



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 March 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Associated Press, a vapor release occurred Wednesday at the Sunoco refinery in Philadelphia, and 10 contractors were taken to hospitals for possible exposure, officials said. (See item [2](#))
- CNN reports that National Transportation Safety Board officials on Wednesday issued an “urgent” recommendation calling for a redesign of a component on some Boeing 777 aircraft engines, a component blamed for two major mishaps in the past year. (See item [18](#))

**DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:** **Physical:** ELEVATED, **Cyber:** ELEVATED  
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 12, State Journal* – (West Virginia) **Fort Martin receives bomb threat.** The West Virginia State Police is investigating a bomb threat at the Fort Martin Power Station in Monongalia County. Troopers received a call between 9:00 and 9:30 am on March 12. There is no word yet whether workers have been evacuated from the site or if any device has been found. Investigators say it appears similar to other threats made this week at the United Hospital Center construction site in Harrison County and the Longview Power Station construction site in Monongalia County.  
Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=54233>
2. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **10 evaluated after Sunoco vapor**

**release.** A vapor release was reported March 11 at the Sunoco refinery in Philadelphia, and 10 contractors were taken to hospitals for possible exposure, officials said. The release occurred at about 10:30 a.m. at the refinery, and Sunoco officials said the company's emergency-personnel responded immediately to the situation. The area was secured, and the vapor release was stopped. The Sunoco contractors who were possibly exposed were taken to a refinery clinic and then area hospitals out of an abundance of caution, officials said. Sunoco officials said they do not expect any off-site impact, and no evacuations occurred. The nature of the vapor release and its cause are under investigation.

Source:

[http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/031109\\_Sunoco\\_Vapor\\_Release](http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/news/local_news/031109_Sunoco_Vapor_Release)

3. *March 11, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Tanker's double hull prevented disaster.** The Galveston Coast Guard commander on March 11 credited the SKS Satilla's sturdy double-hulled construction with preventing a major oil spill after the Norwegian tanker crashed into submerged debris late last week. An underwater examination of the ship, which was carrying 41 million gallons of crude oil, revealed a gaping hole in the port side of the vessel's outer hull. Built by a South Korean shipyard in 2006 and owned by SKS Obo and Tankers SA, the Satilla is a new-generation double-hulled tanker of the type mandated by the United States and European nations after disastrous oil spills involving single-hulled vessels. "This could have been a serious spill," said the executive vice president of the Washington, D.C.-based Ocean Conservancy, who was Alaska's commissioner of environmental conservation at the time of the Valdez spill. "Because of that double hull that suffered damage on its exterior, there was no oil spill at all."

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6306326.html>

4. *March 10, Coolidge Examiner* – (Arizona) **Suspicious box closes down gas station.** Members of the Coolidge police and fire departments spent more than five hours at a Shell Super Station on March 9 after attendants discovered a package they believed to be a bomb. Officers evacuated the building, blocked off the gas station and guarded its perimeter. The supposed bomb was wrapped in duct tape and spinning on the ground near the coolers, according to police officials on scene. After review of the item, it was moved to a storage room, away from glass and surrounded by cement. After it was in position, the object was subjected to two black-powder charges that were intended to disassemble/detonate the cluster of duct tape. Traffic on North Arizona Boulevard was stopped during all detonations and local businesses were warned about a possible explosion. The supposed bomb was determined safe after several hours. The nature of the item has yet to be determined, and Coolidge police will open an investigation with hopes to apprehend the culprits responsible for the scare.

Source:

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20277474&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept\\_id=222071&rfi=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20277474&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=222071&rfi=6)

5. *March 10, Occupational Health & Safety* – (Texas) **BP paying another big penalty for Texas City refinery.** BP Products North America Inc. has agreed to pay \$785,662 to

resolve Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) violations at its Texas City, Texas refinery, the same one where a March 2005 explosion killed 15 workers and triggered a \$21 million Occupational Safety and Health Administration fine. The Environmental Protection Agency on March 9 said the company will pay a \$420,662 civil penalty and spend \$365,000 on supplemental environmental projects there. EPCRA requires certain facilities that manufacture, process, or use certain toxic chemicals to report their releases annually. Toxic chemicals that were subject to reporting requirements included anthracene, cobalt compounds, dioxin and dioxin-like compounds, formaldehyde, lead compounds, methanol, nickel compounds, phenanthrene, and vanadium. The supplemental environmental projects will improve Texas City's ability to respond to emergency releases, including an ambulance, improvements to the city's computer system, communications equipment, a system to aid in traffic control during emergencies, and money to improve the city's Emergency Operations Center and mobile command post.

Source:

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/03/10/bp-paying-another-big-penalty-for-texas-city-refinery.aspx>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *March 12, Washington Post* – (National) **Stricter chemical release law OK'd.** Companies will have to provide more detailed disclosure of toxic chemicals they release into the air under a little-noticed provision of the massive spending bill that the President signed into law on March 11. The measure — which affects chemical manufacturers, oil refineries, automakers and electronics manufacturers nationwide — reverses a 2006 regulation enacted by the former President that eased the reporting requirements for nearly 600 chemicals, including arsenic, benzene and cadmium. The legislation restores the standard established by law in 1986, compelling all facilities to inform the public of any chemical releases that total 500 pounds a year or more, lowering the 2,000-pound threshold the former President adopted. The 2006 rule change did not lower the threshold for identifying releases of what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) calls “persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals,” but it did ease rules for reporting how such chemicals are managed. Officials from industries affected by the rule, who estimate they spend \$650 million a year complying with the current reporting requirements, said the changes adopted under the former President lightened their regulatory burden without jeopardizing public health.  
Source: [http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci\\_11891576](http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11891576)
7. *March 11, KGET 17Bakersfield* – (California) **Port Organic reaches tentative agreement to remove chemical, plans to close.** A Kern County fertilizer company that was the subject of a U.S. Department of Agriculture raid in January has reached a tentative agreement to remove a hazardous chemical from its property amid plans to close its doors. Port Organic Products was storing ammonium hydroxide on its property, the deputy district attorney said, a violation of county environmental health regulations. “They were receiving, storing and using chemicals without proper plans to do that,” he

said. “They are required to file a business plan and a California Accidental Release Prevention Program plan with the state Office of Emergency Services.” The company is going out of business and he is working out final details of a deal to safely remove the chemicals. Dozens of federal agents swept through the Bakersfield chemical company in January. Port Organic specializes in commercial fertilizers. “We have two cases where this company failed to properly announce or register chemicals with us, “said the Kern County Environmental Health director in January, who noted the company had been on the county’s radar for more than four years.

Source: [http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Port-Organic-reaches-tentative-agreement-to/W\\_6r\\_8rWEOKtqgzv4wsaSQ.csp](http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Port-Organic-reaches-tentative-agreement-to/W_6r_8rWEOKtqgzv4wsaSQ.csp)

8. *March 11, Newsday* – (New Jersey) **Chemical odor traced to ExxonMobil plant in NJ.** A malfunction at a central New Jersey chemical plant produced a strong odor but no reported injuries Wednesday. The incident occurred around 6:15 a.m. at the ExxonMobil Chemical plant in the Middlesex County community of Edison. The company says the release of chemicals lasted for nearly 90 minutes before it was contained, and the odor was noticed as far away as Union County. Emergency response procedures were activated, and an investigation is under way. The plant on Route 27 produces synthetic lubricants and engine oils. An ExxonMobil spokeswoman says the odor presents no danger to the public, but anyone coming into contact with it could experience minor irritation.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--chemicalodor0311mar11,0,824531.story>

9. *March 11, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire strikes hazardous materials plant.** Firefighters and hazmat crews spent the better part of an hour trying to contain a fire at a Montgomery County plant that produces hazardous materials. Just before 11 p.m. on Tuesday night, flames broke out at the PSC Environmental Facility in Hatfield Township. When firefighters arrived, they found flames and much of the building filled with thick clouds of smoke. The fire quickly went to two alarms. There are no reports of injuries.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=6703348>

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

10. *March 12, WTVJ 6 Miami* – (Florida) **Alleged: Utility skirts on Miami nuke plant safety.** A former top operator at a nuclear power plant outside Miami says he resigned because managers restarted the reactor in an unsafe manner. He says in court documents that after the February 26, 2008 outage, Florida Power & Light executives ordered that the reactors be back online within 12 hours. He told the executives that would be dangerous. He resigned that night, writing that FPL was constantly putting cost ahead of safety. The utility said the Turkey Point reactor is operated safely and denied the former operator’s allegations.

Source: <http://www.nbc6.net/news/18915023/detail.html>

11. *March 11, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Connecticut) **Firm to receive \$500 fine, make changes under settlement agreement with NRC.** Quality Inspection Services, Inc., (QISI) of Buffalo, New York, has agreed to implement a broad range of corrective actions related to radiation safety and pay a \$500 fine under an agreement reached with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The settlement with the company was achieved under the NRC's alternate dispute resolution process, which was initiated at the request of QISI to address a willful violation of NRC regulations involving the use of an industrial radiography facility the company owns in Manchester, Connecticut. Specifically, the NRC found there was a willful failure on the part of a QISI site radiation safety officer to maintain utilization logs for each sealed radioactive source at the site. NRC reviews determined that the safety officer performed radiographic operations at the Manchester location on several occasions between November 15, 2006 and March 2, 2007 without keeping such logs.  
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-011.i.html>

12. *March 11, Michigan Messenger* – (Michigan) **Fermi 3 opposition takes legal action to block new nuclear reactor.** A coalition of environmental groups is asking federal regulators to put the brakes on the proposed expansion of the Fermi nuclear power plant in Monroe County on the grounds that it is unnecessary and poses threats to the environment and human health. Beyond Nuclear, Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario, Don't Waste Michigan, and the Sierra Club are all representing locals who live within 50 miles of Fermi and therefore have legal standing to intervene in the reactor permitting process. According to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will determine whether the groups' contentions should be introduced as part of the hearing on the permit. Among the coalition's 14 objections is that DTE Energy, the power company that is seeking a permit to build the Fermi 3 reactor, has failed to adequately consider the impact of cumulative toxic discharges into Lake Erie and the Great Lakes system. And the presence of nuclear waste so close to the water supply for tens of million of people represents a threat to security and the environment, the groups contend. The coalition says that the emergency response planning for the plant is inadequate and that the five Jefferson district schools within a 5-mile radius of the plant do not have adequate buses to evacuate students in the event of an emergency.  
Source: <http://michiganmessenger.com/14545/fermi-3-opposition-takes-legal-action-to-block-new-nuclear-reactor>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

13. *March 12, Aviation Week* – (National) **F-35 may need thermal management changes.** The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II may be redesigned to improve its ability to absorb heat from its electronics and systems. The aircraft is meeting the specification for thermal management, but the Joint Strike Fighter program's deputy executive officer says he is asking contractors to assess the costs of changes to give it a bigger margin over the requirement. The F-35 is designed to transfer heat from its powerful electronics and systems to its fuel, to keep the aircraft cool and make it less detectable by infrared

cameras. Under most conditions, that presents no challenge, but if the aircraft is at the end of a mission, it will have little fuel aboard to absorb the heat energy, says Lockheed Martin's executive vice president for F-35 program integration. And the toughest part of the specification is to distribute the heat into the remaining fuel while operating in hot-and-high conditions. Interest in finding ways of increasing the margin — for example, by circulating the fuel faster and reducing the amount of generated heat — implies that the aircraft is only just meeting its specification without much room for comfort.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/F35-031209.xml](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/F35-031209.xml)

14. *March 10, Air Force Materiel Command* – (National) **JDAM adds precision punch to Reaper.** The already lethal MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aircraft system will soon bring even more punch to the enemy in the form of the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM). The results of the series of test drops at the China Lake test range in California are still being evaluated, but they mark a significant step in certifying the Reaper to carry the 500 pound version of the JDAM. Currently, the Reaper is authorized to carry the GBU-12 Paveway II, which is a 500 lb., laser guided bomb and the AGM-114 Hellfire missile. The JDAM adds the precision afforded by its global positioning system guidance control unit along with adverse weather capability. Next to be certified is the GBU-39B Small Diameter Bomb.

Source: <http://www.afmc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123139064>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

15. *March 12, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Madoff is guilty in Ponzi scheme; judge weighs jail.** A defendant admitted he was the mastermind behind the largest Ponzi scheme ever, an historic fraud that swindled investors out of as much as \$65 billion and made him the symbol of investor distrust in a global recession. The defendant entered his guilty plea in Manhattan federal court three months after confessing to relatives that his firm, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, was “one big lie.” A U.S. District judge will now hear arguments on whether the defendant, who has been free on \$10 million bond, should be immediately jailed while awaiting sentencing, scheduled for June 16. He faces as much as 150 years in prison. The defendant's guilty plea marks the downfall of a once-acclaimed money manager who told the world his fortune came through an eponymous firm that specialized in making markets, trading securities and advising wealthy clients.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a1WIM2DIAEWg&refer=home>

16. *March 12, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Fake credit union called real scam.** Consumers looking for a break on a loan are being warned to watch out for scam artists promoting a fake credit union on the Internet. The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation has issued a cease and desist order for a so-called Dearborn-based

Communal Credit Union. “No one is at the physical address that they list,” said a public information officer for Michigan’s regulatory office. State regulators had heard about Communal after consumers called their hotline. The commissioner of OFIR said the firm is not a credit union and not authorized to do business in Michigan. Regulators found an empty storefront when they visited the site. Regulators said they do not know who is behind the scam.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20090312/COL07/903120416>

17. *March 12, lehighvalleylive.com* – (Pennsylvania) **Bank of America reports ATM scam in Lehigh Valley.** Bethlehem police said Bank of America believes someone is using area ATMs to steal money from customers’ accounts. Bank of America reported on March 10 that an ATM scam bilked Lehigh Valley customers out of at least \$21,000. The bank said local and federal authorities are investigating. Bethlehem police said the bank branch claimed on March 10 that the accounts of seven customers, from Allentown to Plainfield, New Jersey, were violated by someone with false ATM cards and stolen account information. The perpetrator made several large withdrawals at ATMs from the accounts, police said. Police are unsure how account information was leaked, but some evidence suggests the possible use of a skimmer, an electronic device that can be placed over a card slot on an ATM, or any other card-reader device, to record account information.

Source: <http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1236830759154990.xml&coll=3>

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *March 12, CNN* – (National) **‘Urgent’ repair recommended for some Boeing 777 engines.** On March 11, federal transportation safety officials issued an “urgent” recommendation calling for a redesign of a component on some Boeing 777 aircraft engines, a component blamed for two major mishaps in the past year. National Transportation Safety Board investigators said the Rolls-Royce engine component played a role in the January 17, 2008 crash of a British Airways jet near London’s Heathrow Airport. Both the plane’s engines lost power as the plane approached the runway, and 13 people were injured in the resulting crash. Ten months later, on November 26, 2008, a Delta Air Lines Boeing 777 was in cruise flight over Montana when an engine lost power. That plane landed safely in Atlanta after pilots performed a procedure developed in response to the Heathrow crash. In both cases, the NTSB said, a build-up of ice on a fuel/oil heat exchanger restricted the flow of fuel to the Rolls-Royce engines, reducing power. “With two of these rollback events occurring within a year, we believe that there is a high probability of something similar happening again,” the NTSB acting chairman said in a news release. The Federal Aviation Administration recently ordered operators of Boeing 777s that use the Rolls Royce engines to revise flight manuals to give pilots procedures to follow in certain cold weather conditions, outlining steps they should take if their jets experience a reduction of power. But on March 11, the NTSB said the FAA action does not go far enough. “The procedure has worked and it has been effective in significantly reducing the likelihood [of an incident],” said NTSB

spokesman. “But that’s not enough. We need a permanent fix.”

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/03/11/boeing.redesign/?iref=mpstoryview>

19. *March 12, Reuters* – (Missouri) **Boat sinks on Mississippi River near St. Louis.** A tow boat sank near St. Louis, slowing barge traffic but not closing the Mississippi River, the most important U.S. commercial waterway, said the U.S. Coast Guard on March 12. The tug boat Hartford Beaver, owned by National Maintenance and Repair, sank at mile marker 197 on March 11. Three crew members aboard the vessel suffered minor injuries.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE52B3QO20090312?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>

20. *March 12, Jacksonville Daily News* – (North Carolina) **Marine held in threat to bomb plane.** A Camp Lejeune marine was charged March 10 with threatening to blow up a plane at Wilmington International Airport. The marine was charged by airport authorities with making a bomb threat, communicating threats, resisting arrest, assault and battery and three counts of assault on a government official. Airport authorities say he had a ticket for a plane bound for Charlotte. But once he boarded, he began to act belligerent and telling passengers there was a bomb on the plane, said the airport director. “You are all going to die,” the marine allegedly shouted as the flight crew tried to subdue him. He shoved the crew and ran off the plane. When airport police stopped him, the marine headbutted an officer in the nose. After being handcuffed, he began to scream he would kill the president, the airport director said. Airport officials said they contacted federal authorities about the marine and expected an investigation by the FBI and Secret Service. He is being held in the New Hanover County Jail on a \$5,000 bond.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/marine-held-in-threat-to-bomb-plane.html?col=1186032310810&ESRC=topstories.RSS>

21. *March 11, New York Times* – (New York) **Plane makes emergency landing at J.F.K.** A commercial jetliner suffered a loss of one of its two engines shortly after taking off from La Guardia Airport on the morning of March 11 and was forced to make an emergency landing at Kennedy International Airport, officials said. American Airlines Flight 309, an MD-80 bound for Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport, landed at Kennedy around 8:35 a.m. after losing a trail of metal parts, evidently from its No. 2 engine, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. Some of the metal parts were reported to have fallen onto a rooftop of a commercial building in Queens. There were 88 passengers and five crew members on board, said a spokeswoman for the airline. No one was injured. The flight departed La Guardia shortly after 8 a.m. As it climbed to its flying altitude, the crew reported hearing a loud noise, then told air-traffic controllers that its second engine had failed. A special crew of emergency responders rushed to the runway, bracing for the possibility of a crash landing or fire, as the plane landed safely at Runway 22 Right, according to an FAA official. The plane then taxied to the ramp. Most of the engine parts, including a four-foot section, landed on the roof of a plumbing company’s building in College Point, the FAA official said.

Source: <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/03/11/plane-makes-emergency->



[landing-at-jfk/?hp](#)

22. *March 11, New York Daily News* – (New York) **City lowers boom on crane hazard on WTC street.** On March 10, New York City ordered a halt to crane use at a World Trade Center tower after inspectors caught a contractor lifting a 50,000-pound crane part over a busy street into Ground Zero without a permit. The hazardous incident happened as the contractor, Tishman Construction, was preparing to erect a huge tower crane at World Trade Center Tower 4. A Tishman subcontractor used a smaller crane on March 5 to hoist the mammoth crane's boom over Church St., which was teeming with traffic and pedestrians. The work was done without a permit and contrary to approved plans, the Buildings Department said. The order has not stopped all construction at the site, but it has idled dozens of hardhats who need the crane to do their work. The Buildings Department and the city Transportation Department issued violations to Tishman Construction; the company operating the smaller crane, DCM Erectors, and to the Port Authority, which owns the site. The action marks the first time the city has flexed its muscle under a deal reached last week with the Port Authority granting the Buildings Department the power to issue violations for crane safety hazards at the bistate agency's city work sites. In a meeting March 10, the Transportation Department informed Tishman and DCM that work would not resume until the contractor submits a final plan addressing crane safety at the site, an agency spokesman said. There are 24 cranes operating on the 16-acre World Trade Center site, and the city wrangled for months to obtain the power to enforce crane safety there.

Source: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2009/03/10/2009-03-10\\_city\\_lowers\\_boom\\_on\\_crane\\_hazard\\_on\\_wtc\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/03/10/2009-03-10_city_lowers_boom_on_crane_hazard_on_wtc_.html)

23. *March 11, Daily Journal of Commerce* – (Oregon) **Port of Portland is working on deicing system.** The Port of Portland is in the process of enhancing its deicing system, which serves Portland International Airport during cold weather. Airlines regularly apply anti-icing and deicing materials to prevent or remove ice and snow from aircrafts, and the port applies similar materials to the runway pavement. The port in 2003 began operating a \$31 million system to collect deicing runoff for monitoring, treating and controlling release into the Columbia Slough. Although the system has been effective at collecting deicing runoff from around the terminals and runways, it does not currently collect runoff from Basin 1, causing the port to exceed its environmental permit limits. The Department of Environmental Quality in 2006 issued a Mutual Agreement and Order to the port that sets up a compliance schedule for making the deicing system compliant with environmental requirements.

Source: <http://www.djcoregon.com/articleDetail.htm/2009/03/11/Port-of-Portland-is-working-on-deicing-system>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *March 11, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. urged to adopt mandatory livestock traceback.** The U.S. government should require livestock producers to enroll in a traceback system, a primary U.S. defense against mad cow disease, because voluntary signups are not working, two key congressmen said on March 11. The chief veterinarian at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said at a House Agriculture subcommittee hearing that “it is time to reassess our strategy.” He declined to say if USDA would endorse a mandatory program. The goal of the traceback system is to identify within 48 hours of the outbreak of livestock disease the home farm of the infected animals and other livestock exposed to them. USDA adopted traceback as an animal health tool within days of the discovery of the first U.S. case of mad cow disease in late 2003. Some \$128 million has been spent over five years to create a voluntary system. About 35 percent of livestock producers have registered their premises. Relatively few livestock markets or slaughterhouses are enrolled. If participation becomes mandatory, it would take three or four years to get a working “book end” system in place and at a cost of \$160 million to \$190 million, the USDA chief veterinarian said. A book-end system would compile data on where and when a food animal was born and its location when it died.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29640041>
25. *March 11, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Turkish freighter carrying invasive weed species ordered to leave Baltimore port.** An inspection aboard a Turkish freighter on March 6 at one of Baltimore’s ports by agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency revealed the presence of cogon grass weed seed, an invasive seed from Asia that quickly spreads and disrupts ecosystems, reduces wildlife habitat and decreases tree seeding growth, said a spokesman for the agency. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman said the pest-like seed, known as Red Baron grass after the World War I German fighter ace, was found during a routine inspection littered among wood packing in a container of tile from Turkey. He said the seed is considered one of the 10 worst invasive plant species in the world and is listed as a federal noxious weed. He said it is believed the weed has invaded more than 1 million acres in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and Texas. The agency’s director for the port of Baltimore said, “Invasive species pose dire consequences to our nation’s economy, potentially more so than even a single terrorist act.” After the seed was discovered, the container was ordered to leave Baltimore.  
Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bal-freighter0311,0,3417038.story>
26. *March 11, Brownfield Network* – (Wisconsin) **EAB has a foothold in Wisconsin.** It looks like the Emerald Ash Borer has gained a foothold in Wisconsin. Department of Agriculture officials say the infestation that straddles the Ozaukee and Washington county line near the Village of Newburg is too large to completely remove from the area. Surveys conducted by state and federal agencies since August of 2008 in and around the village reveal that the infestation of EAB covers nearly 5,000 acres in an area that could contain as many as 50-thousand ash trees. While the infestation was first discovered last summer, a researcher at Michigan State University says some trees in the area have been harboring the pest for five years. Efforts will now focus on slowing the

spread of the beetle. The emerald ash borer was first detected in Wisconsin in July of 2008 on private property in northwestern Ozaukee County. Within days of that discovery, adult beetles were trapped in the Village of Newburg in northeastern Washington County. A quarantine on hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock and other ash products has been in place in those counties and in neighboring Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties since shortly after the discovery.

Source: <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=F77530A8-5056-B82A-D0F8040BFA6C62F8>

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## **Water Sector**

27. *March 11, Dan River* – (Virginia) **Inmates blamed for sewer problems.** Pittsylvania County officials say they will cooperate with Chatham in solving the clogged sewer line problem the town manager believes is caused by inmates at the county jail flushing sheets, trustee uniforms, mop heads, and other items down the toilets. The Chatham town manager, who first presented the problem to the town council on March 9, said the town has been working on clearing the blockage in the sewer pipe at the intersection of Route 57 and Main Street for two weeks at a cost of about \$25,000. He also told council members it was a recurring problem that has gone on for years. A sheriff said on March 10 he recently found out about the problem and is going to do everything he can to help solve it.

Source:

[http://www.godanriver.com/gdr/news/local/danville\\_news/article/inmates\\_blamed\\_for\\_sewer\\_problems/9640/](http://www.godanriver.com/gdr/news/local/danville_news/article/inmates_blamed_for_sewer_problems/9640/)

28. *March 11, Water Technology Online* – (North Carolina) **NC budget move halts 200 water, sewer projects.** In an effort to balance the state's budget, the governor has taken \$100 million from North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund, a move that has resulted in the halting of nearly 200 water and sewer projects, according to a March 6 Triangle Business Journal article. Many of the 192 projects already were under construction. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund, formed in the mid-1990s, receives about \$100 million annually from the General Assembly to make grants to North Carolina rural communities for water and sewer infrastructure projects, such as installing or expanding water lines. Of a total of about 692 Clean Water Management Trust Fund projects, 500 that already were through the final approval process will continue, the article said.

Source: [http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?N\\_ID=71560](http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71560)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

29. *March 12, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (Nevada) **Hospital becomes scene of fear during shooting.** Henderson police vehicles remained outside the emergency room of St. Rose Dominican Hospital's Siena campus early March 11 after officers shot an

armed man they said pointed a gun at them. Officers were evacuating the hospital's emergency room area of about 30 patients and staff when the shooting happened, police said. No bystanders were injured. The man entered the hospital emergency room just before 1 a.m. A Henderson police spokesman said two officers fired their weapons after the man disobeyed orders to drop his gun. Instead, the man pointed the weapon at officers. The chairman of University Medical Center's emergency department, a former FBI agent and deputy sheriff in California, said security at hospitals nationwide generally includes armed or unarmed guards. He described emergency rooms as the most dangerous places in hospitals because they are where staff engage walk-ins and people who have not yet been treated. Also, it is difficult to know what patients are carrying in their pockets, he said.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/41139642.html>

30. *March 12, Mid-Hudson News* – (New York) **Explosion injures worker.** An explosion at a manufacturing facility in Newburgh on the afternoon of March 11 injured an employee, fire officials said. The worker was apparently mixing chemicals at Living Skin, a company that makes prosthetic limbs, when a chemical reaction caused an explosion, said the assistant fire chief. The Orange County haz-mat team was called in as a precaution to determine if there is any contamination in the building.  
Source: [http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/March09/12/Nbrg\\_expl-12Mar09.html](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/March09/12/Nbrg_expl-12Mar09.html)
31. *March 11, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA issues severe warning to Baxter product letter.** The Food and Drug Administration gave a safety hazard warning letter issued by Baxter International Inc. over its Colleague Volumetric Infusion pumps its most severe level of urgency, the company said March 11. In January, Baxter issued a warning to customers over potential hazards with the products, which includes failure to pump and overheating. The FDA classified the company's letter as a Class I recall, its most severe warning. The products, which are used widely in hospitals to deliver intravenous fluids and medicine to patients, are not actually being called off the market, but the serious warning is necessary because the products are so widely used and the shutdown hazard could be potentially fatal. The company said failure codes in the pumps could cause them to shut down while delivering fluids to patients and warned of overheating. It said safe and effective use of the product depends on proper battery care practices.  
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/03/11/ap6155265.html>
32. *March 11, DOTmed.com* – (National) **FDA recalls selected pediatric tracheostomy tubes.** A class 1 recall is being issued on selected lots of pediatric tracheostomy tubes (Shiley 3.0PED Cuffless Pediatric Tracheostomy Tubes, Covidien Inc) manufactured from July 7, 2008 through December 9, 2008 and distributed from July 24, 2008 through December 23, 2008, the FDA says. The recall is necessary due to complaints received about the difficulty of inserting two instruments: the device used to place the tracheostomy tube into the windpipe (the obturator) and the catheter suction tube, which is inserted into the tracheostomy tube.  
Source: <http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/8434>

33. *March 11, HealthDay News* – (Massachusetts) **Doctor may have faked data in many studies.** A highly influential Massachusetts anesthesiologist may have fabricated results in at least 21 published studies, according to officials at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. The doctor has published dozens of studies on the use of more than one type of drug to relieve post-surgical pain and speed recovery. This method, multimodal analgesia, is an important and emerging field of anesthesiology, the Boston Globe reported. Last year, hospital officials launched an investigation of the doctor’s work and identified 21 published papers over 13 years in which all or some of the data were fabricated. In many cases, “there was no clinical trial, because there were no patients,” said Baystate’s chief academic officer. Several medical journals were notified about the investigation results, and they are in the process of retracting the papers.  
Source: <http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=624954>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

34. *March 11, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **North Island base site of emergency jet landing.** A Navy fighter jet made an emergency landing at North Island Naval Air Station on March 10, a Navy spokesman said. The F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Lemoore-based Strike Fighter Squadron 14 landed uneventfully at 4:25 p.m. after an over-water approach to Runway 36, said the Navy spokesman. The pilot had been flying from the carrier Nimitz when his instruments indicated a possible problem in one of the jet’s two engines, the spokesman added. As a precaution, the pilot shut down that engine and flew toward North Island. “At no time was the aircraft in peril,” noted the naval spokesman.  
Source: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/mar/11/north-island-base-site-emergency-jet-landing/?zIndex=65212>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

35. *March 11, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Tactical weapons stolen from WSP vehicle.** Tactical weapons and equipment have been stolen out of a Washington State Patrol vehicle. In an intelligence bulletin sent out by the Washington State Fusion Center and uncovered by KING5 News, authorities say that on March 6 someone broke into an unmarked WSP vehicle — a Ford Crown Victoria — while it was parked on the Capitol Campus near the State Legislative Building in Olympia, stealing two fire arms, a Level 3 vest with “Police” on the body and “Washington State Patrol” on the sleeves, as well as ammunition.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29609245/>
36. *March 10, MedTech Sentinel* – (National) **Scientists developing one-size-fits-all bioterrorism vaccine.** Scientists at the Scripps Research Institute are developing a new method of vaccination that could potentially be used to provide instantaneous protection

whether the target is a cancer cell, flu virus, or a toxin like anthrax in the event of a bioterrorism attack. Normally, it takes days or weeks for the body to build immunity against a pathogen. The scientists injected mice with chemicals designed to trigger a universal immune reaction, as well as “adapter molecules” that they had developed to recognize the target cells causing the disease. The adapter molecules cooperate with the antibodies to create “covalent antibody-adapter complexes” within the body of the animal. “The antibodies in our vaccine are designed to circulate inertly until they receive instructions from tailor-made small molecules to become active against a specific target,” said a Scripps professor.

Source: <http://www.onemedplace.com/blog/archives/1232>

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## **Information Technology**

37. *March 11, Enterprise Security* – (International) **Microsoft puts the kibosh on Facebook worm Koobface.** Microsoft Corp. is trying to stamp out the Koobface worm, which has spread aggressively on social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, the company said on March 10. In a post to the company’s Malware Protection Center blog, a researcher said that definitions for Koobface have been added to the Malicious Software Removal Tool (MSRT), the free anti-malware utility that Microsoft automatically delivers to users every month on Patch Tuesday. Koobface, which first appeared in May 2008, struck Facebook again recently, with researchers at Trend Micro Inc. tracking its romp through the service. According to a Trend Micro researcher, the new Koobface.ac variant tries to trick users into downloading a bogus update to Adobe System Inc.’s Flash and spreads by hijacking browser cookies to 10 different social networking sites, and then using the cookies to log into accounts and spew out more fake messages to friends. According to the researcher, the MSRT update targets a wide range of components that fall under the Koobface category. “This family is not just a worm, but a collection of different components that can each perform a different task,” he said. “These include downloading, Web hosting, password stealing, displaying pop-ups and sending messages to contacts on various social network Web sites.”

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9129428&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9129428&intsrc=hm_list)

38. *March 11, DarkReading* – (International) **Victims argue findings of Romanian white hat hacker group.** The Romanian white hat hackers who have been exposing vulnerabilities in major Web sites and databases during the past month are not always “playing fair” in the penetration testing game, some “victims” say. The white hat group, which is led by a researcher known only as “unu” and posts its findings on its own HackersBlog.org Web site, has exposed SQL injection flaws and other vulnerabilities in several high-profile sites since February, including sites belonging to security vendors Kaspersky, BitDefender, F-Secure, and Symantec, as well as the International Herald Tribune newspaper. During the past few days, HackersBlog has reported new vulnerabilities in the Web sites of U.K. newspaper the Telegraph, as well as on a Web

site belonging to telecommunications giant BT. In both cases, and as in its previous vulnerability reports, HackersBlog said the group had demonstrated the ability to penetrate back-end databases containing sensitive data. But two of the most recent “victims” of HackersBlog’s attacks said the white hat group is overstating its achievements. In a statement released on March 11, BT said that HackersBlog had succeeded in only penetrating a testing database that contained no live data. “BT has carried out a thorough investigation of this alleged breach. We have found that access was gained to a test database and therefore no customer details were revealed at any time,” the statement said. “When sites are under test, they do not contain live data and are often not included within our secure network until they become operational...Our operational systems have not been affected in any way by this attempt to break through our security.”

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=HXH SIICZTKJ54QSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=215801967>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *March 11, Associated Press* – (New York) **Faulty rigging blamed in deadly NYC crane collapse.** Workers used the wrong kind of slings and put them in an incorrect place on a crane that collapsed and killed seven people last year, a New York City report concluded March 11. The crane’s riggers also used half the number of protective straps needed to secure an 11,000-pound steel brace that fell last March, detaching the crane from a 19-story tower under construction, an engineering firm wrote in a report for the city Department of Buildings. The report backs federal and criminal probes that blamed the contractors with “jumping” or raising the crane to a higher level on the condo tower. Prosecutors indicted the rigging company and its CEO on manslaughter charges earlier this year. The report, prepared by Arup & Partners Consulting Engineers found that, “failure of the polyester slings due to improper usage” caused the steel brace to fall from the 18th floor, knocking out lower attachments and causing the crane to demolish a four-story townhouse and damage more than a dozen other buildings near the United Nations. Six construction workers on the crane and a Florida tourist were killed. The report also

said the city's construction permits were "confusing and not well-documented," and that the city's inspection protocols at the time would not have found the rigging errors. Since the two collapses, the city has created new rules for erecting and operating cranes, including a requirement that city inspectors watch rigging procedures and that engineers certify the site beforehand.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hz3wSSUG1jtdVjde2upbfjrIkVAD96S44SO2>

40. *March 11, Southern Maryland Newspapers Online* – (Maryland) **Packages left at store draw bomb squad.** On March 10, a visitor's delivery of two packages affixed with notes to a clerk at a Leonardtown convenience store prompted a call the next morning to police, who carefully removed and destroyed them. Travel on state highways near the Dash In store twice was shut down as deputy state fire marshals blew open the two packages with compressed water fired from a small cannon, after the investigators tied rope to the items and dragged them outside to the parking lot. Neither package contained any explosive material. St. Mary's detectives report that the person who allegedly brought the packages to the store was taken into custody, but no charges were reported from the initial investigation.

Source: [http://www.somdnews.com/stories/03112009/entetop141935\\_32230.shtml](http://www.somdnews.com/stories/03112009/entetop141935_32230.shtml)

41. *March 10, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (California) **Leaking 6,000-gallon propane tank closes Donner Ski Ranch for at least today.** A leaking 6,000-gallon propane tank forced the closure and evacuation of Donner Ski Ranch and the Peninsula Ski Club and the shutting off of electricity to nearby condominiums. The condominiums are out of the zone of the leaking gas, but the propane that runs their heaters had already been cut off a Truckee Fire Department representative said. The tank supplies propane to the condominiums, he said. The evacuations of the Donner Ski Ranch and the Peninsula Ski Club came on March 10 after propane was found leaking from the tank that morning. If enough gas congregates and something ignites it, there could be an explosion. Amerigas supplies the propane to the 6,000-gallon tank and they were on scene to try to find and fix the leak. At least one person has sought treatment at Tahoe Forest Hospital.

Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20090310/NEWS18/90310013/1321/news>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

42. *March 12, Greeley Tribune* – (National) **Wilderness bill fails in Senate vote.** The U.S. House on March 11 defeated a bill to set aside more than two million acres in nine states as protected wilderness. The bill also included language involving water in the Rocky Mountain National Park. A majority of House members supported the bill, but the measure was defeated because it did not receive the needed two-thirds vote. The vote was 282-144 in favor — two votes short of approval. Democratic leaders vowed to bring the bill back, but they did not say when or in what form. The defeated measure would have conferred the government's highest level of protection on land ranging from California's Sierra Nevada mountain range to Oregon's Mount Hood, Rocky Mountain



National Park, and parts of the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia.

Source:

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20090312/NEWS/903119933/1008/NONE&parentprofile=1001&title=Wilderness%20bill%20fails%20in%20Senate%20vote>

43. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Fire in Ohio’s only national forest contained.** Authorities in Ohio’s only national forest say they have contained a fire that had spread over about 200 acres. About 35 firefighters were still at the site March 12, and some will probably stay through the weekend to watch for hot spots. The fire began late March 10 in Wayne National Forest near Ironton in southern Ohio. A Forest spokesman says it was in an isolated area that once was used for coal mining activities. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The spokesman says the fire stayed near the ground, destroying mostly grass, brush, and debris. There was minimal damage to trees.  
Source: [http://www.wtte28.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.regional.oh/39b3b7ec-www.wtte28.com.shtml](http://www.wtte28.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.oh/39b3b7ec-www.wtte28.com.shtml)
44. *March 11, Ocala Star-Banner* – (Florida) **National forest wildfire has burned 490 acres.** The U.S. Forest Service was still assessing a wildfire late March 11 that had burned more than 490 acres of the Ocala National Forest. A spokeswoman said the fire was directly north of the Juniper Springs camping area, to the north of East State Road 40 and to the east of Forest Road 65. The area is considered a sensitive part of the Ocala National Forest, and officials are forbidden to use any type of mechanized machinery there. Three helicopters were being used to drop water on the blaze, and to conduct reconnaissance to monitor where the fire was moving. The spokeswoman said officials started their own fires in an effort to contain the blaze. Though no businesses, homes or structures were in danger, officials placed fire lines around an old cemetery and a cabin, and evacuated the Juniper Springs Campground. Juniper Creek Canoe Run, Yearling Trail and Forest Road 65 were closed, as was a portion of the Florida Trail. Officials imposed temporary flight restrictions for the airspace over the wilderness. The Forest Service also is restricting campfires. A Marion County Fire Rescue spokeswoman said the county is under a voluntary burn ban because of dry conditions.  
Source: <http://www.ocala.com/article/20090311/ARTICLES/903110996/0/news>
45. *March 10, National Parks Service* – (National) **National Park Service gets the lead out.** National Park Service (NPS) visitors and wildlife have something to cheer about with the agency’s stepped-up efforts to reduce lead in national park environments. “Our goal is to eliminate the use of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle in parks by the end of 2010,” said the acting NPS director. The new lead reduction efforts also include changes in NPS activities, such as culling operations or the dispatching of wounded or sick animals. Rangers and resource managers will use non-lead ammunition to prevent environmental contamination as well as lead poisoning of scavenger species who may eventually feed upon the carcass. Non-toxic substitutes for lead made in the United States are now widely available including tungsten, copper, and steel. The NPS will also develop educational materials to increase awareness about the consequences of lead exposure and the benefits of using lead-free ammunition and fishing tackle. The new restrictions on lead will ensure environmentally safe practices are implemented to

protect park visitors and lands.

Source: <http://home.nps.gov/applications/release/Detail.cfm?ID=855>

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## **Dams Sector**

46. *March 12, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Water released from dams to ease pressure as flood warnings extended.** Kalamazoo County emergency crews will continue monitoring Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek water levels, particularly in Comstock Township, where Morrow Dam officials released about 6 inches of water March 12 to ease pressure behind the structure. “Comstock residents are likely to see (water-level) increases,” Kalamazoo County’s emergency management director said after the water release. “There is serious potential for flooding, but we’ll be monitoring it as things change.” A flood warning was extended until March 14 for the Kalamazoo River in Comstock, the director said. The water level is expected to peak the morning of March 13.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/03/water\\_released\\_from\\_dams\\_to\\_ea.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/03/water_released_from_dams_to_ea.html)

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

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