



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 December 2009

**Current Nationwide Threat Level**

**ELEVATED**

*Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks*

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

### Top Stories

- The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that cleanup crews worked on December 4 to contain at least 210,000 gallons of crude oil that spilled from a pipeline that connects a pumping station with the Flint Hills refinery in Rosemount, Minnesota. (See item [5](#))
- According to eWeek, two Kansas men are being accused of selling counterfeit networking gear they claimed was from Cisco Systems. Federal investigators say the scheme stretched from China to the United States. (See item [45](#))

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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. *December 7, Computerworld* – (International) **Solar storm could zap power grid in 2013.** Solar storms bombard the Earth’s magnetic field with bursts of radiation, which can in turn disrupt the power grid and satellites. In fact, “the great geomagnetic storm of March 1989” zapped northeastern Canada’s Hydro-Quebec power grid, leaving millions of people without electricity for up to nine hours, according to a National Academy of Sciences report. In a worst-case scenario, a solar storm could cause \$1

trillion to \$2 trillion in damage to the world's high-tech infrastructure, the 2008 report said. But the severity of the next solar storm is unclear, as is the timing. Several years ago, NASA predicted that the peak in the next cycle of solar weather would occur in 2012. The space agency's more recent prediction (made May 29) said the peak for sunspot activity will be in May 2013 — though additional revisions are expected. So data center managers need to keep an eye on space weather, just as they keep an eye on terrestrial weather.

Source:

[http://www.cio.com/article/510067/Solar\\_Storm\\_Could\\_Zap\\_Power\\_Grid\\_in\\_2013](http://www.cio.com/article/510067/Solar_Storm_Could_Zap_Power_Grid_in_2013)

2. *December 5, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Texas refinery worker died of blunt force trauma.** Galveston County's chief medical examiner says a man died of blunt force trauma in an accident that injured two other workers at Valero's Texas City refinery. The examiner said on December 5's online edition of the Houston Chronicle that the 40-year-old man of Alvin, Texas, died after a boiler failure the evening of December 4 at the Valero plant. A Valero spokesman told The Associated Press the accident had yet to be classified an explosion. He said the investigation was continuing. He said the other two men, a Valero employee and a contract worker, were "doing well." He said there was no environmental impact in the area. Operations have returned to normal at the refinery, which employs about 480 people.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9CDER481.html>

3. *December 5, Casper Star-Tribune* – (Wyoming) **Mishaps plague Sinclair refinery.** Problems continued at the Sinclair refinery, which is owned by Sinclair Oil Corp. Nearby residents complained of a strong odor, mostly because of an ongoing soil remediation effort. Thirteen liquid and gaseous spills have been reported this year to either the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the federal National Response Center. Two of the spills occurred in the span of just a few hours on November 30. The refinery released 309 pounds of hydrogen sulfide and then spilled 2,300 gallons of isobutene, according to DEQ. Yet the refinery continues to operate unreserved. DEQ officials say they have asked management at the refinery to self-report information related to the events. The DEQ administrator said that although each mishap at the refinery is investigated separately, his agency is asking Sinclair to provide assurances the series of mishaps will not continue. He said refinery personnel are scheduled to meet with DEQ regulators soon. "We know that there are malfunctions. Stuff will happen from time to time. But there has been one heck of a lot going on at that refinery this year," he said. "So we're bringing them in to see if we can get some comfort level that there is an end to this series of events." The refinery could face monetary penalties once the investigations are completed. One resident agreed that the refinery has been more responsive to local officials and residents. However, the track record this year is still cause for alarm. Not only is the refinery embedded in the town of Sinclair, but it is also in close proximity to Interstate 80 and the North Platte River.

Source: [http://www.trib.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_a63d514d-7532-5fd6-9180-41ec5afab65d.html](http://www.trib.com/news/state-and-regional/article_a63d514d-7532-5fd6-9180-41ec5afab65d.html)

4. *December 5, United Press International* – (International) **Train carrying propane derails in Canada.** A freight train carrying propane derailed early Saturday in western Canada, setting off a fire that burned for hours in Saskatchewan, officials said. People living within about 1.2 miles of the derailment were evacuated, Canwest News Service reported. About five families were forced to leave their homes in the rural village of Spy Hill near the Manitoba border. Transport Canada also declared a no-fly zone more than 7 miles in diameter, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (CBC) reported. No injuries were reported. The mayor of Spy Hill told the CBC late Saturday afternoon that the town was warned all residents might be forced to leave if the wind changed.  
Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/International/2009/12/05/Train-carrying-propane-derails-in-Canada/UPI-66691260059856/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/International/2009/12/05/Train-carrying-propane-derails-in-Canada/UPI-66691260059856/)
  
5. *December 4, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Oil pipeline spills 210,000 gallons near Staples.** Cleanup crews worked on December 4 to contain at least 210,000 gallons of crude oil that spilled from a pipeline in central Minnesota. The spill occurred about a half-mile north of the Long Prairie River, but there is no indication that it jeopardized nearby waterways, said a spokeswoman for the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety. “It appears there is no danger of river contamination,” she said. The spill came from a 16-inch pipeline that connects a pumping station with the Flint Hills refinery in Rosemount. The leak occurred in a wooded rural area about 3 miles southeast of Staples. It was discovered about 6:30 a.m., and the pipeline was immediately shut down, she said. Workers had been repairing the pipeline, but it was not immediately clear if that was connected to the spill, she said. Overseeing the cleanup with the state office was the pipeline safety arm of the U.S. Department of Transportation.  
Source:  
<http://www.startribune.com/local/78549002.html?elr=KArksi8cyaiUncacyi8cyaiUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUU>

For more stories, see items [7](#) and [56](#)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *December 7, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Investigators returning today to Suffolk chemical plant.** Investigators will return today to a chemical plant to try find the cause of a two-alarm blaze. It took firefighters more than two hours Sunday afternoon to control a two-alarm fire at Cameron Chemicals Inc., according to a Suffolk city spokeswoman. Firefighters were called to the plant in the 800 block of Old Dill Road, shortly after 2 p.m. When they arrived, the building was fully engulfed. Two nearby houses were evacuated as a precaution. The fire was called under control shortly after 4:30 p.m. and the evacuated residents were allowed to return home. A Portsmouth hazardous materials team was on the scene. The investigation is being conducted by Suffolk Fire Marshal’s Office. Investigators will continue their inquiry as they return to the plant today, WVEC-TV was reporting this morning. The manufacturing company

employs about 25 people.

Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2009/12/suffolk-firefighters-battle-fire-chemical-plant>

7. *December 4, Grays Harbor Daily World* – (Washington) **Cleanup plans underway at biodiesel plant.** Imperium Grays Harbor officials continue to assess the damage from Wednesday's explosion as clean-up crews sift through powdered glycerin and debris scattered by the blast. Workers in bright green coats hustled in and out of the Hoquiam plant Friday morning as a large tanker truck sat parked near the damaged tanks. A large piece of metal tank that crashed into a chain-link security fence had been removed and the fence temporarily rebuilt. A spokeswoman with the Department of Ecology said environmental officials monitored the site as private contractors worked Thursday to clear a layer of glycerin from the biodiesel plant grounds. The harmless material coated much of the refinery when a 10,000-gallon tank containing a mix of glycerin and sulfuric acid over-pressurized on Wednesday and exploded, rattling windows creating a boom heard miles away. The blast completely destroyed the mixing tank and ruptured a nearby 3,000-gallon tank of sulfuric acid, which leaked about 500 gallons of the corrosive chemical into safety basins around the tank. Officials say none of the acid leaked out of the containment basins and the spill does not pose any threat to nearby air or water. Environmental officials said air quality tests detected no traces of sulfuric acid at neighboring homes or businesses. An Imperium spokesman wrote in a news release the company was working closely with safety and environmental officials. He said environmental officials have turned over safety supervision and air quality monitoring to the private clean-up contractors. The spokesman said about two or three days of site cleaning and hazardous chemical work remain. Crews must finish removing the glycerin, some of which is solid or semi-solid, before they can clear the acid.

Source:

[http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/12/04/local\\_news/doc4b195d643d7e9855445593.txt](http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2009/12/04/local_news/doc4b195d643d7e9855445593.txt)

8. *December 4, Spokane Spokesman-Review* – (Washington; International) **Gas storage worries some in Whitman County.** A Canadian company's proposal to store chlorine behind a \$250,000 security fence at a remote rail siding in Whitman County, Washington has alarmed Belmont residents and raised questions about which government agencies are responsible for oversight. Canexus Chemical wants to stockpile chlorine gas for delivery to U.S. customers at the site while its rail yard in Vancouver, B.C. is torn up during a plant expansion, said the company's manager of logistics. The storage could begin early next year and would last about six months. The 2010 Winter Olympics are also a consideration. The company's manager said nothing at this point indicates that Canexus will have difficulty moving chlorine through Vancouver after the games begin on February 12. However, such shipments were halted in Salt Lake City during the 2002 Winter Olympics. "They want a place to store cars if there's a temporary shutdown in rail shipments due to security," said the president of the Washington Idaho Railway, which would lease the storage space to Canexus. He said the railway also transports anhydrous ammonia. Sometimes, those

cars sit on the tracks for several weeks, waiting to be unloaded. A federal railroad inspector said federal rail law overrides state and local laws only when the hazardous materials are shipped to their final destination with layovers of 48 hours or less. State officials are looking into whether the 48-hour rule prohibits storing chlorine at Belmont. A Federal Railroad Administration spokesman said the 48-hour rule would not forbid chlorine storage because Canexus is working with other federal agencies that regulate long-term storage of hazardous materials, including Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. However, “this is not all settled,” he added.

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/dec/04/gas-storage-worries-some/>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

9. *December 7, Reuters* – (Arizona) **APS Ariz Palo Verde 2 at full power Unit 3 at 12 pct power.** Arizona Public Service’s 1,314-megawatt Unit 2 at the Palo Verde nuclear power station in Arizona ramped up to full power as of early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit, which was shut in early October for refueling, was operating at 38 percent of capacity on Friday. Meanwhile, the 1,247 MW Unit 3 climbed to 12 percent power early Monday after being shut last Thursday due to a problem with a containment isolation valve.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0712587220091207>

10. *December 6, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Pipe leak forces nuke plant to reduce power at both reactors.** Workers at the nuclear plant in Salem Township addressed a pipe leak that has caused operators to reduce power at both reactors. The leak is in a 16-inch Fiberglas pipe that supplies water from the Susquehanna River to the cooling tower for Unit 2 at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. Releasing roughly 5,000 gallons per minute, it flooded an access pit and began spilling down the sloped property before workers were able to pump it into the cooling tower basin. The situation has since been “stabilized,” a plant spokesman said. Only one of the two lines that feed cooling water ruptured, according to a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, though both lines were shut down to investigate. The cooling tower basin holds roughly 7 million gallons, which allowed the company to keep the reactors running even though they were forced to reduce power. Unit 1 was reduced to 70 percent and Unit 2 to 50 percent as of noon on Thursday, the NRC spokesman said. PPL does not release output unless required to. The pipe leak required a report to the NRC. The 30-inch main water line was slated for reopening on Thursday afternoon while repair plans for the bypass pipe were being discussed.

Source:

[http://www.timesleader.com/news/MunicipalNews/Pipe\\_leak\\_forces\\_nuke\\_plant\\_to\\_reduce\\_power\\_at\\_both\\_reactors\\_12-06-2009.html](http://www.timesleader.com/news/MunicipalNews/Pipe_leak_forces_nuke_plant_to_reduce_power_at_both_reactors_12-06-2009.html)

11. *December 6, New York Times* – (National) **White House is urged to help states with nuclear plants stockpile thyroid drug.** After the September 11th attacks, Congress

passed a law instructing the federal government to help states build bigger stocks of a simple, cheap drug to protect people near nuclear power plants in the event of an accident or terrorist attack. Under a 2002 law, states with nuclear plants would get help increasing supplies of potassium iodide. But the 2002 law left a legal loophole allowing the White House to forgo distribution if officials found that there was a better way to prevent cancer than administering the thyroid drug. And after years of delays, the former Presidential Administration dropped the plan in 2007, saying evacuations would be a better alternative. Now advocates are trying again, bargaining on a new Administration that is re-examining the previous Administration's policies. Last week, a Representative, the Massachusetts Democrat who wrote the drug provision in the 2002 law, sent a letter to the President asking for a review of its fate. The White House said in a statement that it was reviewing the legislation and "the process used by the prior administration." Champions of nuclear power argued that the chance of release of iodine was so small that distributing drugs in advance over a wide area would only undercut public confidence in the safety of nuclear power.

Source:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/07/health/policy/07tablets.html?\\_r=1&ref=health](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/07/health/policy/07tablets.html?_r=1&ref=health)

12. *December 6, Lynchburg News and Advance* – (Virginia) **Uranium study finally gets a green light.** Word came Thursday that Virginia's uranium mining study has gotten the go-ahead from a top panel of the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences. The National Research Council (NRC) is part of nation's premier scientific organization. Earlier this year, the General Assembly voted to request the NRC study whether a 119 million pound deposit of uranium ore in neighboring Pittsylvania County could be safely mined and milled, without risk to the environment. Since the early 1980s, Virginia has had a moratorium on mining and milling in place, due to concerns as to whether it could be done safely. With global energy demand rising, the lure of the ore deposit, one of the largest in the nation, has grown. Virginia Uranium Inc., the company that is seeking to mine and mill the Coles Hill deposit, successfully lobbied the General Assembly last session to ask for the study, laying the groundwork for the eventual lifting of the moratorium.

Source:

[http://www2.newsadvance.com/lna/news/opinion/editorials/article/uranium\\_study\\_finally\\_gets\\_a\\_green\\_light/22019/](http://www2.newsadvance.com/lna/news/opinion/editorials/article/uranium_study_finally_gets_a_green_light/22019/)

13. *December 6, Pueblo Chieftain* – (New Mexico; Utah) **Utah company defends rail transfer at Antonito.** An official with the Utah company shipping contaminated soil from Los Alamos National Laboratory defended the company's decision to transfer its shipments from truck to rail at Antonito. "The Antonito transfer point is the closest viable option to Los Alamos," an EnergySolutions spokesman said. "Other transfer point options were inferior largely due to an increase in rail miles required, lack of daily rail service or multiple railroad switching requirements." Earlier in the week, EnergySolutions began shipping the contaminated soil, which contains depleted uranium and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. The loads are trucked to Antonito and transferred to the San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad at a transfer station that sits within the railroad's right of way. The load is then shipped by rail to Walsenburg,

where it is then shipped by Union Pacific to the company's storage facility in Clive, Utah, 74 miles west of Salt Lake City. Neither the railroad nor EnergySolutions had publicly discussed its plans with residents or Conejos County officials until a Thursday meeting. Residents questioned why the company would choose to truck the shipments more than 100 miles to Antonito, when other railheads sat closer to Antonito. Officials at Los Alamos said Friday that while the U.S. Department of Energy prefers such shipments travel by rail, they do not play a role in determining which routes cleanup contractors take.

Source:

<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/12/06/news/local/doc4b1b470e687eb379290304.txt>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

14. *December 7, Computerworld* – (National) **Air Force to buy 2,200 PlayStation 3 consoles for supercomputer.** The U.S. Air Force recently issued a request for proposals to purchase 2,200 Sony PlayStation 3 video game consoles. The Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York, is interested in the chip technology inside the PS3, specifically the Cell Broadband Engine Architecture, according a blog post by Gartner Inc. a technology analyst. The Air Force is studying whether the PS3 chips could be a cost-effective technology for modernizing the military's high-performance computing systems. Supercomputer experts at the Air Force already have 336 PS3 consoles hooked together in an experimental Linux-based cluster. Now they want 2,200 more to expand the research project. The laboratory evaluated chips from other vendors, such as IBM and Intel Corp., but found the PS3 chips to be much cheaper.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/345642/Air\\_Force\\_Taps\\_PlayStation\\_3\\_for\\_Research](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/345642/Air_Force_Taps_PlayStation_3_for_Research)

15. *December 7, The Register* – (National) **Hacker scalps NASA-run website.** Miscreants took advantage of weak security to hack into two NASA-run websites over the weekend. The websites of NASA's Instrument Systems and Technology unit and Software Engineering division were broken into and screenshots illustrating the hack posted online. Hackers appear to have taken advantage of SQL Injection flaws and poor access controls in mounting the attack, reports an ex-IBM security expert who is now VP of Research at security firm Damballa. Stolen screenshots from the hack were subsequently posted onto a full disclosure mailing list. The motives and perpetrators of

the attack remain unclear at the time of writing.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/07/nasa\\_hack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/07/nasa_hack/)

16. *December 4, Congress Daily* – (National) **Trade group seeks to stave off cybersecurity mandates.** A trade association of major defense, telecommunications and financial services businesses wants Congress and the the current Administration to avoid placing mandates on private companies when it comes to cybersecurity, and instead offer incentives that encourage companies to improve their practices. The Internet Security Alliance on Thursday issued a 70-page report promoting a partnership between the government and private companies that would encourage businesses to view good cybersecurity practices as being in their economic interest. “We will never have a sustainable system of cybersecurity until we change the economic equation that governs it,” said the president of the group. He said the alliance had shared the report with the White House and planned to discuss it later Thursday with the National Security Council’s cybersecurity director. The government could, for example, create a program under which companies could be given liability insurance benefits for developing technology and standards, the report states. The government could also tie federal funding and contract awards to effective cybersecurity practices. Other incentives the government could offer companies include streamlined regulations, tax breaks, grant funding for research and development and liability protections, according to the report.

Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20091204\\_9658.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091204_9658.php)

For another story, see item [45](#)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

17. *December 7, Bank Info Security* – (National) **ATM fraud: new skimming scheme spreads.** Three ATM skimming operations in Maryland, Illinois and Georgia have netted thieves more than \$120,000, according to law enforcement agencies investigating the crimes. These discoveries follow several recent incidents of ATM skimming in other states. Maryland State Police report that an ATM skimmer was placed on a Bank of America ATM in Eldersburg, Maryland, and that possibly \$30,000 was taken last week. Police have removed the skimmer, but say there could be more. State police have reported other incidents at various other banks in Northern Virginia and Maryland. Two men reportedly were photographed installing the skimming device, which collected card information from customers. The men then come back, removed the device, made counterfeit ATM cards with their stolen information and withdrew money. In Illinois, thieves used a Bank of America ATM to steal \$20,000. Police report the criminals installed a skimming device on a drive-up ATM in Mt. Prospect. The skimmer reportedly was used on October 11, 12, 24, and 25, as well as November 26-29 to steal \$20,192 from 316 debit card accounts. The criminals removed the skimmer before employees could find it. Several bank customers complained Monday, November 30, about unauthorized withdrawals. That report came a week after a similar

ploy in Buffalo Grove, where more than \$70,000 was taken from an ATM at a Chase Bank branch. Chase Bank officials told police that security video recorded two suspects placing a camera and recording device on the ATM inside the lobby of the bank on November 14. The two then returned on November 16 and used account information that was recorded to withdraw funds from multiple accounts.

Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=1985](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=1985)

18. *December 6, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Possible security breach at Flagstar.** There is the possibility of a security breach at Flagstar Bank, according to a letter it sent out to some customers November 25. A laptop owned by a bank vendor was stolen, and inside the computer were some customers' social security numbers. "We have no reason to believe that the files with this information will be accessed or used inappropriately," the letter states. "However, in the interest of caution, we felt it was important to inform you of this incident. We also have taken steps to place an alert on your home equity checking account and other deposit accounts in our system." Letters were sent to customers who were possibly affected, but not every customer. The vendor is a company that helps Flagstar with services the bank provides, a representative said Sunday.

Source: [http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/kent\\_county/Possible-security-breach-at-Flagstar](http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/kent_county/Possible-security-breach-at-Flagstar)

19. *December 4, IDG News Service* – (National) **HSBC exposed sensitive bankruptcy data.** HSBC Bank says a bug in its imaging software inadvertently exposed sensitive data about some of its customers going through bankruptcy proceedings. In notification letters made public on December 3, the bank said it had redacted sensitive information in Chapter 13 bankruptcy proof-of-claim forms that were filed electronically, but that the information turned out to be viewable "as a result of the deficiency in the software used to save imaged documents." An HSBC spokeswoman declined to elaborate on the cause of the problem, but said "a limited number of customers" were affected. HSBC has "no reason to believe customers' personal information may have been compromised," she added via e-mail. The company sent letters to affected customers in October and is offering them one year of free credit monitoring. Some customers of the following HSBC companies are affected: HSBC Taxpayer Financial Services, Beneficial New Hampshire and Household Finance Corporation. According to documents filed Thursday with the New Hampshire Attorney General's office, HSBC failed to completely redact information on forms that were filed between May 1, 2007, and October 17, 2008. HSBC said it learned of the problem on July 9, 2009. The data disclosed may have covered HSBC credit card, line-of-credit or mortgage information, the company said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/external/idg/2009/12/04/04idg-hsbc-exposed-sensitive-bankruptcy-data-76258.html>

20. *December 4, CNN* – (National) **Bank failure tally reaches 130.** The nation's tally of 2009 bank casualties hit 130 on December 4 when regulators shuttered a large Ohio bank, an Illinois bank, a Virginia bank and three small Georgia banks. The largest bank to fail was AmTrust Bank in Cleveland, Ohio. Regulators also closed Benchmark Bank

in Aurora, Illinois, and Greater Atlantic Bank in Reston, Virginia. The Buckhead Community Bank in Atlanta, First Security National Bank in Norcross, The Tattnall Bank in Reidsville, all of Georgia, were also closed. Customers of all the six failed banks are protected, however. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which has insured bank deposits since the Great Depression, currently covers customer accounts up to \$250,000.

Source: [http://money.cnn.com/2009/12/04/news/economy/bank\\_failure/](http://money.cnn.com/2009/12/04/news/economy/bank_failure/)

For another story, see item [16](#)

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## **Transportation Sector**

21. *December 7, USA Today* – (Arizona) **Bird risk to jets a ‘flashing beacon’**. Several collisions between aircraft and birds in recent months are stark evidence that last January’s water landing of a US Airways jet that hit geese is far from unique and that the hazards may be increasing, according to federal records and aviation safety experts. The Commercial Aviation Safety Team on Friday for the first time elevated birds to its list of priority issues at the urging of the Federal Aviation Administration and Agriculture Department. In an incident jarringly similar to the collision with birds that is now dubbed the “Miracle on the Hudson,” large birds damaged both engines on a Frontier Airlines Airbus A319 that had taken off from Kansas City on November 14. One engine sputtered out, but the other engine maintained power after the birds hit its exterior, missing the critical fan blades by inches, according to a preliminary accident report by the National Transportation Safety Board. None of the 130 people aboard was hurt after an emergency landing. Also last month, a bird blasted a hole through the windshield of a cargo plane over Arizona and another gouged an 18-inch tear in the side of a Delta Air Lines jet near Phoenix. Birds also have been involved in several helicopter accidents this year, including a crash in Louisiana that killed eight people headed to an oil platform. Since January’s Hudson River accident, the FAA has improved reporting of bird strikes and is writing tough new requirements for how airports should combat birds and other wildlife, says the FAA’s acting associate administrator for airports. Bird experts contend that the FAA and the industry have not moved quickly enough. There needs to be a massive effort to create new technology, such as radars that track birds, and to study other ways to reduce risk, they say. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-12-06-bird-strike\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-12-06-bird-strike_N.htm)

22. *December 6, Naples Daily News* – (Florida) **Flight to Fort Myers makes safe emergency landing**. An American Airlines flight from Chicago made a safe emergency landing Sunday morning at Southwest Florida International Airport, a spokeswoman for the Lee County Port Authority said. Pilots said they were having mechanical problems with the McDonnell Douglas-80 and were allowed to land out of turn ahead of other planes, the spokeswoman said. Emergency airport personnel were on alert, but the plane landed safely about 10:15 a.m. and taxied to the terminal building, she said. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2009/dec/06/American-Airlines-emergency-landing-Fort-Myers/>

23. *December 6, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Firefighters extinguish blaze at Hooks Airport.** More than 10 fire departments and EMS agencies battled a two-alarm blaze that erupted at a small airport in northwest Harris County on Sunday. The fire began in one of the hangars of the Hooks Airport around 11 a.m. Multiple planes and vehicles caught on fire. One person sustained burns and was transported to Memorial Hermann hospital for treatment. The fire has been extinguished, but crews are still working on hot spots. The cause of the fire is now under investigation.

Source: <http://www.khou.com/home/Firefighters-battle-blaze-at-Hooks-Airport-78637482.html>

24. *December 6, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Tour boat collides with C. Guard boat, 3 hurt.** A tour boat crossing the channel in a South Carolina harbor collided with a small Coast Guard boat, injuring three people. The Coast Guard says the two boats collided Saturday just before 8:30 p.m. A Coast Guard spokeswoman says the three who were hurt had minor injuries and were passengers on the tour boat. The Coast Guard's 25-foot boat was not damaged and the 43-passenger tour boat had moderate damage. Conditions at the time of the incident were clear with winds at 10 to 15 mph. Authorities are investigating the accident.

Source:

[http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/12/ap\\_coast\\_guard\\_boat\\_collision\\_120609/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/12/ap_coast_guard_boat_collision_120609/)

25. *December 5, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **NWA jet has flap problems; lands safely.** A regularly scheduled Northwest Airlines jet landed safely Saturday even though the jet's wing flaps were not functioning. An airport spokesman said that the pilot reported the wing flap problem to air controllers at 10:25 am. Emergency crews were put on standby, but were not needed as the plane landed safely at the airport about ten minutes later. The jet is part of a regularly scheduled flight from Minneapolis to Grand Rapids, MI. The jet was carrying 47 people at the time. "Pilots are trained for this situation. It's not a regular occurrence but it does happen occasionally. Crews are trained to land without flaps and planes are required to land safely without flaps," the spokesman said.

Source: [http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/ottawa\\_county/Northwest-plane-has-flap-lands-safely](http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/ottawa_county/Northwest-plane-has-flap-lands-safely)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *December 7, USA Today* – (Arizona; New Mexico) **Company issues 2nd recall for tainted beef.** For the second time this year, a Fresno beef company is recalling thousands of pounds of ground beef contaminated with a drug-resistant strain of salmonella. Beef Packers Inc., owned by Cargill, announced the recall on December 4. It covers 22,723 pounds of ground beef products that were sent to stores in Arizona and New Mexico. The Arizona Department of Health Services has linked two illnesses to the ground beef, made at the Beef Packers plant on September 23. The beef was “repackaged into consumer-size packages and sold under different retail brand names,” according to a news release issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. Safeway announced that the recall affects ground beef sold at its stores in Arizona and one outlet in Gallup, New Mexico. A Safeway spokesman said the recalled product is no longer in stores and urged customers to check all ground beef in their freezers and discard any with “sell by” dates of September 28 through October 11. Recalled products include fresh ground beef, beef patties, meat balls and stuffed peppers.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-12-06-beef-recall\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-12-06-beef-recall_N.htm)

27. *December 7, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Unilever recalls 10 million cans of Slim-Fast.** Unilever PLC is recalling 10 million cans of its Slim-Fast ready-to-drink products in the United States and Canada due to the possible contamination of a bacteria that can make people sick, a spokeswoman said on December 6. The spokeswoman said there is no immediately available figure on the cost of the recall, how long it would take or how much in revenue the product contributes to Unilever’s total sales. The spokeswoman stressed that the recall affects only the Slim-Fast line of ready-to-drink can products and not those that come in powder or snack-bar form. She said she does not have immediate information on whether customers have started calling Unilever’s hotline number since the company announced the recall Thursday. She added that she could not comment on whether the company will compensate customers but said “the probability of serious, adverse consequences is remote.” On December 3, Unilever’s U.S. office said the recall is “due to the possibility of contamination with *Bacillus cereus*, a micro-organism, which may cause diarrhea and possibly nausea and/or vomiting.” Unilever said the recall began after the Anglo-Dutch consumer-goods group conducted a quality test on the canned product. “Out of an abundance of caution, the company is recalling all ready-to-drink products in cans that are currently in distribution centers, on-shelf or in back rooms in retail outlets or in consumers’ homes,” it said in a statement. The spokeswoman December 6 said shipments of the product will resume after the problem has been corrected. The ready-to-drink products are packaged in cartons and contain four, six or 12 cans containing 11 fluid ounces each. Individual cans are also sold in certain retail outlets. The Unilever spokeswoman said buyers of the product should discard them and contact the company for a full refund.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703558004574580040211489548.htm>  
1

28. *December 6, WRDW 12 Augusta* – (Georgia) **Two arrested in connection to calling in false bomb threats to Club Hollywood.** Two people are in custody in the Richmond County Jail for terroristic threats to a downtown Augusta nightclub, which caused the club to close its doors early evening on December 4. Club Hollywood nightclub in downtown Augusta, Georgia, has had to close down early twice in the past two weeks because of repeated false bomb threats. The co-owner of the business said he is getting tired of the calls because they are affecting the company's bottom line since the calls are coming during the prime time of their party. Incident reports show the first call came into dispatch on November 29 stating, "There is a bomb at Club Hollywood on Ellis street and I'm gonna blow that [expletive] up." When the threats come in, the club has to close down so the authorities can come in and make sure there is not a bomb inside of the building, which there has not been during any of the calls. "Richmond County has been coming in and making sure everything is secure," he said. "But it's kind of hurting our business a little bit." A man was arrested on December 5 in connection to this weekend's calls. Investigators tell News 12 there were five calls into dispatch on December 4 threatening to blow up the establishment while everyone was inside. Investigators also said a juvenile is also in custody in connection to the calls as well. Investigators said they have not connected the man with the previous calls, but they are still looking into it.

Source: <http://www.wrdw.com/crimeteam12/headlines/78666822.html>

29. *December 5, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **Dust explosion rocks North Portland Land O' Lakes plant.** An explosion at the Land O' Lakes plant in North Portland about 8:30 p.m. Friday night caused about \$100,000 damage, according to the Portland Fire Bureau spokeswoman. The explosion was on the third-floor of the plant on North Simmons Road. A machine called "corn cracker" had created a dust explosion. No employees were in the area of the blast. The "corn cracker" mixes hot and cold materials that are distributed to other parts of the plant, she said. It overheated and created the dust explosion which sent embers into several silos. It took fire crews two hours to locate and put out hot spots in the building and the silos. Equipment sent to the scene included four engines, two trucks, and a fire boat.

Source: <http://www.kgw.com/news/local/Dust-explosion-rocks-North-Portland-Land-O-Lakes-plant-78599387.html>

30. *December 4, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Suspicious package forces evacuations in Tempe.** Tempe, Arizona, businesses were evacuated and a bomb squad responded to a Fry's grocery store after a suspicious package was reported Friday morning. The Tempe Police Department said the suspicious package was reported at the Fry's near Guadalupe Road and McClintock Drive at 8:02 a.m. A concerned citizen reportedly called police when she saw a man in a ski mask and olive drab backpack towing a suitcase. The man apparently disappeared from sight, then reappeared without the suitcase. Local businesses were evacuated by Tempe police and the entrances surrounding the Fry's were blocked off for several hours. Tempe Police, Tempe Fire and the Phoenix Police Explosive Ordinance Disposal worked to determine if the suitcase was wired with explosives. The suitcase was empty and was not a threat to the public. Local businesses were notified that they could return before the lunch hour.

Source: <http://www.abc15.com/content/news/southeastvalley/tempe/story/Suspicious-package-forces-evacuations-in-Tempe/qaXYAA3Hdkm2sIMO0kYXgQ.csp?rss=1729>

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## Water Sector

31. *December 6, National Geographic News* – (International) **“Wired” Irish river detects pollution in real time.** In Ireland, scientists have outfitted a major river with sensors that detect spikes in pollution in real time. Sensors recently placed at various points in the River Lee, near the city of Cork, send information on pollution levels back to a data center. Water managers can keep tabs on pollutants entering the river and, if need be, mount an immediate response. Called the DEPLOY project, the program was developed as a cheaper alternative to sending out scientists to collect water samples several times a day. In addition, the technology can identify a disastrous influx of pollution, such as toxic industrial-chemical spills, before fish go belly up. Citizens can also set up an account to get data reports, so they can receive text messages or emails whenever water quality reaches an unhealthy level at points in the river where people may kayak or swim. For some, the Irish project is a test case: If successful, DEPLOY and other water-monitoring projects across the globe could help build a case for widespread wireless environmental monitoring. The DEPLOY project launched with five monitoring stations in April 2009 along the River Lee, one of the largest rivers in southwestern Ireland. DEPLOY will last roughly until next April, when scientists will decide if it is both technically and economically feasible to expand the program to other European rivers. The five-sensor system runs for about U.S. \$22,619. To outfit the entire Lee River Basin would cost about U.S. \$301,592, according to the DEPLOY project manager.

Source: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/12/091205-wireless-river-water-pollution.html>

32. *December 6, KCAL 9 Los Angeles* – (California) **6-inch water main ruptures in south Los Angeles.** A six-inch water main broke in South Los Angeles Sunday, flooding the streets and prompting authorities to effectively shut off water to more than 50 homes in the area, a Los Angeles Department of Water (DWP) and Power spokesperson said. The flooding, which occurred at around 1:30 a.m., took place on West 109th Street. By 2:25 a.m., DWP crew lowered the water pressure, “effectively shutting it off,” to about 50 or 60 DWP customers, most or all of whom were residential, a spokeswoman said. Normal water pressure was expected to be restored about 11 a.m., she said. There were no reports of injuries or property damage. The cause of the break was under investigation.

Source: <http://cbs2.com/local/water.main.break.2.1352952.html>

33. *December 5, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Wastewater spills into Arkansas River at Pueblo.** More than 300,000 gallons of sewage spilled into the Arkansas River after a malfunction at a wastewater treatment plant in Pueblo, Colorado. The spill Thursday happened about a mile east of the confluence of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas

River. Officials have tested the water but won't know the extent of the pollution until next week. It is the second spill since 2007 at the James DiIorio Wastewater Reclamation plant. Pueblo officials say the plant is aging, but the city can not afford upgrades. The city has applied for federal stimulus money to make upgrades at the wastewater facility. But so far Pueblo has not been awarded enough money to pay for \$4 million worth of needed upgrades.

Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--sewagespill,0,260977.story>

34. *December 4, WACH 57 Columbia* – (South Carolina) **Eastover sewer treatment plant collapses.** The Richland County Utilities Division says the county's Lower Richland Sewer Treatment Plant failed Friday morning. That facility is located about five miles southeast of Eastover, South Carolina. The failure was discovered at around 8 am Friday. Officials from the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) were notified and provided on scene testing, evaluation and monitoring of the site. The tank that failed only contained rainwater and authorities say the failure did not cause contamination or put its 350 customers at risk. DHEC recommends that Richland County officials continue testing the water treatment process at the plant. County officials say there are working with an engineering consultant to review ways to ensure the structural integrity of the plant and minimize the failure.

Source: <http://www.midlandsconnect.com/news/story.aspx?id=386226>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

35. *December 7, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Allegheny County's bioterrorism lab overdue, over budget.** Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, officials give no signs a sophisticated Health Department bioterrorism lab, two years overdue and at least \$2 million over budget, will open by year's end. The 500-square-foot biosafety level-3 lab was supposed to begin operating in August as part of the county's \$6.4 million biosecurity lab in Lawrenceville. When that did not happen, Health Department officials pushed the biosafety lab's opening back to late September with the intention of opening it in time for the Group of 20 international economic summit. The BSL-3 lab is intended to allow the Health Department to examine potentially deadly pathogens such as anthrax bacteria, the smallpox virus and H1N1 flu virus. The county must send specimens to a state Department of Health lab in Chester County, near Philadelphia. Results can take days to be returned. A former University of Pittsburgh biological safety officer now working in Wisconsin, reported in August the lab passed most tests but noted some alarms did not work during a simulated power outage, some doors did not close properly and seals in the lab could allow air contaminated with pathogens to escape.

Source: [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s\\_656549.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_656549.html)

36. *December 5, KSWO 7 Lawton* – (Oklahoma) **Man arrested for making bomb threat.** Police say a man who went to prison for calling in a bomb threat to a Lawton hospital has done it again. Dispatchers say the 28-year-old called 9-1-1 around 1 a.m.

Saturday and said he was going to blow up the hospital. A few minutes later, they say he called back and said someone was trying to break into his home. When officers arrived at his home they did not find anyone trying to break in, but they did find the man's cell phone. Dispatchers called it and confirmed it was the phone used to make the bomb threat. Police say the man told them he was mad at the hospital. Court records show he spent about two years in prison for calling a bomb threat to the same hospital back in 2002.

Source: <http://www.kswo.com/global/story.asp?s=11628647>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

37. *December 7, Daily Eastern News* – (Illinois) **Viruses infect admissions server.** An Office of Admissions server containing personal information of current, prospective and former undergraduate students at Eastern University was infected with a number of viruses on November 11. A security report on November 16 showed “suspicious activity” on the computer, which was then put under investigation by members of Information Technology Services. Malware infected the computer, which is used as a server for admissions that helps process electronic admissions applications. This malware could have allowed a person outside the university to access the server from Nov. 11 until it was discovered on November 16. It was not confirmed whether any files containing student information were accessed. The electronic application data of about 9,000 individuals who applied to Eastern between March 2000 and November 2009 were located on the computer, said Eastern's information technology security officer. “It is important to note that not all individuals that applied during this period were affected, only a small percent,” he said. The information in the server includes names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, mailing addresses and other contact information, the information technology officer said.

Source:

<http://media.www.dennews.com/media/storage/paper309/news/2009/12/07/News/Viruses.Infect.Admissions.Server-3846441.shtml>

38. *December 7, IDG News Service* – (National) **Cyberattacks on U.S. military systems rise sharply.** Cyberattacks on the U.S. Department of Defense — many of them coming from China — have increased sharply this year, according to congressional testimony last month. Citing data provided by the U.S. Strategic Command, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission said that in all of 2008, there were 54,640 malicious cyber incidents targeting DOD systems. There were 43,785 such incidents in the first half of this year. If that rate of growth continues, cyberattacks will be up 60 percent this year. “Much of this activity appears to originate in China,” the report stated. “[A] large body of both circumstantial and forensic evidence strongly indicates Chinese state involvement in such activities.” According to the report, the U.S. military spent \$100 million to fend off those attacks between September 2008 and March 2009.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/345650/Report\\_China\\_Tied\\_to\\_Cyberattacks\\_on\\_U.S.\\_Systems](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/345650/Report_China_Tied_to_Cyberattacks_on_U.S._Systems)

39. *December 6, Yambil Valley News Register* – (Oregon) **More suspicious packages found on Linfield campus.** For the second time in a week, the Oregon State Police Bomb Squad was called to McMinnville to check out suspicious packages. No bombs were found in either incident. No suspects or motives have been identified at this point. According to McMinnville police, more than five suspicious packages were found in open areas of the campus Sunday morning. They were checked by the state bomb squad and found to be free of explosives or hazardous materials. Another suspicious package was found November 29. It turned out to be a jug filled with concrete. McMinnville police are continuing to investigate. The McMinnville Fire Department and the Linfield College Public Safety Department also have been assisting with the investigations. Both incidents have occurred on Sundays after the Linfield Wildcats won a playoff football game.  
Source: <http://www.newsregister.com/article/42489-more+suspicious+packages+found+linfield+campus>
40. *December 5, Montgomery Advertiser* – (Alabama) **Faulkner student charged with terrorist threat after Facebook post.** Montgomery police have arrested a 22 year-old and charged the Faulkner student with committing a terrorist threat for statements he made on his Facebook page that caused Faulkner University to briefly lock down its campus Thursday. The suspect, who denied having any malicious intent behind the statements, is being held at the Montgomery County Detention Facility on \$500,000 bond. “[Our] student safety is our No. 1 concern, and we will do whatever it takes to keep our students safe,” said Faulkner’s director of public relations and communications.  
Source:  
<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20091205/NEWS01/912050338/Faulkner-student-charged-with-terrorist-threat-after-Facebook-post>
41. *December 4, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **DHS has problems with IT internal controls, audit says.** The Homeland Security Department has weaknesses in its information technology systems that might hurt its financial controls, according to an independent audit by accounting firm KPMG. “We noted that the Coast Guard’s core financial system configuration management process controls are not operating effectively and continue to present risks to DHS financial data confidentiality, integrity and availability,” the audit states. The DHS Inspector General released the document December 2. The problems are likely caused by developers including inadequate security controls when implementing IT systems. “The current IT configurations of many Coast Guard financial systems cannot be easily reconfigured to meet new DHS security requirements,” the audit states. “The existence of these IT weaknesses leads to added dependency on other mitigating manual controls to be operating effectively at all times.” DHS’s civilian agencies also had problems with IT controls, especially those related to access control, configuration management and security management, KPMG said. DHS officials agreed with the findings. While performing the evaluation, auditors

found that many government credit cards, user IDs and passwords for financial systems, and laptop PCs were unsecured. The auditors cited instances in which DHS employees did not follow policy when asked to provide their user names and made changes to financial systems without properly documenting them.

Source: <http://fcw.com/articles/2009/12/04/dhs-shows-weakness-in-it-internal-controls-audit-says.aspx>

For more stories, see items [13](#), [15](#), and [24](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

42. *December 6, WestsideConnect* – (California) **City adopting new emergency notification system.** A new, phone-based notification system will allow the city to quickly advise residents of emergency situations, issue warnings of hazards or provide up-to-the minute information on issues such as interruptions in water service. A federal grant is being used to tie the city into the CodeRED rapid emergency communication service, explained a Gustine Police lieutenant. Communities have always faced the challenge of getting emergency information out to residents as quickly as possible. In the past, that might mean relying on sirens to sound a broad-based alarm of some emergency or another – often defined by the number of times the siren sounded. Technology has opened up a new world of opportunities and abilities which take specific notices into individual homes. The CodeRED system can quickly deliver a citywide message to make the public aware of anything from a missing child at risk to severe weather warnings.

Source: <http://westsideconnect.com/content/view/3030/58/>

For another story, see item [47](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

43. *December 5, The Register* – (International) **Germans devise attacks on Windows BitLocker.** German researchers have devised five methods that determined attackers can use to bypass hard-drive encryption in recent versions of Microsoft operating systems. The methods, laid out by a research team from the Fraunhofer Institute for Security Information Technology, can be used to access files protected by BitLocker drive encryption contained in Windows Server 2008 and pricier versions of Windows Vista and Windows 7. BitLocker prevents files or entire volumes from being accessed without a user password being entered first. The researchers stress that the strategies are useful only for targeted attacks, such as those used in industrial espionage, where an attacker is willing to devote considerable effort to breaching a single individual's security. They are not of much use in opportunistic attacks, such as those when an attacker happens upon a lost laptop. Still, they said their findings are useful because

they demonstrate the limits of the protection.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/05/windows\\_bitlocker\\_attacks/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/05/windows_bitlocker_attacks/)

44. *December 4, The Register* – (International) **Attack exploits just-patched Mac security bug.** A security researcher has released a proof-of-concept attack that exploits critical vulnerabilities that Apple patched on December 3. The vulns stem from bugs in the Java runtime environment that allow attackers to remotely execute malicious code. Sun Microsystems patched the flaws early last month. “I know that having a POC in hand bumps Apple’s priority, so I sent them the POC and made them aware of the issue,” said the researcher, a co-founder of security firm Netragard. “I honestly wanted my browser fixed.” The researcher said he read through the patch details and researched where in OS X he thought the bug would be located. He sent the exploit to Apple employees on November 6, three days after Sun released a Java patch for Windows, Linux, and Solaris. Now that Apple has finally fixed the bug, he has gone ahead and made the code public. The exploit is fairly rudimentary, but the researcher said he plans to weaponize it soon. For the moment, browsers on unpatched systems that hit the exploit will crash. Behind the scenes, though, users will find their extended instruction pointers have been set to 0x41424344, a value that indicates a machine has been compromised. The code will also exploit unpatched Windows machines, the researcher said.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/04/mac\\_windows\\_java\\_attack/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/04/mac_windows_java_attack/)

45. *December 4, eWeek* – (National) **Kansas men charged with dealing in counterfeit Cisco products.** Two Kansas men are being accused of selling counterfeit networking gear they claimed was from Cisco Systems. According to a December 3 news release from the Department of Justice, a pair of the Kansas City, Kansas, area, are facing “one count of conspiracy, 30 counts of trafficking in counterfeit goods and one count of trafficking in counterfeit labels” in connection with a scheme that federal investigators say stretched from China to the United States. According to documents from the U.S. Attorney General’s Office in Kansas, one of the suspects in 2003 created a business called Deals Express. Two years later, the other suspect established a company called Deals Direct. Through their businesses, the two would allegedly buy counterfeit Cisco-branded computer hardware built in mainland China and Hong Kong, put counterfeit Cisco labels on it, package it in counterfeit Cisco boxes and sell it with counterfeit Cisco manuals. The hardware components, including network cards and connectors, were sent from China to addresses in Kansas as well as UPS stores in Seattle and Portland, Oregon, according to federal investigators. In 2005, the owner of Deals Direct created a website for the company called Direct2technology and reportedly began selling the counterfeit Cisco products on eBay. Authorities began seizing shipments of the counterfeit products in 2005 in Los Angeles, Louisville, Kentucky, and Wilmington, Ohio.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Enterprise-Networking/Kansas-Men-Charged-With-Dealing-in-Counterfeit-Cisco-Products-870783/>

## 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

46. *December 7, UK Telegraph* – (International) **Mobile phone networks face ‘crisis’ as data traffic surges.** Network operators need to upgrade the 3G wireless network urgently, according to a report from Unwired Insight, which predicts that mobile web traffic will increase by more than 20 times over the next four years. Smartphones, such as the Apple iPhone, rely on the 3G technology to surf the internet on the go, show TV, download music and share photos on social-networking sites. But the growing popularity of these data-hungry devices is helping to push the phone network to its limits, say analysts. Watching an hour of YouTube clips is equivalent to sending a million text messages, while downloading a film over the 3G network equates to around 400,000 emails. And laptops that use a mobile broadband “dongle”, which enable users to surf the web over the mobile phone network, are also putting a huge strain on network capacity. The report, entitled “Will 3G networks cope?”, warns that some operators face the prospect of 3G capacity shortfalls, where there will be more users than available bandwidth. “We could face big problems in the next one to two years if the demand for mobile broadband keeps growing,” said a wireless technology consultant who contributed to the report. “It doesn’t mean that mobile phone networks will crash, but what it does mean is that the network will be very congested. We will see a slowing down of the network’s overall performance, and it will take longer to load web pages and download songs. “We’re going to see a lot of frustrated, dissatisfied customers who have paid for a service, and who don’t feel that it delivers.” The report from Unwired Insight warns that operators need to look at new technology to meet growing consumer demand for mobile data services. He said that upgrades to existing infrastructure, and the opening up of more capacity when the U.K. government auctions off the 3G spectrum next year, will not provide a long-term solution. He said that devices such as femtocells, which boost mobile phone signal strength in the home, and the roll-out of so-called ‘4G’ networks, known as LTE, would provide some additional capacity, but that network operators still faced a “bumpy road” over the next few years.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/mobile-phones/6726623/Mobile-phone-networks-face-crisis-as-data-traffic-surges.html>

47. *December 7, Sandusky Register* – (Ohio) **Erie Co. 911 caller gets recording.** A possible glitch in a phone company’s cellular tower gave a Sandusky woman the runaround when she called 911 on Tuesday, county officials said. “I’m very confident that this has to do with the programming that was done to an AT&T cell tower,” said

the director at Erie County Emergency Management Agency. “This has to do with the phone carrier themselves.” An AT&T spokesman, however, said Thursday he is not aware of any issues with the company’s cellular towers.

Source: <http://www.sanduskyregister.com/articles/2009/12/07/front/1778920.txt>

48. *December 5, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (National) **Verizon customers will see interruption in text-alert service.** Hundreds of businesses, including the NCAA and Gannett Co., Inc., are unable to send text alerts to Verizon customers because of a dispute over advertising embedded in the alerts. Verizon, the international Internet broadband and wireless communications company, is blocking text alerts to mobile devices such as cell phones, BlackBerrys and the Droid sent through 4INFO, a California-based company that provides text alert capabilities for businesses across the country. People who have Verizon Wireless service stopped receiving text alerts Friday from the Desert Sun, the Packers and any other company that uses 4INFO’s 44636 short code service, which allows companies to embed a short line of advertising within each message. Short codes determine the content of the message, such as sports scores, weather or breaking news updates. “We have a dispute with Verizon, and as a result they have shut off access,” the 4INFO marketing director said Saturday. “Their issue is with the advertising.”

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20091205/NEWS01/912050319/1026/news12/Verizon-customers-will-see-interruption-in-text-alert-service>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [16](#)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

49. *December 7, WBBM 2 Chicago and Associated Press* – (International) **Chicago man charged in connection with 2008 Mumbai attacks.** A Chicago man, already charged in a terror plot against a Danish newspaper, is now also charged with conducting surveillance in Mumbai, India, before the deadly terrorist attack there in November 2008. The man is charged by federal authorities with traveling to India to perform surveillance five times between September 2006 and July 2008. He took pictures and made videotapes of several targets, including those that were attacked in November 2008. A total of 166 people were killed in the attacks by 10 gunmen in Mumbai, India’s financial capital, that began November 26, 2008. It ended three days later with troops storming the Taj Mahal Hotel where some gunmen were holed up.

Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/headley.mumbai.attacks.2.1354543.html>

50. *December 6, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Emergency high surf preps under way.** On Sunday, crews set up scaffolding on Honolulu for the 25th anniversary of the Eddie Aikau Invitational, which is an invite-only memorial event for a Hawaiian legend. The invitational requires a full day of waves with over 20-foot faces, and it garners attention across the world. If the Eddie Invitational gets the go from the waves, organizers said

they expect the beach to be covered with people; however, emergency officials are concerned. Waves are forecasted to reach heights of up to 50 feet, and that could mean trouble, officials said. Emergency officials said that, if waves reach predicted heights, homes and roads are in danger of being washed away. “We are also concerned of possible damage to homes on the shorelines and also the hazard to all of our residentially-challenged families living on the beaches,” said an Oahu Civil Defense official. Emergency crews have been working around the clock and plan to alert at-risk residents if need be.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/21883193/detail.html>

51. *December 4, Green Bay Press-Gazette* – (Wisconsin) **Arrest reported in casino bomb threat.** Police investigating a robbery in which the perpetrator phoned in a bomb threat against the Ho-Chunk Casino as a diversion have arrested a man who already is serving time in prison for a similar crime. The Shawano County Sheriff’s Department said Friday that the suspect is serving a four-year prison sentence for a pharmacy robbery in Merrill in which a bomb threat was simultaneously reported against a nearby Wal-Mart store. In the new case, which occurred before the Merrill robbery, the suspect is believed to have robbed the Gwidt Pharmacy in Wittenberg on January 30 while also making a bomb threat against the Ho-Chunk Casino, located north of Wittenberg. Sheriff’s officials said they expect formal charges to be filed the week of December 7.

Source:

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20091204/GPG0101/91204157/1207/GPG01/Arrest-reported-in-casino-bomb-threat>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

52. *December 7, Aspen Times* – (Colorado) **Forest Service revisits policy on gas drilling.** The U.S. Forest Service is using a break in the natural gas boom to reassess what lands in Colorado’s White River National Forest should be open to drilling. The agency is updating a 17-year-old document that determines what lands are available for leasing for gas exploration. White River National Forest’s supervisor said the document will help him determine where drilling is appropriate and under what conditions. The drilling activity that swept western Colorado in the middle part of this decade spilled into the national forest to a higher degree than anticipated. A 1993 leasing availability decision predicted that no more than 23 wells would be drilled in the White River National Forest by 2013. Agency officials stuck with that forecast when they approved a broader forest management plan in 2002. The prediction proved woefully low in just a few years. In 2002, only one new well had been drilled in the national forest over the prior decade and two additional drilling applications had been filed, according to Forest Service documents. There are now 82 drilled wells and scores more have been approved, according to a Forest Service staffer leading the leasing availability update.

Source:

<http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20091207/NEWS/912069985/1077&ParentProfile=1058>

53. *December 6, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Graffiti mars Valley National Park.** In a 1,000-year-old American Indian village at Sequoia National Park, an archaeologist in September found the words “Villa dad and Isiah 09” scratched into the granite. The vandalism was next to centuries-old pictographs, or rock art, considered sacred and irreplaceable among area tribal members. Over the last decade, rangers and park service officials say they have seen no slowdown in this behavior, though federal officials do not keep statistics. Gang tagging is part of the problem, especially in urban-area parks, monuments and recreation areas. Authorities might press a felony charge in the case of the graffiti at the American Indian village in Sequoia. Law enforcement officials continue the investigation, said the acting Sequoia district ranger, but no arrests have been made.  
Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1738301.html>
54. *December 6, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Many roads in Angeles National Forest to be closed as rains approach.** Several forest roads that recently reopened after months of closure because of a wildfire were closed Sunday due to oncoming storms. Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon and Upper Big Tujunga Canyon roads were closed due to concerns about approaching storms, officials said. Those three roads, along with Angeles Crest Highway, reopened November 30 after being closed since September because of a wildfire in the San Gabriel Mountains.  
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/12/many-roads-in-angeles-national-forest-closed-as-rains-approach.html>

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## **Dams Sector**

55. *December 6, Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Susquehanna River dam level to drop.** Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation, a hydroelectric generating station on the lower Susquehanna River, plans to draw down the water level in Lake Clarke above the Safe Harbor Dam, beginning Monday, December 14. The purpose of the drawdown is to support an inspection of the dam as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The drawdown will continue in stages until 8 a.m. Tuesday, December 15, when the lowest levels will occur, about six feet below the normal lake level. It will be held there until 1 p.m. that same day. If the inspection cannot be completed due to inclement weather, the drawdown will be extended. A return to normal lake levels will begin as early as 1 p.m. Tuesday, but no later than 3 p.m. Sunday, December 20. The inspection may be postponed due to high river flow or inclement weather.  
Source: <http://blog.pennlive.com/pa-sportsman/2009/12/susquehanna-river-dam-level-to-drop.html>
56. *December 4, Wenatchee World* – (Washington) **Dam troubles cost \$300,000, Grant PUD says.** The Grant County Public Utility District (PUD) lost \$300,000 in revenue from an extended power loss the week of November 30 at Priest Rapids Dam in Washington. A PUD spokeswoman said the utility had to purchase 4,800 megawatt hours of electricity to cover its regional demand while the dam was not generating. The

lost generation represents about four times the PUD's typical residential demand for power, she said. It also lost 3,600 megawatt hours of power that could have been generated for county use or sale outside the region. While the dam's generators were all offline, dam officials were forced to spill water that could otherwise have been used to generate electricity, she said. An equipment failure shut down all electricity generation at Priest Rapids Dam for most of November 30 and prompted the evacuation of all 50 of the dam's employees. The failure began when power to the dam's control systems shut down for about 1.5 minutes. When the control system came back on line, a possible power surge caused some equipment to arc, causing some flames and a lot of smoke. The possible surge also damaged voltage-regulating filters, causing some parts of the generators to burn out. The entire dam was off line from about 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. November 30, when crews managed to get one generator back on line. By late December 2, all the damaged units were again operational. Investigation into what caused the generation loss will take about two weeks, officials said. It was the first all-day power loss at Priest Rapids since the dam began generating in 1959, officials said. Priest Rapids Dam is south of Mattawa. It is one of two dams the Grant PUD operates on the Columbia River. The spokeswoman said that PUD officials did not notify the public that one of its largest sources of electricity was off line for a day, because the equipment failure caused no power outages to customers, and no one was injured at the dam. The World learned of the incident through an e-mail from a Grant County resident.

Source: <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2009/dec/04/dam-troubles-cost-300000-grant-pud-says/>

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