



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 May 2011

Top Stories

- According to the Associated Press, a Kentucky coal mine has been issued 10 withdrawal orders a month after federal regulators hit the mine's operator with a first-ever pattern of violations notice. (See item [3](#))
- KHOU reports newly released e-mails from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality show the agency's top commissioners told staff to continue lowering radiation test results in defiance of federal Environmental Protection Agency rules. (See item [28](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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 19, Charleston State Journal* – (Ohio) **Fire crews battled oil well fire.** On May 19, officials investigated what may have caused an oil well fire in Carroll County, Ohio. According to Carroll County 9-1-1 a fire broke out around 9:30 p.m. May 18 in a sparsely populated area of the county. Fire crews from seven departments helped battle the flames. Authorities said it took two hours to get under control. No injuries were reported and authorities confirmed there was no threat to the public or the environment. Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=99766>

2. *May 19, Computerworld* – (California) **California looks to protect smart meter data.** California's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has proposed a new set of rules for protecting the security and privacy of consumer data collected by the state's utility companies via new smart metering technology. The proposal aims to secure customer usage data collected by smart meters deployed by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Edison. The rules would also cover all contractors and other third parties that work with utility companies in the state and have access to the usage data. A 143-page document detailing the proposed rules was released by the utilities commission earlier this month and is open for public comment until the end of May. If the rules are adopted, California would become the first state to implement standards for protecting the privacy of data collected by smart meters. The U.S. Department of Energy, along with several privacy groups have issued warnings about privacy risks posed by the collection and use of electricity usage data from smart meters. Smart meters, designed to collect energy consumption data from homes and to transmit it back to power distribution companies for billing, network, and demand management purposes, are a crucial component of the smart grid.
Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216852/California_looks_to_protect_smart_meter_data

3. *May 18, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Ky. mine hit with 10 withdrawal orders in May.** A Kentucky coal mine has been issued 10 withdrawal orders a month after federal regulators hit the mine's operator with a first-ever pattern of violations notice. The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) announced the orders at Abner Branch Rider Mine in Leslie County May 18, saying inspectors found multiple violations at the Bledsoe Coal Corp's mine in May. The mine was one of the first two ever issued a pattern of violation notice. The agency took the action in April, also citing the New West Virginia Mining Co.'s Apache Mine in McDowell County, West Virginia. That mining operation is currently idle. The 10 orders in May fall under the pattern of violations notice. Under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, MSHA may order miners withdrawn from a mine each time the agency issues a significant and substantial violation. The order remains in place until the violation is corrected. A mine operator can be removed from pattern of violation status only after a complete inspection is done without a significant and substantial violation citation being issued. The 10 withdrawal orders include 2 issued May 3 because the mine roof was not adequately supported to prevent a potential roof fall. Three were issued May 10 for inadequate ventilation controls and inadequate roof, rib, and face support, causing the withdrawal of more than 30 miners working over three shifts. Inspectors found ventilation controls between the secondary escapeway and the belt entry had become damaged and difficult to open. The order related to inadequate ventilation controls was terminated the following day when the operator installed a pressure relief slider in the personnel door, and made modifications to enable the doors to easily open.
Source: <http://www.greenwichtime.com/default/article/Ky-mine-hit-with-10-withdrawal-orders-in-May-1385310.php>

4. *May 18, KMSB 11 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Bird knocks out power to 31,000 in Tucson.** A massive power outage hit Tucson, Arizona, midday May 18 sending about 31,000 Tucson Electric Power (TEP) customers into the dark for about 20 minutes. A TEP spokesperson said it was caused by a bird getting into equipment at its Irvington Road facility. Fire stations had personnel manually open their garage doors and move equipment outside to be able to respond to emergencies. There were reports the entire University of Arizona campus was without power as well as Park Place Mall. A TEP spokesman said the outage was, “throughout the Tucson area.” The central, south, and southwest area were primarily impacted, he said.
Source: <http://www.fox11az.com/news/local/Power-outage-hits-Tucson-122185549.html>

For more stories, see items [5](#), [21](#), and [40](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *May 18, KTXS 12 Sweetwater* – (Texas) **Truck carrying poisonous chemical tips over, hazmat responds.** An 18-wheeler truck carrying more than 1,300 gallons of a poisonous chemical overturned in south Abilene, Texas May 18. The Abilene Fire Department hazardous material team responded because there was a leak caused by the accident, but fire officials said it was not a container that had the poisonous material inside. The truck was carrying 1,320 gallons of a mildly poisonous chemical used in oil fields. Fire officials said that had the substance leaked they would have quarantined an area half a mile around the wreck. The driver of the truck was able to escape the wreck uninjured. The driver was issued a ticket for failure to control speed with an accident which is a class “C” misdemeanor.
Source: <http://www.ktxs.com/news/27945665/detail.html>
6. *May 18, Discovery Channel* – (National) **Over 100 baby products loaded with toxic chemicals.** Flame retardant chemicals appeared in the majority of baby products that scientists tested in a recent study, including car seats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, and rocking chairs. Of the numerous chemicals identified in the study, some are classified as probable carcinogens. Some are known to disrupt hormonal systems. And some have been linked to brain damage. The researchers were particularly surprised to detect one chemical they thought had been phased out years ago. The study was not able to quantify the health risks of baby products that are treated with these chemicals. Still, the findings are worrisome enough that it is worth seeking out alternatives, said an environmental chemist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Flammability practices around the United States are heavily influenced by California standards, which require that polyurethane foam in upholstered furniture be able to withstand exposure to a small, open flame for 12 seconds. The cheapest and easiest way to meet that standard, the spokeswoman said, is to add chemicals to the foam. The findings raise serious concerns about health risks to infants and small children, who are most vulnerable to the toxic effects of these chemicals and who spend

lots of time in contact with products that contain them.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43078607/ns/health-kids_and_parenting/t/over-baby-products-loaded-toxic-chemicals/

For more stories, see items [21](#), [35](#), [40](#), and [52](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *May 19, ClimateWire* – (National) **NRC finds many U.S. nuclear plants ill-prepared to handle simultaneous threats.** On April 26, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff did a safety “walkdown” of Pacific Gas and Electric’s (PG&E) Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California, part of NRC inspections of all U.S. reactors triggered by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster in Japan. The NRC’s May 13 inspection report listed more than a half-dozen issues that could jeopardize the plant if it were confronted with a chain reaction of unexpected and unplanned-for calamities. The report included the following issues: The plant had a single diesel-driven pump to provide emergency cooling water to a single reactor in case an earthquake cut off normal water flow, but the pump could not have serviced the plant’s two reactors if they lost normal water supply simultaneously; The plant’s six emergency diesel generators were located in the same plant area, and thus vulnerable to a “common mode” failure; PG&E intended to rely on the California National Guard to deliver diesel fuel for emergency generators if roads were impassable, but had no memorandum of understanding in place for the deliveries. A little less than one-third of the 104 U.S. reactors were found to have vulnerabilities to extreme emergencies. Among the findings in other NRC reports: Entergy’s Arkansas Nuclear One plant safety plan is directed against the loss of offsite power to one of its units, and does not anticipate a simultaneous additional threat such as an earthquake; At Duke Energy’s Oconee Nuclear Station in South Carolina, pumps that would be used to remove water from auxiliary buildings in a flood could not be used because the plugs did not fit any outlets in the area; Instrumentation on spent fuel pools would be unavailable if power were lost, which would require workers to visually inspect water levels — “an unacceptable requirement under some scenarios,” the NRC said. The NRC said all issues have been fixed or put on schedule for correction.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/05/19/19climatewire-nrc-finds-many-us-nuclear-plants-ill-prepare-33046.html?pagewanted=all>

8. *May 18, Escondido North County Times* – (California) **San Onofre: Blocked roof drains send water inside generator building.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a report May 18 that took San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station operator Southern California Edison to task for allowing roof drains at the power plant to become plugged during heavy rainstorms in December 2010. “As a result of the recurring degraded and clogged roof drains, rainwater was allowed to accumulate on the roof, which resulted in water intrusion into the Unit 2 building and over energized electrical equipment,” the report stated. A spokesman for Edison said May 18 the utility

had taken steps to prevent the drains from plugging again. “The unusual development of a diesel generator roof drainage problem has led to increased drain inspections to prevent a re-occurrence of the blockage,” he said in an e-mail. “The leads did not damage building equipment or cause the diesel generators to be inoperable at any time.” NRC inspectors found the blocked drains in December after inspecting the diesel generator building that serves San Onofre’s Unit 2 reactor, which sits under the plant’s northern containment dome. Inspectors also checked a separate building that houses an identical generator for the plant’s Unit 3 reactor. They found Edison had failed to “implement an appropriate preventative maintenance program” for the buildings. The report notes the drains were not unclogged until after water began pouring into the buildings.

Source: http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/article_67e94eda-79f7-5652-8afb-3512a1143f8a.html

For more stories, see items [28](#) and [35](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

9. *May 19, Australian Business Traveler* – (International) **Qantas flight QF32 A380 engine explosion:** An Australian Transportation Safety Bureau (ATSB) air safety regulator released an interim report that blames engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce for the Airbus A380 engine failure on Qantas flight QF32 last November. The explosion in the engine shredded part of the wing and sent engine fragments into the side of the A380, necessitating an emergency landing in Singapore. In March, the ABC Four Corners TV program revealed Rolls-Royce knew the engines were defective. But the full extent of the problem is shown in the new ATSB report. The main focus is an oil pipe defect that “resulted in fatigue cracking in the pipe, so that oil sprayed into an engine cavity where it ignited because of the high air temperature.” An engine disc then failed and spun out of control, wrecking the engine and sending parts flying into the wing and fuselage. Rolls-Royce did not keep adequate records of the oil pipe part that caused the near-disaster, the report said. “A lack of measurement records for the FW48020 standard oil feed pipes meant that Rolls-Royce was unable to establish whether those oil feed pipes had been manufactured to specification,” the ATSB ruled. It also recommended that Rolls-Royce address the safety issue and take actions necessary to ensure the safety of flight operations in transport aircraft equipped with Trent 900 series engines. Some of those actions have already been taken, resulting in the removal of 53 A380 engines from service since the QF32 incident. The ATSB’s final report is expected in May 2012.

Source: <http://www.ausbt.com.au/qantas-flight-qf32-a380-engine-explosion-rolls-royce-to-blame-says-atsb-report>

10. *May 18, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Ohio) **U.S. Labor Department’s OSHA cites Multi-Cast Corp. for safety and health violations at foundry.** In a May 18 news release, the U.S. Labor Department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration

said it cited Multi-Cast Corp. in Wauseon, Ohio, for 13 safety and health violations, including failing to ensure foundry employees wore fire-retardant clothing and protective equipment while working with molten metal. The company faces \$178,500 in fines as a result of a November 2010 inspection. Three willful violations, with proposed penalties of \$147,000, include failing to ensure employees wore fire-retardant clothing and used face shields while working around molten metal, as well as ensure machine guarding was in place on a roll-over mold-making machine. Four serious safety violations, with proposed fines of \$17,500, are failing to ensure crane hooks were equipped with properly functioning safety latches, provide guards on stair railings, and provide adequate personal protective clothing and equipment. Three serious health violations, with proposed fines of \$11,900, involve failing to provide lead standard training, not having combustion safeguards installed on a natural gas furnace and allowing an employee to work under a 2,500-pound sand mold.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=19857

11. *May 18, South Bend Tribune* – (Indiana) **Dust bin fire clears sheet metal plant.** Firefighters responded to the report of flames that broke out inside General Sheet Metal Works at 2025 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana at 7:45 p.m. May 18. The fire that forced the evacuation of the sheet metal plant started in a dust bin, police and fire officials said. As workers were evacuated, smoke engulfed a large area inside the building, spilling out onto South Michigan, where police blocked off the street for about 6 blocks. There were no injuries, a fire official said, adding the situation was brought under control at about 8:15 p.m.

Source: http://articles.southbendtribune.com/2011-05-18/news/29559022_1_dust-bin-fire-sheet-metal-plant

For another story, see item [23](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *May 19, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **3 hurt as refueling plane bursts into flames at Point Mugu.** Three crew members escaped from a civilian refueling aircraft that exploded into flames the evening of May 18 during an attempted takeoff at Point Mugu Naval Air Station near Oxnard, California. The Boeing 707 aircraft was nearly filled to capacity with 150,000 pounds of fuel that stoked intense flames and thick clouds of dark smoke that billowed for miles as firefighters tried to control the blaze, officials said. A base spokesman said the crew members — a pilot, co-pilot, and navigator — worked for Omega Aerial Refueling Services, which contracts with the U.S. Navy to refuel aircraft. They were taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries, Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) officials said. The blaze broke out about 5:25 p.m. as the aircraft skidded out of control on the far end of the main runway, a spokesman for the base said. Fire crews on the ground were aided by a helicopter that

made repeated water drops as flames consumed the crumpled fuselage. Base fire crews and the VCFD responded. According to Omega's Web site, the company uses a Boeing 707-300 model.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0519-plane-crash-20110519,0,4803565.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *May 18, KMOV 4 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Suspected serial bank robber arrested, could be charged with eleven robberies.** Federal and local authorities in St. Louis, Missouri, said May 18 they have arrested a suspect in a frenzy of bank robberies dating back to August 2010. The 37-year-old man was tracked down and arrested without incident at a hotel in St. Louis. The arrest was the result of the investigative efforts of the FBI, St. Louis County, and city police. The suspect has been charged with the robbery of the Montgomery Bank in the 3800 block of Union in St. Louis County May 16. Investigators said an alert witness gave police a good description of the getaway vehicle. That vehicle was spotted May 17 and the man was arrested May 18. Authorities believe the suspect is responsible for as many as 10 other bank robberies.
Source: <http://www.kmov.com/news/crime/Serial-bank-bandit-arrested-could-be-charged-with-eleven-robberies-122192444.html>
14. *May 18, Reuters* – (Ohio) **Columbus police comb city for mullet-wearing bandit.** Police in Ohio are searching for a mullet-wearing bandit they said has been on a bank-robbing spree across the state. A man is a suspect in at least two bank robberies in Columbus over the past 2 weeks, an FBI Special Agent told Reuters, and may have been involved in a third holdup. The latest heist took place May 18 at a Fifth-Third bank branch on Holt Road in Columbus. The suspect, who wears a Seattle Mariners baseball cap and large dark sunglasses and carries an oversized book bag, walked into the bank shortly after 9 a.m., the special agent said. After waiting his turn in line, he went up to a teller and passed a note saying he was robbing the bank. The same suspect is believed to have held up a branch of Chase Bank on Polaris Parkway in Columbus May 5, and the FBI said he may also have been involved in a robbery in northeast Ohio.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/18/us-ohio-mullet-bandit-idUSTRE74H7JX20110518>
15. *May 18, Savannah Morning News* – (National) **Savannah's serial bank robber strikes Pooler.** Savannah, Georgia's brazen bank robber — who did not bother to hide his face when he walked into two southside banks during one week in April, pulled a gun and demanded cash — struck again May 18. This time, it was a Pooler bank, located across the street from police headquarters. "He seems to be knowledgeable of how to go about the business of robbing a bank," said the FBI's resident agent in charge for Savannah. The May 18 robbery happened at 10:10 a.m. at the Bank of America, located at 105 U.S. 80 East, across Rogers Street from the Pooler police

headquarters. The robber followed pretty much the same plan he did in the April 8 robbery of the SunTrust bank located inside the Kroger at 318 Mall Boulevard and the April 13 robbery of the Bank of America, located at 7802 Abercorn Street, less than a half mile away from the SunTrust branch. He walked into the bank wearing long sleeves and a baseball cap, handed the teller a note demanding money, and pulled out a gun and set it on the counter. The teller handed over an undisclosed amount of cash May 18. The FBI agent in charge said the robber peeled through the bills to make sure they did not contain dye packs. In the two previous robberies, the man is believed to have fled in a blue Chevy Astro van with a Georgia tag, but the FBI agent in charge said he may have used a gold vehicle for the May 18 job. He is believed to be working alone.

Source: <http://savannahnow.com/news/2011-05-18/savannah-s-serial-bank-robber-strikes-pooler>

16. *May 18, Tempe East Valley Tribune* – (Arizona) **Bank offers reward in branch robberies.** Wells Fargo Bank is offering up to a \$5,000 reward for information leading up to the arrest and conviction of a man who has committed eight robberies at numerous branches throughout the East Valley in Arizona since November 23, including robbing a branch in Gilbert twice. FBI investigators believe the robberies were committed by the same suspect, whom they have dubbed the “Black Binder Bandit” because he carries a black binder or black bag when approaching bank tellers and has been seen on video surveillance wearing different caps or hats and sunglasses. In addition to robbing banks throughout Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa and Tempe, the man also robbed a branch of Bank of America at 2998 N. Alma School Road in Chandler January 7.

Source: http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/local/cop_shop/article_09a42a96-81ab-11e0-8bbc-001cc4c03286.html

17. *May 18, MainStreet.com* – (International) **Free trial scams targeted by Feds.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced May 17 it has taken legal action against an online operation that allegedly raked in more than \$450 million from consumers worldwide by luring them into “free” or “risk-free” trials on a variety of different products. The FTC has filed a complaint against a man and the companies he controls, citing his online “free trials” for various products including acai berry weight-loss pills, tooth whiteners and dietary supplements were merely bogus attempts to swindle consumers. “The defendants used the lure of a ‘free’ offer to open an illegal pipeline to consumers’ credit card and bank accounts,” the director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection said in a written statement. The companies targeted consumers in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. The FTC said it plans to stop the illegal practices and make the defendants repay defrauded consumers. As part of its complaint, the FTC is also charging the man and his co-defendants with running phony work-at-home schemes, providing access to non-existent government grants, offering but not providing free credit reports, and running penny auctions. The defendants undertook these scams under various company names that include Just Think Media, Credit Report America, eDirect Software, WuLongsource, and Wuyi Source. They have also operated under the names Terra Marketing Group,

SwipeBids.com, SwipeAuctions.com, Circle Media Bids Limited, Coastwest Holdings Ltd., Farend Services Ltd, JDW Media LLC, Net Soft Media LLC, Sphere Media LLC, and True Net LLC.

Source: <http://www.mainstreet.com/article/smart-spending/technology/free-trial-scams-targeted-feds>

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [33](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

18. *May 19, WFXT 25 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Man assaults MBTA bus driver.** An Everett, Massachusetts man is under arrest after being accused of assaulting a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) driver on the job. Prosecutors said the suspect attacked a bus driver at the intersection of Comm. Ave and Chestnut Hill Avenue in Boston, Massachusetts May 17. The victim was driving the bus when the suspect allegedly grabbed the back of her neck and the steering wheel. The bus veered into oncoming traffic and the driver jumped into action. The MBTA general manager, said the driver is new to the job, having worked as a driver for only about two and a half months. The man is facing several charges and currently being held on \$10,000 bail.
Source: http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/crime_files/crime_watch/man-assaults-mbta-bus-driver-20110519

19. *May 19, CNN* – (Illinois) **‘Potential conflict’ of planes probed.** Federal officials are investigating a “potential conflict” between two planes at O’Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois, which happened shortly after the U.S. Vice President’s plane landed. “It has nothing to do with the Vice President’s plane,” a Federal Aviation Administration official said. An investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board will look into the incident May 16 between an ExpressJet plane taking off from one runway, while a SkyWest jet was preparing to land on an intersecting airstrip, an official said. The SkyWest aircraft, which was coming in behind the other jet, was ordered to circle around the airport after an air traffic controller recognized the potential conflict, the official said. It made an otherwise normal landing. The ExpressJet takeoff was not altered. The flights were being handled by different air traffic controllers, according to the official, who said there was “no operational error” — a term used when flights get too close to each other.
Source: <http://www.nbcmontana.com/travelgetaways/27947354/detail.html>

20. *May 18, Santa Rosa Press Democrat* – (California) **Amtrak bus fire closes Highway 37 lane.** A disabled Amtrak passenger bus that caught fire on Highway 37 just east of the Sonoma County, California, line May 18 closed the westbound lane for 1 hour, 40 minutes. The bus stopped near Skaggs Island Road, east of Sears Point, after smoke was seen near its rear wheels. It was evacuated before it was engulfed in flames about 7:20 p.m., a California Highway Patrol dispatcher said. No injuries were reported, the

dispatcher said. Firefighters from the Schell-Vista Fire Department were sent to help with the blaze, which was in Solano County.

Source:

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20110518/ARTICLES/110519385?Title=Amtrak-bus-fire-closes-Highway-37-lane>

21. *May 18, Lansing State Journal* – (Michigan) **Mobile meth lab and ‘remnants of a bomb-making device’ found in DeWitt Township.** An early-morning traffic stop in DeWitt Township, Michigan, led police to discover a mobile meth lab and “remnants of a bomb-making device” in the trunk of a silver Oldsmobile Alero May 18. Business U.S. 27 between Herbison Road and Twinbrook Drive reopened by mid-afternoon. A Speedway gas station and a nearby branch of Firstbank were evacuated. It was unclear when those businesses would reopen. Three of the vehicle’s five occupants were arrested and are in the Clinton County jail. One has been taken to a Lansing hospital for evaluation, and another was released. City of DeWitt police said they found methamphetamine, numerous prescription pills, and two guns in the car. A DeWitt city police officer began following the vehicle shortly after 4 a.m. He pulled the car over at a Speedway gas station on Business U.S. 27. The car, according to the DeWitt Township police chief, was smoking from either the back seat or the trunk and “the occupants were acting goofy.” A bomb-sniffing dog that arrived with Clinton County sheriff’s deputies indicated there were explosives in the vehicle. The car was searched by Michigan State Police bomb squad robots, and later by a team of officers in hazardous materials suits. They found “components that after investigation were not unsafe but with additional products that weren’t in the vehicle could be used to make a device,” a City of DeWitt police lieutenant said.

Source:

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110518/NEWS01/305180002/Meth-lab-explosives-scare-closes-highway-DeWitt-Township?odyssey=mod|breaking|text|FRONTPAGE>

22. *May 18, Fort Myers News-Press* – (Florida) **Southwest Florida International Airport bomb threat suspect released.** A Lehigh Acres, Florida man has been released from jail after he was accused of calling in a bomb threat to Southwest Florida International Airport in South Fort Myers May 17. The 37-year-old man was released May 18 without paying a bond, against recommendations of prosecutors, who urged a \$50,000 bond be set at his first appearance. A judge ordered him to undergo a mental health evaluation. A Port Authority police officer said the suspect’s mother dropped him off at the airport May 17 for a flight to Rhode Island. But the flight was delayed because of mechanical problems. It’s not clear how long the flight was delayed. At 9:34 a.m., a 911 call came into the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, warning of a bomb at the airport. Several more calls followed, alleging the same. Airport police and K-9 units went on high alert, and officers searched the terminal and perimeter. Meanwhile, the sheriff’s office worked to trace the call, which led to the suspect. The suspect is expected to appear in court in June.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110519/CRIME/105190397/Southwest->

[Florida-International-Airport-bomb-threat-suspect-released?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Home|p](#)

For more stories, see items [5](#), [9](#), [11](#), [12](#), and [56](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

23. *May 19, Los Alamitos-Seal Beach Patch* – (California) **A suspicious substance in Boeing mail causes a scare.** A suspicious package sent by mail to the Seal Beach, California Boeing facility prompted a 5-hour-long scare May 18 in which police, hazmat, and health officials studied the package before determining it be innocuous. “It turned out to be trash — lint from a pocket or tobacco,” said a Seal Beach Police Department official. “There was no crime, no threat. It was nothing.” The package arrived in the Boeing mailroom shortly before 2 p.m. “Boeing got an envelope that had a hand-written address to the Boeing facility, and the mailroom clerk sorting it could feel the material inside and felt unease, so they called us. They did exactly what they were trained to do,” he said. “It’s not uncommon for Boeing or national defense contractors to get random things in the mail.” The Orange County Sheriff’s Bomb Squad, the Huntington Beach Fire Department’s Hazmat Unit, the Seal Beach Police Department, and the Orange County Health Care Agency all responded.

Source: <http://losalamitos.patch.com/articles/a-suspicious-substance-in-boeing-mail-causes-a-scare>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *May 18, Associated Press* – (National; International) **Virus linked to Utah show found in Arizona horse.** Authorities said a horse in Arizona tested positive for the equine herpes virus, a contagious and potentially fatal virus, linked to a horse show in Utah, the Arizona Department of Agriculture said May 18. Officials did not say where the horse was located or identify the owners. Official said the horse’s owners are under the direction of an attending veterinarian and have restricted the animal’s movement to prevent the spread of disease to other horses. The National Cutting Horse Association’s Western National Championship was held April 30-May 8 in Ogden, Utah. Authorities said at least 18 horses in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, California, Washington, and Canada have been infected with the virus and at 3 three have died.

Source: <http://ktar.com/category/local-news-articles/20110518/Virus-linked-to-Utah-show-found-in-Arizona-horse/>

25. *May 18, WCAU 10 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire at City Ave. Houlihan’s.** Fire broke out at the City Avenue Houlihan’s in the Bala Cynwyd section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, about 5:30 p.m. May 18, forcing evacuations and causing damage. The cause of the fire was not immediately released. The restaurant was evacuated as people

at the nearby City Ave Spring Fling looked on. Before the flames were extinguished, the fire went to three alarms. The restaurant was visibly damaged including at least a half dozen broken windows, and some apparent smoke damage.

Source: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/breaking/Houlihans-City-Ave-Fire-122201749.html>

26. *May 18, Yakima Herald-Republic* – (Washington) **State fines hop firm \$5,200 for injury explosion.** A Yakima, Washington hops company was fined \$5,200 for an industrial blast that injured several workers December 10. The Washington Department of Labor and Industries announced the fine May 18 at Hops Extract of America. Doors and windows on the warehouse were blown out by the explosion. One worker had to be sent to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle for treatment of critical injuries; several others were treated and released. State investigators blamed the explosion on improper installation of bolts intended to hold down part of the high-pressure equipment related to the hops extraction process. The extractor where the failure happened — No. 13 of 16 in the plant — had only two of four bolts installed on the retention plate. The missing bolts allowed a plug to blow loose, injuring the workers and causing what firefighters described as significant structural damage. The plugs operate under about 2,400 pounds of pressure per square inch, according to the investigation. They are removed about every 3 weeks for maintenance, although investigators said they could not determine why the bolts were not regularly installed correctly. Twelve of the 16 extractors did not have all the bolts on the plates, investigators found. The company, also known as Hopstract, was cited for two serious violations. One involved training regarding proper installation of the retaining bolts; the other had to do with the actual work practice that led to some of the bolts not being installed.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2011/05/18/state-fines-hop-firm-5-200-for-injury-explosion>

27. *May 17, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Boss Pet recalls pig ear products because of possible health risk.** Boss Pet Products, Inc. announced it is recalling its Diggers Natural Treat Pig Ear pet treats because the products have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Boss Pet has been notified by one of its suppliers, Keys Manufacturing Company, Inc., that a batch of Keys' pig ear treats tested positive for Salmonella. Keys has initiated a voluntary product recall in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and has identified several shipments of potentially affected products which Boss Pet shipped out under its Diggers brand from November 2010 through April 2011. So far, there has been a report of one dog in Missouri having Salmonella. Salmonella can affect animals eating the product and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated products. These products have been distributed via truck to distributors in the following states: Montana, California, Washington, Oklahoma, Tennessee, New York, Kansas, Ohio, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Oregon, Utah, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm255726.htm>

For more stories, see items [29](#) and [50](#)

Water Sector

28. *May 19, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Texas politicians knew agency hid the amount of radiation in drinking water.** Newly released e-mails from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) show the agency’s top commissioners directed staff to continue lowering radiation test results in 2007, in defiance of federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules, KHOU 11 Houston reported May 19. The e-mails and documents, released under order from the Texas Attorney General to KHOU, also show the agency was attempting to help water systems get out of formally violating federal limits for radiation in drinking water. Without a formal violation, the water systems did not have to inform their residents of the increased health risk. Under federal law, Texas and other states are only allowed to enforce EPA rules, according to the Safe Drinking Water Act, if the EPA determines the state has adopted drinking water standards that are “no less stringent” than the federal rules. A spokesperson for the Texas governor said the governor expects the TCEQ and all state agencies to follow all the laws that are on the books, which the spokesperson said the TCEQ began doing after that 2008 audit by the EPA.

Source: <http://www.khou.com/home/-Texas-politicians-knew-agency-hid-the-amount-of-radiation-in-drinking-water-122205439.html>

29. *May 19, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Sharing Lake Okeechobee’s declining water supply stresses environment.** Lake Okeechobee’s declining water level strains urban and environmental water supplies alike, as South Florida waits for drought-quenching summer rains to bring relief. Lake Okeechobee serves as South Florida’s primary back-up water supply, but May 18 it neared the point where it would drop too low to keep sending water south. That heightens the difficulty for the South Florida Water Management District to meet the sometimes competing water needs of the environment, agriculture, and community supplies. The lake hit 10.57 feet May 18, 4 feet lower than the same time in 2010, and 2.7 feet below normal. At 10.5 feet, the lake would be too low for gravity to keep sending water to canals that deliver lake water sugar cane growers and other agriculture rely on for irrigation. As of mid-May, more than 60 percent of the land in the vast Everglades water conservation areas was dry. The district can temporarily install pumps to keep water flowing south after the lake drops below 10.5 feet, but those pumps move less than half the volume of water that the canals can usually provide. To boost water conservation, twice-a-week landscape watering limits for homes and businesses will remain for the foreseeable future, district officials said May 18.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/blogs/green-south-florida/sfl-sharing-lake-okeechobees-declining-water-supply-stresses-environment-20110519,0,4426480.story>

30. *May 18, Lexington Dispatch* – (North Carolina) **Lexington reports 6,500-gallon wastewater spill.** The City of Lexington, North Carolina, reported a 6,500-gallon spill of untreated wastewater May 17. The wastewater came from a manhole at the

intersection of Farmer and Pennington avenues. It occurred during a rain event, which greatly affected the amount released, according to a press release from the city. The untreated wastewater spilled into Rat Springs Branch, a tributary to Swearing Creek in the Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin. The division of water quality was notified May 18 and is reviewing the matter.

Source: <http://www.the-dispatch.com/article/20110518/News/305189972/-1/NEWS?Title=Lexington-reports-6-500-gallon-wastewater-spill&tc=ar>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *May 18, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Florida) **Florida occupational therapist assistant charged with health care fraud, identity theft.** A U.S. attorney in Tampa, Florida announced the return by a grand jury of an indictment charging an occupational therapy assistant and owner of Active Life Rehab, Inc with six counts of health care fraud, and six counts of aggravated identity theft. If convicted on all counts, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison on the health care fraud charge, a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain/loss caused by the offense, whichever is greater, and a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years. The suspect faces a consecutive mandatory minimum of 2 years in federal prison on the aggravated identity theft counts. He was first arrested on these charges February 17. According to the indictment, he was charged for submitting fraudulent claims of more than \$1 million to the Medicaid program for occupational therapy services that were either not provided at all, or not provided as billed to Medicaid. Specifically, he is alleged to have falsified patient records and knowingly engaged in “upcoding” by using the unauthorized Medical Provider Numbers of other licensed occupational therapists to submit claims to Medicaid for payment to Active Life Rehab.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/382973/florida_occupational_therapist_assistant_charged_with_health_care_fraud_identity_theft_.html

32. *May 17, Primos Delaware County Daily Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Leaky roof forces seniors to evacuate in Haverford.** Problems with electrical wiring and a roof leak prompted staff at the Brighton Nursing Home in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, to evacuate about 160 residents May 16. No one was injured when some electrical wires began sparking at the nursing home, located at 956 E. Railroad Avenue, a staff member said. The heavy rains also caused the roof to leak, prompting the staff to move the 160 or so residents to other locations as a precaution. “For the safety of the residents we have evacuated them,” the staff member said. There were no injuries. Residents were being move to area hospitals and nursing homes until repairs can be made, the staff member said.

Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf/story/leaky-roof-forces-seniors-to-evacuate-in-haverford-with-video/513f74c51e4e4b8f8226a476473c680a>

For another story, see item [35](#)

Government Facilities Sector

33. *May 19, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Data breach affects about 4,000 SEC workers.** About 4,000 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) employees, including several in Los Angeles, California, were notified that their Social Security numbers and other payroll data were included in an unencrypted e-mail sent May 4, according to a Department of Interior spokesman. The e-mail was sent by a contractor at the department's National Business Center, which manages payroll, human resources and financial reporting for dozens of federal agencies, the spokesman said. Interior Department policies require that sensitive personnel information be encrypted when e-mailed. But the contractor neglected to encrypt the e-mail, and the software in place to catch such errors did not work properly, the spokesman said. Affected employees were notified earlier the week of May 16, and were offered 60 days of free credit monitoring. "There is no indication the data was intercepted," the spokesman said, adding that personal data was exposed for about 60 seconds "during the time the e-mail was being sent, from the moment when the person hit send to the time the other person gets it in the in box." The agency has launched a probe into the most recent incident.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-sec-security-20110519,0,5665948.story>
34. *May 19, WWNY 7 Watertown* – (New York) **Shooting victim released from hospital.** An alleged shooter was still being held May 19 by military authorities on Fort Drum in Jefferson County, New York. Police were called at 6:30 p.m. May 18 to a domestic disturbance at a house on Hickory Drive, which is on-post housing. During that dispute, police said a Fort Drum soldier shot his wife in the back. The alleged shooter is a sergeant with the 59th Chemical Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade. He arrived at Fort Drum in March of 2000. He has been deployed 4 times, 3 times to Iraq, and once to Kosovo. After the shooting, police said there was a brief standoff where the sergeant refused to leave the home. The soldier's wife was taken to Samaritan Medical Center where she was treated and released.
Source: <http://www.wnytv.com/news/local/Wednesday-Night-One-Injured-In-Fort-Drum-Shooting-122198779.html>
35. *May 19, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **Interpol stands up nuclear counterterrorism unit.** Interpol said May 18 it had established a unit to take on terrorism threats involving nuclear, radiological, and other unconventional materials. The Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit "crucially will expand the world police body's antibioterrorism activities to take in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) threats by using an integrated approach that leverages international partnerships and expertise across all sectors," according to an Interpol release. The update acknowledges the dangers that weapons of mass destruction pose to the 188 nations that participate in Interpol, the organization's secretary general said during a conference in Lyon, France, on preventing nuclear and radiological terrorism. The primary goal of the event and of the new unit, he said, is "to

build police capacity globally, to prevent the next bioterrorist attack. This objective requires police to have at its side the public, private, and scientific sectors together as one in order to successfully address the whole threat spectrum.” One database developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Interpol, and other organizations lists in excess of 2,500 incidents linked to the illicit movement of nuclear and radiological materials, the Interpol release stated.

Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110519_4421.php

36. *May 18, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Man injured in shooting at High Springs Community School.** A shootout May 18 at High Springs Community School in High Springs, Florida, between a 63-year-old High Springs man and two law enforcement officers ended with the man being wounded. Most students had already gone home because it was an early dismissal day. The man underwent surgery at Shands at the University of Florida and was in stable condition that evening, officials said. Officials said the man had gotten a gun out of his car and exchanged shots with a High Springs police sergeant and an Alachua County sheriff’s deputy before he was wounded. Law enforcement and school officials had been notified by the Florida Department of Children and Families that the man was going to the school on County Road 236 and could cause trouble. The Alachua County Public Schools superintendent said the man is the grandfather of a student, and was angered over a custody dispute.

Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20110518/ARTICLES/110519510/-1/entertainment?Title=Adult-injured-in-shooting-at-High-Springs-Community-School>

37. *May 18, KJCT 8 Grand Junction* – (Colorado) **Man accused of falsifying licenses indicted.** A 53-year-old man accused of falsifying the driver’s licenses of at least 1,500 people who took tests at the American Driving Academy in Denver, Colorado, was indicted by a federal grand jury. A U.S. attorney spokesman said in a statement May 18 the man, who had been arrested earlier that day, had been charged with Mail Fraud and Bribery. The Colorado Department of Revenue revoked the licenses to protect public safety. The suspect said he had been contacted by the DHS 2 months ago and he was accused of falsifying paperwork for Burmese students. He denied the allegations.

Source: <http://www.kjct8.com/news/27941500/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [4](#), [12](#), [42](#), and [48](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

38. *May 19, WISN 12 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Apartment fire calls were put on hold.** Several people were injured in a burning building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 10, after their 911 call was allegedly transferred and put on hold. A sheriff’s department 911 operator was said to have stayed on the line while transferring the call to the Milwaukee Fire Department. Based on the call recording, the caller waited for more than a minute and half before reaching a fire department operator. The caller said he actually heard music on the line before reaching a fire operator. Sheriff’s operators

have no way to move one emergency call ahead of other 911 calls coming in at the same time. Milwaukee's 911 system is being switched to direct cell phones calls to the police call center, the same office as the fire call center. However, until the switch is complete, some cell calls still go to the sheriff's call center, which has to gather certain information before it can transfer the call.

Source: <http://www.wisn.com/r/27945837/detail.html>

39. *May 19, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Local rules upheld for SF police on FBI task force.** San Francisco, California police assigned to the FBI's terrorism task force must abide by local policies protecting civil rights rather than looser federal rules, under an order revealed May 18 by the police chief. His announcement came during a rare joint meeting of the San Francisco police and human rights commissions, which was called after the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), along with groups representing Arab Americans and other minorities, raised concerns that local police officers who served on the task force fell under FBI control and therefore operated under federal laws that gave them more leeway in terrorism investigations. Under the new order issued by the chief the week of May 16, San Francisco police policy trumps FBI policy, even for officers serving on the federal task force, he said. Specifically, an ACLU lawyer suggested that San Francisco create a formal agreement with the FBI, guaranteeing local police are subject to local civil rights policies.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/05/19/BATR1J15MV.DTL>

40. *May 19, Erie Times-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire chief: 26 firefighters exposed to chemicals during Harborcreek plant fire.** Firefighters who fought a blaze that heavily damaged a biodiesel plant in Harborcreek Township, Pennsylvania, May 14 were exposed to a mixture of at least nine chemicals, the Fairfield Hose Co. chief said May 18. Authorities also said as of May 18, at least 26 of the estimated 100 firefighters at the blaze had sought medical treatment in the past few days for a variety of respiratory-related problems. None of the symptoms are life-threatening, and no firefighters have been admitted to a hospital, said the medical director for prehospital services at Saint Vincent Health Center. Investigators are still gathering information and have not yet determined what caused the blaze at the 56,000 square-foot plant that is home to American Biodiesel Energy Inc. and North American Powder Coatings. It took firefighters more than 6 hours to bring the blaze under control, and another 4 to 5 hours before it was extinguished. Fire crews were called back to the plant the evening of May 15 and the morning of May 16, after flames rekindled in portions of the building. The Fairfield Hose. Co. chief said the biodiesel plant's owner, identified nine chemicals that were inside the building: vegetable oil, glycerin, ethanol, methyl hydroxide, toluene, sulfuric acid, dry lye, powder coating, and sodium methoxide. "I believe there could be more chemicals in there," the chief said. He said he believes a majority of firefighters who responded will have to replace contaminated gear and equipment. Replacement costs could be \$1.5 million, the chief said.

Source:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110519/NEWS02/305199944/-1/news>

41. *May 19, Reuters* – (Arizona; International) **Arizona seeks to build its own Mexico border fence.** Using public donations and cheap convict labor, an Arizona lawmaker is working to build a fence to secure the state’s porous border with Mexico against illegal immigrants. A new state law that goes into effect July 20 allows Arizona to build a barrier on the state’s 370-mile border with Mexico, provided it can raise sufficient private donations and persuade public and private landowners to let them build it on their land. In addition to questions over the funding for the fence, a state senator said it was not clear if the project would get permission to build from landowners, including the U.S. federal government. The U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of Interior, and the Department of Agriculture all administer federal lands on the border. Then there is the Tohono O’odham Indian reservation, which has sovereign powers independent of the state.
Source: <http://www.wnep.com/sns-rt-us-arizonatre74i0dy-20110519,0,4698852.story>
42. *May 19, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Iowa man convicted of President Bush threat indicted after escape.** An Iowa man serving a sentence for threatening a former U.S. President, his wife, and his mother was indicted after escaping from a work release center in April in Davenport, Iowa. A grand jury issued a one-count indictment May 18 against the man, charging him with escape from federal custody. Federal authorities said the man checked out of the center April 20 to attend an alcohol treatment class but never returned as expected. Authorities said he removed his GPS-tracking ankle bracelet, which showed his last movement was in Iowa City. Police officers arrested the man and another man who escaped at a Muscatine apartment days later. The man pleaded guilty in 2007 to sending a letter threatening to kill the then-U.S. President, the First Lady, and the President’s mother.
Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Iowa-Man-Convicted-of-President-Bush-Threat-Indicted-After-Escape--122228934.html>

For more stories, see items [4](#) and [36](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology Sector

43. *May 19, Help Net Security* – (International) **OpenSSL weakness can expose sensitive information.** A weakness has been reported in OpenSSL, which can be exploited to disclose potentially sensitive information, according to Secunia. The weakness is caused due to the implementation of the Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA) not properly preventing timing attacks, which can be exploited to, for example, disclose the private key of a TLS server using ECDSA signatures.
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=11053>
44. *May 19, Help Net Security* – (International) **Mac Protector: Fake AV targets Mac OS X users.** New rogue AV is targeting Mac users. The name of the rogue AV is Mac Protector, and according to McAfee, the downloaded Trojan contains two additional packages: macprotector(dot)pkg (the application) and

macProtectorInstallerProgramPostflight(dot)pkg (bash script that launches Mac Protector once it is installed). As with MAC Defender, an earlier AV targeting Mac users, the application requires root privileges to get installed, so the user is asked to enter the password. “Mac Protector is very sophisticated and uses a lot of resources to appear as a real anti-virus app to the user. There are a lot of images and sounds in the package that simulate system scanning, show the alerts, etc.,” McAfee said. “Mac Protector will perform a fake scan on the system, and will show rootkits and spyware detections for real and current processes.” Copying MAC Defender again, Mac Protector tries to convince the user his computer is infected by opening browser windows to sites with adult content. Once the fake scan is finished, the rogue AV said the user must register the app for it to be able to clean the system. To do that, the user is asked to submit credit card data.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1727

45. *May 18, Computerworld* – (International) **Google moves fast to plug Android Wi-Fi data leaks.** Google May 18 confirmed it is starting to release a server-side patch for a security vulnerability in most Android phones that could let hackers snatch important credentials at public Wi-Fi hotspots. “Today we’re starting to roll out a fix which addresses a potential security flaw that could, under certain circumstances, allow a third party access to data available in Calendar and Contacts,” a Google spokesman said in an e-mailed statement. “This fix requires no action from users and will roll out globally over the next few days.” Google will apply a fix on its servers since it does not need to issue an over-the-air update to Android phones. According to the University of Ulm researchers, who tested another researcher’s contention last February that Android phones sent authentication data in the clear, hackers could easily spoof a Wi-Fi hotspot and then steal data users’ phones transmitted during synchronization. In Android 2.3.3 and earlier, the phone’s Calendar and Contacts applications transmit data via unencrypted HTTP, then retrieve an authentication token from Google. Hackers could eavesdrop on the HTTP traffic at a public hotspot, lift authentication tokens, and use them for up to 2 weeks to access users’ Web-based calendars, contacts, and the Picasa photo storage and sharing service.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216835/Google_moves_fast_to_plug_Android_Wi-Fi_data_leaks

46. *May 18, IDG News Service* – (International) **Sony takes down PlayStation Network after URL error.** Sony was forced to take part of its PlayStation Network offline briefly May 18 as it fixed a Web glitch that gave hackers a way to take over users’ accounts. Sony was hacked in April, and since May 14 had been bringing its PlayStation Network (PSN), Sony Online Entertainment network, and Qriocity sites back online. To lock down the networks’ security, Sony asked users to reset their passwords, but now a Web programming error has halted that process. According to a discussion forum posting by Sony, the company has turned off its sign-in feature for PlayStation.com, Qriocity, PlayStation blogs, forums, and gaming Web sites as well as Music Unlimited on the Web. Midday May 18, the company gave a vague description of what had happened. “We temporarily took down the PSN and Qriocity password

reset page,” a Sony spokesman said. “In the process of resetting of passwords there was a URL exploit that we have subsequently fixed.” Contrary to some reports, the site had not been hacked, he said. Sony did not say exactly what it meant by “URL exploit,” but according to the gaming blog Nyleveia, Sony’s password reset page was configured so that anyone who knew their victim’s e-mail address and birth date could take over that account. The spokesman said this was due to a “vulnerability in the password reset form,” but did not publish details of how the password reset could be done. “Consumers who haven’t reset their passwords for PSN are still encouraged to do so directly on their PS3,” he wrote. “Otherwise, they can continue to do so via the website as soon as we bring that site back up.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216834/Sony_takes_down_PlayStation_Net_work_after_URL_error

47. *May 16, Softpedia* – (International) **New Alureon version employs sophisticated encryption.** Security researchers from Microsoft have come across a new version of Alureon malware that uses sophisticated obfuscation techniques to evade antivirus detection and analysis. Alureon is a family of trojans that intercept Internet traffic to steal log-in credentials, credit card data, and other sensitive information. Malicious programs from this family commonly use DNS hijacking techniques to achieve their goals, causing some infected computers to exhibit rogue DNS entries. The new Alureon version found by Microsoft researchers is different as it borrows encryption techniques from Win32/Crypto, a virus that dates back to 1999. Win32/Crypto encrypted its payload with a key whose recovery from the PE header required brute-forcing attacks executed by the malware itself. Microsoft’s malware researchers said while reviewing Win32/Alureon samples, they found they used Win32/Crypto-style decryption to elude anti-virus scanners. But the new Alureon uses an even more sophisticated method. It can take up to 255 retries to recover the decryption key, which, unlike Win32/Crypto, is spread across the entire PE image, between other code and resources. This makes recovering the encrypted file much more complicated for malware analysts, and makes detection harder for antivirus programs.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-Alureon-Version-Employs-Sophisticated-Encryption-200697.shtml>

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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

48. *May 19, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Computers down at Sec of State branches.** A computer system problem is interrupting transactions at Michigan Secretary of State branches in Lansing, Michigan. The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget said May 19 it is working to correct an outage that occurred May 18 on a mainframe computer that supports secretary of state branch office systems. The problem stems from a broken fiber link. Secretary of state branch offices are open, but citizens visiting them will not be able to conduct most business transactions until further notice. Branches are not able to finish driver's license or vehicle registration functions. No time estimate is available for restoration of service. Source: <http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/michigan/computers-at-Secretary-of-State-branches>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *May 19, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Santa Monica teen arrested after officers find explosives devices.** A 16-year-old boy is in custody May 19 on suspicion of possessing two homemade explosive devices similar to a pipe bomb in his Santa Monica, California apartment, with several explosions needed to destroy them, police said. Santa Monica police were conducting a probation search about 7 p.m. May 18 when they discovered a suspicious device inside the apartment in the 1100 block of 12th Street, near Wilshire Boulevard, a sergeant with the Santa Monica Police Department said. A special weapons team and the Los Angeles County Fire Department were called, he said. All of the apartment residents were evacuated and returned after midnight. The explosives were removed, rendered safe and destroyed in the front yard, police said. Investigators searched the apartment, removing illegal fireworks, unknown items in bags, envelopes and boxes May 19. The circumstances surrounding the probation search were unclear. Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_18093849?nclick_check=1
50. *May 19, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Tornado damages Northeast businesses.** A small tornado, born of storms that battered the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania region with heavy rain, touched down in the far Northeast part of the city May 18, smashing a car-repair shop, crushing a beer distributorship, and ripping the roof off a crab house. The tornado, which also slightly damaged an apartment building and left three people in need of Red Cross care, carried winds of about 75 mph, the National Weather Service said. The tornado vanished as quickly as it appeared, touching at 1:50 p.m., and bumping along for just 300 feet, cutting a path of wreckage 100 feet wide. Residents and shoppers in the area of Bustleton Avenue and Red Lion Road ran for safety, and police reported no injuries. The wind blast caved in the roof of R&R Car Repair and next door, the roof of the Beer Hut collapsed, causing flooding in the store. Torn-off shingles, signs, and debris littered the grass around the buildings, and a small tree lay on its side. Benny the Bum's Seafood Restaurant & Bar, a well-known neighborhood watering hole, lost part of its roof. The Red Cross said at least three people in a small apartment building needed assistance because their unit was

unsafe to enter. The storm was so concentrated in size that an Acme Market close by never even had to close its doors.

Source: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/122215249.html>

51. *May 19, New York Post* – (New York) **Freight elevator plunges in Chelsea building, injuring nine workers.** A Manhattan, New York freight elevator became a fright elevator for nearly two dozen construction workers May 18 when it plunged three floors before crashing with an earth-shaking thud, officials said. A faulty brake in the building that houses T.J. Maxx and Bed Bath & Beyond on Sixth Avenue in Chelsea caused the elevator to fall at around 7 a.m. The workers were taken to Bellevue and Beth Israel hospitals. Nine men, who were carried out on boards, complained of neck and back pain. The elevator was shut down while the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and department of buildings inspectors checked it out. “Its brake was defective, causing it to not work properly,” said a city buildings department spokesman.
Source: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/hurt_in_elevator_plunge_ukS3c4PyanKsKJFmSw9HiK

52. *May 18, Orange County Register* – (California) **Westminster building evacuated after chemical reaction.** Six floors in a building in Westminster, California, were evacuated May 18 after people inside reacted to a mixture of chemicals, officials said. Firefighters and the Orange County Fire Authority’s hazmat team were called to the 5400 block of Garden Grove Boulevard at 8:47 a.m. after employees inside said they had a negative reaction to cleaning chemicals, said a captain with the Orange County Fire Authority. Six floors of the building were evacuated as a precaution, he said. About 150 people were escorted out of the building. A maintenance crew was mixing cleaning materials when firefighters were called, he said. A total of 12 people were treated by paramedics at the scene, but they all declined to be taken to the hospital, he said. Hazmat personnel were sent inside the building to take samples and make sure the building was safe, the captain said. At 9:50 a.m., employees were allowed to return.
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/evacuated-301003-chemicals-six.html>

53. *May 18, Baltimore Sun* – (National) **Man seriously hurt in shooting at S.W. Baltimore shopping center.** Baltimore police were investigating a serious shooting that occurred May 18 in a Southwest Baltimore, Maryland shopping center. A police spokesman said a man was shot at least once after getting into a confrontation with another person in the Westside Shopping Center in the 2400 block of Frederick Avenue. He was taken to a local hospital, where his condition was not immediately known. The spokesman said homicide detectives were investigating the case because of the severity of his injuries. Investigators were reviewing camera footage, he said.
Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-05-18/news/bs-md-ci-southwest-shooting-20110518_1_shooting-detective-kevin-brown-baltimore-sun-local-news

54. *May 18, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Bottle filled with suspicious liquid found in Seymour.** Police removed a suspicious bottle from a sidewalk in Seymour,

Connecticut, May 18. A police investigation revealed the chlorine bottle contained a base and a petroleum type substance, and it could have presented a potential risk to the public. A sample of the liquid was sent to the state forensic laboratory for further study. Police received a call just before 10 a.m. from a local businessman that there was a suspicious chlorine bottle that appeared to be “swollen” on the sidewalk of First Street, police said. Police, fire and ambulance were immediately dispatched, and vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the immediate area of the bottle were cut off. The state Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Hazardous Materials Unit provided assistance. After DEP employees conducted an on-site evaluation, they recommended purging the container. Seymour police discharged a projectile into the bottle by using a high-powered pellet rifle to puncture the bottle. The incident remains under investigation by police and the Seymour fire marshal.

Source: <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Bottle-filled-with-suspicious-liquid-found-in-1385270.php>

For more stories, see items [4](#), [21](#), [29](#), and [38](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

55. *May 19, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida; Georgia) **Strategic burns continue in hopes of slowing Honey Prairie blaze.** For the second day in a row, the Honey Prairie Fire grew by nearly 10,000 acres May 18 in the Okefenokee Swamp in Florida and Georgia, but it came at the hands of the firefighters. The incident response team used helicopters and dispatched firefighters on the ground to set fires east of Georgia 177 near Stephen C. Foster State Park to widen the buffer between unburned private timber and public resources, a spokesman at a joint information center said. The so-called “strategic firing operation” was intended to burn out vegetation to the west of the fire, depriving it of fuel should winds begin blowing from a more easterly direction, he said. He described the burns May 17 and 18 as “the wall that blocks the progress” should the fire begin running again if conditions dry out after the predicted rain May 21. As of 8 a.m. May 19, the fire — including burnouts — had consumed almost 138,000 acres. With the firing operation May 18, the Honey Prairie Fire could hit nearly 148,000 acres, the spokesman said. The fire was considered 45 percent contained. Elsewhere, the south branch of the response team is mopping up hot spots along control lines and the east branch is securing lines along the edge of the swamp. Firefighters from the Georgia Forestry Commission, Florida Division of Forestry, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service, along with some private landowners, have worked together on containing the fire. As of May 18, there were 353 people assigned to the fire, as well as 8 helicopters, 30 fire engines, and 42 bulldozers.

Source: <http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2011-05-19/story/strategic-burns-continue-hopes-slowing-honey-prairie-blaze>

56. *May 19, Wichita Falls Times Record News* – (Texas) **Fires strike area.** Chances for thunderstorms through the rest of the week of May 16 had hopes raised in North Texas

for some much needed rainfall. Several wildfires burned through parts of Wichita and Wilbarger counties May 18. The largest fire blazed through a wheat field north of Electra. Early estimates had the damage at 800 acres, but Wichita County officials expected that number to climb to 1,000. Residents were warned via the Code Red system of the need to consider leaving the area. Those farther from the fire were asked to monitor the situation. A helicopter from the Texas Forest Service (TFS) scrambled to dump water on the flames. High winds and dry conditions proved challenging for firefighters from Electra, Punkin Center, and other Wichita County firefighters a tough fight. Access to Highway 240 was blocked off to all but emergency personnel for much of the afternoon May 18 as Wichita County sheriff's deputies patrolled intersections. The road was reopened to traffic about 7 p.m., when the fire had all but been extinguished. The TFS took control of the scene by then, and some volunteer firefighting units stayed behind to keep an eye on things. About 40 men were on scene, with about 25 pieces of firefighting equipment used. The TFS also sent out a nine-engine task force to aid firefighters.

Source: <http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2011/may/19/fires-strike-area/>

57. *May 18, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Arizona wildfire remains at nearly 31,000 acres.** Winds in southeastern Arizona were expected to increase May 18 as crews battled the Horseshoe Two wildfire. The U.S. Forest Service said they were expecting wind gusts of 30 to 40 mph on the fire line. Fire behavior was expected to increase significantly as the day progressed. A Forest Service news release issued May 18 said the wildfire was expected to move in a northeasterly direction with active fire on the northwest side. Efforts were being concentrated along the Crestline Trail to try and prevent fire movement to the west. The wildfire has been burning through grass, brush, and heavy timber. Nearly 31,000 acres has burned in Cochise County near the New Mexico border. Crews have 25 percent of the wildfire contained.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/story/14671659/copy-arizona-wildfire-remains-at-nearly-31000-acres>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

58. *May 19, Montevideo American-News* – (Minnesota) **Council gives DNR go-ahead to remove dam on Chippewa River.** Following a public hearing that lasted approximately 20 minutes May 16, the Montevideo City Council in Minnesota voted unanimously to proceed with plans to remove the dam on the Chippewa River near Lagoon Park in the summer of 2012. The delay is because a number of studies must be done first. The two main issues addressed by removal are safety and fish passage upstream. “These low-head dams are deathtraps,” said a Montevideo city engineer. The dam will not be completely removed, according to a state department of natural resources official. He told council members the existing concrete abutments would remain in place, primarily to prevent potential damage to the new levee should the river try to revert to its former channel. The dam’s concrete sill would be partially removed, and 4-foot-to-6-foot boulders would be placed over the sill to create a series of about

four weirs, or rapids. The resulting structure will be safer, he said. “(The weir) won’t drown people,” he said, adding, “It will look like a river, and will act like a river.” The water level upstream will be 4 to 5 feet lower than at present. He indicated there was a good possibility the channel through Lagoon Park would go dry. There will be no change below the weir.

Source: <http://www.montenews.com/news/x956204818/Council-gives-DNR-go-ahead-to-remove-dam-on-Chippewa-River>

59. *May 19, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Corps opens 17 floodgates at Morganza Spillway.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened a seventeenth bay at the Morganza Spillway in Morganza, Louisiana May 18 to divert more water from the Mississippi River. The move was made to continue easing pressure on the levee systems downriver. On May 18, officials had reported 16 of the 125 gates had been opened. They opened another one later in the afternoon. The Morganza Floodway is now sending 114,000 cubic feet of water per second from the Mississippi River into the floodway and Atchafalaya River.

Source: <http://www.wafb.com/story/14669678/corps-opens-17-floodgates-at-morganza-spillway>

60. *May 19, United Press International* – (International) **Troops fight to avoid Manitoba dike breach.** Canadian soldiers were laying special fabric weighted by sandbags May 19 on a weak spot in the base of a dike west of Winnipeg, Manitoba, officials said. The trouble spot was near Portage la Prairie in south-central Manitoba where seepage under a dike was eroding the base and threatened to collapse the wall, the Winnipeg Free Press reported. The dike is on the Assiniboine River and was designed to divert floodwater into Lake Winnipeg, which is already 3 feet above normal levels, provincial officials said. An official with Manitoba Water Stewardship told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. conditions meant only manual labor could prevent a breach. “We couldn’t get equipment in there — heavy equipment — because of the seepage zone, so that’s going to be the issue,” he said. Despite seasonal flooding levels not seen in about 300 years, provincial officials said only about 100 homes were flooded. Winnipeg, at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, has not been affected.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/05/19/Troops-fight-to-avoid-Manitoba-dike-breach/UPI-83161305808296/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to cikr.productfeedback@hq.dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703)387-2267

Subscribe to the Distribution List:

Visit the [DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report](#) and follow instructions to [Get e-mail updates when this information changes](#).

Removal from Distribution List:

Send mail to support@govdelivery.com.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.