



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 May 2011

### Top Stories

- Associated Press reports federal regulators ordered in-depth inspections at Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama, after deciding the failure of an emergency cooling system could have been a serious safety problem. (See item [6](#))
- According to the Associated Press, nearly four dozen drivers of tour buses, taxis, and other commercial vehicles were charged with felonies for holding commercial licenses even though they had other licenses suspended under different names. (See item [18](#))

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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 10, Bloomberg* – (Southeast) **Mississippi flooding threatens crops, oil refineries and homes.** The rising water in the Mississippi River and the fight to control it has already interrupted coal shipments to power plants in Tennessee, flooded more than a 100,000 acres of Missouri cropland, and forced thousands from their homes, Bloomberg reported May 10. To relieve the flood threat to New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may open the Morganza Floodway. The opening of the spillway could affect two refineries, according to the

governor's office. One of the refineries, on the Mississippi River, could have 75 percent of its capacity reduced for at least 2 weeks, according to the state's department of natural resources. A refinery at Krotz Springs, Louisiana, may be affected because it is outside the city's levee ring, said the president of Lipow Oil Associates LLC in Houston, Texas. On the Mississippi between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, there are 11 refineries with a combined capacity of 2.5 million barrels per day, or 13 percent of U.S. output, the Lipow president said. "The worst case is that the Mississippi rises and we get actual flooding in the refineries and that could shut them down several months like we saw with Hurricane Katrina," he said, however it is not expected to reach that level. Royal Dutch Shell Plc will supply plants at Geismar and Norocol by rail if the river prevents barges and ships from unloading, according to a company spokeswoman. Flooding stopped barge traffic on the Ohio River and north of Memphis on the Mississippi the week of April 1, and has interrupted shipping south of the Tennessee city. The Tennessee Valley Authority is facing a shortage in coal shipments at four units at its Gallatin power plant because high waters have closed a lock used to move barges up for unloading. The Mississippi and Ohio rivers are also major delivery systems for commodities and crops such as corn, soybeans, and other crops grown along their banks.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2011/05/10/bloomberg1376-LKYDM60UQVI901-4PK7NQRLBRH64SPFRPOULR8QL5.DTL>

2. *May 10, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **About 50,000 without power in Mich. Upper Peninsula after lightning strike disables power line.** About 50,000 customers were without power in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) after lightning struck a transmission line May 10. The outage affected the central and western U.P., as far east as Munising. Schools across the area were closed for the day. Among businesses without power were the Cliffs Natural Resources iron mines in Marquette County. American Transmission Co. owns and operates the line and a spokeswoman for the company said the transmission line was struck about 3:30 a.m. Another line was already down for scheduled maintenance and as a result, created an unstable situation that triggered the shutdown of the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette. The 50,000 customers still without power are served by Upper Peninsula Power Co. We Energies said about 27,000 of its customers lost power, but most had service restored by 8 a.m.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/d59240eed16f44acb88335d25d779951/MI--Power-Outage-Upper-Peninsula/>

3. *May 10, United Press International* – (National) **Major U.S. oil pipeline closed.** Canadian pipeline company TransCanada said a section of its Keystone oil pipeline would remain out of service for several days following an oil leak the weekend of May 7 and 8. A small nipple failed at a pumping station along the pipeline in North Dakota. The company said about 280 barrels of oil was recovered from the area of the spill. Workers kept the pipeline closed while inspectors examined similar fittings along the pipeline. "Operations will not resume until the company inspects all similar fittings along the pipeline route," a spokesman for TransCanada told Bloomberg News. U.S. regulators said the company did not need approval to restart the oil pipeline.

TransCanada said the spill was contained to the site, adding there were not any problems on the physical pipeline. TransCanada started shipping crude oil through a section of the Keystone pipeline in February. It runs from Nebraska to storage tanks in Oklahoma. The portion of the Keystone pipeline carries around 590,000 barrels of oil per day.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2011/05/10/Major-US-oil-pipeline-closed/UPI-79391305029355/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2011/05/10/Major-US-oil-pipeline-closed/UPI-79391305029355/)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *May 10, Decatur Herald-Review* – (Illinois) **Acid leak in Decatur cleaned up; one minor injury reported.** A railroad car leaked 400 gallons of hydrochloric acid in Decatur, Illinois, May 8, sending one worker to the hospital after coming in contact with the acid fumes. An official for CN railroad said the worker was kept in the hospital overnight for observation. The incident began around 7 p.m. after firefighters were alerted to the leaking tanker car, loaded with 20,000 gallons of the acid, while it was in the area of Hickory Street and Railroad Avenue. Decatur police cordoned off surrounding streets and firefighters set up monitoring equipment to sample the level of fumes in the air. The Decatur deputy fire chief said the leak formed a vapor cloud but never reached the size or spread where it would have required evacuating surrounding neighborhoods. Firemen wearing full chemical suits and breathing apparatus contained the leak using a magnetic patch, designed for the purpose. Springfield Fire Department assisted in the process. The last firefighters did not leave the scene until 10:30 a.m. May 9 and, with up to 20 personnel at a time dealing with the incident, the deputy said the department called in several off-duty firemen to man reserve apparatus. The cause of the leak is unknown as the investigation continues.

Source: [http://www.herald-review.com/news/local/article\\_7dc801f8-7aae-11e0-ba12-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.herald-review.com/news/local/article_7dc801f8-7aae-11e0-ba12-001cc4c03286.html)

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

5. *May 10, KSTP 5 St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant up and running after shutdown.** The Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Station in Red Wing, Minnesota, was up and running May 10 after Xcel Energy officials believe thunderstorms triggered the automatic shutdown of a reactor May 9. The shutdown occurred May 9 after heavy rain and hail fell throughout the Twin Cities and other parts of the state. Investigators said they were still working to determine the exact cause of the reactor shutdown. No radioactive material was released, according to plant officials. The reactor has since been re-started.

Source: <http://kstp.com/article/stories/s2104209.shtml>

6. *May 10, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Ala. nuclear plant cited for safety.** Federal regulators ordered in-depth inspections May 10 at Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant run by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in Alabama, after deciding the failure of an emergency cooling system there could have been a serious safety problem. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a red finding — the most severe ranking the agency gives to problems uncovered in its inspections — against the plant after it investigated how a valve on a residual heat removal system became stuck shut. Safety regulators said only five red findings have been issued nationwide in the past decade. In an emergency, the failure of the valve could have meant that one of the plant’s emergency cooling systems would not have worked as designed. The problem, which was identified as the plant was being refueled in October 2010, was fixed before the reactor was returned to service. “The valve was repaired prior to returning the unit to service and Browns Ferry continued to operate safely,” said the NRC’s Region II administrator. “However, significant problems involving key safety systems warrant more extensive NRC inspection and oversight.” It was not clear whether TVA officials would appeal the finding. TVA officials attributed the valve failure to a manufacturer’s defect, and said they inspected all similar valves in the facility. NRC officials were critical of the utility for not identifying the problem sooner through routine inspections and testing. The valve failed sometime after March 2009, but was not discovered until more than a year later. As part of the upcoming inspections, the NRC said it will review the plant’s performance, its safety culture and its organization.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hXNh72muUm\\_euidsqjuArVZrZJTW?docId=34f76c9a06a64585b9f953f61acd441e](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hXNh72muUm_euidsqjuArVZrZJTW?docId=34f76c9a06a64585b9f953f61acd441e)

7. *May 9, American Independent* – (Michigan) **Michigan nuke plant operator tests positive for drugs.** An operator at DTE’s Enrico Fermi Nuclear Generating Station in Monroe, Michigan, has been relieved of duty after testing positive for illegal drugs. “A licensed operator had a confirmed positive for an illegal drug during a random fitness-for-duty test,” plant officials said in a report to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). “The employee’s access to the plant has been terminated.” The incident is said to have occurred May 5 at 1:30 p.m. A DTE spokesman said that for reasons of employee confidentiality, details of the incident such as the worker’s duties and the drug involved will not be released. Though the company’s report to the NRC said the employee’s access to plant has been terminated, he could not confirm that the employee has been fired.

Source: <http://www.americanindependent.com/183112/michigan-nuke-plant-operator-tests-positve-for-drugs>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

8. *May 10, WLKY 32 Louisville* – (Kentucky) **Investigators trying to determine cause of fire at aluminum plant.** For the second time in 2 months, emergency crews were called to an explosion and fire May 9 at a chemical plant in the Rubbertown district of

Louisville, Kentucky. The explosion was at Eckart Aluminum on Campground Road. Investigators are still searching for what sparked the fire at about 7 p.m. Firefighters said 20 to 30 workers were in the plant when something caused aluminum powder to ignite and explode inside a building. Two workers were hurt and rushed to University Hospital, but one was released hours later and the other sustained only minor injuries. Emergency officials assessed the situation quickly and found there was never any threat to the surrounding community. A few small fires were still burning after the initial explosion, but the situation was turned over to the facility managers late May 9. The incident comes 2 months after two workers were killed in an explosion at Carbide Industries.

Source: <http://www.wlky.com/r/27835853/detail.html>

9. *May 9, Reuters* – (National) **Ford F-150 truck probe expands to 2.7 million.** U.S. safety regulators said they have expanded an investigation into the possibility that straps holding fuel tanks can rust and break on Ford Motor Co F-150 pickup trucks from the 1997-2001 model years to 2.7 million vehicles. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said the weekend of May 7 and 8 that two fires have resulted from the issue in which one or both of the steel straps that hold the F-150 fuel tank in place rust and break. An investigation is short of a recall but many investigations lead to an automaker recalling vehicles for safety issues. The F-150 is the primary model in the Ford F-series pickup truck lineup which are the best-selling vehicles in North America. Ford reported a complaint where a vehicle was destroyed by fire due to a leaking fuel tank, and safety regulators said they had received one complaint of a fire that went out before it caused major damage. There were 306 consumer complaints, 175 filed with the NHTSA and 156 with Ford. Some consumers filed with both the automaker and the safety regulator, the NHTSA said. “Among the incidents reported to NHTSA or Ford, 243 involved the fuel tank dropping below the vehicle and/or dragging on the ground, 95 involved fuel leakage, and nine included reports of sparks from the tank being dragged on the road,” the NHTSA filing said. The probe was opened last September when an estimated 1.4 million F-150 pickup trucks were suspected of possibly having the problem. The investigation was opened after 32 consumer complaints had been received by last September.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/09/us-ford-nhtsa-idUSTRE7482TZ20110509>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *May 9, Reuters* – (Florida) **NASA repairs shuttle problem, sets May 16 launch.** NASA May 9 cleared space shuttle Endeavour for a second launch attempt May 16 to deliver a pioneering physics experiment and spare parts to the International Space Station. NASA was nearly 4 hours away from launching Endeavour on its 25th and final mission April 29 when a heater in an onboard power system failed, prompting managers to stop the countdown. Engineers traced the problem to an electronics box, which was replaced over the weekend of May 7 and 8. Technicians also installed new

wiring from the heater to the new box in case the short circuit stemmed from outside the device. The repair involved retesting other shuttle systems, including life support, environmental control, and propulsion that draw power through the same electrical switching box. The heater keeps hydrazine fuel used in the shuttle's power unit from freezing and potentially bursting in space. The power unit, one of three onboard the shuttle, provides hydraulic power to move rocket engine nozzles, adjust flight surfaces, and lower the shuttle's landing gear.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/09/space-shuttle-idUSN0925937720110509>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *May 10, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Reports of mortgage fraud reach record level.** Reports of mortgage fraud, which have been increasing since the housing boom, rose to their highest level on record in 2010, Treasury Department figures showed May 9. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a Treasury agency, reported 70,472 “suspicious activity reports” related to suspected mortgage fraud, up from 67,507 in 2009, or a 5 percent increase. That is the highest number recorded by the government since tracking began in 1996. At the height of the U.S. housing boom, in 2006, more than 37,000 fraud reports were recorded. In 2001, before the housing market heated up, there were 4,695 reports of suspected mortgage fraud. Much of the suspected fraud being reported took place several years ago and is only now coming to light, according to Lexis-Nexis's Mortgage Assert Research Institute, a data service, which issued a report May 9 highlighting the statistics. Last July, the Obama administration began a broad effort to investigate and prosecute mortgage fraud that resulted in 485 arrests and 1,215 criminal defendants in cases that resulted in the recovery of about \$147 million of \$2.3 billion in losses, according to the Department of Justice.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704681904576313591278154546.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704681904576313591278154546.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

12. *May 10, Associated Press* – (California) **6 charged in LA with ID theft, \$3m bank fraud.** A federal grand jury in Los Angeles, California, has charged six people with an identity theft fraud that cost banks more than \$3 million. The U.S. attorney's office said the jury returned a 29-count bank fraud indictment the week of May 2 against an Arkansas woman and six associates from Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, and Carson. Prosecutors said they stole Social Security numbers and other personal information from people with good credit scores, then used the information to set up phony businesses and obtain more than 70 lines of credit from Bank of America and Wells Fargo. The money was used for personal expenses. All six have been arrested. If convicted, they could be sentenced to hundreds of years in federal prison.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/portal/breaking-news/ci\\_18031938?nclick\\_check=1&loopback=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/portal/breaking-news/ci_18031938?nclick_check=1&loopback=1)

13. *May 10, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **‘Bad Hair Bandit’ strikes again.** A bank robber dubbed the “Bad Hair Bandit” and linked to as many as 15 holdups across Puget Sound and Eastern Washington, struck May 9 in Spokane, Washington. Deputies were dispatched at 12:17 p.m. to the Chase bank branch at 822 W. Francis Avenue after employees said a woman entered the building and demanded money while implying she had a weapon, a sheriff’s spokesman said. Witnesses described the woman as a 5-foot-6, 220-pound white female. Tellers said she had dark brown hair with bangs and possibly a wig. She wore a blue hooded sweatshirt. The FBI has linked the robber to 14 holdups across Washington, the spokesman said. The bandit may be staying in lower-cost motels, said the spokesman, who also announced a special reward by Crime Stoppers for information that leads to her arrest.  
Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/may/10/bad-hair-bandit-strikes-again/>
14. *May 9, AnnArbor.com* – (International) **Chelsea State Bank, FBI investigating ‘widespread’ fraud attack on debit card accounts.** Chelsea State Bank (CSB) in Chelsea, Michigan is investigating a suspected incident of debit card fraud that caused bank officials to temporarily shut down the accounts of about 5,000 customers May 7. The CEO of CSB said the bank and the FBI are actively trying to determine how many customers were affected. The CEO said the bank has about 5,000 debit card holders — and those accounts were frozen after the bank discovered suspicious purchases that started May 7 in Australia. He said that bank customers whose funds were misused would not be forced to accept losses, and that the bank’s losses would be covered by insurance. The bank notified its customers over the weekend of May 7 and 8 that their accounts had been temporarily frozen. He said it was too early to estimate how much money was affected. The attacker tried to “duplicate existing debit card accounts” by acquiring “a good (account) number” and running “sequential numbers after that” to make purchases, the CEO said. The CEO emphasized the attacker did not gain inside access to the customer’s accounts. Instead, the suspect successfully forged account numbers to make purchases. He said it is too early to know how the attacker acquired the numbers. “It’s not a computer system breach,” he said.  
Source: <http://www.annarbor.com/business-review/chelsea-state-bank-investigating-widespread-fraud-attack-on-debit-card-accounts/>
15. *May 9, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas banker charged in fraud conspiracy with Northport Farm Credit manager.** Federal prosecutors May 9 charged an Arkansas man with conspiring with the branch manager of a Northport farm credit institution to profit from fraudulent loans, announced a U.S. attorney and the FBI Special Agent in Charge. A one-count information filed in U.S. district court charges the 44-year-old man with conspiracy to commit bank fraud. He is charged with conspiring with an accomplice to defraud First South Farm Credit in Northport of \$271,190 by creating false loans. In March, prosecutors charged the accomplice with four counts of defrauding First South Farm Credit of about \$1.9 million between 2007 and 2010. The man pleaded guilty to the charges April 25. Those \$1.9 million in fraudulent loans do not include the false loans to the Arkansas man charged on May 9.  
Source: <http://www.loansafe.org/arkansas-banker-charged-in-fraud-conspiracy-with-northport-farm-credit-manager>

## **Transportation Sector**

16. *May 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Amtrak, 15 states get Florida’s \$2B in high-speed rail money.** Amtrak and rail projects in 15 states will get the \$2 billion that Florida spurned when its governor canceled plans for high-speed train service, the U.S. Department of Transportation said May 9. The largest share of the money — nearly \$800 million — will be used to upgrade train speeds from 135 mph to 160 mph on segments of the heavily traveled Northeast corridor, the department said. Another \$404 million will go to expand high-speed rail service in the Midwest, including newly constructed segments of 110-mph track between Detroit and Chicago that are expected to save passengers 30 minutes in travel time. Nearly \$340 million will go toward state-of-the-art locomotives and rail cars for California and the Midwest. California will also get another \$300 million toward trains that will travel up to 220 mph between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/2011-05-09-high-speed-rail-money\\_n.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/2011-05-09-high-speed-rail-money_n.htm)

17. *May 9, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Man charged for allegedly trying to open plane door.** An Illinois man who allegedly tried to open an emergency exit door of a plane in mid-flight was charged by federal prosecutors May 9 with interfering with a flight crew and crimes involving aircraft, authorities said May 9. The 34-year-old man of Burbank, Illinois could face 10 years in jail for each of the two counts. According to prosecutors, the suspect boarded Continental Airline flight 546 in Houston, Texas May 8, heading for Chicago, Illinois. After the flight took off he rushed up the aisle toward the front of the aircraft where a flight attendant tried to stop him. He pinned the flight attendant against the wall and repeatedly tried to open the emergency door, the complaint added. The suspect was reportedly subdued by passengers and crew members, and the plane was diverted to St. Louis, Missouri, where it landed at Lambert International Airport at 1:28 p.m.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20110510/us\\_nm/us\\_flight\\_door\\_charge](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20110510/us_nm/us_flight_door_charge)

18. *May 9, Associated Press* – (New York) **NY crackdown ensnares 46 bus drivers.** Nearly four dozen drivers of tour buses, New York City buses, taxis, and other commercial vehicles were charged with felonies for holding commercial licenses even though they had other licenses suspended under different names, New York’s governor announced May 9. The latest and broadest crackdown on commercial drivers comes after a tour bus crash in March that killed 15 people returning to New York City from a Connecticut casino. The licensed drivers include four working for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), one of whom is a mechanic who also drives buses in MTA facilities. Their driver’s licenses are suspended pending court action. “Many of the individuals arrested today obtained multiple driver licenses in order to collect benefits, and even worse, to conceal violent criminal histories,” said the New York City police commissioner. He told the Associated Press the arrests were the result of partnerships with authorities from the New York City Police Department and U.S.



Customs, along with prosecutors in suburban Westchester, Rockland, and Nassau counties, and in the New York City boroughs of Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. The state department of transportation has made 1,960 surprise roadside inspections since March 17. State police issued 197 tickets and 173 bus drivers and 143 buses were sidelined. The department of motor vehicle facial recognition technology, first used last year, has so far identified more than 3,000 people with multiple licenses. More than 600 were arrested on felony charges.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hB300YeY6lf80RVAMPX9PuXiPFvQ?docId=d39882209d7a4a88b8b9db0009799c36>

19. *May 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Suspicious package prompts Long Beach train station shutdown, nursing home evacuation.** A suspicious package at a train station in Long Beach, California caused an hour-long shutdown of commuter rail service and evacuation of a nearby nursing home. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman said someone noticed a shoebox-sized package on top of a ticket vending machine at the Wardlow Blue Line station shortly before 9 a.m. May 9. The spokesman said the station was closed and trains halted. Passengers were bused around the closure. He said the package was found not to be dangerous and the station reopened.  
Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/suspicious-package-prompts-long-beach-train-station-shutdown-nursing-home-evacuation/2011/05/09/AF1n16ZG\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/suspicious-package-prompts-long-beach-train-station-shutdown-nursing-home-evacuation/2011/05/09/AF1n16ZG_story.html)
20. *May 7, Fox 31 Denver* – (Colorado) **4 arrested at DIA for attempting to breach security.** Three men and one woman were arrested May 7 in Denver, Colorado after a security incident at Denver International Airport (DIA), authorities said. At around 10:15 a.m. two men tried to get through security without boarding passes or identification, while a woman in the group carried both forms, a Denver police spokesman said. A fourth man appeared to be filming the incident. According to police, no threats were made and none of the people involved had weapons. All four were being held for interfering with a transportation facility. A spokesperson for the FBI said they were aware of the incident, but it is currently being handled by Denver police.  
Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-4-arrested-at-dia-for-attempting-to-breach-security-20110507,0,1397902.story>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

21. *May 9, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **Semi-truck wrecks near Wolf Laurel Over 100 gallons of diesel fuel is discharged.** Hazmat crews were dispatched to Wolf Laurel, North Carolina after the driver of a Fed-Ex truck flipped on I-26 and spilled over 100 gallons of diesel fuel along the roadway. According to a North

Carolina Highway State Trooper, the driver was traveling westbound on Interstate 26 in a double tractor trailer Fed-Ex truck, when he lost control of his vehicle just after 6 a.m. May 3 and flipped the truck over a guardrail. “It is possible that he fell asleep, but the cause (of the accident) is still under investigation,” the trooper said. The emergency management director said the truck, which was carrying mixed hazardous materials, including various corrosives, also spilled over 100 gallons of diesel fuel on to the roadside, when the gas tank dislodged from the truck at the time of the incident. The North Carolina Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team responded to the accident just after 8 a.m. and determined that there was no immediate danger on the scene.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20110509/SENTINEL/305090043/Semi-truck-wrecks-near-Wolf-Laurel-Over-100-gallons-diesel-fuel-discharged>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *May 10, Associated Press* – (California) **Raging fires kill New York family, rip LA food plant.** Firefighters quelled a fire May 9 that caused \$5 million in damage to a frozen Chinese food plant in Southern California and blackened the sky with a plume of smoke. Five-thousand gallons of soybean cooking oil fed the flames that took 100 firefighters six hours to extinguish at the Windsor Quality Food Co. plant in Huntington Park, a Los Angeles County fire inspector said. About 25 workers were in the plant when it was hit by an explosion around 5:30 a.m. Employees fought the fire with handheld fire extinguishers before fleeing. One woman suffered a minor elbow injury when she fell, and a firefighter had a minor injury. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. The fire burned through the roof and made it too dangerous to send firefighters inside, fire officials said. Instead, they used ladders and hoses to stream water on the roof. The building housed the Golden Tiger brand of Windsor Quality Food Co. The plant made egg rolls and other Asian items that are sold at Costco and restaurants such as Red Lobster, according to the brand’s Web site.  
Source:  
[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/05/10/raging\\_fires\\_kill\\_new\\_york\\_family\\_rip\\_la\\_food\\_plant/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/05/10/raging_fires_kill_new_york_family_rip_la_food_plant/)
23. *May 10, Food Safety News* – (Louisiana; Mississippi) **Too much fresh water may kill Gulf oysters.** The Gulf of Mexico oyster industry fears too much fresh water coming down the Mississippi River could be its final strike. The Gulf lost half its oyster harvest in 2010, and is far from recovery now. “The Louisiana and Mississippi oyster industries will be devastated by the opening of the Bonnet Carre’ Spillway,” a Gulf oyster expert said. Oysters among all Gulf seafood are making the slowest recovery because river water was used after the April 2010 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon in an attempt to push back the BP oil spill to protect marshlands. The action killed at least 80 percent of the oyster crop in Barataria Bay and areas east of the river. Coastal areas to the west, including Atchafalaya Bay, escaped direct impacts from the spill, which lasted for 3 months and put 4.9 billion barrels into the Gulf. Massive amounts of freshwater

flowing down the Atchafalaya, which occurred only once before in 1973, could now devastate oyster harvest grounds. Oysters cannot maintain their saltwater balances when hit with too much river water. The damage from the flood control actions will set the oyster industry back by at least another year, experts said. State biologists said the amount of damage will depend upon how long the diversions last and how much water is sent to places where it would not ordinarily go. Young blue crab also need high salinity to survive. Shrimp and fin fish could be negatively impacted as well. Ongoing research into the effect of the oil spill on marine life could also be compromised. After the “double whammy of Hurricane Katrina and BP’s oil spill and its aftermath,” Louisiana’s “precious oyster resources” are now again in harm’s way, the Gulf oyster expert said.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/05/flood-control-actions-may-kill-gulf-oysters/>

24. *May 10, Bloomberg* – (International) **Crop damage from weather growing as cost of grains advances.** Less than a year after the worst drought in a generation destroyed one-third of Russia’s wheat crop and sent global food prices surging, more bad weather is damaging fields from North America to Europe to Asia. Corn planting in the United States, the world’s largest grower, is advancing at half of last year’s pace because of excess rain, government data shows. The Canadian Wheat Board said fields are so muddy that only 3 percent of grain has been sown, compared with 40 percent normally. At the same time, drought left the Kansas wheat crop in the worst shape since 1996, and dry spells are threatening crops in France, Australia, and China. The United Nations said global food costs advanced in April for the ninth time in 10 months, and higher commodity expenses led food makers including General Mills Inc. and McDonald’s Corp. to boost prices to consumers. Weather, especially in the United States, may be the “swing factor” for rebuilding global grain inventories, said a wheat economist with Doane Advisory Services, an agricultural research company in St. Louis.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-05-10/crop-damage-from-weather-growing-as-cost-of-grains-advances.html>

25. *May 9, Drovers CattleNetwork* – (National) **Dry weather may cut U.S. winter wheat harvest to five-year low.** The U.S. winter wheat harvest may shrink to the smallest in 5 years as dry weather hurt crops in Kansas, Texas, and other major growing areas, some analysts said prior to the government’s first estimate for the 2011 crop. An analyst with North American Risk Management Services, Inc., in Chicago projected the winter wheat crop, which will be harvested over the next few months, at 1.378 billion bushels. That estimate is down 7.2 percent from the 1.485 billion bushels of winter wheat harvested in 2010 and would be the smallest crop since 2006, when production was 1.294 billion bushels, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) data. The USDA is scheduled to release its first estimates for the 2011 winter wheat crop May 11, and will also update its monthly supply and demand data the same day.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/latest/Dry-weather-may-cut-US-winter-wheat-harvest-to-five-year-low-121468519.html>

26. *May 7, Wall Street Journal* – (Alabama; National) **Twisters pummel poultry industry.** Alabama’s nearly \$3 billion-a-year poultry business, the largest segment of an agricultural industry that dominates the state, was dealt a crippling blow from destructive storms. Alabama churned out 1.04 billion chickens, or about 12 percent of total U.S. production, in 2010 ranking the state behind only Georgia and Arkansas, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Much of Alabama’s bird business is located in the hard-hit northern half of the state, where the rolling terrain is better suited to raising chickens than row crops. The state’s latest count of confirmed chicken deaths is nearly 3.2 million. “That’s only what we’ve been able to identify,” Alabama’s agriculture commissioner said. “There’s going to be a lot more.” Lost birds are only part of the problem. Widespread power outages have shut down feed mills, processing plants and rendering facilities, which turn offal, feathers and other by-products into protein meal fed to the next generation of broilers, disrupting a tightly coordinated production cycle. Water shortages at many growing houses could prompt premature slaughters, pushing chickens that had been destined for commodity markets, where they would be sold whole or as fryer parts, to prepared-food facilities and turned into chicken nuggets and cutlets instead. Ultimately, prices could rise, which would help processors and growers who have been pinched by depressed prices and rising feed costs.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703992704576307492563602626.html>

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## **Water Sector**

27. *May 10, AboutLawsuits.com* – (Arkansas) **Mountain Pure bottled water recall issued in Clinton, Arkansas.** About 23,000 bottles of Mountain Pure purified water that were distributed as part of disaster relief efforts in Clinton, Arkansas are being recalled due to mold contamination. The recall was announced by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) May 4 after Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) officials tested samples and found biological contamination. The mold has not been identified and there have been no reports of illnesses associated with the recall. However, state officials estimate about 90 percent of the recalled water bottles are already in the hands of the public. The recall affects all Mountain Pure 16.9 fl oz. (506 ml) bottles. The plastic bottles will have a military-style time code of 2200 to 0400 etched into them, and also have an expiration date code that says Best By 2-27-2013 MPWA or Best By 2-28-2013 MPWA. The recall is limited to about 16 pallets of Mountain Pure water, with each pallet holding 60 cases and each case carrying 24 bottles. Arkansas officials said it may take several days to identify the source of the contamination. In the meantime, state officials have asked residents to return the bottles for a full refund or discard them. State officials believe dust got into bottles during the purification process. Following flooding in Arkansas, customers of the Clinton Water Department

have been instructed to boil their water for a least a minute before drinking it.

Source: <http://www.aboutlawsuits.com/mountain-pure-bottled-water-recall-18062/>

28. *May 9, CNN* – (Pennsylvania; New York; National) **Tainted drinking water found near gas wells.** A new study from Duke University found potentially explosive levels of methane in drinking water supplies located close to natural gas wells with levels so high they create the risk of explosion. The study, released May 9, said about half of the 68 drinking water wells tested in Pennsylvania and New York located within a half a mile from natural gas wells had high levels of methane — the prime ingredient in natural gas fuel. The gas, which is usually located thousands of feet below the water table, appears to be entering the water wells either through cracks in the bedrock or, more likely, the casing in natural gas wells, an environmental sciences professor at Duke said. Casings are steel and concrete barriers natural gas companies use to line a well where it passes through the water table. The professor suspects hydraulic fracturing may be to blame. The process, known as fracking for short, uses vast amounts of chemically-laced water, sand, and pressure to crack shale rock and release the gas. The gas industry criticized the study's methodology, saying the well samples were not random and that no baseline data existed before the study. The industry has previously said many of the wells contained methane before natural gas drilling began, and that is it generally not harmful or problematic.

Source: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/27829907/detail.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. *May 9, Las Vegas Sun* – (Nevada) **Woman pleads guilty to reduced charge in hospital fire.** A homeless woman accused of attempted murder and arson for allegedly setting a fire in March to the emergency room of Valley View Hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada, accepted an agreement to plead guilty May 9 to one count of attempted malicious destruction of property in Clark County District Court. The woman was originally arrested in connection with six counts of attempted murder and one count of arson, which was later reduced to one count of attempted murder and one count of arson. The offense could be treated as either a Category D felony or as a gross misdemeanor. On the morning of March 8, the woman was examined and released for medical complaint at the Valley Hospital emergency room. Officials said she was seen playing with a cigarette lighter while in the waiting room. She then went into the restroom of the emergency room, allegedly set fire to a plastic waste container and then left. The melting plastic created a thick black smoke that was seen coming from the restroom. The judge said the damage to the bathroom wall was between \$250 and \$5,000. When security personnel and medical staff entered the restroom to extinguish the fire, black smoke spread into the rest of the emergency room. Fire officials said emergency room patients were examined for smoke inhalation after the fire, and the incident caused the emergency room to close for several hours.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/may/09/woman-pleads-guilty-reduced-charge-hospital-fire/>

30. *May 9, International Business Times* – (Michigan) **Detroit-based medical clinic owners convicted of Medicare fraud.** Two owners of a fraudulent Detroit, Michigan-area medical clinic and a man who helped them launder the proceeds of the fraud were convicted May 6 by a federal jury in Detroit for their roles in a \$9.1 million Medicare fraud scheme, the departments of justice and health and human services said. The owners were each convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud, one count of conspiracy to pay health care kickbacks, and three counts of health care fraud. The third defendant was also convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and one count of money laundering, and found not guilty on one money laundering count. According to evidence presented during the 1-week trial, two of the defendants were owners of Dearborn Rehabilitation and Medical Center (DMRC), a fraudulent HIV-infusion therapy clinic located in Dearborn, Michigan. They oversaw the payment of kickbacks to patients whose Medicare information was then used by DMRC to fraudulently bill Medicare for treatments they never received. Evidence showed DMRC, an outpatient clinic that purported to specialize in infusion and injection therapy, was established for the sole purpose of defrauding Medicare. Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/142905/20110509/detroit-based-medical-clinic-owners-convicted-of-medicare-fraud.htm>
31. *May 9, msnbc.com* – (National) **Suspect wipes used at VA medical centers.** A quarter of the nation's Veterans Health Administration medical centers and the agency's outpatient mail-order pharmacy used recalled alcohol prep pads and other products blamed in lawsuits for infections and a death, msnbc.com has learned, prompting a new round of concerns from a U.S. Senator from Colorado. He asked Veterans Affairs (VA) officials May 9 to explain the impact on veterans of hundreds of products manufactured by the Triad Group and H&P Industries Inc. of Hartland, Wisconsin, and included in massive recalls because of the threat of bacterial contamination. Along with a U.S. Senator from Tennessee, the Senator had previously questioned the federal Food and Drug Administration's handling of problems with contamination and sterilization at the Wisconsin plant. Those issues eventually led to the recall of hundreds of millions of products used in hospitals, clinics, and homes, and widely sold in grocery and drug stores. Thirty-eight of the country's 152 major veterans medical centers in 30 states and the District of Columbia removed recalled wipes, pads, and other products from use, VA officials told msnbc.com. In all, about 1,500 boxes of products were removed, according to a spokeswoman for the VA. So far, no infections tied to the products have been detected among veterans, she said in a statement. Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42962665/ns/health-infectious\\_diseases](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42962665/ns/health-infectious_diseases)
32. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Driver freed after car crashes down elevator shaft.** The Seattle Fire Department in Seattle, Washington said a woman was safely rescued after her car crashed through drywall in the Virginia Mason Hospital parking garage and plunged 10 feet down an elevator shaft May 9. The driver was alone in her car on the third level of the garage when the crash happened. A fire department spokesman said rescuers made sure the power was out and the elevator turned off before they went down to the fourth level, broke through a wall, and pulled her out. He said the woman is in her 60s and appears to be uninjured. The cause of the

crash was not immediately clear.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/05/09/3613825/driver-freed-after-car-crashes.html>

33. *May 8, New York Daily News* – (New Mexico) **Man in New Mexico diagnosed with bubonic plague; first case of ‘Black Death’ in 2011.** A 58-year-old man in New Mexico was recently treated for bubonic plague, the first case of the disease to surface in 2011. Santa Fe health officials said the unidentified man spent a week in the hospital after suffering high fever, intense pain in his stomach and groin, and swollen lymph nodes. He was treated and released, but officials would not say when. The results of blood tests released May 5 confirmed the man had bubonic plague, officials said. Doctors said the man was most likely bitten by a flea carrying the plague bacteria, the most common method of transmission to humans. Only about 10 to 15 people in the United States catch the illness each year, typically in western states. It is particularly prevalent in New Mexico because the state has a high population of both rodents and fleas. It can be treated with antibiotics, but 1 in 7 cases are fatal. The last reported outbreaks of plague in New Mexico were in 2009, when three people died. Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/08/2011-05-08\\_man\\_in\\_new\\_mexico\\_diagnosed\\_with\\_bubonic\\_plague\\_first\\_case\\_of\\_black\\_death\\_in\\_201.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/08/2011-05-08_man_in_new_mexico_diagnosed_with_bubonic_plague_first_case_of_black_death_in_201.html)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

34. *May 10, WFMY 2 Greensboro* – (North Carolina) **Fire at Graham courthouse causes damage, setback.** A Triad courthouse may not be open, but things got hot enough inside to start a fire the evening of May 9. Firefighters in Graham, North Carolina, were called around 8:30 p.m. to the courthouse on Elm Street. Crews said pedestrians at a nearby bar saw smoke and called 911. The courthouse was not being used because it was undergoing renovations. Graham has a second courthouse that is used for court and other business. According to investigators, the fire started on the first floor, in a room that will house surveillance equipment. They said the fire was contained to just that room, and the damage was caused mostly from smoke. Alamance County’s manager, who was on the scene, said the fire will be a setback on the renovation project. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Source: <http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article/174851/57/Fire-At-Graham-Courthouse-Causes-Damage-Setback>
35. *May 10, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Teen arrested in N. Ind. school shooting threat.** Police in northern Indiana arrested a 14-year-old boy who they believe is responsible for a note threatening a school shooting. An Elkhart County sheriff’s captain said the note claimed the shooting would take place May 10 at Concord Junior High School near Elkhart. The Elkhart Truth reports the note was found late May 9 by a school staffer, and that a caller told police the boy wrote it. Police said the teen was being held in juvenile detention on a preliminary charge of intimidation. Parents were

notified of the arrest in a recorded call May 10. The newspaper reports another threat was found the week of May 2 in a girl's restroom at the school. No arrests have been made over that threat.

Source: <http://www.fox28.com/Global/story.asp?S=14615452>

36. *May 9, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Illinois) **Illinois man admits plotting to bomb federal courthouse and is sentenced to 28 years in prison.** A 31-year-old Decatur, Illinois man pleaded guilty May 9 to attempting to bomb the federal courthouse in Springfield in September 2009 and was immediately sentenced to serve 28 years in prison, according to the acting assistant attorney general for national security who is a U.S. attorney of the Central District of Illinois, and the acting special agent in charge of the FBI Springfield division. At the hearing in East St. Louis, Illinois, the suspect appeared before a U.S. district judge and entered a plea of guilty to one count of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction (an explosive bomb) against property owned by the United States. According to the plea agreement and other documents filed in court, the man admitted that on September 23, 2009, he traveled from Decatur to Springfield, where he knowingly took possession of a truck that he believed contained a bomb with approximately one ton of explosives. The explosive device was inert. The man drove the truck to the federal building and courthouse, where he parked immediately outside the federal building and across the street from an office used by a U.S. Congressman. After the man parked the van and armed the device, he locked the truck and got into a vehicle with an undercover law enforcement agent whom he believed was associated with the al Qaida terrorist organization. The man then used a cell phone to attempt to remotely detonate the purported bomb after he and the undercover agent had driven a safe distance away. The case was investigated by the Springfield FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and assisting law enforcement agencies.

Source: <http://springfield.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel11/si050911.htm>

37. *May 9, IDG News Service* – (International) **NASA, Stanford sites hit by search engine scammers.** Scammers looking to flog cheap software have hacked Web pages on high-profile Web sites, including those belonging to NASA and Stanford University. NASA has now removed dozens of Web pages that popped up on its Jet Propulsion Laboratory Web site. They were used to flog low-cost versions of Adobe's Creative Suite and other products, according to cached versions of the pages, still viewable on Google. The scammers loaded up the Web pages with nonsense text (a sample: "Edit buy adobe premiere pro cs4 some callouts and balloons to make this time it took you and saved you a long time") and links to many other hacked pages. Affected sites included those for NASA, Stanford University, Syracuse University, and Northeastern University. NASA had cleaned up its site May 9, but others, including Stanford, had not. Visitors to those sites could encounter the hacked pages even if they were not looking for cheap software. A spokeswoman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said the NASA site was safe to visit. Hackers often use a Web hacking technique called SQL injection to break into Web sites, but they can also do this by stealing or guessing passwords. With NASA set to launch the Space Shuttle Endeavor the week of May 16, a lot of people are visiting the agency's Web site.



Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216555/NASA\\_Stanford\\_sites\\_hit\\_by\\_search\\_engine\\_scammers](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216555/NASA_Stanford_sites_hit_by_search_engine_scammers)

38. *May 9, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Broken water pipe forces evacuation of downtown L.A. criminal courts building.** Dozens of felony court cases were transferred to a different downtown Los Angeles, California courthouse May 9 when a broken pipe disrupted the water supply at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Courts Building. The 10 a.m. incident took place amid construction and flooded the boiler room and exhibit unit, according to court officials. It was not immediately clear if the entire building would be closed for the day, although court officials said it was possible. The exact cause of the broken pipe has not been identified, but officials said there was a construction crew working in the area.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/05/downtown-criminal-courts-building-evacuated-after-water-pipe-breaks.html>

39. *May 9, Syracuse Post-Standard* – (New York) A “suspicious communication” shut down the Syracuse office of a New York Congresswoman for 2 hours May 9. According to an aide for the Congresswoman, the office was shut down at 2:30 p.m. after the communication — she would not say whether it was a letter, package, phone call, or something else — was discovered. Most staff went home. She said the office was cleared by the FBI to reopen at 4:30 p.m. The Congresswoman’s Syracuse office is on the 13th floor of the federal building. The aide said she did not know if other offices on that floor were evacuated as well. The FBI and federal capitol police were notified, she said. “I am very troubled by this incident, which threatened not only members of my congressional staff, but also postal workers, building workers and tenants,” the Congresswoman said in an e-mail. “My staff and I are grateful for the professionalism and responsiveness of the various local and federal law enforcement and emergency response authorities.”

Source:

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/05/suspicious\\_communication\\_close.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/05/suspicious_communication_close.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

40. *May 10, USA Today* – (National) **FCC and cellphone carriers team for nationwide emergency alerts.** Consumers will get emergency alerts for hurricanes, tornadoes, and other disasters on their cell phones as part of a new alert network slated to be announced May 10 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Personal Localized Alerting Network, or PLAN, will allow emergency officials to send geographically targeted text messages to cell phones in areas where there is imminent danger. Today, at the World Trade Center site in New York City, the FCC Chairman

and New York mayor will announce New York will have the free PLAN service operational by year's end. Officials also expect to have Washington, D.C., on board by then. Four cellular providers — AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon — have collaborated to voluntarily initiate the service prior to an April 2012 deadline for PLAN to be launched nationwide. Officials hope to include the entire metropolitan areas of the two cities. The emergency alerts will be initiated by local, state or government agencies. Once the Federal Emergency Management Agency and PLAN have ensured an alert is valid, it will be forwarded to wireless providers, which will relay the message to consumers.

Source:

<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20110510/NEWS01/105100308/FCC-cellphone-carriers-team-nationwide-emergency-alerts+>

41. *May 10, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Maine to get money for tsunami evacuation signs.** The state of Maine is getting federal help to install signs to help people flee the coast in the event of a tsunami or other emergency. The Maine Department of Transportation is installing more than 100 signs with the help of a \$30,000 tsunami preparedness grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Few people expect the coast of Maine to be hit by a major tsunami, but the warnings can also be used in the event of a hurricane or a violent nor'easter. A spokeswoman for Maine Emergency Management said planners have identified evacuation routes so if a storm were headed for the coast there would be a plan. The Bangor Daily News said local emergency planners feel the signs will be of most benefit for visitors.  
Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Maine-to-get-money-for-tsunami-evacuation-signs-1373236.php>
42. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Ky. to close minimum security prison, convert to state police training academy.** Kentucky is shutting down a minimum security prison in Frankfort to convert the complex into a state police training center. State officials said May 9 that all 205 inmates are expected to be out of the Frankfort Career Development Center by July 1. The governor announced the change at an afternoon news conference. The shutdown of the prison marks the first time state officials could recall a correctional facility closing in Kentucky. The justice cabinet secretary said in an interview that a drop in the state's prison population and recidivism rate makes the closing possible. The department of corrections commissioner said the state will see about a \$575,000 savings in the new fiscal year. Inmates will be moved to other state prisons, county jails, and halfway houses.  
Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f811fcd5bdd74a09bbd38c7f46328ff7/KY--Kentucky-Prison-Closing/>
43. *May 9, Lakeland Ledger* – (Florida) **Man guilty of posing as FBI agent in Broward County.** A Broward County, Florida man has pleaded guilty to impersonating an FBI agent using a fake badge and phony credentials. The man admitted May 9 in federal court that he pretended to be an FBI agent when sheriff's deputies came to his apartment in January to investigate a claim he had damaged the unit. The FBI has no

record of the 48-year-old ever working there. Court records show he also had a 9 millimeter Glock handgun and more than two dozen other phony law enforcement badges. Those included fake badges for the U.S. Marshals, Drug Enforcement Administration, Secret Service, and Federal Air Marshals. He could get up to 3 years behind bars, but prosecutors have agreed not to seek prison time. Sentencing is set for July 15.

Source:

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20110509/NEWS/110509310/1374?Title=Man-Guilty-of-Posing-as-FBI-Agent-in-Broward-County&tc=ar>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

44. *May 10, Help Net Security* – (International) **Fake Patch Tuesday alert leads to Zeus infection.** As the latest patches are supposed to be released May 11, scammers have initiated a low-volume spam campaign that holds a link to a zeus trojan variant masquerading as the update. “The executable (the fake patch) is being hosted on a compromised domain and at the time of writing holds an 11 percent detection rate on VirusTotal,” warned Websense researchers. The message looks legitimate, as the headers were made to look like it is coming from Microsoft Canada, the text in the message is written in both English and French, and there are very few spelling errors. What could tip off the users to the fact that this is a fake message is the subject line (“URGENT: Critical Security Update”), with which the attackers try to generate a sense of urgency with the intent of making users less careful.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1717](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1717)
45. *May 10, Help Net Security* – (International) **Fake AV spreading via Yahoo!**  
**Answers.** Bkis researchers have recently spotted some new fake AV variants being distributed under the guise of legitimate questions on Q&A sites such as Yahoo! Answers and public forums. What they discovered is a number of questions answered with a variant of “Anyway, I think this will help you [LINK]” The offered link takes the users to a site (answers-yahoo-z(dot)tk) mimicking the Yahoo! Answers site (answers.yahoo.com). The user is supposed to download the file with the answer, but in reality it is an executable — a fake AV downloader. Similarly poisoned are other Q&A sites and forums. The offered links consistently drive the traffic to the same Web site. The link is likely to be changed in the future.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=1716](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1716)
46. *May 9, Computerworld* – (International) **Security firm exploits Chrome zero-day to hack browser, escape sandbox.** French security company Vupen said May 9 that it has figured out how to hack Google’s Chrome by sidestepping not only the browser’s built-in “sandbox” but also by evading Windows 7’s integrated anti-exploit technologies. Google said it was unable to confirm Vupen’s claims. “The exploit ... is

one of the most sophisticated codes we have seen and created so far, as it bypasses all security features including ASLR/DEP/Sandbox,” Vupen said in a blog post May 9. “It is silent (no crash after executing the payload), it relies on undisclosed (‘zero-day’) vulnerabilities and it works on all Windows systems.” According to Vupen, its exploit can be served from a malicious Web site. If a Chrome user surfed to such a site, the exploit executes “various payloads to ultimately download the Calculator from a remote location and launch it outside the sandbox at Medium integrity level.”

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216542/Security\\_firm\\_exploits\\_Chrome\\_zero\\_day\\_to\\_hack\\_browser\\_escape\\_sandbox](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216542/Security_firm_exploits_Chrome_zero_day_to_hack_browser_escape_sandbox)

47. *May 9, IDG News Service* – (International) **WebGL hit by hard-to-fix browser security flaw.** The WebGL graphics technology turned on by default in Firefox and Chrome poses a serious security risk and IT managers should consider disabling it, a security consultancy has recommended. The flaws researched by U.K. consultancy Context Information Security are serious enough, the company said, to allow an attacker to compromise the attacked PC through the poorly defended graphics card layer, or at least crash the system to make it more vulnerable. The company confirmed that it was able to exploit systems using proof-of-concept attacks with certain graphics cards in a way — kernel mode — that breached the most secure ring of an OS. “The risks stem from the fact that most graphics cards and drivers have not been written with security in mind so the interface (API) they expose assumes the applications are trusted,” a Context research and development manager said. “While this may be true for local applications, the use of WebGL-enabled, browser-based applications with certain graphics cards now poses serious threats from breaking the cross-domain security principle to denial of service attacks, potentially leading to full exploitation,” he said. The most serious of Context’s claims is the flaws in WebGL are inherent to its architecture and will be extremely difficult to fix. “In the short term, individual end users or IT departments can avoid potential problems by simply disabling WebGL within their browsers; but the only long-term solution is for the developers of WebGL itself to ensure the specification is designed and tested to prevent these types of risks,” the Context research and development manager said. The company believes WebGL was not suitable for mass adoption.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216539/WebGL\\_hit\\_by\\_hard\\_to\\_fix\\_browser\\_security\\_flaw](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216539/WebGL_hit_by_hard_to_fix_browser_security_flaw)

48. *May 9, Associated Press* – (International) **Sony aims to fully restore PlayStation Network, down by hacker attack, by end of May.** Sony said May 10 it aims to fully restore its PlayStation Network, shut down after a massive security breach affecting over 100 million online accounts, by the end of May. Sony also confirmed personal data from 24.6 million user accounts was stolen in the hacker attack in April. Personal data, including credit card numbers, might have been stolen from another 77 million PlayStation accounts, a Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. spokesman said. He said Sony has not received any reports of illegal uses of stolen data, and the company is continuing its probe into the hacker attack. He declined to give details on the

investigation. Sony shut down the PlayStation network, a system that links gamers worldwide in live play, April 20 after discovering the security breach.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/sony-aims-to-fully-restore-playstation-network-down-by-hacker-attack-by-end-of-may/2011/05/10/AFY3C0dG\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/sony-aims-to-fully-restore-playstation-network-down-by-hacker-attack-by-end-of-may/2011/05/10/AFY3C0dG_story.html)

49. *May 8, The Register* – (International) **Think file-hosting sites guard your private data? Think again.** Academic researchers said they have uncovered weaknesses in dozens of the most popular file hosting sites that allow people to gain unauthorized access to data that is supposed to be available only to those selected by the user. The services, which include sites such as RapidShare, FileFactory, and Easyshare, allow users to upload large files and make them available to anyone who knows the unique Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) bound to each one. Users may post the link on Web sites or forums available to the public or share it in a single e-mail to prevent all but the recipient from downloading it. RapidShare, for instance, said it can be used to “share your data with your friends, colleagues or family.” But according to academics in Belgium and France, a “significant percentage” of the 100 file hosting services (FHS) they studied made it trivial for outsiders to access the files simply by guessing the URLs that are bound to each uploaded file. They presented evidence that such attacks, far from being theoretical, are already happening in the wild.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/08/file\\_hosting\\_sites\\_under\\_attack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/08/file_hosting_sites_under_attack/)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

50. *May 9, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida) **Digital billboards light up in Jacksonville; opponents plan lawsuit.** Clear Channel Outdoor has installed three of the eight digital billboards it plans for Jacksonville, Florida giving motorists a view of the technology that lit up city council debate and appears headed for a showdown in court. Though smaller electronic signs in front of Jacksonville businesses and churches have used similar technology for years, the billboards being built by Clear Channel are the first of their kind in the city. The division president for Clear Channel Outdoor, said advertisers can purchase time slots for digital billboards and customize messages for different times of the day. Digital billboard opponents are preparing to go to court to make the signs go dark. A Jacksonville attorney who represents Scenic Jacksonville, said a 1995 settlement agreement with the billboard industry does not allow construction of digital billboards. The settlement agreement followed a 1987 city charter election where voters approved reducing the number of billboards in

Jacksonville. He said each time a digital billboard goes into operation, “it’s a violation of the settlement and the charter, under our position.” He said rather than amend a lawsuit each time another digital billboard goes up, opponents will wait until the billboards are up and then make a final decision on challenging them in court. The city’s general counsel’s office has taken the position the settlement agreement does not bar digital billboards.

Source: <http://jacksonville.com/business/2011-05-09/story/digital-billboards-light-jacksonville-opponents-plan-lawsuit>

For another story, see item [40](#)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

51. *May 9, Hattiesburg American* – (Pennsylvania) **16 cabins destroyed in blaze.** A fire that destroyed 16 cabins May 9 at the Neshoba County Fairgrounds in Pennsylvania, making it the fabled site’s worst disaster, likely was accidental. Just hours after the fire was extinguished, many of the affected families already were planning to rebuild. Officials vowed that this year’s fair, slated for July 22-29, will go on as planned. The fair association president said leaders will meet later this month to discuss plans, including the possibility of providing lease options for affected families. Most of the fairgrounds’ more than 600 cabins are built less than 4 feet from neighboring structures. The fire was not the first at the fairgrounds; one in 2005 destroyed two cabins. A member of the fair board said the fire appears to be accidental but did not elaborate. The state fire marshal was surveying the site May 9. Aside from concerts and carnival rides, the fair’s Founders Square has become one of the state’s most famous political venues. The fire, first reported about 8:30 a.m., took about 2 hours to contain.

Source:

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20110510/NEWS01/105100305/16-cabins-destroyed-blaze?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

52. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Nearly 30 units destroyed, firefighter injures hand in Houston apartment blaze.** Hundreds of residents of an apartment complex in Houston, Texas, were evacuated as a fire May 9 destroyed 28 units and caused major damage to 5. The Houston fire department said a firefighter injured his hand in the fire. There were no other reported injuries. The department said the fire appears to have started in a car, then spread to several vehicles before moving into residential units above the parking spaces. Managers at the complex said there were enough vacancies to house those displaced by the fire. The American Red Cross was also on the scene. The fire was extinguished around 8 a.m.

Source:

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/b70c8e6a3a8943efa869c117d5710c75/TX--Houston-Apartment-Fire/>

53. *May 9, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **36,000 credit card numbers stolen in skimmer scheme.** There are 36,000 victims, in a major credit card skimming operation, and Orange County, Florida, detectives said they arrested 13 people May 9. The suspects were using the cards as well, detectives said. Investigators said a suspect would walk up to a gas pump and slip a credit card skimmer over the scanner. The crooks were so advanced, they would unlock the gas pump and place the skimmers inside, and then return later for the numbers. An empty lot on Patch Road is vacant now, but the week of May 2 it was A&A trucking. The alleged mastermind of the scheme is accused of using it as a front for a chop shop and a makeshift gas station. There were three parts to his alleged illegal operation. First, detectives explained how one group of the suspects installed credit card skimmers in gas pumps to make fraudulent credit cards. They swiped more than 36,000 numbers. A second group, investigators said, stole pickups and box trucks. VIN numbers were changed and the trucks were outfitted with large reservoir fuel tanks. Lastly, a third group used the modified vehicles and bogus credits cards and purchased hundreds of gallons of diesel, which was later sold on the black market. “They look like vehicles in disrepair. But look closely. These are actually fuel cells,” said a spokesman with the Orange County Sheriff’s Office. Detectives said the mastermind of the scheme made \$10,000 per day selling fuel. They said he stole more than \$1 million worth of vehicles and made more than \$2 million in fraudulent charges in about 2 years. Orange County’s organized crime unit made 13 arrests. Most are Cuban nationals, although the mastermind is still on the loose.

Source: <http://www.wftv.com/news/27830910/detail.html>

54. *May 9, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Threat vs. Willis Tower; guns, gunpowder seized.** Authorities were on the scene May 9 in the uptown neighborhood of the North Side of Chicago, Illinois, removing weapons from the apartment of a 60-year-old man who made a threat against the Willis Tower, Chicago police said. Police and other law enforcement officers arrived in the 4200 block of North Sheridan Road at about 2:30 p.m. in response to the threat, said a Chicago Police officer. Investigators do not believe there was a credible threat to the Willis, which is a 108-story, 1,451-foot skyscraper commonly referred to as Sears tower, or to the public. The man’s apartment was searched and police recovered multiple guns and gunpowder, he said. The building was evacuated and no injuries were reported. Police said the man was taken into custody and will undergo a mental evaluation. The nature of the man’s alleged threat on the Willis Tower was not immediately known.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-guns-gunpowder-seized-in-uptown-apartment-20110509,0,4387836.story?track=rss>

55. *May 9, Easton Express-Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Broken gas line on Cattell Street forces evacuation of nearby buildings.** Authorities May 9 evacuated 54 properties after a contractor crew struck a major gas line on Cattell Street in Easton, Pennsylvania. The line strike happened about 12:40 p.m. when a crew working to replace a water line for the Easton Suburban Water Authority broke through the 2-inch pipe. The line was capped by UGI Utilities about 1 hour and 45 minutes after it was broken. The 200 block of Cattell Street remained closed until permanent repairs can be made, the deputy fire chief said. Traffic was being rerouted in the area. No one was injured because of

the gas line break, he said, adding that some minor accidents were reported because of traffic backups. While crews worked on making the area safe, some people were forced to leave and some businesses in the area were closed, he said. The evacuated properties were in the 100, 200, and 300 blocks of Cattell Street, he said. Residents one block east and west of Cattell Street on Clinton Terrace, March Street, and High Street were told to remain inside their houses and shut their windows. Residents who were not at home were not being allowed back in until the incident was cleared, he said.

Source:

[http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/easton/index.ssf/2011/05/broken\\_gas\\_line\\_on\\_cattell\\_str.html](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/easton/index.ssf/2011/05/broken_gas_line_on_cattell_str.html)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

56. *May 9, Riverside Press-Enterprise* – (California) **Forest Falls: Blaze grows to about 150 acres.** A forest fire north of Forest Falls, California, grew to about 150 acres May 9 as thick clouds prevented aircraft from making water drops. The fire was burning in steep, rugged terrain that had not had a fire in more than 50 years, a U.S. Forest Service information officer said. With no help available from aircraft, fire crews had to hike 3 hours to reach the flames, she said. Even with thick clouds and cool temperatures, the flames progressed. The fire started on San Gorgonio Wilderness land about 10:30 a.m. May 8 in vegetation that had died from insect attacks. More than 300 fire personnel fought the fire May 9 and contained about 40 percent of it. The fire started at an elevation of about 7,300 feet near a trail and has burned up to 9,000 feet. The cause has not been determined.

Source: [http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_nfire10.3dfaef1.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_nfire10.3dfaef1.html)

57. *May 9, Texas Forest Service* – (Texas) **Texas Forest Service: Monday update.** The Texas Forest Service (TFS) responded to two large fires May 8. The service is working on seven major fires that span 586,624 acres. And 207 of the 254 Texas counties are reporting burn bans. Since fire season started November 15, 2010, the TFS and area fire departments have responded to 9,679 fires that have charred 2,380,710 acres. Two new large fires were reported May 8. The Gage Holland in Brewster County was burning 4,535 acres, and 40 percent was contained. The fire was burning in rough terrain in the mountains just west of Alpine. Heavy airtankers, single-engine airtankers, and helicopters were diverted from the Schwartz Fire after this fire started. Evacuations of about 40 residences occurred on the west side of Alpine. The 611 Gas Plant fire in Fisher County was burning 4,000 acres with no containment. Thirty-two homes, oil infrastructure, and wind turbines were threatened on this lightning-caused fire 13 miles northwest of Sweetwater.

Source: [http://www.ktxs.com/texas\\_news/27825021/detail.html](http://www.ktxs.com/texas_news/27825021/detail.html)



58. *May 9, KVOA 4 Tucson* – (Arizona; New Mexico) **Wildfire forces evacuation of hundreds of homes.** Evacuations were issued May 9 for several hundred residents near the Arizona/New Mexico border as the Horseshoe Two fire threatened their homes. The fire, first reported early May 8, spread to at least 2,000 acres, according to the latest update from a National Parks Service (NPS) official. Residents have been evacuated from the area east of the forest boundary from the mouth of Sulphur Canyon, north along the forest boundary to Robinson Ranch and west along Portal road to the town itself. Evacuation centers have been set up at the Rodeo Community Center and the Animas Community Center. Five helicopters, two air attack platforms, and multiple fire crews have been assigned to fight the fire. On May 9, hot shot crews were slated to scout for firelines and provide structural protection as needed, the NPS official said. The fire was human-caused and is under investigation.  
Source: <http://www.kvoa.com/news/wildfire-forces-evacuation-of-hundreds-of-homes/>
59. *May 9, Summit County Citizens Voice* – (National) **Wildfires: New Mexico and Florida the latest hotspots.** While cooler weather and somewhat higher relative humidity levels have helped firefighters control a number of huge wildfires in Texas, the 3,600-acre Schwartz Fire is growing quickly in dormant brush, hardwood slash, and tall grass fuels. The fire, which started May 7, is only 5 percent contained and threatens to move east quickly under gusty winds, highs around 100 degrees and 3 percent relative humidity. Dangerous new fires have been reported in South Carolina, Florida, and New Mexico, where the 27,000 Miller Fire, near Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, has forced the evacuation of Gila Hot Springs. The Miller Fire is burning about 25 miles north of Silver City, New Mexico in short-grass fuels and pine. According to a May 8 incident report, 104 firefighters were on-hand. The fire was still very active May 9, with flames burning 2 to 3 feet high, in steep and rugged terrain. In South Carolina, 83 firefighters were working the 20,000-acre Pains Bay wildfire, burning in coastal wetlands south of Highway 264. The fire was headed for the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County, North Carolina. In Florida, the 27,000-acre Jarhead Fire in Big Cypress National Preserve threatened numerous grand-fathered camps, residences, and other structures in the Big Cypress National Preserve. According to the latest Inciweb update, many are occupied by residents who will not evacuate.  
Source: <http://summitcountyvoice.com/2011/05/09/wildfires-new-mexico-and-florida-the-latest-hotspots/>
60. *May 9, KRQE 13 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Firefighters mopping up Roswell blaze.** Two wildfires erupted May 9 with one forcing the evacuation of a Roswell, New Mexico school and nearby residences. The Roswell fire started west of downtown on Sycamore Avenue about 12:45 p.m. The cause is under investigation. Ten homes in the area were evacuated as was the Gateway Christian School with its students bused to Christ Church where firefighters staged with a defensive perimeter. Just before 1:30 p.m. students returned to the school. There was no immediate estimate on the size of the fire, but by 2 p.m. New Mexico State Forestry was reporting fire crews were mopping up the remaining hot spots. Meanwhile a grass fire reported at 12:40 p.m. quickly grew to 500 acres pushed by stiff winds in Torrance County near the junction

of U.S. Highways 60 and 285, state forestry reported.

Source: <http://www.krqe.com/dpp/weather/wildfires/school-evacuated-as-roswell-fire-grows>

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## **Dams Sector**

61. *May 10, Winnipeg Free Press* – (International) **Swollen Lake Manitoba forces evacuation of cattle.** People who live around Lake Manitoba in Canada should prepare for their flood of the century — lake levels even greater than flooding in 1955 — due to water diverted from the Assiniboine River. Provincial officials told ranchers to prepare to evacuate 100,000 cattle in one or two weeks as Lake Manitoba expands. “You have to go now and start searching today” for a temporary home for your cows, said an official with Manitoba Agriculture. Many of those cattle will have to be transported to government-owned public pastures in Alberta and Saskatchewan because there is no room in Manitoba. Houses will have to be diked and Highway 68, which passes through Lake Manitoba Narrows, is expected to be flooded unless it can be built up. The flood forecast affects everyone along or near Lake Manitoba north to south, up both east and west sides.

Source: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/swollen-lake-manitoba-forces-evacuation-of-cattle-121551094.html>

62. *May 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Mississippi crests in Memphis at nearly 48 feet, while areas downstream brace for inundation.** The Mississippi River crested in Memphis, Tennessee at nearly 48 feet on May 10, falling short of its all-time record but still soaking low-lying areas with enough water to require a massive cleanup. To the south, residents in the Mississippi Delta prepared for the worst. A National Weather Service meteorologist said the river reached 47.85 feet at 2 a.m. CDT May 10 and is expected to stay very close to that level for the next 24 to 36 hours. Hitting the high point means things should not get worse in the area, but it will take weeks for the water to recede and much longer for inundated areas to recover. While the Mississippi River is expected to crest in Memphis, Louisiana is bracing for flooding. A spillway that diverts the big river has been partially opened. In states downstream, farmers built homemade levees to protect their crops, and engineers diverted water into a lake to ease the pressure on levees around New Orleans. Inmates in Louisiana’s largest prison were also evacuated to higher ground. The soaking was isolated to low-lying neighborhoods, and forced hundreds of people from their homes — including nearly 500 in shelters May 10 — but no new serious flooding was expected.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/mississippi-river-hits-peak-in-memphis-sparing-landmarks-downstream-people-build-dirt-levees/2011/05/10/AF72z1eG\\_story.html?hpid=z3](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/mississippi-river-hits-peak-in-memphis-sparing-landmarks-downstream-people-build-dirt-levees/2011/05/10/AF72z1eG_story.html?hpid=z3)

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