



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 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/>

- Reuters reports that Marathon Oil Corp. confirmed that a crude pipeline supplying its Garyville, Louisiana refinery had been shut following a blast on Tuesday that killed one worker and injured three others. (See item [1](#))
- According to the Los Angeles Times, the FBI is investigating the Saturday firebombing of a vehicle owned by a UCLA neuroscientist who was targeted by an anti-animal research group for using primates in his study. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

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

1. *March 11, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Marathon La. pipeline shut after deadly blast.** Marathon Oil Corp. on March 11 confirmed that a crude pipeline supplying its Garyville, Louisiana refinery had been shut following a March 10 blast that killed one worker and injured three others. The company has enough crude oil in inventory to keep the 256,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery running, a company spokeswoman told Reuters. “The St. James to Garyville pipeline is currently shut,” a Marathon spokeswoman said. “We’re working to get it restarted. Garyville has crude on hand and continues to operate.” Late on March 10, Louisiana State Police said the pipeline had been temporarily shut after the late-morning explosion. The four men were working as part of Marathon’s project to expand Garyville’s refining capacity by 180,000 bpd. State

Police and St. James Parish representatives said the men were welding on a pipe connected to a sump tank when the blast rocked Marathon's St. James pipeline facility located 56 miles west of New Orleans.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1144850820090311>

2. *March 11, Reuters* – (Texas) **Western shuts El Paso units after power out.** Western Refining shut unidentified units at its 107,000 barrel-per-day El Paso, Texas refinery after a power outage hit the east side of the city, according to a company filing on March 11. "Operators and automatic shutdown systems cut the feeds to the units and followed emergency procedures to safely bring the units down," Western said in the filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. "Excess liquids were sent to tankage. Excess gases were relieved and destructed in the north and south emergency flare systems," said the filing by the independent refiner. Company officials were not immediately available for comment on the filing which noted that the power outage caused the shutdown of the north and south refinery units.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1127279420090311>

3. *March 10, Gannett News Service* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. finds gas-drilling firm in violation.** Natural gas drilling operations in Dimock, Pennsylvania are violating laws to protect water and the public, state regulators have determined. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding Cabot Oil & Gas accountable for allowing natural gas from lower formations to contaminate fresh water supplies, according to a "Notice of Violation" sent to Cabot dated February 27. While tapping gas from the Marcellus Shale formation, the company has violated the state's Oil and Gas Act and Clean Stream Laws, the notice states. Both of those regulations protect drinking water supplies from natural gas hazards. Gas from Cabot drilling operations has migrated into an aquifer providing water for local residents, the DEP has determined. More than a dozen wells providing water to homes have been affected. Additionally, Cabot failed to provide the DEP with timely records of drilling on two dozen wells in the area, according to the notice, signed by a regional manager for the DEP's Office of Oil and Gas Management. The DEP is asking to install gas detectors on area homes as a safeguard against explosions, provide more testing, improve its record-keeping, and continue providing alternative water supplies to homes where gas levels exceed standards, according to the Notice of Violation.

Source: <http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090310/NEWS01/903100336/1001>

4. *March 10, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Leaders want Con Ed answers.** Con Edison must step up to the plate following a week of two separate manhole explosions in Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, elected officials said. On March 6, a new state senator, New York City councilwoman-elect, and district leader demanded an investigation into the utility giant's infrastructure. The senator accused the company of repeatedly putting residents in harm's way. A Con Edison spokesman said the weather bears the blame for the recent mishaps. "It's just this time of year, since there's a lot of snow and salt. We've found that these incidents are mostly seasonal," he said. "But we're always studying ways to make the system better."

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2009/03/10/2009-03-

5. *March 9, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Oil drained from damaged tanker.** As the crew of the SKS Satilla battled water gushing through its punctured hull, emergency workers on March 9 succeeded in emptying the 900-foot oil tanker of half its cargo of 40 million gallons of crude oil. A second ship was sent to the scene 65 miles south of Galveston to siphon out the remaining 20 million gallons before the tanker is towed to port for repairs. A Coast Guard lieutenant said the ship’s tanks should be emptied by early March 9. He called the operation “extraordinarily difficult,” but added that the ship is not in danger of sinking. “The ship is fine,” he said. The vessel began taking on water late last week after it struck a submerged object as it approached the entrance of the Houston Ship Channel. At one point, the vessel was listing 8 degrees. The crew righted the vessel by pumping water from its ballast tanks. The Satilla sustained a number of punctures in a 60-by-20-meter area that is 7 to 17 feet below the water line. Coast Guard officials believe the ship may have struck the remains of an Enesco International jackup oil rig that was lost during Hurricane Ike. The investigation is continuing.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6301989.html>

6. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Evacuation lifted in eastern Iowa town after train derailment with cars hauling ethanol.** Residents of the eastern Iowa town of Jesup were returning home nearly 18 hours after several freight cars hauling ethanol derailed in downtown. The accident happened about 3:45 p.m. on March 8. Residents of 14 homes near the Canadian National Railway tracks were told to leave as a precaution. The evacuation was lifted about 10 a.m. on March 9. A police chief says three cars went off the tracks and several others were tipping. He says railroad officials, who arrived overnight, had uprighted the cars the morning of March 9. One car developed a small leak, but it was repaired. No injuries were reported. The cause of the derailment is under investigation, but he says heavy rain may have washed out part of the track.
Source: <http://www.wqad.com/news/sns-ap-ia--trainderailment,0,953320.story>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Union Pacific freight car carrying molten sulfur derails in Louisiana.** Louisiana State Police (LSP) have lifted a shelter-in-place order resulting from the derailling of a freight train car carrying molten sulfur near Plaquemine, Louisiana on March 7. The derailed freight car sprang a leak and dribbled stinking orange-and-yellow goop into Bayou Plaquemine and prompted evacuation of more than 100 people from a nearby motel. On March 8, the LSP said the molten sulfur tank had been removed but LA 1 at the bridge in Plaquemine will remain a two-way road on the northbound side. Southbound side will remain closed on the bridge. Nobody was hurt when the train derailed. When all of the empty cars had been moved or righted, a track crew discovered that the trestle was damaged and would have to be fixed before the loaded car could be moved. The LSP reported that the trestle has now been repaired. The five cars that derailed were toward the end of a 67-car train that was going 16 mph at the time of the accident and included four of the 12 empty cars, a Union Pacific Corp.

spokeswoman said. An automatic phone system notified 711 families in the area to stay in their houses and Louisiana Highway 1 was closed in the area after the 5 a.m. derailment. None of the train cars fell into the bayou just inside Iberville Parish; the only one carrying cargo was the leaking car, which was upright on the bridge, an LSP spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2009/03/09/98521.htm>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 10, KWTX 10 Waco* – (Texas) **SpaceX tests another engine in central Texas.** Space Exploration Technologies Corp. successfully test-fired its new Merlin Vacuum engine March 7 at its test facility in McGregor west of Waco, Texas. The engine fired for six minutes and consumed 100,000 pounds of liquid oxygen and rocket grade kerosene propellant, SpaceX said. The engine powers the upper stage of the company's Falcon 9 launch vehicle and generated about 92,5000 pounds of force in vacuum conditions during the test. "With a vacuum Isp of 342 seconds, the new Merlin Vacuum engine has exceeded our requirements, setting a new standard for American hydrocarbon engine performance in space." NASA recently selected SpaceX's Falcon 9 launch vehicle and Dragon spacecraft to resupply the International Space Station after the shuttle fleet is retired in 2010. The Falcon 9's inaugural flight is scheduled later this year from the company's launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/41042652.html>

9. *March 10, SatNews Daily* – (Utah) **NASA ignited over Ares I.** NASA has completed a successful test firing of the igniter that will be used to start the Ares I rocket first stage motor. The March 10 test paves the way for the initial ground test of the Ares I first stage later this year. Ares I is the first launch vehicle in NASA's Constellation Program family of space vehicles that will transport astronauts and cargo to the International Space Station, the moon, and beyond in coming decades. The test, conducted at ATK Launch Systems test facilities near Promontory, Utah, generated a flame almost 200 feet in length. Initial data showed the igniter performed as expected. ATK Launch Systems, a division of Alliant Techsystems of Brigham City, Utah, is the prime contractor for the Ares I first stage.

Source: <http://www.satnews.com/cgi-bin/story.cgi?number=1242122478>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 10, KBTX 3 Bryan/College Station* – (Texas) **Phishing scams flood the Brazos Valley.** Phishing scams continue to plague the Brazos Valley with con artists hoping to reel in a big one. Phishing is the illegal attempt to defraud you out of your personal information. News 3 has received numerous emails and calls from viewers targeted by these frauds over the past few days. Many claim to represent Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union, but others say they are from credit cards or other financial institutions. The typical scenario starts with a phone call, often late at night, or an email or text message from someone claiming to represent a bank, credit union or credit card issuer. The message says there is a problem with your credit, debit or ATM card. Often they say someone is trying to illegally access it. The final step is to direct you to divulge credit card or bank account numbers so they can protect or reactivate your account. Source: <http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/41058287.html>

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Transportation Sector

11. *March 11, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **Sand in Dallas levees could delay Trinity River bridge.** The first Calatrava bridge over the Trinity River could be significantly delayed by a deep layer of sand in the east levees near downtown Dallas, a problem that has sent engineers working on the city's massive Trinity River project scrambling. The 40-story suspension bridge is slated to open by 2011. But it might lack some access ramps unless engineers for the state and city can persuade the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow fresh holes to be dug in the east levees, near where the sand was found. Engineers must analyze how big a risk the layer of sand could pose to the levees and determine how widespread the seam of sand is along the 22-mile levee system. If the sand layer turns out to run for miles, the fixes could get extraordinarily complex and expensive. The presence of sand alone is not the worry. But digging a structure — a bridge pier, for instance, or support for a toll road — into the sand can be. The man-made material will contract and expand with the weather, creating gaps between it and the sand. "That provides a potential avenue for water to move up and down within that gap," said the Trinity project manager for the Corps. "That sand layer acts as a way for the water to move down under the levee system. If enough water moves through the seam along with the sand, that creates a potential for a failure. Teams have submitted possible solutions several times to the Corps, but each has been deemed unacceptable. Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/politics/local/stories/031109dnmetrinity.3e60f1c.html>
12. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Small plane leaves runway at Midway Airport.** Aviation officials say a small airplane went off a runway at Chicago's Midway International Airport. A Chicago Aviation Department spokeswoman said she is not sure if the private plane skidded when it left the runway shortly after 3:15 p.m. March 10. She says no injuries were reported among the three people on board. The runway involved in the incident was closed. But she says operations are not affected because arrivals and departures have shifted to another runway. Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il->

[planeleavesrunway,0,2340070.story](#)

13. *March 10, Palo Alto Online News* – (California) **Bomb squad detonates suspicious package with ‘hostile’ note in south Palo Alto.** A suspicious package with a “hostile” note prompted police to evacuate about 200 people, including 60 students, from a Fabian Way block in south Palo Alto the afternoon of March 10. Police arrived at the block at about 11:20 a.m. and found the package between a bus-stop bench and a post box, said a spokesman for the Palo Alto Police Department. The package was about the size of a shoe box and was wrapped in chains. It also had a metal pipe, wrapped in duct tape, sticking out. It was located near a private Jewish high school and across the street from Space Systems/Loral, an aerospace corporation. The package, which police feared may have stored an improvised explosive device, also included a hand-written note with references to a person’s name and to “pigs.” Police said the note was “hostile in tone,” but could not say if the package was intended for someone in the school. The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Department Bomb Squad detonated the package. Police are analyzing the remnants to determine the contents of the package.

Source: http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=11534

14. *March 10, KING 5 Seattle* – (Washington) **Tip leads police to Sea-Tac Airport laser arrest.** A 24-year-old Burien Man remains in jail on \$100,000 bond after his arrest for shining a laser at landing airplanes near Sea-Tac Airport. The man was arrested March 6 by Port of Seattle Police. For weeks now, pilots have complained about lasers shining into their cockpits. In several cases, the locations the pilots and air traffic controllers gave were very specific. One cited by police is close to a home where police say a tipster told them a man with a laser attended a kids’ birthday party on February 22 — the same day a dozen planes landing at Sea-Tac reported being lasered. On March 10, Port of Seattle police came to the residence and, as they were there, the suspect drove up. Police say he had a green laser on him that was confiscated. Police say the suspect told them that he might have “lasered” a plane accidentally.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29601778/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *March 11, USAgNet* – (National) **NASDA calls for fairness in meat inspection standards.** The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is urging the Federal Government to adopt standards that apply equally to both federal and state meat inspection programs. “We support and welcome reasonable measures to ensure state inspection programs operate at the prescribed standards,” NASDA members said last week in a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. “However, federal auditors

must use established federal inspection standards to determine “equal to” standards of state inspection programs. Standards must be clear and applied equally to both federal and state inspection programs.” The North Dakota Agriculture Commission said that NASDA is pleased that the 2008 Farm Bill finally provides for interstate sales and shipping of state-inspected meat and poultry products under Title V of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. NASDA represents the commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the 50 states and four U.S. territories. Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=563&yr=2009>

16. *March 10, KKTV 11 Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Suspicious package at Colorado Springs nightclub.** Colorado Springs Police were called out March 10 to Club Q to investigate a suspicious package. When officers arrived, the business owner said an employee found an envelope at the front door of the business. The person/suspect that left the envelope had written on the exterior of the envelope that it contained anthrax. A bomb tech officer determined that the envelope was a hoax device, and it did not contain anything harmful. Police arrested a 35 year old man in regards to the incident. Source: <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/41070157.html>

17. *March 9, Government Security News* – (National) **USDA proposes to release wasps to kill runaway Carrizo cane along U.S.-Mexican border.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing to issue permits for the release of a wasp, known scientifically as *Tetramesa romana* to gain the upper hand with the seemingly unstoppable Carrizo cane — a giant bamboo-like weed known scientifically as *Arundo donax* which is running rampant along portions of the Rio Grande between Mexico and the United States. These wasps lay their eggs inside the shoot cavity of the Carrizo cane, after which their larvae stunts the growth of the Carrizo stem or kills the *Arundo donax* altogether. The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced on March 6 that it has completed an environmental assessment of the plague of the *Arundo donax*, as well as its possible cures, and concluded that the introduction of the reed-killing wasps is probably the best of a handful of potential solutions. “Therefore, APHIS is proposing to issue permits for the release of a wasp, *T. romana*, into the continental United States in order to reduce the severity and extent of *A. donax* infestations,” said the APHIS notice. APHIS is hopeful, but by no means certain, that the introduction of killer wasps will achieve a 100 percent victory. “*T. romana* may not be successful in reducing the *A. donax* population in the continental United States,” acknowledges the inspection service, “but its use is expected to be effective in combination with other control methods or biological control agents that may be released in the future.” Source: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1654.html>

18. *March 9, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Forest fires in S. La. show evidence of drought.** Three wildfires burning in south Louisiana since the weekend are evidence that portion of the state is in a drought, a climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center said on March 9. Almost all of Louisiana is abnormally dry for this time of year, said the climatologist, but the southern region — or about 45 percent of the state — is experiencing a moderate drought that includes below-normal precipitation

and very dry soil and vegetation. “It’s been exceptionally dry for six months,” the climatologist said. “If this continues from March into April, conditions will continue to deteriorate and it could impact the growing season for agriculture.” Besides hurting the winter wheat crops, an ongoing drought could hinder the production and harvesting of corn, sorghum, soy beans, cotton, and vegetables, said the state agriculture commissioner. Combined with strong winds and residue from chemical spills left on the ground from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and last year’s Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the dry conditions fueled three wildfires across south Louisiana this weekend, the commissioner said. The fires have so far claimed almost 5,000 acres of Louisiana timberland. No suspects have been arrested.

Source: <http://www.katc.com/global/story.asp?s=9974569>

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Water Sector

19. *March 11, Press of Atlantic City* – (New Jersey) **New Jersey may limit fertilizer chemical in water supply.** A chemical in fertilizer associated with causing thyroid problems, perchlorate, could become more regulated in New Jersey with changes to drinking water rules proposed by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). If the DEP’s proposed changes go into effect, there would be a maximum contaminant level of five micrograms per liter allowed. While more of a concern in California and southwestern states, perchlorate has been found in some public and private water systems in New Jersey, according to the DEP. The assistant director of water supply operations for the DEP said he believes the chemical is not necessarily widespread in New Jersey, estimating that it affects between 2 percent and 5 percent of the water supply in the state. The highest levels of perchlorate in a water supply have been reported in Park Ridge, Bergen County, as a result of fertilizer applications or possible improper storage of fertilizer. A contaminated water supply also can lead to contaminated crops. Other states that have implemented perchlorate limits include California and Massachusetts. Those states have set their perchlorate limits at 6 and 2 parts ppb, respectively.
Source: <http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/209/story/425124.html>
20. *March 10, Water Technology Online* – (West Virginia) **WV water plant escapes major fire damage.** The cause of a March 8 brush fire that destroyed an outbuilding of the Coal City Water Plant is under investigation, according to a March 8 report in the State Journal. The fire in Raleigh County burned nearly two acres and threatened the main water plant facility. Several fire departments responded and were able to contain the blaze, according to the report.
Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71546
21. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Maryland; West Virginia) **Potomac River mostly spared from Md. fly ash spill.** A 4,000-gallon spill of potentially toxic coal ash sludge mostly missed the Potomac River and does not appear to have done much harm, a Maryland environmental official said March 10. “Any spill of coal ash is very serious, but it does seem like it will be of relatively limited impact, that it was a minor leak,”

said a spokeswoman for the Maryland Department of the Environment. She said papermaker NewPage Corp., which owns the leaky pipeline over the river's North Branch, must tell state regulators within five days how it plans to prevent future spills. The agency is considering fining the company, she said. A spokeswoman for Miamisburg, Ohio-based NewPage said in an e-mail to the Associated Press that the company will improve how it maintains ash pipelines. The Maryland environmental official said the bulk of the sludge spilled onto the West Virginia river bank across from NewPage's mill in Luke, about 210 miles upstream from Washington. Workers were expected to finish cleaning the stream bank March 10, she said. She said a minor amount of sludge caused discoloration in the river about 30 feet downstream, with no sign of harm to any fish. The spill also was not expected to taint any drinking water supplies.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g-p-ZYjtkl2Lhk8P_n042BKqSA9AD96RD1K80

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *March 10, WJZ 13 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Deadly bacteria found in hospital's water.** Potentially deadly Legionella bacteria was found in the water at St. Joseph Medical Center in Baltimore County, Maryland. The hospital announced March 10 that voluntary testing revealed the presence of the bacteria in the hospital's hot water supply. Until the problem is cleared, the hospital water is not being used. There is bottled water for drinking and hand-washing and personal hygiene packs for bathing. Legionella is a bacteria that is acquired by inhaling water droplets. It can lead to Legionnaire's Disease, a type of pneumonia.
Source: <http://wjz.com/health/legionnaire.bacteria.2.955944.html>
23. *March 10, Olympian* – (Washington) **House passes legislation to monitor MRSA.** Washington State lawmakers moved forward Monday with an effort to track drug-resistant staph infections and slow the bacteria's spread. The House bill passed unanimously. It will require hospitals to develop a system to identify patients carrying the potentially deadly disease, and policies to control the infections. That includes telling people when they are sharing a hospital room with someone who is carrying drug-resistant staph, said a representative from Yelm. "At the very least, the hospital will have to disclose that to the patient, that they are indeed roomed with an infectious person." The Senate approved its own bill on methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA. The Senate bill would require hospitals to screen all patients entering and leaving their intensive care units for drug-resistant staph. If more than 5 percent of patients contract the germ during treatment, the hospital must continue the program. All patients found to be carrying the germ would be advised and counseled under Senate Bill 5500.
Source: <http://www.theolympian.com/legislature/story/782007.html>
24. *March 10, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **House agrees to restructure Ga. health department.** The Georgia House has agreed to restructure the state's health and human services department. The House voted 147-12 March 10 to create a new agency to lead

Georgia's troubled mental health system and two other agencies that advocates say would have more focused missions. The measure would reshuffle social services and health programs now spread across two state agencies and divide them among three new divisions. It also creates a new position of state health officer to help oversee the various programs.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9981003>

25. *March 9, KSBY 6 Santa Maria* – (California) **Suspicious package in San Luis Obispo a false alarm.** A suspicious package in the courtyard of the old General Hospital forced people out of their offices for a few hours in San Luis Obispo. The old hospital is now the county pharmacy. The San Luis Obispo Police Department says the size and weight of the case made it suspicious. The nearby buildings were then evacuated and the scene was taped off for safety. The bomb task force used a water cannon to bust the briefcase open. Paperwork was found inside.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=9972986>

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *March 10, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **FBI investigates firebombing of UCLA researcher's car.** The FBI is looking into the firebombing of a vehicle owned by a UCLA neuroscientist who was targeted by an anti-animal research group for using primates in his study of psychiatric disorders. The March 7 incident involving a homemade incendiary device took place outside the faculty member's home and caused no injuries, according to a FBI spokeswoman. The UCLA professor, who researches treatments for schizophrenia, drug addiction and other disorders, was not identified. The FBI spokeswoman said the investigation of the March 7 incident will be conducted by a Joint Terrorism Task Force that includes the FBI, the LAPD, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the UCLA Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The Animal Liberation Front posted a message on its Web site on March 9 from a group that claimed responsibility for the firebombing. UCLA is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the incident.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/print/edition/california/la-me-ucla-fire10-2009mar10,0,6615727.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 9, WFLA 8 Tampa Bay* – (Florida) **Coast Guard commissions new patrol boat.** The U.S. Coast Guard has added a new vessel to its fleet, the type rescuers say are crucial in emergencies like the recent boat capsizing that left three people dead. The 87-foot coastal patrol boat, named the Alligator, is the fourth patrol boat for St. Petersburg and will typically spend 180 days a year at sea, patrolling from Crystal River, south to Fort Myers Beach. The vessel was officially commissioned March 9. The St. Petersburg

region is one of the Coast Guard's busiest and most active commands. Last year it handled 1,300 search and rescue missions.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2009/mar/09/coast-guard-commissions-new-patrol-boat/>

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Information Technology

28. *March 11, SmartHouse* – (International) **Beware of new Kido malware threat.** Software security specialist Kaspersky Lab says it has detected a new modification of the Kido malware threat. This latest variant differs from previous ones in that it extends the Trojan functionality used in earlier versions of the malicious program. Net-Worm.Win32.Kido.ip, Net-Worm.Win32.Kido.iq, and other variants are all representative of this latest modification of Kido, which is capable of preventing antivirus products from functioning effectively on infected machines. The new variant of the malicious program also generates a dramatically increased number of unique domain names which it can contact to download daily updates: 50,000 in contrast to the 250 generated and contacted by previous versions. “So far, the new version of Kido is not posing an epidemic threat,” said a senior antivirus expert. “However, if existing versions of Kido are replaced by the latest variant, this could make life a lot more difficult for those trying to combat the authors of this malicious program.” The Kido worm has Trojan Downloader functionality, which means that it delivers other malicious programs to infected computers. The first Kido infections were detected in November 2008. A record for new Kido variants was added to Kaspersky Lab antivirus databases on March 7.
Source: http://www.smarthouse.com.au/Home_Office/Security_And_Support/W2R5W2G5
29. *March 11, Enterprise Security* – (International) **Critical kernel fix stars in Patch Tuesday updates.** Microsoft released the promised three patches on March 10, including one critical, as part of its regular Patch Tuesday update cycle. The critical patch in the batch covers input validation vulnerabilities in the Windows kernel. The flaws create a possible mechanism for hackers to inject hostile code onto vulnerable systems, although there are no known exploits. The two other updates released on March 10, both rated as “important,” cover vulnerabilities in Microsoft’s implementation of Secure Channel and a DNS spoofing risk, respectively. Probably more important than any of the three updates is the absence of a fix for an unpatched Excel vulnerability, which has been the target of hacking attacks over recent weeks.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/03/11/patch_tuesday_march/
30. *March 10, IDG News Service* – (International) **Bad Symantec update leads to trouble.** Symantec says a buggy diagnostic program spurred a rash of Norton antivirus user complaints on March 9 and 10. Problems started around 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time on March 9, when Norton Internet Security and Norton Antivirus 2006 and 2007 users started receiving error messages connected to a Symantec software update that tried to download a program called PIFTS.exe. “In a case of human error, the patch was released

by Symantec ‘unsigned,’ which caused the firewall user prompt for this file to access the Internet,” wrote a Symantec spokesman in a forum post explaining the problem. Users reported that Norton’s own firewall software was popping up error messages asking them if they wanted to install the PIFTS.exe file. Norton’s firewall would have let it pass, had it been digitally signed. The update was available for about three hours and was pushed out to a small, “limited number” of Norton users, said a group product manager of consumer products with Symantec. PIFTS (Product Information Framework Troubleshooter) is a diagnostic program that Symantec periodically sends out to users to anonymously collect information such as the operating system and version number of the product being used in order to get a snapshot of its user base. The troublesome, unsigned PIFTS.exe file is no longer being distributed, but it never represented any kind of security threat, the group product manager said. “If a user would have accepted it they should have been fine, and if they declined it they should have been fine.”

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/161038/bad_symantec_update_leads_to_trouble.html

31. *March 10, IDG News Service* – (International) **Gmail down; outage could last 36 hours for some.** Google Inc.’s Gmail e-mail service is down for an undetermined number of users, and while the outage has been partially fixed, some people could be locked out of their accounts for many more hours. Google said that it could take between 24 hours to 36 hours to restore all affected accounts. A Google spokesman characterized the problem as “a minor issue” that struck at 5 a.m. Within 30 minutes, the service had been restored for “nearly all affected users,” he said via e-mail at 4:30 p.m. on March 10. “We are working to fix the issue for the few users still affected. We know how important e-mail is to our users, so we take issues like this very seriously and apologize for the inconvenience,” he said. The issue, which at its peak affected “a small subset of users,” prevents people from accessing their accounts. About two weeks ago, Gmail suffered a major outage that affected many users worldwide and lasted for two and a half hours. The outages affect all types of people, from casual users, who use Gmail for personal communications, to those who rely on it for their work e-mail as part of the Google Apps hosted collaboration and communication suite. That is because Google serves all of its Gmail users from the same data center infrastructure, including Apps Premier users, who pay for their service and are covered by a 99.9 percent uptime commitment.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129347&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

32. *March 10, PCWorld* – (International) **Device fingerprinting aims to stop online fraud.** Device ID, the practice of fingerprinting the means by which an account is accessed, is seen as a growth security industry in 2009. The market for Device ID is currently dominated by financial institutions aiming to curb ID fraud and credit card account theft, but the chief executive of Threatmetrix said he sees social networking as an emerging growth space as well. He also said there is a market for retail sites both in affiliate programs and in processing Card Not Present purchases online. Threatmetrix, which is

sold as a SaaS solution, provides a deep inspection of the TCIP packet so that when someone logs into a bank online, over 150 parameters are inspected in real time. Among these are use of a proxy, using a known compromised PC, and turning off Javascript or cookies. Threatmetrix scores these and delivers that final score to the enterprise customer. New in this version are tools to determine whether this is a single computer concurrently logging into several different account names, or one username being logged in by multiple PCs, activity say from a botnet. Additionally, the service looks at how fast a given account is accessed (humans can react only so fast). In most cases the abnormalities are fraud scenarios. Threatmetrix knows of about 200 million compromised machines worldwide, but he said his company only keeps an active database of about 12 million.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/161036/device_fingerprinting_aims_to_stop_online_fraud.html

33. *March 9, CNET News* – (International) **Adobe issues fix for zero-day Reader vulnerability.** Adobe Systems on March 10 issued a security update to fix a critical vulnerability in Adobe Reader 9 and Acrobat 9 that could allow an attacker to take complete control of a computer and for which exploits had been reportedly found in the wild for nearly two months. Adobe alerted users about the vulnerability recently and promised to have a security update for it by March 11. Basically, attackers can take advantage of a hole on unpatched systems to overwrite memory with a buffer overflow and install a backdoor through which to control the system remotely. In its advisory, Adobe said it plans to provide security updates for Adobe Reader 7 and 8 and Acrobat 7 and 8 by March 18 and for Adobe Reader 9.1 for Unix by March 25. Meanwhile, US-CERT said on March 10 it is aware of public reports of two new attack vectors for the vulnerability involving the Windows Indexing Service that indexes PDF files and the Windows Explorer Shell Extension. The vulnerability can be exploited with little or no user interaction if the Windows Indexing Service processes a malicious PDF file stored on the system or Windows Explorer displays a folder containing a malicious PDF file, the CERT advisory said.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10193218-83.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Security

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

34. *March 10, Xchange* – (National) **AT&T to invest billions in wireless and fiber.**

Femtocells; Wi-Fi; HSPA+; an almost doubling of its U-Verse footprint: AT&T Inc. said on March 10 that it plans to invest \$17 billion to \$18 billion this year. The carrier says it is still seeing increased demand for mobility, broadband and video, and especially for mobility, with a veritable explosion in demand expected once the economy turns around. It is wireless that will claim most of the limelight in terms of AT&T's initiatives this year, with nods to fixed-to-mobile substitution and the increasing thirst for mobile Internet services. Notably, AT&T will finally start to trial femtocells more widely with the goal of taking its 3G MicroCell service mainstream. These home base stations add carrier backhaul capacity by plugging into a broadband connection in the home to boost wireless signals to broadband levels for voice and data. Since the consumer is typically paying for the broadband in the first place, it is an attractive way for a carrier to offload traffic and cost from the macro wireless network while encouraging broadband uptake. Meanwhile, it also plans to double its 3G network capacity by adding 850MHz spectrum to the mix, which is a frequency that provides better in-building coverage than the current network. It will also add 2,100 new cell sites and 20 new markets this year. And, in addition to its previously announced trials of 7.2mbps HSPA+, it said it plans to evolve to support speeds as high as 20mbps. And along with all of this will be a continuing expansion of AT&T's Wi-Fi footprint and infrastructure, building from the 20,000 hotspot footprint created in 2008 with the acquisition of Wayport.

Source: <http://www.xchangemag.com/hotnews/att-to-invest-billions-in-wireless-and-fiber.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

35. *March 11, Lafayette Journal and Courier* – (Indiana) **Evacuations continue near Oakdale dam.** Boats are being dispatched to help with more evacuations near the Oakdale Dam in Carroll County. Some residents left their homes earlier this week when the Tippecanoe River's level started to rise. Some nearby residents have requested to be evacuated in the Horseshoe Bend area along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll County, said an emergency management coordinator. Elsewhere, emergency officials were warning people who live in flood prone areas to seek higher ground. High water forced the closing of numerous roads throughout the area. At 6:20 a.m. on March 11, the

Norway Dam was releasing 21,955 cubic feet of water per second. The Oakdale Dam was releasing 25,322 cubic feet per second. Flood stage for both dams is 13,000 cubic feet per second.

Source: <http://www.jconline.com/article/20090311/NEWS09/90311002>

36. *March 11, Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Dike repairs under review.** As Hadley town officials waited to learn what caused a section of the dike under repair on the Connecticut River to collapse, Wakefield-based Architects, Engineers, Construction, Operations Management Co. was brought in March 10 to review the work. Stantec of Northampton was the engineer on the project, and the engineer from that company could not be reached. The town administrator said he will meet with Stantec Wednesday to learn more about what caused the Friday collapse, as well as how it can be repaired. He does not believe that changing weather conditions caused the collapse. He said he had not seen any high water or flooding there. Crews from Mass-West Construction Inc. of West Springfield have been working to repair the dike since December, and are expected to finish by the end of the month. The state Department of Environmental Protection granted the town emergency status to accelerate the permitting process, leading to the quick repair.

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/metrowest/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-18/1236755777187300.xml&coll=1>

37. *March 10, Texas Cable News* – (Texas) **Will proposed dike protect Galveston from hurricanes?** Galveston County leaders estimate that a full recovery from Hurricane Ike could take anywhere from five to seven years. According to a Texas A&M professor, a proposed “Ike Dike” or anti-hurricane wall would help. Regarding Hurricane Ike, he said, “We could have prevented this.” The professor says his idea lies in the Netherlands. It is called the Delta Works. It involves 10,000 miles of dikes, levies and massive, movable flood control gates. It is considered one of the biggest engineering feats in the entire world and one which protects millions from the ravages of the North Sea. He proposes building a similar structure on the east end of the Galveston Seawall. The project would cost at least \$2 billion, say experts. Experts agree that, mechanically, the project could be done. They say that a massive flood gate across the ship channel and another one across San Luis Pass could be built.

Source:

http://www.txcn.com/sharedcontent/dws/txcn/houston/stories/khou090310_jj_ike-dike-hurricane.20f2b960.html

38. *March 9, Monitor* – (Texas) **IBWC commits to repair most of Hidalgo County levees.** The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) released its list Monday of projects it will complete with \$220 million in funds from the economic stimulus package. About 170 miles of river and interior floodway levees along the entire Rio Grande will be raised and repaired to provide adequate protection during a 100-year flood, a standard established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In Hidalgo County, nearly all of the levee system will be fixed except for a small portion of levees from north of Baseline Road in Mercedes east to Cameron County and a small portion of the river levee east of Retamal Dam. A Hidalgo County judge said the

IBWC's commitment to fix the levees ends more than two years worth of work by the county since FEMA announced it would not certify the levees. FEMA was poised to release flood maps that could force residents to spend \$150 million annually to pay for flood insurance. In addition, a study commissioned last year estimated the county would suffer \$1.7 billion in property damages and lose \$950 million in retail sales if the river levees were to overtop. "I feel better that they have the funding," the judge said. "But I'll feel better when I see a timeline that says they're going to fix these levees within the next year." The commission has not released a timeline for when it will complete the work in Hidalgo County and elsewhere. But the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 manager said agency officials indicated in a meeting in El Paso last week that work could extend until 2011 or 2012. The levee-wall project is a partnership between the drainage district, the Department of Homeland Security, and the IBWC.

Source:

http://www.themonitor.com/articles/county_24075_article.html/hidalgo_levees.html

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