



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
27 December 2011

Top Stories

- Federal regulators have approved a nuclear reactor that could power the first nuclear plants built from scratch in the United States in more than three decades. – *Associated Press* (See item [4](#))
- Half of San Francisco's on-duty firefighting force battled a wind-fueled, five-alarm fire December 22 that tore through four buildings in the Western Addition neighborhood and displaced about 60 people. – *San Francisco Chronicle* (See item [33](#))

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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. *December 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Gas lines scrutinized for lightning fire link.** Reports of lightning-related fires and gas leaks in at least a dozen states have sparked concerns about the use of flexible gas lines made of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST), the Associated Press reported December 23. In one instance, the Genoa Township, Ohio fire chief said he believes lightning struck at or near the homes, and the electrical charge traveled along the CSST before jumping to a less resistant pathway nearby such as a metal ventilation duct. It then punctured a hole the size of a pencil tip

in the tubing and created a gas leak that could ignite, he said. Reports of such fires and gas leaks, from states such as Florida, which has a high occurrence of lightning strikes, to those where strikes are less frequent, have led to lawsuits, studies and efforts to better track the incidents. Manufacturers defend CSST, which has become increasingly common in new homes since it was introduced domestically more than two decades ago. Fire officials and researchers are trying to determine whether to blame a faulty product, unsafe installation, or a separate cause for the leaks.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/12/22/MNTM1MFRR1.DTL>

2. *December 22, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Giant refinery tank recovered from Puget Sound.** Salvage workers have recovered a 475-ton stainless steel tank that fell into northern Puget Sound on the way to a BP refinery near Ferndale, Washington, December 21. A BP spokesman said two of the largest crane barges on the West Coast were used December 21 to lift the cylinder out of the water. Made in South Korea, the cylinder is 140 feet long and 12 feet in diameter, and part of a \$400 million project to equip the refinery to produce cleaner low-sulfur diesel. The spokesman said the cylinder was not damaged December 9 when it was accidentally dropped off a barge in the Strait of Georgia near Cherry Point. It sank in 120 feet of water.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/12/22/4140040/giant-refinery-tank-recovered.html>

For another story, see item [24](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *December 23, Associated Press* – (Delaware) **Del. officials: Refinery releases 100 gallons of sulfur dioxide released into air.** Environmental officials are reporting another hazardous release from the Delaware City, Delaware refinery. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control says the refinery released 100 gallons of sulfur dioxide into the air early December 22. WDEL-AM reported that the chemical is considered hazardous by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the incident remains under investigation. The release came just one day after the plant's owners announced a \$1 billion expansion that would cut emissions.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/7bfa24563bca462f9cd9dacc34d48a37/DE--Refinery-Release/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

4. *December 22, Associated Press* – (National) **NRC approves new nuclear reactor design.** Federal regulators have approved a nuclear reactor designed by Westinghouse

Electric Co. that could power the first nuclear plants built from scratch in the United States in more than three decades. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) unanimously approved the AP1000 reactor December 22. The certification, to take effect within 2 weeks, will be valid for 15 years. The NRC chairman said the newly approved design would ensure safety through simplified, passive security functions and other features. He said plants using the design could withstand damage from an airplane crash without significant release of radioactive materials — an issue that gained attention after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Approval of the design is a major step forward for utility companies in Georgia, Florida, and the Carolinas that have billions of dollars riding on plans to build AP1000 reactors in the Southeast. Without NRC approval, the utilities could not have received a license to build their plants. Federal officials approved an earlier version of the AP1000 reactor in 2006, but it was never built in the United States. The \$14 billion effort is the pilot project for the new reactor and a major test of whether the industry can build nuclear plants without the endemic delays and cost overruns that plagued earlier rounds of building years ago. The U.S. Presidential administration offered the project \$8 billion in federal loan guarantees as part of its pledge to expand nuclear power.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/12/22/nrc-approves-new-nuclear-reactor-design/>

5. *December 21, Associated Press* – (International) **Japan releases 40-year nuke cleanup plan.** Japan released a lengthy plan December 21 to clean up and fully decommission a nuclear plant that went into meltdown after it was struck by a tsunami in March, a process the government said would take as many as 40 years. The nuclear crisis minister acknowledged that decommissioning three wrecked reactors plus spent fuel rods at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant was an “unprecedented project,” and that the process was not “totally foreseeable.” The trade minister promised that authorities would move through the process “firmly while ensuring safety at the plant.” The announcement officially allows for a new phase that will eventually allow some evacuees back to less-contaminated areas currently off limits.

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2102899,00.html>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

6. *December 22, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Tennessee) **Tennessee manufacturer cited by US Labor Department’s OSHA for safety and health violations following worker fatality.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Millersville-headquartered Dredge & Marine Co. LLC for 12 safety and health violations. OSHA opened an inspection following a July incident in which one worker died and another was severely burned when a spark from a light ignited paint vapors inside the compartment of a pontoon dredge, which was being painted to reduce corrosion. Two serious safety violations related to the fatality include exposing employees to explosion and fire hazards when exhaust ventilation was inadequate and failing to use explosion-proof lighting. Five additional serious safety

violations are for using an extension cord with a missing ground prong; exposing employees to explosion and fire hazards from a nonexplosion proof fan with nonferrous blades; failing to ensure paint buckets, spray guns and cell phones were properly stored to prevent sparking; failing to permit the bonding of spray guns and metallic parts; and failing to provide fall protection to employees working from the barge deck. Five serious health violations are for exposing employees to a potentially hazardous atmosphere inside a confined space without first testing the atmosphere's oxygen content, exposing workers to hazards in a confined space who did not receive training on how to perform all required duties safely, exposing employees to hazardous atmospheres in a confined space without providing a qualified shipyard rescue team or notifying an outside rescue service, failing to stop work to verify the confined space was safe for entry after spray painting and failing to continuously monitor the enclosed space to ensure the atmosphere was safe. Dredge & Marine Co. LLC, which is owned by John W. McDougall Co., specializes in new dredges, reconditioning used dredges, equipment and parts sales, and brokerage services. Proposed penalties for the citations total \$46,600.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=21564

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *December 23, BankInfoSecurity* – (Connecticut; International) **14 indicted in phishing scheme.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut have indicted 14 Romanians for their involvement in an identity-theft scheme that relied on phishing attacks to target unwitting consumers. According to a statement issued by the Department of Justice, the 14 suspects been charged with conspiracy, fraud and identity theft. The indictment claims that in June 2005, one or more of the accused sent an e-mail to consumers, including a resident of Madison, Connecticut, that appeared to come from Connecticut-based People's Bank. The generic e-mail said recipients' online banking accounts had been locked; in order to remedy the issue, the recipients were instructed to click on links and enter specific bank account details and personal information. In addition to People's Bank, Citibank, Capital One, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Comerica Bank, Regions Bank, LaSalle Bank, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, eBay and PayPal also were targeted. According to court documents, the Web page to which the Connecticut e-mail recipient was directed appeared to originate from People's Bank'; in actuality, the site was hosted on a compromised computer. In all of the cases of all of the fraudulent e-mails sent, once

recipients entered personal or financial information, their entered information was routed to one or more of the defendants, or to a so-called collector account, an e-mail account used to receive and collect the stolen information. Several collector accounts containing thousands of e-mails with credit or debit card numbers, expiration dates, CVV codes, PINs and other personal information, such as names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers, were discovered during the FBI's investigation. The co-conspirators used the information to access bank accounts and lines of credit, as well as withdraw funds from ATMs, which most often were in Romania. On December 12, following the extradition from Romania of three of the 14 suspects, a magistrate judge in Bridgeport unsealed the indictment. Each of the 14 defendants could face up to 35 years in prison. So far, two defendants have pleaded not guilty and are expected to go to trial in March.

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=4358

8. *December 23, Bloomberg* – (Florida; National) **Rothstein says TD Bank played 'critical' role in ponzi scheme.** The Florida lawyer convicted in a \$1.2 billion investment fraud said Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD Bank) played a “critical” role in his Ponzi scheme, according to a transcript of a sworn deposition made public December 22. “They were assisting me in putting fake balance statements into the hands of my investors,” he said. The Florida lawyer plead guilty in January 2010 to five counts of racketeering, money laundering, and wire fraud after admitting he sold investors interests in bogus settlements of sexual-harassment and whistle-blower lawsuits. He also said that the size of TD Bank was important to the scheme because some investors worried about the solvency of a smaller bank he had been using. The bankruptcy trustee liquidating the law firm sued TD Bank in July, alleging that the institution let the Florida lawyer use its name, facilities, and accounts to deceive investors. The trustee accused the bank of ignoring “red flags” and letting the lawyer open accounts and transfer “huge sums” of money among them. Eight people have been charged in the probe by the U.S. Of those, six have been convicted. Two of the men who pleaded guilty worked as technology assistants at the law firm and set up a fake TD Bank Web site showing the Florida lawyer had \$1.1 billion in a trust account, according to prosecutors. Investors who relied on that information ended up investing more than \$35 million, an assistant U.S. attorney said in June in federal court in Fort Lauderdale. The lawyer testified in the deposition that he often brought investors to TD Bank branches so they could see bank employees handing him envelopes with a cover letter a bank employee wrote at his behest and a fake balance statement his office produced. He described how these “shows” would work at the bank and how bank employees allowed him to use conference rooms. He also testified that he employed an associate to pose as a banker; that man has also pleaded guilty in connection with the scam. TD Bank denies these claims.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-12-23/rothstein-says-td-bank-played-critical-role-in-ponzi-scheme.html>

9. *December 22, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Police: Man threatens bank tellers with fake bomb wrapped as Christmas gift.** A man presented a propane bottle with red wires wrapped up in Christmas wrapping paper to a Citibank in Humble, Texas,

December 22, according to Humble police. The man carried the present into the bank and tilted the present toward the teller. He told the teller it was a bomb and demanded money. After receiving two rounds of cash from the teller, the robber left the propane bottle and walked out of the bank. The bomb squad came in, and area businesses had to be evacuated. The police were surprised after they learned the device was a fake. “This time of the year it’s not uncommon to see someone walking in the bank with a present, so no one really suspected anything, at that time,” a spokesperson for the Humble Police Department said.

Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/Police-Man-threatens-bank-tellers-with-fake-bomb-wrapped-as-Christmas-gift-136110568.html>

10. *December 22, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **FBI searches costume store in ‘Geezer Bandit’ investigation.** Authorities probing the case of the Geezer Bandit have served a search warrant at a costume store in the San Luis Obispo, California area, demanding a list of all customers who bought a mask known as The Elder. Based on surveillance video and witness interviews at the site of the bandit’s latest heist, the FBI is now working on the theory that the prolific bank robber is not an elderly man but a younger man wearing an elaborate mask. “The robber was described as someone who appeared to be an elderly white male, but may have been wearing a synthetic-like mask and gloves to conceal his true physical characteristics,” the FBI said in a statement December 21. Unlike in the 15 previous bank robberies, a quick-thinking teller slipped an exploding dye pack into the plastic bag that the robber used to carry off the loot. A few steps outside the bank, the pack exploded, spewing red dye all over the robber, the money and possibly his mask and gloves. A surveillance camera shows that the robber “sprinted away across the bank parking lot.” He may have escaped in a white BMW, according to the FBI. In previous robberies, there did not appear to be any good clues about the Geezer Bandit’s mode of escape.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/12/fbi-searches-costume-store-in-geezer-bandit-investigation.html>

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Transportation Sector

11. *December 23, 24-7 Press Release* – (National) **Airline faces more than \$1 million in penalties after FAA investigation.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has proposed civil penalties of \$1,042,500 against Memphis-based Pinnacle Airlines, Inc., for operating aircraft that did not comply with federal regulations. Specific allegations include allowing flight crews to perform maintenance tasks as well as failure to complete inspections to monitor a crack in a turbine assembly. Pinnacle provides 740 daily connecting flights to 120 airports in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Belize. The airline serves various Delta Airlines hubs using two models of Canadair Regional Jets manufactured by Bombardier Aerospace: the 76-passenger CRJ-900 and the 50-passenger CRJ-200 LR. The FAA alleges that two commercial jets operated by Pinnacle were not in compliance with aviation regulations on a total of 63 flights in 2009 and 2010. The first jet was flown 23 times with flight crew members performing

maintenance tasks on an inoperative passenger door wheel assembly. FAA inspectors had previously denied the airline's request to avoid using trained maintenance workers to perform the task. The other violation of compliance with federal air safety regulations involved Pinnacle's failure to make timely inspections of a previously detected and growing crack in a turbine case over a 640-hour operating period. The proposed penalty is based on the commuter airline's use of the jet for over 40 passenger flights while it was out of compliance.

Source: <http://uspolitics.einnews.com/247pr/253950>

12. *December 22, Associated Press* – (California) **L.A. freeway repairs may exceed \$5 million.** The cost of demolition and construction of a Southern California freeway overpass damaged by last week's big-rig gasoline tanker fire could cost more than \$5 million. The highway, known as the Pomona Freeway, is a major commuter corridor east of downtown Los Angeles. December 20, the Governor declared a state of emergency because of the December 14 freeway inferno. A 10-mile stretch of the freeway was shut down for three days. The governor's emergency proclamation directs the California highway officials to request help through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program.
Source: <http://www.cbs47.tv/news/state/story/L-A-freeway-repairs-may-exceed-5-million/KOfC3bJJES9WBFV4q6YIQ.csp>
13. *December 22, Madison Capital Times* – (Wisconsin) **Railroad ties, metal stolen from rail yard.** Thieves made off with about \$5,000 worth of ties, metal pipe, and other pieces of steel from a Wisconsin and Southern Railroad yard in Madison, Wisconsin police said in a news release. The theft was discovered December 19 when railroad employees showed up at the rail yard.
Source: http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/crime_and_courts/railroad-ties-metal-stolen-from-rail-yard/article_060fae00-2cb9-11e1-ac60-001871e3ce6c.html
14. *December 22, Maritime Executive* – (California) **Bomb scare at Port of LA.** Traffic of cargo was disrupted at the Port of Los Angeles December 21 when workers spotted a shipping container with the word "bomb" spray-painted across it. Workers of the Port of LA, the busiest container port in the U.S., stumbled upon the suspicious container as they were unloading the APL Belgium cargo ship. The 20-person crew of the 67,500 DWT, Singapore-flagged APL Belgium was evacuated from the port as a precaution. A port spokesman said that around 10 percent of the port was forced to shut down and be cordoned off for LA Police Department's bomb squad, sniffing dogs, and other investigative agencies. The spokesman said "bomb" was sprayed onto the container in a couple areas, and that while the busy port sees all sorts of off cargo, it is very unusual to come across graffiti on a container like that. Police spokesman deemed there was no threat to the port in correlation to the suspicious container following investigation. The mishap did, however, manage to gnarl cargo traffic at two of the port's eight container terminals.
Source: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/bomb-scare-at-port-of-la>

15. *December 22, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Passengers injured after bus crashes through fence at Pittsburg/Bay Point BART station.** Seven people were hospitalized December 22 after a commuter bus crashed through a fence near the Pittsburg/Bay Point Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station in California. Passengers reported neck pains, dizziness, and other injuries after the bus lost control in the station's bus zone and sped into a nearby field at 3:17 p.m., according to the county fire department. A BART spokesman said the bus belongs to Tri Delta Transit. About 20 people were on the bus when it crashed, the Contra Costa fire battalion chief said. Most were able to get themselves off the bus, but emergency crews had to help pull out three people. The seven injured passengers included at least one child. BART police are investigating what caused the crash.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_19605252?source=rss

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *December 23, Food Safety News* – (California) **Histamine illnesses lead to sushi tuna recall.** Three illnesses due to elevated histamine levels in sushi have prompted Osamu Corporation of Gardena, California, to recall up to 1,800 cases of frozen ground tuna. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported December 22 that it found elevated histamine levels in samples of the company's tuna taken from one retail location, and said several samples of the ground tuna showed signs of decomposition. According to the company, the cause of the elevated histamine levels found in the ground tuna is not known. But decomposition can promote formation of histamine in seafood. The recalled frozen ground tuna was shipped to three distributors — AFC Corporation, Red Shell Foods, and Pacific Fresh Fish Company — from August 8 to September 8. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/12/histamine-illnesses-lead-to-sushi-tuna-recall/>

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Water Sector

17. *December 22, WLWT 5 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Water main break floods roads in S. Fairmount.** A water main break spilled thousands of gallons of water onto a South Fairmount street in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 22. The 16-inch main ruptured at Queen City Avenue and Quebec Road. About 12 to 18 inches of water poured from the

ground and through cracks in the sidewalk onto the road at the intersection. Police said a substantial area had to be excavated to repair the ruptured water main. Portions of the road were closed through rush hour, but water service was not disrupted for area customers.

Source: <http://www.wlwt.com/r/30055976/detail.html>

18. *December 22, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **State awards contract to clean up coal slurry that has tainted creek in Muhlenberg County.** The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources awarded a \$3 million contract for the cleanup of an old western Kentucky mine that is polluting nearby waterways, the Associated Press reported December 22. The company will begin the cleanup project in January at the site of a site with 45 acres of coal slurry and 16 acres of highly acidic coarse refuse material. The waste was created during Caney Creek Mine’s operation in Muhlenberg County in the 1950s. The state said acid drainage leaving the site “severely degraded the water quality and aquatic life” downstream in Pond Creek. The project will include the construction of about 2.3 miles of limestone ditches and 1 mile of erosion control devices.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/367ade8da84c47fe9f059463f5f9548c/KY--Mine-Cleanup/>

19. *December 21, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Cleanup is underway at Superior Plating.** Workers hired by the state of Michigan began an emergency cleanup December 21 of chromium-contaminated water outside Superior Plating, only a week or two before the northeast Minneapolis factory is expected to shut down. A yellow substance was discovered next to railroad tracks behind the 92-year-old plant December 20. The discovery caused city workers to block off streets and halt the Northstar Line, forcing Metro Transit to put hundreds of train passengers on buses instead. The chromium has been in the contaminated soil underneath the building for decades and was picked up by groundwater that flows under the building, said the Superior Plating president. A remediation system is supposed to collect all the groundwater and pump it into a treatment system in the plant. The president said he thinks the groundwater was thawed by the unusually warm temperatures and either the treatment system was overwhelmed or the polluted groundwater somehow bypassed it. Then the tainted water froze again. Because the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November, it cannot pay for the emergency cleanup. A Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) report on the site says “the seepage ... is a concern as it could come in contact with people or animals. The relatively high contaminant concentration in the liquid does classify it as hazardous.” The MPCA says the underground contamination at Superior Plating does not pose an immediate health hazard, but the groundwater and soils do pose enough of a threat that they need to be cleaned up.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/136040838.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *December 23, CNN* – (California) **6,000 nurses strike in California.** About 6,000 California nurses staged a one-day strike at several hospitals December 20, protesting what they called an “erosion of quality of care and cuts to patient protections,” National Nurses United said. In a dispute with management over RN-to-patient staffing levels and safe patient lift policies to prevent accidents and injuries, about 2,000 nurses staged a one-day strike at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children’s Hospital, but nurses were later told that they will be locked out of their jobs for four days because replacements had to be hired in a five-day block, nurses told CNN. The nurses are also objecting to hospital demands for increases in health care premiums, which they claimed would cost the nurses about \$3,000 more in out-of-pocket premiums, which the hospitals disputed. Officials with Memorial Care Health System, which owns both Long Beach facilities, said that more than 30 percent of the 2,000 nurses decided not to participate in the strike. In the San Francisco Bay area, about 4,000 nurses were striking at nine facilities that are part of the Sutter Health Corporation. The nurses are protesting what they described as “some 150 demands for major contract concessions in patient protections and health coverage for the RNs and their families,” according to the California Nurses Association and National Nurses United.

Source: http://edition.cnn.com/2011/12/22/us/california-nurses-strike/index.html?hpt=us_c2

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Government Facilities Sector

21. *December 23, KGBT 4 Harlingen* – (International) **Consulate issues emergency warning after deadly bus attack.** A deadly attack on three passenger buses in Veracruz, Mexico has prompted the American Consulate in Matamoros to issue an emergency warning. According to reports, gunmen attacked several vehicles along Highway 105 between Panuco and Tempoal, Veracruz December 23. The attacks left seven people dead, but the gunmen continued to El Higo, Veracruz where another four people were killed. Officials report that five of the gunmen were killed in a shootout with authorities. The consulate is now asking Americans living or traveling along the borders of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and San Luis Potosi to maintain a heightened sense of alertness. Americans are asked to monitor media outlets and other information sources to keep informed about security issues. The consulate is asking that American citizens avoid traveling on highways between cities in those areas at night.

Source: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=700273#.TvSUIVZ7erg>

22. *December 23, Greensboro News & Record* – (North Carolina) **3 charged in Smith High School fire.** Two Smith High School students and a 16-year-old have been charged in connection with a fire that destroyed an outbuilding at Smith, December 22 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Police said school officials picked out one of the suspects from footage from a video surveillance camera. All three have been charged

with two counts each of injury to real property and burning of an educational institution, three counts each of felony breaking and entering, larceny, possession of stolen goods, and one count each of conspiracy to commit a felony.

Source: http://www.news-record.com/content/2011/12/23/article/3_teens_charged_in_smith_fire

23. *December 22, WITI 2 Lake Geneva* – (Wisconsin) **Man arrested after threatening to blow up Milwaukee County Courthouse.** Milwaukee County Sheriff deputies arrested a man December 21 after he threatened to blow up the county courthouse, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The deputies responded to the call, but the man left the building before the deputies could find him. They caught up to him about 3 hours later. The man has a criminal history with multiple arrests for disorderly conduct and bomb scares.

Source: <http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-20111222-blow-up-courthouse-threat,0,5411072.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *December 23, KENS 5 San Antonio* – (Texas) **Gas leak forces evacuation of downtown police headquarters.** The San Antonio, Texas police headquarters was evacuated early December 23, after a nearby construction crew struck a large natural gas main line, causing dense fumes to engulf the downtown building. The gas leak, which occurred around 1 a.m., prompted a mass evacuation of the investigation department, youth services, and a communications center. Police said communication was reestablished at the local police sub stations and all 911 call takers were relocated to the Bexar Metro Communication Depot. Hazmat crews were able to cap the leak at 3:50 a.m. Fire officials said the gas levels dissipated rapidly within the police headquarters building. Police headquarters were back to business December 23.
Source: <http://www.kens5.com/news/Gas-leak-prompts-San-Antonio-police-department-evacuation-136132983.html>
25. *December 22, CNN* – (Illinois) **Illinois state police investigate man's death in local police custody.** Six police officers in North Chicago, Illinois, have been reassigned to desk jobs while Illinois State Police and local authorities investigate why a 45-year-old man died in police custody last month, officials said December 22. The man died after he was arrested in connection with a domestic dispute incident, CNN affiliate WLS reported. His body showed signs of being shocked with a Taser and struck with a baton, authorities stated. His family is suing the city in federal court for wrongful death, and the suit alleges that the officers were summoned to his apartment because of a domestic dispute, according to CNN affiliate WBBM. The lawsuit said his girlfriend was escorted from the building by police, who beat and shocked the man for 20 minutes even though he did not resist arrest. The suit said that he was removed from the

apartment on a stretcher with a sheet over his head. City officials said they are investigating the case.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/22/justice/illinois-investigation-death/index.html?hpt=ju_c2

26. *December 22, WHEC 10 Rochester* – (New York) **Police: Brighton police officer injured in chase with stolen ambulance.** A Brighton, New York police officer was injured December 22 while chasing a stolen ambulance. Brighton, Rochester, and State Police were involved in the chase. Police say a man got in an unattended ambulance that was parked outside the emergency department of Strong Hospital and led them through the streets of the city at slow speeds and continued even after losing a tire. Witnesses say the driver was stopped after slamming into the back of a police car. As soon as it stopped, witnesses say a dozen officers drew their guns and dragged the suspect out of the car. The suspect is now in custody.

Source: <http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S2425491.shtml?cat=565>

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Information Technology Sector

27. *December 23, Softpedia* – (International) **Phishing has two sisters: vishing and smishing.** While most Internet users are familiar with the term phishing and its dangerous effects, security researchers are recording a considerable increase in two related malicious schemes, vishing and smishing. Vishing is a variant of phishing, its name portmanteau of the words voice and phishing, reports the Windows Club. Vishing attacks involve an unsuspecting user called via phone by someone who pretends to represent an important organization such as a bank or a utility company. In these situations, the crooks request large amounts of personal information allegedly needed for certain operations, financial or otherwise. An alternative to this method implies an e-mail which urges the recipient to call a certain phone number. Usually these e-mails come with threats and they are more advantageous for the cybercriminals since they do not have to pay for the calls they make. Smishing involves SMSs. In these types of schemes, the victim receives an SMS that warns of the fact that he/she has been automatically enrolled in a paid service. In order to terminate the subscription, the recipient has to visit a URL and select a click a certain button, which instead of canceling the phony subscription, downloads a piece of malware infecting the phone. From here on, keyloggers or premium-SMS-sending trojans are free to do as they like.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Phishing-Has-Two-Sisters-Vishing-and-Smishing-242767.shtml>

28. *December 23, H Security* – (International) **Microsoft confirms Windows vulnerability.** Microsoft posted on its German-language Chief Security Advisor Blog about the Windows vulnerability reported December 20. The post states the company was able to reproduce a situation in which a specially crafted HTML page could cause a blue screen when opened with Safari on a 64-bit system. However, “at this time, our colleagues in the US do not believe that the vulnerability is capable of infecting

Windows systems with malware”, so the company will “most likely not publish a security advisory for this vulnerability.” Security firm Secunia rated the vulnerability as “highly critical.” There is no exploit yet and the Microsoft posting states the company considers any wide-ranging exploitation of this vulnerability to be unlikely.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-confirms-Windows-vulnerability-1400353.html>

29. *December 23, ITProPortal* – (International) **Rift developer Trion Worlds hacked.** Trion Worlds, the developer behind the massive multiplayer online game Rift, had its servers hacked, losing information that includes user names, passwords, e-mail addresses, billing addresses, and credit card information. The announcement was made on the official Trion Web site and through an e-mail sent to subscribers and anyone who previously held an account with the firm. It describes that almost every piece of stored information about the company’s users was taken, including: “user names, encrypted passwords, dates of birth, email addresses, billing addresses, and the first and last four digits and expiration dates of customer credit cards.” Trion was quick to point out “There is no evidence, and we have no reason to believe, that full credit card information was accessed or compromised in any way.” The e-mail describes the hack as “recent” but not providing a time frame of when it might have occurred or how long Trion has known about it.
Source: <http://www.itproportal.com/2011/12/23/rift-developer-trion-worlds-hacked/>
30. *December 22, Computerworld* – (International) **Mozilla re-releases Firefox 9, backs out fix causing crashes.** Mozilla issued another update December 21 — Firefox 9.0.1 — after backing out a bug fix that was causing some Mac, Linux, and Windows browsers to crash. Although Mozilla did not specify in 9.0.1’s release notes why it needed to re-release the browser, developers said the update was prompted by crash reports, primarily from Mac users, although the Linux and Windows versions were also affected. To fix the problem — which caused crashes when users ran certain add-on toolbars — Mozilla’s developers removed a patch that was applied earlier.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9222972/Mozilla_re_releases_Firefox_9_backs_out_fix_causing_crashes?taxonomyId=17
31. *December 22, Infosecurity* – (International) **Holiday season is fertile ground for most malware infections.** Data released by SpywareRemove.com shows the holiday season, beginning with the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States through Christmas, is the most active time for malware infections. Research data compiled by the site over the last year (late 2010 — present) showed December 27, 2010 to have the largest spike in malware infections it tracked, with a 56 percent increase over the previous day. The company believes the December 27 date was prolific among cybercriminals due to the after Christmas rush of gift exchange and post-holiday deals by retailers. The Web site compiled its list of the top five malware infection dates according to its tracking data: December 27, 2010; February 27, 2011 (malware and phishing attacks attributed to the New Zealand earthquake); March 28, 2011 (breaking news of the Arab Spring protests); April 4, 2011 (the Monday after April Fool’s day); and November 28, 2011

(Cyber Monday). The top five malware infection dates indicate malware writers use a two-pronged strategy to deliver their malicious payloads to computers by taking advantage of one-time major events, as well as fixed dates on the calendar during the holiday season.

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/22839/>

For another story, see item [7](#)

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

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *December 23, WJBK 2 Detroit; Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Several shot at Waterford roller rink.** Broadcast reports said several people were shot at a roller-skating rink in suburban Detroit during a private holiday party December 23. WWJ-AM reported at least five people were shot at Rolladium in the Oakland County community of Waterford Township. The shooting victims were taken to the hospital. The rink co-owner said a fight broke out and people returned to the rink with at least one gun as the party was drawing to a close. He said numerous shots were fired and the suspects fled.
Source: <http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/several-shot-at-waterford-roller-rink-20111223>

33. *December 23, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **5-alarm S.F. fire engulfs apartments, injures two.** Half of San Francisco's on-duty firefighting force battled a wind-fueled, five-alarm fire December 22 that tore through two residential buildings in the Western Addition neighborhood and displaced about 60 people. Two other buildings, including a school, were damaged in the fire, which at its height was fought by 150 firefighters and support personnel. At one point, firefighters had to retreat from both buildings, fearing they would collapse. The fire started shortly in the back of a Victorian three-story condominium building, said the fire chief. The flames jumped quickly to an adjacent four-story apartment building. The chief described a fire that was so hot and intense that firefighters were unable to search the top floor of the Golden Gate condos for trapped residents. The nearby Creative Arts Charter School, which is

closed for winter break, suffered water damage from sprinklers and blown-out windows.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/12/22/BAPP1MG051.DTL&tsp=1>

34. *December 23, Alameda Sun* – (California) **Fire guts apartments.** An apartment complex in Alameda, California caught fire, the Alameda Sun reported December 23. About 60 firefighters fought the three-alarm fire that destroyed 8 units and damaged 12 others. The fire displaced 20 families and caused around \$1.5 million in damage. According to the division chief, firefighters used a ladder to rescue two residents from the building's second and third floors.
Source: <http://alamedasun.com/local-and-hometown/9524-fire-guts-apartments>

35. *December 22, Associated Press* – (California) **San Diego church fire causes \$75,000 damage.** Authorities said a fire in a San Diego church December 20 caused an estimated \$75,000 in damage and may have been set to cover up a burglary. The San Diego Union-Tribune said the fire was reported at a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall in the University Heights area. It was quickly doused. Fire officials said someone forced the church door and set the altar and stage on fire. Items from the church were found stacked near the door.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/12/22/4140038/san-diego-church-fire-causes-75000.html>

36. *December 22, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Big warehouse fire in north NJ battled for 2nd day.** For a second day, firefighters in northern New Jersey December 22 battled a huge warehouse fire that created thick plumes of black smoke visible from miles away, including from the New Jersey Turnpike. The Elizabeth Fire director said it could be days before the multi-alarm fire is extinguished. The mayor said hazardous waste experts for the county have determined the smoke did not pose a threat to residents. By December 22, more than 250 firefighters had been involved in efforts to contain the fire. The fire likely started with a car fire December 21 inside a body shop in the former Burry Biscuits warehouse, which is now divided into a number of smaller businesses. Fuel from the car likely leaked and ignited other areas, including the basement, which made it difficult to reach the fire, officials said.
Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP68db1173e9c34631ae97386967f5e523.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

37. *December 23, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Washington Monument has extensive cracks from quake.** According to a report released December 22 by the National Park Service, the earthquake-damaged Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. has extensive cracking and chipped stones near its peak that make it highly vulnerable to rainfall, and inspectors found cracks and loose stones along the entire length of the 555-foot structure. The report was prepared by the engineering firm

whose employees rappelled down the sides of the monument to inspect the damage. It offers the most detailed portrait yet of damage to the monument, which has been closed since the 5.8-magnitude earthquake on August 23. The report does not estimate how long repairs will take or how much they will cost. The federal spending bill approved the week of December 12 - 18 allocates \$7.5 million to fix the monument, with the understanding that the park service would raise an equal amount through private donations. The recommended repairs include reinforcing the cracks with stainless steel plates and filling them with sealant; replacing as many loose pieces of marble as possible and shoring them up with steel anchors or mortar; and cleaning and re-sealing all joints in the top portion of the monument to keep water out. The report also recommends a seismic study to gauge the monument's vulnerability to future earthquakes. There is no timetable for repairing and reopening the monument. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-washington-monument-20111223,0,4847454.story>

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Dams Sector

38. *December 23, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Rising rivers has Corps keeping an eye on levees.** The Army Corps of Engineers said high river levels on the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya rivers warrants keeping an eye on levees, the Associated Press reported December 23. The Corps said it will monitor levees along the Mississippi and inspections will begin on the Atchafalaya. Officials said they will begin patrolling the levees in and around the Morgan City and Berwick. The Corps said the monitoring is a precaution because water levels have risen. Water levels are expected to remain elevated on both river systems into January. However, the Corps said it does not expect to open the Bonnet Carre Spillway or Morganza Floodway. Source: <http://www.klfy.com/story/16383140/rising-rivers-has-corps-keeping-an-eye-on-levees>
39. *December 22, Quincy Herald-Whig* – (Missouri) **Bluff View Recreation Area to remain closed into 2012.** The Bluff View Recreation Area near Mark Twain Lake in Ralls County, Missouri, will remain closed well into 2012 after winter weather halted construction efforts at the flood-damaged fishing spot, the Quincy Herald-Whig reported December 22. Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mark Twain Lake Project Office said in April that Bluff View was expected to reopen in early fall of 2010, but the recreation area now will remain closed until next summer. Both Bluff View and the Re-Regulation Dam sustained extensive damage when a powerful release from the Clarence Cannon Dam gushed through the smaller dam during flood-fighting efforts on Mark Twain Lake in 2008. The Corps made interim repairs to the dam immediately after the damaging release so it could resume its support of Clarence Cannon's hydroelectric and flood control functions, but permanent repairs to the dam and channel were delayed until 2011. In addition to repairing the dam, the Corps and its contractor spent much of the year working to repair the dam's spillway, which the flood transformed into a bowl-shaped channel. Repairs to the channel and dam were

completed in October. The flood also wrecked the recreation's roads, parking lots, and natural areas.

Source: <http://www.whig.com/story/16379752/bluff-view-recreation-area-to-remain-closed-into-2012>

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