



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 March 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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- The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports that landowners in Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska have asked their respective governors for help in blocking a Canadian company from using thinner steel in a proposed oil pipeline that will bisect each state. (See item [1](#))
- According to USA Today, a new report by the Government Accountability Office says that the Transportation Security Administration may not have enough inspectors nor adequate equipment to guarantee all cargo is checked for explosives before it is loaded onto passenger airplanes. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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](#)

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Energy Sector

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

1. *March 18, Sioux Falls Argus Leader* – (Montana; Nebraska; South Dakota) **Governors asked to regulate pipeline — South Dakotans join protest of TransCanada’s plan to use thinner steel.** Landowners in Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska have asked their respective governors for help in blocking a Canadian company from using thinner steel in a proposed oil pipeline that will bisect each state. Alberta-based TransCanada applied for a special permit to build and operate its proposed Keystone XL pipeline with thinner, cheaper steel in areas not considered high-consequence areas, opponents charged March 17. High-consequence areas include railroad crossings, water crossings, and high-population areas. “We are asking for (the Governor’s) help in protecting the

citizens of South Dakota from the unfair risk of oil spills,” a buffalo rancher said. “High pressure spells disaster.” The 1,980-mile pipeline will be safe, a TransCanada spokesman said. TransCanada is asking the U.S. Department of Transportation, which regulates pipeline safety, to use updated standards for liquid fuel pipelines.

Source: <http://www.argusleader.com/article/20090318/NEWS/903180317/1001/news>

2. *March 17, Reuters* – (Texas) **Alon reports Big Spring, Texas SRU malfunction.** Alon USA Energy reported a sulfur unit malfunction late Monday at its 70,000 barrel-per-day Big Spring, Texas refinery, according to a company filing on March 17 with state pollution regulators. “Incinerator shut down due to HIC-200 acid gas resulting from #2 SRU malfunction,” Alon said in the filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN1727966220090317>
3. *March 17, BBC News* – (International) **Nigerian rebels attack pipelines.** Nigerian militants have attacked an oil pipeline in the oil-producing Niger Delta region. The attack on March 16 was the second in four days in Delta State — on March 13 gunmen blew up a pipeline belonging to the American oil giant Chevron. On March 16, Chevron confirmed that the attack on its pipeline had caused them to stop pumping 11,500 barrels of oil. It was not immediately clear which company operates the flow station attacked in the March 16 raid. “The facilities remain intact, there were no casualties to our troops,” a Delta State spokesman for the Joint Military Task Force told Reuters news agency.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7947997.stm>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 18, KWES 9 Midland* – (Texas) **Midland County road reopened after chemical spill.** A Midland County road is back open after HAZMAT crews responded to a chemical spill. Police responded to the area along Cactus, just off Highway 80, around 10:00 a.m. on March 17 as fire crews worked to identify the yellowish-green substance. HAZMAT was called in to clean up the mess. Authorities told NewsWest 9 that this could be a case of illegal dumping. The investigation continues into what caused the spill and could lead to possible charges.
Source: <http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=10024379>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Arizona nuke plant shows ‘substantial’ improvement.** The nation’s largest nuclear power plant has made “substantial improvements” since a number of safety issues led regulators to downgrade its safety rating three years ago, according to a letter released March 17 by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, 50 miles west of Phoenix, has had the lowest safety rating of any licensed U.S. reactor since 2006, when

inspectors found that an emergency backup generator had been inoperative for 18 days and unreliable for 40 days. Inspectors found several other safety problems in the two years before that. The lowered rating triggered more stringent oversight by regulators. In a letter to a senior plant official that was made public on March 17, the commission wrote that the plant had made “significant progress” in addressing its concerns. The commission wrote the plant had resolved five of 12 areas of concern. Its findings on the remaining seven areas of concern — including problems with staff performance, engineering programs and emergency preparedness — will be released later this month. A Commission spokesman said Palo Verde must resolve the remaining seven concerns and show it can sustain the improvements before its rating on the five-tier grading system is raised. There is no deadline for a decision.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gZM2ATOKyk1GpFrrbKHn4VKmPJDgD97015700>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *March 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Ballistic missile intercepted in Hawaii test.**
The military’s ground-based mobile missile-defense system successfully shot down a medium-range ballistic missile during a test in Hawaii, the Missile Defense Agency said March 18. It was the first time the military fired two interceptors at one target using the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, a program designed to shoot down ballistic missiles in their last stage of flight. The drill followed through on a test that was planned for last September but had to be aborted when the target malfunctioned shortly after launch. THAAD is one of two missile-defense systems the military tests at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. The other is the sea-based Aegis system. The Missile Defense Agency coordinates U.S. missile tests in cooperation with the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/03/ap_missiledefense_031809/
7. *March 17, Alliant Techsystems* – (National) **ATK’s successful long duration test results enable new class of hypersonic propulsion systems for near-term flight.**
Alliant Techsystems announced Tuesday that it successfully completed testing for a new class of hypersonic propulsion systems that will enable High Speed Strike Weapons and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to travel long distances at velocities more than five times the speed of sound. The most recent tests involved flight-weight, fuel-cooled Thermally Throated RamJet (TTRJ) technology built with conventional materials and manufacturing processes, and burning readily-available JP-10 jet fuel. This long-duration testing was funded by the U.S. Air Force and conducted at ATK’s Ronkonkoma, New York, facility. In this test series, ATK ran the fuel-cooled hardware through multiple two-minute long test periods to demonstrate full thermal equilibrium, thus ensuring all durability requirements can be met for both single-use and reusable flight systems. The flight-weight engine components have now accumulated more than 44 minutes of hot operating time. A major benefit of the ATK engine technology is its scalability and adaptability to a wide variety of applications. Scalability studies

conducted by ATK for the USAF Robust Scramjet program are evolving the tools and techniques necessary for rapid development of derivatives suitable for a range of vehicles including missiles and reusable UAV's.

Source:

<http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-17-2009/0004989795&EDATE>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 18, North Andover Eagle Tribune* – (Massachusetts) **Phone scam widens beyond Haverhill.** The phone scam that targeted Haverhill this week also reached Groveland, and it has police in other Merrimack Valley communities warning their residents to beware. Local police said they have reported the scam to the FBI because the calls are coming from area codes as far away as California. Since March 16, hundreds of residents have called police and Haverhill Bank to report they had received phone calls asking them to provide their debit card information so that a problem with their accounts could be resolved. The calls included some from people who wanted to provide police with the caller's phone number, said the Haverhill police captain. "We have a variety of numbers we are keeping track of," he said, "and we have notified the FBI of what is going on." Police in Haverhill were told the scammers used two phone numbers from California. One is from the San Diego area code, and the other is from San Francisco. There also was a call from Texas and one from a Virginia area code, said the Groveland police sergeant. He said his department received more than six complaints about the scam between March 16 and March 17. Some of the calls people received originated in Virginia, and the names of Haverhill Bank and Pentucket Bank were used. Both banks are in Haverhill.

Source:

http://www.eagletribune.com/punewshh/local_story_077040651.html?keyword=secondarystory

9. *March 17, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **NJ sues Lehman execs for fraud to recoup state funds.** The State of New Jersey on March 17 sued Lehman Brothers executives and directors for "fraud and misrepresentation," the New Jersey governor said, seeking to recover the \$118 million lost by state pension funds. New Jersey's Division of Investment bought \$182 million of Lehman securities in April and June 2008. The move attracted widespread attention since it was unusual for a U.S. state pension fund to use the same strategy as sovereign wealth funds, hedge funds, and private equity groups. Lehman filed for bankruptcy on September 15, 2008, after failing to win a federal bailout. This left "shareholders with virtually worthless stock," said the governor. The bankruptcy means the state cannot now sue the company, but New Jersey said it sued nine top executives, including the former chairman, and nine board members.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE52G63920090317>

10. *March 17, WKOW 27 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Credit unions report phishing scams.** The Wisconsin Credit Union League is warning of criminals using automated phone

calls with recordings asking consumers to reveal personal financial account information; a process called “phishing.” Phishing is a type of scam used with the intent of capturing personal information through mass messages like phone calls, emails, text messages or advertisements. That means consumers need to be wary when receiving unsolicited contacts that ask them to update, validate or confirm account information. The automated phone messages reported on March 17 claimed the member’s credit and/or debit card had been locked and asked the member to input the card number to unlock it. But no legitimate business — including Wisconsin credit unions or other financial institutions — would ever seek account information this way. The Credit Union National Association, whose website at cuna.org also notes variations on scam tactics, says recent unsolicited requests for personal information have circulated under the subjects, “Account De-activation,” “Account Status Alert,” “Changes to Terms and Conditions,” and “Irregular Activity.”

Source: http://www.wkowntv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10025443&nav=menu1362_2

11. *March 16, Canadian Press* – (International) **Threats against Olympic sponsors worry security officials.** Possible threats against sponsors of next year’s Vancouver Olympics have federal security agents wringing their hands over “extremist elements,” a newly released intelligence report reveals. The report by the Canadian government’s threat assessment center cites vandalism of a corporate backer’s premises, theft of the Games flag, and skirmishes between protesters and police during unveiling of the Olympic countdown clock. The Royal Bank of Canada, a key Games sponsor, “has been named specifically in anarchist and anti-Olympic Internet postings,” notes the analysis, “2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics: Terrorist Threat to Vancouver Area Facilities.” Between September 2007 and last May, anarchists claimed responsibility for four attacks in which large rocks were thrown through the windows of Vancouver Royal Bank branches, says the assessment under a section titled Domestic Non-Islamist Extremist Groups. Organizers are depending on corporate sponsors including the Royal Bank to support and promote the Games, but their participation appears to have heightened fears they will become targets for those who claim the Olympics have come to symbolize money more than sport.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5g3g-mokNaFezhREFUQ_8vvj8kzFg

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 17, USA Today* – (National) **Study: TSA may come up short on cargo checks.** A plan to check every package of business cargo for explosives before it is loaded onto passenger airplanes faces major obstacles, according to a government report scheduled for release March 18. The report by Congress’ Government Accountability Office says the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) may not have enough inspectors nor adequate equipment to guarantee all cargo is checked for bombs. Passenger planes carry about 7.6 billion pounds of cargo a year, including electronics, auto parts, clothes, fresh produce and medical supplies. The cargo is placed alongside luggage in an airplane’s belly. While all suitcases have been screened since 2002, cargo has been subject to

much looser inspection requirements, raising concerns that terrorists could slip a bomb into a package. A TSA spokesman said inspectors are being hired rapidly and a study is underway to determine how many inspectors are needed. The Homeland Security Department, which includes the TSA, “is committed to staffing the most effective inspector workforce possible.” The screening program also faces problems because there are no machines that can screen crates up to 10 feet long carrying dozens of cargo pieces, the report says.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-03-16-TSA_N.htm

13. *March 17, Fort Morgan Times* – (Colorado) **Grass fire goes under bridge.** Fort Morgan firefighters put out a grass fire March 16 that went along an irrigation ditch and under a bridge on County Road V. The fire started in the 19000 block of V from a spark from a burning trash barrel, said a Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department spokesman. Morgan County road and bridge department personnel were called to check the bridge and found no structural damage. However, rebar expands faster than concrete when heated, so hairline cracks could develop later, said a road and bridge supervisor. That should not, however, cause any structural problems, he said.

Source: <http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/news/2009/mar/17/grass-fire-goes-under-bridge/>

14. *March 17, WESH 2 Daytona Beach* – (Florida) **Plane catches fire on Orlando airport runway.** A fire aboard a plane delayed traffic at the Orlando Sanford International Airport on the evening of March 16. WESH 2 News has learned that a single-engine plane caught fire after landing at the airport. Those on board were able to escape and crews extinguished the fire. Arriving planes had to wait until the plane was towed off the runway. A cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29731220/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 17, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **San Jose school disrupted after receiving suspicious white powder.** A letter containing a white powdery substance was mailed to San Jose’s Evergreen Valley High School on March 17. After a staff person opened it, classes were disrupted while the fire department conducted an investigation. A hazardous materials team tested the substance and determined it was talcum powder. The San Jose Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspector are investigating the incident. Postal officials took the letter with them; it is not clear what the letter said. “The District takes the health and safety of its students and staff seriously,” the superintendent of the East Side Union High School District wrote in an e-mail sent to Evergreen parents, teachers, and staff on March 17. “The District is investigating the matter and will work with the U.S. Postal Inspector’s Office to identify, locate and punish the culprits.”

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/education/ci_11934134

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *March 18, Food Production Daily* – (National) **Edible film may kill bacteria in refrigerated foods.** Lactoperoxidase (LPS) incorporated edible film has good potential for bacterial inhibition use in refrigerated foods as well as meat, poultry, and seafood, claims a new study in the journal *Food Microbiology and Safety*. Antimicrobial edible films and coatings have received attention since they have a good potential to delay microbial spoilage of food and to reduce the risk of surface contamination of food by microorganisms. According to the researchers, incorporation of biopreservatives, especially bacteriocins and antimicrobial enzymes, as well as plant extracts into edible films have gained significant interest in the food industry due to their greater acceptance by the increasing number of consumers seeking ‘natural’ products. The authors of the study said that the enzyme, LPS, which is often used to improve the microbial quality of milk and cheese, has a broad antimicrobial spectrum, and they added that the concept of using the enzyme in antimicrobial packaging is quite novel. The scientists said that the results of the study indicated that the growth of all tested bacteria was prevented for a six hour period through application of the LPS system in the presence of 0.4 or 0.8mM H₂O₂ and 4mM KSCN. The authors concluded that the duration of the antimicrobial effect of the developed LPS system would be extended when the alginate films are applied to refrigerated foods.
Source: http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Quality-Safety/Edible-film-may-kill-bacteria-in-refrigerated-foods/?c=DtqJR18k3PnPYWaLJfFHfQ%3D%3D&utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BDaily
17. *March 17, Food Production Daily* – (National) **Further calls for ban on packaging chemical.** Democrats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have introduced legislation to ban the controversial packaging chemical Bisphenol A (BPA) from all food and beverage containers. BPA is used in baby bottles to make them shatter proof and is also used in the internal protective linings for food and beverage cans. Some studies have claimed the packaging chemical can harm infants. The launching of the legislation follows the recent move by chemical company Sunoco to limit its sales of the packaging chemical. In a letter to investors, the manufacturer said that it is requiring its customers to guarantee that its BPA will not be used in food and water containers for children under the age of three. In addition, six major U.S. baby bottle manufacturers announced plans earlier this month to stop using the chemical.
Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/Quality-Safety/Further-calls-for-ban-on-packaging-chemical>
18. *March 17, Brownfield Network* – (National) **Pork producers respond to HBO documentary.** Pork producer groups are responding to the airing on March 16 of the HBO documentary, *Death on a Family Farm*. A spokeswoman with the National Pork Board (NPB) says the pork industry has zero tolerance when it comes to willful neglect and abuse of animals. “What was shown in the HBO documentary is not what’s happening on hog farms across the U.S. of responsible pork producers,” said the spokeswoman. She tells Brownfield that responsible pork producers are implementing a

number of programs in their operations to assure their customers that their animals are treated properly. “We’re also working with consumers to help them understand how pork producers do care for our animals, the things we do on our farms everyday to make sure our animals are cared for in ways appropriate, providing the feed, providing the water, providing for the pigs health and providing appropriate treatment if necessary,” she said. While responding to the documentary that aired on HBO is difficult, the National Pork Board has on their Web site a video that shows responsible pork production.

Source: <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=1623B35E-5056-B82A-D03E427D95D155CD>

19. *March 16, Gainesville Times* – (Georgia) **Officials unsure why patrons got sick at Cumming Publix.** A northeastern Forsyth County supermarket has been deemed safe, though authorities are at a loss to explain what sickened several people and forced the store’s evacuation Sunday afternoon. Four people were hospitalized and the Publix on Keith Bridge Road at Hammond’s Crossing was cleared for nearly five hours after what officials first thought was an ammonia leak. The Forsyth County fire captain said the department’s hazardous materials team was summoned and 24 people went through a decontamination process that included taking a shower in a mobile unit and changing into fresh clothes. “It was a fairly localized event, specifically it affected individuals in and around the produce section,” he said. The store reopened at about 7:30 p.m. A Publix spokeswoman said Monday afternoon it still was not clear what caused people to become sick. “When we opened the store back up, it was determined that the air was safe in the store,” said the spokeswoman, adding that she did not know whether any food had to be discarded. The fire captain said no mechanical failures were found inside the building. Publix maintenance is looking into the situation, he said, and the store’s security department is checking surveillance footage to see if someone may have released a chemical into the air. He said fire and emergency medical personnel received reports of a woman complaining of vomiting and difficulty breathing. Other people who tried to help the woman complained of similar symptoms.

Source: <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/article/16184/>

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Water Sector

20. *March 18, Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Egge fined \$41,000 for water discharge.** Egge Sand and Gravel of Eugene has been fined \$41,000 by the state for wastewater mismanagement that likely released pollutants into the McKenzie River, the state Department of Environmental Quality said March 17. The company is in compliance now, the state said. But Egge will appeal the fine, arguing that the state had approved its wastewater system and the company has not unlawfully discharged such waters into the river, said the company president. Spokane-based CPM Development Corporation, holding company for the mining facility as well as Eugene Sand and Gravel, received the month’s largest penalty for a serious permit violation, the state said. Early in 2007, the company operated a rock spillway in one of its wastewater ponds, where mining material separates from clay and other undesirable matter, said a natural resource

specialist with the department.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/updates/9932994-55/story.csp>

21. *March 17, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **Tree roots blamed for sewage spill.**

Overgrown tree roots caused an 18,000-gallon sewage spill last weekend that forced the closure of beaches in Long Beach, South Pasadena officials said. Video inspection of the sewer pipes around the spill showed that roots had clogged up a portion of the city's already deteriorating sewer system, officials said. "That's one of the downsides of living in a city with such beautiful trees," said the city manager. At about 7 a.m. on the morning of March 14, a city maintenance supervisor noticed sewage spewing from a manhole near Fair Oaks Avenue and State Street, officials said. Maintenance workers were called out, along with contractors, to clean up the spill and clear a clogged 10-inch sewer pipe upstream of the manhole. Some of the sewage overflow got washed into a county storm drain, which flows into the ocean. That affected beaches all the way in Long Beach, said the city Public Works director. City officials are presently looking at ways to fix the city's 58 miles of cracked and corroded sewer lines.

Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_11936028

22. *March 17, Access North Georgia* – (Georgia) **5,400 gallons of wastewater overflows on McEver Rd.**

Roughly 5,400 gallons of wastewater overflowed March 17 into a tributary that leads to Flat Creek in Gainesville. An Environmental Services administrator says an attendant with Orchard Brook Apartments on McEver Road reported the incident around 1:45 p.m. "We responded and discovered a blockage in the sewer line," he said. He said flow was restored to sanitary sewer lines within one hour. He said the area has been cleaned, signs have been posted, and officials with Hall County Environmental Health and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division have been contacted.

Source: <http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=218717&c=10>

23. *March 17, Desalination & Water Reuse* – (Florida) **Tampa Bay desalination plant in trouble again.**

Just at the time it is really needed, the Tampa Bay seawater desalination plant has hit trouble again. For some months now, the plant has been operating well below capacity — at a time when the rainfall in that part of Florida is at record low levels. Tampa Bay Water board minutes show that the 25 MGD (95,000 m³/d) capacity plant only produced an average of 21.6 MGD (81,600 m³/d) in October 2008, and only 19.4 MGD (73,400 m³/d) in both November and December. In January 2009, this sank to 15.9 MGD (60,000 m³/d). Tampa Bay Water's director of operations and facilities explained to D&WR on March 17 that much of this was due to scheduled mechanical and electrical maintenance. A blown transformer on one of the reverse-osmosis trains is a key factor, he said. "We are currently awaiting a new transformer for that RO train. Once delivered and installed, we expect to be back at full production (25 MGD) in May." However, right now, the plant is operating at approximately 16 MGD (60,000 m³/d), less than two-thirds capacity. The director says, "We expect to increase production to about 19 MGD by the end of this week. We had to shut down the plant late Friday [March 13] because a leak was detected in our raw water intake line. The plant was shut down, the leak repaired and the plant resumed production on Saturday

afternoon.” Meanwhile, the authority is drawing down precious groundwater as it had emptied a major surface-water reservoir last year to inspect cracks in its wall. The Tampa Bay plant was finally fully opened just over a year ago after almost a decade of contractual and technological turmoil following the award of the original contract in July 1999.

Source:

http://www.desalination.biz/news/news_story.asp?id=4792&channel=0&title=Tampa+Bay+desalination+plant+in+trouble+again

24. *March 16, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire) **NH National Guard tests water purifiers.** The New Hampshire National Guard is testing a water purification system it says could help on both the battlefield and at home. Guard members set up the generator-powered system at the Somersworth water treatment plant over the weekend, running water from the Salmon Falls River through reverse osmosis and membrane-based filters. The system can turn sea water, saltwater, and water contaminated by nuclear, biological, and chemical agents into fresh water. A staff sergeant says the units could be a big help after natural disasters. If there was a flood, the system could be set up on the highest ground to produce 15,000 gallons of water per hour. The systems are the first military water purification systems in the state.

Source: http://www.fox44.net/Global/story.asp?S=10013645&nav=menu660_1

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

Nothing to report

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *March 18, Centre Daily Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Social security numbers exposed.** The Social Security numbers of people who were employees of the Penn State Office of Physical Plant in 2000 might have been stolen. On February 20, a virus infiltrated an administrative computer that contained more than 1,000 Social Security numbers of employees of the office, said the physical plant spokesman. Penn State in 2005 discontinued the use of Social Security numbers for identification purposes. “But there are old files out there that still contain these numbers,” the spokesman said. The employees who are at risk were alerted to the breach of security, but so far there have been no reports of identity theft, he added.

Source: <http://www.centredaily.com/116/story/1177404.html>

26. *March 17, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Student arrested in bomb threat at Newberg High.** A Newberg High School student was arrested on March 17 accused of making a bomb threat at the school, the Newberg-Dundee Police Department said. Officers responded about 1 p.m. March 17 after school staff discovered a message scrawled on a bathroom mirror and wall, said a police spokesman. It announced a bomb would explode at the

school on March 18. Investigators, following leads from school officials and students, arrested a 16-year-old Newberg sophomore about 8 p.m. on March 17. The boy was cited on first-degree disorderly conduct and released to his parents. He was suspended from school pending an investigation by the school district. No other arrests are expected, said the police spokesman.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/student_arrested_in_bomb_threa.html

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 18, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Kanawha to get chem-leak path predicting.** Kanawha County emergency officials will soon have computer models to help predict the paths of chemical leaks. The computer modeling software is part of an agreement reached between federal environmental officials and executives for Bayer CropScience in Institute. Under the terms of the agreement, Bayer executives agreed to pay a fine of \$112,500, spend \$660,000 for new pollution-control and monitoring programs at the plant, and buy \$240,000 in computer models and equipment for local emergency responders. The deal was made to address repeated violations U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials found when inspecting the plant in 2001, while Bayer was trying to buy it from Aventis CropScience. The Kanawha County emergency services director said the computer modeling software provided by Bayer will allow emergency responders to predict the likely path of a future chemical leak. By combining information about the type and amount of chemical released from a local chemical plant and local weather conditions, the computer model will predict where the chemical cloud will be one or two hours in the future.
Source: <http://sundaygazettemail.com/News/200903170887?page=1&build=cache>
28. *March 16, Associated Press* – (National) **FEMA makes laptops more secure after NW Ind. theft.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency is making its laptop computers more secure after one containing personal information for about 50 northwest Indiana flood victims was stolen from an inspector's car. The Post-Tribune of Merrillville reports that FEMA is installing more protection software on all of its laptops and now uses additional encryption and data-tracking software in all portable data storage devices. FEMA this month began notifying about 50 victims of last September's flooding in northwest Indiana that a laptop stolen November 4 from a FEMA inspector's car in Griffith contained their names, Social Security numbers, and other personal information. Those affected were from Gary, Hammond, Highland, Griffith, and Munster.
Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/regional/41303937.html>
29. *March 16, New York Times* – (New Jersey) **Hazards: Ambulance stethoscopes may pose risk.** Stethoscopes carried by ambulance crews are not always cleaned as often as they should be, and as a result they may be exposing some patients to drug-resistant bacteria, a new study reports. Researchers who looked at stethoscopes used by

emergency medical services workers in New Jersey found that a significant number carried methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, bacteria known as MRSA that are resistant to standard drugs. Some of the ambulance workers could not recall the last time the instruments had been cleaned, said the researchers, whose report appears in the current issue of *Prehospital Emergency Care*. The study's lead author said it was unclear how big a threat MRSA on a stethoscope posed to a patient. But as incidents of infection by the bacteria become more common, and with the possibility that it will become more resistant to antibiotics, it is important to reduce its spread, he said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/17/health/17haza.html>

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Information Technology

30. *March 17, Computerworld* – (International) **Waledac bot pitches nearby terrorist bombing to dupe users.** Hackers trying to trick users into downloading the Waledac Trojan horse are customizing their bait to the recipient's location, upping the social engineering ante yet again, a security researcher said on March 17. The latest round of spam messages from Waledac's makers' trumpets news of a supposed bomb blast, said the principal researcher at Web security company Purewire Inc. The link included in the spam — which comes armed with subject headings such as “Bomb was blasted in your town” and “At least 18 killed in your city” — leads to a fake Reuters news service site, and a story that claims local fatalities from a bombing attack. “Authorities suggested that the explosion was caused by a ‘dirty’ bomb,” one version of the bogus site read. The site then uses the now-standard ruse of asking the user to download and install an update to Adobe System Inc.'s Flash Player to view video. The file is nothing of the sort but is actually the Waledac Trojan horse. “Within the last 24 to 48 hours, Waledac has switched to a fake Reuters news story,” said the principal researcher. In itself, that is nothing new: Attackers have leveraged current events to get users to download malware for years. “What's somewhat novel here is that the Waledac operators have added the notion of locality,” he said. When the principal researcher used an IP address in Chile, for example, he was served up with a link to a story that claimed the bombing had taken place in Santiago, that country's largest city and capital. “The content becomes more compelling,” he said, when it poses as local news.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129802&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

31. *March 17, Washington Post* – (International) **Pentagon official warns of risk of cyber attacks.** The head of the Pentagon's Strategic Command warned Congress on March 17 that the United States is vulnerable to cyberattacks “across the spectrum” and that more needs to be done to defend against the potential of online strikes, which could “potentially threaten not only our military networks, but also our critical national networks.” But the Air Force General made clear to a House Armed Services subcommittee that he has not been asked to defend most government Web sites nor the commercial and public infrastructure networks whose destruction could cripple the nation. The General's command, instead, has the responsibility “to operate and defend

the military networks only and be prepared to attack in cyberspace when directed,” he said, adding, “I think the broader question is, who should best do this for the other parts of America, where we worry about defending power grids, our financial institutions, our telecommunications, our transportation networks, the networks that support them.” The responsibility of protecting civilian networks currently rests with the Department of Homeland Security, but the General’s testimony comes at a time when a Presidential-chartered 60-day study of cybersecurity is underway. A report from that study is expected next month.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/17/AR2009031702715.html?hpid=sec-tech>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at 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

32. *March 18, Seattle Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Investigators rule arson in blast that destroyed 3 eastern Pa. strip mall businesses in Nov.** Authorities in eastern Pennsylvania say an explosion that destroyed three businesses in a strip mall was arson. A state police deputy fire marshal says investigators have determined the blaze was intentionally set in Chocolateers Inc., a candy and novelty shop. Chocolateers, a pizzeria, and a Chinese restaurant were destroyed November 27, 2008 when the building they shared in Chestnuthill Township, in Monroe County, burned to the ground. The businesses were closed at the time, but about a half-dozen firefighters were inside when the explosion blew out some of the walls and caused much of the building to collapse. The firefighters managed to escape through a side door. No arrests have been made.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008879574_apstripmallblast.html

33. *March 17, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **Officials coordinate propane removal plan.** Stratford town and fire officials, spurred by a second act of arson on Long Beach West that reduced four vacant cottages to ashes, said March 17 that they are formulating a plan to remove gas from as many as 40 propane tanks left behind when the cottage owners were forced off the peninsula in 2007. The town has determined that leaving propane in the tanks poses a “serious fire and explosive hazard” to both firefighters and

the public. Officials, however, could not explain why no one knew gas was still in the tanks until nearly two years after a state Supreme Court ruling forced the last of 45 cottage owners off the 35-acre site that had been leased to them by the town for decades. Officials said they have no idea how much the project will cost, but that they hope it can be completed over the next two or three months. The 38 remaining derelict cottages on Long Beach West are a particularly explosive threat, officials said, because many of the vacant structures with propane tanks attached still have plenty of fuel left in them. Officials, however, said the best they can do is remove the propane, but not the tanks. Fire and police officials said they are still investigating what was officially classified an arson on March 17, with investigators from the state Fire Marshal's office joining local police and fire investigators in the probe.

Source: http://www.connpost.com/ci_11934079

See also http://www.connpost.com/ci_11924263

34. *March 16, Kingsport Times News* – (Tennessee) **Bomb explodes while being disabled at Bluff City man's home; no one injured.** A bomb went off inside a Bluff City man's home early March 16 as bomb technicians were attempting to disable it. At about 1 a.m., Bristol Tennessee Police Department bomb technicians were working to dismantle a bomb allegedly assembled by a 25-year-old man when it exploded, according to a Sullivan County Sheriff's Office spokesman. The man's mobile home had a "considerable amount" of damage, he said. There were no injuries to police or residents and little to no damage to neighboring homes, he added. Sullivan County sheriff's deputies went to the man's home about 2:30 p.m. March 15 to check his welfare. Upon arrival, deputies saw him through the window on a couch with the bomb. Within two hours police evacuated about 50 homes located within a quarter-mile radius of his trailer. Approximately 100 residents were sheltered at Sullivan East High School. SWAT members tackled the man about 9 p.m. after he allegedly ventured outside to get a lighter from a van after he could not get one he had inside the home to work. The suspect was initially taken to Bristol Regional Medical Center to be evaluated. He was then transferred to a mental health facility. Federal and local charges are pending. The investigation is continuing.

Source: <http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9012484>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *March 18, CNN* – (Maryland; Virginia) **Civil War battlefields at risk, preservationists warn.** Development threatens to engulf Civil War battlefields, a preservationist group said as it released its annual list of endangered battle sites on March 18. "In town after town, the irreplaceable battlefields that define those communities are being marred forever," said the head of the Civil War Preservation Trust. The group says it has helped save more than 25,000 acres of Civil War battlefields in 18 states. Topping the 2009 list of endangered battlefields is Monocacy, Maryland, where the Preservation Trust wants to prevent a trash-processing facility with a 350-foot smokestack from being built nearby. In Virginia, the group is fighting to keep a Wal-Mart Supercenter from going up on the edge of the Wilderness Battlefield, which

also is on this year's list.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/03/18/battlefields/index.html>

36. *March 18, Illinois Valley News* – (Oregon) **Regional prescribed burns set by USFS.** This spring the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest will conduct prescribed burning (also known as controlled burning) on approximately 1,376 acres as weather and air quality conditions permit. "Carefully controlled," these burns will range in size from six to 400 acres and vary in management objectives. "Using these prescribed burns, or controlled burns, to thin out a forest that is crowded with densely packed trees and overgrown brush will help ensure the safety of homes and structures that are in outlying areas and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires," fire personnel said. The forest service uses prescribed burn to achieve a number of objectives in silviculture, wildlife management, hazard reduction and fire suppression. Prescribed fire, said the agency, can thin out sapling trees and seedlings, eliminate tree slash on the ground, and remove high fuel loads. It can also provide for fire protection, reduce the risk of insect and disease outbreaks, and improve wildlife habitat and soil productivity. The forest service follows all state regulations for smoke management and only initiates these burns when weather conditions are appropriate for smoke ventilation. Source: http://www.illinois-valley-news.com/archive/2009/03/18/story-prescribed_burns.html

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Dams Sector

37. *March 18, Chico Enterprise Record* – (California) **Officials expect Hamilton levee design completion by June.** After design of a new levee is completed this summer, the last hurdle in a decades-long race to replace the aging J Levee in Hamilton City will nearly be complete. With federal funding obtained recently to complete the design phase, the remaining obstacle will be obtaining at least \$15 million to begin construction of a new setback levee, possibly next year. In a presentation to the Glenn County Board of Supervisors on March 17, an attorney said the design phase of the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project will be completed by June, thanks to \$832,000 awarded to the Army Corps of Engineers recently by Congress. Currently, Hamilton City is protected from the Sacramento River by the J Levee, a structure built more than a century ago. The 102-year-old levee has steadily deteriorated, and county officials have battled in recent years to keep it from failing during high-water events in heavy winters. Flooding has been a problem. Once funding is obtained for construction, the J Levee will be replaced with a 6.8-mile setback levee that begins north of Highway 32 and extends south beyond Dunning Slough. In addition to the levee, the project will restore 1,500 acres of natural habitat. Whether construction begins next year remains for federal legislators to decide. The project partners are asking the government for \$15 million in the 2010 federal budget to begin construction. The project is expected to take two years to complete, at a total estimated cost of \$60 million. Source: http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_11937975

38. *March 17, Van Zandt Newspapers* – (Texas) **Levee breaks on lake in Edgewood.** Several county roads and part of Farm-to-Market Road 859 were flooded the afternoon of March 12 when a levee broke on a privately owned lake south of Highway 80. The break occurred about 12:45 p.m., an Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department lieutenant said. The lake is the old Edgewood City Lake. Water quickly swept through parts of the southern end of Edgewood. Crooked Creek Road, near the bridge, was completely under water and closed to traffic for the remainder of the day. The lieutenant said a section of FM 859, about one mile south of Highway 80, was closed for about one hour. It was reopened after firefighters and Texas Department of Transportation officials saw the waters had receded to a safe level, he said. The Edgewood Police chief said the emergency management effort went well. He added that there were no initial reports of anyone being carried away by floodwaters or any homes in immediate danger. Several county roads in the area were barricaded for safety. The lieutenant said no official determination had been made as to why the levee failed, but added that there were signs of damage from beavers.
Source: <http://www.vanzandtnewspapers.com/news/126/ARTICLE/6811/2009-03-17.html>
39. *March 17, Grand Forks Herald* – (North Dakota) **Grand Forks officials debating when to add clay, sandbags for flood protection.** Grand Forks officials are debating when to add clay and sandbags to the city’s dike system for extra flood protection. Raising the dikes 3 feet and cleaning up after the Red River recedes would cost nearly \$8 million, the city engineer says. The city’s \$417 million dike system was built after the 1997 flood disaster, when the river reached 54 feet. The new outlook from the National Weather Service puts the chance of exceeding that crest at more than 10 percent, with a 2 percent chance the river will top 60.6 feet. “That’s two black marbles in a bag of white marbles,” a city engineer said. “You reach in and hope it comes out white.” City Council members discussed the flood plans March 16. “The dollar amount is a consideration,” said a councilman. “But \$8 million compared to the cost of what we’d lose isn’t a lot of money.” The administrator said officials will monitor the situation, especially the rainfall potential over the weekend, and may call an emergency council meeting if action is needed.
Source:
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008873124_grandforksdike.html
40. *March 17, KSFY 13 Sioux Falls* – (South Dakota) **Ice buildup causes flooding.** “We had been digging ditches for several days trying to make sure that this type of thing did not happen and luckily we had enough work done downstream so that it was a relatively short lived problem,” says an Aberdeen city engineer. But quick clean up has not stopped concern. City crews are busy trying to break up ice and move water that caused some big problems for neighborhoods the morning of March 17, and some residents say there is an ongoing problem. Twenty First Avenue was full of flood water. City crews worked rapidly to break up huge chunks of ice and to get water flowing through clogged culverts. Melting ice and water flowing east was too much for the channels that had a few feet of ice and snow buildup, and Twenty First and State street was the culmination of the problem.

Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/news/local/41412357.html>

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