



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 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/>

- The Associated Press reports that the driver of a tractor-trailer carrying 33,000 pounds of corrosive hydrofluoric acid says he swerved to avoid a deer and his rig overturned, prompting a nine-hour evacuation of about 5,000 people in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania on Saturday. (See item [3](#))
- According to United Press International, a single-engine plane that crashed Sunday near the Butte, Montana airport, killing 14 people, carried too many people and was missing key recorders, federal investigators said Monday. (See item [11](#))

**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 21, CNN* – (National) ‘**Smart Grid**’ may be vulnerable to hackers. Is it really so smart to forge ahead with the high technology, digitally based electricity distribution and transmission system known as the “Smart Grid”? Tests have shown that a hacker can break into the system, and cybersecurity experts said a massive blackout could result. If someone hacked into the Smart Grid, experts say it could cause a blackout that stretches across the country. Until the United States eliminates the Smart Grid’s vulnerabilities, some experts said, deployment should proceed slowly. “I think we are putting the cart before the horse here to get this stuff rolled out very fast,” said a co-founder of InGuardians, a network security research and consulting firm. The Smart

Grid will use automated meters, two-way communications and advanced sensors to improve electricity efficiency and reliability. The nation's utilities have embraced the concept and are installing millions of automated meters on homes across the country, the first phase in Smart Grid's deployment. Cybersecurity experts said some types of meters can be hacked, as can other points in the Smart Grid's communications systems. IOActive, a professional security services firm, determined that an attacker with \$500 of equipment and materials and a background in electronics and software engineering could "take command and control of the [advanced meter infrastructure] allowing for the en masse manipulation of service to homes and businesses."

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/03/20/smartgrid.vulnerability/index.html>

2. *March 20, Associated Press* – (New York) **Workers injured in gas well explosion.**

Two workers were treated for burns after a natural gas well explosion in Madison County. A spokesman for Nornew, owner of the drilling rig in the town of Lebanon, says the well was reported ablaze around 5 a.m. on March 18. A spokesman says the workers had finished drilling and were pulling out a pipe when something ignited the gas. He says one sustained first-degree burns and the other second- and third-degree burns. Both were treated at a local hospital and released. Neither was identified.

Firefighters say it was not necessary to evacuate any residents. Company officials have not yet estimated the damage to the drilling rig, but one official says it would probably still be operational.

Source: <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=10040481>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Deer blamed for Pa. crash that prompted evacuation.**

The driver of a tractor-trailer carrying a hazardous chemical says he swerved to avoid a deer and his rig overturned, prompting a nine-hour evacuation of about 5,000 people in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania. State police in Northampton County say two people were in the Honeywell truck carrying 33,000 pounds of corrosive hydrofluoric acid, a component for household detergents, from Ontario to Philadelphia. The driver was treated at a hospital after the 2:30 a.m. Saturday crash and released. His sleeping co-driver was uninjured. Police say none of the material in the self-contained tank spilled, but a small amount dripped from a vent valve and dispersed in the air. As a precaution, officials ordered an evacuation of 944 households, amounting to about 5,000 people. The truck was eventually loaded onto a flatbed and hauled to Philadelphia to allow offloading of the cargo.

Source: [http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci\\_11971993](http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_11971993)

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

4. *March 23, Reuters* – (California) **PG&E Calif. Diablo Canyon 1 reactor in hot standby.** PG&E Corp's 1,122-megawatt Unit 1 at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power

station in California was in hot standby on March 22, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The report was about a steam generator found in an “unanalyzed condition” related to gaps on seismic washer plates. Workers fixed the problem with a shim.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2321450020090323>

5. *March 22, Kankakee Daily Journal* – (Illinois) **Nuclear safety exercise Wednesday.** An exercise to test emergency response plans for the region surrounding Dresden Nuclear Power Station will be conducted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 25 by personnel from the state, the counties of Will, Grundy, and Kendall, and the plant’s owner Exelon. State and local organizations will conduct a reception center demonstration at 9 a.m. on March 26 at Kankakee Community College to demonstrate their ability to register, monitor, decontaminate, and provide mass care for “mock evacuees.” The Federal Emergency Management Agency will evaluate the exercise and reception center demonstration at 2 p.m. on March 27 at the Grundy County Emergency Operations Center. The evaluation is open to the public.

Source: <http://daily-journal.com/archives/dj/display.php?id=437393>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *March 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Concerns raised about new Army cannon.** A new Army cannon that is partly being assembled in southwest Oklahoma is being rushed into the field prematurely, congressional auditors said. The Government Accountability Office said the cannons are being produced years before key elements are ready. The cannons are part of the Army’s Future Combat System and part of the assembly work is being done in Elgin just outside Fort Sill. The GAO said production on the cannon is beginning five years before decisions are made about key components of the Future Combat System. If the other manned ground vehicles that will be part of the Future Combat System do not match up with the early cannons, “costly rework of the cannons may be necessary if they will ever be used for other than training purposes,” the GAO said in a report. There are eight prototypes of the self-propelled cannon being evaluated at the Army Evaluation Task Force at Fort Bliss, Texas. An Army spokesman for the Future Combat System said the prototypes and the first cannons to be fielded will provide valuable information and testing results for the rest of the program.

Source: [http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/03/ap\\_cannon\\_032309/](http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/03/ap_cannon_032309/)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *March 23, CNNMoney.com* – (National) **Treasury unveils long-awaited ‘bad-asset’ plan.** The Treasury Department unveiled its long-awaited plan to remove many of the troubled assets from banks’ books on March 23, representing one of the biggest efforts

by the U.S. government yet to tackle the ongoing financial crisis. Under the new so-called “Public-Private Investment Program,” taxpayer funds will be used to seed partnerships with private investors that will buy up so-called toxic assets backed by mortgages and other loans. The goal is to buy up at least \$500 billion of bad assets, such as subprime mortgages that are now in danger of default. Doing so would help cleanse the balance sheets of many of the nation’s largest banks, which continue to suffer billions of dollars in losses. The government will then run auctions between the banks selling the assets and the investors buying them, hoping to effectively create a market for these assets.

Source: [http://money.cnn.com/2009/03/23/news/companies/treasury\\_plan/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2009/03/23/news/companies/treasury_plan/index.htm)

8. *March 21, Bloomberg* – (Colorado; Georgia; Kansas) **Kansas, Colorado, Georgia banks shut as losses mount.** Banks in Kansas, Colorado, and Georgia were seized, pushing this year’s tally of failed U.S. lenders to 20, as foreclosures surged amid a recession and the highest unemployment in a quarter century. The banks with \$1.1 billion in total assets and \$853 million in deposits were shut by regulators, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was named receiver, according to e-mailed statements on March 21 from the FDIC. Deposits of TeamBank in Paola, Kansas will be passed to Great Southern Bank in Springfield, Missouri, and Herring Bank in Amarillo, Texas is assuming deposits of Colorado National Bank in Colorado Springs. Both failed banks were owned by Team Financial Inc. in Paola. Regulators were unable to find a buyer for FirstCity Bank of Stockbridge, Georgia, and the FDIC will send payments to insured depositors beginning March 23. “The FDIC will fulfill its obligation to insured depositors by mailing checks for their insured amounts,” the regulator said, referring to FirstCity. The agency also was unable to find a bidder for Salt Lake City-based MagnetBank, which was seized January 30.

Source:

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

9. *March 20, CNNMoney.com* – (California; Kansas) **U.S. seizes 2 big credit unions.** The Federal Government, in its latest effort to prop up the financial system, took over two big wholesale credit unions on March 20 with combined assets of \$57 billion. U.S. Central Federal Credit Union in Lenexa, Kansas and Western Corporate Federal Credit Union in San Dimas, California were placed under conservatorship “to stabilize the corporate credit union system and resolve balance sheet issues,” according to the National Credit Union Administration. The administration is a federal agency that regulates, charters, and supervises federal credit unions. Neither of the failed institutions serve consumers directly. As corporate credit unions, they service the credit union system. Credit unions count 90 million members nationwide. Members of the two credit unions will not experience any disruption in service and are free to make deposits and access funds, according to the regulator. U.S. Central Federal Credit Union has about \$34 billion in assets, with 26 retail corporate credit union members. WesCorp has \$23 billion in assets and approximately 1,100 retail credit union members.

Source: [http://money.cnn.com/2009/03/20/news/companies/credit\\_unions/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2009/03/20/news/companies/credit_unions/index.htm)

10. *March 20, Associated Press* – (National) **AIG unit sues Countrywide over loan losses.**

A unit of embattled insurer American International Group Inc. filed suit against mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp. in California federal court on March 19, alleging Countrywide misrepresented the health of loans that the company insured, resulting in massive losses. United Guaranty Mortgage Indemnity Co. filed suit in U.S. District Court, accusing Countrywide of breach of contract, fraud, negligence, and unfair competition and business practices. United Guaranty alleges Countrywide “abandoned its own underwriting guidelines to boost its market share and then misrepresented the quality of its loans so that United Guaranty would provide insurance coverage for them.” The AIG unit is seeking unspecified punitive damages, and wants the insurance policies on the loans and its payments on the policies to be canceled.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ie1Sbzs6tj4MH2KrHxYATpSSKU4AD971HUP00>

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## **Transportation Sector**

11. *March 23, United Press International* – (Montana) **NTSB: Plane overloaded, lacked**

**recorders.** A plane that crashed near the Butte, Montana airport carried too many people and was missing key recorders, federal investigators said Monday. The Pilatus PC-12, a single-engine turbo prop, was flying from Redlands, California on Sunday to Bozeman, Montana when it crashed just short of the Butte airport, killing 14 people, seven of them children. The flight was diverted to the Butte airport for an unknown reason, ABC News reported. The acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said during a briefing Monday a quick answer was unlikely about why the crash occurred. NTSB personnel said they did not know the reason for the flight, although initial media reports indicated it was a ski trip. The pilot did not make a radio call, and Butte’s airport does not have radar control, which when combined with the lack of a black box and survivors, could make the investigation difficult, officials said. The Pilatus PC-12 was certified to carry 12 people, but federal investigators say there were 14 people on the flight, which had seating for 11. The chairman said the NTSB will have to determine why extra people were on the plane.

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/2009/03/23/NTSB\\_Plane\\_overloaded\\_lacked\\_recorders/UPI-58341237805953/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/03/23/NTSB_Plane_overloaded_lacked_recorders/UPI-58341237805953/)

12. *March 23, KTUU 2 Anchorage* – (Alaska) **Airlines cancel, reroute flights in wake of**

**eruption.** So far airline passengers are experiencing the biggest troubles due to Mount Redoubt’s eruption. Although Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport remains open, Alaska Airlines had to re-route five flights inbound for Anchorage, two coming from Seattle, two from Hawaii, and one from Nome. Later, Alaska canceled 19 flights “destined to Anchorage and flights out of Anchorage to Bethel, Deadhorse, Kodiak, Nome, Kotzebue, and Barrow.” Airport officials say U.S. Airways also had to reroute one plane coming into Anchorage back to Phoenix. A Continental flight scheduled to leave just after midnight on March 23 was delayed. Those travelers are still on the

ground in Anchorage after almost taking off. Airline officials say they just are not going to take any chances. “We were actually on the plane and they made us get off,” a stranded traveler said. “The pilot said, ‘I have to cancel this, I am not comfortable flying.’” Airline officials say they will reassess the situation at 8 a.m. to see whether or not any additional changes to flight schedules need to be made.

Source: <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=10053327>

13. *March 23, USA Today* – (National) **In-flight entertainment systems raise safety issues.** In-flight entertainment systems, which are becoming more sophisticated and more common at every airline seat, are raising concerns. Airline maintenance workers filed nearly 400 reports of difficulty with the systems to the Federal Aviation Administration during the past 10 years, according to a USA Today analysis of FAA data. In the most serious cases, smoke from the systems forced pilots to shut them down and make emergency landings. The reports have alarmed safety advocates, many of whom are mindful of the Canadian government’s claim that not enough safety improvements have been made since investigators cited an electrical wiring problem as the likely cause of a Swissair jet crash 11 years ago. That crash off the coast of Nova Scotia led the FAA and other countries’ aviation authorities to ban the type of in-flight entertainment systems that were installed in first and business class on some big Swissair jets. “We could be setting ourselves up for a déjà vu disaster,” says a former inspector general for the U.S. Department of Transportation. The FAA and other airlines say travelers have little to worry about. In-flight entertainment systems are safe, they say, and not all reported incidents stemmed from the systems or posed a safety hazard. However, aviation safety advocates question whether airlines are raising the risk of serious trouble in the air by installing more electronic equipment — such as seatback TV screens and personal video systems at each arm rest — for the pleasure of passengers. “Any time more wiring is added to an aircraft, there is more chance for something to go wrong,” says the former inspector.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2009-03-22-electronics-fires-airlines\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2009-03-22-electronics-fires-airlines_N.htm)

14. *March 22, Aviation Herald* – (International) **Emirates B772 near London on March 22, 2009 bomb threat on board.** The crew of an Emirates Airlines Boeing 777-200, registration A6-EMK performing flight EK-11 from Dubai, United Arab Emirates to London Gatwick, United Kingdom, with 184 people on board, declared emergency while approaching London Gatwick, reporting that a note indicating a suspicious device, possibly a bomb, had been found on board. The airplane landed safely about 25 minutes later and taxied to a remote secure stand, where the passengers disembarked normally. U.K. police questioned all passengers and reported later that the note was a hoax. A suspect has been arrested.

Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=416dd9ae&opt=4865>

15. *March 20, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Suspicious package at Miami International Airport inspected.** Police were investigating a suspicious package found inside a Miami International Airport (MIA) cargo building on March 20, officials said. The Miami-Dade Police Department’s bomb squad was sent to the airport, county officials

said. An MIA spokesman said police with bomb-sniffing dogs were at the scene. The incident is not causing any traffic delays and police have yet to make any public announcements about the content of this package.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami-dade/breaking-news/story/959619.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

16. *March 23, Reuters* – (International) **FedEx plane crashes in Tokyo, two dead.** A FedEx Corp cargo plane caught in a gust of wind crashed and burst into flames as it landed at Japan’s Narita airport on March 23, killing the two crew members and closing the main runway at the busy gateway to Tokyo. Airlines canceled more than 30 flights and diverted some to other airports as the longer of two runways was closed. “We have information that strong winds caused the plane to divert from the runway,” a Narita Airport spokeswoman said. The FedEx plane landed hard tipped onto its left wing and burst into flames, video of the crash on public broadcaster NHK showed. A bright orange fireball and black billowing smoke engulfed the plane as it flipped and skidded off the runway. Firefighters sprayed foam onto the broken remains of the plane with its wheels in the air. The MD-11 plane had been on a cargo flight from Guangzhou, China, FedEx said in a statement. The plane’s two American crew had died, a transport ministry official told reporters, in what was the first fatal crash at Narita airport since it opened in 1978. It was unclear how long the main runway would be closed at Narita, the main international airport for the Japanese capital. Japan’s meteorological agency had issued an advisory of gales for the area around the airport, and a local observatory said it had notified airlines of possible wind shear — a condition in which wind speed and direction suddenly change.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE52L1P920090323>

17. *March 21, WFSB 3 Hartford* – (Connecticut) **White powder found in envelope sent to DeLauro.** Members of the FBI and the New Haven police and fire departments were called to the New Haven office of a Representative after an envelope containing white powder was found at the site on March 20. Officials said a member of the Representative’s staff was going through the mail when an envelope containing a white substance was discovered. The staff member contacted authorities. “Given the reality of September 11 and the anthrax attacks, it was critical to ensure the safety and security of my staff and that all necessary precautions were taken,” the Representative said in a written statement. The FBI seized the envelope, and its contents will be tested. Officials said on the evening of March 20 that the test results should be available within 48 hours.

Source: <http://www.wfsb.com/politics/18980592/detail.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

18. *March 23, USAgNet* – (International) **Russia suspends 3 U.S. poultry plants over**

**drug residues.** Russia has suspended imports from three U.S. poultry processing plants due to drug residue findings, possibly from antibiotics or anti-parasitics, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokeswoman said on March 20. Effective March 27, the following facilities are ineligible to export to Russia: Tyson Foods' plant in Cumming, Georgia.; Peco Foods' plant in Canton, Mississippi.; and Sanderson Farms' plant in Hammond, Louisiana. USDA has requested and is awaiting additional information from Russian authorities, reports Meatingplace.com. Certificates can be signed for poultry originating from the three plants through March 26 but must be loaded on ships by that date, USDA said.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=640&yr=2009>

19. *March 21, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (Mississippi) **FDA warns consumers, food service operators, and retailers to avoid oysters recently harvested from Mississippi Area 2C.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising retailers and food service operators not to offer for sale oysters harvested between February 24 and March 17, 2009 from Mississippi Area 2C, located in the Mississippi Sound portion of the Gulf of Mexico near Pass Christian, Mississippi. Further, consumers are advised not to eat such oysters. Consumers who are uncertain about the origin of oysters they currently have should contact the place of purchase to determine if the oysters are from the affected area as the agency investigates an outbreak of norovirus illnesses associated with the oysters. Norovirus is a foodborne pathogen that can cause acute gastroenteritis in humans. Eleven individuals reported becoming sick after eating raw oysters at a restaurant in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Test results by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department and Tennessee Department of Health confirmed that the patients were infected with norovirus. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources closed Area 2C to harvesting on March 17, 2009 to protect the public health. The FDA is working with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to investigate potential sources of pollution that may have caused the area to become contaminated. The FDA is testing oysters harvested from the area and will continue to provide updates as this investigation unfolds.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW01978.html>

20. *March 20, USAgNet* – (National) **Pork Council: Antibiotics ban hurts people, and pigs.** Legislation recently introduced in Congress would be detrimental to the health and well-being of pigs, would increase pork producers' production costs and the price consumers pay for pork, and could jeopardize public health, according to the Nation Pork Producers Council. A bill sponsored by a Representative from New York would ban the use in livestock of animal health products that prevent or control diseases. An Iowa State University study found that when pigs have been sick during their life, they will have a greater presence of food-safety pathogens on their carcasses. And a 1999 ban in Denmark on some antibiotics used in pork production has resulted in an increase in piglet deaths and in the amount of antibiotics used to treat diseases. The Slaughter bill, which ostensibly would prohibit the use of antibiotics that promote growth in livestock but which also would ban ones that prevent and control disease, was introduced to address the increase in antibiotic-resistant bacteria. But a 2000 survey of human health experts found that 96 percent of antibiotic resistance in humans is due to human use of



antibiotics. Additionally, according to the Animal Health Institute, less than five percent of animal antibiotics are used for nutritional efficiency — which promotes growth — and even the majority of those prevent diseases. The U.S. pork industry has programs — the Pork Quality Assurance Plus and the Take Care: Use Antibiotics Responsibly programs — that include principles and guidelines on antibiotic use that help protect animal and public health and animal well-being.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=629&yr=2009>

21. *March 20, Bryan-College Station Eagle* – (Texas) **Virus prompts killing of 1.4 million chickens.** More than 1.4 million chickens have been killed in Robertson County the week of March 16-20 after officials detected a rare respiratory infection in some of the birds. The chief operating officer of Mississippi-based Sanderson Farms said on March 19 that chickens with infectious laryngotracheitis, or ILT, had been found in farms near Texas 6 and Texas 14 more than a week ago. The virus is not a danger to people, even if they eat meat infected with the disease, according to Texas Animal Health Commission officials who are overseeing the slaughter of the birds in Robertson County. The chief operating officer and a Robertson County judge said the financial impact on the chicken farmers and people with backyard flocks whose birds are wiped out could be significant. He said that about a million of those killed would be processed for food and that meat from another 400,000 euthanized birds would not be distributed. ILT, a respiratory disease related to the herpes virus, spreads easily and can cause death in poultry, according to an associate professor who studies disease and virology with Texas A&M University's Department of Poultry Science. It was unclear how the birds became infected. Officials identified a two-mile "red zone" around the infected area that includes at least one commercial farm and several backyard flocks and notified the Texas Animal Health Commission, as required by law.

Source: <http://www.theeagle.com/local/Virus-prompts-killing-of-1-4-million-chickens>

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## **Water Sector**

22. *March 23, CNN* – (North Dakota) **Residents race to fill sandbags as flooding threatens North Dakota.** Flooding threatened up to 6,000 homes March 23 in Fargo, North Dakota, where residents rushed to fill more than 1 million sandbags to stem the flow of the Red River, city officials said. "So far, we have 310,000 bags filled and ready to go, but that's a long way from the 1.5 million sandbags we need to fight this flood," the city administrator said on March 22. The National Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency staff has been dispatched to help. Water and sewage-treatment facilities were at risk as the river was expected to crest at about 40 feet over the next week or so. Flood stage is anything above 17 feet. The Disaster News Network reported that a 40-foot crest would be 22 feet above flood level in Fargo. Major flooding is expected when the river rises to 30 feet. At 28 feet, emergency officials will take steps to protect the city's sewage treatment plant.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/weather/03/23/dakota.flooding/>

See also: <http://www.disasternews.net/news/article.php?articleid=3864>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

23. *March 23, Xinhua* – (International) **Vietnamese woman dies of suspected bird flu.** A 26-year-old woman from the Vietnamese province of Soc Trang died with symptoms similar to those of bird flu patients, the local newspaper Labor reported on Monday. The woman was admitted to the Bac Lieu general hospital on March 16 to treat symptoms of coughing, difficulty in breathing, and pneumonia, said the head of the hospital's preventive health center. She died on March 20. Vietnam has reported four human cases of bird flu so far this year, and three resulting deaths.  
Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/23/content\\_11057057.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/23/content_11057057.htm)
24. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **State closes its public health lab in Tucson.** The state has closed its regional public health lab in Tucson, and Pima County health officials say it may mean delays in testing for rabies, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases. The Pima County Health Department spokeswoman says her department is concerned that having to send samples to Phoenix will add costs and delay results. The lab has operated in Tucson for 60 years. The lab mostly took samples from Yuma and Pima counties. The department is trying to cut \$32 million from its \$600 million yearly budget because of the state budget crisis and the lab cost of \$350,000 a year.  
Source: [http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10047254&nav=menu613\\_2\\_6](http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=10047254&nav=menu613_2_6)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

25. *March 20, KSBY 6 Santa Maria* – (California) **Suspicious package at Allan Hancock College a false alarm.** Students and teachers at Allan Hancock College were given the all-clear after the bomb squad that was brought in to investigate a suspicious package deemed the object harmless. Just before 4:30 p.m. on March 19, campus police officers said they received a call about a briefcase that had been left in a hallway for several hours near science building M. Officers treated it as a suspicious package, evacuating that building and the W building as a precaution. They also cancelled evening classes being held in both buildings. The bomb squad brought in its robot to check things out. "The first robot's prong was too large and it wasn't able to flip open the briefcase, so they subsequently brought it back out and changed the arm on the robot for smaller fingertypes. They were able to actually open it up completely and sift through the contents and determine it was safe," said the director of public safety. The two school buildings were then reopened for classes.  
Source: [http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10039733&nav=menu544\\_1](http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10039733&nav=menu544_1)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

26. *March 22, Associated Press* – (National) **More U.S. police using gunfire detection**

**system.** East Palo Alto, California is the first U.S. city completely wired with ShotSpotter, a system of strategically placed acoustic sensors linked to a computer designed to help police locate gunfire in high-crime areas, but the technology is spreading. Thirty-six cities across America are currently using ShotSpotter — triple the number two years ago. Cash-strapped police departments are receiving millions in federal funds to buy the system, despite debate over whether it effectively fights crime. And now cities such as Indianapolis and Trenton, New Jersey hope to use federal stimulus money to pay for ShotSpotter. Officials from the Mountain View, California-based company say the technology has helped cities reduce gunfire rates by 60 to 80 percent and violent crime by 40 percent. They say the system detects dozens of gunfire incidents daily in 114 square miles inhabited by more than 774,000 people in cities such as Boston, Chicago, and New Orleans. A square-mile of ShotSpotter coverage costs \$200,000 to \$250,000, the company said. Supporters say the system can help police respond rapidly to violent incidents. The largest ShotSpotter installation is in Washington, D.C., where it covers 16 square miles.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hDTLjRJEbVA3SsS8AOyEwyy7aTugD972NURO1>

27. *March 22, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio fails to decertify all convicted officers.** The Associated Press found that 10 Ohio police officers convicted in the past five years still had the authority to make an arrest or carry a gun, at least on paper. The state now says it is taking a more aggressive approach to finding such convictions in hopes of catching the cases that fall through the cracks. The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy says it does not know how many convictions it misses but believes the number is small. Ohio, with about 35,000 police officers, decertified 19 officers in 2007, the last year full data on all completed cases was available. Under state law, police officers charged with serious crimes are decertified once they are convicted. Merely resigning or being fired does not mean an officer would lose his police powers. The crimes include murder, theft, and robbery. Once the process begins, it is a simple matter of paperwork. But it can be difficult finding those officers, with timing and the type of court sometimes complicating matters. The state relies on courts to report convictions and tracks media reports of arrested officers. In the past, the academy asked prosecutors to verify a conviction if there was not official notice. Now the agency assigns investigators to verify the information themselves.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/nation/story/841233.html>

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## **Information Technology**

28. *March 23, Softpedia* – (International) **Microsoft confirms critical 0-day IE8 vulnerability.** Microsoft has confirmed officially the zero-day vulnerability impacting Internet Explorer 8, the latest iteration of its IE browser. The security flaw was demonstrated on the first day of the Pwn2Own hacking context of the CanSecWest 2009 in Vancouver recently. A security researcher managed to own a Sony Vaio running Windows 7 via a vulnerability in IE8. The manager of Security Response for

TippingPoint revealed that Microsoft had acknowledged to her the existence of the issue. “The MSRC (Microsoft Security Response Center) (...) let me know that they had reproduced and validated IE8 vulnerability. Of course, we cannot tell you anything more than that, look for more information once Microsoft releases an update for it. I continue to be impressed by the dedication of the MSRC team, and was shocked to get the news of verification in less than 12 hours, considering the entire IE team was most likely at the MIX 2009 con down in Vegas for the official launch of IE8,” she stated.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Microsoft-Confirms-Critical-0-Day-IE8-Vulnerability-107491.shtml>

29. *March 23, InformationWeek* – (International) **Phishing gets automated and we’re all getting targeted.** Phishing expeditions business and personal data are rising to record levels, with fake anti-malware campaigns alone increasing by 225 percent in the last six months of 2008. Password-stealing Web sites jumped 827 percent IN 2008. The reason is the phishers are investing in automation. A new report from the Anti-Pjshing Working Group (APWG) gives a sense of just how aggressive the phishers and malware makers are becoming in search of one’s business (and personal) data. Using increasingly automated attacks and re-tooling strategies such as anti-malware come-ons, phishers are bombarding the Web with mail campaigns, continue to co-opt known and trusted brands, and are sprouting malware Web sites at stunning rates. According to APWG, malware sites jumped 827 percent, from 3332 in January 2008 to 31,173 in December, within spitting distance of a 1,000 percent increase in twelve months. The largest increase was December; in fact, with the number of sites bearing malware and password-stealing tools skyrocketing from November’s 11,834 to 31,173. While APWG notes that the December pop was a result of “some large attacks that were using huge amounts of random websites for phishing campaigns that were spoofing classmates’ websites,” the organization undoubtedly also knows that this sort of increase is unlikely to remain an aberration.

Source: [http://www.bmighty.com/blog/main/archives/2009/03/phishing\\_gets\\_a.html](http://www.bmighty.com/blog/main/archives/2009/03/phishing_gets_a.html)

30. *March 21, Korean Times* – (International) **New password-manipulating virus spreading.** A new computer virus that attacks the computer password, manipulates and eventually blocks the user to log in to the computer is spreading, Yonhap reported on March 21. The virus, an advanced form of “Win32.HLLW.Shadow.based” that showed up last month, locks up the computer, resulting in log in error. It also paralyzes the network by overloading the traffic on the 445 port. A free vaccine is available on the Web site of the anti-virus company, New Technology Wave. The vaccine provider also advises computer users to regularly change their computer passwords and update Windows security patches. Once infected, the virus detours the radar of the previously installed vaccine program on the computer and makes it undeletable, the company said.

Source: [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2009/03/113\\_41707.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2009/03/113_41707.html)

## **Internet Alert Dashboard**

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

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

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## **Communications Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

31. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Blaze damages casino.** A fire apparently sparked by a construction worker caused heavy damage to the Empress Casino March 20, and firefighters had to truck in water to contain the blaze. The fire, which began about 10 a.m., appeared to have started as a construction worker welded a kitchen hood in an area of the casino undergoing a \$50 million renovation, according to the acting Joliet Police chief. Foul play was not suspected, he said. The smoldering, Egyptian-themed casino was closed and did not immediately have a reopening date, Penn National Gaming, the Wyomissing, Pennsylvania-based parent company of Empress, said in a statement. Patrons and employees were evacuated, and two people were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, police said. About 100 employees and construction workers were in the area when the fire started, but it was unclear how many patrons were in the building at the time. Penn National has established an assistance hot line for the affected employees and plans to provide updates on its Web site.

Source: <http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=237110>

32. *March 20, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Businesses evacuated after suspicious device found.** A bomb squad with the Orange County Sheriff's Office is investigating a report of a suspicious device found at an Orlando area business, which led to evacuations along Highway 50 between Goldenrod and Old Cheney roads. The owners of A-Plus Auto Performance said a worker cleaning up the rear area of the property found a round object with a label that read "118 mm #12" on it, WESH 2 News reported. Authorities said they think it may be a military device. Deputies said the object had a round access port on top with holes and appeared to have something fused within it. Deputies said the bomb squad examined the device, and then called the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team at Patrick Air Force Base for assistance. WESH 2 News has learned that the bomb squad dug a hole in the ground, and a robot placed the device in a hole and blew it up. Authorities said they are still not sure how the device ended up there.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/news/18978079/detail.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Dams Sector**

33. *March 20, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Leaky levee finally fixed.** A leaky levee just west of Stockton is finally being repaired to reduce the water flow. It is the same levee that broke wide open in 2004, flooding Jones Tract. Although repairs were made, a small trickle continued and that is worrisome to people who make their living on the island. The leak was big enough that bubbling sounds could be heard on the river side, while a small pool grew a little each day on the island side. The repairs were put off because doing the work in January would have jeopardized fish that breed in that area. Now the repairs are happening, with tons of dirt and rock being trucked in to beef up the levee walls.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=56549&catid=2>

34. *March 20, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Leaky earthquakes pose major threat to Delta levees, report finds.** The odds are even that a major earthquake or flood will take out 30 or more Delta islands sometime in the next 25 years, with most of the threat coming from earthquakes, the most comprehensive assessment ever on the Delta's levees concludes. The report, the first phase of a \$13 million study on Delta levees, finds widespread flooding on 30 or more islands is all but inevitable in the next 100 years — a finding that carries major implications for one of California's most important sources of water for 23 million residents and the health of the West Coast's largest estuary. "Under business as usual practices, the Delta region as it exists today is unsustainable," the report concluded. When Delta islands flood, seawater is drawn toward intakes for water supply projects that serve parts of the Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. "The area served by the Contra Costa Water District... is an example of an area at high economic risk from water supply disruption... since other sources of water are not readily available," the report said. Critics contend the study is biased toward exaggerating risk in the Delta because that would lend support to the state's plans to build a controversial \$10 billion canal around the Delta. The levees go back 150 years to when the estuary was a vast inland marsh, when laborers pushed up berms to allow farmers to grow crops behind them. Today, 1,300 miles of levees guide channels that direct drinking water and provide fish habitat, while protecting farmland, residences, and property, especially in the Sacramento and Stockton areas. But the biggest concern, perhaps, for state water managers is the potential loss of Sherman Island or others in the western part of the Delta that have the potential to gulp seawater toward water intakes and force water delivery projects out of commission for months at a time.

Source:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11961437?nclick\\_check=1&forced=true](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11961437?nclick_check=1&forced=true)

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

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