



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 May 2011

Top Stories

- According to the Military Times, the U.S. Air Force has grounded all of its F-22 Raptors until further notice because of potential, life-threatening malfunctions in the oxygen-generation system. (See item [9](#))
- CNET News reports a group of hackers said it is planning another wave of cyberattacks against Sony in retaliation for its handling of the PlayStation Network breach that saw 100 million user accounts compromised. (See item [37](#))

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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 6, South Bend Tribune* – (Indiana) **Gas leak forces evacuation in River Park.** Workers installing a new sewage line underneath Pleasant Street in South Bend, Indiana, struck a gas main May 5, sending the smell of natural gas into the air and fire crews scrambling. The leak was large enough that firefighters evacuated homes along Pleasant, as well as homes along 30th, 31st, and 32nd streets, as a precaution. A fire battalion chief said firefighters helped one elderly resident out of her home, but that most people were able to leave on their own. Although the gas leak occurred a few

blocks east of Nuner Primary Center, the battalion chief said a southwest wind pushed the leaking gas in the opposite direction. School officials were alerted about the gas leak, however, and children living in the area were told to avoid walking through the evacuated zone. Shortly after 2:30 p.m., a Northern Indiana Public Service Co. worker told firefighters the leak had been capped, allowing evacuees to return to their lives.

Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/sbt-20110506sbtmichb-03-04-20110506,0,6281938.story>

2. *May 4, WSOC 9 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Isolated fire causes concern at other solar sites.** A Charlotte, North Carolina company said May 4 its solar panels at the airport are safe. NARENCO showed WSOC 9 News an e-mail from an outside engineer to airport leaders that said it is a “well-installed, well-maintained system and there is no cause for concern.” The airport was inspecting the panels after a building in Mount Holly that had NARENCO panels on the roof caught fire in April. Duke Energy is also inspecting its NARENCO system on the Food Lion distribution center in Salisbury, and its 17 other solar sites across the state, regardless of whether NARENCO installed them. Meanwhile, NARENCO plans to put panels on the new Newton-Conover Middle School set to open next year, and parents there would like some reassurance. School leaders said they are not worried and are sticking with their plan because they think NARENCO’s work was fine in Mount Holly, and that their school design is substantially different.

Source: <http://www.wsoc9.com/news/27778840/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

3. *May 6, BBC News* – (International) **Inquiry after fire at Trawsfynydd nuclear plant.** An investigation was under way after a fire broke out at the Trawsfynydd nuclear site in Snowdonia, Wales. Firefighters were called to the plant after reports of a small fire in one of the buildings May 5. All 220 site staff were evacuated while crews made the area safe. A spokeswoman for site owners Magnox said there was no release of radioactivity and staff were allowed back to work two and half hours later. The power station in Gwynedd ceased generating in 1993 and is being decommissioned. Magnox said they were alerted after a fire alarm was activated in the ponds complex on the site. These were previously used to cool reactors. “The emergency services were quickly on the scene and confirmed the problem to be a small fire in the ponds export building (part of the ponds complex),” Magnox said. The fire was caused by an isolator, which controls electricity supplies, overheating and igniting trash in a plastic bin. All similar isolators on the site were being inspected. The spokeswoman said the

fire happened in a “clean area” where staff do not have to wear protective gear.
Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-13308268>

4. *May 5, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Turbine problem keeps reactor shut.** Reactor Unit No. 2 at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Pennsylvania, will remain shut down for an additional 4 to 6 weeks after an inspection revealed some defects in some turbine blades. A PPL spokesman said the reactor has been shut down since April 5 for its biannual inspection and the replacement of fuel rods and some other upgrades. When staff found “indications of cracks” in some of the low-pressure turbine blades, the decision was made to extend the outage and replace those blades. “The turbine blade inspection is a normal part of our outage inspection, but we didn’t expect to find defects in the blades,” he said. Each of the two reactors at the plant heat water into steam, which is carried to turbine generators. Each generator has a shaft with a high-pressure turbine on one end attached to three low-pressure turbines, the last of which is attached to the generator shaft. The blades of the turbines catch the steam and cause the shaft to spin at about 1,800 revolutions per minute, which enables the generator to create electricity. Each turbine weighs about 170 tons and has hundreds of blades. Because defects were found in a few blades, most or all will be inspected, he said.
Source: <http://www.timesleader.com/news/Turbine-problem-keeps-reactor-shut.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

5. *May 6, WLTX 19 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Fire extinguished at Sumter plant.** A fire burned the morning of May 6 at the Kaydon plant in Sumter, South Carolina. Fire officials said the fire at the plant started after midnight May 6. It was extinguished by firefighters. The plant produces bearings for aerospace, heavy equipment, and medical systems. WLTX received an e-mail from a viewer who said smoke was pouring out of the building after the fire was put out. Fire officials said there were no injuries reported.
Source: <http://www.wltx.com/news/article/135610/2/Fire-Extinguished-at-Sumter-Plant>
6. *May 6, Aviation Week* – (Washington) **Boeing puts hold on 747-8 production.** Boeing will freeze 747-8 production for a month from May 6 to incorporate changes from discoveries made during flight test and to allow workers in Everett, Washington, to catch up on thousands of unfinished items, or “traveled work.” The move, which follows similar actions taken three times on the 787 line, is an unwelcome new delay to a program desperately trying to catch up on almost 2 years of program slippage. However, Boeing expects to gain some benefit by using the production hold to help prepare for 2012’s planned production rate increase to two aircraft per month. Although Boeing said the interruption to production will not delay first delivery to Cargolux later this summer, the manufacturer is assessing the overall impact on downstream deliveries later in 2011. Boeing plans to resume normal production flow in early June, but until then the line will remain static with completion of tasks on aircraft in-situ. Some change incorporation is also expected to be completed on the 20 aircraft already

assembled. Of these, 7 have been used for flight testing while 13 are in storage around the delivery ramp alongside a growing number of undelivered, engineless 787s. The temporary production freeze is widely expected to knock delivery of the first 747-8 passenger variant into early 2012.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/awx/2011/05/06/awx_05_06_2011_p0-319615.xml&headline=Boeing Puts Hold On 747-8 Production&channel=comm](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/awx/2011/05/06/awx_05_06_2011_p0-319615.xml&headline=Boeing+Puts+Hold+On+747-8+Production&channel=comm)

7. *May 5, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Kohler recalls engines sold with Husqvarna, Cub Cadet, and Troy-Bilt riding lawn tractors; laceration hazard posed.** Kohler Co., of Kohler, Wisconsin, has issued a recall May 5 for about 10,000 Kohler Courage Engines. A wire connector on the engine can become disconnected causing the operator's seat switch to fail. When this happens, the blades will not shut down, posing a laceration hazard to consumers. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The recall involves Kohler Courage twin-cylinder engines sold with three brands of lawn tractors: Husqvarna, Cub Cadet, and Troy-Bilt. The lawn tractors that contain the recalled engines were sold at Lowe's, Tractor Supply Company stores, and by authorized Cub Cadet dealers nationwide from February 2011 through April 2011.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11215.html>

8. *May 5, American Metal Market* – (National) **Aluminum premiums push 10 cents as truck shortage delays shipments.** Some downstream aluminum mills feeding their plants with just-in-time deliveries could find themselves short feedstock in coming weeks as a severe shortage of trucks keeps some suppliers and traders from making timely shipments, market participants told American Metal Market, which reported the news May 5.

Source: <http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2819916/AMM-Aluminum-premiums-push-10-cents-as-truck-shortage-delays-shipments.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *May 5, Military Times* – (National) **Air Force grounds entire F-22 fleet.** The U.S. Air Force has grounded all of its F-22 Raptors until further notice because of potential malfunctions in the fighter jets' oxygen-generation system. The commander of Air Combat Command (ACC) ordered a stand-down of the 165-plane fleet May 3, an ACC spokeswoman said. She did not immediately know how long the Raptors will be out of service. The On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS) has been under investigation since an F-22 crashed in November just outside Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. Until the stand-down, Raptor sorties had been restricted to an altitude of 25,000 feet or below for training missions because of the potential malfunctions. The limits were "designed for mishap prevention and is a prudent measure to ensure the OBOGS are operating safely," an ACC spokesman said in March, when the command

first publicly disclosed the investigation. An OBOGS malfunction can be potentially life-threatening, according to a subject matter expert.

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/05/airforce-grounds-entire-f22-fleet-050511w/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *May 6, WSVN 7 Miami* – (Florida) **Police search for 2 armored car robbers.** Police in Miami, Florida, were searching May 6 for two men in a white Nissan Altima who robbed an armored truck guard May 5. According to Miami-Dade Police, the robbery happened inside a Pollo Tropical at around 3:30 p.m. The Garda armored truck pulled into the parking lot to collect money from the restaurant. Then two men came out of the white Nissan Altima and ambushed the armored truck guards while they were inside the restaurant. The suspects reportedly wrestled a gun away from a guard, and one of the subjects fired a shot inside before they fled with a bag of money in the Nissan. Once outside, a bystander pulled his own gun to shoot at the fleeing robbers. The robbers fled along 67th Avenue where they dumped the gun and an empty bag that once held money from the car. Police said they found the items about a block away from the scene, in front of a fire station. Police cordoned off the evidence for FBI investigators. The two robbers remain at large.

Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21004232237046/>

11. *May 5, Reuters* – (National) **US narrows case vs accused Ponzi schemer Stanford.** Federal prosecutors have narrowed their criminal case against a Texas financier accused of running a \$7 billion Ponzi scheme. The government filed an amended, 14-count indictment in U.S. district court in Houston, Texas, May 4 that drops five mail fraud counts and two wire fraud counts. It also dropped part of a conspiracy count. The man could still face as much as 20 years in prison if convicted on any of the 10 fraud counts in the revised indictment. No trial date has been set. Prosecutors have accused the man of defrauding investors who bought bogus certificates of deposit issued by his Antigua-based Stanford International Bank Ltd. They have said the one-time billionaire used proceeds in part to fund other ventures and a lavish lifestyle that included several yachts and private jets, and homes around the world. It was unclear why the case was narrowed and the other defendants were dropped. Four co-defendants in the original June 2009 indictment were also dropped from the new indictment. The suspect now faces five counts of mail fraud and five counts of wire fraud. He is also charged with obstructing a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) probe, and conspiring to obstruct the SEC, commit money laundering, and commit mail fraud and wire fraud.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/05/stanford-indictment-idUSN056191220110505>

12. *May 5, Allstate Insurance Company* – (New York) **Allstate Insurance Company files \$4 million insurance fraud case.** Allstate Insurance Company is seeking to recover \$4

million against 20 New York area defendants in its first insurance fraud lawsuit of 2011. The complaint specifically cites six physicians, eight medical professional corporations, and the lay-owned companies allegedly used to control the medical professional corporations. The complaint alleges New York medical professional corporations known as Right Aid Diagnostic Medicine P.C., A Plus Medical P.C., Omega Medical Diagnostic P.C., Shore Medical Diagnostic P.C., Oracle Radiology of NY P.C., Atlantic Radiology Imaging P.C., Atlantic Radiology P.C. and Aurora Radiology P.C. were fraudulently incorporated through a scheme using the names of licensed medical physicians, and that lay-owners, none of whom were physicians, secretly owned and controlled the professional corporations. Allstate's complaint further alleges these defendants caused the submission of fraudulent claims and MRI reports to Allstate demanding payment of No-Fault benefits. The lawsuit was filed following an investigation by Allstate's Special Investigative Unit and seeks reimbursement for personal injury protection benefits Allstate paid on behalf of its customers during time frames specified in the lawsuit.

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/allstate-insurance-company-files-4-million-insurance-fraud-case-121334814.html>

13. *May 5, WECT 6 Wilmington* – (North Carolina) **‘The Credit Doctor’ pleads guilty to fraud.** A man from Wilmington, North Carolina, who advertised himself as “The Credit Doctor,” pleaded guilty the week of May 2 to bank fraud among other charges. The man pleaded guilty in federal court to bank fraud, three counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of obstruction of justice and one count of aggravated identity theft. According to his indictment, he submitted hundreds of false credit card and lines of credit applications in the names of multiple people or businesses to banks from 2005 to 2009. He touted specialized skills in obtaining credit for new businesses and credit repair to potential customers, gathering their personal information in the process as “The Credit Doctor of North Carolina.” The customers believed they were only going to get up to two credit cards, but he would get as many as 20 for the individuals. he was also accused of submitting false applications regarding annual income and when businesses were established as well as using fictitious tax returns. The indictment states the man started one account and ended up laundering more than \$950,000 through his Sun Trust accounts from 2006 to 2009. Between 2005 and 2011, the man was accused of causing \$4 million worth of credit application and wire fraud. He could get up to 30 years just on the bank fraud, plus 20 more for the wire fraud, money laundering, and obstruction of justice. The maximum penalty for aggravated identity theft is 2 years in prison.

Source: <http://www.wect.com/story/14582024/the-credit-doctor-pleads-guilty-to-fraud>

14. *May 3, Reuters* – (International) **North Korea behind cyber attack on S.Korea bank-prosecutors.** North Korean computer hackers were responsible for bringing down the network of a South Korean bank in April 2011, prosecutors in Seoul, Korea said May 3, in the latest of a string of cyber attacks thought to have originated from the secretive state. A senior prosecutor from the Seoul central prosecutors office said an “unprecedented act of cyber terror” by a North Korean group caused the network breakdown of South Korea’s agricultural banking cooperative Nonghyup. The crash of

Nonghyup's computer system affected millions of customers who were unable to use the bank's credit cards and ATMs for more than a week. Prosecutors said the April 12 attack was "meticulously prepared and executed" by the same group that carried out cyber attacks on key South Korean government and business Web sites in 2009 and March 2011. One of the Internet protocol addresses used to break into the Nonghyup network was the same as one used a few months ago for the distributed denial-of-service attack that originated from North Korea, the prosecution said. It said the attack was a new type of cyber terrorism that targeted a private firm to destroy the financial system, "which is the backbone of (the South's) capitalist society".

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/03/korea-north-cyber-idUSL3E7G31BT20110503>

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Transportation Sector

15. *May 6, msnbc.com* – (National) **Al-Qaida aspired to attack US train on 9/11/11.** Al-Qaida considered attacking U.S. trains on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, according to an initial look at DVDs, computers, and other documents seized at the raid on home of the al-Qaida leader killed by U.S. troops, NBC News reported May 5. However, U.S. officials told NBC News they have no recent intelligence indicating such a plot is active. The information about a possible train plot is the first intelligence revealed from the trove of material found in the attack on his compound. Officials said they found what they call "aspirational" items — things al-Qaida operatives were interested in trying to make happen. A government advisory obtained by NBC News and sent May 3 to the rail industry said that as far back as February 2010, al-Qaida was contemplating "an operation against trains at an unspecified location in the United States on the 10th anniversary" of the September 11th attacks. One option, the advisory said, was trying to tip a train by tampering with the rails so that the train would fall off the track at either a valley or on a bridge. Such an attempt would probably only work once, the material in the leader's house said, because tilting or tampering with the rails would be spotted, according to the advisory. Other material mentions a desire to target big mass-transit hubs, an interest long understood because of the history of al-Qaida attacks on rail targets in Spain, the United Kingdom, and India. The FBI and DHS are encouraging local governments to maintain vigilance. Currently, there are no plans to issue a terrorism alert, because there is still no specific or credible intelligence of any actual attack plan in the works, NBC News said.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42922557/ns/world_news-death_of_bin_laden/?gt1=43001

16. *May 5, Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* – (Florida) **American Airlines 737 forced to turn back by cockpit odor.** An American Airlines 737 turned around just 10 miles into its flight to Haiti May 6 and returned to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Broward County, Florida after the crew reported a "fuel-type odor" in the

cockpit, according to Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue. Flight 2285, with 69 passengers and 6 crew members aboard, was bound for Port-au-Prince, according to the fire rescue spokesman. The aircraft was greeted by several fire engines, a hazardous materials team, and a bomb and arson squad, he said. After a safe landing, the plane taxied to a gate where passengers disembarked, he said. Four flight attendants were examined by paramedics as a precaution after one complained of a “burning” sensation in his chest but none required hospital treatment, he said. An investigation of the plane led firefighters to the rear cargo hold where they discovered bottles of antiseptics and other toiletries that had spilled and mixed together inside some luggage, causing the fumes, he said. The flight was canceled following the 90-minute incident, he said.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/fort-lauderdale/fl-cockpit-fuel-odor-brf-20110505,0,7569886.story>

For more stories, see items [1](#), [28](#), and [43](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *May 6, Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **HazMat team investigates package at Franklin police station.** At about 9:30 p.m. May 5, a resident of Franklin, Massachusetts, brought a suspicious envelope received in the mail to the police station, the deputy police chief said. Police called in a state police bomb technician and regional hazardous materials team to investigate the package. They worked for a few hours and determined it was neither radioactive nor explosive. Police plan to bring the package to a food and drug lab in Boston for further analysis, the deputy police chief said. “I couldn’t tell you what’s in it,” he said. “I know you can feel with a finger ... that something is in there.” He said they would prefer people not bring a suspicious package to the station. “You put it in a motor vehicle and drive to the police station but you don’t know (what’s in the package),” he said. “Thank goodness it was nothing or appears to be nothing.” Police operations were not affected by the incident, he said. Source: http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/police_and_fire/x855737052/HazMat-team-investigates-package-at-Franklin-police-station

18. *May 6, Reuters* – (District of Columbia) **FBI probes white powder in letters sent to DC schools.** The FBI May 6 investigated more than three dozen suspicious letters containing a white powdery substance sent to schools in the Washington, D.C. area, leading authorities to race across the city to check for possible threats. No hazardous substance was found and no illnesses or injuries were reported as a result of the 37 letters found so far at 32 schools, according to the FBI’s Washington field office. Four letters were found at area postal facilities, an FBI spokesman said. They appeared to be mailed from the Dallas, Texas area where investigators have been examining similar suspicious letters, the FBI said. Last October, letters that also bore a resemblance to this latest batch were received at some Washington, D.C., schools. In Washington, FBI agents, postal inspectors, and local authorities went from school to school over the course of 10 hours May 5 as new letters were discovered. The scare led to “some

school evacuations and tying up hundreds of hours of police and law enforcement resources,” the FBI said. The letters were sent to the FBI’s lab at Quantico, Virginia, for review. While the FBI said the letters were printed rather than handwritten and not addressed to individual people, authorities declined to provide further details.

Washington, D.C., public schools opened on a normal schedule May 6.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/06/us-usa-security-letters-idUSTRE7453IX20110506>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *May 6, Bloomberg* – (International) **Morocco arrests 3 for Marrakesh bombing, alleges al-Qaeda link, Pais says.** Moroccan police probing the April 28 bombing of a Marrakesh restaurant frequented by tourists arrested three suspects “including the main perpetrator of the terrorist act,” El Pais reported, citing a government statement. The main suspect in the attack that left 16 people dead and 24 injured, had a “jihadist ideology and links to al-Qaeda,” the report said, citing the Interior Ministry statement. The individual once tried to emigrate to Chechnya and Iraq and learned to make bombs on the Internet, the report said. Moroccan investigators are receiving help from the FBI, Scotland Yard, French antiterrorist officials, and Spain’s Tedax bombing experts, the newspaper said.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-06/morocco-arrests-3-for-marrakesh-bombing-alleges-al-qaeda-link-pais-says.html>

20. *May 6, Daily Herd Network* – (National) **Response drills for foot and mouth disease begin next week.** The killing of an al-Qaida leader by the U.S. military prompted heightened awareness of a possible retaliatory terrorist attack, and the livestock community is not immune to the threat. The FBI hosted the International Symposium on Agroterrorism the week of April 25, and some of the speakers mentioned that the U.S. food and agricultural system could become the target of a terrorist attack. For instance, foot and mouth disease could come into the U.S. from another country, either intentionally or unintentionally. Industry preparedness for a possible foot and mouth outbreak is imperative, said the senior vice president of strategic communications at Dairy Management Inc. (DMI), which manages the national dairy checkoff program. Beginning the week of May 9, DMI will conduct a series of drills on industry response to a fictional outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United States. The first drill will be May 10-11 in Baltimore, Maryland, with follow-up drills August 17-18 in Denver, Colorado, and November 30-December 1 in Kansas City, Missouri. The point is to think about the possible scenarios, discuss them, and establish relationships between the different stakeholder groups, the senior vice president said.
Source: <http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/latest/Response-drills-for-foot-and-mouth-disease-begin-next-week---121344269.html>

21. *May 6, Associated Press* – (South Dakota; North Dakota) **Missouri dam releases could hurt fisheries.** Fishery managers in North Dakota and South Dakota are nervous

about anticipated high water releases from upstream dams on the Missouri River in the summer of 2011. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said 2011 could be a year of record runoff into the river system that stretches from the mountains in Montana to Missouri, where it empties into the Mississippi River. The Fort Peck, Lake Sakakawea, and Lake Oahe upper basin reservoirs are all but full, and dam releases this summer are expected to be higher than they have been in 14 years, The Bismarck Tribune reported. Fisheries officials in the Dakotas are worried about the effect on rainbow smelt, a main food for game fish such as walleye, when summer releases hit the projected range of 49,000-54,000 cubic feet per second. “In 1997, summer releases were in the upper 50s and a very large proportion of Oahe’s rainbow smelt population were lost downstream,” the fisheries chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department said. The fisheries chief is worried about the smelt population and also bank erosion, with Lake Sakakawea forecast to reach an elevation slightly above 1,852 feet above sea level.

Source: http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/article_32081b1b-9f6b-5b27-a712-cae7c4622d28.html

22. *May 5, Newark Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Six-alarm fire severely damages Westfield restaurant.** About 80 firefighters spent 3 hours May 5 battling a fire at Ferraro’s, a restaurant in Westfield, New Jersey, a deputy fire chief said. Still, the building had been hollowed out by the fire and parts of it collapsed. The fire spread to two office and three apartment units on top of Ferraro’s, while smoke damaged two adjacent businesses. The fire appears to have started near the entrance and was reported about 30 minutes after closing time at 12:03 a.m., the fire chief said. The only injury was to one firefighter, who was treated for a strained wrist at Complete Care Medical Center in Scotch Plains. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire. The construction of the building’s roofs and ceilings may have exacerbated damage, he said. Ferraro’s and other similar older buildings commonly have “rain roofs” built on top of existing roofs — essentially creating a double roof, he said. “What happens is the fire gets up into that space and can travel undetected,” the deputy fire chief said, noting drop ceilings also created other “concealed voids.”

Source: http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/05/six-alarm_fire_severely_damage.html

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Water Sector

23. *May 6, Saginaw News* – (Michigan) **232 million-gallon release of partially treated sewage into the Saginaw River may be record.** Rain in April caused about 275 million of gallons of “partially treated” plumbing and storm drain sewage to spill into the northward Saginaw River in Saginaw, Michigan as it flowed toward Bay City, the wastewater treatment plant superintendent said. “Over the month of April, we had 5 inches of rain or better,” she said. The most recent discharge, a 232 million-gallon release between April 27-29, “is one of the largest we’ve had in quite a while,” she stated. Bay City’s wastewater superintendent said his facility has had three overflows

this year totaling 179 million gallons of partly treated water. Including three April releases, the basins expelled hundreds of millions of “partially treated” sewage into the Saginaw River. The plant superintendent said those discharges were 98 percent rainwater, diverted to the sewage system from the streets. Based on her estimate, the discharge would have included more than 4.6 gallons of plumbing-related sewage. By “partially treated,” plant officials mean the water is disinfected with chlorine and the “solids” are strained. Had the rains receded prior to the overflow, the sewage would have been diverted to the treatment plant for an additional “biological treatment” that further purifies it, removing “the nutrients, like phosphorous and ammonia and tiny dissolved solids,” she said. On the morning of April 28, the plant tested water samples at Wickes Park, at the south end of the retention basin system, for E. coli, and again at a location farther upstream where the plant releases treated water. Results show that E. coli decreased along that span of the river, which she said shows that the disinfecting methods in the retention basins work.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/05/232_million-gallon_release_of.html

24. *May 5, WITN 7 Washington* – (North Carolina) **Wastewater treatment plant operator now facing charges.** A wastewater treatment plant operator in Trenton, North Carolina, is now facing charges. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources announced the 49-year-old of New Bern was charged with eight counts of falsifying records at the Trenton, Jones County, wastewater treatment plant he was contracted to operate. Officials said an investigation by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the North Carolina Division of Water Quality led to the arrest the week of May 2. According to a news release, “the N.C. Division of Water Quality contacted the SBI’s Diversion and Environmental Crimes Unit for assistance when the division identified inconsistencies in the facility’s recordkeeping. The state Division of Water Quality is responsible for oversight and permitting of the wastewater treatment plant’s National Pollution Discharge System, a federally-mandated program.”
- Source:
[http://www.witn.com/crime/headlines/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Now Facing Charges_121345534.html](http://www.witn.com/crime/headlines/Wastewater_Treatment_Plant_Operator_Now_Facing_Charges_121345534.html)

25. *May 5, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Massachusetts) **Dredging firm to pay \$105,000 fine for ocean dumping violations in Mass.** A Salem, Massachusetts, dredging company has agreed to pay a penalty of \$105,000 to settle Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claims it improperly disposed of dredged sediments. EPA asserted that Burnham Associates violated the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, commonly known as the Ocean Dumping Act, as part of a dredging project in Hingham Harbor. Burnham, through the actions of its subcontracted towing company, on at least 50 occasions dumped dredged sediments in locations that were in some cases up to 1 nautical mile from the designated coordinates within the prescribed ocean dumping zone. The Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site is a circular area 2 nautical miles in diameter about 18 nautical miles from the entrance to Boston Harbor.
- Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8CFA11B7B29CFA4F85257887005B6B9F>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *May 6, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **One woman hospitalized after blaze at Eastern State Hospital.** A woman was hospitalized after she was burned during an intense, but short-lived natural gas fire on the grounds of Eastern State Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, May 5. The woman is a maintenance worker who apparently struck a gas line with a lawn mower, which sparked the fire that ignited a nearby outbuilding. A battalion chief said the woman was taken to University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital with “significant” burns. He said he did not know if her injuries were life-threatening. He said the brick outbuilding that caught fire was a “utility house,” which houses pipes and meters. The lawn mower apparently struck a 3-inch steel gas line that leads to the meter inside the building, a Columbia Gas spokeswoman said. Within minutes, Columbia Gas crews turned off the gas to the entire Eastern State facility, and firefighters had the fire under control by 2 p.m. The lawn mower the woman was riding sat charred beside the door to the building. It was unclear when gas service would be restored. The spokeswoman said crews were waiting on the all-clear from firefighters before starting repairs on the ruptured line. Residents of a personal-care home and a residential substance-abuse program — both in the Allen Building — were evacuated, said the administrator at the historic mental health facility. Those residents were back in the building by 2:45 p.m. No other residents of the mental health facility were evacuated, and no other buildings were threatened, she said. Flames reached into the outbound lanes of Newtown Pike and ignited electrical lines hanging about 10 feet above the outbuilding’s roof.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2011/05/06/1731246/crews-battling-fire-at-eastern.html>

27. *May 5, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Threat against hospital security ends in man’s arrest.** Metro police arrested a man May 5 following a security scare at University Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. Police were called after they said a 32-year-old man started threatening a security guard with a knife. When an officer arrived, investigators said he tried to run and in the process pushed a man into the street nearly causing him to get run over. He is charged with assault, wanton endangerment, and fleeing police.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/story/14583265/threat-against-hospital-security-ends-in-mans-arrest>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *May 5, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **3 PBSO deputies injured at courthouse when pepper spray exploded.** The Palm Beach County courthouse in Florida was closed for 2 hours May 5 after pepper spray left in an amnesty box was released into the air. Three Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office deputies were taken to St. Mary's Medical Center for observation after they either inhaled or were sprayed by the chemical compound. They were emptying the amnesty box, in which people can drop off contraband before entering the courthouse without facing arrest. They were released later that day, a spokesman for the sheriff's office said. West Palm Beach Police evacuated the first floor of the courthouse just after 12:30 p.m. as some jurors and court workers reported smelling fumes and feeling nauseous. A few other people reported having headaches. Almost no one was allowed to enter the building, and elevators were shut down. Quadrille Boulevard and North Dixie Highway were shut down between Third Street and Banyan Boulevard to make way for rescue crews.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/pb-deputies-injured-at-courthouse-20110505,0,88696.story>
29. *May 5, WBNS 10 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Ex-student could be charged in Ohio State bomb threat.** Investigators said May 4 that charges could be filed later in May in connection with a bomb scare that brought a portion of The Ohio State campus in Columbus to a standstill in November. Law enforcement sources said the suspect is a 25-year-old former student. On November 16, several campus buildings were evacuated and shut down after a bomb threat was e-mailed to the FBI. The message claimed someone had planted explosive devices inside the buildings. No such devices were found. Investigators said the suspect may have made the threat to avoid taking an exam. The suspect May 4 spoke with 10TV News, saying other people were involved in making the threat. "I was somewhat involved," he said. "It also involved other people. It involved several events that were happening at Ohio State." Court documents showed the suspect was charged with burglary and theft about a month prior to the bomb threat. It was during that investigation that he told authorities about the bomb scare.
Source: <http://www.10tv.com/live/content/local/stories/2011/05/05/story-columbus-ohio-state-bomb-threat-charges.html?sid=102>
30. *May 5, The New New Internet* – (Oregon) **Oregon college struck with hack attack.** The Central Oregon Community College's (COCC) Web site has been hit by what school officials said are overseas hackers, prompting technicians to replace it with a temporary version, KTVZ.com reported. A COCC spokesman said the only indication to the public that the Web site had been compromised was its intermittent service. The hacker, who "appears to be from a foreign country," reached the only part of the college's online system not behind a firewall. But thanks to the ability to trace Web site visitors, the college was certain the intruder did not access anything valuable. "We have no evidence any sensitive or confidential information has been compromised," the spokesman said. "Basically, the only thing they could reach would be a staff roster and e-mail addresses, and they didn't. We could tell where they were and for how long."

Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2011/05/05/oregon-college-struck-with-hack-attack/>

31. *May 5, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Toxic waste cleaned up at Army housing project.** Toxic waste discovered during the construction of housing at Fort Wainwright in Alaska was cleaned up. The discovery of the buried toxic waste in 2005 delayed the completion of the 55-unit development known as Taku Gardens at the Fairbanks U.S. Army base. It also delayed occupation of the housing. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner said the housing now is slated to open October 2012. The Army’s cleanup manager said at a town hall May 4 that the top level of soil is now considered safe. But tenants will not be able to dig wells or garden without using raised beds because of contamination deep in the soil. The cleanup of Taku Gardens cost more than \$21 million. The Army used the area as a dumping ground in the 1940s and 1950s.
Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/05/ap-toxic-waste-army-base-050511/>

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *May 5, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (Iowa) **Firefighters determined to continue service after blaze damages their fire station.** The investigation into a fire that destroyed two buildings and damaged the fire station in downtown Manilla, Iowa, continued May 5. Fire officials said the fire started around 10:30 p.m. May 4, at a former blacksmith shop. It then spread to a nearby storage building and then the fire station. Fire crews were able to save the trucks, but some equipment and fire suits were damaged in the fire. For now, the fire trucks will be stored in an empty building outside of town and one fireman said they will still be able to service the community. The state fire marshal and insurance adjuster were at the scene and hoped to have a cause and damage estimate by May 6.
Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/story/14581531/firefighters-determined-to-continue-service-after-blaze-damages-their-firestation>
33. *May 5, Coos Bay World* – (Oregon) **Phew! 911 service was fine.** Contrary to earlier reports, 911 service in coastal Douglas County, Oregon was not disrupted by the phone outage the week of May 2, Frontier Communications said. The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office reported May 3 that 911 service was down in Douglas County for all land lines. After a day of confusion, Frontier found that was not true. The sheriff’s office could not connect with the local 911 dispatch center, but the 911 service continued receiving calls everywhere in Douglas County. “The center could not transfer calls to another location, but they could receive calls and take reports,” a Frontier spokeswoman said. The 911 center was also able to notify emergency responders. The outage was caused by a landslide that knocked out a long distance line along Highway 42 on May 2.
Source: http://theworldlink.com/news/local/article_319c823d-3522-51be-88fd-2f95a1653a04.html

34. *May 5, Mt. Vernon Register-News* – (National) **Emergency training event rescheduled.** The National Level Exercise 2011 for training in case of an emergency has been rescheduled, due to the real-life emergency of flooding in Southern Illinois. A 3-day event originally scheduled for May 16-19, the National Level Exercise, which includes emergency management organizations in eight Midwestern states, is now tentatively scheduled for October. The Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency (JCEMA) deputy said the exercise, which will focus on a training experience similar to what would occur in the case of an earthquake, will be on location in Jefferson County. The exercise will establish how well JCEMA’s community partners function as a team in dealing with an emergency, information states. The exercise will test the JCEMA’s communications, emergency operations center management, mass care, citizen evacuation and shelter in place, critical resources logistics and distribution and emergency public information and warning. Jefferson County will test its effectiveness with its more than 25 partner groups, including hospitals, local government, and amateur radio operators.
Source: <http://register-news.com/local/x1440314119/Emergency-training-event-rescheduled>
35. *July 15, KSTP 5 St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **Lino Lakes officer hospitalized after accidental shooting.** A Lino Lakes, Minnesota, police officer was hospitalized May 5 after an accidental shooting at a Coon Rapids gun range. The 26-year-old was hit in the stomach while participating in a training exercise at the Anoka County Law Enforcement Range. He underwent surgery at Hennepin County Medical Center, and was upgraded from critical to serious condition May 5. The Anoka County Sheriff’s Office said three officers were firing when the accident happened around 4:30 p.m. A bullet reportedly ricocheted, hitting him between his belt buckle and bullet-proof vest. Authorities do not know whether the bullet came from the officer’s gun or someone else’s. After he was shot, the officer was able to call his wife and tell her what happened. The Coon Rapids Police Department is investigating the accident, with help from the bureau of criminal apprehension.
Source: <http://kstp.com/news/stories/S2098663.shtml?cat=1>

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Information Technology Sector

36. *May 5, Help Net Security* – (International) **LastPass resets passwords for all users following potential breach.** LastPass — the widely used password management and form filling system — has reset the master password for all its users following the discovery of two network traffic anomalies that could have been the result of a hack. Believing it is better to be cautious and prevent future damages, the company decided to assume the anomalies are due to unauthorized access to their database and that some data has been stolen. “We know roughly the amount of data transferred and that it’s big enough to have transferred people’s email addresses, the server salt and their salted

password hashes from the database,” the LastPass Team explained on the company blog. “We also know that the amount of data taken isn’t remotely enough to have pulled many users encrypted data blobs.” The company is investigating the matter, but it is still in the dark about what actually happened and what attack vector has been used — if, indeed, the anomalies are the result of an attack. “We had our asterisk phone server more open to UDP than it needed to be, which was an issue our auditing found but we couldn’t find any indications on the box itself of tampering, the database didn’t show any changes escalating anyone to premium or administrators, and none of the log files give us much to go on,” they said.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=10981>

37. *May 5, CNET News* – (International) **Third attack against Sony planned.** A group of hackers said it is planning another wave of cyberattacks against Sony in retaliation for its handling of the PlayStation Network breach. An observer of the Internet Relay Chat channel used by the hackers told CNET May 5 that a third major attack is planned the weekend of May 7 and 8 against Sony’s Web site. The people involved plan to publicize all or some of the information they are able to copy from Sony’s servers, which could include customer names, credit card numbers, and addresses, according to the source. The hackers claim they currently have access to some of Sony’s servers. Should the planned attack succeed, it would be the latest blow in a series of devastating security breaches of Sony’s servers over the past month.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-31021_3-20060227-260.html

38. *May 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft plans critical update to Windows Server next week.** Microsoft May 5 said it will patch a critical bug in its Windows server software and two other vulnerabilities in PowerPoint, the presentation maker bundled with Office. After April’s record-setting Patch Tuesday — which fixed 64 flaws — May’s much lighter load was not surprising; Microsoft habitually takes an even-odd approach, with even-numbered months featuring fewer updates. Of the two updates slated to ship May 10, Microsoft has classified one as “critical,” the highest threat ranking in its four-step score, and the other as “important,” the next-most serious. The critical update will patch Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2008 R2, the three still-supported editions of its server operating system. The vulnerability exists even in the newest version, Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1. Windows desktop operating systems, including Windows XP, Vista, and Windows 7, are not affected, however.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216448/Microsoft_plans_critical_update_to_Windows_Server_next_week

39. *May 5, Computerworld* – (International) **Anonymous denies hacking Sony, stealing credit cards.** The hacking group Anonymous has denied responsibility for the attack on Sony’s networks, claiming that it has “never...engaged in credit card theft.” In a statement posted to the Daily KOS site, the group said others were trying to frame it for the hack of Sony’s PlayStation and Online Entertainment networks. “Whoever broke into Sony’s servers to steal the credit card info and left a document blaming

Anonymous clearly wanted Anonymous to be blamed for the most significant digital theft in history,” Anonymous said. “No one who is actually associated with our movement would do something that would prompt a massive law enforcement response.” Although Sony declined to testify May 4 before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee investigating data breaches, in its written response May 3 to questions, the company said Anonymous was at least partially responsible for the hacks because it had conducted denial-of-service (DoS) attacks against Sony in the weeks prior to the credit card hack.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216440/Anonymous_denies_hacking_Sony_steal...

40. *April 6, The Register* – (International) **Java-based malware tries Mac-smacking cross-platform attack.** Malware-writers have developed a Java-based, equal-opportunity botnet trojan in an apparent bid to infect more machines outside the Windows ecosystem. IncognitoRAT uses source code and libraries that, in theory, allows it to attack both Windows and Mac machines. Only the Windows version of the malicious downloader has been spotted actually spreading, McAfee reports. “The original propagation vector of IncognitoRAT is a Windows executable, but apparently it was created using the tool JarToExe, which includes, among other features, the ability to convert .jar files into .exe files, to add program icons and version information, and protect and encrypt Java programs,” a McAfee researcher explained. “The victim’s machine has to have the Java Runtime Environment installed and must be online. As soon as the file is executed, it starts downloading a ZIP file with a pack of Java-based libraries to perform several remote activities.” Once successfully executed, the malware establishes remote control of compromised systems, allowing criminal hackers to either control or extract and upload private information from compromised devices.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/06/java_based_malware/

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

41. *May 6, Associated Press* – (Maine) **No ID yet on victim of Maine church fire.** The Maine Medical Examiner is planning an autopsy on the burned body of a man found dead May 5 outside a burning church in Winterport, Maine. The body was discovered by firefighters called to fight the fire that destroyed the Calvary Apostolic Church on Route 1A. Officials said the man had apparently tried to escape the burning structure by jumping out a window. The Winterport Fire chief told the Bangor Daily News there was nothing to indicate the fire was suspicious, but the extensive damage may prevent investigators from determining for sure what happened. After the fire was put out, investigators with the state fire marshal's office spent hours sorting through the remains of the church. Only two walls were left standing, and they are scheduled to be demolished May 6.

Source:

http://news.bostonherald.com/news/national/northeast/view/20110506no_id_yet_on_victim_of_maine_church_fire/srvc=home&position=recent

42. *May 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Waitress caught at U.S.-Canada border made credit cards with customer info: feds.** Authorities said a Detroit, Michigan-area waitress created dozens of credit cards with information stolen from restaurant customers. The woman was stopped May 2 while trying to enter Canada from Port Huron, Michigan. She was returned to the United States and arrested after Canadian authorities discovered 57 credit cards in her Yukon Denali, and a list of expensive electronic items to buy. A DHS agent said there were hundreds of receipts for purchases and cash advances. In a court filing, the agent said the woman worked at The Melting Pot restaurant in Novi, Michigan. He said she admitted stealing credit-card information from customers and then creating cards with her name. She was charged May 3 with possessing counterfeit devices.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iW4DDgk9WteratyWeCITOsaf9yKQ?docId=6755519>

43. *May 5, Oakland County Daily Tribune* – (Michigan) **Explosion destroys building, sends debris flying, shatters windows.** An explosion May 4 possibly caused by a natural gas leak leveled an unoccupied industrial building in Warren, Michigan, sending glass shards and debris flying through the air and breaking windows in nearby businesses for several blocks. The explosion destroyed the building, which housed Best Textile Services and Phoenix Linen Service LTD. Hoover Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads was closed to traffic until early May 5. One civilian suffered minor injuries and was treated at the scene, officials said. The Warren Fire commissioner said fire crews received a call about 8:25 p.m. from witnesses reporting an industrial explosion. He said nobody was in the building at the time, but fire crews were going to comb through the rubble once all of the fires had been extinguished. The explosion resulted in a huge fire at the site and the concussion impact of the blast shattered windows in factories, gas stations and party stores along the Hoover Road strip. It sent debris flying 400 feet in all directions. The blast was felt several miles away and plumes of thick black smoke were also visible for quite a distance.

Source:

<http://www.dailytribune.com/articles/2011/05/05/news/doc4dc297a9b5475986227782.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

44. *May 4, IDG News Services* – (National) **Netflix fires call center worker for stealing data.** Netflix has fired a call center worker for stealing credit card numbers from customers of the online movie service. The unnamed employee was fired after Netflix learned about the data theft April 4, the company said in a letter to the office of the New Hampshire Attorney General. The worker “accessed over approximately the past two months, without authorization, the credit card information of some Netflix customers who spoke with the individual over the telephone,” a Netflix senior counsel wrote. The employee obtained customer names and credit card numbers, she wrote. Netflix declined May 4 to say how many customers were affected or whether any incidents of fraud had resulted from the theft.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216429/Netflix_fires_call_center_worker_for_stealing_data

45. *May 3, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (National) **Another e-mail breach for Best Buy.** Only a month after Best Buy’s customers were affected by a security breach at an outside e-mail company, the Richfield, Minnesota electronics retailer has disclosed another batch of customer e-mail addresses may have been stolen from a former partner company. Best Buy Co. Inc. confirmed it is notifying affected customers by e-mail of the new security breach at an unidentified “former business partner.” Best Buy said it believes the breach is limited to the potential theft of e-mail addresses. Best Buy declined to say how many e-mail addresses were potentially stolen, or how the breach was discovered. The company discovered April 22 that the e-mail addresses of some customers “were accessed without authorization,” a company spokeswoman said. Best Buy also declined to say whether the “former business partner” was an e-mail outsourcing firm like Texas-based Epsilon, which in early April reported a security breach involving customer e-mails of Best Buy, U.S. Bancorp and several other big names. Best Buy said that, at present, its main e-mail outsourcing partner is ExactTarget of Indianapolis.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/business/121169909.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *May 6, Alamogordo Daily News* – (New Mexico) **LNF will close May 12 due to dry conditions.** As fire danger increases in southeastern New Mexico, fire management officials with the Lincoln National Forest (LNF) were making plans to close the forest for public access and use. The closure order will go into effect at 8 a.m. May 12. “Extremely dry conditions have warranted closure of the Lincoln National Forest,” an LNF supervisor said. “While campfire and smoking restrictions have been effective in

terms of minimizing the number of fires, we are at the point that we cannot afford the risk of any human-caused fires. We are not only concerned about the risk to communities and natural resources, we are also concerned about the potential difficulties evacuating recreationists from remote areas should a wildfire start.” Going into or being on Lincoln National Forest lands will be prohibited, which includes campgrounds and day use picnic areas. All national forest roads and trails will be closed, but all state and county roads through the Lincoln National Forest will remain open. The use of fireworks will be strictly prohibited. The Lincoln National Forest is 1.1 million acres of mountainous forest and grazing lands that stretches over parts of Otero, Lincoln and Eddy counties.

Source: http://www.alamogordonews.com/ci_18005232

47. *May 5, KRQE 13 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Wildfires burn in Gila, north of Abq.** A fire churning through the Gila Wilderness remains inaccessible to firefighters while a blaze that broke out late May 4 north of Albuquerque, New Mexico, remains small but smoky. The Miller Fire about 5 miles southwest of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument began April 28 from a human cause that remains under investigation. Its size was reported as 9,440 acres May 4. Firefighters have been unable to work the fire directly because of its rough, remote location. They are improving trails and constructing contingency fire lines to protect the monument and the Gila Hot Springs. At last report the Bear Springs Fire reported late May 4 charred about 18 acres on the western edge of Kewa Pueblo west of the Rio Grande. Fire crews were reported to be getting a good handle on the fire whose smoke plume was visible from Interstate 25 between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Fixed-wing and helicopter tankers made drops on the fire May 4, and firefighters were on the scene all night with additional crews expected May 5. Meanwhile the Abrams Fire, started in the Organ Mountains by a military live-firing exercise, is now fully contained at more than 13,000 acres. The fire was reported April 21 and burned through rugged country around Organ Peak east of Las Cruces.
- Source: http://www.kasa.com/dpps/weather/wildfires/wildfires-burn-in-gila-north-of-abq_3802142

48. *May 5, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Texas wildfires made worse by changes on the state’s vast landscape, scientists say.** The drought-fed fires of 2011, which have burned 2 million acres since December, were symptoms of damaging, long-term changes on the Texas landscape. In North Texas, a shift from open grasslands to nearly unbroken expanses of extremely flammable junipers has turned what would otherwise be occasional and moderate fires into infernos of arresting power. That was the case with the recent fires near Possum Kingdom Lake. At the same time, West Texas ranchland, with a buildup of grasses left ungrazed for conservation and then dried by drought, have become potential torches. And in East Texas, many forest tracts sold off by big timber and paper companies to hundreds of small owners are no longer managed in a way that could reduce wildfire risks. Those conditions are making wildfires more intense and dangerous. That is especially true in Central Texas, stretching up to the low hills west of Dallas-Fort Worth. The increasingly suburbanized region now faces the same hazard as California, a state in which wildfires and human safety are closely

intertwined. Outside of West Texas ranch country, where generations of owners have developed a keen sense of fire's importance, relatively few landowners use the most effective tool against uncontrolled, destructive wildfires. Prescribed, controlled burning restores pastures, holds back the growth of fire-prone trees and reduces undesirable fuel loads. It mimics fire's natural role in shaping the landscape. Without periodic low-intensity fires, trees can take over. Texas agencies and universities teach landowners how to use fire, and in some communities, people have formed burning cooperatives to share expertise and costs.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/05/05/2001466/texas-wildfires-made-worse-by.html>

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Dams Sector

49. *May 6, 2theadvocate.com* – (Louisiana) **DPW to deploy sandbags along levee.** In Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish Department of Public Works' employees will be putting out sandbags May 6 on a low section of the levee system located downtown near North Street. It is one of the few low spots found in a survey of levee elevations along the 2-mile stretch of Mississippi River levee under the jurisdiction of the city-parish, said the chief engineer with the department of public works' engineering division. "The low spots in our levee system are very isolated," he said. The small, isolated low elevation spots are relatively easy areas to place sandbags, he also said. Besides the low spot near North Street, where the levee is about 46.7 feet high, there is a low spot about a quarter of a mile upriver from the Paperclip Dock, or about where River Walk begins, he stated. These areas will be brought up to 50 feet to 51 feet high, he said. On average, Baton Rouge levees are about 49 feet high. According to the National Weather Service, the river will crest at 47.5 feet May 23. Next week, the city-parish will be placing additional protection along the top of the 2-mile stretch of levee using a tube filled with river water and secured to the top of the system. This will give the levees an additional 18 inches of height, he said. Once work begins, it will take about 4 days to install the 2-mile length of tubing.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/DPW-to-deploy-sandbags-along-levee.html>

50. *May 6, WTHI 10 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **Sinkhole found next to levee.** A southern Indiana community moved quickly to fix a sinkhole next to one of its levees. Officials in Vincennes discovered a sinkhole forming on River Road just south of the George Rogers Clark National Park. The city is still being threatened by high water on the Wabash. River Road was closed on the south side of Vincennes. Workers May 3 found a sinkhole forming along the road next to the Brevoort Levee. "A sanitary sewer leak, crack we don't know for sure," said the Vincennes Water Utilities superintendent "We noticed some deterioration of the roadway above it." The problem with the line created a 6 by 6 foot sinkhole the city quickly plugged. The location of the sinkhole was especially worrisome because the Wabash River is still pushing against the levee where the hole had formed. Officials said the good news is they found the sinkhole quickly

and it did not weaken the levee. However, they are still making adjustments to the way they route sewer water through town until the river goes down. Any levee failure in the Vincennes area would be devastating, but this problem could have impacted the entire community because the community's drinking water and sewer operations are nearby. It is also why the city will only stabilize the area and not try to make any repairs until the river is back in its banks. Officials are asking people to avoid the area while the Wabash stays high.

Source: http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/local/southern_indiana/sinkhole-found-next-to-levee

51. *May 5, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Local dam saves region from flooding.** Water at Caesar Creek Lake crested May 5 in Harveysburg, Ohio, putting the water level at 19.5 feet above normal. It could take several days for the lake to return to normal water levels. Officials at Caesar Creek State Park said the secret to getting the water level back to normal is the dam. Officials said the dam was closed when the water rose due to a large amount of rain that has fallen in the last few weeks. Now, the dam has been opened to help lower the water level. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman said when rain makes the water rise, he and his workers take constant measures. On May 4, the dam was almost closed, allowing only 7.5 gallons of water per second to leave the lake. Now, 24 hours later, the dam is open and the release of water is really making a difference. The release of the water through the dam will drain the lake by 1 foot per day, and since its nearly 20 feet above normal, it could take 20 days to get the water level back to normal.

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/27790254/detail.html>

52. *May 5, KFVS 12 Cape Girardeau* – (Kentucky) **Workers tend to Smithland, Ky. floodwall.** A small group of workers are tending the Smithland, Kentucky, floodwall in an effort to save the city from Ohio River and Cumberland River floodwaters. According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC), the Ohio River is expected to reach a crest at Smithland Dam at 55.1 at 1 a.m. May 7, and remain at or near that elevated level for about 3 or 4 days. The Smithland gauge had a reading of 54.87 at 3 p.m., May 6. A spokesman with the KTC said a Livingston County judge indicated cautious optimism that the levee and the thousands of sandbags used to extend the height of the floodwall about 44 inches could withstand the tons of water pressing against it. Only personnel directly involved in monitoring and reinforcing the floodwall are being allowed into the lower part of the city. According to KTC, volunteers, supported by the National Guard with an advisor from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, have been meticulously patrolling the levee watching for areas where water may be seeping through the wall of sandbags. Several dozen large bags of sand are also prepared and on standby in a staging area for quickly reinforcing the levee if required.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/14582834/workers-tend-to-smithland-ky-floodwall>

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