



# Department of Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 March 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- According to the Burlington Free Press, Noble Environmental Power’s Altona, New York wind farm was shut down on March 6 after a wind-tower collapsed, sparking a fire. (See item [3](#))
- The Associated Press reports that 11 major airports are struggling to meet federal requirements that runways be surrounded by safety areas that give runaway planes extra room to stop, according to a new report from the Transportation Department’s Inspector General. (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 10, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **Attack on Nigerian pipeline stalls Shell deliveries.** Royal Dutch Shell said on March 9 that a recent militant attack on a Nigerian oil pipeline had forced it to halt deliveries to many customers. Shell has seen a spate of other attacks on its facilities in recent weeks and has been forced to end oil and natural-gas deliveries to many other customers until further notice. The declaration is expected to be in place for March and April, a Shell spokesman said. He would not specify how much production and how many customers were affected, but a Nigerian oil official said the attack disrupted about 50,000 to 100,000 barrels a day of production for more than a week. The attack took place on the Escravos pipeline, which sends crude

from Shell's Forcados fields to the Escravos export terminal in the country's main oil-producing region.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123664016954777205.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123664016954777205.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

2. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Maryland; West Virginia) **4,000 gallons of fly ash spills into Potomac.** The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) says a ruptured pipeline from a coal-burning power plant spilled about 4,000 gallons of slurried fly ash into the North Branch of the Potomac River near Allegany County. An agency spokesman says the spill on the West Virginia side of the river, where papermaker New Page Corp. has an ash storage lagoon, was discovered March 9 after leaking all night. The company burns coal to produce electricity for the paper mill. The spokesman says workers were still cleaning up spilled ash from the West Virginia bank the evening of March 9. Fly ash from coal can contain trace amounts of toxic heavy metals. The spokesman says MDE is monitoring the cleanup and repair activities.  
Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1620522>
3. *March 10, Burlington Free Press* – (New York) **Tower collapse closes wind farm.** Noble Environmental Power's Altona, New York wind farm was shut down on March 6 after a wind-tower collapsed, sparking a fire. "We have shut down the entire Noble Altona Windpark pending further information," the Essex, Connecticut-based company said. A company spokeswoman provided few additional details on March 9 and said more information would be relayed in future written statements. After the collapse of one tower, the site was secured, the fire was extinguished, no employees were injured, and there has been no danger to the public, the company said. The assistant director of the Clinton County Office of Emergency Services said the incident occurred at about 11 a.m. on March 6. "They are certainly investigating to make sure there wouldn't be another collapse," he said. "But they certainly have to do a lot more investigating to figure out why it did collapse."  
Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20090310/BUSINESS/90309037/-1/NEWS05>
4. *March 10, News Journal* – (Delaware) **Valero starts shutting down.** Valero has begun shutting down its Delaware City refinery to repair a production unit. The shutdown process is expected to take through the end of the week, "as we bring the units down carefully and sequentially," said a Valero spokesman. The refinery is expected to stay down for roughly a month, he said. The company needs to repair a coker. Until recent days, the plant was operating at reduced production rates. But on March 4, company officials ordered the shutdown. The repairs come as oil prices have been mired in a slump brought on by depressed worldwide demand. Company officials said the economic factors contributed to the decision to shut down refining operations. The plant is the source of about 70 percent of gasoline sold in Delaware. It also makes large amounts of diesel, heating oil, and propane.  
Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20090310/BUSINESS/903100329/1003>
5. *March 9, Associated Press* – (National) **EPA to study, regulate coal ash waste after**

**spill.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a review of coal ash storage facilities and will propose regulations for coal ash by the end of the year. In a preview of the agency's announcement sent to Congress, the EPA says the effort will prevent future threats to human health and the environment. Coal ash is a byproduct of burning coal and is stored in about 300 storage ponds and landfills at power plants across the country. The review comes after a December spill at a Tennessee power plant flooded more than 300 acres of land and killed fish in nearby rivers. The EPA has asked utilities to provide information about the structural integrity of their storage units and will begin to conduct inspections.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hqE5NN9jB3v\\_aCc6OUMl63J\\_dcCQD96QNRAG4](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hqE5NN9jB3v_aCc6OUMl63J_dcCQD96QNRAG4)

6. *March 9, Reuters* – (Texas) **BP Texas City restart unaffected by leak – sources.** The restart of five units at BP Plc's 467,000 barrel per day Texas City, Texas refinery was unaffected by a leak on gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking unit No. 3 on March 9, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The leak in an exchanger on FCC No. 3, one of the units being restarted, was quickly fixed on March 9, as the units are returning to normal production, the sources said. FCC No. 3, ultraformer No. 3, a delayed coking unit, and a residual hydrotreater are being restarted along with the sulfur recovery unit that serves them. The SRU failed on March 1, requiring the other units be shut until the SRU was returned to service.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0948270120090309>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

7. *March 9, Delmarva Now* – (Maryland) **Inspection reveals violations at biofuel plant.** Almost a year after the biodiesel fuel manufacturing plant in Princess Anne exploded, killing a contract worker and shaking nearby homes, an inspection of the Greenlight Biofuels plant remains open, a spokeswoman at the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Agency (MOSH) said last week. The MOSH inspection of the Princess Anne Industrial Park plant identified five "serious" violations among a total of seven safety-related breaches, according to an inspection report by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In a report by OSHA, for which MOSH is the designated inspector in Maryland, Greenlight currently owes a total of \$12,600 in penalties tied to the May 18 explosion. The inspection was one of three ordered by MOSH after the blast that Greenlight officials blamed on a welding process that a town elected official also has said was discontinued. OSHA also imposed \$4,400 in total penalty against Diversified Mechanical Services, Inc. of Comstock Park, Michigan, hired to do contract work at the Greenlight plant, according to an OSHA report. More details on the Greenlight inspection would be made public after the case closes. In September, Greenlight resumed the manufacturing of biodiesel fuel for vehicles and furnaces by converting chicken fat and other greases at the Princess Anne plant.

Source:

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20090309/BUSINESS/903090335/-1/newsfront2>

8. *March 8, Columbus Dispatch* – (Iowa; Michigan; Ohio) **Toxic gas traveling circuitous rail route.** Critics say chlorine destined for northern Ohio, Michigan, and Iowa routinely is sent through Cincinnati and Columbus so a railroad company can maximize profits. The route, says the company that makes the gas, takes it as much as 300 miles out of the way. The railroad company CSXT transports the gas from PPG's Ohio River plant on a rail line southwest to Cincinnati before sending it north through Columbus, according to comments the gas manufacturer filed last year with federal rail officials. PPG wants to use a shorter, northerly route offered by a different rail company but can not because CSXT owns the lines outside the chlorine plant along the Ohio River near Natrium, West Virginia. Though semi-trucks that carry hazardous materials are diverted around Columbus on I-270, trains are allowed to go straight through downtown with no advance notice to city or county emergency-management officials. A law that Congress enacted after the September 11th attacks was supposed to make rail companies look for safer routes. But Millar and PPG officials said rules that the last Presidential Administration adopted in December to enforce that law actually help rail companies keep their old routes.

Source:

[http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2009/03/08/railtoxics\\_ART\\_ART\\_03-08-09\\_A1\\_J8D54EB.html?sid=101](http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/03/08/railtoxics_ART_ART_03-08-09_A1_J8D54EB.html?sid=101)

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

9. *March 10, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Nuclear power plant commits to meeting safety requirements.** The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received notice from Exelon Corp., owner of Oyster Creek Generating Station, that the company intends to follow new requirements before a decision is made about whether the nuclear power plant's license will be renewed. The move means Oyster Creek is the first nuclear power plant in the nation to enter a period of extended operation without having had its license to operate renewed. The NRC spokesman said on March 10 that Exelon completed a safety evaluation report and a supplemental safety evaluation renewal for the Oyster Creek license renewal. The reports identify what the company needs to complete before the license can be renewed. The NRC spokesman said the commitments involve the plant's aging management program, additional monitoring concerning its drywell liner, protocols for nuclear safety, and appropriate steps to take in the event of an unplanned outage. A coalition of six environmental groups opposed to the plant's license renewal filed an appeal for an additional hearing on whether the drywell liner around the plant's reactor meets safety standards.

Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20090310/NEWS02/903100327/1070/NEWS02>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *March 10, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Police in Butler County issue warning against phone scam.** State police issued a warning on March 9 about a phone scam after several residents in Butler County received phone calls in recent days from an agency identifying itself as Farmer's National Bank and asking for personal information such as bank account and credit card numbers. The callers identify themselves as Farmer's National Bank representatives and say there is trouble with the accounts of those who receive the calls. Troopers said the scam is being operated by unknown persons utilizing an automated phone system to fish for information about an individual's bank accounts. Police advise anyone who receives such a call to hang up and to monitor their bank and credit card accounts.

Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2009/03/10/4042682.htm>

11. *March 9, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Bomb explodes outside Citibank branch in Athens.** A bomb exploded outside a Citibank branch north of Athens early on March 9, causing significant damage but no apparent injuries, Greek police said. The bomb had been placed behind the bank in the suburb of Psychiko. Two cars were also damaged in the blast, a police source said. The 3:00 a.m. explosion was triggered by wire, police said. A month ago police defused a powerful car bomb outside the bank's Athens headquarters in the district of Kifissia, a few miles away from the branch targeted on March 9. The bomb, consisting of two clocks, batteries and fertilizer-based explosives packed in five gas cylinders, was hidden in the car trunk and could have taken out the building had it detonated, police said. No arrests were made over that attack but police suspect the involvement of Revolutionary Struggle, Greece's most dangerous far-left organization that is best known for a rocket attack on the American embassy in 2007.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hf7gXQUFq2TyFIPf35ZtHCY2Zw-A>

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## **Transportation Sector**

12. *March 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Runway safety improvements lag at busy airports.** Eleven major airports are struggling to meet federal requirements that runways be surrounded by safety areas that give runaway planes extra room to stop, according to a new report from the Transportation Department's Inspector General. The airports account for nearly one quarter of the nation's air passenger travel. All the airports have been working for years to come up with solutions, but often there is no place to send runaway planes because the airports are hemmed in by highways, water, buildings or other obstructions. Between 1997 and 2007, 75 aircraft overran or veered off runways, resulting in nearly 200 injuries and 12 deaths, the report said. The Federal Aviation

Administration has allowed some airports that do not have enough room for full-size safety areas to install crunchable concrete beds called “engineered material arresting systems” at the ends of runways. The beds are designed to stop or slow planes, not unlike the way gravel-covered ramps on highways stop runaway trucks.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1620375>

See also: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1620408>

13. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Florida) **3 arrested on bomb charges in Lakeland.**

Authorities say three men confessed to placing explosive devices in a Lakeland parking garage. The three turned themselves in to Lakeland Police the evening of March 9 with their lawyers. Police say the men cooperated fully with investigators and admitted to being responsible for the production and placement of the devices. The men were charged with making or discharging a destructive device, a second-degree felony. The Tampa Bomb Squad and Lakeland Police detonated one of the devices and neutralized another. No one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/941764.html>

14. *March 9, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **New airport security rules to require more personal information.**

Passengers making airline reservations soon will be required to provide their birth date and their sex in addition to their names as part of aviation security enhancements the 9/11 Commission recommended. The information provided at the time seats are booked must exactly match the data on each traveler’s ID. The new program, called Secure Flight, shifts responsibility for checking passenger names against “watch lists” from the airlines to the Transportation Security Administration. Only passengers who are cleared to fly by the TSA will be given boarding passes. Personal data on most passengers will be retained for no more than seven days, agency officials said. But privacy advocates say the changes amount to a system of government control over travel. U.S. airlines carry about 2 million passengers per day. Opponents also have protested that combing through personal information will not result in better security. The airlines, meanwhile, will incur an estimated \$630 million in costs to reprogram reservation systems and collect the passenger data, according to the TSA. The airline industry has pledged support for the new procedures so long as they streamline security and create fewer hassles for customers. It is also being done to reduce the misidentification of innocent travelers who are mistakenly placed on “no-fly” lists because their names are similar to those found on watch lists — a situation the TSA calls “a frustratingly common occurrence.”

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/travel/chi-getting-around-09-mar09,0,7204465.column>

15. *March 9, KOAT 7 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **2 die in small-plane crash.** State police are blaming weather for a single-engine plane crash that killed two people the morning of March 9. The plane went down in mountainous terrain near Golden, New Mexico. State police said it was snowing heavily when the plane tried to make it to Los Alamos, and it could not handle the conditions. State police said they responded to the scene when someone reported a forest fire.

Source: <http://www.koat.com/news/18886725/detail.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

16. *March 10, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA seeks rapid test for salmonella.**

Frustrated that conventional lab methods can now take as long as nine days to identify the most common of food bugs, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is searching for a rapid test for salmonella. “We’re looking for something that can save us 12 hours here, 12 hours there. If we can shave it to five days, that would be a step forward,” said the assistant commissioner for food safety. The FDA has asked the Pentagon, the Homeland Security and Agriculture departments, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to lend their expertise. The first step is to see whether any private companies or academic research centers are working on a rapid test. Then, the assistant commissioner wants to select two or three methods to evaluate more closely. Finally, he would compare specific techniques and devices in head-to-head lab tests. One of the reasons it can take so long to identify salmonella is that samples submitted to the lab may not have enough of the bacteria. More bacteria have to be cultured in a nutrient-rich broth to make an identification. If the initial screening finds salmonella, more testing is needed to match its particular genetic fingerprint to the outbreak strain. The easiest thing would be to have a portable device that inspectors could carry with them. They could take a tomato, pulverize it, inject the juice into the device, and get an answer in a matter of hours. “That would be the Holy Grail,” the assistant commissioner said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/10/AR2009031000153.html>

17. *March 9, Consumer Affairs* – (Illinois) **FDA closes tortilla plant.** A tortilla company linked to several outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness in school children is now shut down under action taken by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). FDA officials entered into a consent agreement Friday with the Chicago Del Rey Tortilleria Inc., its president, and two general managers that prevents the company from making or distributing soft-shell flour tortillas until it corrects multiple sanitation violations. The FDA said its enforcement action comes on the heels of the company’s “extensive history” of violating the agency’s Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) requirements for food. The FDA’s complaint alleges the company’s manufacturing operations do not adequately protect consumers against the risk of contamination. When FDA officials inspected the company’s Illinois plant, they discovered cleaning chemicals stored improperly, unsuitable containers used for food processing, and other unsanitary conditions. Under the FDA’s action, the company must hire sanitation and food processing experts to develop quality control measures. These experts will also inspect and certify the company complies with FDA regulations and meets other consent decree

requirements. The company cannot start making and distributing tortillas until the FDA inspects the facility and determines it is in compliance with the consent decree and other federal food and safety regulations.

Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2009/03/fda\\_tortillas.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2009/03/fda_tortillas.html)

18. *March 9, Associated Press* – (New York) **FDA warns NY consumers of tainted cheese.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to eat two cheeses made by a New York City company due to possible bacterial contamination. Peregrina Cheese Corp. has recalled its “Queso Fresco Fresh Cheese” Mexican-style soft cheese and “Queso Cotija Molido” Mexican-style grated cheese. The soft cheese is in a 14-ounce foil wrapped package marked with lot number 4469 or 4477. The grated cheese is in 15-ounce clear plastic bags that are marked with plant number 36-1388. The agency says samples of the cheeses were tested and found to be contaminated with Listeria bacteria, which can cause illnesses. The cheeses were distributed in New York City and to stores in Scranton and Hazelton, Pennsylvania, in early February. No illnesses have been reported.

Source:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-nycheese0310,0,4281846.story>

19. *March 8, KJCT 8 Grand Junction* – (Colorado) **Bomb threat closes down Axis nightclub on opening night.** Mesa County Sheriff’s deputies are looking for suspects after a bomb threat was called into the new Axis club the evening of March 7. Around 10:30p.m. Saturday, the crowd of about 600 people was forced to leave when two bomb threats were called in. Club security called the Mesa County Sheriff’s Office and the club was evacuated. A search of the building turned up nothing and the club reopened about 11:30p.m. Mesa County Sheriff’s deputies are still investigating who called in the bomb threats. Once an arrest is made, the club’s owners plan to press charges.

Source: <http://www.kjct8.com/Global/story.asp?S=9969262>

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## Water Sector

20. *March 9, Pittsburgh Business Times* – (Pennsylvania) **DEP orders PPG to clean up wastewater site.** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ordered PPG Industries to clean up a wastewater site in Armstrong County. The site is located in Ford City, where PPG operated a plant and disposed glass polishing waste from 1949 to 1970. According to the DEP, the company created a 77-acre lagoon, most of which is covered in vegetation, that holds the waste slurry. As rain and melting snow filter through the lagoon, polluted water seeps into the Allegheny River and Glade Run. Some field tests have found pH levels slightly lower than that of bleach. The DEP issued an administrative order Monday requiring PPG to begin monitoring the pH of the discharge and submit an interim abatement plan within 30 days. It must submit a full abatement plan within 90 days. PPG also must create a plan that limits access to the site and effected areas of the Allegheny River and Glade Run.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2009/03/09/daily12.html>



21. *March 8, Knoxville News Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Dredging ash spill could release selenium, poison fish.** Dredging the fly ash spilled into the Emory River from a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) power plant could release selenium into the water with devastating effects on fish populations, a pair of scientists warn. TVA received approval for the initial phase of its dredging plan last week from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Roughly 5.4 million cubic yards of the coal combustion waste flooded the river and surrounding countryside when a retention pond at the Kingston Fossil Plant failed December 22. In Phase I, TVA plans to dredge the Emory River channel. A research biologist at Wake Forest University, who has studied the effects of selenium from coal ash on fish populations for the U.S. Forest Service over the past three decades, said in a recent interview that dredging could release the heavy metal into the water. An essential nutrient for humans and animals, selenium is poisonous at elevated levels. The researcher studied the effects of long-term selenium releases in the 1970s from a North Carolina power plant. According to the U.S. Forest Service, those releases killed off 19 of 20 fish species within four years in Belews Lake, a man-made reservoir northeast of Winston-Salem. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has been taking tissue samples from fish in Watts Bar Lake, but none of the samples has been sent to a lab for testing, said a TWRA spokesman. Fish collected during the first weeks after the spill showed signs of stress, scale abrasions and discolored gills. Ash filled the bellies of catfish. The spokesman said tissue studies conducted before the spill should provide a good baseline for measuring contaminants that can be attributed to the fly ash.

Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/article/D4/20090308/NEWS01/903080341>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

22. *March 9, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Zephyrhills clinic evacuated after chemical spill.** Workers and patients evacuated Florida Medical Clinic in Zephyrhills due to a spill of a potentially explosive chemical in the clinic's cath lab the afternoon of March 9, county fire and rescue workers said. Zephyrhills Fire Department was working the scene and called in Tampa police's bomb squad to help dispose of the chemical, which crystallized. The chemical is picric acid, which is used as a staining agent and reagent in many laboratory procedures. Picric acid is a strong, potentially fatal irritant that can cause skin damage. Dry picric acid is highly explosive especially when it is combined with metals such as copper, lead, zinc, and iron.

Source: <http://blogs.tampabay.com/breakingnews/2009/03/evacuation.html>

23. *March 9, New York Times* – (New York) **Reporting of mistakes by hospitals is faulted.** New York City hospitals are the least reliable in the state at reporting preventable mistakes and adverse incidents for patients like heart attacks, blood clots, hospital infections, and medication errors, according to a new report by the office of city comptroller. Though city hospitals accounted for almost half the patients statewide in 2006, they reported about 39 adverse incidents per 10,000 patient discharges, compared with nearly 70 per 10,000 in the northern suburbs and upstate and nearly 64 per 10,000 on Long Island. Particularly since similar institutions are being compared, the report

said, a higher number of incidents does not mean that a hospital provides worse treatment, only that it is more diligent about reporting problems. The lack of accurate reporting makes it virtually impossible for consumers to judge accurately the quality of a hospital or for the hospital to compare itself with its peers and make improvements, the comptroller's office argues, saying the consequences include longer hospital stays and higher health-care costs.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/10/nyregion/10hospitals.html?ref=nyregion>

24. *March 9, Point Pleasant Register* – (West Virginia) **Emergency room closed due to contamination.** The emergency room at Pleasant Valley Hospital in Point Pleasant, West Virginia was temporarily closed on the afternoon of March 8 after it was exposed to a hazardous material. According to people on the scene, an ambulance brought in a patient that apparently had been exposed to a chemical but may not have been properly decontaminated. It was not known at press time what the person had been exposed to or if he or she was working with chemicals. Members of the West Virginia Rapid Response Team in Huntington were dispatched to the hospital around 2:30 p.m. to decontaminate the emergency room and the patient. The team was on the scene for at least two hours.  
Source: [http://www.mydailyregister.com/pages/full\\_story?article-Emergency%20room%20closed%20due%20to%20contamination%20=&page\\_label=home\\_top\\_stories\\_news&id=2040992-Emergency+room+closed+due+to+contamination&widget=push&instance=home\\_news\\_lead&open=&](http://www.mydailyregister.com/pages/full_story?article-Emergency%20room%20closed%20due%20to%20contamination%20=&page_label=home_top_stories_news&id=2040992-Emergency+room+closed+due+to+contamination&widget=push&instance=home_news_lead&open=&)
25. *March 8, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Legislators want to modify response after Ike.** Hurricane Ike left nursing homes without electric power and medical evacuees flooding inland hospitals. Now, more than a dozen bills pending in the Texas Legislature could help change how state agencies and facilities operate during a hurricane. Numerous proposals directly and indirectly related to health operations during disasters will be before House and Senate committees in the weeks to come. Lawmakers from both parties have been filing the bills in the face of recommendations from a special House panel on Hurricane Ike that held public hearings around the affected region. Many of the bills are procedural — requiring state agencies, hospitals, and individuals to better establish exactly what steps they should take during a disaster. Most have a clause that would allow the laws, if enacted with a two-thirds majority of the Legislature, to take effect immediately. Some bills attempt to address what hospitals and first responders said was an unexpected strain from the wave of nursing home and other health-facility patients that started flooding Texas hospitals before the September 13 storm.  
Source: [http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9967741&nav=menu509\\_3](http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9967741&nav=menu509_3)
26. *March 8, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **Fire strikes W-K Medical Center overnight.** An electrical fire at Willis-Knighton Medical Center late Saturday forced the internal evacuation of 22 patients from the area affected, the Shreveport Fire Department says. Firefighters responded to the medical complex at 10:13 p.m., and the first crews on the scene found smoke coming from the roof of the hospital. Fire crews immediately ascended the roof and found a 10,000 volt electrical box on fire. The fire was

extinguished with dry chemical and carbon dioxide extinguishers, and the power was turned off to the electrical box. The 22 patients were moved to different sections of the second and third floors as a precaution. The fire was brought under control at 11:08 p.m., with no injuries from the fire. Fire crews remained on scene cutting into the roofing around the fire to ensure it had not spread from the fire's original location. Source: <http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20090308/NEWS01/90308002>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

27. *March 10, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S. Embassy in Sudan warns Americans to leave.** The U.S. Embassy in Sudan authorized nonessential staff and family to leave the country, saying Tuesday that protests against the international court's indictment against the Sudanese president increased the danger of anti-Western violence. The embassy also said it has received information on terrorist threats aimed at American and European interests in Sudan. The embassy gave no details, but it has posted similar messages in recent years. The Sudanese president has threatened to throw out diplomats and peacekeepers. "Recent protests have featured sharp anti-Western rhetoric. There is a continuing possibility that ongoing protests may encourage violent action against Europeans and Americans," a message posted on the embassy's Web site said. The embassy message said nonessential personnel and family members could leave Sudan if they want to.

Source:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gndJKm5SlklOBRhtclv - KST\\_GmQD96RBACG3](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gndJKm5SlklOBRhtclv - KST_GmQD96RBACG3)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

28. *March 10, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Legislative panel endorses state police control of medevac fleet.** Attempts to overhaul and possibly privatize the state's emergency medical system appear likely to fail this year after a legislative panel's endorsement of continued state police control of Maryland's medical helicopter program. A 14-member House of Delegates study panel voted unanimously on Monday to recommend that state police maintain operation of the medevac fleet and that the aging helicopters be replaced at a pace faster than that proposed by the governor. The panel called for additional legislative scrutiny of the state EMS system. It also said the medevac system should pursue safety upgrades to its helicopters and higher levels of certification from the Federal Government and an independent accreditation agency.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-md.medevac10mar10,0,2234050.story>

29. *March 10, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Meth training for first responders.** Operation UNITE officials say some ingredients used to manufacture methamphetamine are toxic enough to kill and first responders need proper training to stay safe. First

responders in and around Laurel County met with Operation UNITE officials to learn what to look for if they suspect an emergency situation could be linked to drug manufacturing. “If they go running into a meth lab fire, it’s a little more hazardous than a regular fire because you’ve got explosive chemicals, flammable chemicals that are used, plus you have toxic chemicals that can cause inhalation problems,” said an Operation UNITE spokesman. First responders learned that these common household products found together are a red flag for meth labs. One attendee says he continues to take training because manufacturers keep changing their methods.

Source: <http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/41003887.html>

30. *March 9, KMGH 7 Denver* – (National) **Researchers: Social networking sites critical in disaster situations.** Emergency managers say social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, and Flickr are changing the way disaster situations are handled. A researcher at Colorado University, Boulder’s Natural Disaster Center has been conducting joint research with the school’s engineering department. She said one of the first documented signs of the phenomenon came in the hours after the shootings on the Virginia Tech campus in April 2007. The center’s research found that, increasingly, when disaster strikes, the Web-savvy are seeking out and sending out information via social networking sites. Some crucial news about the shootings came not through law enforcement or the news media, but through Facebook. “People who were distributed across these networks were able to identify all of the names of the deceased before the official announcement came out about who was deceased,” she said, adding that emergency management specialists risk irrelevance if they do not embrace social networking.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/18893493/detail.html>

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## **Information Technology**

31. *March 9, Computerworld* – (International) **Foxit PDF viewer open to attack, say researchers.** Security researchers on March 9 warned of several vulnerabilities in Foxit, a free PDF document viewer that has been recommended as an alternative to Adobe Reader, which currently contains an unpatched critical bug of its own. Foxit Software Co. patched its namesake on March 9 to plug three holes. One of the three vulnerabilities is in the same JBIG2 image compression format fingered by researchers last month as the root of the bug in Adobe System Inc.’s popular Reader and Acrobat applications. The flaw in Adobe’s software, which has been exploited by hackers since at least early January, will not be patched until March 11, according to Adobe’s schedule. The Foxit and Adobe bugs are unrelated, however, except for the fact that they are both in the code that parses JBIG2 images, said the chief technology officer at Secunia, the Danish company that reported the flaw to Foxit. “It is a completely different vulnerability related to JBIG2,” he said in an e-mail on March 9. It was Adobe’s confirmation of its bug that prompted Secunia researchers to dig into other PDF viewers. “We did, however, start the research in Foxit out of curiosity based on the Adobe vulnerability, and discovered this new vulnerability,” the chief technology officer said. Secunia reported the bug to Foxit on February 27. The remaining two bugs in Foxit

were reported February 18 by Core Security Technologies, a developer of penetration testing software. One of the vulnerabilities can trigger a buffer overflow, while the other could be used by attackers to circumvent security warnings.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129264&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129264&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

32. *March 9, DarkReading* – (International) **No user action required in newly discovered PDF attack.** Merely storing, without opening, a malicious PDF file can trigger an attack that exploits the new, unpatched zero-day flaw in Adobe Reader, a researcher has discovered. A researcher and IT security consultant with Contrast Europe NV on March 9 released a proof-of-concept demonstration that shows how a file infected with the Adobe flaw can trigger a new attack when the machine uses Windows Indexing Services. And the user does not even have to open or select the document. In addition, the researcher last week released a proof-of-concept demonstrating how PDF files could be exploited with minimal user interaction, just saving it to the hard drive and viewing it in Windows Explorer. But this latest attack vector is more risky, he says, because the user does not have to do anything with the file at all. “It requires no user interaction, and for the Windows Indexing Service, it can lead to total system compromise [with] privilege escalation,” the researcher says.

Source:

[http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=VN5UHGA\\_TDKTMOQSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=215801319](http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=VN5UHGA_TDKTMOQSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=215801319)

### 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

33. *March 9, Associated Press* – (International) **Iridium replaces satellite smashed in collision.** Iridium Satellite LLC said on March 9 that it has moved a spare satellite into the orbit of the one that was destroyed in a collision with a Russian satellite a month ago. The high-speed crash with the decommissioned Russian military communications satellite on February 9 turned both spacecraft into clouds of debris. Soon after, Iridium, which is based in Bethesda, Maryland, said it had reconfigured its remaining 65 active satellites to cover the hole in worldwide satellite-phone coverage left by the crash. On March 9, it said it had permanently closed the gap with a spare that was already in orbit, bringing its fleet back to 66 active satellites. Iridium said it believes the incident has demonstrated the need for more “aggressive action” to track satellites and prevent collisions. It suggested expanded sharing of information between the industry and the U.S. government, which could relieve the Air Force of the need to track commercial

satellites.

Source: <http://www.cellular-news.com/story/36444.php?source=rss>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

34. *March 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Experts: Churches big and small need security plan.** Megachurches with large audiences have long planned for emergencies, but smaller churches often are not ready for a crisis, experts say. Televangelist churches and most megachurches with up to 5,000 congregants have coordinated security plans and undercover guards for high-profile ministers and assistants, said a managing director with the Leadership Network, a nonprofit that fosters church innovation nationwide. Churches with 1,200 congregants, and even smaller churches are among the most vulnerable, he said. “They tend to be fairly well known in the community, but not quite large enough to have thought through security issues,” he said. His firm advises clients that every church needs a written security plan and an open discussion of the church’s vulnerabilities. Churches are “soft targets” — easily accessible places with little or no security, said the executive director of the Christian Security Network. After a church shooting last year in Knoxville, Tennessee, a survey of Christian churches found 75 percent had no security or emergency plans. The network’s own poll of 250 U.S. churches showed a third had a security incident of some kind in the past year. The Christian Security Network recommends churches assess their risk for everything from fire and tornadoes to vandalism, burglary, sexual molestation, and shootings, then build a plan. So far this year, churches in 39 states have reported 141 incidents, including burglaries and bomb threats.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jl7sa7F5lsTzkPKYB5AvnlLppzTgD96R50CG0>

35. *March 10, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **WWII bomb search expands to Azalea Park.** The Army Corps of Engineers asked the city of Orlando on March 9 for permission to search two more parks and a neighborhood center for possible WWII-era bombs. The three new sites are located in Azalea Park. Since 2007, homeowners living near Odyssey Middle school have lived with the fear of finding leftover bombs from the Pine Castle bombing range. Past cleanups performed by Corps have turned up a large amount of ammunition. It has turned its attention to the area of Azalea Park because old military documents and photographs show the park was home to the 2,100-acre Orlando range and chemical yard. In the 1940s, it was used as a testing site for chemical warfare and explosions. Now the Corps will ask the Orlando City Council for permission to search Englewood Park, the Englewood neighborhood center, and Leroy Hoequist Park — a park that is used daily by students on recess at the Chickasaw Elementary School. The Corps has already gone before the Orange County Commission and received permission to examine two other sites in Azalea Park.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/news/18890283/detail.html>

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## National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *March 10, D-Link* – (Arizona; Nevada) **D-Link provides IP surveillance cameras for Grand Canyon Skywalk security.** The Grand Canyon Skywalk, a glass observation walkway, needed a surveillance system to monitor visitors, retail shops, ticket facilities, and a photo department on the premises, and it had to be done remotely from an operations center in Las Vegas, approximately 260 miles away, where new cameras were required to monitor the data center. “We had an analog closed circuit television system (CCTS) in place previously at the Las Vegas site,” said an IT consultant to the Grand Canyon Skywalk. “But we needed more cameras, better coverage and better picture quality for both the tourist location and our operations center. We could get by with the analog cameras, but their capabilities were limited, and it would have been very expensive to put in new cameras.” The consultant initially ordered eight D-Link Network Cameras with PoE for a trial at the Las Vegas location. The trial went well, so they ordered another 18 cameras for the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas sites.  
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29611121/>

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## Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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