



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 March 2010

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

For information, click here:  
<http://www.dhs.gov>

### Top Stories

- The Associated Press reports that a rock slide punched gaping holes in a bridge and left huge boulders on Interstate 70, closing a 17-mile stretch in western Colorado and prompting the governor to declare a disaster emergency Monday. The slide struck around midnight Sunday near Hanging Lake Tunnel in Glenwood Canyon. (See item [25](#))
- According to the Associated Press, a 180,000 gallon tank that supplies water to roughly 600 residents of the Montana town of Belt is failing, and city leaders are scrambling for a fix. (See item [33](#))

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### Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 9, Reuters* – (Ohio) **BP faces \$3 mln safety fines for Ohio refinery.** BP Plc was accused of more problems in its U.S. operations on Monday when the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced dozens of safety violations found at the BP-Husky refinery in Toledo, Ohio, that could cost the energy giant more than \$3 million in fines. OSHA’s announcement comes five months after the agency

slapped BP with a record \$87.4 million fine for failing to fix safety problems at its giant Texas City, Texas, refinery found after a March 2005 explosion that killed 15 workers and injured 180 other people. “OSHA has found that BP often ignored or severely delayed fixing known hazards in its refineries,” said the U.S. Labor Secretary in a statement. BP faces a total of \$3,042,000 in fines for the violations cited by OSHA at the Toledo refinery. BP has 15 days to appeal the violations to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, which is already weighing the appeal of the latest fine against the Texas City refinery.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0818771020100309?type=marketsNews>

2. *March 9, Winston-Salem Journal Reporter* – (North Carolina) **Glitch cuts off power: Equipment failure causes problems around Stratford Road.** A power outage Monday was caused by what Duke Energy officials described as a rare event — an equipment failure at a substation, which led to more than 10,000 Duke customers in Winston-Salem losing electricity for about an hour. The power failure caused problems for businesses serving lunch, and led to at least one traffic accident. The outage was centered along the Stratford Road area, and it reached homes and businesses as far as Fifth and Academy streets. Duke technicians determined what the problem was, bypassed the malfunctioning sensor and restored power to the substation. Electricity was restored to all customers by 12:55 p.m.

Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/mar/09/glitch-cuts-off-power/>

3. *March 8, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Tornado damage reported in Hammon.** A tornado touched down in western Oklahoma early Monday evening in the Hammon area, tearing the roofs off at least five homes and damaging other structures, state emergency officials said. Early reports indicated damage throughout areas of Roger Mills County around Hammon. The Roger Mills County Sheriff’s Office reported that the county barn was destroyed in the storm, leaving behind significant debris. The roofs of several houses were blown off, and power lines were down in the Hammon area. Public Service Co. of Oklahoma reported several hundred power outages by 9 p.m., including more than 250 in Custer County, about 325 in Dewey County and more than 300 in Roger Mills County. Hazardous materials and fire crews were called to an oil storage tank about a mile south of Quinlan shortly before 9:30 p.m. Woodward County emergency officials said lightning ignited a tank battery explosion.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/mostpopular/22779959/detail.html>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *March 9, Winston-Salem Journal Reporter* – (North Carolina) **Homes, businesses evacuated after chemical spill.** A tanker carrying hazardous chemicals jack-knifed on North Carolina 150 just before 8 the morning of March 9, forcing the evacuation of homes and businesses near Reedy Creek in Davidson County. North Carolina 150 is closed between Friendship Church Road and Hammond Road. The accident happened

near Kurz Transfer Products, a company that makes metallic foils. Drivers are urged to avoid this area if possible. A detour has been set-up from Byerly Road to Old Mill Farm Road to Hampton Road back to Highway 150. The road will likely be closed for 8 to 12 hours, said the emergency-services director for Davidson County. He said that the truck was hauling ethanol ethylacetate, toluene and methyl ethyl ketone — all flammable solvents. Toluene is the most worrisome, he said, because it is so highly flammable. Hazardous-materials crews from as far away as Greensboro are trying to contain the spill, and they are putting foam on it to neutralize the chemicals and prevent it from catching fire. Shamrock Environmental Services is also on the scene, and will complete the cleanup, he said. More than 10 homes and six businesses were evacuated, but no injuries have been reported. The director said he did not know what caused the accident, and that the highway patrol is investigating.

Source: <http://www2.journalnow.com/content/2010/mar/09/091153/wreck-closes-nc-150-davidson-county/>

5. *March 9, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **CSX train derails in Center City.** A 115-car cargo train derailed in Center City last night, with five cars leaving the tracks. A Fire Chief said there were no injuries and there was no evidence of leakage from any of the five cars. The derailed cars did not tip over. Nearby apartment buildings were not evacuated. The derailment occurred about 10 p.m. The five cars were in the middle of the train and apparently failed to make the switch to a different track with the cars ahead of them, the fire chief said. Some of the cars were marked as containing polyurethane. None of the cars was marked as carrying hazardous materials. “They have to stop this,” said a man who lives in a nearby apartment building. “This is a residential neighborhood. A cargo train shouldn’t be coming through here all the time.”  
Source: [http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20100309\\_CSX\\_train\\_derails\\_in\\_Center\\_City.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20100309_CSX_train_derails_in_Center_City.html)
6. *March 8, Allentown Morning Call* – (Pennsylvania) **Gas leak at Easton manufacturing plant.** Emergency personnel in Easton, Pennsylvania, are at Elementis Pigments in the 1500 block of Wood Avenue investigating the report of a gas leak. UGI Utilities reported a leak in a three-inch gas line at the color and pigment manufacturing plant, according to Northampton County emergency radio dispatches. Personnel were dispatched at 8:45 a.m.  
Source: [http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/ugicp\\_brief-gas-leak-at-easton-manufacturing-plant-831334.html](http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/ugicp_brief-gas-leak-at-easton-manufacturing-plant-831334.html)
7. *March 8, U.S. Department of Justice* – (South Carolina) **Railroad company to pay \$4 million penalty for 2005 chlorine spill that resulted in nine deaths in Graniteville, South Carolina.** Norfolk Southern Railway Company has agreed to pay a \$4 million penalty to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and hazardous materials laws for a 2005 chlorine spill in Graniteville, South Carolina, the Justice Department and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today. Under the settlement filed in federal court in Columbia, South Carolina, Norfolk Southern will be required to pay a civil penalty of \$3,967,500 for the alleged CWA

violations, to be deposited in the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The alleged CWA violations, included in an amended complaint filed in March 2009, are for the discharge of tons of chlorine, a hazardous substance, from a derailed train tank car and thousands of gallons of diesel fuel from ruptured locomotive engine fuel tanks. For the alleged Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) violation for failure to immediately notify the National Response Center of the chlorine release, Norfolk Southern will also pay a penalty of \$32,500, to be deposited in the Hazardous Substance Superfund. The settlement addresses the January 6, 2005, Norfolk Southern train derailment in Graniteville. During the derailment, one of the train's tank cars was punctured and released chlorine gas. Nine people died as a result of chlorine exposure and hundreds of people sought medical care due to respiratory distress. The incident resulted in the evacuation of more than 5,000 people living and working within a 1-mile radius of the release area.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-enrd-232.html>

8. *March 8, Bergen County Record* – (New Jersey) **3 workers hurt in chemical fire.** A small fire in Patterson New Jersey in an 11th Street chemical company sent three workers to the hospital with minor injuries Thursday morning, fire officials said. A barrel of nitrocellulose, a highly flammable chemical, caught fire just after 11:30 a.m. at the Kirker Chemical company, the deputy chief said. Plant employees tried to extinguish the fire before firefighters arrived, and three were taken to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center with what appeared to be minor injuries, he said. The fire was under control just after noon. Workers evacuated from the building were allowed back about 1 p.m., he said. The building had water damage and minor fire and smoke damage. The fire remains under investigation. A woman who answered a phone at Kirker Enterprises said the company had no comment. The company's Web site said it manufactures nail products. A spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection said the agency was notified but did not send anyone. The county Health Department could not be reached for comment.

Source: [http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news\\_display/142210619.html](http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news_display/142210619.html)

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## Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

9. *March 9, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Volunteers needed for radioactive waste panel.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking volunteers to help advise it on radioactive waste cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The agency says it needs people to serve on the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board, which makes recommendations to the DOE over such things as waste management, stabilizing waste dump sites and future land use. Its members serve 2-year terms. The board's vice chairman estimates working on the board takes up 10 to 20 hours a month. The board is largely made up of people directly affected by lab cleanup activities.

Source: <http://www.kvia.com/Global/story.asp?S=12107415>

10. *March 9, Bloomberg* – (Kansas; Mississippi) **U.S. nuclear output falls as trips put two reactors offline.** U.S. nuclear output fell to a three-month low as the Wolf Creek Reactor in Kansas and Grand Gulf reactor in Mississippi shut. Production from the 104 U.S. nuclear plants decreased 3,529 megawatts, or 4 percent, to 84,095 megawatts, the lowest level since November 23, according to a report Tuesday from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and data compiled by Bloomberg. Fourteen reactors are offline. The Wolf Creek reactor in Kansas was shut down after a main feedwater pump tripped during startup, according to a report from the NRC. The unit is near Burlington, about 60 miles south of Topeka. Entergy Corp. shut the Grand Gulf reactor in Mississippi after a feed pump tripped, the commission reported. The 1,297-megawatt unit, which was operating at full capacity Monday, is now in hot shutdown mode, the report showed. The Tennessee Valley Authority slowed the Browns Ferry 2 reactor in Alabama to 19 percent of capacity from 100 percent Monday.  
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-09/u-s-nuclear-output-falls-as-trips-put-two-reactors-offline.html>
11. *March 8, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Palo Verde shuts 1 reactor following short-circuit.** One of the three reactors at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station west of Phoenix shut down automatically Sunday morning after a short circuit in an outside electrical connection. There was no fire, no one was injured, and no customers were left without power, said an Arizona Public Service Co. spokesman. The utility reported the problem as an unusual event, the lowest of four emergency classifications, to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He said Unit One shut down automatically at 11:17 a.m. Sunday because of a short circuit that damaged the metal casing on an electrical panel connecting a transformer to reactor equipment. He said the problem was apparently related to the rain. All reactor shutdown systems reacted normally. He said the unit will remain out of operation for repairs and that he did not know how long that will take. The unit was scheduled to be shut down anyway in about three weeks for refueling, a process that usually takes at least 40 days.  
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2010/03/08/20100308biz-paloverdeexplosion0308.html>
12. *March 8, San Diego North County Times* – (California) **Nuke plant gets continued criticism from NRC on worker issue.** In a new report card issued to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, federal regulators once again criticize the seaside power plant for failing to make sure that workers meticulously follow procedures designed to head off safety problems. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission released on Friday its latest annual assessment of the plant. Overall, the assessment says that San Onofre is operated in a way that preserves public health and safety, but it also notes that ongoing flaws in worker performance remain. The commission will brief the public on the assessment during a meeting March 24 at the Dana Point Doubletree Hotel. In its letter, the commission says that this is the fifth report over the past two years in which regulators have pointed out performance troubles at San Onofre. Those problems first surfaced in 2008 with a report that a worker trained to watch for fires at the plant had falsified logs and skipped some hourly rounds on several occasions, dating back to 2001. Other incidents included a failure to properly connect batteries used to start

backup diesel generators; a nuclear fuel assembly inserted in the wrong slot inside one of San Onofre's spent fuel pools; and, more recently, a report of work performed on the wrong cooling pump at the plant. The commission found that none of the incidents was found to affect safety at the plant, because multiple backup systems were in place to catch errors.

Source: [http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/article\\_bf9003ed-b0fb-5b15-889b-ed7c25fb8753.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/sdcounty/article_bf9003ed-b0fb-5b15-889b-ed7c25fb8753.html)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

13. *March 9, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Fire forces evacuation of Salem's Yokohama plant.** The Yokohama Tire Corporation plant in Salem was evacuated for almost two hours Monday afternoon after roofers accidentally started a fire on top of the building. A construction worker was melting rubber onto the roof with a torch when he accidentally set fire to insulation atop the 41,560-square-foot tire factory, said a Salem Fire Captain. Smoke filled the building, and the roughly 150 workers there at the time were evacuated. No one was hurt. The flames temporarily burned inside the building, but firefighters were able to contain them, the captain said. Crews blew the smoke out with fans, and most of the building was reopened to workers by about 6 p.m. After the fire was extinguished, work resumed and was not disrupted, according to the plant's human resources manager.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/239245>

14. *March 9, New York Daily News* – (California) **Cop helps slow runaway Toyota Prius going 94 mph on California highway with 'stuck' accelerator.** A California highway police officer helped slow a runaway Toyota Prius from 94 mph to a safe stop on Monday after the car's accelerator became stuck on a freeway near San Diego, authorities said. The Prius driver said that the incident Monday occurred just two weeks after he had taken the vehicle in to an El Cajon dealership for repairs after receiving a recall notice, but he was turned away. "I gave them my recall notice and they handed it back and said I'm not on the recall list," the man said. In a statement, Toyota said it has dispatched a field technical specialist to San Diego to investigate the incident. Toyota has recalled some 8.5 million vehicles worldwide — more than 6 million in the United States — since last fall because of acceleration problems in multiple models and braking issues in the Prius. On Monday, the driver called 911 about 1:30 p.m. after accelerating to pass another vehicle on Interstate 8 near La Posta and finding that he could not control his car, the California Highway Patrol said. "I pushed the gas pedal to pass a car and it did something kind of funny ... it jumped and it just stuck there," the 61-year-old driver said at a news conference. "As it was going, I was trying the brakes ... it wasn't stopping, it wasn't doing anything and it just kept speeding up," he said, adding he could smell the brakes burning he was pressing the pedal so hard. A patrol car pulled alongside the Prius and officers told Sikes over a loudspeaker to push the brake pedal to the floor and apply the emergency brake. "They also got it going on a steep upgrade," said an officer "Between those three things, they got it to slow down."

After the car decelerated to about 50 mph, the driver turned off the engine and coasted to a halt. The officer then maneuvered his car in front of the Prius as a precautionary block.

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2010/03/09/2010-03-09\\_cop\\_helps\\_slow\\_runaway\\_toyota\\_prius\\_going\\_94\\_mph\\_on\\_california\\_highway.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2010/03/09/2010-03-09_cop_helps_slow_runaway_toyota_prius_going_94_mph_on_california_highway.html)

15. *March 8, Reuters* – (National) **Toyota says no flaw found with safety electronics.** Toyota Motor Corporation on Monday sought to discredit an outside study critical of its electronic safety systems and said it had found no flaw with its throttle controls. The conclusions, which were announced at a news conference, marked an attempt by the automaker to reassure consumers it has safety issues under control as it works to win back sales seven weeks into a recall crisis that has tarnished its reputation. Toyota called the event to discredit what it said were mistaken conclusions being drawn from a study of its accelerator controls by an auto engineering expert at Southern Illinois University. Unintended acceleration in Toyota and Lexus vehicles has been linked to at least five U.S. crash deaths since 2007. Authorities are investigating 47 other crash deaths over the past decade. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has also said it is looking into more recent complaints from drivers who say they suffered acceleration problems even after their vehicles were fixed in the recent recall effort. Those complaints have been seen by some as further evidence that Toyota could face a problem with vehicle electronics or software that could go beyond the mechanical fixes it has announced under its recalls. But a Toyota spokesman said the automaker had found that post-recall accelerator complaints appeared to reflect a small number of cases where repairs at dealerships had not been performed correctly. The university researcher told a congressional panel in late February that he had found a way to simulate a flaw in Toyota's accelerator controls so that the vehicle could surge forward without a fault code being generated for an onboard computer Toyota has designed as a safeguard.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0819040820100308>

16. *March 8, DarkReading* – (National) **Ford Motor rolls out new security features to prevent car-hacking.** Automobile giant Ford Motor this year will debut vehicles with built-in WiFi — along with enhanced security features to prevent data breaches via its new cars. Ford has offered the so-called Sync technology service it co-developed with Microsoft in most of its Ford, Lincoln, and Mercury vehicles since 2008. The technology lets drivers run their Bluetooth-enabled mobile phones and digital media players via their vehicles and use voice commands to operate them, for instance. The automaker announced on March 8 that the second generation of its Sync technology — due out later this year and to include a full Windows CE operating system with a new driver interface called MyFordTouch — will come with a built-in browser and secured WiFi access. The WiFi will be broadcast via Sync using a USB-based modem, and Ford has updated its on-board firewalls to protect both the WiFi network as well as the vehicle's operations. The WiFi network is set by default to WiFi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) encryption for secured access to the wireless network. It also will provide anti-malware protection for the MyFordTouch system.

Source:

[http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability\\_management/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223200163](http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/client/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=223200163)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

17. *March 9, United Press International* – (National) **Boeing testing green UAV.** The hydrogen-powered Phantom Eye unmanned aircraft can fly for more than four days because of its advanced propulsion system, defense giant Boeing said. Boeing announced it started work on the Phantom Eye, which it said is its first unmanned, liquid-hydrogen powered, high-altitude, long-endurance demonstrator aircraft. The twin-engine Phantom Eye has a 150-foot wingspan. It can carry a 450-pound payload for more than four days at an altitude of 12 miles, the company said. The president of Boeing Phantom Works said the key to the endurance of the Phantom Eye was its propulsion system. “After five years of technology development, we are now deploying rapid prototyping to bring together an unmanned aerial vehicle with a breakthrough liquid-hydrogen propulsion system that will be ready to fly early next year,” he said. The Phantom Eye is designed for “persistent presence” over target areas for intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance and communication missions.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/03/09/Boeing-testing-green-UAV/UPI-57091268143052/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/03/09/Boeing-testing-green-UAV/UPI-57091268143052/)

18. *March 5, Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (Texas) **Corpus resident convicted of making bomb threats to the Corpus Christi Army Depot.** A 24 year-old-man of Corpus Christi has been convicted of all 13 counts of willfully using a cellular telephone or other instrument of interstate or foreign commerce in making bomb threats to the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), a United States Attorney announced March 5. He was arrested on October 1, 2009 in Kingsville, Texas by FBI agents and officers of the Kingsville Police Department following the filing of the criminal complaint charging him with making a threat to damage or destroy a building by means of explosive on or about September 30, 2009. He made numerous telephone calls, beginning in July 2009, to various buildings located within the CCAD requesting to speak to his former girlfriend. These phone calls increased in number, to the point that personnel of the CCAD had to disconnect some of their telephones in order to conduct their business. These phones calls intensified and on September 30, 2009, and October 1, 2009, the defendant made several telephone calls uttering statements such as “a bomb will detonate in 25 minutes” or “there is a bomb in the L3 trailer” or “there is a bomb in the building... and it’s about to blow.” Approximately 857 phones calls were made to the CCAD from August 2009 through October 1, 2009. As a result of the bomb threats, the CCAD responded by conducting numerous evacuations of their employees, resulting in the loss of manpower hours and lost production. The case was investigated by the FBI and Naval Criminal Investigative Services.

Source: <http://houston.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/ho030510a.htm>

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

19. *March 8, IDG News Service* – (International) **Thailand approves credit card hacker's extradition to US.** A Thai court has approved the extradition to the U.S. of a Malaysian man allegedly involved in hacking credit card information, causing massive losses for victims in the U.S. The suspect will first be held in Thailand for 30 days in case he decides to appeal the court ruling, an employee at Thailand's Office of the Attorney General said by phone on March 8. The suspect, forty-four years old and also known by the alias Delpiero, is a suspected member of a crime ring that has caused more than 5 billion baht (US\$150 million) in losses through hacking aimed at the U.S. and Southeast Asia, according to a report in the Bangkok Post. The man was arrested in Thailand after U.S. authorities filed a request with the Thai foreign ministry, the report said. He could be imprisoned for over a year if convicted, the paper said in another report.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/030810-thailand-approves-credit-card-hackers.html?hpg1=bn>

20. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Father, son shot by gunman in Dallas.** A gunman apparently angry over business dealings wounded a father and son at their financial services company inside an office building Monday, then shot himself as police closed in, authorities said. The gunfire at about 10:30 a.m. created a frightening, grisly scene at the 15-story building, with one of the injured men making his way down an escalator with blood gushing from his neck and scared bank employees and customers locking themselves in vaults. After the two men were shot, the suspect apparently turned the gun on himself as three officers were coming down the hall toward the third-floor suite, said a Dallas police spokesman. The suspect was in critical condition on March 8. The gunman and the victims apparently had an ongoing dispute, the spokesman said. But it was not clear exactly why the suspect opened fire inside the offices of Smith Financial in northern Dallas.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35765225/ns/us\\_news-crime\\_and\\_courts](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35765225/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts)

21. *March 8, IDG News Service* – (National) **FDIC: Hackers took more than \$120M in three months.** Ongoing computer scams targeting small businesses cost U.S. companies \$25 million in the third quarter of 2009, according to the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Online banking fraud involving the electronic transfer of funds has been on the rise since 2007 and rose to over \$120 million in the third quarter of 2009, according to estimates presented on March 5 at the RSA Conference in San Francisco, by an examination specialist with the FDIC. The FDIC receives a variety of confidential reports from financial institutions, which allow it to generate the estimates, the specialist said. Almost all of the incidents reported to the FDIC "related to malware on online banking customers' PCs," he said. Typically a victim is tricked into visiting a malicious Web site or downloading a Trojan horse program that gives hackers access to their banking passwords. Money is then transferred out of the account using the Automated Clearing House (ACH) system that banks use to process payments

between institutions.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9167598/FDIC Hackers took more than 12 0M in three months](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9167598/FDIC_Hackers_took_more_than_12_0M_in_three_months)

22. *March 8, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Sophisticated Minnesota fraud ring has global tentacles.** A joint state and federal task force has been quietly targeting what investigators say is a sophisticated organized crime ring in the Twin Cities with about 200 members who have allegedly stolen identities, taken over bank and credit card accounts, distributed counterfeit checks and currency and defrauded businesses and banks nationwide. The ring recruits members on social networking sites like Facebook, buys stolen information from employees of check-cashing services and Internet data brokers, and has even sent trusted ring members to college and business schools to qualify them for jobs in financial institutions or other targeted businesses, investigators say. Some members have been charged, but neither the commander of the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force nor the U.S. attorney's office would comment on specific cases. The ring is rooted in West Africa and Eastern Europe, the commander said. Taking it down could disrupt 30 to 40 percent of the fraudulent check activity in the Twin Cities, he said.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/87038372.html?elr=KArksD:aDyaEP:kD:aUzyaUiD3aPc:Yyc:aU7DYaGEP7vDEh7P:DiUs>

23. *March 8, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **'Phishing scam' targets Bank of Cascades clients.** Scammers claiming to be from The Bank of the Cascades are trying to raid people's bank accounts. They are calling individual consumers in Central Oregon and warning them their bank records have been compromised, according to the Oregon Justice Department. The department received more than 20 complaints on March 8 from people who say the caller asks them to verify their bank account numbers. At least one consumer was duped into giving up their account number. Within minutes, the victim told state officials, \$515 had been emptied out of his account and wired to Guadalajara, Mexico. "This is a phishing scam," the department warned. "Never provide your bank account number over the phone or by email. No legitimate financial institution will call you and ask you for your bank account number or other sensitive financial information."

Source:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/phishing\\_scam\\_targets\\_bank\\_of.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/phishing_scam_targets_bank_of.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

24. *March 9, USA TODAY* – (National) **Retired Army Major General nominated to head TSA.** The President on Monday nominated a former army officer with extensive intelligence experience to take the long-vacant job as head of the Transportation

Security Administration (TSA). If he wins approval from the Senate, the retired Major General will become the first TSA chief since the President took office more than a year ago. The previous choice for the job withdrew from consideration in January. The nominee for the TSA job has served for more than three decades in a variety of intelligence posts, including the Army's deputy intelligence chief and director of operations for the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also founded Harding Security Associates, a security consulting firm that he sold in July. The assistant secretary for the Homeland Security Department oversees the TSA's airport security program, the Federal Air Marshal Service and efforts to protect railroads, ports and mass transit from terrorist attacks.

Source: [http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/ap\\_harding\\_030910/](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/03/ap_harding_030910/)

25. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colorado rock slide rains boulders on bridge, highway.** A rock slide punched gaping holes in a bridge and left huge boulders on Interstate 70, closing a 17-mile stretch in western Colorado and prompting the governor to declare a disaster emergency Monday. The slide struck around midnight Sunday near Hanging Lake Tunnel in Glenwood Canyon, a deep, narrow chasm about 110 miles west of Denver, the Colorado Department of Transportation said. No injuries or damage to vehicles were reported. All lanes were closed from Glenwood Springs east to the town of Dotsero. Up to 25,000 vehicles a day travel that section of the major east-west artery, a department spokeswoman said. Because of the rugged terrain, the shortest detour adds about 200 miles around the mountainous Flat Tops Wilderness Area. Adding to the traffic mess, U.S. 50 was closed over Monarch Pass due to adverse conditions. The rock slide took out median barriers, steel guardrails and at least one lightpole. The largest hole in the roadway was 10 by 20 feet in the westbound lane. About 20 boulders ranging from three to 10 feet long were scattered on the highway, with the largest weighing 66 tons, officials said. Crews were drilling holes in the large boulders to insert explosives and blast them into smaller pieces. She said once the crew clears the debris, they will be able to find out which lanes can be reopened.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/09/business-financial-impact-us-rock-slide-colorado\\_7418149.html?boxes=Homepagebusinessnews](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/03/09/business-financial-impact-us-rock-slide-colorado_7418149.html?boxes=Homepagebusinessnews)

26. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Jet with 74 aboard makes emergency landing.** Officials say a jet carrying 74 people made an emergency landing at the Aspen, Colorado airport after smoke entered the pilot's cabin. A Pitkin County Sheriff's Deputy says SkyWest Airlines flight 5940 made a safe landing Sunday afternoon and there were no reports of injury among the 70 passengers and four crew members. A spokeswoman for the St. George, Utah-based airline told the Glenwood Springs Post Independent that the emergency occurred shortly before 1 p.m. after the aircraft left Aspen en route to Denver. The Aspen airport aviation director said that the smoke was caused by a faulty air conditioner. Officials say the conditioner was repaired and the Canadair Regional Jet 700 continued its flight to Denver later in the afternoon.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i8\\_ioOULaO86HkebF4dQvm72HAawD9EAE8HG0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i8_ioOULaO86HkebF4dQvm72HAawD9EAE8HG0)

For more stories, see items [4](#), [5](#), [7](#), and [30](#)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

27. *March 9, WBRC 6 Birmingham* – (Alabama) **Suspicious letter sent to federal building under investigation.** Authorities are investigating a suspicious letter sent to the Vance Federal Building in downtown Birmingham, Alabama, Monday. A hazmat team was called to the building after an employee opened the letter and found a white powder inside. The powder was sent off for testing. No one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.myfoxa.com/Global/story.asp?S=12107584>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

28. *March 9, Foster's Daily Democrat* – (Florida) **Florida cold crimps local produce: 70% of Sunshine State's tomatoes destroyed.** Some businesses are seeing an increase in the cost of tomatoes due to cold temperatures at the beginning of the year in Florida, which produces the nation's largest supply of the crop during winter months. The president and CEO of the New Hampshire Grower's Association said there has been a short-term increase in the price of the bulbous fruit because 70 percent of the Sunshine State's crop was destroyed by weather. The tomatoes that did survive have frost burns, he said, and this has forced many area wholesalers and retailers to look to nations like Mexico to supplement their needs, which drives the cost of the product due to added transportation costs. "People are quickly learning there is a shortage (of U.S.-grown tomatoes)," he said. "They realize they need to change their needs or pay a higher price for tomatoes." The co-owner of Fiddlehead Farms in Dover, New Hampshire and the store's main produce buyer said he has seen the cost of tomatoes more than double in the last month because there is not as much of a supply of the homegrown product. The president of the Grower's Association said he expected prices to return to normal come mid-to-late April, which is when the next growing season starts.

Source:

[http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100309/GJNEWS\\_01/703099915/-1/FOSNEWS](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100309/GJNEWS_01/703099915/-1/FOSNEWS)

29. *March 8, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **WNC farmers can receive federal disaster aid.** On February 2, the President declared a major disaster in North Carolina based on damages and losses caused by severe winter storms and flooding that occurred from December 18-25, 2009. Thirteen counties were declared eligible for federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans for eligible family members. Those regional counties include Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherfordton, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20100308/NEWS/303080003>

30. *March 8, Columbia Basin Herald* – (Washington) **24 train cars derail in Wilson Creek.** A westbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailed when entering Wilson Creek Saturday. Twenty-four cars came off the track, piling up near some grain elevators, according to a Grant County Sheriff. The train was transporting corn, a spokesman said. There were no chemicals in any of the cars involved in the crash. “It is 24 cars in a pile of rubble,” he said. The train engineer reported to authorities he knew something was wrong and attempted to stop the train when it derailed. “There might have been a mechanical issue with a wheel,” the sheriff said. “There may have been some smoke.” Witnesses described damage to the tracks preceding the location of the cars derailing, as if a wheel may have been dragged between the rails for a distance. Source:  
<http://www.columbiabasinherald.com/articles/2010/03/08/news/doc4b95891f7aefa922892761.txt>

For another story, see item [57](#)

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## **Water Sector**

31. *March 9, Waste and Recycling News* – (National) **U.S. releases \$5 million in funding for wastewater systems.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released an additional \$5 million in Recovery Act funding to help pay for improvements to rural water and wastewater systems. The additional money will be added to \$19 million already earmarked for improvements to rural water and waste systems through the USDA program. The money will be available to rural communities through a grant provided to the Virginia-based Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. RCAP will help rural communities better identify solutions to water and waste disposal problems, assist applicants as they prepare funding applications, meet reporting requirements and improve the operation and maintenance of existing facilities. Source:  
<http://www.wasterecyclingnews.com/headlines2.html?id=1268146812&allowcomm=true>
32. *March 9, Fond Du Lac Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Lake Winnebago technically illegal as water source, but officials not worried.** If the feds ever declare Lake Winnebago off-limits as a municipal water supply, the Fox Valley would be in big trouble — and so, likely, would the rest of the planet. So even though a half-million Wisconsinites might be receiving Lake Winnebago water illegally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not likely to shut off the spigots anytime soon, said the executive director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Lake Winnebago is among 40 federal reservoirs the corps says are used as municipal and industrial water supplies without federal approval. “The federal government works in mysterious ways, but I can’t believe anyone in the federal government is going to say [communities] can’t drink the water from Lake Winnebago and those people are going to die of thirst,” he said Monday. The lakes were not created to be water supplies, but businesses and communities

tapped into them anyway, the corps maintains.

Source:

<http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20100309/APC0101/3090410/1979/Winnebago-technically-illegal-as-water-source>

33. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Montana town hurries to replace failing water tank.** The tank that supplies water to the roughly 600 residents of the tiny Montana town of Belt is failing, and city leaders are scrambling for a fix. A Belt water and wastewater operator says the 180,000 gallon tank is leaking so badly that huge ice formations are visible on its outer walls, and steel reinforcement bars once inside the concrete are now exposed. An engineer with NCI Engineering of Great Falls says the tank is going to fail, perhaps catastrophically. He says a replacement could cost \$1.2 million, but said the price may be trimmed to make it more affordable for residents. Belt missed out on \$38 million in federal stimulus funding earmarked for water and sewer projects in Montana.  
Source: <http://www.abcmontana.com/news/state/87108792.html>
  
34. *March 8, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Pharmaceutical byproducts found in Lake Michigan.** A new report by the Alliance for the Great Lakes stated that pharmaceutical byproducts, such as cotinine and gemfibrozil, have been found in Lake Michigan's water, according to a press release. The findings have raised concerns about potential health threats to people and wildlife that depend on the lake for drinking water, the release stated. The report calls for more research into long-term effects of drugs in drinking water and points out the absence of available tools to limit their entrance into the Great Lakes, according to the release. Experts have said the levels are too low to show immediate effects on human health, but scientists acknowledge they know little about the long-term effects of these drugs on people and how they might degrade or interact with other chemicals in the water, the release stated. "Broader use of pharmaceuticals and growing knowledge of the health effects from their chemical byproducts make drug pollution an emerging concern," said the Alliance Water Quality Program manager and lead author of the report. "As we learn more about what dangers these drugs pose, we have to be ready to take precautionary steps to limit the amount that passes into the Great Lakes every day."  
Source: [http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N\\_ID=73602](http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=73602)
  
35. *March 7, Enid News and Eagle* – (Oklahoma) **Fish kill discovered near Enid city plant.** Enid and state authorities are investigating the cause of a fish kill near the city wastewater plant Sunday. The Enid city manager said the fish kill was discovered Saturday and both the department of environmental quality and wildlife department officials are investigating with the city of Enid staff. He said all city effluent has been diverted into the holding lagoon and is not being discharged until they know what it is. The city previously had a fish kill near the plant, and it was determined an extremely caustic chemical had been dumped. The plant operator, which is the city of Enid, was found at fault, even though the source of the toxicity was never established. "It's a very toxic substance, we tested the discharge from all plants around here that would be likely candidates and found nothing conclusive," he said.

Source: <http://enidnews.com/localnews/x1745487208/Fish-kill-discovered-near-Enid-city-plant>

For more stories, see items [58](#) and [62](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

36. *March 9, Homeland Security NewsWire* – (Maryland) **NRC panel has “high confidence” in Fort Detrick BioLab’s security procedures.** A new National Research Council report requested by Congress finds several problems in an environmental impact statement prepared by the U.S. Army for its expansion of biocontainment laboratories at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, to study deadly pathogens. The report adds that current safety procedures and regulations at the labs meet or exceed accepted standards, giving the committee that wrote the report a “high degree of confidence” that appropriate protections for workers and the public are in place. The committee held public meetings to gather information from officials of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) and contractors involved in the development of its environmental impact statement, as well as from Fort Detrick emergency personnel, the Frederick County Board of Commissioners, and members of the local community. The committee also met with officials from Frederick Memorial Hospital and Frederick County’s emergency management and health departments.

Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/nrc-panel-has-high-confidence-fort-detrick-biolabs-security-procedures>

37. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Supreme Court to hear case about vaccine side effects.** The Supreme Court will decide whether drug makers can be sued by parents who claim their children suffered serious health problems from vaccines. The justices on Monday agreed to hear an appeal from parents in Pittsburgh who want to sue Wyeth over the serious side effects their daughter, six months old at the time, allegedly suffered as a result of the company’s diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia ruled against the plaintiffs, saying a 1986 federal law bars their claims. That law set up a special vaccine court to handle disputes as part of its aim of insuring a stable vaccine supply by shielding companies from most lawsuits. Wyeth, now owned by Pfizer, Inc., prevailed at the appeals court but also joined in asking the court to hear the case, saying it presents an important and recurring legal issue that should be resolved.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-03-08-court-vaccine\\_N.htm?csp=34&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+UsatodaycomHealth-TopStories+\(News+-+Health+-+Top+Stories\)](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-03-08-court-vaccine_N.htm?csp=34&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+UsatodaycomHealth-TopStories+(News+-+Health+-+Top+Stories))

38. *March 1, KFOR 4 Miami* – (Florida) **Gables couple accused of stealing patient records.** A Coral Gables couple is accused of allegedly stealing patient information from hospitals and selling it to lawyers for kickback payments. Federal authorities say

the couple paid an ambulance-company employee to steal computer records of patients which were sent to Miami-Dade hospitals and healthcare clinics. The records included patients' names, addresses, telephone numbers and medical diagnoses, according to CBS4 news partner The Miami Herald. The couple allegedly stole records as far back as 1995. The couple was charged with conspiracy to steal patient records from Jackson Memorial Hospital last year after allegedly using the same technique to get the information.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/hiospital.conspiracy.fraud.2.1545308.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

39. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Employee kills co-worker, then self.** A new Ohio State University custodial employee who received a bad job evaluation shot two co-workers in a campus maintenance building, killing one of them, and then fatally shot himself, officials said Tuesday. The shooter, who had been hired in October, arrived for work at the nation's largest university in dark clothing with two handguns in a backpack, the campus police chief said. The police chief described the shooting as work-related and said the shooter recently received a poor performance evaluation, though he declined to say whether that was the motive. The shooting was first reported at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday. The suspect, 51, was pronounced dead at Ohio State University Medical Center several hours later, the police chief said. One of the victims, a 48 year-old building services manager, died at the scene. The other victim, a 68 year-old operations shift leader, was in stable condition at Ohio University Medical Center, officials said. More than a half-dozen employees were in the maintenance building when the shooting occurred and have been offered grief counseling, the police chief said during a news conference.

Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35774442/ns/us\\_news-crime\\_and\\_courts/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35774442/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/)

40. *March 9, Daily Lobo* – (New Mexico) **Phishing scams targeting UNM are potential identity-stealers.** Webmail users should beware of an e-mail phishing scam targeting the University of New Mexico (UNM) online community. The recent phishing e-mails began appearing last Tuesday claiming to be from UNM Account Billing, asking students for their username, password, and date of birth. Students should be cautious about revealing information through e-mail, said an IT communication specialist. She said UNM will never ask for that information over the Internet. "If people do respond to a phishing e-mail, unfortunately the most frequent information that they reveal are NetIDs, passwords, Social Security, numbers or other such personal identification that can be used for identity theft purposes," she said. "IT never asks for passwords or Social Security numbers in e-mail messages, so e-mail users should know that."

Source:

[http://www.dailylobo.com/index.php/article/2010/03/phishing\\_scams\\_targeting\\_unm\\_a\\_re\\_potential\\_identitystealers](http://www.dailylobo.com/index.php/article/2010/03/phishing_scams_targeting_unm_a_re_potential_identitystealers)

41. *March 8, The New New Internet* – (International) **Buckle in for the cyber ‘wilderness of mirrors’**. Within the European Union and NATO, security professionals have been circulating dire warnings to colleagues regarding the growing cyber espionage threat from China. In recent months, the Chinese have appeared to more aggressively target NATO, EU, and U.S. networks in an effort to steal intelligence secrets. Within the EU, cybersecurity is left up to individual member states and is not comprehensively coordinated. On Friday, the U.S. government released a report stating that the number of attacks on government agencies and Congress amounts to approximately 1.6 billion per month. According to NATO sources who spoke with the London Times, “Everyone has been made aware that the Chinese have become very active with cyber-attacks and we’re now getting regular warnings from the office for internal security.” Due to the fear of Chinese cyber penetration, the flow of intelligence information has become much more restricted within the EU and NATO. While U.S. and British systems are considered to be among the most secure in the world, an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies says that “the EU is less competent.” “The porousness of the European institutions makes them a good target for penetration. They are of interest to the Chinese on issues from arms sales and nuclear non-proliferation to Tibet and energy,” he said. The U.S. and other EU nations do not share intelligence with the same frequency as the U.S. and British. “Because of Britain’s intelligence-sharing relationship with America our systems have to be up to their standards in a way that some of the European systems don’t,” an analyst told the Times. With the anonymity and ease of access provided by cyberspace, espionage work is increasingly moving towards utilizing the cyber domain to steal secrets. Cyberspace has become the new “wilderness of mirrors.”  
Source: <http://www.thenewnewinternet.com/2010/03/08/buckle-in-for-the-cyber-hall-of-mirrors/>

42. *March 8, Associated Press* – (California) **NASA to repair deep space antenna in California**. The deep space antenna that relayed Neil Armstrong’s famous “one giant leap for mankind” declaration from the moon to a rapt American audience will be offline for eight months for repair. Work begins this week to replace a steel donut-shaped bearing on the aging 230-foot-wide dish at the NASA Deep Space Network site at Goldstone Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert about 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The labor-intensive process, which will involve jacking up 9 million pounds, will keep the antenna out of service until at least November. Besides California, tracking stations in Australia and Spain make up the Deep Space Network. Together, they point nonstop to the sky, sending commands to robotic spacecraft millions of miles away and listening for their often faint replies — communication streams filled with images, scientific findings and operational data. During the repair, interplanetary communications will not be disrupted, said a deputy project manager. Missions that normally depend on Goldstone, such as the Spitzer Space Telescope, the Saturn explorer Cassini, various Mars spacecraft and even the Voyager 1 probe will instead communicate through other giant, bowl-shaped antennas near Madrid, Spain, and Canberra, Australia.  
Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35765786/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-tech\\_and\\_gadgets/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35765786/ns/technology_and_science-tech_and_gadgets/)

43. *March 5, Politico* – (National) **Cyberattacks explode in Congress.** Congress and other government agencies are under a cyber attack an average of 1.8 billion times a month, a number that has been growing exponentially since the President took office. In 2008, security events caused by vectors including worms, Trojan horses, and spybots averaged 8 million hits per month. That number skyrocketed to 1.6 billion in 2009 and climbed to 1.8 billion this year, according to the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. The Senate Security Operations Center alone receives 13.9 million of those attempts per day. “We operate in an escalating attack environment in which threats to our information infrastructure are increasing in both frequency and sophistication,” the Sergeant-at-Arms wrote in testimony submitted to a Senate Appropriations subcommittee March 4. “Our raw numbers bear this out, so we must remain on guard.” The vast majority of the attacks have been stopped by the network’s automated system defenses, but cyber attackers have become smarter. Attacks are increasingly focused on infiltrating application software on Hill staffer computers, including Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Office, and Internet Explorer, which may not have the latest security patches. Source: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0310/33987.html>

For another story, see item [27](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

44. *March 8, Wilsonville Spokesman* – (Oregon) **Police impersonator still at large.** Clackamas and Marion county authorities continue to be on the lookout for an apparent police impersonator who carried out a traffic stop on an unsuspecting driver in Aurora last Saturday. According to Aurora Police, a white male subject wearing a dark-colored uniform shirt with a badge visible, stopped a 21-year-old male driver on Saturday. The impersonator was driving a dark blue or black late model Dodge Charger similar to those currently in vogue with law enforcement agencies across the country. Oregon State Police, the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office and numerous other agencies in Oregon currently field this model of patrol car in both marked and unmarked variants. The suspect vehicle in this case did not appear to have any markings or visible license plates. It had a blue flashing light in the windshield at the time the impersonator pulled over the victim’s vehicle. Source: <http://www.wilsonvillesspokesman.com/news/2010/March/08/Top.stories/police.impersonator.still.at.large/news.aspx>
45. *March 8, WGME 13 Portland* – (Maine) **Coast Guard says mayday call may be hoax.** A sinking boat that kept several agencies busy for hours Saturday in Penobscot Bay may have been a hoax, the Coast Guard now says. The Coast Guard sent two helicopters, a jet, and a boat to search the area between Vinalhaven and Deer Isle after getting a radio distress call from a man who claimed to be on board a fishing boat. The man said that the boat was taking on water and sinking fast. The Maine Marine Patrol sent a boat, and the Knox County Sheriff’s Department sent up a plane to help with the

search. After six hours, they found nothing. The Coast Guard says the whole thing may have been a hoax, and says the cost to their agency alone totals more than \$176,000.  
Source: <http://www.myfoxmaine.com/news/86845152.html>

46. *March 8, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives* – (National) **ATF’s bomb arson tracking system endorsed by IAAI and IABTI**. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Sunday announced that its Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) has been endorsed by the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. and the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators to document and report arson and explosives-related incidents in this country. Both organizations recently notified ATF of their unanimous decisions to endorse the use of BATS by all of its members. “BATS is the sole database for reporting and documenting explosives incidents, as recognized by the Department of Justice,” said ATF’s deputy director. “In partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, this case management system strengthens our ability to identify investigative leads in real-time and allows law enforcement to share information and to track and bring criminals to justice.” BATS users can input and access information during the course of an investigation. They can conduct trend analysis and compare incidents to identify potential perpetrators. Professional fire and arson investigators and their agencies can use BATS as a tool, and to participate in providing incident information which will assist other investigators and agencies as they conduct the investigation of bombing, explosives, and arson incidents. The system is of value to all law enforcement professionals charged with combating the criminal and terrorist use of explosives worldwide.

Source: <http://www.atf.gov/press/releases/2010/03/030810-atf-bats-endorsed.html>

47. *March 5, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Warwick fire truck in the shop after sinking in sink hole**. A fire truck that responded to troubles caused by a water main break is out of commission Friday morning after its front wheels sank into a sink hole created by the break. Ladder 1 was among the trucks that responded at 2 a.m. Friday to a George Arden Avenue homeowner’s complaint of water in the house after the water main break, the Fire battalion chief said. The ladder truck stopped on nearby Diane Drive — but then began sinking since earth underneath the road had shifted due to the gushing water. The wheels sank about 12 to 18 inches into the hole before crews with stabilizing jacks from the truck were able to stop its downward decline, he said. No visible damage to the vehicle could be seen, but it was nighttime, he said. The truck is now at the department’s repair division on Sandy Lane for evaluation. The Kent County Water Authority was called to fix the water main break. No other homes were apparently affected by the gush of water in the residential area, he said.

Source: <http://newsblog.projo.com/2010/03/no-damage-seen-after-warwick-f.html>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

48. *March 9, The Register* – (International) **Vodafone ships Mariposa-infected HTC Magic.** Vodafone has been blamed for shipping Mariposa botnet malware and other nasties on a HTC Magic Android smartphones it supplied. The mobile phone giant's Spanish arm supplied an HTC Magic smartphone preloaded with malware that attempted to establish a backdoor for stealing information on connected PCs during the synchronisation process. Vodafone acknowledged the problem but said that the incident was an isolated and local problem, which came to light because the customer affected works for Spanish anti-virus firm Panda Security. The extra code was a strain of the Mariposa bot client that attempted to connect to systems not associated with the recent arrests of three suspected botmasters in Spain, according to an analysis of the attack by a Panda Security researcher. The same mobile phone was also infected by Confiker and a Lineage password-stealing code, according to Panda. The incident came to light because the infected phone was sold to one of the researcher's colleagues in Spain. Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/09/vodafone\\_mariposa/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/09/vodafone_mariposa/)
49. *March 9, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Web malware scams go primetime.** Interest in primetime TV shows has become a favourite lure for cyber criminals, according to security experts. The Academy Awards and upcoming premieres of new television shows are being targeted in search engine optimisation attacks. Security firm Sophos said that malware writers had loaded web pages with keywords relating to the Awards in order to achieve higher placement in search results. Users visiting what they believe to be news sites about the awards are then subjected to an anti-virus scam that attempts to trick them into purchasing fake security software. The targeting of current events and news items for malware infection has become a favourite technique for web-based malware attacks. Malware writers have long sought to lure victims by capitalising on interest in natural disasters, news events and cultural phenomena. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259130/web-malware-scams-prime>
50. *March 9, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Intel investigating fake processor shipments.** Intel is investigating reports of counterfeit Core i7 processors being sold to businesses and consumers. The company is looking into claims that a shipment of 300 fake Core i7-920 processors had been sent to respected parts seller Newegg from a partner. "Newegg is currently conducting a thorough investigation surrounding recent shipments of questionable Intel Core i7-920 CPUs purchased from Newegg.com," said the company in a statement. "Initial information we received from our supplier, IPEX, stated that they had mistakenly shipped us demo units. We have since come to discover that the CPUs were counterfeit, and are terminating our relationship with this supplier. "Contrary to any speculation, D&H Distributing is not the vendor that supplied us with the Intel Core i7-920 CPUs in question." One buyer posted a video of his purchase on YouTube. The box looked realistic but contained a chip without mounting pins, a manual consisting of blank pages and a non-functional plastic model of a fan. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259135/intel-investigating-fake>
51. *March 8, Help Net Security* – (International) **Serious Apache vulnerability disclosed.** A serious vulnerability in Apache's HTTP web server that enables the attacker to gain remote access to the server and total control of a database, has been

discovered by a researcher and consultant with Sense of Security Labs. The bug is localized in the Apache's core "mod\_isapi" module, and can be exploited to give access and system privileges to the attacker, which means that data can be manipulated, deleted or stolen. ZDNet Australia reports that the solution for the problem is simple - the user just needs to upgrade to the latest version of the software (2.2.15). It is recommended that all users do so as soon as possible, since it is difficult to tell if they have been targeted. The spokesman for Sense of Security says that for this bug to be exploited, the attacker must know how to write a "high level piece of code," making less likely — but not implausible — the possibility that such an attack had already been or will be used "in the wild."

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=8988>

52. *March 8, The Register* – (International) **Ubisoft undone by anti-DRM DDoS storm.** Ubisoft has confirmed its rights management servers were hit by a fierce DDoS attack over the weekend that left some customers unable to play its games for much of March 7. The attack is an apparent protest at controversial new DRM controls by the video game publisher which mean customers have to be online in order to play its latest PC games such as Assassin's Creed II and Silent Hunter 5. The introduction of so-called Online Services Platform technology last month means it's impossible to play a game without an internet connection or save progress while playing a game if an internet connection is lost, as explained in a interview with Ubisoft by PC Gamer here. The controls, designed to combat piracy, have sparked much negative comment in the gamer community and apparently inspired action by hacktivists over the weekend that curtailed gameplay for some.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/08/ubisoft\\_anti\\_drm\\_hack\\_attack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/08/ubisoft_anti_drm_hack_attack/)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

53. *March 9, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Google explains Google Apps datacenter failure.** All Google App Engine applications were "degraded" from 7:48am to 10:09am PST on 24 February after a power failure at the company's main datacenter, the firm said. About 25 percent of the servers failed within five minutes owing to a delay in back-up power generation. Google's message boards started showing questions from users almost immediately. "By this time, our primary on-call engineer had determined that App Engine is down," the report said. "The on-call engineer, according to procedure, paged our product managers and engineering leads to handle communicating the outage to users." There was confusion about the instructions for

switching to a back-up datacenter and the decision-maker for the crossover could not be found. The team then received data suggesting that the datacenter was recovering and that a changeover was not necessary. However, the data turned out to be inaccurate and this extended the outage considerably. By the time the move to the backup servers had been made, Google Apps had been down for more than two hours. The report found that Google had not developed plans for a partial datacenter failure, nor for determining whether the datacenter was able to continue running on such a reduced server count. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2259133/google-gives-post-mortem>

For another story, see item [52](#)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

54. *March 9, Ocala Star Tribune* – (Florida) **Bomb scare.** The 19-year-old University of Central Florida theater student whose fake bomb led to the evacuation of the Hollywood 16 movie theater has been released from the Marion County Jail after posting a \$5,000 bond, and a top prosecutor said he is not sure what his office will do with the case. He was arrested Saturday on a charge of manufacturing, possession, and display of a hoax weapon of mass destruction. The bogus bomb, which he created for a UCF theater class, consisted of five tightly wrapped sticks of “dynamite” attached with wires to a white timing device. Police later confirmed the student’s story with his instructor.”It’s the times we live in. He just didn’t think about it,” the student’s father said. “I am hoping they realize that and throw it out of court, hopefully.” If prosecuted and found guilty of the second-degree felony charge that police lodged, then the student, who grew up in Ocala, could face up to 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Police say the student displayed the realistic-looking fake bomb to a friend Saturday afternoon outside Hollywood 16.

Source:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20100309/ARTICLE/3091064/2072/FEATURES?Title=Bomb-scare>

55. *March 8, Greensburg Daily News* – (Indiana) **Falling bricks prompt apartment evacuation.** Some falling bricks from high atop the Murphy Building in downtown Greensburg caused some uneasiness Saturday. According to Greensburg fire chief bricks began to fall from the top of the Washington Street side to the sidewalk below around 2:30 in the afternoon. He said he was unsure what caused the bricks to fall or the status of the building but his department was not taking any chances. Working with the building manager, the fire department evacuated the building as a precaution, which houses apartments on the second floor but is vacant otherwise. A structural engineer determined the damage was cosmetic, the chief noted. The engineer signed a waiver, which allowed residents to return to the building in the evening. However, the street remains closed. He said the building will be re-evaluated Monday morning and the street commissioner will decide whether to re-open Washington Street or not.

Source: [http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/east\\_central/falling-bricks-prompt-apartment-evacuation](http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/east_central/falling-bricks-prompt-apartment-evacuation)

56. *March 8, BlogDowntownLosAngeles* – (California) **Air rifles cause major police response in historic core.** Los Angeles Police Department officers detained three men inside the Huntington Hotel this afternoon after their use of air rifles on the roof of the hotel brought out a major police response. The whole ordeal was over within 45 minutes, but unless the men have existing warrants, they are unlikely to receive any charges. Officers responding to multiple reports of shooters atop the hotel treated the situation with extreme caution. Police must treat the entire building as dangerous, not just the roof area. The incident was first reported around 4pm, and was resolved by 4:40pm.

Source: <http://blogdowntown.com/2010/03/5157-air-rifles-cause-major-police-response-in>

57. *March 8, New Haven Independent* – (Connecticut) **Bomb scare clears downtown buildings.** Officials immediately evacuated the Omni Hotel in New Haven, Connecticut, the restaurants across the street, and the Liberty apartment building on Temple Street after the hotel received a bomb threat by phone. Police did find a “suspicious package” in the garage but “they concluded that the briefcase was not an explosive device. A thorough sweep of the premises was conducted by technicians and three K-9 units, which produced negative results for the presence of an explosive device.” Around 7 p.m. police gave the all-clear. Employees and guests returned to the hotel. Temple Street was reopened to traffic. About 30 employees and 35 guests were inside the hotel at the time of the afternoon threat, according to Omni’s General Manager. It was a slow day for the Omni; no conventions were scheduled. And the threat came in at a time of day when last night’s guests had departed and many of the next night’s guests had not yet arrived, the manager said. He said the Omni expected to be up to a third full Monday night, with around 100 guests.

Source:

[http://newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/bomb\\_scare\\_clears\\_downto\\_wn\\_buildings/id\\_24325](http://newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/bomb_scare_clears_downto_wn_buildings/id_24325)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

58. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Pueblo Reservoir at highest level in a decade.** The Pueblo Reservoir in Colorado has more water than it has for the past decade as managers move water from other storage facilities. The federal Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the reservoir, says it has 261,200 acre-feet of water, or about 85 billion gallons. That is the most since March 2000. Federal rules say the reservoir can hold no more than about 257,000 acre-feet after April 15 to make sure the dam can contain a flood. That means some water might have to be released. The reservoir west of Pueblo is part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which sends water from western Colorado across the Continental Divide to eastern Colorado. It stores water for irrigation companies, the city of Aurora and others. It is surrounded by Lake Pueblo State Park.  
Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=134195&catid=346>
59. *March 9, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Iowa) **Officials keep close eye on Iowa dam.** Emergency managers in Pottawattamie County have some serious flood concerns. Specifically, they are worried about a dam that holds back floods from inundating downtown Council Bluffs. The dam located north of Council Bluffs controls the amount of water going into Indian Creek, which runs through the north side of the city and directly into downtown. If the earthen dam were to fail, officials said the flooding would be catastrophic. “I have about a 58 to 98 minute warning time into Council Bluffs,” said the Pottawattamie County Emergency manager. He said engineers have mapped out a worst-case scenario should the dam break. He said it would be a race against time to evacuate before a rush of water comes roaring down Indian Creek. “We could have up to 2,500 homes and businesses affected,” he said. He said his worries have been growing as of late. “I mean we’ve got record snow pack. We’ve got ground that has not been frozen under the snow. So it has already laden with moisture and now with the forecast over the next couple of days, with a possible couple of inches of rain over the next five days, there’s great concern,” he said. Should the dam break, the county’s 911 system would call all the property owners in the path of the flood.  
Source: <http://www.ketv.com/news/22783342/detail.html>
60. *March 9, WBRZ 2 Baton Rouge* – (National) **Flood level potential seen.** Mississippi River water levels are falling right now, but the National Weather Service’s Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center said there’s an above average flood potential in the spring. The forecast is based on existing and normal spring rainfall and snow melt and can be revised if conditions change, said a hydrologist with the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center. “We’re still calling for above normal chance [of flooding],” he said. “That doesn’t necessarily mean bad flooding.” The lower Mississippi River is contained by man-made levees and a flooding event does not mean water tops those levees, he said. Instead, it means water levels in the river could get above a designated “flood stage” which is at different elevations along various stretches of the river. Spring flood forecasts for the lower Mississippi River also factor in that the river and many surrounding streams have had above normal water levels this winter and surrounding soil is already saturated.  
Source: <http://www.theadvocate.com/news/86699052.html?showAll=y&c=y>

61. *March 9, Seacoastonline.com* – (Maine) **FEMA tours storm damage as York awaits Obama’s disaster ruling.** The director of public works in York said he has shoveled more rocks than snow this winter, as he pointed to the ocean rocks that even on Monday littered the road. Since the February 25 windstorm that pummeled the coast, high seas abated only over the weekend. On Long Beach Avenue in York, the ocean tore open the sea wall boulders and poured into the crevice, undermining the gravel underlay of the road above, which simply opened up. The waves dragged up ocean debris and stones all last week, according to York County’s emergency management director. “I’ve never seen anything like that. For six days, there were surges,” he said. Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Monday toured the worst affected areas in York.

Source:

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100309/NEWS/3090402/-1/NEWSMAP>

62. *March 8, Kent Reporter* – (Washington) **Howard Hanson Dam reservoir begins spring fill; Army Corps to monitor damaged abutment.** The Army Corps of Engineers has begun to slowly allow water levels to rise within Howard Hanson Dam’s reservoir for the annual spring fill of the reservoir. This operation mimics normal spring operations. The corps also in the planning process for testing and in-depth investigations of the dam’s current effectiveness this spring. The current draft plan is proposing to target a maximum pool elevation of 1,167 feet, which is consistent with a normal spring refill of the reservoir. However, throughout the reservoir fill, the corps would constantly monitor the operations of the facility, including special observations and tests to measure the effects of the pool on the right abutment. Because of the damage sustained to the abutment in 2009, a higher frequency of monitoring will be performed once the pool exceeds elevation 1,147 feet. Water stored during the spring refill of the reservoir will be used to provide water supply to the City of Tacoma and its water-supply partners. Additionally, four-fifths of the reservoir’s supply will be used to bolster downstream flows to help endangered species of fish, including Chinook and steelhead.

Source: [http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/ken/news/87009432.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/ken/news/87009432.html)

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