



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 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 Reliable Plant Magazine, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Wyman Gordon Company for 29 alleged serious violations of safety standards at its Grafton, Massachusetts metal forgings manufacturing plant. (See item [7](#))
- WLOX 13 Biloxi reports that the Popp's Ferry Bridge in Biloxi, Mississippi was struck by a barge on Friday, and a 150 foot section of the bridge is missing. (See item [12](#))

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 19, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Power back on after explosion dims Mt. Clemens.** Power resumed to businesses and homes in downtown Mt. Clemens the afternoon of March 19 after an underground explosion shut off traffic lights, forced the closure of two streets, and prompted officials to close the Macomb County Administration Building. City officials said an underground electric cable exploded shortly after 9 a.m., sending a rancid smell of burned metal through downtown while firefighters checked businesses for any signs of fire. No injuries were reported. A DTE Energy spokesman said the cause of the explosion is under investigation. About 75 customers were affected. Police had cordoned off Walnut and Macomb Place while utility crews worked on the lines. The County Administration Building closed in the morning but reopened at 1 p.m.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20090319/NEWS04/90319049/1006/NEWS/Power+back+on+after+Explosion+dims+Mt.+Clemens>

2. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Fort Lupton woman has flammable water, fears explosion from natural gas.** A Fort Lupton woman says she lives in constant fear and is terrified her home could blow up because of natural gas that has managed to seep into her water supply. The woman can turn on a faucet in her kitchen or bathroom, flick a lighter, and watch flames shoot up from the sink. And she says she is afraid she or her neighbors are at imminent risk of an explosion. A spokesperson for the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission says the gas is likely coming from a leaking well, but there are eight wells located within a half-mile of the woman's home. The wells are owned by two different energy companies. She says she is scheduled to meet on March 20 with officials from Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Noble Energy Inc.

Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--flammablewater,0,5210807.story>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *March 20, Environmental Protection* – (National) **EPA releases ACToR chemical database.** A new online database, the Aggregated Computational Toxicology Resource (ACToR), provides information on more than 500,000 man-made chemicals from over 200 public sources and can now be accessed at <http://actor.epa.gov/actor>. According to a March 12 press release from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the database allows access to hundreds of data sources in one place. ACToR was developed to support the ToxCast program of the EPA National Center for Computational Toxicology. ACToR was used to analyze toxicity information on almost 10,000 chemicals regulated by EPA and to identify data gaps to be addressed by ToxCast, which will greatly help the agency prioritize future testing of chemicals. Key findings are that while acute toxicity data is available for 59 percent of the surveyed chemicals, detailed testing information is much more limited. Twenty-six percent of the 10,000 chemicals have carcinogenicity testing data, 29 percent have developmental toxicity testing data, and 11 percent have complete reproductive toxicity test results.

Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/71342/>

4. *March 19, WFOR 4 Miami* – (Florida) **Two injured from container leakage at Miami's port.** Hazmat crews attend to an injured Port of Miami worker who accidentally inhaled toxic chemicals from a leaking container. Two people accidentally inhaled carbon monoxide from a leaking storage container at the Port of Miami on March 19, according to Miami-Dade fire rescue officials. Hazardous material teams were dispatched to the Port investigating what appeared to be a chemical leak coming from a 20-foot container. The two injured workers were alert at the time they were transported to the hospital for further observations.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/hazmat.port.of.2.963114.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *March 19, Platts* – (National) **U.S. FERC fills jurisdictional security gap at nation’s nukes.** The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 19 clarified that facilities within nuclear generation plants that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does not regulate must comply with eight mandatory cybersecurity standards that FERC previously approved. The order is meant to cover a jurisdictional gap at nuclear plants for equipment the NRC does not regulate. The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) had told FERC the measure is unnecessary and potentially harmful because no gap exists and NRC jurisdiction covers the equipment. NRC disagreed that its jurisdiction covered the gap, and FERC in the order agreed with NRC. Congress had directed FERC to develop the measures after the Idaho National Laboratory released a dramatic video showing the deliberate destruction of a non-nuclear power plant turbine using only computers. The commission sought comment from industry, wondering if nuclear plant operators should be required to identify which facilities at the plants are related to reactor security and thus are under NRC jurisdiction, and which other plant equipment would be subject to FERC’s cyber security reliability standards issued in January. FERC in the order said, however, that “the commission is not persuaded by these arguments, which either reference back to voluntary industry standards developed by the nuclear industry, or mischaracterize the nature and extent of NRC’s regulations with regard to the entire nuclear power plant. Indeed, NRC staff comments reiterate that many portions of a nuclear power plant are not regulated by NRC.” FERC also dismissed concerns that NEI and EEI raised over onerous and overlapping “dual regulation.” The commission said “the possible burden, confusion and inefficiency is speculative,” and suggested single operating manuals with both NRC and cybersecurity reliability standards could be created.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6211277.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *March 19, Aviation Week* – (National) **Reworking the A-10 wing.** The A-10 Warthog has been integral to close-air-support missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the aircraft has begun to show its age. The problem areas were located on the underside of the wings, in the landing gear area just outboard of where the gear attaches to the wing. The Air Force originally grounded a full 145 of the 356 A-10s in its active inventory. According to the A-10’s weapon system team chief at Air Combat Command headquarters, the number of grounded aircraft has dropped to 55. “We started repairs in the August 2008 timeframe,” he said. “We expect that by the summer of 2009 we’ll have everything completed.” The repair process takes “several hundred [man] hours to complete.” That’s because of where the cracks are located. “As you can imagine,” he said, “to get to the wing skin in [that] area we have to take a considerable number of panels away, and we have to remove the landing gear and some other structure to get to

the wing skin we need to look at.”

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=om&id=news/omA10309.xml

7. *March 18, Reliable Plant Magazine* – (Massachusetts) **Massachusetts manufacturer facing \$110K OSHA fine.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Wyman Gordon Company for 29 alleged serious violations of safety standards at its Grafton, Massachusetts manufacturing plant. The metal forgings manufacturer faces \$109,500 in proposed fines following two OSHA inspections conducted between September 2008 and March 2009. OSHA issues serious citations when death or serious physical harm is likely to result from hazards about which the employer knew or should have known. The first inspection, conducted under OSHA’s Site-Specific Targeting program, identified damaged support structures for overhead cranes; damaged support frames for large metal dies; slipping and tripping hazards; unguarded floors and platforms; missing access stairs; a damaged access ladder; non-functioning emergency exit lights; an overloaded fork truck; an overloaded lifting attachment; defective wire rope slings; unguarded machinery; improper storage of compressed gas cylinders and several electrical safety deficiencies. OSHA began the second inspection in response to a December 23 accident in which two employees were injured when they were struck by a 700-pound forging that shot up in the air while they were attempting to free it from a malfunctioning die on a power press. OSHA cited Wyman Gordon for not developing procedures to prevent the build-up and release of hazardous energy generated by the press during the servicing.

Source:

<http://www.reliableplant.com/article.aspx?articleid=16578&pagetitle=Massachusetts+manufacturer+facing+%24110K+OSHA+fine>

8. *March 18, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Agents raid company that monitors nuke blasts.** Federal agents raided a Brevard County company involved in semisecret nuclear bomb work with the U.S. Air Force on March 17. Agents armed with a search warrant raided the offices of Quantum Technology Sciences in Cocoa Beach. Authorities said they took computers into the offices and may have used them to download data from the company’s computers. Quantum Technology Sciences has a contract worth up to \$20 million to work with the Air Force’s Technical Applications Center, which is also known as AFTAC. Inside AFTAC, technicians monitor data from seismographs around the world. If a nuclear device were to go off underground or otherwise, they would know it. Agents left the building with several boxes filled with evidence in the investigation. Quantum Technology representatives could not be reached for comment.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29744055/>

9. *March 18, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **National Guard helicopter base opens in St. Cloud.** Officials opened a new Minnesota National Guard maintenance facility in St. Cloud for Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters on March 18. The \$37.2 million facility has more than 140,000 square feet and covers 52 acres of land. It will house six Blackhawk and six Chinook helicopters. The facility will employ 60 people, including

troops, building maintenance, and security staff. St. Cloud was chosen because it is near the Guard's Camp Ripley, making it easier to get the helicopters to the base for training exercises.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/local/41427897.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7_V_nDaycUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 19, Cleveland Daily Banner* – (Tennessee) **Police warn residents of scam phone calls.** The Bradley County Sheriff's Office is advising residents to be aware of a telephone scam where the caller is claiming to be associated with the Tennessee Valley Authority Credit Union. According to reports, multiple residents filed miscellaneous reports with the sheriff's office after receiving suspicious phone calls requesting debit card information on March 15. The suspicious caller is reportedly telling residents their TVA Credit Union debit cards have either been canceled or invalidated. The caller then provides residents instructions to use their telephone keypad to enter their debit card number and debit card information in order to reactivate their card. According to the incident reports on file at the sheriff's office, the alleged caller made the phone calls from 8:28 p.m. to 8:57 p.m. on March 15. Reports indicated the phone calls were made from a telephone number with a 704 area code and a prefix of 771.

Source:

<http://www.clevelandbanner.com/index.cfm?event=news.view&id=1FEDD1DF-19B9-E2E2-679EBB7189011DC2>

11. *March 19, Computerworld* – (National) **Post-breach criticism of PCI security standard misplaced, Visa exec says.** Visa Inc.'s top risk management executive dismissed what she described as "recent rumblings" about the possible demise of the PCI data security rules as "premature" and "dangerous" to long-term efforts to ensure that credit and debit card data is secure. Speaking at Visa's Global Security Summit in Washington, the credit card company's chief enterprise risk officer insisted that despite recent data breaches at two payment processors, the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) "remains an effective security tool when implemented properly." The officer added that breaches such as the ones at Heartland Payment Systems Inc. and RBS WorldPay Inc. were shaping public opinion and obscuring what otherwise has been "substantial progress" on the security front over the past year. "I am sure that everyone in this room has read the headlines questioning how an event of this magnitude could still happen even now," the officer said, referring to the Heartland breach. "The fact is, it never should have," and indeed would not have if Heartland had been vigilant about maintaining its PCI compliance, according to the officer. "As we have said before," she continued, "no compromised entity has yet been found to be in compliance with PCI DSS at the time of a breach." Pointing to Visa's recent decision to remove both of the breached payment processors from its list of PCI-compliant service providers, the officer said that Heartland would face fines and probationary terms that were proportionate to the still-undisclosed magnitude of the breach. "While this

situation is unfortunate, it does not make me question the tools we have at our disposal,” she said of the PCI rules.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9130073&intsrc=news_ts_head

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 20, WLOX 13 Biloxi* – (Mississippi) **Popp’s Ferry Bridge struck by barge.** The Popp’s Ferry Bridge was struck by a barge March 20 around 7:30 a.m., and a 150 foot section of the bridge is missing. There were no injuries. The bridge was in the upright position, open for a group of eight barges to pass through. Eyewitnesses said the tug boat moving the barges was moving toward the south side of the draw, instead of moving through the middle. One of the eight barges is underwater, and another was taking on water. The barge was carrying gravel or limestone when it slammed into the bridge. At a news conference on March 20, investigators said that strong northerly winds and a strong current may have contributed to the accident, forcing the barges off course. A portion of the bridge fell into the water, and several pilings on the south side of the bridge are also cracked.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=10041309>

13. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Well-traveled roads, bridges hurting.** Across Colorado, thousands of miles of state roads have been disintegrating for years. The state Transportation Department now rates 47 percent of all highway miles as poor — up from 37 percent in just two years. More than 3,100 miles are cracked beyond repair and need to be replaced, a distance comparable to a highway from Maine to California. In one year, the list of state highway bridges in poor condition has grown from 116 to 125. Some are in such perilous shape that the state inspects them every six months. Under one deteriorating bridge in Denver, the department’s inspection program manager attacked a nonessential steel truss with the claw of a hammer. In seconds he poked a hole in an Interstate 25 bridge sprouting patches of corrosion with the worst possible rating — 30 to 100 percent rusted through. The department’s inspection manager fears his own department may be hastening its demise with a chemical it uses to de-ice highways: magnesium chloride. He cites a 2008 engineering study that found that magnesium chloride “appears not to be safe for use” on concrete structures because it chemically attacks them. “Right now, we’re clearing our roads at the expense of our bridges,” he said.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_11954452

14. *March 20, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Supplier admits using lower-grade steel on Tukwila light-rail segment.** A supplier for Sound Transit’s light-rail project admitted in federal court on March 19 that he misrepresented the strength of steel used in columns that support miles of elevated tracks through Tukwila. Three engineering reports on the steel and columns declared them safe and able to withstand a major earthquake. “The system is safe to operate and will operate as intended,” the chief executive said in a

message to elected officials on Sound Transit's governing board. This issue does not affect any steel used in the rebar, the thousands of rods embedded within the concrete to give it internal strength, said a Sound Transit spokesman. The single felony count alleged he had falsified documents for the steel, used to encase part of the column foundations underground. There are 153 such columns supporting elevated tracks along a four-mile area in Tukwila. He falsified 36 reports that were ultimately submitted to the Federal Transit Administration, which provided Sound Transit \$500 million toward its construction. The specifications called for the half-inch-thick steel to withstand pressure of 50,000 pounds per square inch (psi), but supplied Oregon-made steel rated for 36,000 psi. The assistant U.S. attorney said the supplier initially did not realize the steel he approved for the columns was not up to specification. But once he realized the mistake, he forged mill certificates to say the steel could withstand greater pressures. The investigation began when a competitor, noticing the supplier was providing vast amounts of the higher-grade steel at a time when it was in short supply, reported that observation to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The department's inspector general and the FBI conducted the investigation and found the grade discrepancy. Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008891939_railfraud20m.html

15. *March 19, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire; Vermont) **Deteriorating New Hampshire-Vermont bridge closed.** New Hampshire transportation officials have closed a historic bridge connecting Walpole, New Hampshire, and Bellows Falls, Vermont. A Transportation Department spokesman says the Vilas Bridge over the Connecticut River was closed on March 20 after a routine inspection found continued deterioration of the bridge deck. Even foot traffic is banned. The bridge was built in 1930 and has been on the New Hampshire's Red List of troubled bridges for more than 20 years. He says about 4,600 vehicles a day cross the bridge. Drivers will have to detour to another bridge, less than a mile upstream. The state was planning to rehabilitate the bridge in 2015. Engineers will study whether it should be replaced, and whether the work can be done earlier. Source: http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=10038258&nav=menu183_17_3_5
16. *March 19, Lower Hudson Journal* – (New York) **Smoke condition at Mamaroneck train station leads to delays.** Passengers on an outbound train from Grand Central Station were evacuated shortly after 9 p.m. after smoke began filling one of the train cars at Mamaroneck train station, officials said. "Smoke is coming from a battery box of a train," a Metro-North Railroad spokesman said. "Police evacuated the entire team." Railroad workers shut down power and halted train traffic as firefighters investigated what is causing the smoke. A battery box provides battery backup power for lights and other critical electrical needs on the train. The incident occurred along the northbound train tracks. Although the affected train is disabled on the tracks, the passengers were all moved to another train and Metro-North traffic remains on or close to schedule. Source: <http://lohud.com/article/20090319/NEWS02/903190510/-1/SPORTS>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *March 19, KSBW 8 Salinas* – (California) **Possible pipe bomb in Castroville detonated.** A device that appeared to be a pipe bomb was discovered near the Castroville Post Office on March 19 and was detonated, sheriff's officials said. The device, which was a 6-inch pipe closed on both ends and with a fuse showing, was discovered by Monterey County Sheriff's officials while they were serving a search warrant for check forgery in the 1000 block of Merritt Street, authorities said. Deputies shut down Merritt Street, an area with several businesses, after the bomb was found. "Rather than take any chances, we evacuated the immediate area and called in the sheriff's bomb unit," said an official of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department. The road was reopened as of 12:45 p.m. on March 19.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29778776/>
18. *March 19, WCIV 4 Charleston* – (South Carolina) **Summerville UPS facility is back in business.** The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) said a yellowish powder closed the UPS distribution center in Summerville on March 19 for about six hours. UPS officials said they found the powder inside one of their trailers on the floor. That is when they evacuated the building. The powder is calcium phosphate, a food supplement. It caused a scare when two employees felt some effects. "There were two employees that reported that they were having some type of symptoms. They were treated on the scene, were decontaminated, and sent to trident regional hospital for observation and treatment," a DHEC spokesman said. DHEC officials said the employees had trouble breathing and eye irritation, which is usual for that substance. UPS informed the news that both of the employees have been checked out and are in good condition. Berkeley County's emergency preparedness said several agencies were on scene including the joint terrorism task force and the Charleston Air Force base, which helped identify the powder. UPS officials tell WCIV-TV their deliveries were delayed because of the closing, but packages should be there by tomorrow.
Source: <http://www.wciv.com/news/stories/0309/605490.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *March 19, USA Today* – (National) **Nestle did its own food-safety inspection at peanut plant.** Foodmaker Nestle decided against doing business with Peanut Corp. of America after its inspectors found grossly unsanitary conditions at two processing plants, and lawmakers on March 19 said that other companies should also have been that vigilant. Nestle's auditors examined and rejected PCA plants in Georgia and Texas, both of which were involved in the largest food recall in history. "They (Nestlé officials) said, 'Man, these are bad practices and we are not going to use them,' said a Representative from Michigan, who chaired the House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee hearing on the industry's role in the outbreak. Other food manufacturers relied on auditors paid by PCA. "Kellogg was sloppy," charged a Representative from California. It relied on the American Institute of Baking, a Kansas-

based third-party auditor that gave the Georgia plant a superior rating. Kellogg's Keebler and Austin peanut butter crackers were recalled. The Representative from California also says PCA "hired the cheapest inspector they could possibly get," paying about \$1,500 when tougher "gold standard" audits cost \$20,000.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2009-03-18-kellogg-food-safety-reform_N.htm?csp=34

20. *March 18, New England Newspapers* – (Massachusetts) **Williamstown pig farm is shut down.** The Board of Health voted unanimously on March 16 to close a Williamstown pig farm after the owner failed to comply with several requests to clean up the property. The board called the pig farm a "noisome trade" operating without a permit and said it must cease operation and remove all items related to the piggery by the end of April. The pig farm had been operating with the board's conditional permission for the past 13 to 14 months. Since January 2008, following a complaint made about a cattle carcass left lying in a field with pigs running around it, local, state, and federal officials have visited the site to observe the facility and treatment of the animals. A health inspector said on March 16 that a veterinarian with the state Department of Agricultural Resources, along with an official from the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and a veterinarian and an investigator from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited the piggery on March 11. Some of the pigs were ordered to be quarantined for 30 days after the visit. "We have been attempting to work with the operator to improve practices," the health inspector said. "We like the idea of small farms, but we want well-run small farms." The health inspector made several discoveries during inspections following a December 15, 2008 Board of Health meeting. Those discoveries included livestock roaming outside the fenced-in area, livestock tipping over and eating bins of food, dead pigs being tossed in various areas of the farm without proper burying, burning, or liming, wild animal carcasses left in bins used for pig feed, and pigs observed eating the carcasses of other animals.

Source: http://www.berkshireagle.com/ci_11938902?IADID=Search-www.berkshireagle.com-www.berkshireagle.com

21. *March 18, Santa Cruz Sentinel* – (California) **USDA gears up for new LBAM eradication effort.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture is gearing up to breed millions of sterile male light brown apple moths at a new Moss Landing facility in hopes of disrupting reproduction of the Australian pest. The latest effort to combat the moth comes as the California Department of Agriculture expands a quarantine of plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables to 18 square miles in the Sebastopol area and 64 square miles near Milpitas. More than 2,400 square miles, including Santa Cruz County, now fall under the quarantine, which prohibits the movement of nursery stock, cut flowers, and produce unless they are certified pest-free by an agricultural official. The program has its critics. The technique has never been used to eradicate a pest with as many hosts as LBAM, says a University of California, Davis entomology professor, in a press release issued on March 17 by Stop the Spray, a Northern California group calling for the end of eradication efforts. "They are talking about rearing enough sterile moths to release over a 500-square-mile area," the professor says. "That is 500 million moths per week, and it is impossible."

Source: http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_11937936

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Water Sector

22. *March 20, Northwest Arkansas Times* – (Arkansas) **Wastewater plant can't meet EPA's proposed limit.** Fayetteville officials reacted March 19 to news of a proposed reduction to phosphorus discharge that the city's new \$61 million West Side Wastewater Treatment Facility can not meet. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, informed Northwest Arkansas cities in February it will reduce the limit on phosphorus discharge to less than 0.1 milligrams of phosphorus per liter for plants discharging into the Illinois River basin. That limit is down from 1.0 milligrams — and would be effective June 2012. Modifying Fayetteville's plant to meet the standard could easily cost \$10 million, the city's water and sewer committee heard from the city's water and wastewater director. "We just built a state of the art facility, and they never said a word," he said. "If we'd seen this coming, we'd have had to spend more but it easily could have been done. To retrofit will cost much more." The technology does exist, he said, but local limits are already in the top 10 strictest nationwide. Fayetteville's plant, which began operating mid-2008, has been discharging .43 to .5 milligrams without using chemicals. "If we add chemicals we could lower, but not to 0.1, and not consistently enough to meet the permit," he said. "It will require modifications — a storage pond and a much more aggressive treatment process. It is an unreasonable economic burden on residents, based on the benefit to the environment."

Source: <http://nwanews.com/nwat/News/74969/>

23. *March 19, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Oil, water are volatile mix in West.** Oil companies have gained control over billions of gallons of water from Western rivers in preparation for future efforts to extract oil from shale deposits under the Rocky Mountains, according to a new report by an environmental group that opposes such projects. The group, Western Resource Advocates, used public records to conclude that energy companies are collectively entitled to divert more than 6.5 billion gallons of water a day during peak river flows. The companies also hold rights to store, in dozens of reservoirs, 1.7 million acre feet of water, enough to supply metro Denver for six years. Industry representatives said they have substantial holdings of water rights for future use in producing oil from shale, though they could not confirm the precise numbers in the report. Before any move into full-scale oil shale production, the energy industry plans a close study of water issues, including the impact its operations would have on ranchers, farmers, and communities that all rely on the same limited sources of water, said a senior policy adviser for the American Petroleum Institute. "It's among the most important questions to be examined," he said. Bitter fights over water are a recurring feature of life in the arid West, from Colorado to California, and energy companies are just the latest in a long list of users vying for the resource. Extracting oil from shale is still an experimental process, facing major technological, environmental, and regulatory hurdles, and is considerably more expensive than conventional drilling. But if the price of oil rebounds, the potential payoff is big: The Federal Government estimates 800 billion barrels of oil, triple the known reserves of Saudi Arabia, lie under

the Rocky Mountain West.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123741925013178161.html>

24. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Monteagle plant had history of problems. coal slurry.** State records show the Monteagle treatment plant, which spewed about 700,000 gallons of sewage into a creek, has a record of failures. The Chattanooga Times Free Press reports that in 2002 the plant received “unsatisfactory” ratings from state inspectors who found the city’s aboveground steel sewage facilities deteriorating. The problems, including sewage pollution found in nearby creeks, lack of maintenance or testing documentation, and “failure to use adequate quality control measures,” are detailed in a 2005 order issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The sewage leaked into Juanita Creek recently when treatment equipment collapsed. The creek goes underground and connects to other creeks that eventually flow to the Elk River. A TDEC spokeswoman says there is no indication yet that any drinking water has been impaired by the sewage spill.
Source: http://www.wztv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tn/2ab43f0f-www.fox17.com.shtml
25. *March 19, CleanTechnica* – (International) **Robotic fish created to tackle water pollution.** A team of U.K. scientists have developed a shoal of robotic fish, which will soon be released into the sea to detect water pollution. The robots, shaped like carp, will be set free off the coast of Gijon in northern Spain. If the trial proves successful, the fish could be used in rivers, lakes, and seas across the world. The creatures, which mimic the undulating movement of real fish, feature tiny chemical sensors to locate the source of potentially hazardous pollutants in the water, such as leaks from vessels in the port or underwater pipelines. Using Wi-Fi, they can communicate data to the port’s control center via a “charging hub” (where the fish can also charge their batteries), enabling real-time mapping of the source and scale of the pollution. The fish are also equipped with autonomous navigation capabilities, meaning they can swim independently around the port without any human interaction. They can also return automatically to their hub to be recharged when battery life is low.
Source: <http://cleantechnica.com/2009/03/19/robotic-fish-created-to-tackle-water-pollution/>
26. *March 19, Ashtabula Star-Beacon* – (Ohio) **Rock Creek sewer plant ‘disastrous.’** The Rock Creek sewer plant was called a disaster at the village council’s regular meeting the week of March 15. A councilman, who is head of the water and sewer committee, said, “The sewer plant is totally disastrous. On Saturday, we got the north bed all pumped out, but the south bed overflowed back into the north bed. We pumped six truckloads off [March 16] and we have to keep the north bed dry at least until tomorrow, when we can skim off the sludge.” He said he did not know if they could even save the south bed. The mayor said the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was in Rock Creek on March 10. “We are going to be getting a letter from the Ohio EPA to tell us what all our violations are and what we will need to do,” he said. There was good news: The EPA representative said Rock Creek’s sewer plant could go from a Class II operator to a Class I operator. “This will enable us to find someone easier and possibly cheaper, to be

our plant operator,” the mayor said. Rock Creek’s present plant operator, B&J Environmental, gave the council a letter of resignation, or a 30-day notice. A village solicitor asked the council, “Why didn’t the engineering firm you hired to operate the plant communicate to anyone there was a problem this big?” A councilman said, “This is a problem for us: We hire people, and then we do not check up on them.” In the meantime, the mayor said the council will have about 45 days to get its sewer plant into compliance with the EPA and get their new certification.

Source: http://www.starbeacon.com/local/local_story_078230956.html

27. *March 18, KCRA 3 Sacramento* – (California) **Several water districts face \$225K in fines.** The Central Valley Water Board has issued more than \$225,000 worth of fines to local districts for violations at their wastewater treatment plants. The board will consider the complaints at a public meeting on June 11 or 12. The violations and proposed fines include the following. The city of Tracy faces \$78,000 in fines for violations that occurred at its wastewater treatment plant last year. The Mountain House Community Services District in Stockton faces \$30,000 in fines for violations from last year. Treated wastewater from Tracy and the Mountain House District is released to Old River, which is part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Linda County Water District in Yuba County is facing \$18,000 in fines for violations that took place between May and December. Treated wastewater is released to both the Feather River and to nearby ponds. The Placer County Sewer Maintenance District No. 3, which serves Granite Bay, faces \$57,000 in violations from last year. The treated wastewater is released to Miner’s Ravine. The California Department of Corrections, which runs a wastewater plant at the Deuel Vocational Institute near Tracy, faces \$12,000 in fines for violations that occurred between June and December. The wastewater is released to Deuel Drain, a tributary that runs to Paradise Cut and Old River, which is a part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Tsar Nicoulai Caviar fish farm in South Sacramento faces \$3,000 in fines for violations tied to iron levels. The treated wastewater is released to a tributary of the Cosumnes River.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29759842/>

28. *March 18, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **Oil, independent lab tests: metals in W.Va. coal slurry.** West Virginians eager to know what is in the slurry that coal companies pump into worked-out underground mines will have to wait until May for the state’s answers, but preliminary independent tests suggest it contains heavy metals they would not want to drink. Lab results, shared with the Associated Press by citizen activists with the Sludge Safety Project who plan to make their findings public March 19, detected arsenic, lead, and several other metals at levels exceeding federal drinking water standards. Slurry, a byproduct of washing coal, is what is left after operators remove clay, dirt, sulfur, and other impurities to meet demand for coal that burns efficiently. For decades, slurry has been injected into abandoned mines in Appalachia as a cheap alternative to massive dams or filtration and drying systems. But hundreds of coalfield residents are now suing coal companies, claiming that waste has leaked into aquifers, contaminated well water and caused health problems from kidney disease to cancer.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29756549/>

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *March 19, Bloomberg* – (Louisiana; Texas) **Army hospital may have spread disease with shared insulin pens.** More than 2,000 people may have been put at risk of AIDS and hepatitis by sharing insulin pens and cartridges in two Army hospitals, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said. The FDA posted a warning on March 19 against sharing the disposable insulin shots after the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas last month said 2,114 diabetic patients may be at risk “as a result of incorrect procedures.” The sharing occurred from 2007-2009, the FDA said in a statement. “They were changing pens and weren’t following the manufacturer’s procedures,” said a spokesman for the hospital on March 19. “There is an ongoing investigation to determine how it happened. It wasn’t cost-cutting.” The Army identified a second hospital that may have been sharing the shots as Fort Polk’s Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital in Louisiana. “Less than 10” patients may have been exposed there, the spokesman said. Two types of insulin pens were used, he said, declining to identify the brands. Efforts are under way to identify and test patients, the Army said.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a6DNN.jIB45Q&refer=us>
30. *March 19, HealthDay News* – (National) **TB still declining in U.S., but at slower rate.** Tuberculosis cases reached an all-time low rate in the United States last year, according to a new federal government report. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 12,898 new cases of TB in 2008, which equals 4.2 cases per 100,000 people. However, the CDC report also noted that progress in eliminating tuberculosis has slowed in recent years, with a 3.8 percent average annual rate of decline between 2000 and 2008, compared with a 7.3 percent rate of decline from 1993 to 2000. In 2008, TB rates ranged from 0.5 per 100,000 in North Dakota to 9.6 per 100,000 in Hawaii, the study said. Although 33 states and the District of Columbia reported lower rates in 2008 than in 2007, 17 states had higher rates. Four states — California, Florida, New York, and Texas — reported more than 500 TB cases each in 2008. Combined, these four states accounted for 49.2 percent of all TB cases in the country last year. In 2007, five states had at least 500 cases, and seven states recorded that many in 2006.
Source: <http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/03/19/tb-still-declining-in-us-but-at-slower-rate.html>
31. *March 18, KSWO 7 Lawton* – (Oklahoma) **Lawton dialysis facility shut down.** Lawton health officials threatened to shut down a Lawton, Oklahoma dialysis facility. Both Federal Medicare and State Health Department officials say patients’ lives are at risk if they continue to go to American Dialysis. Investigators cited a number of problems at the facility. The facility was dirty, there were no registered nurses or medical directors, and certain water quality tests that are supposed to be done nearly everyday have not been done since March 2008, investigators said. American Dialysis voluntarily closed their doors on March 17 when the threat came from the federal officials. Medicare officials tell 7NEWS the doors will not open back up either. Officials said much of the

medical equipment is out of compliance and many chemicals are expired. 7NEWS also learned the same doctor owns a dialysis facility in Anadarko. Investigators found many of the same problems there, and it was voluntarily closed on March 18.

Source: <http://www.ksw.com/Global/story.asp?S=10032897>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *March 20, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. Navy: 2 vessels collide in the Straits of Hormuz.** Two U.S. Navy vessels, a nuclear-powered submarine and an amphibious ship, collided during the early morning hours on March 20 in the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet reported. There was no damage to the submarine's nuclear propulsion system, said a 5th Fleet spokesman. According to the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, 15 sailors aboard the Hartford were slightly injured but able to return to duty. No injuries were reported aboard the New Orleans. Both ships were heading to port and were going in the same direction when the incident occurred in the narrow strait, said 5th Fleet spokesman. He said the incident occurred at night and the submarine was submerged at the time but that he could give no further details as the collision is still under investigation. Both vessels are now heading to port for repairs and evaluation, but naval spokesman said that following standard security procedures he could not say where the vessels were headed. The New Orleans suffered a ruptured fuel tank, resulting in an oil spill of approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Both ships are currently operating under their own power. Oil prices rose after news of the collision which happened in a busy shipping route.

Source:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_US_NAVY_SHIPS_COLLIDE?SITE=KVUE&TEMPLATE=TOPSTORYHEADS.html&SECTION=HOME

33. *March 18, KSWT 13 Yuma* – (Arizona) **Police: Suspicious substance found at school is a hoax.** A suspicious object caused a scare at a Yuma school. It happened on the morning of March 18 just after 11:00 a.m. at Gila Vista Junior High. The principal said a staff member found, what appeared to be, a pill bottle full of crushed chalk. The bottle was labeled "freeze-dried bacteria E. coli." The principal called 911 and several agencies arrived to assist, including a hazmat unit. "The Yuma Police Department received a call from Gila Vista Junior High in reference to a suspicious bottle and powder substance found in the 8th grade boys' bathroom," said a Yuma Police spokesman. School remained in-session while investigators determined whether the powder was a prank. "What the school ended up doing was evacuating about 18 classrooms that were near the actual bathroom." It was not long before officers tracked down two students. Police believe the 14-year-old boys were involved in the gag. "We are interviewing some students in reference to the event which we believe is a hoax, and those students would obviously face some criminal charges and or school discipline," said the police spokesman. The substance will be sent to a lab for testing as a precaution.

Source: http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10032372&nav=menu613_2_9

34. *March 18, KVUE 3 Austin* – (Texas) **Foam causes scare on UT campus.** Firefighters

were called to the University of Texas campus on the night of March 17 after someone noticed foam pouring out from underneath one of the doors in the chemistry building on East 24th Street. Officials believe the foam was caused by a chemical fire prevention system that malfunctioned. The building is used for storing lab waste from chemistry experiments. No one was hurt, and no major damage was reported.

Source: http://www.kvue.com/news/local/stories/031809kvue_UT_foam-cb.492fa98b.html

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *March 19, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **Bioterror drill in Oakland.** The East Side Club at the Coliseum was transformed Thursday into a treatment center for victims of a mock anthrax attack, with nearly 1,000 volunteers and representatives of public health and emergency response agencies from 10 counties taking part in the exercise. The Bay Area Mass Prophylaxis Exercise tested participants' ability to respond to a scenario involving the intentional release of an aerosolized biological agent — in Thursday's scenario, it was anthrax — that would require a mass distribution of drugs to treat potentially thousands who might be exposed and could face death if not treated in a timely manner. The division director of the Alameda County Public Health Department said one of the main goals was to make sure victims got the pills needed to combat the anthrax exposure as quickly and efficiently as possible and to screen them to make sure they did not get medication they might be allergic to. Thursday's exercise was made up of two main components, officials said. One was testing the capacity to disseminate medications to hundreds of victims — in this case, 700 civilian volunteers. The second was to test the agencies' ability to set up a warehouse of medications and to track, manage, and dispense them according to needs of health jurisdictions.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11952279

36. *March 19, Chambersburg Public Opinion* – (Pennsylvania) **Federal funds add \$500,000 for Franklin County's emergency radios.** A massive federal appropriation includes \$500,000 for emergency communications in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. The Emergency Services Alliance has been seeking \$3.5 million in grants to pay for radios that police, fire, and ambulance agencies must buy to use a new countywide communications system. The alliance represents first responders across the county. The 71 entities need more than 2,000 radios to work with the system under construction, according to a Metal Township supervisor and alliance member. The county is upgrading its emergency dispatch system to reach all parts of the county. The updated system will also allow personnel from different agencies to communicate directly with each other during emergencies — something they cannot do today.

Source: http://www.publicopiniononline.com/ci_11946609

37. *March 19, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **9 Philly firefighters hurt when 2 trucks collide.** Two fire trucks responding to a call collided at a downtown Philadelphia intersection Thursday, injuring nine firefighters, one seriously. The fire commissioner said none of the injuries appeared life-threatening after the crash, which involved a

ladder truck and a fire engine in a residential neighborhood. The most seriously injured firefighter was knocked unconscious and had to be cut from the wreckage. The ladder truck and the fire engine had been speeding along perpendicular streets before they slammed into each other. The ladder truck then spun off and smashed into a utility pole, caving in one of its sides, while the fire engine clattered into the back of a parked car. No other injuries were reported, but a woman inside a flower shop nearly struck by the ladder truck was taken to a hospital for observation because she was shaken up. The cause of the crash was under investigation. Four other fire trucks made it to the two-story home where the fire was reported and extinguished the flames.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iaFZ3CC2oQ3OfChgDMnBoagPdRRQD971DARG0>

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Information Technology

38. *March 20, IDG News Service* – (International) **A search is launched for Conficker’s first victim.** Where did the Conficker worm come from? Researchers at the University of Michigan are trying to find out, using a vast network of Internet sensors to track down the so-called “patient zero” of an outbreak that has infected more than 10 million computers to date. The university uses so-called Darknet sensors that were set up about six years ago to keep track of malicious activity. With funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, computer scientists have banded together to share data collected from sensors around the world. “The goal is to get close enough so you can actually start mapping out how the spread started,” said a University of Michigan graduate student who is working on the project. But that is not an easy job. To find the minuscule clues that will identify the victim, researchers must sift through more than 50 terabytes of data to find the telltale signatures of a Conficker scan. One of the ways that Conficker moves about is by scanning the network for other vulnerable computers, but it can be very difficult to spot it for certain, the graduate student said. “The hard thing is to find the exact Conficker scanning activity, because there is a lot of other scanning going on,” he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9130118&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

39. *March 19, IDG News Service* – (International) **Expert: Hackers penetrating industrial control systems.** The networks powering industrial control systems have been breached more than 125 times in the past decade, with one resulting in U.S. deaths, a control systems expert said on March 19. The managing partner of control systems security consultancy Applied Control Solutions, did not detail the breach that caused deaths during his testimony before a U.S. Senate committee, but he said he has been able to find evidence of more than 125 control systems breaches involving systems in nuclear power plants, hydroelectric plants, water utilities, the oil industry, and agribusiness. “The impacts have ranged from trivial to significant environmental damage to significant equipment damage to deaths,” he told the Senate Commerce, Science and

Transportation Committee. “We have already had a cyber incident in the United States that has killed people.” At other times, the managing partner has talked about a June 1999 gasoline pipeline rupture near Bellingham, Washington. That rupture spilled more than 200,000 gallons of gasoline into two creeks, which ignited and killed three people. Investigators found several problems that contributed to the rupture, but the managing partner has identified a computer failure in the pipeline’s central control room as part of the problem. It could take the United States a long time to dig out from coordinated attacks on infrastructure using control systems, the managing partner told the Senators. Damaged equipment could take several weeks to replace, he said. A coordinated attack “could be devastating to the U.S. economy and security,” he said. “We are talking months to recover. We are not talking days.” The industrial control system industry is years behind the IT industry in protecting cybersecurity, and some of the techniques used in IT security would damage control systems, the managing partner added. “If you penetration-test a legacy industrial control system, you will shut it down or kill it,” he said. “You will be your own hacker.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9130080&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 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

40. *March 20, KRIS 6 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **Underground communications lines damaged around site of roadwork.** The City of Corpus Christi Traffic Engineering Services Department advises residents and businesses around Greenwood Drive that the contractor working on road improvements along a stretch of Greenwood has damaged two AT&T underground communications lines. Officials say the lines were struck around 3 p.m. March 19 as crews were working on Greenwood between Trojan Drive and West Point Road. Officials also say it is not yet known to what extent the lines were damaged, but that telephone service to some residences and businesses in the area may have been interrupted. AT&T crews are on their way to the site and will begin making repairs as soon as they arrive.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29780544/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *March 20, Alamogordo Daily News* – (New Mexico) **USFS warns of dry conditions in forest.** Warm temperatures, lack of snow, dry winds and abundant dry grass are causing fire danger to increase rapidly on the Lincoln National Forest. Little to no moisture has occurred on the Lincoln National Forest this winter season, and, with spring just around the corner, the chances for precipitation gradually decrease. Patrols by forest personnel will continue as the season progresses. Patrolling will be done seven days a week, with extended hours, to ensure people practice safe fire etiquette. People are encouraged to carry a bucket of water and hand tools in case a fire spreads. People should also be aware of wildfire danger levels.

Source: http://www.alamogordonews.com/ci_11954838

42. *March 19, Martinsburg Journal* – (West Virginia) **Harpers Ferry arsenal being reconstructed.** A former arsenal is being partially reconstructed at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The building is along Shenandoah Street in the park's old town area and it was built in 1806, said a spokeswoman for the National Park Service. The structure served as one of two major arsenals in the area, and it housed thousands of weapons. In the years that followed, only the ruins of the buildings remained. A new version of the two-story arsenal's foundation is now being built on the site. Such reconstructions are not a normal undertaking for the National Park Service, officials said. Typically, the agency focuses on rehabilitating buildings that are already in place. However, in this instance the Park Service determined that it in order to keep the original foundation safe, it would be better to build a new foundation on top of the old one. Construction got under way in November and it is now nearly finished, said the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center.

Source: <http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/517178.html>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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