



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 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 San Antonio Business Journal, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced Thursday that Valero Marketing & Supply Co. has voluntarily agreed to recall tanks of propane gas sold in five states. The propane might not have the recommended level of odorant that helps alert consumers to a gas leak. (See item [1](#))
- The Canton Daily Ledger reports that a levee situated near Duncan Mills in Fulton County, Illinois has been breached due to flood conditions, the Fulton County Emergency Services Disaster Agency director said Thursday morning. (See item [34](#))

**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, San Antonio Business Journal* – (National) **Valero agrees to recall propane gas.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced on March 12 that Valero Marketing & Supply Co. has voluntarily agreed to recall tanks of propane gas sold in five states. The recall affects retailers in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Valero manufactured 919,000 barrels of propane gas from January to October 2008 that contains an odorant that helps alert consumers to a gas leak. However, the propane Valero manufactured and sold might not have the recommended level of odorant. Failure to detect leaking gas can present a fire, explosion, or thermal burn hazard to consumers, according to the Consumer Product

Safety Commission.

Source: <http://sanantonio.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/stories/2009/03/09/daily27.html>

2. *March 11, Government Computer News* – (National) **Security requirements defined for smart electrical meters.** The Energy Department and the electric utility industry have released a baseline set of security requirements for smart meters that can help to intelligently control the flow of electricity to customers. The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is the consumer endpoint of the Smart Grid, a system for more reliably distributing and delivering electric power. However, embedding intelligence and feedback in the system creates security concerns. “The utility industry recognizes that AMI changes the face of traditional utility security by extending two-way communications all the way to the customer premise,” the Utility Communications Architecture International Users Group said in announcing the requirements. “This groundbreaking requirements document will provide needed guidance to utilities in addressing the security challenges of this new and rapidly expanding domain.” The users group’s AMI Security Task Force, which includes representatives from 11 utilities, energy, security experts, and vendor representatives, developed the AMI System Security Requirements between May 2008 and December 2008.

Source: <http://gcn.com/Articles/2009/03/11/AMI-system-security-reqs.aspx?Page=1>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *March 12, Mirror Newspapers* – (Kansas) **Hazmat team responds.** An ammonia leak at U.S. Foods on Napier Road on March 9 resulted in a building evacuation and response from the Oakland County Hazardous Materials unit, the Lyon Township Fire Department and deputies from the Lyon substation of the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department. Public safety officials responded to reports of an unknown amount of ammonia leaking from the north side of the building, located on Napier Road just south of Grand River Avenue. Employees working the night shift were evacuated while investigators, who noted a strong odor of ammonia in the air, controlled the leak. No injuries or illness were reported. At the time of the incident, U.S. Foods reported nearly 30,000 pounds of ammonia on site.

Source: <http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20090312/NEWS19/903120417>

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

4. *March 12, Platts* – (National) **NRC says severe reactor accidents can be mitigated.** Severe reactor accidents can be mitigated, and are unlikely to release much — if any — radioactivity even if they are not [mitigated], Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staffers said on March 11. The NRC’s state-of-the-art reactor consequences analysis, or Soarca, attempts to quantify the probability and likely offsite health consequences of severe reactor accidents, beginning with Exelon Nuclear’s Peach Bottom and Dominion’s Surry plants. Analysis for those stations has been completed and a report

will be completed by May, an NRC official said in his presentation at the agency's annual Regulatory Information Conference in Rockville, Maryland. Another NRC employee said the staff's "preliminary conclusions" are that all accident scenarios analyzed for Peach Bottom and Surry "can reasonably be mitigated." Sensitivity analyses concluded that, even if no mitigation measures were taken, there would be no large early releases of radioactivity, due to the relatively slow progression of the accidents and the small probability of containment failure, he said. Likely radioactive releases from the accidents analyzed so far in Soarca "are dramatically smaller" than those predicted in a 1982 NRC analysis conducted for use in siting new units, he said. The late commissioner and some industry officials were highly critical of that report, which they said was unrealistically conservative in its assumptions.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7727976.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *March 13, Bloomberg* – (National) **Banks rush bond sales as FDIC says it may raise guarantee fees.** Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. officials advised the largest U.S. banks on March 9 that they may be charged more for the agency's debt guarantees, according to people familiar with the matter. Bank of America Corp., Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and the financing arm of General Electric Co. led \$29.8 billion of FDIC-backed bond sales since the meeting, making this the second-busiest week since companies began using the FDIC's Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program on November 25, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. FDIC officials said they plan to add a fee of 25 basis points on banks and 50 basis points on bank holding companies. Right now, it charges 1 percentage point of the amount sold on debt maturing in one year under the TLGP. The fees would be applied as of April 1 and are meant to restock the Washington-based FDIC's deposit insurance fund, the people said. The amount of FDIC-backed bond sales was "pretty significant," said an individual who helps oversee \$6.2 billion in fixed-income assets as a money manager at Transamerica Investment Management in Los Angeles. On March 11, the FDIC said its directors would meet on March 17 to discuss amending the TLGP. A FDIC spokesman said on March 12 the agency has "continuing discussions with the industry on TLGP, however we do not comment on any specifics of our discussions."

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=a3kprxkRPSyc&refer=home>

6. *March 12, Maine Sun Journal* – (Maine) **Police respond to bomb threat.** An

investigation into a bomb threat at TD Banknorth in Oxford briefly closed the bank on March 11. No bomb was found. Employees had already evacuated the building when police were called at 9:10 a.m. No other businesses in the plaza were shut down or evacuated. “They just called, made the threat, and hung up,” said a sergeant of the Oxford Police Department. The chief of the Oxford Police Department said Maine State Police brought in a bomb-sniffing dog to look for an explosive device, but found nothing. The Oxford County Sheriff’s Office provided additional coverage, and the Norway and Paris Police Departments were also initially called. The chief said police were on the scene for nearly two hours before the bank was reopened. He said it was unusual for a bomb threat to be made on a bank.

Source: [http://www.sunjournal.com/story/307262-3/OxfordHills/Police\\_respond\\_to\\_bomb\\_threat/](http://www.sunjournal.com/story/307262-3/OxfordHills/Police_respond_to_bomb_threat/)

7. *March 12, SPAMfighter* – (Utah) **Phishers increasingly targeting Utah credit unions.** Some credit unions in Utah state that their consumers have been recently hit by a phishing scam following the use of several Utah-based accounts in the end week of February 2009 to carry out spurious transactions. The fraudsters pretending to represent a Utah Credit Union distributed fake warnings through e-mail to innocent consumers. The messages say that the accounts of the customers have been deactivated and to resume their functioning, users must provide their account details for verification. However, the Credit Union explained that the messages are not genuine and it does not send e-mail to its customers requesting for any type of personal information. Hence, as precautionary measure, the Utah Credit Union has posted certain security rules on its Web site that would assist a consumer to know more about phishing as well as everything he/she needs to do if ensnared in one such incident. As per the directed security rules, if a consumer gets an e-mail in which the Credit Union requests the user for his/her personal information, then he/she should not reply to it. Instead, the recipient needs to get in touch with the Union instantly so that the appropriate officials are notified and an investigation is initiated.

Source: <http://www.spamfighter.com/News-11988-Phishers-Increasingly-Targeting-Utah-Credit-Unions.htm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *March 13, WEEK 25 Peoria* – (Illinois) **Road closed due to rising waters.** Because of the flooding, the Illinois Department of Transportation shut down Route 18 in Marshall County at Henry. A dispatcher with the Marshall County Sheriff’s police said I-DOT closed the Henry Bridge just after 9:30 a.m. on March 12. The dispatcher says two lanes of Route 18 leading to the bridge were under water from the rising Illinois River.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29659628/>
9. *March 13, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Jet lands safely after hitting birds near Atlanta.** A passenger plane has landed safely after passengers were told it struck two birds taking off from Atlanta. The Delta flight, operated by regional carrier ASA, was on its way to Mobile, Alabama, when passengers said they heard a loud thud. The pilot told

passengers the plane would circle over northwest Georgia to burn off fuel before returning to Atlanta. An ASA spokeswoman said the 50-seat CRJ-100 hit what officials believe were two birds, but their species has not been determined. A passenger told WKRG-TV in Mobile she could see damage on the plane's nose and right wing after leaving the plane.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/13/AR2009031300329.html>

10. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Delaware) **Freight carrier: 1,300 gallon Port of Wilmington fuel spill stopped.** A 1,300-gallon fuel spill at the Port of Wilmington has been stopped. The Coast Guard received a report of the leak about 8:40 a.m. March 12 from the Honor freight carrier. A Coast Guard news release says the leak began when the freighter collided with the pier. The fuel tank was punctured while the 623-foot freighter was moored at the port. The hole released 1,300 gallons of fuel into the water. Clean Venture and Delaware environmental crews joined Coast Guard workers in starting the cleanup process and stopping the leak.  
Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20090312/NEWS01/90312081>
11. *March 12, ClickonDetroit.com* – (Michigan) **Plane makes safe emergency landing.** A small plane that was experiencing landing gear problems made a safe emergency landing at the Detroit City Airport on March 12. The plane landed on the runway and veered to the right onto the grass around 2 p.m. The pilot got out of the plane unharmed after the landing. Only the pilot was aboard the six-seat plane. “It was wobbling back and forth quite a bit and kind of landed and skidded out,” said a witness. The Local 4 chopper followed the single-engine Piper 32R plane and carried live pictures as it circled the airport, trying to burn off fuel. The Detroit Fire Department said there were dangerous fuel levels on the plane and declared a level 3 hazmat situation. Emergency crews were at the scene and were prepared for the possibility of a fuel spill once the plane landed. The plane left from Phillipsburg, Ohio, at 11:57 a.m. and was supposed to land in Detroit at 12:15 p.m. The pilot alerted authorities when he realized the right main landing gear was not going down. Authorities were stunned to see how well the “seasoned” pilot landed the plane, despite 20 mph winds and 30 mph wind gusts.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29638701/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

12. *March 13, Food Production Daily* – (National) **Vaccine targeted at E.coli gets first U.S. license.** New technology aimed at reducing the risk of E. coli 0157 in ground beef has won a conditional license from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. EpiTox claims

that its new E. coli O157 Bacterial Extract is the first O157 vaccine licensed for sale in the United States. The product license, though, is conditional while additional potency and efficacy studies are completed. According to the vice president of animal health and nutrition at Chr. Hansen, the in-feed phage reduces the level of pathogens by 85 to 95 percent, thereby reducing the burden for food manufacturers at the meat processing stage.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Quality-Safety/Vaccine-targeted-at-E.coli-gets-first-US-licence>

13. *March 13, Food Production Daily* – (National) **Judge upholds almond pasteurization law.** A federal judge has rejected challenges to a law requiring mandatory pasteurization of almonds to reduce risk of salmonella contamination. The law, which was designed with input from the Almond Board of California and industry, was first introduced in 2007 largely in response to two salmonella outbreaks linked to unpasteurized almonds — one in Canada in 2001, and a second in Oregon in 2004. Concerns have also been raised about the market threat of cheaper, unpasteurized almonds arriving from overseas, as the law does not require imported almonds to be pasteurized. The legal challenge was organized by small-scale farming campaigners at the Cornucopia Institute, which has called the judge’s final decision a “setback.” There are also concerns about the cost of pasteurization, its availability, and how acceptable it is to consumers who prefer organic produce. Pasteurization of almonds is carried out in one of two ways: by treatment with propylene oxide gas — in which case almonds cannot be considered organic — or by steam treatment. The Almond Board of California said in a statement that it remained committed to the legislation implemented in 2007.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Quality-Safety/Judge-upholds-almond-pasteurization-law>

14. *March 12, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service* – (California) **California firm recalls poultry products imported from an unapproved source.** Khong Guan Corporation, a Union City, California, establishment, is recalling approximately 2,858 pounds of chicken drink products that were ineligible for import to the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced on March 12. FSIS is recalling these products because the chicken drink products do not meet poultry products inspection or poultry exemption requirements. Specifically, it could not be determined that the poultry ingredients used in the chicken drink products were prepared under inspection as required by federal regulations or under a foreign inspection system determined to be equivalent by FSIS. The poultry ingredient is determined to be ineligible when the source of the ingredients cannot be determined. The problem was discovered after FSIS identified a shipment of products containing poultry which were imported from an unapproved source. The chicken drink products were distributed to retail establishments nationwide.

Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_009\\_2009\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_009_2009_Release/index.asp)

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## **Water Sector**

15. *March 11, Office of the New York State Attorney General* – (New York) **Attorney General Cuomo announces former city water superintendent and filtration plant employee indicted for knowingly dumping sludge into Susquehanna.** The New York attorney general announced that a former city water filtration plant superintendent and employee were indicted for knowingly dumping sludge into the Susquehanna River. The river is the primary drinking water supply for Binghamton, Johnson City, and other downstream communities. The first is a former filtration plant employee, of Port Crane. He was charged with fourteen counts of knowingly discharging pollutants into state waters, all felonies that each carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison. The second, a former filtration plant superintendent, who currently resides in Florida, was charged as a knowing accomplice to the employee in seven of those counts. The former superintendent was also charged with three counts of violating a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permit that had been issued to the plant, by failing to file a required annual report with the DEC. These three counts are all misdemeanors, with each carrying a maximum penalty of one year in jail. “What is alleged to have occurred in this case shows a total disregard for the environment and the many communities through which this vital river flows,” said the attorney general. “The Susquehanna is one of the most recognizable waterways in the Southern Tier and the Eastern United States, providing drinking water as well as commercial and recreational activities for tens of thousands of New Yorkers.”  
Source: [http://www.oag.state.ny.us/media\\_center/2009/mar/mar11a\\_09.html](http://www.oag.state.ny.us/media_center/2009/mar/mar11a_09.html)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

16. *March 12, Associated Press* – (National) **Defibrillators recalled after reported incidents.** Welch Allyn is recalling about 14,000 external defibrillators after 39 reported incidents, including two that involved patient deaths. The recall, announced March 10, involves 14,054 AED 10 and MRL JumpStart external defibrillators made between October 3, 2002 and January 25, 2007. The Beaverton, Oregon company says there is a remote chance the devices, available through prescription, may produce low-energy shock, shutdown unexpectedly, or be susceptible to electromagnetic noise interference. The issues might prevent defibrillation of a patient in cardiac arrest and could lead to death, the company said in a statement. The company had received 20 instances of low-energy shock, eight instances of electromagnetic noise interference, and 11 instances of the device unexpectedly shutting down.  
Source:  
[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iV2iWoeaNHZ\\_zoe8cvr3OM4iBQOAD96S7Q002](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iV2iWoeaNHZ_zoe8cvr3OM4iBQOAD96S7Q002)
17. *March 12, Wall Street Journal* – (Illinois) **Chicago hospital doctors protest planned bed cuts.** More than 190 doctors at the University of Chicago Medical Center signed a letter to trustees protesting plans to reduce the number of beds available to emergency patients as “unnecessarily risky” and a threat to patient safety. The controversy over the prestigious hospital’s unusual plan is being closely watched by emergency physicians across the United States as hospitals wrestle with rising costs and sometimes inadequate

reimbursements from federal and state programs. Last month, two high-ranking doctors resigned from the university's medical leadership over the administration's plan. Meanwhile, three prominent national leaders of emergency medicine, who did a consulting study recommending the hospital add ER beds and make other investments in the department, said March 10 that the current plans were likely to worsen the already hours-long waits in the emergency room. One of the consultants, who is the vice chairman of emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, called the Chicago hospital's proposed revisions "a dangerous experiment on one of the most vulnerable populations."

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123681502175301913.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123681502175301913.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

18. *March 12, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **Part of Central Texas hospital evacuated because of bomb scare.** A part of the College Station Medical Center was evacuated March 12 after a suspicious box was found in a third-floor restroom. The box, marked "Bomb," was found in a restroom in the East Medical Building, officials said. That building was evacuated and employees were sent home for the day. Other parts of the hospital were not affected.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/41169012.html>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

19. *March 12, United Press International* – (Missouri) **Man accused of issuing threats to judges.** A 52-year-old man threatened multiple St. Louis County, Missouri judges and offered to fight U.S. Supreme Court members, authorities allege. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said March 12 that the defendant has been charged in relation to the threats that began October 7 with various e-mail messages sent to county judges, along with multiple federal agents and even the U.S. President. The messages contained references to noted terrorists such as the so-called Unabomber, and the man executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City federal office building bombing. An FBI special agent alleged in an affidavit that the messages also alluded to a potential bombing of a federal building and a proposal for a fight with Supreme Court justices. The Post-Dispatch said the defendant's allegedly threatening messages appear to be rooted in his opposition to his 2003 arrest for driving under the influence.

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/2009/03/12/Man\\_accused\\_of\\_issuing\\_threats\\_to\\_judges/UPI-69331236874974/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/03/12/Man_accused_of_issuing_threats_to_judges/UPI-69331236874974/)

20. *March 12, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Swarm of small Hanford quakes harmless.** A swarm of small earthquakes continues under the Hanford nuclear reservation, and officials say they do not pose a risk to cleanup work. The latest quake at 5:33 a.m. on March 12 had a magnitude 1.9 and was centered about nine miles north of Richland, according to the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. A seismologist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory told the Tri-City Herald the largest was a magnitude 2.9 on February 22. There have been about 300 small quakes since January 4.



The quakes are too small to be felt. Similar swarms were recorded in 1970, 1975 and 1988. The seismologist says they are caused by a small fault in basalt rock less than a mile deep.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap\\_wa\\_hanford\\_quakes.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wa_hanford_quakes.html)

21. *March 12, Salem-News.com* – (Oregon) **1700 Canby High students evacuated over fire.** A manual fire alarm pulled at Canby High School on March 11 at 12:30 p.m. triggered a response that would lead to the evacuation of more than 1700 students. The division chief with Canby Fire said Canby Fire units were immediately enroute, with crews learning via the school that there was a fire in the 200 wing. The fire was quickly controlled. “Once fire crews confirmed the situation was stabilized and the atmosphere safe to occupy, the school, not counting the wing involved in fire, was turned back over to the school to reoccupy as needed,” the fire chief said. Canby Police and Canby Fire are investigating the fire, which is considered suspicious at this time. The damage to the school is approximately \$20,000. There were no injuries reported to staff or students. Canby High School is designed around a series of “wings” which are separated from one another with fire doors. These doors are tied to the fire alarm system and close when a fire alarm is activated. The fire chief explains that the reason that most of the school was able to reoccupy so quickly is because the fire doors kept the heat and smoke in the area of origin, thus reducing damage to the remaining structure.

Source: [http://www.salem-news.com/articles/march122009/canby\\_hs\\_fire\\_3-12-09.php](http://www.salem-news.com/articles/march122009/canby_hs_fire_3-12-09.php)

22. *March 11, Washington Times* – (National) **Energy Department loses workers’ data.** A Senator from Idaho expressed on March 11 his “disappointment” about the loss of personal data for 59,000 employees at the Energy Department’s Idaho National Laboratory. “I hope your department will continue to follow up on efforts to protect the credit histories of those individuals, and I encourage you to do everything you can to protect against this type of thing in the future,” the Senator told the Energy Secretary, who oversees the nation’s 17 national energy labs, at a hearing on the department’s 2010 budget. Energy Department officials said on March 6 that a computer disk containing personal information on most employees who were issued a badge at the Idaho lab since 1949 was lost in shipment by UPS. The disk, which included the names of employees and their Social Security and badge numbers, was lost in shipment from New York to Maryland. UPS alerted the Energy Department about the loss January 30 and is working with the department’s Office of Health, Safety and Security to retrieve the data. Idaho’s congressional delegation requested on March 7 that the Energy Department establish tougher security measures for employee information. The data was being sent as part of the department’s Former Worker Medical Screening Program, as part of a screening program for federal workers who may have been exposed to hazardous or radioactive materials.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/11/energy-dept-loses-workers-personal-data/>

23. *March 11, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Gas leak postpones space shuttle Discovery launch.** Hit by more valve trouble, NASA postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery just hours before it was to head to the international space station on March 12

because of a hydrogen gas leak. The potentially catastrophic leak was in a different part of the system that already had caused a vexing one-month delay. Shuttle managers put off the launch until at least March 15 and indicated that March 16 might be more likely. The latest delay means Discovery's two-week flight must be shortened and some spacewalks cut out of the mission.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2009Mar11/0,4670,SpaceShuttle,00.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

24. *March 13, Journal of New England Technology* – (Massachusetts) **InterSense helps track firefighter location.** Bedford, Massachusetts-based InterSense Inc. recently struck a partnership with Israeli military training system developer BVR Systems Inc. with the aim of developing a personal location, tracking, and monitoring device for firefighters and other first-responder personnel. Dubbed the First Responders Independent Navigation Device, the project aims to develop a way to track emergency workers on a given site without the help of GPS. In the case of firefighters, for example, the system would allow directors on sight, or at a central location, to “see” where firefighters are located within a building, regardless of floor, and in environments not friendly to GPS, such as urban areas. The project is being funded by the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation (BIRD), an economic development group sponsored by the United States and Israel. While the BIRD Foundation invests about \$11 million per year in such relationships, according to officials, the exact amount of funding for the InterSense project was not disclosed.

Source: <http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2009/03/09/weekly13-InterSense-helps-track-firefighter-location.html>

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## **Information Technology**

25. *March 12, DarkReading* – (International) **Conficker/Downadup evolves to defend itself.** The enigmatic Conficker worm has evolved, adopting new capabilities that make it more difficult than ever to find and eradicate, security researchers say. In a blog published late last week, researchers at Symantec said they found “a completely new variant” of Conficker, sometimes called Downadup, which is being pushed out to machines previously infected with earlier versions of the worm. The new variant, which Symantec calls W32.Downadup.C, appears to have defensive capabilities that were not present in earlier versions. While it spreads in the same manner, “Conficker.C” can disable some of the tools used to detect and eradicate it, including antivirus and other antimalware detection tools. W32.Downadup C also can switch domains at a much greater rate, Symantec said. “The Downadup authors have now moved from a 250-a-day domain-generation algorithm to a new 50,000-a-day domain generation algorithm,” the researchers reported. “The new domain generation algorithm also uses one of a possible 116 domain suffixes.” A report from CA about Conficker.C confirms Symantec’s findings, although the CA researchers said the jump from 500 to 50,000 domains will

not occur until April 1. The ability to quickly switch domains will make it difficult for Internet security organizations, such as ICANN and OpenDNS, to block the domains used by the worm, industry experts note.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=215900041>

26. *March 12, IDG News Service* – (International) **Researchers sniff PC keyboard strokes from thin air.** The PC keyboard an individual may be using could give away passwords. Researchers say they have discovered new ways to read what someone is typing by aiming special wireless or laser equipment at the keyboard or by simply plugging into a nearby electrical socket. Two separate research teams, from the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne and security consultancy Inverse Path, have taken a close look at the electromagnetic radiation that is generated every time a computer keyboard is tapped. It turns out that this keystroke radiation is actually pretty easy to capture and decode, if someone is a computer hacker, that is. The Ecole Polytechnique team did its work over the air. Using an oscilloscope and an inexpensive wireless antenna, the team was able to pick up keystrokes from virtually any keyboard, including laptops. “We discovered four different ways to recover the keystroke of a keyboard,” said a Ph.D. student at the university. With the keyboard’s cabling and nearby power wires acting as antennas for these electromagnetic signals, the researchers were able to read keystrokes with 95 percent accuracy over a distance of up to 20 meters (22 yards), in ideal conditions. Laptops were the hardest to read, because the cable between the keyboard and the PC is so short, making for a tiny antenna. The researchers found a way to sniff USB keyboards, but older PS/2 keyboards, which have ground wires that connect right into the electric grid, were the best.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129575&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129575&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

27. *March 12, IDG News Service* – (International) **Political cyberattacks to militarize the Web.** Governments looking to silence critics and stymie opposition have added distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks to their censoring methods, according to a security expert speaking at the Source Boston Security Showcase. As the use of DDoS for political gains increases, expect the Internet to become more militarized, a senior security researcher at Arbor Networks Inc. said in an address on March 11. “I do not think anyone is going to die because of these attacks, or a phone will not work, but it is early,” he said, noting that other weapons have evolved from less-harmful initial forms. In DDoS attacks, botnets, or a group of compromised computers used for malicious purposes, attempt to connect en masse to a victim’s Web site. The server hosting the site is unable to respond to the abundance of communication requests and shuts down or returns pages so slowly that site is essentially inaccessible. “The premise is to aggregate bandwidth and knock an adversary offline,” said the researcher. The researcher discussed how major international political situations spawned DDoS attacks.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129575&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129575&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

## 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

28. *March 11, TMC Net* – (Pennsylvania) **DCANet upgrading to Ethernet over Copper from XO Communications.** Increasingly, Internet service providers (ISPs) are discovering that Ethernet over twisted pair, or Ethernet over Copper, is a cost effective and reliable method for increasing bandwidth. DCANet, an ISP serving the greater Philadelphia area, is a good example of how smaller service providers are affordably upgrading their networks with Ethernet over Copper. It was recently announced that the company is upgrading its T-1 transport service to Ethernet over Copper by XO Communications. Specifically, DCANet is migrating from the T-1 service XO currently provides with XO's Ethernet over Copper service delivering access speeds starting at 5 Mbps (with the capability to increase to 20 Mbps). Currently, DCANet's customers have downstream speeds of about 1.54 Mbps, due to the limitations of the T-1 service. "The majority of our customers aren't tied into fiber networks, so leveraging existing copper lines to deliver high-speed Internet access was a natural choice," said the president and CEO of DCANet. "XO had already proven its commitment to high-level service and offered the perfect option for Ethernet access, so our choice of where to turn was simple." Not only will DCANet's residential customers benefit from the upgraded service, businesses in the greater Philadelphia area will be able to more quickly and effectively download and share data-intensive, latency-sensitive files. DCANet's fully-redundant, private, fiber-based regional network has upstream connectivity to multiple Tier-1 networks. The company maintains a 10GB DWDM SONET ring between its Philadelphia and Wilmington datacenters, providing the highest levels of network reliability. DCANet also provides high density and high availability colocation facilities at its Wilmington datacenter.

Source: <http://voipservices.tmcnet.com/feature/articles/52073-dcanet-upgrading-ethernet-over-copper-from-xo-communications.htm>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

29. *March 13, Associated Press* – (International) **Dutch police question terror suspects.** Dutch police said Friday they were questioning six men and a woman who were arrested following an anonymous tip of a terrorist threat against a popular shopping area. The warning came in a call from an unregistered phone in Belgium, and appeared linked to

the train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people exactly five years earlier. Police said one of those detained is a relative of an Islamic extremist involved in the Madrid attacks who committed suicide a few weeks later as police closed in. Police said all those detained were Dutch nationals of Moroccan descent. Their identities were not released. On March 12, police sealed off the area around a large Ikea furniture store and warehouse, and a nearby street of popular electronics and sporting goods stores adjacent to the ArenA football stadium. The stores were given the all-clear to reopen on March 13. A concert by an American rock group was postponed the night of March 12 because the venue was near the stadium. Searches and interrogations provided no information that a serious threat remained, police said in a statement. The mayor of Amsterdam said no explosives were immediately found during the searches. The Dutch anti-terror coordination office said the country's threat level remained unchanged at "substantial," the second-highest on a four-step scale.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i-KyjAQoZ1ZopGb3OWv8OIMb6QQQD96T4C2O0>

30. *March 13, Altoona Mirror* – (Pennsylvania) **Bomb damages Little League building.** An explosion from at least one homemade bomb ripped doors from their frames and shook the cinder block walls off their foundation at the Tyrone Little League field. Tyrone Borough police were dispatched to the field, adjacent to Ferner Field between First and Second streets, March 11 with a report of damage to the building. Police said in a statement that the blast was from "homemade explosive devices" and the "building had sustained substantial damage." The building, a 1 1/2-story block structure that housed the Little League's concessions, restrooms and press box, was cordoned off by yellow crime scene tape late Thursday. Police said the explosion came from the bathrooms. Police have not given a timetable for when the blast occurred. A local resident who helps take care of adjacent Ferner Field, where Tyrone's teener league plays, said break-ins and vandalism are par for the course at the ballfields. The Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal was called in and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives also was contacted, police said.  
Source: <http://www.altoonamirror.com/page/content.detail/id/516978.html>
31. *March 12, Associated Press* – (California) **Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel unsafe in major quake.** The grand Ahwahnee Hotel, a long-cherished refuge in the heart of Yosemite National Park, does not meet modern seismic safety standards and risks partial collapse in a major earthquake, according to a study released March 12 by park officials. Vacationers from around the world have slept, supped and celebrated in the stately Ahwahnee since the Art Deco lodge was finished in 1927. But its 80-year old reinforced-concrete walls and steel frame is so vulnerable that lives could be lost during a big tremor, engineering consultants hired by the park found in a study submitted to the National Park Service in 2002, and finally released Thursday. The retrofit options the consultants proposed would cost between \$17.9 and \$22.3 million, and would require the hotel to be left empty for two years. Park officials did not say whether they planned to follow those recommendations, but said the latest cost estimate for the project was in the \$20 million range. The engineers contemplated the risk of two different kinds of earthquakes in the hypothetical scenarios included in the report: temblors that had a two

percent and a 10 percent likelihood of occurring in a 50-year period. They concluded that the building's foundation needed to be reinforced, and that the walls of the dining room needed more support to withstand the twisting motions of an earthquake.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/03/12/state/n180700D73.DTL&type=printable>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

32. *March 13, Union of Grass Valley* – (Nevada) **Deteriorated flumes on DS Canal to be replaced.** The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is planning to replace eight remaining old wooden flumes and a culvert crossing on the DS Canal to improve water delivery. The wooden supported, steel-lined flumes are deteriorated and must be replaced to improve reliability of the system and ensure safe conditions for workers and others, NID officials said. Replacing the flumes will increase capacity of the system, eliminating the downstream freeze on water sales, water officials said. On March 18, NID will host a public informational workshop on the draft environmental impact report for the flume replacement project.

Source:

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20090313/NEWS/903129955/1001/NONE&parentprofile=1053&title=Deteriorated%20flumes%20on%20DS%20Canal%20to%20be%20replaced>

33. *March 12, Water Technology Online* – (Washington) **Huge dam removal project unprecedented in U.S.** In an effort to restore the Elwha River on Washington's Olympic Peninsula and its native salmon runs, a huge dam removal project is scheduled to begin in 2012, according to a March 5 Associated Press (AP) report. The project consists of removing the 105-foot Elwha Dam and the 210-foot Glines Canyon Dam on the Elwha River. According to the report, a project of this scope and size has not been attempted in the United States. The removal of the two dams and the effort to restore a river from mountain to sea is being hailed as the "granddaddy" of research opportunities. The research coordinator for Olympic National Park said in the AP report, "This is a very important research opportunity. It's the one that's going to be in every textbook for the next 50, 100 years. It's the granddaddy of them all." A posting on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service Web site says, "Because of the structural differences of the two dams, different demolition methods will be used." Both hydroelectric dams were constructed early in the last century, with the Elwha Dam completed in 1914 and the Glines Canyon Dam in 1927.

Source: [http://waterteconline.com/news.asp?N\\_ID=71567](http://waterteconline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71567)

34. *March 12, Canton Daily Ledger* – (Illinois) **Fulton County levee is breached.** The levee near Routes 24 and 136, situated near Duncan Mills in Fulton County, has been breached due to flood conditions, according to the Fulton County Emergency Services Disaster Agency director. He reported to the Daily Ledger from the site the morning of March 12, explaining his hope is that the breach will now alleviate pressure on other levee areas. He says the breach is about 60 feet long. If water tops the levee it could be washed away, he reports. “There are no homes in danger, right now,” stresses the director. He advises residents along Spoon River, the Illinois River, and other small streams to remain vigilant and listen to reports on NOAA weather radios and from area media. He said he is concerned about roads leading into Seville being flooded. No information on those roads was available as of press time.

Source: <http://www.cantondailyledger.com/news/x599193098/Fulton-County-levee-is-breached>

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