14576074/usda-issues-salad-recall-for-possible-salmonella-contamination>
26. *May 5, WPMT 43 York* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire destroys Lancaster County eatery; Suspicious circumstances under investigation.** A fire about 10 p.m. May 4 destroyed a diner in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The circumstances surrounding the fire at the West Lancaster Diner appeared to be suspicious. The state police fire marshal was on scene along with the East Hempfield Township Police Department. They were trying to figure out if a robbery and a fire were tied together. Several passerbys called 9-1-1 to report flames and smoke coming from the diner. The callers said there was a man lying on the ground out in front of the building. Fire crews extinguished the flames while officers interviewed the person. The man was an employee of the restaurant

closing up for the night, when he was robbed by several men. The worker was not hurt badly and was cooperating with police.

Source: <http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-amnews-west-lancaster-diner,0,7903776.story>

27. *May 4, Allegan County News* – (Michigan) **Tornado tears across 3 miles in Salem Township.** A tornado that swept through Salem Township, Michigan, overturned trailers, wrecked barns, uprooted trees, and damaged automobiles April 26. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported the 7-minute tornado had winds near 85 miles per hour. Classified as an EF0, the lowest on the five-point scale, it began at 5:44 p.m. and had a 3.25-mile path of damage 50 yards wide. “It caused damage to buildings at the Deboer Turkey Farm and trailers around the area,” the NWS Web site reported. The director of Allegan County Emergency Management estimated the damage at \$791,000, with the majority of that attributed to agricultural businesses.
- Source: http://www.allegannews.com/articles/2011/05/05/local_news/3.txt

For another story, see item [59](#)

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Water Sector

28. *May 5, Shelby Star* – (North Carolina) **Chlorine gas leak controlled at water treatment plant.** Shelby, North Carolina, hazmat technicians stopped a gas leak in a 2,000-pound chlorine tank that blocked traffic on most of Grover Street May 4. The incident happened at 11:30 a.m. at the water treatment plant. A broken seal around a valve on a chlorine cylinder allowed gas to escape, alerting the plant’s emergency system, according to the public utilities director. “I can’t tell how it broke,” he said. “It was a very small amount of chlorine gas that leaked.” Shelby police blocked traffic at the Polkville Road and Lee Street entrances to Grover Street. The leak was controlled around 12:30 p.m. Workers evacuated the plant. Shelby Fire Department, Cleveland County EMS, Shelby Rescue Squad, Cleveland County EMS, and Shelby Fire and Rescue responded.

Source: <http://www.shelbystar.com/news/shelby-55060-grover-plant.html>

29. *May 5, Frederick News-Post* – (Maryland) **Source of Myersville water-main break revealed.** Myersville, Maryland, residents were advised to boil their water until at least noon May 5, according to the town manager because of a morning May 4 water-main break. Crews fixed the break and restored water service to residents and businesses at about 6:30 p.m. May 4, but town officials were concerned about the slight possibility untreated water could have entered the system while repairs were being made. The break occurred when a flatbed truck loaded with heavy equipment hit a fire hydrant on Main Street while backing into a driveway the company was to work on for a homeowner. The impact of the truck, owned by Testa Asphalt Paving of Buckeystown, sheared the hydrant off at the base. The town manager said, “Because of the age of the system, the hydrants were not breakaways and there are no turn-off valves.” It was a

challenge to get the water turned off so repairs could begin. The town has a circular water system, with main pipes feeding into it from about eight different points. All of those feeds had to be shut down so there was no pressure in the system, she said. Once water was cut off at the tower and the pressure slowed, workers were able to shear the line and install a valve. She estimates the town lost between 100,000 and 150,000 gallons of water.

Source:

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=120745>

For another story, see item [3](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *May 4, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Workers at Hilo Veteran Affairs clinic possibly exposed to radiation over last 6 years.** Workers in a Hilo Veteran Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic in Honolulu, Hawaii may have been exposed to radiation over the last 6 years because equipment used to treat cancer patients was insufficiently shielded. Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported May 4 the linear accelerator machine is contained in a concrete and lead vault on the ground floor of the Hawaii Pacific Oncology Center, which is downstairs from the VA clinic. The CEO of Hilo Medical Center, which operates the oncology clinic, said tests showed “an issue” with the accelerator. He said when the linear accelerator is operating, there may be radiation levels that exceed regulatory limits in the rooms above. Three VA clinic employees were moved to other rooms. The CEO said the exposure was intermittent. Officials will continue monitoring the vault and the VA clinic.

Source:

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/3a2f87473061463e88ed7d42b7d6e9f1/ HI--Radiation-Exposure-Clinic/>

31. *May 4, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Hawaii health officials end dengue investigation.** Hawaii’s Department of Health has ended its investigation of a possible dengue fever outbreak. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported May 4 the cases appeared to be limited to five Pearl City residents and did not become a major outbreak. The health department closed the investigation after 65 of the 83 reports of suspected cases were ruled out or found to be negative. Health officials had known of four probable cases since March. A fifth case was believed to be the person who brought the disease to Pearl City after becoming infected during a trip to Asia. The environmental health deputy director said he does not know the relationship to the four other cases, but they lived in an area swarming with mosquitoes.

Source: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/news/2011/05/hawaii-health-officials-end-dengue-investigation>

32. *May 4, Redmond Reporter* – (Washington) **Authorities find nothing suspicious or hazardous after hazmat scare; cause still unknown.** Authorities found nothing

suspicious or hazardous May 4 after a Redmond, Washington, office building was evacuated due to a pungent gas-like smell. But the cause of the hazmat scare is still unknown. Thirteen people at HealthPoint medical clinic on Northeast 87th Street were transported to the emergency room at Evergreen Medical Center after they said they felt nauseous and dizzy. Many of the 13 who were transported to the hospital were released, according to the HealthPoint chief executive officer. All of the employees inside building B in the Together Center, including 20 employees and 5 patients from HealthPoint, were cleared out right before crews from the Redmond, Woodinville, and Bellevue fire departments responded to the scene at 16315 Northeast 87th Street at around 9:30 a.m. May 3, a department spokesperson said. HealthPoint was the only business affected by the smell, but the whole B building, which included three other nonprofit groups, was evacuated for precautionary reasons. Authorities shut down 87th Street between 161st and 164th avenues northeast for about 4 hours as they performed air tests. The air tests by fire crews and the Eastside Hazardous Materials Team showed nothing suspicious or hazardous, he said. An FBI hazardous materials team was also called in for precautionary reasons, he said.

Source: http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/east_king/red/news/121288088.html

33. *May 3, Lake County Record-Bee* – (California) **Measles outbreak reaches Mendocino County.** As of April, three confirmed cases of measles have been reported on the California coast in Mendocino County, according to the public health nurse with Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Public Health Branch. Since January 11, cases of measles have been reported in California, and a nationwide increase in the numbers of reported measles cases has been noted this year. Nearly all cases were linked to travelers to or from Europe or Asia or their contacts, with more than 5,000 cases alone reported this year in France, including one patient who died, and eight with neurological complications. The first measles case in Mendocino County was a French traveler who became ill while visiting the Mendocino Coast and whose infection spread to as many as two unimmunized county residents.
Source: http://www.record-bee.com/ci_17987563

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *May 5, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **School: Wisconsin boy brought fake bomb because of ‘mean teachers’.** School officials in Waupun, Wisconsin suspended an 8-year-old boy for allegedly bringing a fake bomb to school because he had “mean teachers.” The Waupun deputy chief said the boy is a third-grader at Rock River Intermediate School. She said he told fellow students May 2 he had brought a bomb to school. The bomb turned out to be a plastic eyeglasses case containing two batteries, a flashlight bulb, six nails, and a screw with a piece of thread. The boy told an investigator it was a nuclear bomb he wanted to set off in order to activate the fire alarms. The Reporter in Fond du Lac said the boy was suspended for 3 days. Dodge County Social Services is investigating.
Source: http://www.twincities.com/ci_17998439?nlick_check=1

35. *May 5, Towson Times* – (Maryland) **County police investigate bomb threats at Towson courts.** Baltimore County Police reported May 5 they had received a bomb threat at the district and circuit courts in Towson, Maryland. The bomb squad was dispatched to the scene and cleared both venues shortly before 9 a.m. “We have had a number of similar threats in previous days. There is a pattern, but we have to treat each one individually,” a spokeswoman for the department said. Additional details were not immediately available. A spokesman for the FBI said the bureau had been made aware of the incidents, but to date is not involved in the investigation.
Source: <http://www.explorebaltimorecounty.com/news/113226/county-police-investigate-bomb-threat-towson-courts/>
36. *May 5, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Man pleads guilty to threats against Roe.** A 27-year-old Maryville, Tennessee man pleaded guilty May 4 in federal court to threatening an East Tennessee Congressman over a passport. The man admitted he called the U.S. Representative’s office in Washington, D.C. and left threatening voice-mail messages in September 2010. Federal authorities said he made the calls twice and threatened murder unless the government issued him a passport. “During each phone call, he specifically threatened to either assault, shoot, or kill someone,” an FBI agent wrote in a warrant. Authorities have not said where the suspect wanted to travel, why his passport application apparently stalled, or why he blamed the Representative from Johnson City, whose district does not include Maryville. The suspect later visited a different Representative’s Blount County office and made more cryptic threats, according to court records. Authorities said he told the staff, “I have a trench coat, and you know what they are for.” FBI agents reported finding a loaded rifle with a scope and ammunition, along with a gas mask, tactical vest, and helmet, during a search of the man’s home.
Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/may/05/man-pleads-guilty-to-threats-against-roe/>
37. *May 4, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (Iowa) **Teen charged with school bomb threat.** A 14-year-old from Storm Lake, Iowa, was charged after a bomb threat was made May 4 at Storm Lake Middle School. The teenager faces a charge of making terroristic threats. School leaders said administrators were made aware of a bomb threat at the school at about 9:40 a.m. All students and staff were evacuated, and police were called in. A nearby elementary school was placed on lockdown. The teen was transported to the youth detention facility in Cherokee pending a court date.
Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/story/14575858/teen-charged-with-school-bomb-threat>
38. *May 4, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Suspicious device reported at Carlsbad library.** A suspicious object found May 4 outside a Carlsbad, California library — and later destroyed by a bomb squad — was not an explosive device but apparently was meant to look like a bomb, authorities said. Maintenance workers found the object — an oblong gray rectangle with wires sticking out of it — shortly before 8:30 a.m. near a concrete trash can outside the front doors of Cole Library, which was not open at the time, according to police. Responding officers closed a stretch of Carlsbad Village Drive in front of the city offices and library, and cleared everyone out of the buildings

while a county bomb squad was en route, a lieutenant said. The explosives team used a camera-equipped robot to inspect the object before deciding to destroy it. The controlled detonation occurred about 11 a.m., and the Carlsbad Village Drive library and city hall were cleared to open roughly an hour later, the lieutenant said.

Investigators believe the construction and placement of the object was a hoax, though no threats were received in connection with the incident. No suspects had been identified by late afternoon May 4.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/27775141/detail.html>

39. *May 4, Associated Press* – (International) **Backpack provokes alert at US embassy in Slovenia.** Slovenian police said a man May 4 threw a backpack into the U.S. embassy compound in the capital Ljubljana, triggering a bomb alert. No explosives were found. Police said they detained a 29-year old man from the eastern town of Krsko on suspicion of throwing the bag. Police cordoned off the area around the embassy and destroyed the backpack. Security has been stepped up at American and other Western embassies throughout the world after U.S. troops killed the leader of al-Qa'ida.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2014951921_apeusloveniausbombalert.html

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *May 5, WSBTV 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Thieves break into dozens of Georgia police cruisers.** DeKalb, Georgia police are investigating how thieves were able to break into 36 police vehicles that were sitting in the county's maintenance yard. A supervisor arrived April 29 to find trunk lids open, shattered windows, and popped locks. He still does not know how the thieves got in. The lot is surrounded by metal fencing and gates. It was supposedly being patrolled by a county contracted ABM security guard at the time. But, a Channel 2 investigative reporter obtained records showing the guard arrived 2 hours late that night. Officers were told to remove their guns and other items when they leave their cars at the maintenance lot. Out of 36 cars, the thieves got away with a few radios, one police jacket, a laptop, GPS, and a camera, police said. The fleet manager said there should not be any cost to taxpayers, because the county plans to go through the security company's insurance to pay for the repairs.

Source: <http://www.officer.com/news/10262410/thieves-break-into-dozens-of-georgia-police-cruisers>

41. *May 4, Coos Bay World* – (Oregon) **Landslide disrupts 911, phone service.** A phone outage disrupted 911 calling service in Douglas County, Oregon for more than half a day before the Douglas County Sheriff's Office learned of the problem. The reason for the delayed notification remains unclear. Also unknown is whether any emergencies went unreported. A landslide the night of May 2 took out a long distance phone line on state Highway 42, affecting customers on much of the South Coast. Frontier Communications discovered the outage around 10 p.m., a Frontier spokeswoman said.

But Frontier did not realize Reedsport's dispatch center had been affected. She said the Douglas County 911 center is routed through the long distance line that was severed. It was the only line in the area that was affected. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office learned of the problem from Frontier around 1 p.m. May 3 and all service was restored by that evening.

Source: http://theworldlink.com/news/local/article_9728c5af-92d1-5b2e-9ed8-73e88cec27aa.html

42. *May 3, Government Computer News* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans jazz fest hosts DHS test of multiband radios.** First responder teams in New Orleans, Louisiana will be part of the DHS test of new multiband radios during the city's annual jazz and heritage festival. DHS' Science and Technology Directorate is launching a 30-day pilot of the technology, which will allow police, firefighters, and other emergency response workers from multiple jurisdictions to communicate with one another. Police and emergency radios typically operate on only one frequency, which makes communication among multiple organizations difficult. Multiband radios can switch frequencies, allowing for better on-site collaboration. The festival, which began April 29, spans two weekends and attracts hundreds of thousands of people, which made it a good candidate for the latest tests. DHS is conducting 14 tests nationwide at events that draw large crowds and involve responders from multiple jurisdictions. The tests began in July 2009. Other tests have been conducted at the 2010 Winter Olympics, and at a NASCAR race in February.

Source: <http://gcn.com/articles/2011/05/03/new-orleans-jazz-fest-multiband-radios.aspx>

43. *May 3, Washington Times* – (Arizona; International) **Mexicans plead guilty in scheme of drugs for arms.** Two Mexican nationals have pleaded guilty in a conspiracy to trade drugs and cash for military-grade weapons — including anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank weapons, grenade launchers, and M-60 machine guns — for use by the Sinaloa drug cartel, the largest drug-smuggling gang in Mexico. A third defendant in the case was convicted last week in federal court in Phoenix, Arizona following his arrest by U.S. drug agents while attempting to deliver nearly 12 pounds of methamphetamines as a partial down payment for military-grade weapons. The Sinaloa cartel is thought to be responsible for bringing multiton quantities of cocaine and marijuana from Mexico into the United States through distribution cells in this country and Canada, operating primarily out of Mexico's west coast. "Through the well-coordinated effort of all involved agencies, dangerous weapons have been kept out of the hands of those who could turn those weapons against the United States," said a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives special agent in charge, who heads the agency's Phoenix office.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/3/mexicans-plead-guilty-in-scheme-of-drugs-for-arms/?page=all#pagebreak>

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [22](#)

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Information Technology Sector

44. *May 5, Help Net Security* – (International) **RTF exploit hiding in bin Laden death-themed email.** The newest instance of spammers and scammers taking advantage of the death of al-Qa'ida's leader also seems to be the latest incarnation of a slew of politically/economically themed malicious e-mails sent to targets working for the U.S. government. The e-mail holds "FW: Courier who led U.S. to [terrorist leader's name] hideout identified" in the subject line, and urges the recipient to download and open the attached [name] Death.doc file: The file is crafted in such a way as to attempt to take advantage of a RTF Stack Buffer Overflow Vulnerability. If it succeeds, it exploits shellcode and drops a file named server(dot)exe and executes it. According to F-Secure, the dropped file drops another file in the system, and attempts to hijack the DHCP service by modifying the registry. Then, it tries to connect to a command and control server located at ucarlnet(dot)com. The payload is a versatile piece of malware that can steal and send data to remote servers, download further malware on the system, and can act as a trojan proxy server.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1713

45. *May 5, The Register* – (International) **IE gets tough on Flash cookies but ignores homegrown threat.** Members of Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) team made it easier to delete the privacy menace known as Adobe Flash Cookies, but are not addressing a similar threat embedded in Microsoft's very own Silverlight framework. A Microsoft program manager May 3 blogged IE was now able to delete local shared objects (LSOs), the files set by Adobe Flash applications have been used for years as a stealthy means to track computer users' Web browsing habits. They carry no expiration date, can be deleted only by visiting an online settings panel or by installing a third-party app, and can be exploited to restore tracking cookies a user has previously deleted. IE will purge LSOs using an industry-standard technology Adobe is adding to version 10.3 of Flash. The so-called NPAPI ClearSiteData API allows users to delete the files the same way they erase HTTP cookies. However, there is a separate privacy issue which Microsoft is responsible for, and so far has not taken any meaningful steps to address. Silverlight has a scheme known as isolated storage that allows Microsoft's program to read, write, and delete files inside a virtual file system. "Isolated storage can be used in the same way as cookies, to maintain state and simple application settings, but it can also be used to save large amounts of data locally on the client," according to a Microsoft program manager. This means Silverlight can store huge amounts of data about end users, and deleting these cookies is as difficult as clearing Flash cookies. Once the Microsoft app stores the data, there is no way to delete it without relying on on the same Microsoft app. The history erasure tools in IE or any other browser will provide no benefit at all.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/05/silverlight_privacy_menace/

46. *May 4, Softpedia* – (International) **Mother's Day spam making the rounds.** Security vendors warn that spam campaigns trying to exploit people's interest in Mother's Day are currently making the rounds. One of the most common types of spam during this period will be product spam that leads users to sites selling replica items. "There is a

range of product spam, including flowers, watches, gift cards, and diet products. This latest spam campaign involved both dictionary and domain attack techniques, randomizing the URLs in the message body in attempts to bypass filters — all with alluring slogans and catchy photos,” a security expert at Symantec said. People should be aware that aside from the possibility of not receiving a product, buying from such sites, carries great risks of fraudulent activity on one’s credit card. The personal information provided during the order process can also be used for more targeted spam at later a time. Security researchers from BitDefender noted that fake greeting card spam is also popular during holidays. E-mails purporting to carry Mother’s Day e-cards as attachments can distribute dangerous trojans such as ZeuS or SpyEye which then steal personal and financial information from the victim’s computer.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Mother-s-Day-Spam-Making-the-Rounds-198470.shtml>

47. *May 4, H Security* – (International) **VLC Media Player vulnerable to buffer overflow exploits.** According to an advisory from security services provider Secunia, the VLC Media Player is at risk from multiple vulnerabilities in the Libmodplug library, which it rates as “highly critical.” First reported by a user with the pseudonym of “epiphant,” Libmodplug, also known as the ModPlug XMMS Plugin, is said to be prone to stack-based buffer overflows caused by “boundary errors within the ‘abc_new_macro()’ and ‘abc_new_umacro()’ functions in src/load_abc.cpp.” This could be exploited by an attacker to execute arbitrary code on a victim’s system. For an attack to be successful, a user must first open a specially crafted malicious media file. Secunia noted this may, however, only affect precompiled versions of VLC. The vulnerabilities have been confirmed to affect the latest 1.1.9 release of VLC for Windows.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/VLC-Media-Player-vulnerable-to-buffer-overflow-exploits-1237404.html>

48. *May 4, Macworld* – (International) **Apple releases iOS 4.3.3 to patch location bugs.** Apple released the iOS 4.3.3 update to fix a handful of bugs related to the storage of location data, Macworld reported May 4. The update addresses three bugs related to the database of location information on iOS devices. Firstly, it reduces the amount of the cached location information to a week’s worth, rather than relying on a size limit, as it previously did. Secondly, it no longer backs up the cache to a user’s Mac or PC via iTunes upon syncing, so the information is not available to anyone with access to their computer. Finally, the cache is now deleted from the device when Location Services are disabled in iOS’s Settings app. Apple has also announced plans to encrypt the location information on iOS devices itself in the next major update to the operating system.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216421/Apple_releases_iOS_4.3.3_to_patch_location_bugs

49. *May 4, The Register* – (International) **Sony implicates Anonymous in PlayStation Network hack.** Forensics experts investigating the security breach on Sony’s PlayStation Network found a file on one of the hacked systems that was entitled

“Anonymous” and contained the phrase “We are Legion,” the company’s chairman told members of the U.S. Congress. The revelation, made in a letter that Sony’s chairman sent May 3 to members of the U.S. House of Representatives, was used to support the company’s contention the massive security breach was carried out by members of Anonymous, the loosely organized griever and hacker collective that sometimes uses the tag line: “We are Legion.” The breach caused 100 million user accounts to be compromised. “Just weeks before, several Sony companies had been the target of a large-scale, coordinated denial of service attack by the group called Anonymous,” Sony’s chairman wrote. “The attacks were coordinated against Sony as a protest against Sony for exercising its rights in a civil action in the United States District Court in San Francisco against a hacker.”

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/04/sony_implicates_anonymous/

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

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Commercial Facilities Sector

50. *May 5, KGO 7 San Francisco* – (California) **4-alarm fire rips through San Francisco building.** A fire ripped through four buildings in San Francisco, California’s SoMa district May 4. It began inside a residential hotel then spread to neighboring buildings. Six people were treated for smoke inhalation, and two had to be taken to the hospital. More than 70 people had to be evacuated. Plumes of thick, black smoke and flames shot out of the roof of the 48-unit residential hotel as the first alarm went out at 5:24 p.m. May 4. Residents said they rushed to evacuate the building; many said smoke and fire alarms did not go off inside the building. By 6:30 p.m., a fourth alarm had been called and dozens of fire units had swarmed the scene. When timbers started falling, there were fears for the firefighters’ safety and the fire chief made the decision to evacuate the area. Crews then attacked the fire from ladder trucks as the flames spread to a nearby business, and damaged six flats in an adjacent apartment building. An army of firefighters stayed at the scene well into the evening. In all, 110 firefighters battled the blaze. The San Francisco Fire Department’s arson team is investigating the source of the fire. A temporary shelter for residents has been set up at the Gene Friend Recreation Center a block away from the fire.

Source:

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/san_francisco&id=8112745

51. *May 5, Softpedia* – (National) **Personal details of 250,000 X Factor USA auditionees possibly stolen.** The Fox Broadcasting Company has notified around 250,000 U.S. residents who signed up for auditions for “The X Factor” television show that their personal details might have been compromised after a hacker broke into its systems. In an e-mail sent to individuals possibly affected by this security breach, the company noted that exposed information might include their name, e-mail address, zip code, phone number (if provided), date of birth, and gender. While financial information or Social Security numbers have not been compromised, there is a high risk the exposed data will be used in attacks designed to obtain them. Users were advised to be alert and not respond to or act upon e-mails seeking additional personal or financial information that purport to come from Fox or The X Factor.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Personal-Details-of-250-000-X-Factor-USA-Auditionees-Possibly-Stolen-198688.shtml>

52. *May 4, WSBTV 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Downtown Atlanta skyscraper evacuated.** A faulty air handling system forced the evacuation of a major downtown Atlanta, Georgia skyscraper and the closure of Peachtree Street. Firefighters evacuated the Equitable Building on Peachtree Street around 1 p.m. May 4 after tenants reported smelling and seeing smoke throughout the building. Dozens of Atlanta firefighters arrived at the scene and investigated the source of the smoke and determined it was from a burned-out air handler on the roof. “Anytime we have anything at any of the high-rise structures downtown, it’s a whole different type of firefighting,” a battalion chief said. “It requires at least double the staff we normally have at a regular house fire.” Once firefighters cleared the smoke, employees were allowed back in the building and police reopened Peachtree Street.
Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/27777663/detail.html>

53. *May 4, Associated Press* – (Florida; Oklahoma) **FBI: Fla. mosque bombing suspect fatally shot.** A man wanted in the bombing of a Jacksonville, Florida mosque was shot and killed May 4 when he brandished a weapon as agents tried to serve an arrest warrant in northwest Oklahoma, FBI officials said. The 46-year-old St. Johns County, Florida man pulled out a firearm as federal and state law enforcement officers approached him in a field at Glass Mountain State Park near Orienta, Oklahoma, and asked him to surrender, an FBI special agent said. The special agent said the FBI learned late May 3 the suspect was staying in a tent in the park. An Oklahoma City FBI SWAT team and other law enforcement officers blocked off the area overnight, the special agent said. Because of the nature of the bombing, agents were concerned there may have been an explosive device in the area, but no bombs had been found as of the afternoon of May 4, a spokesman from the FBI’s Oklahoma City office said. The suspect was facing several federal charges, including damage to religious property and possession of a destructive device, in connection with the May 10, 2010, bombing of the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville. No one was hurt in that explosion, but authorities found remnants of a crude pipe bomb at the scene, and

shrapnel from the blast was found 100 yards away.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/05/04/fbi-fla-mosque-bombing-suspect-fatally-shot/>

54. *May 4, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **Six grenades found in apartment.** Authorities removed six grenades from a Stevens Creek Road apartment in Augusta, Georgia, May 4. During cleanup after the initial investigation, another explosive device was found. The Richmond County Sheriff's Office was notified around 11:45 a.m. after the management of Courtyards at Rocky Creek, at 940 Stevens Creek Road, found the grenades in a vacant apartment in the 100 block of the apartment complex. According to the sheriff's office, the tenant had turned his key in to management May 2 after living in the apartment for about 9 years. All tenants in the building were evacuated as a precaution. The grenades were rendered safe and taken to the sheriff's office. The device found later in that unit is still being investigated, a sheriff's office spokesman said. The Richmond County Bomb Squad later responded to an Appling property where a Japanese rocket round was discovered. The Japanese rocket round was discovered when someone was cleaning out a family member's home in the 2700 block of Ray Owens Road in Appling. The person called the Columbia County Sheriff's Office about 3:30 p.m. The round was taken to the sheriff's office range and detonated, according to the sheriff's office.

Source: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2011-05-04/box-hand-grenades-discovered?v=1304539573>

55. *May 4, Florence Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Damages estimated at \$119 million.** The worst tornado on record in northwest Alabama caused an estimated \$119 million in property damage in Phil Campbell, Alabama destroyed a third of the town's nearly 1,200 buildings, and left 26 residents dead as it roared through April 27, officials said. The preliminary damage report released May 3 puts in perspective a horrific night in Franklin County's history. Two residents remain unaccounted for, based on an FBI report. The report noted four people are also on the unaccounted-for list in nearby Hackleburg, which also was hit by the EF5 tornado. Combined, 50 people have been pronounced dead and 93 more remain hospitalized. The two towns are about 5 miles apart, although in separate counties. Statewide, 232 people died in tornadoes April 27. The tornado hit an estimated 410 structures in Phil Campbell and 527 overall in Franklin County, destroying an estimated 85 percent of those, according to data released May 3. Authorities were still working on a monetary estimate of damage on Hacklebug. The police chief said it could reach \$1 billion, which would include damage at the Wrangler's distribution warehouse. Officials said the tornado destroyed 31 businesses in Hackleburg, leaving one operational — River Birch Homes, a manufactured home plant south of town. All 42 public housing units in Phil Campbell were destroyed. Housing authorities in Florence, Hamilton, Russellville, and Sheffield have taken in many of the residents left homeless by the tornado.

Source:

<http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20110504/NEWS/110509923/1006/entertainment?Title=Damages-estimated-at-119-million>

56. *May 3, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Santa Monica synagogue bomb suspect indicted by federal grand jury.** A 60-year-old homeless man was indicted May 3 on federal explosives charges in connection with a blast last month outside a Santa Monica, California, synagogue. The man faces charges including detonating an explosive device April 7 outside the Chabad House, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles. He fled California on a bus, but was apprehended several days later in Cleveland, Ohio. The man, who is in federal custody, was indicted by a federal grand jury and faces up to 70 years in prison if convicted of the four felony charges, authorities said. The explosion hurled a 250-pound piece of concrete-encased steel pipe that smashed into a nearby home. The slab tore a hole in the roof above a bedroom where a 12-year-old girl was sleeping, according to papers filed in federal court. Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/05/man-indicted-by-federal-grand-jury-in-santa-monica-synagogue-bomb-blast.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

57. *May 5, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Feds warn national forest visitors to beware of pot farms, armed growers.** Federal officials warned people to be on the lookout again for marijuana gardens and armed growers as they visit the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin in the summer of 2011. U.S. Forest Service officials said planting typically occurs in the spring. Visitors should look for isolated tents, garden tools, bags of fertilizer, garbage, and large, stump-filled areas. Growers often carry guns. If anyone comes across any of those signs, they should get out of the area as quickly as possible, take note of any significant landmarks, and notify police. Investigators in 2010 eradicated about 70,000 marijuana plants that a drug trafficking organization had planted in the forest. Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3d6906b324514650afe3d31d02ffd061/WI--Pot-Farms/>
58. *May 4, KVOA 4 Tucson* – (Arizona; International) **Both So. Ariz. wildfires nearly contained.** Two wildfires were still burning May 4 in the Coronado National Forest south of Tucson, Arizona, but both were over 50 percent contained as crews wind down and “mop up” remaining trouble areas. According to U.S. Forest Service (USFS) officials, the Greaterville Fire spread to about 1,825 acres since it was sparked May 2. It was burning in the Santa Rita Mountains, about 1 mile west of Greaterville, Arizona. The unit of 4 crews, 4 fire engines, and one water tanker had the fire about 60 percent contained, allowing Box Canyon Road (also known as Greaterville Road) to reopen, the USFS said. Crews would continue patrolling the area, mopping up remaining areas until the fire is completely contained. The Bull Fire is all but contained, at least on this side of the International Boundary. USFS officials said the fire was 95 percent contained on the U.S. side, after spreading to nearly 10,000 acres. They said visible

smoke in the area is from the the Mexican side of the border, where fires continue to burn. The USFS said both fires were human-caused, and the cause was under investigation.

Source: <http://www.kvoa.com/news/both-so-ariz-wildfires-nearly-contained/>

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Dams Sector

59. *May 5, CNN* – (National) **Officials continue plan to stop massive flooding in South, Midwest.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) intends to continue their plan May 5 to breach a levee on the Mississippi River to help stop catastrophic floods in communities in several states. USACE intends to open the final crevasse in the Birds Point-New Madrid levee, continuing a plan to blast holes in it in an effort to ease unprecedented flood pressure. USACE started the plan May 2. The Ohio River level at Cairo, Illinois, has dropped nearly 2 feet since that afternoon. Officials said they believe the levels would be up to 3 feet higher now if the levee had not been detonated. Still, Cairo was under a mandatory evacuation order, and six other communities were under voluntary evacuation notices, an Illinois Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman said. Despite the plan, many areas were inundated as the Mississippi spilled out across huge swaths of farmland, creating massive flooding from Minnesota to Louisiana. The flooding has been triggered by heavy rains and meteorologists said it is not expected to fully relent until early June. More than 20 miles of westbound Interstate 40 in eastern Arkansas was closed due to flooding, state police reported early May 5. On May 5, 11 Mississippi counties along the Mississippi River were declared federal disaster areas in anticipation of major flooding.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/05/05/midwest.flooding/>

60. *May 4, Salt Lake City Deseret News* – (Utah) **Water released from dam early.** The Bureau of Reclamation began releasing water as fast as it can from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah late May 3. The reservoir is 84 percent full, and with warmer temperatures ahead, the bureau decided now would be a good time to start the process. Water levels at the reservoir are a lot higher than normal because of the deep snowpack above Flaming Gorge, above the Upper Green Basin and in the Yampa River Basin. The cool weather has delayed the start of the low-elevation snowmelt runoff. But warm temperatures over the coming days will melt some of that away and could cause problems. The May preliminary forecast from the River Forecast Center for inflows into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 139 percent of average compared with the April 1 forecast, which was 113 percent of average. The Yampa River forecast increased over the same time period from 157 percent of average to 197 percent of average. As the total releases from the dam increases to between 8,400–8,600 cubic feet per second, downstream recreation areas will see an increase in river stage of between one and one and a half feet. The Bureau of Reclamation is also monitoring river flows downstream on the Green and Yampa to make sure those communities do not flood.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700132695/Water-released-from-dam-early.html>

61. *May 3, Des Moines Register* – (Iowa) **Legislative briefs: Senate OKs bill to fix Lake Delhi dam.** The Iowa Senate May 2 approved a \$5 million state appropriation over 2 years to help pay for rebuilding the flood-damaged Lake Delhi dam in northeast Iowa, although the funding issue is far from settled. The senate authorized the \$5 million as an amendment to a \$166 million state infrastructure appropriations bill that now returns to the Iowa House, where it faces an uncertain future. The Lake Delhi dam was breached July 24 after a 14- to 16-inch downpour fell upstream in the Maquoketa River watershed. The lake, surrounded by about 900 homes and cabins, was drained by the disaster and can not be refilled until the dam is repaired. The river now flows through the former lake bed in a narrow channel. Repairs could cost up to \$15 million.

Source:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110503/NEWS10/105030350/Legislative-briefs-Senate-OKs-bill-to-fix-Lake-Delhi-dam>

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