



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
28 December 2011

Top Stories

- A surgeon, a medical technician, and a pilot were killed December 27 when a medical helicopter crashed 12 miles north of Palatka, Florida. – *CNN* (See item [29](#))
- A fight that started in the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, led to 10 arrests December 26. Witnesses said the melee had elements of a “smash and grab” flash mob while police verified that more than 200 people total may have been involved. – *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* (See item [41](#))

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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 26, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Police: \$8K in copper stolen from utility poles in Beaver Co.** Police said two men working for an Ohio cable servicing firm used a bucket truck to steal about \$8,000 worth of copper wire from utility poles in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, the Associated Press reported December 26. A witness

identified the men as responsible for the thefts from the Duquesne Light poles in Hanover Township on December 18, authorities said. Police said the wire was stolen from poles along Route 151. “They told me they were subcontractors for Duquesne Light and that when they were done pulling the wire down, my electric bill would be cheaper,” the witness said. Overall, the thieves made off with a half mile of copper wiring from seven utility poles in less than one hour.

Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/30075698/detail.html>

2. *December 26, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. utility commission issues new gas leak detection guidelines following fatal February blast.** Pennsylvania utility authorities adopted new gas leak detection guidelines that will increase monitoring during the winter months. The Public Utility Commission said the changes, customized for each utility and adopted the week of December 22, are aimed at improving pipeline safety and preventing explosions like the February 9 blast that killed five people in Allentown. The explosion remains under investigation. Commission spokeswoman said the company-specific “frost patrol” leak detection requirements will improve safety without imposing a financial burden on customers. Utilities objected to the cost of more stringent statewide leak detection and safety requirements included in a tentative order issued by the agency in November. Under the guidelines, UGI Utilities will be required to survey all cast-iron distribution lines every two weeks between January 1 and March 31 and must do an annual survey of all unprotected metallic service lines as well as sending teams out on foot to do a “special business/urban area” leak survey. UGI said the enhanced monitoring would cost an estimated \$1 million a year across its three gas utilities. The company said the requirements in the original proposal would have cost \$5.7 million a year, including the need to purchase 125 pieces of leak-detection equipment and 135 additional personnel.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e7291a5155244d4ab362fc1b785b0e7a/PA--Gas-Leak-Monitoring/>

3. *December 25, Philadelphia Intelligencer* – (Pennsylvania) **500 gallons of gasoline spilled in Jamison.** A gasoline tanker truck leaked about 500 gallons of gasoline in Warwick, Pennsylvania, December 23. The spill occurred shortly after 7 p.m. when a customer drove over gasoline hoses rupturing them as a delivery driver was pumping gas into tanks at Quality Gas, said the Warwick Police chief. No one was injured during the incident. Between 500 and 800 gallons of gasoline spilled before the delivery truck driver was able to shut off a valve. Firefighters from several companies including Warwick and the Bucks County Hazardous Incident Response Team were at the scene. Firefighters used dikes and giant absorbent materials to soak up the gasoline. Firefighters and environmental officials used metering devices to check nearby buildings, but did not detect hazardous levels of gas, the chief said.

Source: http://www.phillyburbs.com/my_town/warrington/gallons-of-gasoline-spilled-in-jamison/article_6e7d8fdf-d31a-5635-9e0f-784cc7b8525d.html

4. *December 23, International Business Times* – (International) **Shell’s Nigeria oil spill caused by failed underwater pipeline.** Royal Dutch Shell has confirmed the cause of

a large oil leak off the coast of Nigeria, International Business Times reported December 23. Images from an underwater vehicle confirmed that the leak sprung from the transfer of oil from a floating storage facility to an awaiting cargo tanker. The underwater vehicle found an export line had failed and tore, according to Shell. Export lines are underwater flexible pipelines used to transport crude oil from offshore rigs to the shore. To prevent further oil from flowing, the company depressurized the pipeline and shut down the Bonga well. The tear in the pipeline leaked 40,000 barrels into the Atlantic ocean. As of December 21, company officials said 50 percent of the oil had dissipated.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/272169/20111223/shell-s-nigeria-oil-spill-caused-failed.htm>

5. *December 23, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Mining resumes at Signal Peak; gas levels lower.** Mining has resumed at a Montana coal mine where high levels of dangerous carbon monoxide gas prompted a shutdown of most underground operations that lasted three weeks. A Signal Peak Energy spokesman said December 23 that nitrogen pumped into a portion of the Bull Mountain mine had lowered concentrations of the gas to safe levels. He said mining resumed late December. Federal safety inspectors cleared the company to resume some underground maintenance work earlier this week. Prior to that, work was restricted to the mine's surface while the gas problem was addressed. The high carbon monoxide levels were found December 1 in an area away from active mining.

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20111223/APF/1112231135?tc=ar>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *December 27, WIBQ 98.5 FM Terre Haute* – (Indiana; Missouri) **Semi-tanker spill closes I-70 for hours.** There was a fatal crash and chemical spill on I-70 near Clay County, Indiana and Putnam County, Missouri border December 26. Officials said the driver of a semi-tanker flipped the truck in to the median after losing control of the tanker and hitting a cement bridge support east of Brazil. The truck was carrying acetone and officials report that about 6,000 gallons leaked from the wrecked tanker. Hazmat crews were called in to clean up the scene. The driver died as a result of the accident.
Source: <http://wibqfm.com/news/articles/2011/dec/27/semi-tanker-spill-closes-i-70-for-hours/>
7. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Fracking fluid spilled onto roadway in Pa. crash.** State police in central Pennsylvania said an unknown amount of the fluid used in natural gas drilling spilled onto a roadway and into a creek after a collision involving two tractor-trailers in Mifflin Township December 26. The Williamsport Sun-Gazette reported one truck rear-ended the other on Route 287. Police said the

second truck was pushed through a stop sign and down an embankment. The truck overturned and began leaking the fluid.

Source: http://www.timesonline.com/news/state/fracking-fluid-spilled-onto-roadway-in-pa-crash/article_f3ca858e-047c-5dc2-a890-60c44d4388db.html

8. *December 23, Newark Star-Ledger* – (Delaware) **Another chemical release at Delaware City refinery across river from Salem County reported.** Less than a month after a power failure caused the release of hazardous chemicals at the Delaware City Refinery, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control says the refinery had another incident December 22 which released 100 gallons of sulfur dioxide into the air. County officials said December 23 Salem County had been notified of the release and that the sulfur dioxide did not leave the plant site.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/12/another_chemical_release_at_de.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *December 26, Professional Reactor Operator Society* – (International) **Gravelines 1 shut down for crack repair.** France's EDF has been requested by that county's nuclear regulator to check all its 900 MWe and 1300 MWe reactors for cracks in reactor bottom head leaks after cracks were discovered in one unit, the Professional Reactor Operator Society reported December 26. The reactors are very similar in design to Westinghouse units operated in the United States. Tiny cracks were discovered within the pressure vessel in the area of welded alloy around an instrument insertion tube at the Gravelines 1 reactor. The Nuclear Safety Authority said it was the first time such a defect has been found in France, although similar faults were dealt with in 2003 at the South Texas Project site in the U.S. The cracks have no current impact on safety, but the reactor will remain offline while it is inspected.

Source: <http://www.nucpros.com/content/gravelines-1-shut-down-crack-repair>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *December 27, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (New York) **Queens man who orchestrated \$10 million commercial bank fraud and bank bribery scheme pleads guilty in Manhattan federal court.** The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced that a man pleaded guilty December 27 to participating in a bank fraud and bank bribery scheme to defraud several banks of at least \$10 million by obtaining commercial loans and lines of credit using false and fraudulent documents. The defendant was previously charged in a superseding indictment along with two accomplices. As part of the scheme, the man allegedly submitted loan applications in the names of shell companies with no assets and straw owners, using fraudulent documents they created to dupe the banks into believing those entities were real. The defendant also paid bribes totaling over \$135,000 to an employee of Citibank to obtain \$2.45 million worth of loans. From 2009 to November 2010, the three men and others fraudulently obtained at least 16 commercial loans and/or lines of credit, receiving at least \$10 million, from eight different lenders—Capital One Bank, NA.; Citibank, NA. (“Citibank”); First Republic Bank; Herald National Bank; New York Commercial Bank; Signature Bank; Sovereign Bank; and TD Bank, NA. All of these loans are presently in default. The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, five substantive counts of bank fraud, and one count of bank bribery. Each count carries a maximum potential penalty of 30 years in prison. He faces a maximum potential penalty of 210 years in prison. In addition, the bank fraud counts each carry a potential fine of \$1,000,000, and the bank bribery count carries a potential fine of \$1,000,000 or three times the value of the bribe. As part of his agreement, he agreed to forfeit at least \$8,200,000.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/402865/queens_man_who_orchestrated_10_million_commercial_bank_fraud_and_bank_bribery_scheme_pleads_guilty_in_manhattan_federal_court.html

11. *December 27, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority* – (National) **FINRA fines Credit Suisse Securities \$1.75 million for regulation SHO violations and supervisory failures.** The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) announced December 27 that it fined Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC \$1.75 million for violating Regulation SHO (Reg SHO) and failing to properly supervise short sales of securities and marking of sale orders. As a result of these violations, Credit Suisse entered millions of short sale orders without reasonable grounds to believe that the securities could be borrowed and delivered and mismarked thousands of sales orders. FINRA found that from June 2006 through December 2010, Credit Suisse’s Reg SHO supervisory system regarding locates and the marking of sale orders was flawed and resulted in a systemic supervisory failure that contributed to significant Reg SHO failures across its equities trading business. During the time period, Credit Suisse released millions of short sale orders to the market without locates, including threshold and hard to borrow securities. The locate violations extended to numerous trading systems, aggregation units, and strategies. In addition, Credit Suisse mismarked tens of thousands of sale orders in its trading systems. The mismarked orders included

short sales that were mismarked as “long,” resulting in additional violations of Reg SHO’s locate requirement. As a result of its supervisory failures, many of Credit Suisse’s violations were not detected or corrected by the firm until after FINRA’s investigation caused Credit Suisse to conduct a substantive review of its systems and monitoring procedures for Reg SHO compliance. FINRA found that Credit Suisse’s supervisory framework over its equities trading business was not reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the requirements of Reg SHO and other securities laws, rules, and regulations throughout the period at least June 2006 through at least December 2010. In concluding this settlement, Credit Suisse neither admitted nor denied the charges, but consented to the entry of FINRA’s findings.

Source:

[http://www.finra.org/Newsroom/NewsReleases/2011/P125300?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+FINRANews+\(FINRA+News\)&utm_content=Google+Reader](http://www.finra.org/Newsroom/NewsReleases/2011/P125300?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+FINRANews+(FINRA+News)&utm_content=Google+Reader)

12. *December 23, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (California; International) **SEC charges securities trader with cross-border fraudulent interpositioning scheme.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) December 23 charged a former securities trader at a San Diego-based brokerage firm with orchestrating an illegal trading scheme. The SEC alleges that the former trader acted in concert with a Mexican investment adviser, InvesTrust, and unnecessarily inserted a separate broker-dealer as a middleman into securities transactions in order to generate millions of dollars in additional fees. The trader agreed to pay \$1 million to settle the SEC’s charges. The SEC also charged his former firm Investment Placement Group (IPG) and its chief executive officer (CEO) with failing to properly supervise the trader. IPG agreed to pay more than \$4 million to settle the charges. In an interpositioning scheme, an extra broker-dealer is illegally added as a principal on trades even though no real services are being provided. The SEC alleges that the trader colluded with InvesTrust and needlessly inserted a broker-dealer based in Mexico into securities transactions between IPG and InvesTrust’s pension fund clients, causing the pension funds to pay approximately \$65 million more than they would have without the middleman. According to the SEC’s order, the scheme occurred from January to November 2008. The trader in coordination with InvesTrust acquired 10 different credit-linked notes in an IPG proprietary account. The SEC alleges that IPG, through the trader, added a markup of roughly 1.5 to 4.5 percent to the purchase price and then sold the notes to the middleman Mexican brokerage firm. IPG, through the trader, then repurchased the notes from the Mexican brokerage firm within a day or so at a slightly higher price. IPG added another markup and then sold the securities to InvesTrust’s pension fund clients. According to the SEC’s order, in some instances the trader repeated the buy-sell pattern with the middleman Mexican brokerage firm multiple times, driving up the price with each successive trade before finally selling the notes to the pension funds at artificially inflated prices. He received millions of dollars in additional markups generated from the interpositioned transactions.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2011/2011-277.htm>

13. *December 23, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (National) **SEC charges GE Funding Capital Market Services with fraud involving municipal bond proceeds.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) December 23 charged GE Funding Capital Market Services (CMS) with securities fraud for participating in a wide-ranging scheme involving the reinvestment of proceeds from the sale of municipal securities. GE Funding CMS agreed to settle the SEC’s charges by paying approximately \$25 million that will be returned to affected municipalities or conduit borrowers. The firm also entered into agreements with the Department of Justice, Internal Revenue Service, and a coalition of 25 state attorneys general and will pay an additional \$45.35 million. The settlements arise from extensive law enforcement investigations into widespread corruption in the municipal reinvestment industry. In the past year, federal and state authorities have reached settlements with four other financial firms, and 18 individuals have been indicted or plead guilty, including three former GE Funding CMS traders. According to the SEC’s complaint, in addition to fraudulently manipulating bids, GE Funding CMS made improper, undisclosed payments to certain bidding agents in the form of swap fees that were inflated or unearned. These payments were in exchange for the assistance of bidding agents in controlling and manipulating the competitive bidding process. The SEC alleges that from August 1999 to October 2004, GE Funding CMS illegally generated millions of dollars by fraudulently manipulating at least 328 municipal bond reinvestment transactions in 44 states and Puerto Rico. GE Funding CMS won numerous bids through a practice of “last looks” in which it obtained information regarding competitor bids and either raised a losing bid to a winning bid or reduced its winning bid to a lower amount so that it could make more profit on the transaction. In connection with other bids, GE Funding CMS deliberately submitted non-winning bids to facilitate bids set up in advance by certain bidding agents for other providers to win. GE Funding CMS’s fraudulent conduct also jeopardized the tax-exempt status of billions of dollars in municipal securities because the supposed competitive bidding process that establishes the fair market value of the investment was corrupted.
Source: <http://sec.gov/news/press/2011/2011-276.htm>

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Transportation Sector

14. *December 27, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Man killed when UP Northwest train hits car in Palatine.** A man was killed when he apparently drove around lowered crossing gates in Palatine, Illinois, December 27 and was struck by an express train, shutting down the Union Pacific Northwest Line, authorities said. The accident occurred about 7:30 a.m. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. The accident occurred as one train was stopped at the Palatine station and a second, express train sped through, a witness said. Authorities confirmed that the car was struck by a Metra express train. Metra did not know how long the delays would be and urged commuters to find alternate transportation. Some inbound trains were on the move because authorities

opened one of the three available tracks, a Metra spokesman said. As of 9:20 a.m. train number 622 remained stopped.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-up-northwest-line-shut-down-after-train-hits-car-in-palatine-20111227,0,5987451.story>

15. *December 27, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Cops: Westchester man takes Greyhound bus for Christmas joyride to visit upstate pal.** A Westchester, New York man stole a Greyhound bus in Syracuse and drove it to visit to a friend in Watertown before getting caught, police said. The man boarded the bus December 25 because he was cold and the vehicle was running and warm while being fueled at the Syracuse transportation center, authorities said. He then drove off and headed north to a friend's home in Watertown, 70 miles away. Police said he had a commercial driver's license and knew how to operate a bus. Greyhound disabled the wayward coach electronically two hours later in Watertown and notified Jefferson County sheriff's deputies. They arrested the man and charged him with stealing the bus.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/cops-westchester-man-takes-greyhound-bus-christmas-joyride-visit-upstate-pal-article-1.997181>

16. *December 23, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Woman with handgun arrested at Little Rock airport.** An Arkansas woman was arrested after police said she took a loaded gun through a security checkpoint at the airport in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that the 60-year-old woman was arrested December 22 and charged with carrying a weapon. Authorities said the woman had a loaded .38-caliber handgun in a carry-on bag as she was moving through a Transportation Security Administration checkpoint. Security officials discovered the gun as the bag went through an X-ray machine. The Democrat-Gazette said at least 10 people have been arrested at the airport this year for attempting to carry handguns on planes.

Source: <http://www.ktbs.com/news/30066989/detail.html>

For more stories, see items [6](#), [7](#), [21](#), and [40](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *December 25, Reno Gazette Journal* – (Nevada) **Fire burns Verdi Post Office.** A fire, apparently caused by vandals, roared through the U.S. Post Office in Verdi, Nevada, December 25, heavily damaging the building and closing down postal operations at the site. A 911 call at around 5 a.m. brought law enforcement to the scene. An alarm in the building was set off, but postal and fire officials did not know if the alarm was triggered by smoke or by bullets. One of the buildings neighbors reported hearing four gunshots behind the post office at about 4:30 a.m. and calling 911. None of the mail in the building sustained fire damage, the inspector said, although there is some water damage from the firefighters' efforts. Verdi mail will most likely be moved December 27 to the Peavine Station in northwest Reno for customer pick up, according to the

manager of postal operations in Reno.

Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20111225/NEWS/111225003/Fire-burns-Verdi-Post-Office->

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *December 27, Food Safety News* – (International) **Cheese recalled due to possible Listeria contamination.** Kradjian Imp Co. of Glendale, California, is recalling 231 cases of cheese distributed in Southern California to Mediterranean specialty markets because the cheese may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The company was notified by its supplier, Fromagerie Marie Kade of Quebec, Canada, that a specific lot number of the cheese might be contaminated. Fromagerie Marie Kade has recalled the cheese. The recall is of 22 pound cases of 16 ounce Cedar brand Tresse Cheese and 16 ounce Cedar brand Shingilish cheese. Both brands were delivered before November 13, 2011. Both cheeses are vacuum packed and have a green cedar tree on the label. Consumers can return the recalled Cedar brand Shingilish or Tresse cheese to the place of purchase for a full refund.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/12/cheese-recalled-due-to-possible-listeria-contamination/>

19. *December 25, Food Safety News* – (Texas) **Salmonella sprouts recall expands.** Green Valley Food Corp. of Dallas, Texas, said December 24 it has expanded its recall of alfalfa sprouts from 650 cases to 6,723 cases that may be contaminated with *Salmonella*. There have been no related illnesses confirmed, the company said in its latest news release. Green Valley said the recall is based on a customer's December 12 random sample of sprouts that tested positive for *Salmonella*. The recalled alfalfa sprouts include the following products with use-by dates ranging from December 22, 2011 to January 1, 2012: "Let's Grow Healthy Together!" alfalfa sprouts in 5 ounce containers; "Let's Grow Healthy Together!" spicy sprouts in 5 ounce containers; alfalfa sprouts in 4 ounce clamshells; and "100% Natural Onion Sprouts" in 4 ounce clamshells. The recalled sprouts were distributed in Texas to retail grocery stores and food distribution centers with scheduled deliveries from December 7, 2011 to January 1, 2012.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/12/salmonella-sprouts-recall-expands/>

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Water Sector

20. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Water is OK after Christmas Eve water main break.** Water was declared safe for use in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, following a water main break over the weekend of December 24 and 25. Officials said up to a quarter million people were affected by the incident. A boil water order was lifted December 26 for residents in Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Oakland Park,

and surrounding communities. The South Florida Sun Sentinel reported that officials hoped to learn what caused the water main break on December 27.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/12/27/2562770/water-is-ok-after-christmas-eve.html>

21. *December 27, KFMB 760 AM San Diego* – (California) **Water main break floods Clairemont street.** A water main break in San Diego caused a large sinkhole December 27 and sent water gushing through the middle of a residential street for more than an hour, police said. The water main break near Shawnee Road was reported about 3:30 a.m., said a San Diego police officer. The sinkhole that developed measured about 10-by-10 feet and was growing, she said. Shortly after 5 a.m., city crews turned off the water and roads were closed to traffic in both directions.

Source: <http://www.760kfmb.com/story/16397895/water-main-break-floods-clairemont-street>

22. *December 27, Belgrade News* – (Montana) **DEQ: Riverside sewer lagoon leaking wastewater into ground.** The Riverside sewage lagoon in Gallatin County, Montana, was found to be leaking as much as 7 million gallons of wastewater into the ground every year due to potential troubles with the holding cell, a Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) engineer said in early December. Belgrade News reported December 27 that during a routine inspection September 7, the DEQ engineer said the wastewater treatment facility is “in need of some major attention.” The facility is made up of an aerated lagoon and a storage cell, according to DEQ records. The inspection found the storage cell void of wastewater and determined the facility is leaking wastewater, according to a December 16 DEQ letter sent to the Riverside Water and Sewer District president. Engineers calculated the holding cell should have 7 million gallons of wastewater per year passing through the system based on a daily flow of 20,000 gallons. The leakage is likely taking place at the aeration cell, the holding cell, or the space between the two, officials said. The East Gallatin River is one-quarter mile downstream of the lagoons and flows along the west side of the facility. Ground water in the area flows to the northwest, according to a U.S. Geological Service study. The original plans showed five aerators are used in the first cell, but during the inspection, only one was working.

Source: http://www.belgrade-news.com/news/article_b0962a2e-302a-11e1-9567-0019bb2963f4.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *December 23, Middletown Journal* – (Ohio) **Armed robber leaves false bomb threat at pharmacy.** The Hamilton, Ohio police department responded to the Community Health Center December 23 after a man walked in, brandished a firearm, and demanded money and Percocet medication at the pharmacy, according to Hamilton police department. The robber left a note atop a video cassette case on the counter and the note indicated there was a bomb inside the case. People were evacuated from the

building and the Butler County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad responded to the scene. A robot removed and opened the video cassette case and the robot's on-board camera showed that the case was empty. The investigation is ongoing. It is unclear whether the robber has been apprehended.

Source: <http://www.middletonjournal.com/news/crime/armed-robber-leaves-false-bomb-threat-at-pharmacy-1303482.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

24. *December 26, WTVT 13 Tampa Bay* – (Florida) **Flames, water damage Bloomingdale High library.** A fire started inside the media center at Bloomingdale High School in Florida around 9 a.m. December 25. The sprinkler system put the fire out quickly, but those sprinklers left a soggy mess. For at least two hours after the fire was out, the sprinklers were still going. Crews shut off two valves that fed the water line. But it took longer to shut off a third one. Fire crews said the small fire appears to be electrical. It started in the wiring for a security light. The fire burned through supports for the light and sent it crashing to the ground, where it fell on fabric chairs. Those chairs caught fire, leaving a thick black burn mark on the carpet and on the cement wall. Several shelves of books were sprayed too. But by December 26, those books did not appear to have too much damage to them. Several school administrators came by December 26 to assess the damage. They said they will have to wait until everything completely dries out before they will know the condition of the computers, books, and other materials. But district leaders said even if the media center is not completely restored in time for classes, which start December 26, school will resume. No classrooms were affected by the fire.

Source: <http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpp/news/local/hillsborough/bloomingdale-high-school-fire-122611>

25. *December 26, NewsCore; WAGA 5 Atlanta* – (Georgia; New York) **Woman in weird 'WMD' plot on NY senator shot dead by cops.** A Georgia woman accused of sending a bogus weapon of mass destruction to a New York lawmaker was shot dead by a police officer December 25. Cobb County, Georgia, police responded to the apartment where they said the woman attacked an officer, who then shot her. The suspect is the same woman who allegedly sent a New York state senator a package containing a vial of perfume, a hate-filled letter, and a toy monkey wearing the Star of David on it back in April. This prompted the New York State Police to shut down his office. The woman told WXXA-TV that she sent the package because she was upset with the senator and believed he was being racist toward her Muslim faith. A spokesperson for the Cobb County Police Department said that an officer was dispatched to the Bexley Apartments in Marietta, Georgia, after receiving a report of a panic alarm being activated. Police said the woman started to assault the officer shortly after opening the door. The officer shot at the woman, who died at the scene, police said. Investigators said she was armed with a knife and a handgun. The officer was treated for injuries to his arm and later released. A spokesperson for the FBI in Atlanta said that the woman

was arrested and indicted on federal charges last month for what they said was her role in mailing a hoax weapons of mass destruction package. A U.S. district court judge allowed her to be released on her own recognizance.

Source:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/dead_woman_in_bogus_wmd_plot_to_3UJjo8JVJjw5sdxXeR2sON

26. *December 26, WSAZ 3 Huntington/Charleston* – (Kentucky) **Lawrence County Courthouse flooded.** The Louisa, Kentucky, courthouse suffered extensive water damage after a pipe broke in the ceiling on the second floor early December 26. The county clerk said at least 300 to 500 gallons of water poured down from the pipe onto the floor, down the stairs, and flowed underneath the front doors. He said the bulk of the damage was to the ceilings and floors in the Property Valuation Office and the County Clerk's Office. The courthouse was expected to be closed the rest of the week.
Source: http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/Lawrence_County_Courthouse_flooded_136244903.html
27. *December 26, KVUE 24 Austin* – (Texas) **Fire damages school building.** A fire the morning of December 26 at an elementary school in Austin, Texas caused serious damage to a portable building. Crews responded shortly before 7 a.m. to find a portable building on fire at Pond Springs Elementary School. They were able to keep the fire from spreading to the main school building, but the portable was destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$80,000. Investigators are searching for the cause of the fire.
Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/Fire-damages-school-building-136225463.html>
28. *December 23, Lancaster Intelligencer Journal; Lancaster New Era* – (Pennsylvania) **Letort Elementary School evacuated due to burning smell.** About 300 students, teachers, and staff evacuated a Penn Manor, Pennsylvania elementary school at lunchtime December 23, after people at the school smelled something burning and saw smoke in the library. About a dozen firetrucks, tanker trucks, and rescue vehicles responded to the 12:19 p.m. fire call at Letort Elementary School. The evacuation happened about an hour before students were to dismiss early, on the last day before Christmas vacation. The cause of the smell and smoke was a malfunctioning motor on a heating and air conditioning unit on the roof, above the library, a district spokeswoman said. The school's occupants were outside for about 25 minutes before a fire official cleared them to return to the gym.
Source: http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/556377_Letort-Elementary-School-evacuated-due-to-burning-smell.html

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *December 27, CNN* – (Florida) **3 dead in Florida medical helicopter crash.** A surgeon, a medical technician, and a pilot were killed December 27 when a medical

helicopter crashed in Florida, the Mayo Clinic said. The helicopter crashed about 12 miles northeast of Palatka, Florida, according to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokeswoman. The clinic said the helicopter was carrying two employees to the University of Florida in Gainesville to harvest organs when the crash occurred. The helicopter was owned by SK Jets, according to the FAA. The company has not commented on the crash.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/26/us/florida-medical-helicopter-crash/index.html>

30. *December 24, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **SAPD headquarters reopens after gas leak.** The San Antonio, Texas police headquarters reopened to employees December 24 after a nearby gas leak prompted a daylong evacuation. Crews working on street repairs near the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) headquarters accidentally struck a 4-inch natural gas line underground December 23, sending the substance into the building, according to a CPS Energy spokeswoman. The gas filled the building's basement and eventually traveled above ground, prompting an evacuation that lasted more than 24 hours. The CPS Energy spokeswoman said employees were allowed to return to the building though trace amounts of gas still lingered in the building's basement. A spokeswoman with the San Antonio Fire Department said employees were allowed to return to the building briefly December 23 before they were evacuated a second time. The police chief said dispatchers and detectives were sent to work at other locations, including the Police Department's central substation. Civilian employees were sent home and asked to answer their cellphones in case of an emergency. He said no employees were injured and response times were unaffected by the incident.
Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/SAPD-headquarters-reopens-after-gas-leak-2423243.php
31. *December 23, WXXA 23 Albany* – (Oklahoma; National) **13 Fire hydrants stolen from volunteer fire department.** Volunteer firefighters at Stonebluff Volunteer Fire Department in Wagoner County, Oklahoma, noticed fire hydrants missing the week of December 12. The department's surveillance video captured three men stealing the hydrants. The Wagoner sheriff said they received a tip on Facebook that they are following up on. The volunteer firefighters also say they have seen the hydrants for sale on craigslist. Each of the hydrants is reportedly worth \$3,000.
Source: http://www.fox23.com/news/local/story/13-Fire-hydrants-stolen-from-volunteer-fire/u0mWB_X4dkGjf7FPsb4RoQ.csp
32. *December 23, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **SWAT member leaves stolen gear unattended.** The Montgomery County, Ohio sheriff said December 23 his office is conducting an internal investigation into the theft of nearly \$10,000 worth of SWAT weapons and tactical gear from a deputy's private vehicle while it was parked in a tavern parking lot the day before. Missing from the deputy's Jeep was H&K MP5 weapon and a 9 mm Glock handgun. Also taken were two loaded magazines for the Glock, five 30-round loaded magazines for the MP5, a sheriff's radio, rappelling equipment, a tactical vest, a gas mask, and other gear. The deputy told Vandalia

officers some of the gear was in a duffle bag on the passenger seat and the remainder in a steel tool box in the back.

Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/crime/swat-member-leaves-stolen-gear-unattended-1303682.html>

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Information Technology Sector

33. *December 27, Softpedia* – (International) **Siemens promises to patch SCADA flaws after they angered researcher.** Siemens has come forward with a statement reporting that they are planning to fix vulnerabilities in SCADA systems next month after a researcher highlighted the issues earlier in 2011, Softpedia reported December 27. The researcher became upset the week of December 19 after he found out from a Reuters reporter that Siemens officially denied knowing of the authentication flaws he had disclosed to them. Siemens later released an official comment stating that their development team had taken action and the vulnerabilities will be fixed by security updates, the first of which is planned to be issued in January 2012.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Siemens-Promises-to-Patch-SCADA-Flaws-After-they-Angered-Researcher-243014.shtml>
34. *December 27, Softpedia* – (International) **HP releases firmware update to prevent unauthorized access.** HP released a firmware update to mitigate vulnerabilities that could allow a hacker to remotely control HP LaserJet printers to launch cyberattacks, steal information, and in some scenarios even set them on fire, Softpedia reported December 27. Columbia University researchers discovered the vulnerabilities in November. The vulnerabilities and lack of an HP signature to authenticate firmware updates have concerned security experts since the researchers shared their findings.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/HP-Releases-Firmware-to-Prevent-Unauthorized-Access-243039.shtml>
35. *December 26, MacWorld* – (International) **Report: Phishing attack targets Apple customers.** A “vast phishing attack” that attempts to capture the credit card information of Apple customers was launched December 25, according to a report from Mac security-software company Intego. In a posting on its Mac Security blog, Intego said that the attack was an attempt to fool Apple customers into clicking on a link under the guise of updating the billing information of their Apple accounts. Users who click on the link in the phony e-mail will be taken to a realistic looking sign-in page that asks for the user’s Apple ID and password. The user is then taken to a page asking them update account profile information, including credit card information. Intego reported that the messages are being sent with the subject “Apple update your Billing Information” from a spoofed email address of “appleid@id.apple.com.”
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9223023/Report_Phishing_attack_targets_Apple_customers

36. *December 26, CNN* – (International) **Hackers target global analysis company.** The global intelligence company Stratfor was hacked and had user information including credit card numbers posted online, CNN reported December 26. Around 4000 credit card numbers were released. Some Stratfor customers reported fraudulent charges being made to their credit cards after the information was posted on Pastebin. It was unclear whether the breach and apparent release of credit card information was the work of the activist hacking group Anonymous. The initial posting on Pastebin credited the AntiSec group, but a later message claiming to represent Anonymous denied any affiliation with the attack.

Source: http://europe.cnn.com/2011/12/25/us/stratfor-hacking/?hpt=ibu_c2

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

37. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Texas) **West Texas phones out after line severed.** All phone service was disrupted for much of December 26 in far West Texas after a fiber-optic line just south of Monahans was severed. An AT&T spokeswoman said a contractor accidentally cut an underground fiber optic line, cutting service in the provider's West Central Texas district. That left callers to Fort Stockton, Alpine, Fort Davis, Marfa, and other places getting a persistent busy signal. People in Terlingua in the Big Bend told the Odessa American their landline phones had been fine but cell service was knocked out. The Fort Stockton police chief told television station KOSA his department had to use an emergency backup plan that forwarded calls to a working county, which then relayed the information back. He said AT&T service was restored by the night of December 26.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/state&id=8480720>

38. *December 25, WZVN 7 Fort Myers* – (Florida) **Copper theft disrupts Port Charlotte phone service.** 300 Port Charlotte, Florida residents were without phone service after a copper theft from Century Link telephone equipment the week of December 19. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office said this is the fifth copper theft from phone equipment boxes in Charlotte County in the past several days. The service disruption affected customers within a square mile area. CenturyLink officials said the repairs were completed by 7 p.m. December 24.

Source: <http://www.abc-7.com/story/16389238/2011/12/24/copper-theft-disrupts-port-charlotte-phone-service>

39. *December 23, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Feds untangle \$20 million scheme in DFW against telecom companies.** For years, a dozen or more conspirators ran a scheme in North Texas to rip off some of the nation’s telecommunication giants, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported December 23. The \$20 million cybercrime spree crumbled because of evidence painstakingly gathered from businesses and seized from the homes of conspirators. The week of December 19, two conspirators were convicted by a federal jury of one count each of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud, federal officials said. One of the men was also convicted on three other counts. Twelve others charged in the case have pleaded guilty to their various roles, including the scheme’s mastermind and his wife. The fraud went on for years as the conspirators played shell games and ripped off telecommunication giants for services they seldom paid for, court records say. The scheme included using homeless people, fake tax documents, bogus financial statements, and ever-changing addresses. To prosecute the case, the government gathered invoices, contracts, and financials. There were e-mails discussing subjects such as avoiding detection, due process, “burning cash,” “flaming ferrets,” and hiding spam. Federal agents seized tax reports, passports, computers, memory sticks, hard drives, and power supplies. The government presented evidence that, as part of a conspiracy, the men lied to obtain goods, such as computers and telecommunication equipment. They also created and bought shell companies to hide the identities of the owners or operators of the companies. “The conspirators paid ... homeless persons for the use of their identities to ‘act’ as the officers, directors or managers of the shell companies,” a news release from a U.S. attorney said. The conspirators defrauded companies including AT&T, Verizon, XO Communications, Excel Communications, Waymark Communications, Bandwidth.com, and CommPartners, the government said. Landlords were stiffed. Leasing companies and creditors, including Wells Fargo and AT&T Capital Services, were not paid. Credit-reporting agencies, power companies, insurance and air-conditioning companies, and Web site developers were among those deceived.
Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/12/23/3616495/feds-untangle-20-million-scheme.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

40. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **2-alarm fire damages motel in Howard County.** Authorities are investigating a two-alarm fire that damaged a motel in Elkridge, Maryland, and closed Route 1 for hours. A spokeswoman for Howard County Fire and Rescue Services said the fire broke out December 26 on the second floor of the White Elk Motel, and the motel was evacuated. The blaze appeared to have damaged units at the front of the two-story building. About 60 firefighters from Howard and surrounding jurisdictions battled the blaze.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/2-alarm-fire-damages-motel-in-howard-county/2011/12/27/gIQABRSHKP_blog.html

41. *December 27, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Moving melee causes chaos at packed Mall of America.** A fight that started in a food court quickly spread through the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, December 26. Several witnesses said the melee had elements of a “smash and grab” flash mob, including heavy use of cellphones. They said those creating the disturbance numbered in the hundreds, some knocked down shoppers and grabbed items from kiosks and other shoppers. Although Bloomington police verified that some groups were as large as 100 people and that more than 200 people total may have been involved, they received no reports of stolen merchandise. Several stores, including Nordstrom, closed internal gates to the mall court, and a few stayed closed for the evening. More than 30 Bloomington Police, as well as Metro Transit and Richfield officers, responded. Bloomington Police and mall security arrested at least 10 juveniles and young adults on suspicion of disorderly conduct. Mall officials said it took more than an hour to quell the disturbance. However, many witnesses reported that fights continued to flare in the mall well after. Metro Transit Police said they broke up several fights outside the mall later in the evening. That agency’s officers also monitored bus routes from the mall to Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Brooklyn Center. At a downtown St. Paul stop, four juveniles and an adult were arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/136237398.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue>

42. *December 27, WVEC 13 Hampton Roads* – (Virginia) **Dropped cigarette sparked fire that displaced 2 dozen people in Hampton.** People living in 22 Lakeshore Apartments in Hampton, Virginia, were forced out by fire caused by a dropped cigarette December 26, according to investigators. Neighbors said they heard a loud boom and then saw fire and smoke coming from a third-floor unit. Two units were destroyed and 20 units were damaged. According to police, people were smoking outside on their deck when a cigarette was dropped, starting the fire which then spread to the roof.

Source: <http://www.wvec.com/news/2-dozen-people-displaced-by-fire-at-Hampton-apartments-136251658.html>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

43. *December 27, Lowell Sun* – (Massachusetts) **Feds OK dam repair that Lowell residents say will increase flooding.** Replacing the wooden flashboard system at the Pawtucket Dam with a pneumatic crest-gate, or “bladder dam” system, holds more

positive benefits than negative effects, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) determined. The FERC released its final environmental assessment of the controversial \$6 million project, the Lowell Sun reported December 27. The crest-gate system would replace the 5-foot plywood flashboards and steel pins with a series of steel-hinged panels mounted atop a dam spillway. The company that proposed the new system claimed it will increase worker safety, provide consistent control over the depth of the head pond for recreational and public-safety use, and enhance the ability for fish to migrate upstream. The Lowell Flood Owners Group argued that the change will exacerbate flooding in neighborhoods above the dam by keeping the head pond high to increase profits for the Boott Hydropower hydroelectric plant. A higher river level, residents said, will prevent streams and brooks, such as Clay Pit Brook, from emptying into the river, causing them to back up into nearby neighborhoods. The FERC report states the crest-gate system would reduce flooding effects “by allowing the crest of the proposed system to be lowered in anticipation of and during high flows and flooding events.”

Source: http://www.lowellsun.com/rss/ci_19624532?source=rss

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