



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 March 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to the Associated Press, federal safety officials are grounding 2,800 Bell helicopters in a search for improperly installed bearings that could cause the co-pilot controls to malfunction. (See item [11](#))
- The Hartford Courant reports that 22 people were treated for minor eye and respiratory irritation after an ammonia leak on Monday at the Celebration Foods plant in New Britain, Connecticut. (See item [15](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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

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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 19, ThePittsburghChannel.com* – (Pennsylvania) **Team 4 investigates pipeline safety in W. Pa.** A WTAE Channel 4 investigation finds there are hundreds of miles of gasoline pipelines in the Murrysville area and concern over whether they are safe. WTAE Channel 4 has learned that just a year before the Murrysville explosion, the company that operates the pipeline was fined for safety violations — and the federal agency that fined them has been criticized for not doing more to keep pipelines safe, despite the fact that new laws went on the books after a series of disastrous pipeline explosions a decade ago. Federal records show last year there were 274 significant pipeline ruptures causing \$395 million in property damage. That compares to 258 ruptures causing just \$113 million in damage in 2002, when the law changed. A Team 4

reporter asked the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) pipeline safety administrator, “Why are you seeing more significant incidents last year than in previous years?” The DOT pipeline safety administrator said, “The activity that generates one of the greatest threats to pipeline safety — excavation damage — really has been skyrocketing since that time.” But excavation was not being done in Murrysville, and a congressman from Pennsylvania said, “It’s clear that the number of inspectors as well as the side issue of the quality of inspections both have to improve.” The federal pipeline safety agency is still investigating the Murrysville incident. A report is expected to be released in the next month.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29762336/>

2. *March 19, Cape Cod Times* – (Massachusetts) **Cape blaze highlights utility danger.** Minutes before 8 p.m. on March 9, the lights dimmed in a man’s home. It was one of a series of brownouts that had plagued the veterinarian all day long. What the man did not know was that the equivalent of a powerful bomb was buried in the ground between his home and his animal hospital and kennel about 50 feet away. The brownouts were a sign that the explosion that would, within minutes, destroy most of the hospital and kill four animals, was imminent. The state [Massachusetts] Department of Public Utilities and the Office of the State Fire Marshal are still investigating the explosion and had no further comments this week. But last week, the fire marshal’s office said the explosion most likely occurred because the electrical line had either been cut and/or was corroded, to the point where the bare wire was exposed and shooting electricity into the surrounding soil. The electricity ate into the gas line’s protective casing and started a leak. Possibly because there was not enough oxygen underground, the gas did not ignite but followed the trench to the basement, where it pooled until a spark from the nearby furnace, or some other appliance, set it off. The National Electric Safety Code, a set of voluntary guidelines established by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, recommends electric lines be installed a minimum of 12 inches from fuel or steam lines. But in Massachusetts, state regulations follow a different code, the National Electrical Code, which does not require a minimum distance.

Source:

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090319/NEWS/903190312>

3. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Natural gas leak repaired.** Anne Arundel County fire officials say a ruptured natural gas line on March 17 near Millersville that prompted the closure of a highway and the evacuation of several nearby businesses and homes has been contained. The four-inch line was struck about noon and a section of Veterans Highway was closed until 8:30 p.m. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.abc2news.com/news/local/story/Gas-Leak-Blocking-Traffic-in-Millersville/OZMk8Y2uBka3LAX1SBA8kA.csp>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 19, 2TheAdvocate* – (Louisiana) **O’Neal Lane closed near Harrell’s Ferry**

Road because of spill. Officials were cleaning up a mixture of water and ammonia that spilled from an overturned Baton Rouge Water Co. vehicle just before 11 a.m. Thursday in the 3000 block of O’Neal Lane in Baton Rouge. About 30 gallons leaked from the vehicle when it overturned and ran into a ditch, said a Baton Rouge Fire Department spokesman. The vehicle was carrying about 500 gallons of the mixture, he said. No injuries have been reported and no evacuations have been announced, he said. But O’Neal Lane was closed north of South Harrell’s Ferry Road. Louisiana State Police, East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff’s deputies, Baton Rouge police, state Department of Environmental Quality workers, and the Fire Department’s hazardous materials division were on site.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/breaking/41498312.html>

5. *March 19, Seattle Times* – (Idaho) **EPA urges Simplot to add pollution prevention measures at Pocatello fertilizer plant.** Federal environmental regulators are pressing the J.R. Simplot Co. to do more at its Pocatello, Idaho fertilizer plant to stem the flow of phosphates and other pollutants into groundwater and streams. The Environmental Protection Agency unveiled a new set of pollution control measures for Simplot’s Don Plant on March 17. The agency is proposing an estimated \$50 million in modifications to the pollution control plan approved in 1998 for the plant and its Superfund cleanup site. It also wants to amend the document to add phosphorus as pollutant to regulate. Agency officials say the goal is to curtail phosphorus leaching into the groundwater, then flowing into nearby streams like the Portneuf River. To keep the river healthy, Simplot must make some serious changes in its operations and pollution control measures, said the regional project manager for the EPA. “We have seen some reductions in pollutant levels” in the springs feeding the Portneuf River, she told the Associated Press. “But we are talking now about taking some additional actions to control the phosphorus even more.”

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2008880706_apphosphoruspollutionsimplot.html

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *March 18, Inside GNSS* – (National) **More problems with GPS IIF; IIR-(20)M is L5’s plan B.** Discovery of a power anomaly in signal generator of the first GPS Block IIF space vehicle (SV) has thrown a new wrinkle into the long-delayed follow-on generation of spacecraft. In the words of a GPS Wing spokesman at the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), Los Angeles Air Force Base, California, “In reviewing test data from the final phase of SV1 thermal vacuum test, [government and Boeing mission assurance

teams] identified a new concern that a component in the L2 transmitter may not have sufficient design margin to operate at its highest required power throughout the satellite lifetime.” Called plasma events, the anomalies resulted in power surges that reportedly affect all signals on the L2 frequency and appear likely to delay transport of the spacecraft to the launch site in Florida. Designed and manufactured by the Boeing Company, the IIF satellites carry a navigation payload.

Source: <http://www.insidegnss.com/node/1387>

7. *March 17, NASA Spaceflight.com* – (National) **ULA Atlas V launch with WGS-2 scrubbed due to Centaur pump issue.** United Launch Alliance (ULA) was preparing to launch the WGS-2 satellite on an Atlas V rocket, when an issue with the Centaur LOX pump led to the scrubbing of the launch attempt. Detanking of the vehicle began shortly after the scrub was called, following a leakage of liquid oxygen (LOX) from the inlet valve on the RL-10 engine — related to the Centaur LOX pump. The vehicle will be required to roll back to the Vehicle Integration Facility (VIF) for a replacement valve. WGS-2 is a communications satellite which will be operated by the United States Air Force. It is the second of six planned Wideband Global Satcom spacecraft, which will replace the Defense Satellite Communications System in providing communications for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: <http://www.nasaspaceflight.com/2009/03/live-ula-atlas-v-launch-with-wgs-2/>

See also:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=space&id=news/ATLAS031809.xml

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 19, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. considers broadening TALF program to distressed assets.** The Presidential Administration may use a new Federal Reserve program designed to spur consumer lending to help remove distressed assets from banks’ balance sheets, according to people familiar with the matter. Officials may meld the Treasury’s plan to set up private investment funds to buy frozen assets with the Fed program, known as the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility, the people said. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. may also get a wider role, they said. The Treasury Secretary may use an array of approaches to maximize the likelihood of cleansing banks’ balance sheets so they can start lending again. The next announcement, which may come as soon as this week, will be critical after the Treasury Secretary’s first unveiling of the strategy caused a sell-off in financial stocks. “Letting the TALF take on this role would arguably allow” the toxic-debt effort “to be implemented faster as many of its technical details have been worked out” already, said an economist at Nomura Securities International Inc. in New York. The TALF would provide loans to investors and agree to take illiquid debt as collateral, the people said. It would be used alongside the Treasury’s planned public-private investment funds.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601068&sid=aNBEEAbUZ7Fo&refer=home>

9. *March 18, Chippewa Valley Herald* – (Wisconsin) **Scam targets area bank customers.** Area financial institutions are warning customers of a telephone scam seeking account information in the wake of widespread calls in western Wisconsin. RCU reported on March 17 that its members are receiving phone calls asking for their check card number along with their PIN in an apparent scam. “Please be advised this is not coming from RCU and we ask that you not respond to any type of request like this,” said the RCU community relations coordinator. That goes for customers of any other financial institution as well. Community Credit Union, Altra Credit Union, and the Bank of Galesville reported a deluge of calls on March 17 from customers who had received automated calls to their cell phones. Other area banks also reported scam calls.
Source:
<http://www.chippewa.com/articles/2009/03/19/news/doc49c117c57e2cd450937960.txt>

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Transportation Sector

10. *March 19, Daily Advertiser* – (Louisiana) **Crews to conduct training at airport.** A disaster training drill mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration will be held at the Lafayette Regional Airport on March 20, beginning around 9:30 a.m. The disaster scenario will involve an incident between a Boeing 737 and a Beechcraft King Air 300, causing an accident that would result in one plane catching fire and numerous injuries on both aircraft. There will be no actual disaster at the airport and no actual injuries. The drill will be visible from the Evangeline Thruway. The activity is a drill that the airport must conduct every three years.
Source: <http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20090319/NEWS01/903190309>
11. *March 18, Associated Press* – (National) **FAA grounds 2,800 Bell helicopters for inspection.** Federal safety officials are grounding 2,800 Bell helicopters in a search for improperly installed bearings that could cause the co-pilot controls to malfunction. A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokeswoman says the agency wants operators of three types of helicopters to visually inspect a bearing in the co-pilot cyclic controls and replace the part if it was improperly installed. The helicopters are Bell models 407 and 427, and the 206 A, B, and L series. A spokesman for the Fort Worth, Texas-based Bell Helicopter said the company discovered the problem last week when trying to deliver a new helicopter. He said he expects FAA to issue a new advisory limiting the grounding to less than 110 newer helicopters.
Source:
http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jYVXT3QI8RbMKROzhGB-hHZ3_0MgD970NO302
12. *March 17, WNCT 9 Greenville* – (North Carolina) **Emergency workers take anti-terrorism training at port seriously.** People driving past the state port in Morehead City might notice a few small traffic tie-ups — but it is because of some important anti-terrorism training. They are spending several days this week making sure they are prepared to respond should terrorists ever strike the North Carolina State Port at

Morehead City. “This is one of our high value target areas within the state,” said the Army National Guard captain. He says the business done at the port and its proximity to a number of military installations makes it a high value target. In the first exercise of the week, responders from almost a dozen local agencies, as well as port security, Cherry Point and Greenville-based Army National Guard unit practiced responding to a chemical attack on the port. They used robots to detect the chemical in question and removed a potential explosive device from a warehouse. “All the counties and municipalities are required to have a plan,” the captain said. “But if you don’t exercise the plan, the plan is basically worthless.” The operation — called Eastern Shield 2009 — will wrap up March 19.

Source: http://www.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/emergency_workers_take_anti-terror_training_at_port_seriously/33808/

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *March 18, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **“Suspicious item” mailed to congresswoman’s office.** The FBI and Rapid City authorities responded March 18 after workers in a South Dakota Representative’s field office reported receiving an envelope containing a “suspicious item.” Members of a hazardous materials unit were among those responding. Team members said the item was not a threat to the staff or the public, but no other information was reported. The envelope came in the mail. A Rapid City Police spokesman says an investigation is under way to determine if there was malicious intent behind the package. Three staff members were cleared from the building and were allowed to return over the noon hour.

Source: <http://www.kcautv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10031346&nav=1kg1>

14. *March 18, WVLT 8 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **Letter containing suspicious powder sent to Knoxville IRS office.** Officials have given the “all clear” after a letter containing a suspicious powder was received in the mailroom at the IRS office in the John Duncan Federal Office Building in Knoxville. Knoxville Police and Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team members were called to the federal building around noon on March 18. An FBI weapons of mass destruction coordinator was also called, according to the FBI special agent in charge of the Knoxville field office. The envelope was isolated, and the powder tested on site. It tested negative for chemical, biological, or radiological threats, said the FBI official.

Source: <http://www.volunteertv.com/home/headlines/41438627.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *March 17, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Ammonia leak empties food plant.** Twenty-two people were transported to area hospitals after an ammonia leak March 16 at Celebration Foods in New Britain, a fire official said. No one was seriously injured. Shortly after 9 a.m., the fire department received a call that an employee at the Myrtle

Street building was having difficulty breathing, he said. Other people then began to feel ill and left the building. Twenty-five people were transported to area hospitals and were treated for minor eye and respiratory irritation. Equipment at the new plant detected the leak and shut it down quickly, he said. “There was never any danger to the neighborhood,” he said. In a statement released Monday afternoon, the company said the leak was detected within two minutes of the start of a production line about 8:30 a.m. The company said ammonia levels were “within standard operating levels” and the plant resumed production about 10:30 a.m. Celebration Foods, a division of FOCUS Brands, Inc., manufactures, distributes, and markets frozen desserts.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-copdigbrf0317.art0mar17,0,4706094.story>

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Water Sector

16. *March 19, WPTV 5 West Palm Beach* – (Florida) **West Palm Beach chemical leak.**

West Palm Beach Fire Rescue (WPBRF) crews were called to the West Palm Beach Water Treatment complex the morning of March 19, where a chlorine gas leak happened. At about 4:15 a.m., the neck on a one ton chlorine cylinder tank broke off while workers were exchanging tanks. The accident released the gas inside one of the sealed buildings in the complex. A county fire rescue captain explained that a chemical scrubbing system was in place to handle these sorts of emergencies, and that it appears to be working just as it should. Once the chemical is considered fully neutralized, WPBRF hazmat crews will ventilate the building with fresh air to insure it is safe. There are no plans to evacuate any nearby homes, apartments, businesses or the Tri-Rail station. City fire crews were wrapping up by 8:00 a.m.

Source: http://www.wptv.com/news/local/story/west-palm-beach-chlorine-chemical-leak/qyCjERDo_0ORR6mCnZTm2A.csp

17. *March 18, San Antonio Business Journal* – (Texas) **Laredo invests in water desalination plant.**

The Laredo City Council has approved a plan to build a desalination plant to treat brackish water in the border region. Laredo is almost to the limit in the amount of water it can draw from the Rio Grande River. As a result, city leaders have agreed to spend \$1.6 million to build a pilot plant that will field test a new method of desalinating brackish water. A chemical engineering professor at Texas A&M University developed the new method. Terrabon LLC commercialized the technology. “This is one step in securing and providing water in the future for not only Laredo, but the entire state, with the development of this pilot project,” says a Laredo City councilman. The desalination plant will produce 50,000 gallons of fresh water a day. The Texas Engineering Experiment Station and the Center for Applied Technology will function as the technology integrator and analyst for the project. Both entities are part of the Texas A&M University System. Terrabon, a Houston-based energy and water-treatment technology company, will design and construct the plant. American Water’s Applied Water Management Group in Hillsborough, New Jersey will operate and monitor the plant as a subcontractor.

Source: <http://sanantonio.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/stories/2009/03/16/daily22.html>

18. *March 18, Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Health warning for Woods Reservoir.** Officials at the Air Force’s Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) have issued a warning restricting swimming, wading and water skiing on Woods Reservoir. The restriction was issued because of elevated levels of E. coli found in the water. AEDC increased monitoring of water quality on Arnold Air Force Base’s Woods Reservoir as a result of the spill of raw sewage in Monteagle, Tennessee recently and the possibility that the spill could migrate to the Elk River and then into Woods Reservoir. The source of the high levels of E. coli is unknown at this time and has not been linked to the Monteagle spill. E. coli tests require 24 hours to process. The samples that showed positive the afternoon of March 17 were from sampling the previous day. Center officials are not restricting boating or fishing at this time, but urge people to be cautious and not expose themselves to lake water or drink untreated water from the lake. Any fish caught in Woods should be washed and fully cooked. AEDC health officials will continue to monitor water quality daily. The restrictions will remain until E. coli levels return to normal limits. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control is partnering with AEDC to do additional testing to attempt to determine the source of elevated E. coli levels.
Source: http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_147016.asp
19. *March 18, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia; Kentucky) **Obama pressed for mountaintop removal ban.** Environmental groups and coalfield residents are pushing the U.S. Presidential Administration this week to take action to block new mountaintop removal mining permits in Appalachia. Leaders of several citizens groups met with Administration officials recently in the District of Columbia to ask for a moratorium on new permits until federal regulators can come up with a plan to ban mountaintop removal permanently. Environmentalists say more than 100 permits are pending at the Corps office in Huntington that would bury more than 200 miles of streams in Southern West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky. “Our members feel a sense of urgency like never before,” said a Van resident and member of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. “Unless the Obama Administration steps in to protect coalfield communities and retrain coal workers, the coal industry is going to take all it can; leaving us poisoned water, abandoned towns and a toxic future.”
Source: <http://sundaygazettemail.com/News/200903170785>
20. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **State cites Cameron for violations of safe drinking water regulations.** The state has cited the northwest Missouri city of Cameron for violating safe drinking water regulations. But state officials do not believe the city’s water troubles are related to what some believe is an increase in brain tumors among residents. The Department of Natural Resources said on March 16 that Cameron’s water has excessive amounts of haloacetic acids, which can result from the chlorine disinfectant process. The department said people who drink water with elevated levels of haloacetic acids over a lifetime may have a slightly increased risk of developing certain types cancers, such as bladder, rectal, or colon cancers. But haloacetic acids do not pose a short-term health risk, said an environmental specialist in exposures to hazardous chemicals at the Department of Health and Senior Services.

“Although long term exposure to haloacetic acids above the maximum contaminant level might increase somebody’s risk for certain kinds of cancer, there’s really no reason to believe that this one-time [violation] would have anything to do with the reported brain tumors in the Cameron area,” he said. Cameron city officials did not immediately return a telephone message March 16. A five-month investigation by the Department of Health and Senior Services concluded last fall that there are not a statistically higher number of brain tumor cases in a four-county area around Cameron than throughout the entire state. The Kansas City-based personal injury law firm Peterson and Associates said last fall that it is representing about 40 brain tumor cases in Cameron, a town with a population of about 6,500. Several lawsuits filed on behalf of Cameron residents allege a link between the brain tumors and a former Rockwell Industries plant, which made insulation there between 1974 and 1982.

Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20090317/NEWS01/903170328>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *March 19, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Vietnamese boy dies from bird flu.**

A three-year-old Vietnamese boy has died from bird flu, a doctor in the southern city of Ho Chi Minh said. Authorities announced earlier in the day that the child had tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the virus and said his condition was worsening. The boy was from the Mekong Delta province of Dong Thap and was admitted to the Tropical Diseases Institute on Monday, two days before a test came back positive, said the director of the city’s health care department. Thursday’s death takes to three the number of people who have died from the H5N1 strain of bird flu in Vietnam this year, according to official figures.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/19/2521221.htm?section=justin>

22. *March 18, CNET News* – (International) **SickCity to predict next pandemic via**

Twitter? SickCity, a new Twitter mashup, is tracking people’s tweets about being sick, having sore throats, and other physical maladies. The tool lets one track these occurrences both by city and each specific ailment. And the stats go back to the last 31 days, which can show if a certain type of sickness is trending. Google rolled out something similar for flu trends in November of last year, however, that is based on people’s searches on Google.com along with historic data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. SickCity, on the other hand, has more up to date information, albeit from a smaller portion of users, and the added benefit of letting one drill down to a city level.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10199195-2.html

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

Emergency Services Sector

23. *March 18, PAHomePage.com* – (Pennsylvania) **Federal report on firefighters death.**
A federal report about a Scranton firefighter's death suggests changes in Scranton's fire department, suggestions the firefighters union says have fallen on deaf ears. A Scranton firefighters union member said, "There's extreme frustration. Over and over again our safety committee members have made these recommendations. We studied this, we've researched all of these things and we brought them to the city." The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommends 8 changes to the Scranton fire department. One includes certain firefighting equipment to be at least 10 feet away from energized power lines, the cause of this particular firefighter's death. Other recommendations include writing standard operating guidelines, and assigning an incident safety officer.
Source: <http://pahomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=75311>

24. *March 18, KGMB 9 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Hazmat call on King Street; evacuation over.** Someone sent a suspicious envelope to the Honolulu Police Department career center office. The envelope had a threatening letter and a substance the sender claimed was hazardous. The Honolulu Fire Department evacuated the building and tested the substance. They found that it was not hazardous. No one was injured.
Source: <http://kgmb9.com/main/content/view/15183/40/>

25. *March 18, Hanover Evening Sun* – (Pennsylvania) **911 woes pared down.** In the past, when Pennsylvania's Southwestern Regional Police officers would answer calls in their jurisdiction's more remote areas, they would have problems using their radios to communicate. Now, a portable will work there, the police chief said. The difference has been the new digital radio system installed at York County 911 last year. However, since the \$36 million system's installation, York County 911 and the system's manufacturer M/A-COM have come under heavy criticism for numerous reprogrammings, replacement of inoperable equipment, and dropped or garbled communications. Chiefs of police and union leaders maintain the problems jeopardize officers' lives and, ultimately, the public.
Source: http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_11934671

26. *March 17, KCRG 9 Cedar Rapids* – (Iowa) **Power restored in Urbana & Vinton.** Alliant Energy believes a tree fell into a line a power, causing a power outage in Vinton and Urbana. The outage cut service Tuesday afternoon to the cities E911 and emergency phone call systems, and back-up systems failed. Power has been restored. The outage lasted about two hours, from a little before 1 p.m. until just after 3 p.m. Calls from Urbana and Vinton were re-routed through Buchanan County dispatch.
Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/41384807.html>

Information Technology

27. *March 17, DarkReading* – (International) **UN agency: cybersquatting on the rise.** The number of cybersquatting reports rose nearly 10 percent last year, according to a United Nations agency charged with protecting intellectual property worldwide. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said on March 16 that a record-breaking 2,329 complaints of cybersquatting were filed with the agency in 2008, an 8 percent increase from 2007. Nearly half of the complaints came from U.S. organizations. Among the industries hit most by cybersquatting were biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, which accounted for 9.9 percent of the complaints to WIPO; banking and finance, 9.4 percent; Internet and IT, 8.8 percent; retail, 8.1 percent; food, beverage, and restaurants, 7.2 percent; entertainment, 6.5 percent; media and publishing, 6.3 percent; fashion, 6.0 percent; and hotels and travel, 6.0 percent. “Cybersquatting remains a serious issue for trademark holders. Supported especially by registrar and registry stakeholders, the sale and broad expansion of new top level domains in the open market, if not properly managed, will provide abundant opportunities for cybersquatters to seize old ground in new domains,” said the WIPO director general in a statement. WIPO’s report jibes with a recently released study by MarkMonitor, which examined abuse of the top 30 brands and found that most of the same ones still get spoofed online. In its Annual Brandjacking Index for 2008, MarkMonitor found 80 percent of sites it first discovered in the first quarter of 2007 abusing brands were still alive and well in 2008. The abuse ranges from using a famous brand name just to drive traffic to the misrepresented site, to infecting visitors, according to MarkMonitor.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/vulnerabilities/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RQVREWUVYGWPYQSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=215900755>

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

28. *March 18, Mobile Burn* – (National) **FCC approves first Long Term Evolution network component in U.S.** The Federal Communications Commission has approved a filing for an LG Electronics infrastructure device labeled as “Long Term Evolution User Equipment,” making it the first LTE component approved in the United States. The equipment is classified as a Licensed Non-Broadcast Station Transmitter running on the 1700MHz AWS band. Much of the documentation pertaining to the device is currently protected by a confidentiality agreement between LG and the communications agency.

Source: <http://www.mobileburn.com/news.jsp?Id=6630>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

29. *March 18, Seattle Times* – (Georgia) **Bomb squad detonates ‘pineapple’ grenade found on golf course.** A golfer looking for an errant tee shot found a half-buried hand grenade near the eighth fairway of the Augusta Municipal Golf Course. The Richmond County sheriff’s bomb squad was called to the scene after the March 18 discovery and detonated the war relic. A bomb squad investigator says recent heavy rains washing down a hill probably unearthed the Mk 2, or “pineapple” grenade, used by the U.S. military from the final months of World War I until the Vietnam War. He says he did not know if the grenade was live, so the bomb squad detonated it.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008883782_apgolfcoursegrenade.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

30. *March 18, Seattle Times* – (Idaho) **Avalanche center says danger considerable in Payette National Forest slopes.** Officials with the Payette National Forest Avalanche Center say the avalanche danger is considerable on slopes over 35 degrees, and moderate on other slopes. The avalanche advisory was released the morning of March 18. The avalanche center says several feet of snow combined with strong, gusting winds created slabs of snow that could become unstable and trigger avalanches.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2008880290_apavalanchedanger.html

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Dams Sector

31. *March 19, Daily Hampshire Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **Cost of Mass. Dike repair jumps.** The cost of repairing the cracked dike holding back the Connecticut River in Massachusetts has jumped to more than \$1 million since a portion collapsed earlier this month. The collapse also pushed back the completion date to April 8. Workers started installing metal sheeting along 275 feet of the dike in Hadley on Wednesday. A select board chairman tells the Daily Hampshire Gazette the original bid from the contractor has “skyrocketed” because of the cost of the sheeting, overtime, and the construction of a temporary road. The estimate is now \$1.05 million. A crack was discovered in the 77-year-old levee last June. Without repairs, homes, several historic buildings, a cemetery and the Town Common could be vulnerable to flooding.

Source:

http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/031909_Cost_of_Mass_dike_repair_jumps

32. *March 18, INFORUM* – (Minnesota; North Dakota) **Flood preparations under way in Wilkin, Richland.** Minnesota Highway 210 east of Breckenridge, Minnesota will remain dry, thanks to a dike built March 17. “We’ve had water over it [Highway 210] in the past. We don’t want that to happen this year,” said a Wilkin County engineer. County crews completed the clay dike, eight miles east of Breckenridge, that afternoon. The worst flooding in Wilkin is north of Highway 210, he said. Freezing temperatures, in the 20s or lower, would be a big help, he said. Flooding also is a concern in North Dakota’s Richland County, the western neighbor of Minnesota’s Wilkin County. Richland County already is seeing some overland flooding, said the county emergency manager. On March 17 he picked up 50,000 sandbags from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The county already had 45,000 sandbags. County workers are moving sand to several flood “hot spots,” including the city of Great Bend, to protect city infrastructure if necessary, he said. Richland is one of seven counties in North Dakota in which flood emergencies have been declared. The others are Cass, Grand Forks, Nelson, Stutsman, Ramsey, and Pembina.

Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/234408/group/News/>

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