



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 11 October 2011

Top Stories

- A freight train loaded with ethanol from a corn processing plant crashed and exploded October 7, forcing the evacuation of a small town in northern Illinois. – *Associated Press* (See item [1](#))
- The Anik F2 Canadian satellite shut down October 6, cutting out communications for many communities in the United States and Canada, canceling flights, and knocking out some automated teller machines. – *ZD Net UK* (See item [36](#))

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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. *October 7, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Fiery train derailment in Ill. leads to evacuation.** A freight train loaded with ethanol crashed and exploded October 7, sending up bright orange flames and plumes of smoke that could be seen miles away, and forcing the evacuation of a small town in northern Illinois. A captain of the Ottawa Fire Department said the train's tanker cars were shipping ethanol for Decatur-based, corn processor Archer Daniels Midland, and possibly other materials and chemicals, when it crashed and derailed. At least six tanker cars were burning, he said. There was

no immediate information about any injuries. Authorities said evacuees from Tiskilwa, a village of about 800 people about 100 miles west of Chicago, were being taken to a nearby high school. Twenty-six cars on the 131-car train derailed, including seven to nine loaded with ethanol, according to the chief operating officer of Iowa Interstate Railroad. The fire prevented officials from immediately getting close enough to the train to determine what caused the accident.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gARFekxb6F8QnXncXNeJQzhlvEQQ?docId=8c309528a3f748e4a2db2826e356f957>

2. *October 7, Bronxville-Eastchester Patch* – (New York) **Fire chief: Flames stopped before reaching 20,000 gallon gas tank.** Investigators were still trying to determine what caused a 5,000-gallon gasoline tanker to explode at 2 a.m. October 7 at a Gulf gas station on Secor Lane in Pelham Manor, New York. The driver of the tanker and two gas station attendants were able to escape the fire without injury. The Pelham Manor Fire Department chief said the tanker exploded at the right side of the gas station, located just of the intersection of the Pelham Parkway, while making a delivery. Firefighters from Pelham and New York City also responded. The fire chief said firefighters kept the gas station and an auto repair shop next to it covered in water until foam trucks arrived. "We were worried about about [Future Automotive] collapsing and there was also a 20,000 above ground gas tanker located in the back [of the gas station]." He said firefighter were able to keep the blaze at bay and eventually got it under control in about 45 minutes. The fire destroyed the convenience store located on the gas station, and the roof of the repair shop. Pelham Parkway was closed off until about 10 a.m., and Secor Lane remained closed the afternoon of October 7. The fire chief said firefighters from Mount Vernon, Yonkers, White Plains, and New Rochelle also assisted at the scene.

Source: <http://bronxville.patch.com/articles/explosion-fire-at-pelham-manor-gas-station>

3. *October 6, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **500-gallon propane tank leaking, closes highway 89.** A 500-gallon propane tank was leaking at a suburban propane station, closing Highway 89 in the Lake Tahoe area in California for 2 to 3 hours, according to a North Tahoe fire crew October 6. The closure was in both directions at Squaw Valley Road, between Tahoe city and Alpine Meadows Road. Fire officials said the leak likely started during a transfer from tank to tank, when a valve was broken. Sixteen people were evacuated, crews at the scene said, adding that they were letting the tank leak out into the wind. The initial call reporting the leak came in around 10:55 a.m., and several departments responded.

Source: <http://www.kcra.com/r/29410333/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *October 7, Occupational Health & Safety* – (National) **CFATS implementation reaches stage three.** DHS announced its implementation of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards has reached stage three with the launch of a secure, online

Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Site Security Plan (SSP) tool, Occupational Health & Safety reported October 7. The CFATS were originally published in April 2007. Only facilities that submitted Security Vulnerability Assessments and were subsequently notified in writing by the department they have been finally determined to be high risk have access via CSAT to complete and submit the SSP. DHS issued CFATS for any facility that manufactures, uses, stores, or distributes certain chemicals at or above a specified quantity. Unless otherwise notified by the DHS, high-risk facilities have 120 days from the time they receive written notification to complete and submit a SSP or a DHS-approved Alternative Security Program.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/10/07/cfats-implementation-reaches-stage-three.aspx?admgarea=news>

5. *October 6, KXAS 5 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **Wastewater treatment product sparked chemical plant fire.** A wastewater treatment product never revealed to state regulators caused a massive fire at a chemical plant in Waxahachie, Texas, October 3, according to the company. Magnablend's CEO said October 6 the fire occurred while the company was producing the 16th batch of the product. The process caused excessive steam, and there was a spark nearby. The firm had been making the product at the plant since August. The CEO said it is not clear whether the company is required to disclose ingredients of the product to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as must be done with many hazardous chemicals. He refused to reveal the ingredients October 6. On October 3, the TCEQ erroneously reported ammonia and several acids were used in producing fertilizers at the plant. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigators said the plant primarily produces animal feed additives. An EPA coordinator said smoldering of the sulfur-based animal feed compounds is the cause of an extremely foul odor, but that continuous air monitoring has detected no danger. He said nearby schoolchildren were being kept indoors to avoid the odor, and exposure to fire runoff water from the plant. The CEO said tests of the runoff water have not detected health hazards, but that the water and soil that came in contact with it will be removed at the company's expense as a safety measure anyway. Source: <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Wastewater-Treatment-Product-Sparked-Chemical-Plant-Fire-131299094.html>
6. *October 6, United Press International* – (National) **28,000 pool chemical injuries from 2002-08.** United Press International reported October 6 that from 2002 to 2008, more than 28,000 cases of injury were associated with U.S. pool chemical exposures, according to estimated by federal health officials. A study, published in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, said the estimate was based on projections from a nationally representative sample of hospital emergency rooms, and a state-based injury and illness surveillance system. "Pool chemical injuries most frequently occurred at private residences and symptoms most frequently included respiratory symptoms, eye injuries and skin injuries," the report said. "Factors included mixing incompatible products, spills/splashes of chemicals, and lack of proper training or supervision. Up to 40 percent of the illnesses were work-related and factors included failure to use personal protective equipment, failure of application equipment and mixing incompatible products." The findings

suggest illness and injury can be prevented through better chemical handling practices, pool chemical container and label redesign, and adding devices to pools to prevent the mixing of incompatible products, the report said.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2011/10/06/28000-pool-chemical-injuries-from-2002-08/UPI-71851317938535/

7. *October 6, Bloomberg* – (National; International) **Chemical shippers challenge rail fees before U.S. regulator.** CF Industries Holdings Inc. and PPG Industries Inc. are among companies whose challenge of toxic- chemical shipping charges will be heard by the Surface Transportation Board, the U.S. agency that regulates freight railroads. The agency announced the hearing October 6 in the Federal Register. It is consolidating two challenges to tariffs and handling practices for carrying toxic chemicals that were brought separately against three subsidiaries of RailAmerica Inc., and against a fourth holding, Alabama Gulf Coast Railway LLC. The legal issues raised “may ultimately affect not only the parties to the two cases before the board but others within the industry that transport, handle, receive or ship” these chemicals, the board wrote in a September 30 decision. RailAmerica, based in Jacksonville, Florida, owns 43 regional and short-line railroads that operate in 27 states, and 3 Canadian provinces.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-06/chemical-shippers-challenge-rail-fees-before-u-s-regulator-1-.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *October 7, Boston Globe* – (New Hampshire) **Low water level halts Seabrook N-plant.** The Seabrook Station nuclear power plant in New Hampshire automatically shut down October 5 due to a low level of water in the steam generator, officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said. The Seabrook plant shut down at 12:27 p.m. as it was designed to do, after sensing low water levels in the steam generator, NRC officials said. A NRC spokeswoman said the incident did not pose a threat to public health and safety, and there were no radioactive releases. It was unclear October 6 whether the plant was back up and running. The plant was stable at normal operating temperature and pressure, NRC officials said. The low levels of water were caused by a pump that stopped, which occurred during “a filling and venting of a condensate pump that was being returned to service following maintenance,” the NRC said. The exact cause of the stoppage is under investigation. A NRC senior resident inspector responded to the control room and observed plant operators implementing emergency operating procedures, a NRC statement said. The inspector confirmed plant conditions were stable, and that no emergency level thresholds were reached, NRC officials said. They have not identified any performance concerns. NRC resident inspectors will continue monitoring plant conditions and conducting inspections to ensure the company understands what happened and why, NRC officials said. Incidents similar to the Seabrook shutdown tend to occur less than once a year, the spokeswoman said.
Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2011/10/07/seabrook_nuclear_power_plant_shuts_down_due_to_low_water_level/

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *October 6, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **More safety issues raised at Oak Ridge plant.** During a dismantlement project at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, August 9, a "large" weapons component came loose from its lifting apparatus and fell about 4 feet to the floor, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported October 6. Nobody was injured, the component was not damaged, and a plant spokeswoman said there was no way the bomb part could have detonated. "The components processed at Y-12 are not at risk of exploding," said the spokeswoman, from B&W Y-12, the government's contractor. The incident was characterized as a "near miss." However, it is among a number of safety-related problems that have attracted the attention of a federal safety board in recent months. In another newly released report, staff of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) said that 18 drums of nuclear weapons parts were improperly stored at Y-12 for months, violating nuclear criticality rules. According to the report, the weapons parts had to be moved in April from their previous storage vault while it was under construction. The alternate storage site, however, did not meet safety specifications, even though the project team had met with nuclear safety specialists on a number of occasions and discussed the need for possible changes. Y-12 managers emphatically stated the Oak Ridge plant is safe October 5. The Y-12 officials noted safety guidelines at the nuclear weapons plant have many layers designed to prevent serious accidents from happening. They suggested that the reporting of detailed findings may sometimes give the appearance of something more serious than it is.

Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/oct/06/more-safety-problems-reported-at-y-12/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 7, Macon Telegraph* – (Georgia) **Alleged Macon gang member denied loan, threatens to shoot employees.** An alleged Macon, Georgia gang member has been charged with making terroristic threats after he refused to leave a credit union and threatened to shoot employees on a return trip October 5. A Robins Federal Credit

Union employee told police the 21-year-old man was turned down for a loan about 11:30 a.m. October 5 at the credit union's branch on Log Cabin Drive. In response, the man said he intended to return to the credit union and "pick off" several employees using a .45-caliber Glock handgun, according to a police report. He refused to leave the credit union after a manager asked him twice to do so. When a police officer arrived, he found the suspect wearing all black clothing, including a black bandanna hanging from his back pocket, a hooded sweatshirt, and screaming profanity. While in custody, he told police he planned to return to the credit union with his "homies" and shoot employees if he did not get a loan, according to the report. He also was charged with participation in a criminal street gang, and criminal trespassing. An off-duty police officer will be at the credit union branch during business hours for the next several days.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/2011/10/07/1734290/man-makes-threats-after-loan-denied.html>

11. *October 7, The Register* – (International) **AmEx 'debug mode left site wide open', says hacker.** An alleged vulnerability on American Express (AmEx) site exposed customers to a serious security risk before the credit card giant closed down a portion of its site the afternoon of October 6. A researcher claimed the problem arose because the debug mode of the americanexpress.com site had inexplicably been left on, thus providing access to vulnerable debug tools. The security shortcoming creating a possible mechanism to harvest users' authentication cookies, according to a researcher. AmEx said the issue was confined to a test page. In a statement, issued to Financial News Network, it stressed customer information was never at risk. "We learned this morning that an internal test page created to update promotional offers was temporarily accessible on our US website. The page did not contain CM information such as card number, name or address. The page in question has been taken down. We are not aware of any information at this time that this vulnerability was used for malicious purposes but we are continuing to investigate." The researcher went public with his findings October 6 – posting what appears to be a harmless proof-of-concept illustration of the bug – after he struggled to report the bug directly to AmEx. "The debugging tool is vulnerable to XSS [cross-site scripting] and it quickly becomes an issue when the debugging tools are called through unprotected GET parameters," he said. "The debug window refreshes itself so that injected code that doesn't break the loop will execute infinitely. An attacker could inject a cookie stealer combined with jQuery's .hide() and harvest cookies -- which can, ironically enough, be exploited by using the admin panel provided by sloppy American Express developers." He told The Register October 6 the security vulnerability was still present hours after he went public about the flaw.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/10/07/amex_website_security_snafu/

12. *October 6, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (National) **SEC files emergency action to halt green-product themed Ponzi scheme.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced it obtained an emergency court order October 6 to halt a Ponzi scheme that promised investors rich returns on water-filtering natural stone pavers, but bilked them of about \$26 million over a 4-year period. The SEC's complaint, filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleged a convicted felon and others defrauded investors in PermaPave Companies, a

group of firms based on Long Island, New York. About 140 individuals, many working in the construction or landscaping business, invested in the scheme between 2006 and 2010, the SEC alleged. Investors were told PermaPave had a tremendous backlog of orders for pavers imported from Australia, which could be sold in the United States at a substantial mark-up, yielding monthly returns to investors of 7.8 percent to 33 percent. In reality, the complaint said there was little demand for the product, and the cost of the pavers far exceeded the revenue from sales. Lacking the profits promised to investors, the leaders of the scheme and two other PermaPave executives used new investments to make payments to earlier investors, and then siphoned off much of the rest for themselves. In addition, the complaint alleged the ringleader used investors' money to make court-ordered restitution payments to victims of a previous scheme to which he pleaded guilty to in 2000. The SEC also alleged the defendants used some of the money raised through the scheme to buy a publicly traded company, Interlink-US-Network, Ltd. Several months later, the SEC said Interlink issued a Form 8-K, which falsely stated LED Capital Corp. had agreed to invest \$6 million in Interlink. According to the complaint, LED Capital Corp. did not have \$6 million and had no dealings, let alone any agreements, with Interlink. A federal judge granted the SEC's request to freeze assets of the defendants, and eight relief defendants. The SEC is seeking preliminary and permanent injunctions against the defendants, and to have them return their allegedly illicit profits with prejudgment interest, and pay civil monetary penalties. In addition, the SEC seeks to bar the men from participating in penny-stock offerings, and from serving as officers or directors of public companies.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2011/2011-201.htm>

13. *October 6, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Bomb threat closes bank, streets in NE Kansas town; nothing suspicious found.** Authorities in northeast Kansas gave the all-clear October 6 after a bomb threat at a bank prompted a 2-hour search. The Holton Police chief said that someone called Holton National Bank on the morning of October 6 saying the building had to be evacuated or it would be bombed within 10 minutes. The Topeka Capital-Journal reported about 10 employees and a customer left the bank. Several nearby businesses were also evacuated, and streets around the town square were closed to traffic. Two bomb-detecting dogs checked the bank building while officers from several agencies conducted a search. The police chief said no bomb was found, and no arrests have been made.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/7511094a86824da2b3176f73098dd8ca/KS--Bank-Bomb-Threat/>

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Transportation Sector

14. *October 7, KTVI 2 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Laser pointed at plane near Lambert.** Someone pointed a laser at an airplane trying to land at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. October 6. Authorities said around midnight October 6, a

passenger plane was approaching the airport. St. Louis County police said someone pointed a green laser at the plane. And it happened not once, but twice. Police are still looking for a suspect.

Source: <http://www.fox2now.com/news/ktvi-laser-pointed-at-plane-over-lambert-thursday-20111007,0,3042265.story>

15. *October 6, Indiana Daily Student* – (Indiana) **Man attempts to open cabin door 30 minutes before landing.** Authorities are investigating why a man attempted to open a door on an American Airlines flight bound for Indianapolis, October 5. According to an Indianapolis Airport Police Department report, the passenger attempted to open the cabin door when the flight was about 30 minutes from landing in Indianapolis. Witnesses told police the man walked to the front of the plane, looked around, then ran to the rear of the plane. He appeared to be looking for a door, another passenger said in the report. He returned to the front and began pulling on the cabin door. The plane's captain said he saw the cabin door light come on and heard someone trying to open door. He called flight attendant through the plane's phone system while another passenger approached the man, grabbed his arm and walked him back to his seat. The flight itinerary showed he was flying from Saudi Arabia to Qatar to New York City and then to Indianapolis, the report said. A note the man wrote on the plane was photocopied by police. No charges have currently been filed against him.
Source: <http://www.idsnews.com/news/story.aspx?id=83306>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *October 7, Food Safety News* – (International) **Allergy alert: whey protein for undisclosed allergens.** Food Safety News reported October 7 that Prolab Nutrition is recalling some of its protein products after realizing that the package labeling did not reveal the presence of milk and/or wheat, allergens that could cause the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction in people with allergies or severe sensitivity. The recalled products were distributed internationally by retail stores, mail order, and direct delivery in the following states, provinces, and countries: Alabama; California; Connecticut; Florida; Georgia; Idaho; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Maryland; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Montana; Nevada; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New Mexico; New York; North Carolina; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania; South Dakota; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; Vermont; Virginia; Washington; West Virginia; Wyoming; Ontario, Canada; Australia; Malaysia; and Russia.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/10/allergy-alert-whey-protein-for-undisclosed-allergens/>

17. *October 7, Minnestoa Public Radio* – (Minnesota) **DNR attempts to stop zebra mussels with pesticide.** Pesticide will be applied to stop a zebra mussel infestation of Rose Lake in northern Minnesota, Minnesota Public Radio News reported October 7. This will be the first time the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has tried to reclaim a lake from the invasive species. The DNR often does not find zebra mussels in a lake until the population is established. This area will be treated at least three times this fall and possibly again in 2012. The DNR is monitoring the fish population in several infested lakes. It said there are now 50 lakes in the state considered to be infested with zebra mussels.
Source: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/10/07/dnr-attempts-to-stop-zebra-mussels-with-pesticide/>
18. *October 6, WNCN 17 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Crews battle fire at Sanford bar.** Flames erupted at a bar in Sanford, North Carolina, the night of October 6 while people were inside. Crews were called out to Schooly's Bar and Billiards at 102 E. Trade Street just before 8 p.m., according to a spokesperson from the Sanford Fire Department. When firefighters arrived, there was light smoke showing from the building and crews later determined fire was burning in between the building's ceilings, the Sanford fire marshal said. The bar has extensive damage, and the adjacent business has smoke and water damage. The cause is still under investigation.
Source: <http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2011/oct/06/crews-battle-fire-sanford-bar-ar-1472577/>
19. *October 6, Food Safety News* – (International) **Allergy alert: cereal bars with non-fat dry milk.** Food Safety News reported October 6 Flowers Foods is recalling certain Mrs. Freshley's multipack cereal bars because they contain non-fat dry milk that was not revealed on the label, and because some bars labeled for sale and distribution in Canada were sold for distribution in the United States. People who have allergies to dairy products run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products. No illnesses have been reported. According to the recall news release, most of the bars involved have been contained within the distribution system, but Flowers is advising its trade customers to withdraw these products from sale. In the United States, the bars went to discount stores nationwide in the dual-language (French/English) multipack cartons.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/10/allergy-alert-cereal-bars-with-non-fat-dry-milk/>
20. *October 6, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (New York) **Fruit Fresh Up, Inc. recalls fresh cut cantaloupe and cut mixed fruit containing cantaloupe distributed in New York State because of possible health risk.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced October 6 Fruit Fresh Up, Inc. of Depew, New York, is recalling about 4,800 individual packages of fresh cut cantaloupe and cut mixed fruit containing cantaloupe because they have the potential to be contaminated with listeria monocytogenes. Fruit Fresh Up, Inc. was not told of the possible contamination of the

cantaloupe it acquired from an independent wholesale vendor until September 27. The recalled fresh cantaloupe and mixed fruit containing cantaloupe was distributed in Buffalo, and surrounding areas in retail stores, and through catering orders. The fresh cut fruit subject to this recall was sold between August 31, 2011 and September 11, 2011, and consisted of the following products: Cantaloupe Chunks, Cantaloupe Slices, Gourmet Fruit Salad, Small Fruit Salad, Small and Large Fruit Salad with Pineapple, Fruit Salad with Kiwi, and Fruit Trays. The packaging in which these products were packed has best-if-used-by dates ranging from September 4 through September 11. Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm274835.htm>

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Water Sector

21. *October 6, Swampscott Patch* – (Unknown Geographic Scope) **Water main break carves sinkhole on Humphrey.** A water main break October 6 cut off service to the Bertram House in Swampscott, Massachusetts, carved a sinkhole, and slowed traffic on Humphrey Street. The line ruptured about 4:30 am, said the Swampscott Department of Public Works (DPW) director. He said a piece on the bottom of the 100-year-old cast-iron pipe blew out and a 13-foot section cracked. The DPW shut down the water gate, stemming the flow of water, and called in a contractor, Meninno Construction. Meninno replaced the broken pipe and filled the hole. Rushing water undermined the surface at the roadside, creating a sinkhole 4 feet deep and about 8 feet long, the director said. DPW crews had been working, and continued to work long hours clearing and hauling debris after the October 5 flood. Residents at the Bertram House assisted-living community and 10 nearby homes lost water service for 7 hours. The director suspects the outer, cast-iron pipe may have been eaten away, over time, due to the high concentration of peat in the ground there. Source: <http://swampscott.patch.com/articles/water-main-break-carves-sinkhole-on-humphrey>
22. *October 6, Associated Press* – (California) **Settlement: Calif. to prepare drinking water plan.** California health officials have settled a lawsuit over a plan to improve the state's drinking water. The settlement, announced October 6, requires the California Department of Public Health to prepare and submit to the legislature within 3 years a "Safe Drinking Water Plan." The plan, required by law, must be completed every 5 years, but the state last completed one in 1993. The settlement is the result of a lawsuit filed in 2009 by California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), which represented residents in communities with unsafe water. CRLA said the plan must include an analysis of the state's water problems and a 5-year implementation plan of how to improve the water. Thousands of Californians have water contaminated by nitrates, pesticides and other pollutants, but many communities cannot afford to fix the problems. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/10/06/state/n164712D68.DTL>

23. *October 5, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (New Hampshire) **Portsmouth N.H. scrap metal company faces fine for polluted water discharges.** Stormwater monitoring by the property owner of Grimmel Industries' Portsmouth, New Hampshire, facility confirms stormwater discharges from its metal scrapyards operations contain metals, suspended solids, and chemical oxygen demand which exceed permit benchmarks. Further, the stormwater discharges contain mercury and PCBs that cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards. Grimmel had several violations of the "Multi-sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity", including failing to perform required inspections or sampling, and not taking corrective actions or required reviews of its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to address the exceedances of benchmarks and water quality standards. Grimmel also discharged stormwater and dust suppressant wastewater to the Piscataqua River, which is not allowed by the permit. Following a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency order in April 2011, Grimmel terminated its unpermitted process water discharge, and implemented measures to minimize pollutants in its stormwater. EPA inspected Grimmel Industries after receiving correspondence and relevant data from the New Hampshire office of the Conservation Law Foundation.
- Source:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/86c124a787cb1b8885257920005eda8f!OpenDocument>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *October 6, WFAA 8 Dallas* – (Texas) **Tuberculosis concerns expand to Denton High School.** Tuberculosis (TB) concerns in Texas are moving from Ennis to Denton. The exposure started back in August at Ennis High School in Ennis, when a teacher tested positive for TB. It triggered hundreds of tests on students and staff members. So far, more than 200 people have tested positive for exposure, and 10 people are suspected to have active TB. The Denton Independent School District learned of a suspected case October 5. The district immediately sent an automated telephone message to the parents of 1,800 Denton high school students at night. Notes were sent home October 5 with students, alerting everyone to the suspected TB case on campus. Many parents said they have confidence the suspected case of TB at Denton High School has been caught early. Denton County Health Department officials planned to send medical permission slips home with students October 7. TB tests may take place on campus as early as October 10. Those at highest risk will be tested first. Health authorities were still considering whether all students and family members must be tested.
- Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/health/Tuberculosis-concerns-expand-to-Denton-High-School-131289839.html>
25. *October 5, San Francisco Bay Citizen* – (California) **Mumps hits U.C. Berkeley with 20 cases confirmed, suspected.** The university community of U.C. Berkeley in Berkeley, California, is experiencing an outbreak of mumps, after several cases of the

viral infection were confirmed in students October 6, campus health officials said. As of October 5, there had been 20 confirmed or suspected cases, according to the spokeswoman for the City of Berkeley. Before this outbreak, Berkeley had only six cases of mumps since 1990, she said. On October 4, U.C. Berkeley's health services Web site posted an alert about the outbreak, encouraging all students, faculty and staff — regardless of their vaccination history — to receive an additional dose of the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine, or MMR.

Source: <http://www.baycitizen.org/blogs/quality-of-life/mumps-outbreak-hits-uc-berkeley-advised/>

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *October 7, KUAM 8 Hagatna* – (International) **Another bomb threat at judicial center.** The Judicial Center in Hagatna, Guam, was evacuated October 7 after a bomb threat, but after a sweep of facilities, nothing was found and patrons and employees were allowed back in just before 1 p.m. This was the fourth fake bomb threat in recent weeks. The false alarms are costing the court at \$13,000 a pop. With the increase in threats, the court's considering options such as getting their own K-9 dogs.

Source: <http://www.kuam.com/story/15638280/2011/10/07/another-bomb-threat-at-judicial-center>

27. *October 6, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Students, teacher sickened by odor at Mich. school.** Five students and one teacher at a Birmingham, Michigan, high school complained of nausea and were hospitalized after odors from sewer work wafted into the building through the ventilation system. Afternoon classes were cancelled October 6 at Birmingham Seaholm, the deputy schools superintendent said. The students and teacher were taken to a local hospital as a precaution, the Birmingham fire chief said. A contractor for Oakland County was lining a sewer outside the school with resin when the smell seeped inside 20 to 25 classrooms. A hazardous materials team was called in to monitor air quality in the 1,350-student school. Students and staff were evacuated to other parts of the school, and eventually allowed to go home, added the deputy superintendent.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-sewerodor-school,0,5838674.story>

For more stories, see items [5](#), [9](#), [24](#), and [25](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *October 6, CNN* – (California) **Hunger strikers down to hundreds in California prisons.** Hundreds of California prisoners remain on hunger strike in protest of what

they describe as their harsh treatment, though state authorities and inmate-rights advocates differed over the numbers involved. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said in a press release October 6 that 811 inmates were involved in the protest, a sharp drop from the 4,252 hunger strikers September 29. A spokesman for Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity (PHSS) admitted the numbers have likely dropped. But he said that he does not trust that the numbers being presented accurately reflect those involved. Earlier this week, the PHSS estimated as many as 12,000 inmates were skipping meals. Many were angry about a practice of keeping them in solitary confinement for too long, some as many as 20 years, a PHSS spokesman said. The state corrections department reported October 6 that California State Prison-Corcoran, located about 50 miles south of Fresno, had more hunger strikers — 361 — than any other state facility. Next was the Salinas Valley State Prison between San Jose and San Luis Obispo, with 243 strikers. Three other state prisons — including Pelican Bay, Calipatria, and Ironwood — also had participants. Some 578 inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison, on California's northern border with Oregon, have stopped their hunger strike and resumed eating, according to the corrections department. That includes 4 of the 11 there who have been identified as leaders in the movement. Some 141 prisoners at that facility are still on a hunger strike.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/06/us/california-prisons/index.html?hpt=us_c2

29. *October 6, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Cooper City man charged with pretending to be an officer.** A 34-year-old man who has a history of pretending to be a law enforcement officer was arrested on that charge and booked into the Palm Beach County, Florida, Jail October 4. The suspect refused to appear in court the morning of October 6. His first hearing on four counts of impersonation of a law enforcement officer was rescheduled for October 11. On November 24, 2010, he called the sheriff's office and identified himself as a detective, according to a Palm Beach County sheriff's probable cause affidavit. He asked for personal information on a man including a Social Security number and address. He said he needed it to complete paperwork. The sheriff's office employee provided the information, then received an e-mail saying someone was impersonating the real detective. Aventura police arrested the suspect on November 26 for attempting to purchase about \$2,000 in gift cards at a Sears store. He was using the Sears credit card of the man whose information he requested, police said. Three days later, the real detective received a voicemail from the suspect that gave his street name and phone number, the affidavit said. The detective said he was familiar with the suspect's voice after listening to the voicemail. While investigating, the detective found that a detective with the Broward County Sheriff's Office was also investigating similar calls that occurred between November 17 and November 22. After listening to the audio from the calls, the sheriff's detective was able to recognize the suspect's voice.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/pb-palm-arrest-cooper-city-man-20111006,0,6024532.story>

30. *October 6, Crossville Chronicle* – (Tennessee) **Man who said he was the devil threatens cable TV officials, 911 staff and police.** A man who called the Crossville, Tennessee 911 emergency center asking that police be dispatched to the Charter Cable office because they would not give him free cable, and then threatened the lives of 911

staff and city police, was taken into custody without incident September 28. The incident took place at 49 Netherton Court, around 4:06 p.m. when a police sergeant answered the call from 911. The man is charged with non-emergency 911 calls, possession of a schedule II drug, possession of a schedule VI drug, and simple assault. Dispatchers told city police they received a call from a man asking that police be sent to the cable company office. When the dispatcher told the caller his call was not an emergency and 911 calls were for emergency purposes only, he reportedly threatened to kill the 911 staff and city police officers for not helping him get free cable. Police found the suspect at the residence and took him into custody, but the sergeant wrote that on the trip to the jail at the justice center, the suspect told him that, "he was the devil, but in human body," and that he would, "die and come back as the devil's spirit." When taken into custody, police said they found marijuana and Adderall in his possession.

Source: <http://crossville-chronicle.com/local/x1190858915/Man-who-said-he-was-the-devil-threatens-cable-TV-officials-911-staff-and-police>

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

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Information Technology Sector

31. *October 7, The Register* – (International) **IE security hole sewn up for Patch Tuesday.** Microsoft is planning to release eight security updates the week of October 10 — two critical — as part of its Patch Tuesday program. The highlight of the batch is a critical update for Internet Explorer (IE) that affects all supported versions of Microsoft's Web browser, including IE 9. The second critical update covers flaws in Microsoft .NET Framework and Microsoft Silverlight that create a possible mechanism for miscreants to inject hostile code onto vulnerable systems. The remaining six updates address lesser Windows vulnerabilities in Microsoft Forefront and Host Integration server. All six of these updates are rated as "important", and not all of them apply to all configurations.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/10/07/ms_patch_tuesday_oct_pre_release/
32. *October 7, Softpedia* – (International) **BlackBerry responds to Russian password cracking tool.** The password-cracking tool advertised by Elcomsoft was analyzed by the BlackBerry Security Incident Response Team (BBSIRT) that wrote a statement regarding the application that allegedly is able to break almost any BlackBerry device password. Designed by Elcomsoft for safeword recovery, the software could be used to break the protection of Apple and BlackBerry machines. BBSIRT provided further details on the matter, also advising customers on how to better protect devices. Their response highlights the large number of unlikely to occur situations where a smartphone could actually be hacked by a criminal mind using the recovery utility. "The tool uses a brute-force attack to guess the smartphone password by attempting to decrypt the contents of a media card that has been removed from the smartphone. For this tool to do what Elcomsoft claims, an IT administrator or the smartphone user must have chosen to encrypt the contents of the media card with the smartphone password

only." "Furthermore, an attacker must have access to the media card from the smartphone, and the tool would have to successfully guess the password. To then use the password to unlock the smartphone, that attacker would also have to have access to the smartphone," according to the statement issued by the BBSIRT. RIM advised customers to take the following measures to protect their assets: enable device data encryption; encrypt media cards by using device key or a combination of a device key and the device password; use strong passwords; and enable the built-in device firewall. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/BlackBerry-Responds-to-Russian-Password-Cracking-Tool-226203.shtml>

33. *October 6, H Security* – (International) **More patches from Cisco.** A week after its latest patch day, network equipment manufacturer Cisco has published three additional advisories that discuss and provide patches to close holes in various products. The manufacturer closed five holes in the Firewall Services Module (FWSM) in its 6500 Catalyst switches and 7600 router series. Attackers can use one of the holes to get around the TACACS+ authentication and obtain administrative access to devices. The other four holes can be used to conduct denial-of-service attacks. Cisco also had to patch the TACACS+ authentication hole in its ASA 5500 Series Adaptive Security Appliances and the Catalyst 6500 Series ASA Services Module. The third advisory concerns a directory-traversal hole in the Network Admission Control (NAC) Manager. Attackers could use the vulnerability to gain access to critical information, such as password files and system logs, via TCP port 443. Cisco has published patches and, in most cases, workarounds for all of the holes. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/More-patches-from-Cisco-1356415.html>
34. *October 6, Infosecurity* – (International) **Cybercriminals phish for Google AdWords' user names and passwords.** A new Google AdWords phishing scheme designed to steal user name and password data has been discovered in the wild by M86 Security Labs. The phishing scheme involves a bogus notification e-mail that reads, "Google AdWords: You have a new alert" or "Google Team: You have a new alert." The phishing e-mail contains a "dodgy" URL, which the recipient is directed to click on, according to an M86 Security Labs blog. If recipients clicks on the URL, they are directed to a malicious Web page that enables cyber criminals to capture their user name and password for their Google AdWords account, M86 explained. "Once you enter your Google account credentials in the phishing page this will NOT just compromise your Google AdWords account, but all your Google services like Gmail or Google+ will be affected as well. When you receive these sorts of notification emails, always double check the URL before you click on them — if it looks suspicious, it probably is," the blog advised. Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/21196>

For more stories, see items [11](#) and [36](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

35. *October 7, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Severed fiber causes long-distance, cellphone and 911 problems in northwest Iowa.** Long-distance, cellphone, and 911 services were restored the afternoon of October 6 after disruptions in northwest Iowa. A Frontier Communications general manager told the Fort Dodge Messenger that the problems were caused by an accident near Ames the morning of October 6. She said a communications fiber there was cut, which affected services from Ames to Mason City, and from Ames to Des Moines. She said the cut disrupted long-distance service as well as cellphone service, even though it goes through a tower. Webster County Emergency Management Agency alerted the county that 911 was not working, so alternative numbers were given out to the public.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5b1ff36241e344249eeb8b4eb9f85eb9/IA--Phone-Service-Disruption/>

36. *October 7, ZD Net UK* – (International) **Satellite outage hits US and Canada.** The Anik F2 satellite stopped providing services the morning of October 6, cutting out communications for many people in the United States and Canada. Its operator, Telesat Canada, described the glitch as "a technical anomaly" and said the Anik F2 satellite could be returned to normal operation. Reports suggest the downtime caused flight cancellations, while also taking ATMs and mobile phone services out of action in some areas. "Telesat is now undertaking to return the satellite to normal operations and is working with its customers on Anik F2 to restore traffic in an orderly manner and minimise the impact to their networks," the company said in a statement October 6. The cause of the malfunction has not been identified, but is not related to a solar storm that happened the same day, Telesat told the Ottawa Business Journal. "There was an issue on the spacecraft, and it went into safe mode," a company spokesman told the newspaper. In safe mode, the satellite shuts itself down and turns itself toward the sun, with its panels in the best position to power its batteries. According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), 39 communities in the north of Canada lost their long-distance phone service during the outage, which began around 6:30 a.m. Internet and some cable TV services were also affected, as were flights and ATMs that relied on Anik F2 for connectivity. However, satellite phones in the affected communities remained operational, as they use a different satellite, according to reports. Nevertheless, the problems could affect thousands of people across North America. ZDNet UK's sister site CNET News.com reported tsatellite-based Internet service providers

including WildBlue were also hit, with customers losing Web access during the outage. Source: <http://www.zdnet.co.uk/news/networking/2011/10/07/satellite-outage-hits-us-and-canada-40094132/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *October 7, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Occupy Portland: Protesters plan to continue occupying Chapman Square.** Occupy Portland organizers said protesters will not leave a Portland, Oregon park, despite city officials' demands they clear out the morning of October 7 in advance of the Portland Marathon set for October 9. More than 600 protesters camped out overnight in Lownsdale and Chapman squares across from the federal courthouse at Southwest Third Avenue and Main Street. Protesters plan to settle into Chapman Square indefinitely, the organizer said. Another organizer, said the decision came in part because of the likely solidarity between protesters and some 10,000 expected marathon participants. If police break up the protest at the park, organizers said the demonstrators would regroup the night of October 7 at 7 p.m. at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. A police spokesman said the last resort would be arrests. Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2011/10/occupy_portland_protestors_pla.html
38. *October 7, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio; Pennsylvania; New York) **Summit County deputies bust massive 3-state crime ring involving store thefts, home repair.** Deputies in Summit County, Ohio, busted a 3-state organized crime ring involving more than 50 people stealing from stores and refurbishing houses. The Summit County Sheriff's Office October 7 announced two arrests and five warrants in connection with the ring. Investigators said the organized group stole more than \$200,000 worth of merchandise from Lowe's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Walmart, and Home Depot. The stores were located in Summit, Medina, Cuyahoga, Portage, Franklin, and Hamilton counties in Ohio, as well as stores in Pennsylvania, and New York. According to police, the thieves stole the merchandise, returned the items for store credit, and then sold the in-store merchandise cards. Most of the items stolen included clothing, tools, and materials for building/repairing homes. Summit County deputies said several of the people involved then used the money and materials to refurbish three homes, which were located in Shaker Heights, East Cleveland, and Bratenahl. Deputies seized these three homes, as well as five vehicles investigators said were used repeatedly in the thefts, and to transport stolen merchandise. Source: http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/oh_summit/summit-county-deputies-bust-massive-3-state-crime-ring-involving-store-thefts-home-repair
39. *October 6, Los Angeles City News Service* – (California) **Bank robbery attempt, bomb threat prompts evacuations.** A bogus bomb threat issued by a pair of would-be bank robbers — one taking part in the crime via telephone — forced the full evacuation

and closure of a large strip mall in the South Bay area of California for several hours October 6. The failed holdup attempt began about 9:15 a.m., when a tall, thin woman entered a Chase bank branch in the 1100 block of East Plaza Boulevard in National City carrying two bags and wearing a hooded sweatshirt covering her entire face except for her eyes. As alarmed employees watched, the woman put down the sacks — one red and the other green — on the floor of the lobby, a police sergeant said. Moments later, a man telephoned and told a worker the green bag contained a bomb that would be detonated unless the red one was filled with \$100,000. The masked woman then ran out of the bank, after which the bank workers called 911. When police arrived, they surrounded the strip mall and evacuated the roughly two dozen businesses inside, the sergeant said. A sheriff's bomb squad responded and sent in a robot that found nothing hazardous in the bags. At about 11:30 a.m., the squad detonated the sacks. A short time later, authorities reopened the shopping center.

Source: <http://www.760kfmb.com/story/15634674/national-city-strip-mall-evacuated-after-bank-robbery-bomb-threat>

40. *October 6, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **FBI: Fur factory fire was domestic terrorism.** The FBI has classified a fire at a western Idaho fur and fireworks retailer as a potential domestic terrorism case, the Associated Press reported October 6. Animal rights activists claimed to have started the September 24 blaze at the Caldwell business. Federal agents plan to take custody of the evidence, a member of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives told the Idaho Statesman. On the day of the fire, the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in Los Angeles announced it received a message from animal rights activists claiming responsibility for setting a fire at the Rocky Mountain Fireworks & Fur Co. Besides fireworks, the business outside Boise buys coyote and bobcat pelts and sells trapping supplies, including equipment that helps drown beavers. It also sells knives, predator calls, and scents to lure bobcats. The activists said they belonged to a group called The Arson Unit and could have ties to the Animal Liberation Front. Their message said they pumped fuel into an Idaho fur and fireworks retailer before setting the place ablaze. They also warned the store must close its doors permanently. "Stay in business, and we'll be back," their message said. The owners said the fire caused about \$10,000 in damage, and they have asked authorities to prosecute those responsible.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/10/06/national/main20116921.shtml>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

41. *October 7, Suffolk News-Herald* – (Virginia; North Carolina) **Great Dismal Swamp fire still smoldering.** More than 2 months after it started, a fire in the Great Dismal Swamp in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, is still not out, the Suffolk News-Herald reported October 7. Although the fire is 100 percent contained, there are spots in the controlled area that are still active, according to a press release from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the Great Dismal Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge. Firefighters were working to relocate water pumps to target small ground fires. The spots are on small, elevated ridges surrounded by flooded areas, the release said. The Lateral West Fire burned nearly 6,400 acres of the Great Dismal Swamp refuge and North Carolina's connected Dismal Swamp State Park since it ignited from a lightning strike August 4. The blaze is the most expansive the refuge has ever experienced. Because a large portion of the blaze burned below ground level, firefighters had to worry about trees falling after root systems were damaged. Crews fought the fire for weeks before Hurricane Irene came through dumping about a foot of rain on the conflagration. But that was not enough to extinguish the fire that burned deep in the peat. In addition to battling the last of the hot spots, work is underway in other areas. Officials said repairs were being completed to ditch banks, pump station staging areas, and access roads. Also, workers were removing sheet piling used to hold water from inactive zones. For safety concerns, Lake Drummond and the Railroad Ditch and Corapeake Ditch entrances were still closed. Additionally, all tours have been canceled until further notice.

Source: <http://www.tidewaternews.com/2011/10/07/great-dismal-swamp-fire-still-smoldering/>

42. *October 7, Pueblo Chieftan* – (Colorado) **2 Dunes officials disciplined.** The National Park Service (NPS) revealed October 6 that two administrators of the Great Sand Dunes National Park near Mosca, Colorado, were disciplined in the wake of an employee's alleged embezzlement of \$730,000. "The employee's immediate supervisor was sanctioned, and has since resigned," the chief spokesman for the NPS said. He said the senior manager at the park "was also sanctioned," but said the federal Privacy Act prohibits release of specific information about disciplinary action. The disclosure came after a federal grand jury in Denver indicted the employee October 5. The indictment alleges she took the money month after month for 3 years before the embezzlement was detected in January. The spokesman said the suspect was the park's administrative officer, a job that gave her access to park money. She is charged with 145 counts of theft of government property, and 53 counts of money laundering. A date has not been set for her to appear in federal court. The NPS changed financial practices in national parks nationwide as the result of the alleged embezzlement, the spokesman said. He said the agency began a criminal investigation when internal budgetary audits found the suspect allegedly had used government checks and charge cards to embezzle. He said one of the NPS practices changed nationwide is the elimination of third-party drafts, the form of checks the suspect used.

Source: http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/dunes-officials-disciplined/article_64142ae8-f0a6-11e0-9db8-001cc4c002e0.html

43. *October 6, Reuters* – (District of Columbia) **Checks of Washington Monument quake damage completed.** The National Park Service (NPS) and engineers have completed an assessment of earthquake damage to the now-closed Washington Monument in Washington D.C. The NPS said it and an engineering team that rappelled the 555-foot-high obelisk wrapped up their checks October 5. There is no schedule for reopening the site. The NPS has said the monument is structurally sound. The monument sustained cracks more than an inch wide during the 5.8-magnitude temblor August 23. Heavy rain from Hurricane Irene in late August worsened the damage. The

engineering team from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates removed broken pieces that "ranged from golf-ball size to dictionary size," said a NPS statement. Some of the larger pieces could be pinned back on the monument during repairs. The engineering firm will ready a report on the damage and what repairs are needed, and then carry out interim repairs. The NPS will determine how permanent repairs will be done.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/06/us-monument-repairs-idUSTRE7956S920111006>

44. *October 6, Old West New West* – (California) **Sequoia's popular Trail of 100 Giants closed until 2012.** The Trail of 100 Giants, Sequoia National Forest's popular recreation site in Tulare County, California, will probably remain closed all of this winter due to two huge sequoia trees that fell across the trail September 30. The trail was immediately closed for public safety, and initially officials thought the closure would last only a few weeks. However, a spokesperson for forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument said the trail will not be ready for visitors until spring 2012 due to the size of the toppled trees that must be removed, damage to the trail, and the approach of winter weather conditions. Forest officials scheduled a public meeting for October 22 so people can see the situation and provide thoughts on how to restore the trail. Normally the trail is an easy, accessible walk through Long Meadow Grove, one of the premier groves of giant sequoias. This trail is only accessible by road during the summer months (May 15 to November 15 weather depending) due to annual closures by Tulare County.

Source: <http://www.oldwestnewwest.com/20111007563/national-state-parks/california/sequoias-popular-trail-of-100-giants-closed-until-2012.html>

45. *October 6, Corpus Christi Caller Times* – (Texas) **Padre Island National Seashore officials reported low to moderate levels of red tide cells.** Officials of Padre Island National Seashore near Corpus Christi, Texas, reported low to moderate levels of red tide cells were measured around the Big Shell section of the beach, and several anglers reported respiratory symptoms October 6. Red tide aerosol can cause nose, throat, and eye irritation, coughing, and sneezing. In the water, the toxins can kill fish and taint oysters. On October 5, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) officials shut down Galveston Bay to oyster harvesting because of red tide. The past week, biologists measured trace amounts of red algae along the Corpus Christi Bayfront, and between the Port Aransas jetties. Levels were not high enough to kill fish or cause symptoms in humans. Farther south near the Mansfield Channel, visitors October 5 reported on the CorpusFishing.com Web site they suffered respiratory problems such as sore throat and coughing. Park officials planned to conduct additional water sampling from Mansfield northward. TPW biologists were investigating two fish kills October 7, one along a 2-mile stretch of the Gulf of Mexico from the Mansfield jetties southward near the beach, and one at a Port O'Connor beach. Department of state health services confirmed moderate concentrations of red tide around the Port O'Connor area, including the little jetties and big jetties as well as at the Dolphin Point Marina. Low concentrations have also been found at South Pass.

Source: <http://www.caller.com/news/2011/oct/06/padre-island-national-seashore-officials-reported/>

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Dams Sector

46. *October 7, WSB 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Overbuilt dam causing major damage along South River.** A local river alliance group has filed a complaint with state authorities about damage done to the South River by a DeKalb County, Georgia, water project. The South River Watershed Alliance said DeKalb County overbuilt a dam near the Sugar Creek golf course, and caused major damage to the river and its banks. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit to the county in 2005 to build the project and pull water from the river to irrigate the county-owned golf course, but at some point during maintenance, county officials admitted they built the dam too high and blocked too much water.
Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/overbuilt-dam-causing-major-damage-along-south-riv/nD7Sh/>

47. *October 6, BBC News* – (International) **Chile court lifts suspension of Patagonia dam project.** A Chilean appeals court has ruled in favor of a multi-billion-dollar dam project in Patagonia, in Chile's south. The court lifted a suspension order on the HidroAysen project that had been issued following objections by environmentalists, who fear it will damage Patagonia's fragile ecosystem. The government said the dams are essential to meet Chile's growing energy needs. The project's opponents said they would take their case to the Supreme Court. The appeals court in the southern city of Puerto Montt lifted a suspension order it had issued in June to allow time to consider objections filed by environmentalists and social activists. Opponents had filed seven objections to the HidroAysen project, ranging from the detrimental effect they said it would have on the Laguna San Rafael National Park to the dangers it could pose to the Huemul, an endangered Andean species of the deer family. Two judges ruled to dismiss the objections, while one ruled in favor of allowing them. The five dams would be built on two fast-flowing rivers that run into the Pacific — two on the river Baker, and three on the river Pascua.
Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-15208574>

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