



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 December 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- Bloomberg reports that Somali pirates hijacked a U.K.- flagged chemical tanker and its 26 crew in the Gulf of Aden on Monday. Pirates also hijacked the Panama-flagged bulk carrier Navios Apollon as it was sailing in the Indian Ocean; it was carrying a cargo of fertilizer. (See item [5](#))
- According to IDG News Service, computer security researchers say that the GSM phones used by the majority of the world’s mobile-phone users can be listened in on with just a few thousand dollars worth of hardware and some free open-source tools. The flaw lies in the 20-year-old encryption algorithm used by most carriers, a 64-bit cipher called A5/1. (See item [39](#))

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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 28, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Refinery trying to find cause of tank fire.** An investigation is under way into what caused a storage tank at the Billings

ConocoPhillips Refinery to catch fire and send thick black smoke over south Billings on Christmas Eve. An environmental specialist with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) said a company representative reported that the company still does not know what ignited a fire at a tank that holds asphalt and pitch as feed stock for its coker. The coker processes heavier crude oil and products into lighter materials, such as gasoline and diesel. The company has a week to file a report with DEQ and will be reporting estimated emissions from the smoke, he said. Refinery operations continued at normal rates through out the entire event. No one was injured. “We have a team doing a thorough investigation,” a ConocoPhillips spokesman in Houston said Monday. “It’s going to take a little while.”

Source: http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_cd38605a-f442-11de-94a1-001cc4c002e0.html

2. *December 27, Marine Log* – (Alaska) **Tug grounds on Bligh Reef.** A tug stationed in Alaska as part of post-Exxon Valdez antipollution precautions, grounded on Bligh Reef, Prince William Sound, on December 23. The 136-foot Crowley, Inc. tug Pathfinder, whose primary use is ship assist in the Port of Valdez, had completed an ice survey and was heading back to Valdez when it struck the reef the evening of December 23. Crowley has a contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company’s Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS) under which Crowley provides tug escorts for tankers traveling through Prince William Sound to and from the Valdez Marine Terminal. Anchoring just south of Busby Island, the tug’s six crewmembers deployed 200-foot of fuel containment booms around the vessel. Two of the tug’s centerline diesel fuel tanks were reported breached with a potential spill of 33,500 gallons. The total capacity of the vessel is approximately 127,700 gallons of diesel fuel. None of the crewmembers were reported injured. The spill created a light gray or silver diesel sheen spanning an area approximately three miles long and 30 yards wide approximately one mile east of Glacier Island. A dive team transported by the vessel Alaska Challenger to conduct a hull inspection, reported extensive damage to the hull, including a 4-5 foot section of the keel missing. Crews were able to remove more than 49,000 gallons of a diesel water mix from the damaged fuel tanks by the time lightering concluded. The incident is under investigation by the Coast Guard.

Source: <http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMIX/2009dec00270.html>

3. *December 27, KDRV 12 Medford* – (Oregon) **Power outage causes lingering problems.** Thousands of people in Grants Pass were without power for several hours the evening of December 26. While the power was eventually returned before midnight, several businesses say the power outage still took its toll, and those businesses are now trying to recover from it. Power was finally restored for nearly 8,000 people in Grants Pass around 11:30 the evening of December 26 — saving families a long night in the cold. But for businesses, the damage was done. With power out for much of the day on December 26, businesses felt the sting of not being able to operate. Without power, some businesses were forced to close up shop for the day. One restaurant said it lost nearly \$1,000 worth of uneaten food on tables. Pacific power says it has restored power to all of the homes that were affected by the outage. Representatives say that the power outage was caused by a squirrel that had gotten into

a substation.

Source: <http://kdrv.com/page/157049>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *December 29, WPBF 25 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **Truck carrying acid jackknives, closes highway.** A tanker truck carrying barrels of hydrochloric acid jackknifed around 2:40 p.m. Monday on state Route 80 in unincorporated Palm Beach County. Only a few gallons of acid spilled in the trailer, none spilled onto the highway. Eastbound and westbound lanes of SR 80 near Hatton Highway were shut down until late Monday night. There were no reports of injuries.
Source: <http://www.wpbf.com/mostpopular/22073897/detail.html>

5. *December 29, Bloomberg* – (International) **Pirates grab U.K. ship off Somali coast.** Somali pirates hijacked a U.K.- flagged chemical tanker and its 26 crew in the Gulf of Aden, the first successful attack on a merchant ship in the heavily patrolled sea channel in almost six months. The St. James Park had registered its position with the European Union anti-piracy force though it had not joined a group transit, a spokesman for the force said in a telephone interview. It was seized Monday due north of the Somali port of Boosaaso, he said. The St. James Park was sailing to Thailand from Spain, and is now believed to be heading for the eastern coast of Somalia, the head of East Africa Seafarers' Assistance Program said by phone from the Kenyan port city of Mombasa. Its 26-man crew includes Russians, Filipinos, Bulgarians, Indians, Turks, Ukrainians, a Georgian and a Pole, the EU said. The ship is owned by Philbox Ltd. Pirates Monday hijacked the bulk carrier Navios Apollon as it was sailing in the Indian Ocean, 240 nautical miles east- northeast of the Seychelles, the Greek government said. The Panama-flagged Navios Apollon, carrying a cargo of fertilizer, has a Greek captain and 18 Filipino crew members; it was sailing from Florida to India, a spokeswoman for the Citizen Protection Ministry in Athens said in a telephone interview. The 2000-built vessel, with a carrying capacity of 52,073 deadweight tons, belongs to the Angeliki Frangou-led Navios Maritime Partners. Pirates have also released two ships this week, the Chinese bulk carrier De Xin Hai and the Singapore-flagged container ship Kota Wajar.
Source: http://www.businessweek.com/globalbiz/content/dec2009/gb20091229_798044.htm

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *December 27, Grand Junction Sentinel* – (Utah) **16 million tons of uranium mill tailings moving away from Colorado River site.** Crews have taken the first bites out of the old uranium mill-tailings pile in Moab, Utah, beginning a yearslong process of transferring it far from the Colorado River. About 630,000 tons will have been moved

from Moab to the disposal cell near Crescent Junction by year's end, said a spokesman from the U.S. Department of Energy. The Energy Department and its contractor, Energy Solutions Corp., began moving the tailings pile this year. Moab residents and downstream water providers lobbied for years to have the 16-million-ton pile of mill tailings moved from its spot along the north bank of the Colorado River to a cell up against the Bookcliff Mountains at Crescent Junction that is deemed less likely to contaminate the river. The pile is being moved by train from Moab to the disposal cell 30 miles north.

Source:

http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/stories/2009/12/27/122809_3a_Mill_tailings.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *December 29, MSNBC* – (National) **Drivers flag worries over brakes on new Prius.** Chat rooms such as Priuschat.com dedicated to Toyota's fuel-efficient hybrid are peppered with concerns raised by owners of the third-generation Prius, which was launched for the 2010 model year. At least 33 complaints alleging safety problems with the '10 Prius, most often involving braking issues have been filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Defects Investigation. NHTSA confirmed receiving complaints, which are a matter of public record, but would not comment further. A Toyota spokesman said no formal investigation is under way, but added that Internet traffic and other complaints had made the company aware of the concerns. What happens next is uncertain. The government could launch a formal investigation and, if it were to find evidence of a safety defect, could work with the automaker to find a fix, which might ultimately lead to a recall. Prius brakes are hybrids in their own right. When a motorist applies pressure to the brake pedal, the Prius brakes first go into regenerative mode, recapturing kinetic energy normally lost and turning it into electric current to recharge the vehicle's batteries. For more aggressive stops, Prius uses a conventional, hydraulic braking system. Several mechanics suggested it could be possible that the sensors controlling the regenerative braking system might malfunction when the wheels are jarred by a hard bump and briefly disengage, but an accurate determination has yet to be made.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34611930/ns/business-autos/>

8. *December 29, Battery Watch* – (International) **Factory fire affects battery prices.** Last month LG Chem, South Korea's second largest battery manufacturer, caught fire. It is estimated that this fire will trigger a large price increase on laptop batteries (thinkpad t40 battery). The price increase will affect companies like lenovo, Dell, HP, and Asus. These companies purchase most of their battery supplies from LG Chem. In total the shortfall of batteries that is likely to ensue could affect up to 40 percent of shipments from Taiwan. Dell would not discuss how much prices will rise; however Dell's spokesman was quoted as saying, "the industry is experiencing battery supply constraints because of these problems. Therefore, pricing is being impacted by current

availability. But we are working with our partners throughout our supply chain to reduce the impact on our customers.” Extra battery pack purchases may also be affected by the thinkpad t41 battery shortage. Larger battery retailers may be limiting the amount of batteries consumers can purchase. Currently, LG Chem thinks it will be able to get its factory back to full production in two to three months. In the mean time, it will be up to other third-party battery manufacturing companies to increase production to meet the needs of the consumer.

Source: <http://batterywatch.info/factory-fire-affects-battery-prices/>

9. *December 27, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Fire at scrapyard sends up massive cloud of smoke.** A pile of burning cars sent a cloud of black smoke hovering over the Houston Ship Channel Sunday. The flames broke out Sunday morning at a scrap metal yard on Harrisburg near Navigation. Firefighters say the recycling yard had hundreds of compacted cars, some with tires still on the them. Crews got water from hydrants on the ground and fireboats in the channel. The fire posed no threat to the community, as the wind was blowing the smoke over the water.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7187179>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *December 28, United Press International* – (International) **U.S. Army testing new type of camouflage.** U.S. Army officials in Germany say they are testing a new type of camouflage pattern for soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The new “MultiCam” pattern is similar to the camouflage already being worn by British soldiers in certain parts of Afghanistan and is now being tested by U.S. soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment in eastern Afghanistan, the military newspaper Stars and Stripes reported Monday. British military officials said its own “Multi-Terrain Pattern” will be issued to troops with the 4 Mechanized Brigade deploying to Afghanistan in March, the newspaper noted. The British Defense Secretary said in a statement: “This new camouflage will help our troops blend into different environments in Helmand province to stay hidden from the Taliban. Patrols take our troops through the Green Zone, scrubland, desert and arid stony environments and it is crucial that the camouflage can work across all of them.” Stars and Stripes said the U.S. Army is testing MultiCam along with a new iteration of its digital Universal Camouflage Pattern already featured on the Army Combat Uniform.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2009/12/28/US-Army-testing-new-type-of-camouflage/UPI-84771262009661/

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Iowa phone scam poses as credit union call.** Nevada residents who have not yet gotten a phone call from a scammer posing as

a credit union can expect one soon. Police say a scam to get people to give out banking or credit card information is making its way through every phone number in Nevada, Iowa. The recorded call purports to come from a Nevada credit union, but police say the credit union is unaware of the phone calls and is unaffiliated with the scam. Police say the calls are using “caller ID spoofing,” which allows their number to appear as a legitimate business. Because the scam likely crosses international borders, police say it will be difficult to prosecute, and any money lost to the scam will be nearly impossible to recover.

Source: <http://www.kwqc.com/Global/story.asp?S=11741849>

12. *December 28, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **SECU members fall victim to skimmers.** In Raleigh, an investigation is under way after about 300 people had money skimmed from their State Employees Credit Union account. A SECU member said she got a call from the credit union on Christmas Day telling her she was a victim of skimming. Her account was skimmed by using her SECU debit card at a gas station. “This type of thing happens all the time, unfortunately,” the senior vice president of SECU’s card and record services department said. She advises SECU members to pay careful attention to their bank activity and credit card statements and report any irregularities or suspicions to police. “Any time you’re using a device anywhere, using your card, look for something unusual,” she said. Skimming devices are often color coordinated, making them difficult to spot on ATMs. Finding the skimming device on a gas pump is virtually impossible as it is often hidden on the inside. “Some of the more common ways to hide them is put an envelope holder close to the ATM, or what looks like an envelope holder with a small pin hole in it, and a small camera mounted inside. Sometimes they’re mounted overhead,” said a spokesman for the Raleigh Police Department. SECU officials said the recent thefts likely happened at gas stations and not by using their ATM machines. It is not yet clear if other banks or customers are affected.

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/6700487/>

13. *December 28, KPTV 12 Portland* – (Oregon) **Suspicious packages found outside Tigard Bank.** Two suspicious packages prompted the evacuation of a bank in Tigard on Monday, police said. The packages — two stacked cardboard boxes — were discovered near an ATM outside the Bank of America at Southwest Greenburg Road and 99W at about 2:30 p.m. The Portland bomb squad X-rayed the boxes, which were determined to be full of garbage. The boxes were considered suspicious because of an attached note, Tigard police said. The note was not threatening, police said, but officers would not go into detail. The evacuation order for the bank was also lifted.

Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/22075719/detail.html>

14. *December 28, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Hawthorne bank robber linked to bomb hoax in Starke.** A bank robber, who used a fake bomb to hold up a Starke bank last week, apparently struck again at a Hawthorne bank Monday. The man used the same tactic to rob the M&S Bank, 6875 S.E. 221st St., at about 11:30 a.m., the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office reported. The suspect entered the business, got cash, and left behind a suspicious package, said the Sheriff’s Office spokesman. No one was injured

during the robbery. But bank employees and customers left the building after the robber left behind a suspicious container. People in nearby buildings also were evacuated while the Sheriff's Office bomb squad was called out to determine whether the package inside the bank was a bomb. The package, described as leather-type case that resembled a shaving kit, was not a bomb, the Sheriff's Office spokesman said. He did not elaborate further on what the container looked like but said, "It had something that led them to believe that it could be possibly an explosive device." Monday's robbery mirrored reports from a Starke bank robbed last week. In that case, a man left a device with protruding wires at the Capital City Bank, 350 N. Temple Ave., on December 22. He walked up to the teller and demanded \$50 and \$100 bills and left on foot with the stolen cash. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad was called in and later determined the device was not a bomb. Police in Starke still are searching for the robber in that case, said a police spokesman. After officers from the different agencies reviewed the two cases, the Alachua County Sherriff's Office spokesman said they "definitely" believe they are dealing with the same suspect.

Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091228/ARTICLES/912289970/1002>

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Transportation Sector

15. *December 29, Aviation Week* – (National) **ADS-B 'critical' sites begin operating.** Two of the four key sites designated for Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) "critical services" have achieved initial operational capability (IOC). Critical services IOC was declared at FAA's Louisville, Kentucky, Terminal Radar Approach Control (Tracon) facility on November 19, and at the Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center on December 17, according to the FAA's director of Surveillance and Broadcast Services and ADS-B program manager. Critical services use GPS position data from properly equipped aircraft for presentation on air-traffic controller displays, allowing controllers to provide radar-like aircraft separations. The Houston center provides air-traffic control over the Gulf of Mexico. IOC for ADS-B critical services there supports 5 nautical mile separation in non-radar airspace, benefiting petroleum industry support helicopters in particular. Some ADS-B ground stations are located on offshore oil platforms.
Source: http://www.aviationtoday.com/av/topstories/ADS-B-Critical-Sites-Begin-Operating_65308.html

16. *December 28, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Man detained after causing disturbance on flight.** Federal authorities may file charges against an intoxicated passenger who caused a disturbance aboard a Salt Lake City-bound jetliner and was detained by police upon landing. "There does not appear at this time to be a connection to any kind of terrorist activity at all," said an FBI spokeswoman Monday. Three airport officers met Delta flight 1268 from Seattle on reaching Salt Lake City International Airport about 8:30 p.m. Sunday and took the man into custody, said a spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration. "My understanding was he was intoxicated," the spokesman said Monday. Sources told The Associated Press that the man knocked

on the pilots' cabin door, but federal authorities would not discuss any circumstances of the case or release the man's name. A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Salt Lake City confirmed that the incident was not a terrorist threat. The flight landed safely and there were no problems among the 164 passengers and crew members aboard.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/28/us/AP-US-Utah-Flight-Disturbance.html?_r=2

17. *December 28, WINK 9 Fort Meyers* – (Florida) **FBI says Bonita man brought explosives on a plane.** A Bonita Springs man is back in southwest Florida after being questioned by the FBI as to why he brought an explosive device on board a plane. Federal agents say the 67-year-old man left what is described as a firecracker like device beside his assigned seat on a connecting flight into Lagueardia airport. The man told reporters that the firecracker had been in his bag for years but he forgot about it. He said it fell out when the flight attendant handed him his bag. Authorities say the man was on US airways subsidiary Piedmont Airlines flight 4126 that landed around 730 pm Sunday. The flight originated in Baltimore. Cleaning crews found the device and contacted Port Authority who then contacted the FBI. Agents tracked the man down and took him into custody.
Source: <http://www.winknews.com/news/local/80236012.html>

18. *December 28, Associated Press* – (International) **Better airport scanners delayed by privacy fears.** High-tech security scanners that might have prevented the Christmas Day attempt to blow up a jetliner have been installed in only a small number of airports around the world, in large part because of privacy concerns over the way the machines see through clothing. The body-scanning technology is in at least 19 U.S. airports, while European officials have generally limited it to test runs. The Nigerian national accused of trying to ignite explosives aboard a Northwest Airlines jet as it was coming in for a landing in Detroit did not go through such a scan where his flight began, at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. The full-body scanner "could have been helpful in this case, absolutely," said the head of the Dutch Pilots Association. But the technology has raised significant concerns among privacy watchdogs. Last June, because of privacy concerns, the House voted 310-118 to prohibit the use of whole-body imaging for primary screening. The measure, still pending in the Senate, would limit the use of the devices to secondary screening. "As a society, we're going to have to figure out the balance between personal privacy and the need to secure an aircraft," said a representative from Utah who sponsored the measure. "And there is no easy answer." Amsterdam's airport has been running a test project with full-body scanners for three years, mainly for a few European flights. One machine being tested there for the past five weeks, made by L-3, is designed to enhance passengers' privacy by having software, rather than a human, analyze the image generated by the scanner. If the software detects an anomaly — something strapped to a leg, for instance — it alerts a human screener to look at the person's leg directly. In May, TSA abandoned "puffer machines" made by General Electric Co. and Smiths Detection, which blew air onto passengers to dislodge trace amounts of explosives. The government said the machines cost too much to maintain and regularly broke down when exposed to dirt or humidity.

There are still 18 puffer machines deployed at U.S. airports.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/tech/D9CSM1SG1.htm>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [4](#), [5](#), [24](#), and [44](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *December 29, Associated Press & Denver Post* – (Colorado) **5 taken into custody after mailbox explodes.** Police say five people are in custody after a mailbox exploded in a northeast Denver neighborhood. A police detective says two juveniles and three young adults were taken into custody Monday night after the explosion in Montbello. Their names were not released. Police say the five were stopped after their SUV was seen near the mailbox. The detective says homemade bombs were found in the vehicle. A bomb squad removed the devices.
Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/wireapnewsco/Denver.police.take.2.1394994.html>
20. *December 29, WTOV 9 Steubenville* – (West Virginia) **Wheeling man sentenced for post office bomb threat.** A Wheeling man was sentenced to four months in prison for making a bomb threat at an Ohio County post office. The defendant was sentenced Monday in U.S. District Court. He pleaded guilty in October to making the threat. Officials said he conveyed false information about an alleged attempt to bomb the main post office in Wheeling. In addition to prison time, the defendant will be on supervised release for two years.
Source: <http://www.wtov9.com/news/22074221/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

21. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Fire that destroyed UT ag lab was accidental.** A fire that destroyed a laboratory on the University of Tennessee agricultural campus was accidental. The Knoxville News Sentinel reported state and Knoxville city investigators found water leaked onto a light fixture, causing a short circuit that started the blaze Monday. The fire at McCord Hall was reported about 2:20 p.m. An assistant animal sciences professor told the newspaper she was on the second floor and heard glass popping and saw smoke and flames after the fire alarm sounded. She said she was one of only a few people in the building. Classes are out for the holiday break. Firefighters contained the blaze to the lab area of the building. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.waaytv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11741335>
22. *December 29, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Beeswax plant fire ruled accidental.** Investigators have concluded that a fire which destroyed a building at a beeswax purification plant in Winfred, South Dakota was accidental and resulted from

solvent that vaporized and ignited. Madison's fire chief said the solvent is used to purify wax which is used later to produce cosmetics and candles. The September 28 fire at A.H. Meyer & Sons was the third fire since 1990 in a building where the wax purification process takes place. About 40 firefighters from the Madison and Howard fire departments spent more than two hours fighting the fire.

Source: <http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11741234>

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Water Sector

23. *December 29, Ozarks First* – (Missouri) **Report finds repeat drinking water violators.** A new report from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources shows 39 drinking water systems around Missouri have continually failed to complete state-mandated water testing. All public water systems are required at least once a month to test for bacteria. The 39 chronic violators represent just more than one percent of all public drinking water systems.
Source: <http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=220272>

24. *December 29, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Sewer main overflow floods commuter lot.** A 48-inch county sewer main that backed up over the weekend sent an estimated 1.75 million gallons of untreated water into the Hudson River and shut down part of the village's Metro-North commuter parking lot. The concrete sewage pipe jammed with debris about a quarter-mile north of the Yonkers boundary, sending untreated water into the nearby river and up through manholes into the Hastings commuter lot. County contractors were unable to clear the 70-year-old sewer line Monday and started setting up a bypass pump system to manage the overflowing water, said the director of the Westchester Department of Environmental Facilities. He said contractors worked until dark Sunday and could not find the blockage, which was in a section of the sewer main that runs 15 to 20 feet underground in a poorly accessible area off Warburton Avenue. He said the top of the sewer pipe may have caved in. The state Department of Environmental Conservation was notified about the problem. The overflow from the blocked sewer pipe caused Hastings to close 125 spaces in its parking lot. The closing did not cause parking problems because so many commuters are away on holiday vacations, the Hastings Village manager said. He called the spill "one of the worst I've seen" but said the parking lot would reopen Tuesday. Workers from the county Health Department visited the scene Monday and diverted the sewage away from pedestrian areas.
Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/2009912290319>

25. *December 28, Detroit News* – (National) **Levels of Great Lakes continue to rise.** With more rain recently, the Great Lakes' water levels continue a two-year rebound. The latest data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show the Michigan-Huron lake system and Lake Superior are between 5 and 9 inches above levels from one year ago. Lake Erie is also up, sitting an inch above last year's level. Other lakes are also in the ballpark, with Lake St. Clair an inch below last year's levels and Lake Ontario 3 inches

below. Added precipitation through the remainder of December will only improve the Army Corps' outlook for the warmer months of 2010. That means boating season will likely begin with the lakes maintaining their levels from 2009. For many, that's welcome news since the lakes' depth consistently decreased for the first seven years of the decade. In the summer of 2007, Lake Superior reached a record low, and many living in the region believed those waters might never rise again. According to Army Corps data, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan/Huron, Lake Erie and Lake Superior ended November within inches of historical levels for this time of year. And Lake St. Clair is slightly above its historical level.

Source:

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20091228/METRO/912280334/1409/METRO/Levels-of-Great-Lakes-continue-to-rise>

26. *December 28, KAVU 25 Victoria* – (Texas) **Fecal contaminants found in Placedo water.** For the second time in just over a week, Placedo, Texas, residents are being asked to boil their water. A boil water notice was issued the week beginning on December 20, where a pipe was broken at the water plant in Placedo. On December 28 another boil water notice was issued, this time due to fecal contaminates found in the water system in several places in the small home town. The notice came to all residents of the small town community of just over 700. Coli Form and fecal Coli Form had been found in the cities water. The pipe break the previous week occurred when a mechanical joint had broken. A sample of water was taken after that joint was repaired on December 22. The water had to be shut off for repairs and flushed out for three hours. "At the same time the sample we sent to the Health Department came back positive for Ecoli Coli and Fecal Coli Form," said the Water operator. Again notices were sent to all residents of Placedo that the contaminates were found in the water in several places. One business and 10 homes in the area were affected.

Source:

http://www.myvictoriaonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3634:placedo-water&catid=55:local&Itemid=53

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Man fires flare gun in Md. hospital emergency room.** Police in Maryland have arrested a man they say fired a flare gun in a hospital emergency room. They report the man shot the gun "up in the air toward the ceiling" after he and his wife began arguing with hospital staff members Sunday. A Prince George's County police spokesman says no one was hurt, and the man fled. The man was taken into custody at a gas station yesterday. There is no word on whether he's been charged.

Source: http://www.weartv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.national/3fd6aaa0-www.weartv.com.shtml

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Government Facilities Sector

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *December 29, WOWK 13 Huntington* – (West Virginia) **Thousands of dollars worth of copper stolen from EMS tower site.** West Virginia state troopers are investigating the theft of thousands of dollars worth of copper, which was reported stolen from the Cabell County EMS, AT&T, and West Virginia State Trauma Emergency Medical System tower site Monday, December 28. Damage to the site is valued at several thousands of dollars. At the time of the theft, there was limited communications to all EMS and fire units, in the southern portion of Cabell County.
Source: <http://wowktv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=72609>

29. *December 29, WSMV 4 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Four Tenn. FFs hurt in engine roll over.** Four firefighters from the White House Volunteer Fire Department who were injured responding to a wreck Sunday have been released from a hospital. According to fire officials, the firefighters were treated at Vanderbilt and released Sunday night. Most had minor injuries, but one firefighter had a punctured lung. The fire chief said the truck will have to be replaced. He estimated the cost at about \$300,000. The chief said insurance should pick up the tab.
Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/news/four-tenn-ffs-hurt-engine-roll-over>

30. *December 29, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Taser ruling sets standards for police, claims.** Police need reasons to believe a suspect is dangerous before firing a Taser and cannot use their stun gun simply because the person is disobeying orders or acting erratically, a federal appeals court in San Francisco ruled Monday. The decision by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sets judicial standards for police and for people who claim they were victims of excessive force after police hit them with a Taser dart. Though stun guns may offer a valuable, nonlethal alternative to deadly force in defusing dangerous situations, the judge said, they inflict a “painful and frightening blow” and must be used only when substantial force is necessary and other options are unavailable.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/12/29/BA811BAG5G.DTL&type=newsbayarea&loc=interestialskip>

31. *December 29, USA Today* – (National) **Police deaths decrease, but fatal shootings climb.** Five ambush-style incidents that ended in the shooting deaths of 15 police officers are putting a damper on a positive trend this year: The number of officers who died in the line of duty was the lowest in 50 years. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which released its preliminary 2009 statistics Tuesday,

reports that 124 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty this year, down 7 percent from last year and the lowest number since 1959. “When you consider there are three times the number of officers serving today — that makes the numbers even more favorable,” the Fund’s CEO says. The decrease is overshadowed by the spike in the number of officers killed by gunfire — 15 in multiple shootings, the most of any year since 1981. The total number of officers shot and killed surged 23 percent since last year to 48. More than 30 percent of the deaths happened in five incidents where one shooter killed several officers.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-12-28-line-of-duty_N.htm

32. *December 26, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Joyriders steal firetruck, leave it in ravine.** A joyriding holiday thief took a firetruck from a volunteer fire department in El Paso County and left it in a ravine in a field four miles away. Even the head of the Falcon Fire Protection District says it must have been “a pretty exciting ride.” The theft happened either Tuesday or Wednesday. A rancher spotted the rig in a ravine on his property. Falcon, Colorado’s, fire chief says officials have no idea how long the rig was gone or how many miles it traveled. The truck is ruined. The truck was hauling 3,000 gallons of water and could not have been easy to drive. The Colorado State Patrol is investigating the theft.

Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/local/Joyriders.steal.firetruck.2.1392034.html>

33. *December 23, Cumberland Times-News* – (Maryland) **Couple charged after interfering at house fire.** A Lonaconing, Maryland woman and Burlington, West Virginia man were both jailed early the morning of December 23 after allegedly interfering with a firefighting operation taking place on Old Beechwood Road in Lonaconing. Firefighters were called out at 1:35 a.m., according to the Allegany County 911 Center. While they were putting the house fire out, the woman allegedly drove over and damaged a live fire hose, according to the Allegany County Bureau of Police. Police said that firefighters requested the driver and passenger to stop and wait for police to arrive. They allegedly got out of the car but then switched places and the man allegedly became upset about being asked to wait. He was detained by the firefighters until police arrived. He was then charged with driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license. The woman was charged with driving while revoked, driving without insurance, vehicle displaying wrong tags, and damaging a fire hose. Firefighters from Good Will, Midland, Barton, and Potomac companies and Georges Creek Ambulance responded to the fire call. The fire was brought under control at 2:18 a.m. and firefighters remained on the scene until 3 a.m., according to the 911 center. The Allegany County Roads Division also responded due to freezing water on the road.

Source: http://www.times-news.com/local/local_story_357231453.html

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [27](#)

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Information Technology Sector

34. *December 29, IDG News Service* – (International) **Adobe will be top target for hackers in 2010, report says.** Adobe Systems’ Flash and Acrobat Reader products will become the preferred targets for criminal hackers in 2010, surpassing Microsoft Office applications, a security vendor predicted this week. “Cybercriminals have long picked on Microsoft products due to their popularity. In 2010, we anticipate Adobe software, especially Acrobat Reader and Flash, will take the top spot,” security vendor McAfee said in its “2010 Threat Predictions” report. Adobe’s CTO acknowledged recently that his company’s software is being attacked more frequently, and said the company has stepped up its efforts to respond. Mozilla’s Firefox browser and Apple’s QuickTime software have also faced new attacks. Among its other predictions, McAfee expects more sophisticated attacks next year against social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. It also sees the emergence of a new vehicle for attacks in the form of HTML 5, an update to the Web markup language that will support delivery of online video and allow Web applications to run offline. “HTML 5 will blur the line between desktop and online applications. This, along with the release of Google Chrome OS, will create another opportunity for malware writers to prey on users,” McAfee said. There was some good news, however. The security firm sees law enforcement having more successes next year in its pursuit of cybercriminals, thanks to closer cooperation and improved skills at international crime-fighting agencies.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142829/Adobe_will_be_top_target_for_hackers_in_2010_report_says

35. *December 28, SCMagazine* – (International) **New IIS flaw deemed low risk in proper configurations.** Administrators following secure configuration best practices should not be at risk to a new, zero-day vulnerability in Microsoft’s Internet Information Services (IIS), according to the software giant. A senior security program manager at Microsoft said Sunday night in a blog post that the company is investigating reports of a flaw in the IIS web server but is unaware of any active attacks. He said that for an attack to occur, IIS must be in a “nondefault, unsafe configuration,” and an intruder would have to be authenticated with privileges to execute commands that do not comply with Microsoft guidance. “Customers using out-of-the-box configurations and who follow security best practices are at reduced risk of being impacted by issues like this,” he said. A handler posting on the SANS Internet Storm Center site said Sunday that administrators still must be careful because they could unknowingly be running a vulnerable web server due to a webmaster’s mistake.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/new-iis-flaw-deemed-low-risk-in-proper-configurations/article/160283/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

Communications Sector

36. *December 29, Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Verizon customers losing their patience.** At least 5,000 Verizon customers still were without phone service Monday, 10 days after a winter storm downed power and phone lines across West Virginia. The company does not know when phone service will be restored to all its customers. A Verizon spokesman said there were 5,000 open repair requests, a number that likely gives a low ballpark figure of the total outage. On Monday, there were roughly twice as many people in the state without phone service as without power. By afternoon, about 2,700 customers were still without power, down from the 100,000 customers who were powerless at the beginning of last week, according to the state division of emergency management. Some of those outages Monday were because of Sunday night's winds. Verizon's spokesman said the number of people without phone service did not approach the number of people without power. Part of the reason for the lag between people getting their power back and still having their phone off comes from the practice the phone company has of working after power crews for both safety and technical reasons. Verizon also has fewer workers on hand than American Electric Power. In the Charleston area alone, more than 160 power company crews and nearly 800 people from more than 20 companies in more than a half dozen states worked during the holidays to restore power, an AEP spokesman said. Verizon, by contrast, has about 300 technicians working to restore phone service in West Virginia, company officials said. Not many of them are from out of state and, instead, the company is shifting technicians from the northern part of West Virginia into the southern part, where the damage has been the most extensive.

Source:

<http://www.dailymail.com/News/statenews/200912280483?page=1&build=cache>

37. *December 29, CBS* – (Illinois) **Phone service being restored in Robbins.** AT&T has restored phone and Internet service to many customers in the south Chicago suburb of Robbins who lost their service over the weekend. Some residents of Robbins were without AT&T phone and Internet service since Saturday. An AT&T spokeswoman said the winter storms caused a utility hole in the area to flood, causing some cables to get wet. She said Tuesday that phone service had been restored for "many customers," and more households would get their service back "as restoration efforts move forward throughout the day." While service was out, AT&T gave prepaid wireless phones for residents who wanted to stay connected during emergency situations. She said parts of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood also suffered outages over the weekend.

Source: <http://www.wbbm780.com/Phone-service-being-restored-in-Robbins/5994814>

38. *December 28, BusinessWeek* – (New York) **An AT&T mystery: abrupt New York iPhone shutdown.** A brief halt in online sales of the Apple iPhone in the New York area kept alive concerns that AT&T's network is not up to the task of handling smartphone traffic in some of the largest U.S. cities. Customers who shopped for an iPhone on AT&T's Web site and gave ZIP codes for areas in and around New York

City were told that the device was unavailable during a period starting on December 27 and lasting until the afternoon of the following day. Sales of the iPhone through AT&T and Apple retail stores in the New York area, as well as via Apple's Web site, were unaffected. AT&T offered little explanation for the halt in sales, and Apple kept mum on the subject. "We periodically modify our promotions and distribution channels," an AT&T spokesman said. Some analysts speculated that the change, however short-lived, was further confirmation that AT&T's equipment is too flimsy to handle the heavy data use typically associated with the iPhone. "Clearly AT&T is struggling with quality-of-service concerns," says the head of the Envisioneering Group, a research firm. "It's the first time I'm aware of this happening with any wireless product."

Source:

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/dec2009/tc20091228_366556.htm

39. *December 28, IDG News Service* – (International) **Hackers show it's easy to snoop on a GSM call.** Computer security researchers say that the GSM phones used by the majority of the world's mobile-phone users can be listened in on with just a few thousand dollars worth of hardware and some free open-source tools. In a presentation given Sunday at the Chaos Communication Conference in Berlin, a researcher said that he had compiled 2 terabytes worth of data — cracking tables that can be used as a kind of reverse phone-book to determine the encryption key used to secure a GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) telephone conversation or text message. While he stopped short of releasing a GSM-cracking device — that would be illegal in many countries, including the United States — he said he divulged information that has been common knowledge in academic circles and made it "practically useable." The flaw lies in the 20-year-old encryption algorithm used by most carriers. It is a 64-bit cipher called A5/1 and it is simply too weak, according to the researcher. Using his tables, antennas, specialized software, and \$30,000 worth of computing hardware to break the cipher, someone can crack the GSM encryption in real time and listen in on calls, he said. If the attacker was willing to wait a few minutes to record and crack the call, the total cost would be just a few thousand dollars, he said. There are about 3.5 billion GSM phones worldwide, making up about 80 percent of the mobile market, according to data from the GSM Alliance, a communications industry association representing operators and phone-makers. A spokeswoman with the GSM Association said that her group would be looking into the researchers' claims in the coming days and stressed that any type of mobile-phone eavesdropping would be illegal in many countries.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142819/Hackers_show_it_s_easy_to_snoop_on_a_GSM_call?taxonomyId=16&pageNumber=1

40. *December 28, KQDS 21 Duluth* – (Minnesota) **WEBC radio forced off air by water leak.** Water problems have temporarily silenced the Northland's oldest radio station. WEBC radio, also known as ESPN 560, has been off the air since at least Christmas Eve. Station officials say water got into the station's transmitter building, which is located near U.S. Highway 2/53 in the Town of Parkland near Superior. On Monday, a crew was out putting a new roof on the building while engineers worked to dry out the equipment. There is no word when the station might return to the air. During the

outage, listeners may hear a Chicago station on 560 at night.

Source: <http://www.fox21online.com/news/webc-radio-forced-air-water-leak>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

41. *December 29, Richmond County Daily Journal* – (North Carolina) **Hamlet waiting on plan to fix dam.** Nearly a year after Hamlet, North Carolina, was told that repairs are needed to Water Lake dam, the city is still waiting for a plan to do it. The project engineer with Clemmons-based Grimes Engineering says they are currently in the final process of putting together design plans to repair the 80-year old dam which provides drinking water for Hamlet, East Rockingham, and Dobbins Heights. “It’s an extremely old dam, with typical (problems) being wear and tear,” he said. “It has performed exceptionally well considering its age.” Despite its performance, he said that repairs and updates are necessary to keep it working smoothly. The 65-acre lake is the city’s sole drinking water source. Problems include concrete deterioration and large trees looming over the dam. There is also seepage, which despite its ominous name, is nothing to really worry about, according to Grimes. Additionally, he said that they are looking into increasing the emergency spillway capacity and to bring it up to state standards. The Department of Dam Safety said the dam was not up to par in a report filed in February. That the project potentially could be finished by the second half of 2010, but that’s assuming they do not run into any problems. Once the designs are finalized, they will need to be filed with the state which will ultimately decide if they meet specifications.

Source: http://www.yourdailyjournal.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Hamlet+waiting+on+plan+to+fix+dam&id=5343686-Hamlet+waiting+on+plan+to+fix+dam&instance=secondary_news_left_column

42. *December 29, New Hampshire Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Leaky dam causes some concern.** Emergency crews are monitoring a leak in the Sanborn Pond Dam after the owner of the Sanborn Mills Farm discovered it around 8 a.m. The Loudon fire,

highway, and emergency management departments and the New Hampshire dam Bureau were called in this morning. They will watch to make sure the leak does not worsen while they determine the best method for repair, said a lieutenant with the Loudon Fire Department. The Sanborn Pond Dam holds about 87 acres of water, according to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. It feeds into Sanborn Brook, a small river that runs through parts of Chichester. The dam break is feeding into the brook, said Lake, so the leak is not causing any major problems at this time. Downstream is mostly farmland and forest in a largely rural area.

Source:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Leaky+dam+causes+some+concern&articleId=a0fea63f-cbcf-4906-a53d-640059b77de7>

43. *December 28, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Waves breach Seal Beach sand berm.** Pacific storms combined with high tide conditions Monday triggered waves large enough to breach a 10-foot-high man-made berm of sand built to protect oceanfront properties in Seal Beach, California, authorities said. “The waves eroded a portion of the berm, allowing water to pool on the opposite side near some homes and apartments,” a Seal Beach Police Department sergeant said. “No one was injured, and there were no reports of property damage. “The situation is not unusual,” he added. “This happens every year.” High surf advisories for the Ventura County and Los Angeles County coastlines expired at 3 p.m. However, a high surf advisory issued for Orange and San Diego counties was expected to last until 10 p.m., according to a National Weather Service meteorologist. “Basically, we have a large swell that developed as a result of early morning high tide conditions and storms in the middle of the Pacific Ocean,” he said. “The surf should be calming down later tonight. In the meantime, it’s not a good idea to be in the water. Santa Monica had swells up to 7 1/2 feet high.”

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/12/waves-breach-seal-beach-sand-berm.html>

44. *December 28, Augusta Chronicle* – (Georgia) **River locks closed for repairs.** The locks at New Savannah Bluff were closed on December 28 to all boat traffic. “It broke again,” said the Augusta Port Authority chairman. “It’s the hydraulics.” Repairs are already being evaluated, he said, and will be managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the 72-year-old project near Augusta Regional Airport. “We hope to have it open again by late January but they are telling us, based on their contractors, that March 1 will be the drop-dead date,” he said. The aging dam has required a series of repairs during the past decade to keep its gates functional. In addition to allowing boat traffic to move between the upper river along downtown Augusta and the lower channel that leads to Savannah, the lock is also operated frequently during the spring and summer to allow migrating American shad the opportunity to move upstream to spawn. In addition to short-term repairs and maintenance, the project needs \$22 million in major renovations — which will include the addition of a fish passage structure.

Source: http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/latest/lat_704208.shtml?v=1611

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