



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 March 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- The Associated Press reports that a section of Colorado 139 in Grand Junction has reopened after a semitrailer hauling coal collided with a pickup carrying hydrochloric acid on Monday. Hazardous materials teams contained up to 600 gallons of hydrochloric acid. (See item [4](#))
- According to the Gary Post-Tribune, a levee along the Yellow River in Starke County, Indiana burst over the weekend, flooding nearly 9,000 acres of farm fields. (See item [39](#))

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 17, USA Today* – (National) **Electricity thefts surge in bad times.** Many utilities say energy theft has risen sharply during the economic downturn. American Electric Power has investigated 3,196 cases of theft in January and February, a 27 percent jump over the year-ago period, says an AEP spokesman. The company serves Rust Belt states hit hard by layoffs, such as Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Consulting firm Detectent has identified a double-digit rise in business thefts the past six months, many by energy-guzzling restaurants. Utilities often learn of thefts from meter readers, neighbors, or abnormal use patterns. They expect to detect fraud earlier as they roll out smart meters that can remotely monitor electricity use.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2009-03-16-electricity->

[thefts_N.htm](#)

2. *March 16, Brownfield Network* – (National) **POET and Magellan to assess dedicated ethanol pipeline.** POET, the nation's largest ethanol producer, is going to assess the feasibility of constructing an ethanol pipeline from the Midwest to the northeastern United States. POET will work with Magellan Midstream Partners to review the pipeline project. As proposed, it would gather ethanol from production facilities in Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio to serve distribution terminals in major northeastern markets. Officials say the pipeline would span approximately 1,700 miles and would take several years to complete. POET says the feasibility of the project depends on studies addressing technical and economic issues associated with the transportation of ethanol via pipeline. And officials say that federal legislation revising the Department of Energy's loan guarantee program is critical for the project to move forward. Magellan and a company called Buckeye Partners originally announced their intent to study the pipeline project in February 2008. However, Buckeye has discontinued its role in the project.

Source: <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=1026ACEA-5056-B82A-D08242EFE4C0BA45>

3. *March 16, Reuters* – (California) **Conoco: Wilmington refinery largely back to normal.** ConocoPhillips said on March 16 that its 139,000 barrel per day Los Angeles-area refinery in Wilmington, California has largely resumed normal operations after the plant was shut by a power outage on March 11. "ConocoPhillips has brought the majority of the units back on line at its Los Angeles refinery," a spokesman for the oil company said in an email. "With normal operations largely resumed, the refinery team continues its work to optimize daily throughput rates. There are no further status updates planned," he added. The facility had an unscheduled shutdown caused by a two-hour power outage early afternoon on March 11, he said. Conoco had said it was beginning to restart the refinery.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1651758620090316>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Highway reopens after coal truck hits pickup.** A section of Colorado 139 has reopened on the Western Slope after a two-vehicle accident that left one person dead. A Grand Junction Fire Department spokesman says the highway reopened at Douglas Pass at about 11:30 p.m. Monday after being closed for some 15 hours. The closure came after a semitrailer hauling coal collided with a pickup carrying hydrochloric acid at 8:45 a.m. Monday, about 18 miles north of Loma. Family members say the man who was driving the coal truck died in the crash. Hazardous materials teams from the Grand Junction and Lower Valley Fire Department worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation to contain up to 600 gallons of hydrochloric acid. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.kjct8.com/Global/story.asp?S=10020320>

5. *March 17, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Two leaks result in fines for Mason chemical plant.** A Mason County chemical plant has been fined \$44,000 for workplace safety and health violations discovered after two leaks occurred on the same day, federal officials announced on March 16. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued citations for seven serious violations, one repeat violation and one other-than-serious violation to ICL Supresta Inc. for problems at its Gallipolis Ferry operation. According to an OSHA news release, the serious violations included the company's failure to ensure that operating procedures covering safety and health considered special or unique hazards of the process, failure to conduct adequate safety inspections, and failure to ensure that proper respiratory gear was used during an emergency response. OSHA also issued serious violations for the company's failure to adequately train first responders to an incident, failure to ensure proper fit testing for employees using respiratory protection, and failure to properly review and critique incident responses. OSHA said the repeat violation was for the company's failure to fix safety issues uncovered during a 1999 process hazard analysis. OSHA had cited the company for the problem in 2007. OSHA launched an investigation at the plant, along the Ohio River south of Point Pleasant, after learning of two chemical releases there on January 7.

Source: <http://sundaygazette.com/News/200903160636>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *March 16, Greenwire* – (National) **Low-level waste emerges as hurdle for new nuclear reactors.** There are dwindling places to put low-level nuclear waste, and nuclear-power opponent groups are filing and winning legal fights to force utilities to present disposal plans for low-level waste before they can build a new reactor. The low-level waste problem is already affecting reactor applications. The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy this month won a legal contention from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board against Southern Nuclear Operating's Vogtle reactor license application for Georgia. The same contention has already been granted in reviews of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Bellefonte application in Alabama; Unistar's Calvert Cliffs, Maryland application; and Dominion Power's North Anna application in Virginia. Advocacy groups plan to similarly contest Progress Energy's Levy County, Florida application and have already filed against Detroit Edison's Fermi application. There is little incentive for companies to try to license and develop new low-level waste sites, because nuclear plants, which generate most of that waste, have managed to dramatically reduce their volume and store more on site, according to the executive director of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, a nonprofit that is helping state compacts comply with the low-level waste law.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/03/16/16greenwire-lowlevel-waste-emerges-as-hurdle-for-new-react-10146.html>

7. *March 16, Chattanooga Times Free Press* – (Alabama) **NRC restores permit to build Bellefonte plant.** Three years after the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) canceled plans to finish its Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, the agency has reversed itself and will spend

at least \$15 million this year to see whether it makes sense to complete the twin-reactor facility. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced on March 13 that it is reinstating the construction permit for the Bellefonte plant in Hollywood, Alabama. The TVA senior vice president said the permit clears the way for TVA to begin an assessment this year on whether the utility should finish the original reactors at Bellefonte or build a pair of next-generation reactors at the same site. But critics of nuclear power question why TVA is pursuing either new or old reactors at Bellefonte. Each of the proposed new reactors at Bellefonte are capable of generating 1,200 megawatts of electricity, or enough power to supply the electrical demands of two cities the size of Chattanooga. In its announcement in the federal registry Friday, NRC said it has restored TVA's construction permit for the original reactors only as a "terminated" plant. An NRC spokesman said the public will have 60 days to object to the issuance of the permit and the commission must upgrade the status of the permit before any construction may resume. There is no nuclear fuel on the 1,600-acre Bellefonte site, which is located along the Tennessee River.

Source:

http://www.yournuclearnews.com/nrc+restores+permit+to+build+bellefonte+plant_26705.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 17, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (National) **Air Force decoy aircraft rolls out of Raytheon.** Technology built in Tucson could fake out enemy defenses. Raytheon Missile Systems is delivering a new weapon to the Air Force called MALD, short for "Miniature Air Launched Decoy." The system is a small, unmanned miniature decoy, carried by fighter or bomber aircraft into enemy airspace. It looks like an aircraft to enemy radar. "It replaces some manned aircraft that would typically go into harm's way to approach a surface-to-air missile system and get that system to effectively light up and shoot at our aircraft so we can find out where those systems exist and take them out," said MALD's program director for the Air Force. Raytheon could end up selling more than 3,000 MALD systems to the Air Force. About 300 are slated to be produced so far. Raytheon's Tucson plant is building 150 of the systems.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=10018570&nav=14RT>

9. *March 16, Florida Today* – (National) **Atlas V snares 4 launches during the gap.** NASA awarded a \$600-million contract March 16 for four Atlas V rocket launches that will blast off from Florida's Space Coast during the gap between shuttle retirement in 2010 and the first launches of Ares rockets and Orion spacecraft in 2015. Two communications satellites and two science missions will be launched under the contract. All four missions will blast off from Cape Canaveral's Launch Complex 41. The missions include launch of the Radiation Belt Storm Probes, designed to study the Van Allen radiation belts around the Earth, and two NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellites.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/content/blogs/space/2009/03/atlas-v-snares-4-launches-during-gap.shtml>

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 17, Bloomberg* – (National) **AIG may have to reveal more pay data, faces subpoena.** American International Group Inc., the U.S. insurer that has been bailed out four times by taxpayers, may have to reveal more details of \$165 million in bonus payouts after criticism by the U.S. President and the New York Attorney General. The U.S. President on March 16 called the bonus payments an “outrage” and demanded AIG rescind or repay them. The New York Attorney General said he would subpoena the insurer that got a \$173 billion taxpayer bailout. AIG has faced pressure to disclose more about its operations since the United States took a stake of almost 80 percent last year. AIG has named at least 20 banks that received money to avoid losses after buying credit-default swaps from the insurer. The derivatives almost bankrupted AIG, and the bonuses the U.S. President cited went to employees who created or sold them, transactions that helped trigger the global credit crisis.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ap7fb9.DB9ZA&refer=home>

March 17, Barre Times-Argus – (Vermont) **State police warn of potential phone scam.** Vermont State Police in Middlesex received multiple reports from Washington and Orange County residents on March 14 that they had received calls in reference to fraudulent use of their credit cards. Residents reported receiving calls from an automated messaging system claiming someone had gained access to credit card account information. In order to cancel the account, the caller asked for the residents’ provide credit account information. Residents reported receiving calls in reference to accounts with various financial institutions and credit accounts with Central Vermont Hospital Credit Union. Police said they spoke with Central Vermont Hospital personnel, who reported receiving multiple calls about the apparent scam but said to their knowledge no one from the business office was making the calls. Vermont State Police are reminding residents to never provide personal information over the phone or online without first confirming the source. Legitimate financial/ business institutions will never claim fraudulent charges on an account and then ask you to verify the same account information that they are calling on and for Personal Identification Numbers.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20090317/NEWS02/903170361/0/PAYCHECK>

11. *March 16, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Indiana) **Phishing scam targets Southern Indiana bank.** First Harrison Bank is one of the latest targets in a telephone phishing scam. Since March 14 concerned customers and non-customers alike have flooded the lines, after getting a strange call about their bank card. “Today we probably had 500 phone calls in the first two hours,” said the First Harrison Bank chief executive.” A lot of non-customers have been calling our bank saying I do not even bank with you why would I get this phone call?” The chief executive said bank officials are not sure how scammers accessed the phone numbers, but they are “confident that they did not get into our

systems to access numbers.” That is because most inquiries are coming from people who are not even customers with First Harrison Bank at all. Some callers reported speaking to a person over the phone while others a voice recording. The message said “We are representing First Harrison Bank” and your card has been canceled. To reactivate we will need the card number, pin number and the expiration date” to reset. The chief executive said the criminals mask their numbers so when customers call back they get an unrelated business not the bank. First Harrison has traced the calls to Spain and stopped all transactions there along with Italy and three other countries. They have taken additional steps to keep criminals from cashing in.

Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=10015498>

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 17, Tampa Tribune* – (Florida) **DOT wants Pinellas to explain falling bridge chunks.** The state of Florida wants to know why Pinellas County failed to alert state engineers about a construction mishap involving a new bridge under construction. More than 2,700 pounds of concrete rained to the ground in large chunks February 6 at the new Belleair Causeway Bridge, but county engineers called the problem “spalling” — commonly used to describe flakes rather than chunks — and made no written reference to it at all until two weeks later. The state Department of Transportation (DOT) has called a halt to repair work until it gets a full report. Project engineers insist the structure is safe, and Pinellas County still plans to open the new bridge to traffic at the end of next month. The mishap left a void about 10 feet across and six or more inches deep in the underside of the new bridge. The gaping hole exposed steel and steel tendons that strengthen concrete bridge sections when workers pull them tight. One thing troubling DOT is that contractor Johnson Brothers Inc., with Pinellas County’s blessing, continued tensioning the tendons and applied grout inside plastic tubes that contain them before alerting the state to the problem.

Source: <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2009/mar/17/dot-wants-pinellas-explain-falling-bridge-chunks/news-metro/>

13. *March 17, Examiner* – (District of Columbia) **Metro has fired dozens due to drug, alcohol violations.** Metro fired 38 bus drivers in 2008 for drug and alcohol violations, according to the transit agency, and has already canned three more so far this year. The firings occurred despite the fact that Metro gives all employees who have been there more than six months a chance to undergo substance abuse treatment for a first violation. Metro fires veteran drivers only after a second offense. The transit agency has some 2,400 Metrobus drivers, who are among its most visible employees and crucial to the system’s customer service and safety. They interact with passengers and carry them through the region’s congested streets. “We cannot condone a person using drugs of any kind who is operating equipment,” said a former driver who now leads the system’s largest union, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, which represents bus and rail operators. “That is a no-no.” Metro officials cautioned that the number of bus drivers fired for substance abuse in 2008 represented a small fraction of the total bus drivers the system employs. It is less than 2 percent.

Source: <http://www.dcxaminer.com/local/Metro-has-fired-dozens-due-to-drug-alcohol-violations-41343952.html>

14. *March 16, News 14 Carolina* – (North Carolina) **Three men injured after cargo hold accident.** The Port Authority is investigating after three people were hurt at the port on Shipyard Boulevard in Wilmington on March 15. Fire officials say the men were working in the cargo hold of a ship when a loader attached to a crane struck them, pinning them against the wall. Officials say the men were not trapped, so emergency crews were able to use a loader to get them out of the ship. All three men suffered a broken leg and were taken to the hospital.
Source: http://www.news14.com/content/local_news/coastal/606362/three-men-injured-after-cargo-hold-accident/Default.aspx
15. *March 15, KVAL 13 Eugene* – (Oregon) **Hwy. 126 now open after landslide.** Soaking rains recently caused a massive mud slide on the main highway leading to the central Oregon Coast from Eugene. Crews scrambled to assess the damage and get the mess cleaned up. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) re-opened the road on March 16 around 10:30 a.m., 24 hours after soaking rains washed 70 cubic yards of mud and rock from the slopes above the road. The slide closed Highway 126 on March 15 about 8 miles west of Walton. Drivers were detoured to Highway 36 or 38 to get to the coast. ODOT officials say the mudslide scattered enough debris over the roadway to fill about three dump trucks. A geologist inspected the site on March 16 to make sure the embankment above the highway is safe enough for drivers to pass.
Source: <http://www.kval.com/news/local/41299677.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *March 16, Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Suspicious powder not a threat.** About 75 Nebraska state government employees got a scare when white powder was found in an envelope on the third floor of the state building in downtown Lincoln on March 16. It was discovered around 8:30 a.m. when someone opened a letter. Employees were moved from the south side to the north side of the floor while the substance was tested. A Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department spokeswoman says tests showed the substance was not harmful. The Nebraska State Patrol said the powder appeared to be a tacky substance consistent with material often used to correct typed or written correspondence. Officials contacted the sender and determined it was not meant as a hoax or threat.
Source: <http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/41318132.html>
17. *March 16, WLNS 6 Lansing* – (Michigan) **Suspicious white powder turns up at governor's building.** Firefighters rushed to the building that houses the governor's office on March 16 after someone opened an envelope containing a suspicious white powder. The governor runs the state from the Romney building, which is just across the street from the capitol. Crews later determined the powder to be harmless. The Department of Management and Budget, which runs state facilities, says one employee

and one officer were exposed to the powder. They were quarantined briefly and then released.

Source: <http://www.wlns.com/Global/story.asp?S=10014296&nav=5D7v>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *March 17, KXMC 13 Minot* – (Nebraska) **US: 76 cases of salmonella confirmed in sprout recall.** Health officials have confirmed at least 76 cases of salmonella in four states as part of an outbreak linked to alfalfa sprouts. Cases of salmonella in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and South Dakota have been tied to SunSprout Enterprises' sprouts that were distributed to grocery stores and restaurants. The Omaha company voluntarily recalled its products. Shipments were resumed after an inspection found no cause of salmonella. Nebraska health officials say at least 45 cases of salmonella saintpaul have been confirmed near Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney. Iowa officials confirmed 21 cases. South Dakota and Kansas officials have both confirmed at least five cases in their states.

Source: http://www.freshplaza.com/news_detail.asp?id=40105

19. *March 17, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **NM Senate OKs bill to curb wildlife slaughter.** Legislation aimed at stopping the slaughter of wildlife that are munching on crops has passed the state Senate and now goes to the House. Under the bill, ranchers and farmers could no longer kill wildlife on private land unless the animals were predators threatening people, pets, or livestock. Landowners for the first time could seek compensation for their crop losses if they asked the Department of Game and Fish for help, but the intervention was not effective. There was an outcry when a Cimarron area rancher last year killed or wounded more than three dozen pronghorn antelope with a shotgun because they had been eating his winter wheat fields. The legislation, which would take effect in 2010, went to the House on March 15 on a vote of 31-10. Under the legislation, the money for compensation would come from a portion of the fees for big-game hunting that go into a depredation fund. The fee for the so-called depredation damage stamp would increase in 2010 from \$5 to \$6 for residents, and \$10 to \$20 for nonresidents.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/17/AR2009031700152.html>

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Water Sector

20. *March 16, WTVC 9 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Monteagle sewage spills into creek.** A massive rupture at Monteagle's Sewer Treatment Plant sends a hundred thousand gallons of raw sewage into a local creek. City leaders say the water supply of a number of residents who live at the base of Monteagle Mountain could be impacted by the spill. Monteagle's mayor says he has no idea what caused this spill right now but he says the sewage spilled into a creek behind the plant. That creek goes into the ground about half a mile down from the plant, and the mayor says because of that they have no idea where

the spilled sewage went or who could be affected. Over 100,000 gallons of sewage poured into the Juanita Creek on March 15 after an equalization tank ruptured at Monteagle's Sewer Treatment Plant #1. The mayor says they have since bypassed the collapsed tank and put chlorine into the creek. Their biggest concern is that the sewage that leaked out got into creek, flowed downstream, and then got into the wells on people's property. He says that is around twenty-eight wells that could be impacted. The mayor says they notified the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and also says they will be testing over the next week to see how much damage the spill really caused.

Source:

http://www.newschannel9.com/news/says_976551__article.html/myers_sewage.html

21. *March 16, Muskegon Chronicle* – (Michigan) **Work to begin next week on massive sewer line.** Muskegon County's \$28 million installation of eight miles of 60-inch sewer line begins next week, a project aimed at satisfying state environmental officials who fear another catastrophic line break. The project in Muskegon and Egelston townships is expected to begin March 25, with completion in November, county officials said. Construction will be done in two phases to "minimize the amount of area disturbed at any one time," engineers said in a letter to affected property owners. The county's sewer lines have experienced five major breaks over the past decade, creating environmental and service concerns.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2009/03/work_to_begin_this_week_on_mas.html

22. *March 16, New York Times* – (New York) **Water-main break disrupts subway service.** A 12-inch water-main installed in 1870 burst near the entrance to the Holland Tunnel in New York City on the afternoon of March 16, sending torrents of water flooding into the Canal Street subway station, disrupting service on the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 lines between 34th and Chambers Streets and nearly ruining what had been a grand opening, less than an hour earlier, for the new South Ferry terminus on the No. 1 line. Workers from the city's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) responded to the water-main break, outside 75 Varick Street, just above Canal Street, by shutting down the main between Canal and Watts Streets. No customers have been left without water, a department spokeswoman said. Firefighters and workers from Con Edison and the DEP were at the scene, where sidewalks were buckled and two lanes of traffic had been closed on Varick Street. An emergency response officer from New York City Transit said the water-main break also affected other lines.

Source: <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/03/16/water-condition-disrupts-subway-service/?hp>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *March 17, Daily Telegraph* – (International) **Ultraviolet light could beat hospital TB.** Installing ultraviolet lights in hospital wards and waiting rooms could stop tuberculosis

spreading, a study shows. The rays damage the bacteria's DNA so they cannot infect people, grow, or divide and are already used in ambulances and operating theatres as a disinfectant. Researchers found 35 percent of guinea pigs given air straight from a ward of 69 TB patients became infected themselves — compared to 9.5 percent of animals that breathed in the same oxygen that was first exposed to UV radiation. They say TB bacteria, including drug-resistant strains, can be killed by hanging a shielded UV light from the ceiling with a fan to mix the air. The findings are published in the Public Library of Science Medicine.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/5002255/Ultraviolet-light-could-beat-hospital-TB.html>

24. *March 16, American Academy of Family Physicians* – (National) **Rapid influenza tests should be ready this year, says HHS pandemic update.** According to a recently released recap of HHS' efforts to date to assure the nation is prepared to meet a possible influenza pandemic head-on, the agency says it expects point-of-care influenza rapid test devices to be ready for prime time by the end of the year. Availability of such tests means that doctors and other health care professionals would be able to diagnose avian or any other potentially pandemic form of influenza quickly and easily. According to HHS' Pandemic Planning Update VI, which was released in January, the agency is funding development of the tests, along with numerous other related endeavors. It is expected that clinical trials will be completed and FDA approval secured by the end of 2009. That announcement, along with word of advances in the production of so-called pre-pandemic vaccines, is welcome news, given that as of March 11, the World Health Organization had confirmed 411 human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) and 256 deaths in 15 countries since 2003.

Source: <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/news/news-now/health-of-the-public/20090316avian-flu.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *March 16, Spaceflight Now* – (National) **Military satellite to give major communications boost.** U.S. and allied forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, who face a shortage of wideband communications, will gain major additional capability pending the successful launch of the new Wideband Global SATCOM spacecraft on its Atlas 5 rocket. The 13,000-pound Boeing/U.S. Air Force spacecraft will be moved to a geosynchronous orbit parking spot over the equator. With solar arrays spanning 157 feet, the spacecraft will provide an enormous increase in communication services needed by users in the area of responsibility under U.S. Central Command, headquartered in Tampa, Florida. The WGS series is replacing the far less capable Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS). Each of the six planned WGS spacecraft will be based on the Boeing 702 communications satellite bus. One WGS has the communications throughput capability of the entire DSCS fleet.

Source: <http://www.spaceflightnow.com/atlas/av016/preview.html>

26. *March 16, Air Force Education and Training Command* – (Florida) **Air Force releases**

report on Tyndall F-15 accident. An investigation of the November 13, 2008 F-15C Eagle mishap at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida concluded that a sequence of flight analysis and assessment errors by the pilot led to the aircraft overrunning the runway and all paved surfaces. The accident resulted in \$1.25 million damage to the airplane and \$37,000 damage to the airfield and on-base environmental clean-up costs. There were no injuries as a result of the mishap. After taking off for an approved training mission, the mishap aircraft's landing gear failed to retract due to a malfunction in the landing gear system's wiring. While responding to this malfunction, the mishap pilot opted to not run a checklist step that would have allowed for fuel to be burned from an external tank. During the landing, the F-15's anti-skid brake system failed, and the mishap pilot did not notice it until it was too late to attempt to use any of the aircraft's alternate or emergency braking systems. As a last resort, the pilot lowered the aircraft's hook to engage the arrestor chain at the end of the runway.

Source: <http://www.aetc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123139967>

27. *March 15, GW Hatchet* – (District of Columbia) **Law school complex evacuated due to fuel spill.** Multiple George Washington University buildings were evacuated on March 14 after “possibly a few hundred gallons” of heating oil leaked from underground tanks into the basement of Lisner Hall, a University spokeswoman said. The GW spokeswoman said the heating oil came from two underground tanks adjacent to Lisner Hall, each able to hold 6,000 gallons. She said someone reported an odor to the University Police Department at about 8:30 p.m. UPD evacuated the building and contacted the D.C. Fire Department. The odor was still perceptible in the area for much of the evening of March 14. The incident elicited a large emergency response, including more than a dozen District of Columbia Fire Department units. Among them were a hazardous materials team and at least four fire chiefs. DCFD cleared the area shortly after 11 p.m. on March 14 once the spill was believed to be contained.

Source: <http://blogs.gwhatchet.com/newsroom/2009/03/14/alert-dc-lisner-hall-evacuated-due-to-fuel-spill/>

28. *March 15, WJXT 4 Jacksonville* – (Florida) **Smoke bomb clears Fort White middle school.** The cafeteria at Fort White Middle School was evacuated March 13 after a student set off a homemade chemical smoke device, according to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Officials said the device was neither incendiary nor explosive, but did however create noxious fumes. The Columbia County Fire Department responded and ventilated the room to clear the fumes. Columbia County paramedics and school nurses did evaluate several students as a precautionary measure, but no one needed medical treatment. Once the school was cleared, staff and students were allowed back into the building a short while later to continue their academic agenda for the day. A 13-year-old student was arrested and charged with placing or discharging a destructive device, criminal mischief, and disruption of a school function. The sheriff's office is conducting an investigation into the student and the fire department is evaluating its contents.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29683371/>

Emergency Services Sector

29. *March 17, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Man arrested after police car burglarized.** A 19-year-old Orlando man was booked into the Orange County Jail on Monday after deputy sheriffs said he stole items from inside a marked sheriff's SUV. Law-enforcement officers were called to the deputy's home at 2:25 p.m. after he discovered the 2006 Ford Explorer had been burglarized. A laptop was gone, and a trail of equipment including an orange traffic cone, stop sticks, and blue latex gloves was at the scene, according to a report. Early Monday, a deputy made contact with three people walking at Anderson and South Conway roads and asked if they had weapons, drugs, or knives on them. One said he had handcuffs. The cuffs were department-issued, and a glove in his back pocket matched one found at the crime scene, the report said. The man also led deputies to a laptop, a .233-caliber rifle and three credit cards that were not his. Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/crime/orl-loc-police-car-burglary-031709,0,5916831.story>
30. *March 17, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Bridges can't handle fire trucks.** Undersized and older bridges in Johns Creek are forcing the Fire Department to reroute trucks, adding distance and increasing response times. Four bridges have been identified as potential problems, all on key routes: two on Medlock Bridge Road; one on Parsons Road; and one on Bell Road. The fire chief could not say how much longer it takes to reach particular areas. The Fire Department is tracking response times, he said. The new policy was enacted about a week ago after the fire chief and the city Public Works Department queried the state Department of Transportation. "I had concerns about the safety of our trucks traveling over these bridges," the fire chief said. The bridges can handle between 15 tons and 30 tons. A fire engine weighs 17.5 tons, and a ladder truck weighs 40 tons. Bolstering and repairing each bridge would cost \$2 million to \$3 million each, and Johns Creek does not have the cash, said the Public Works director. Source: <http://www.ajc.com/services/content/printedition/2009/03/17/bridges0317.html>
31. *March 14, Lower Hudson Journal* – (New York) **Police: Man at blaze was fake firefighter.** Suffern village police arrested a Greenwood Lake, New York man who they say showed up at a burning warehouse, impersonated an FDNY firefighter, and tried to help local firefighters extinguish the enormous blaze. The man was charged Friday with second-degree criminal impersonation and second-degree reckless endangerment, both misdemeanors, and with trespassing, a violation. Police and fire officials say the man showed up at the scene of a blaze at the Conserv Construction warehouse February 5 dressed in full New York City Fire Department turnout gear — jacket, pants, and helmet with his name affixed to it — and grabbed a hose line, it is alleged. Though he claimed to be an FDNY member when questioned at the scene, Suffern police said he is not a firefighter and has no firefighter training. A Suffern police detective said firefighters could have been endangered. Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/2009903140363>

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Information Technology

32. *March 17, USA Today* – (International) **Website-infecting SQL injection attacks hit 450,000 a day.** Cybercriminals are spreading invisible infections far and wide across the Internet by hammering hundreds of thousands of Web sites each day with so-called SQL injection attacks. The trend started last summer and has continued to accelerate. IBM Internet Security Systems says it identified 50 percent more infected Web pages in the last three months of 2008 than it did in all of 2007. Click on one and an individual would not notice anything. But the PC gets turned into an obedient “bot,” short for robot, deployed to attack other computers. All sensitive data get stolen. SQL attacks take aim at the database layer of Web sites. They typically were manual attacks designed to pilfer customer data from merchant Web sites. But last June 2008, someone figured out how to automate the attacks, and use them to plant infections. “It was a brilliant tactical move. You sit back and wait for someone to visit the site, and soon you infect thousands of PCs,” said the Breach Security’s director of research. An infected PC thereafter gets put to work delivering spam and spreading more infections. And any sensitive data, such as log-ons and account numbers, get stolen.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2009-03-16-sql-attacks-cyber-security_N.htm

33. *March 17, IDG News Service* – (International) **Browser add-on locks out targeted advertising.** A Harvard University fellow has developed a browser extension that stops advertising networks from tracking a person’s surfing habits, such as search queries and content they view on the Web. The extension, called Targeted Advertising Cookie Opt-Out (TACO), enables its users to opt out of 27 advertising networks that are employing behavioral advertising systems, wrote the individual who developed it, on his Web site. The individual, a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard and a doctoral candidate at Indiana University, modified a browser extension Google released under an Apache 2 open-source license. Google’s opt-out plugin for Internet Explorer and Firefox blocks cookies delivered by its Doubleclick advertising network. A cookie is a small data file stored in a browser that can track a variety of information, such as Web sites visited and search queries, and transmit that information back to the entity that placed the cookie in the browser. Google’s opt-out plugin comes as the company announced plans last week to target advertisements based on the sites people visit. Targeted advertising is seen as a way for advertisers to more precisely find potential customers as well as for Web site publishers to charge higher advertising rates.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129764&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

34. *March 16, Computerworld* – (International) **Microsoft patch leaves users vulnerable, says nCircle researcher.** One of the patches Microsoft Corp. issued last week is nothing of the sort, according to a researcher who, on March 16, accused Microsoft of making functionality a higher priority than security. According to a senior security engineer at nCircle Network Security Inc., the MS09-008 update which was released on March 10, does not fix the problem for all users, many of whom may not realize that

they are still vulnerable to attack. “When you get a patch from a vendor, you expect it to provide some level of security,” said the engineer. “But MS09-008 only mitigates the problem, it does not patch it.” MS09-008, one of three security updates released March 10, addressed four separate flaws in Windows’ DNS and WNS servers, and required that network administrators patch all currently supported server editions of Windows, including Windows 2000 Server, Server 2003 and Server 2008. The engineer has taken exception with the part of the update that addresses a vulnerability in the WPAD (Web Proxy Auto-Discovery) functionality of Windows DNS Server. “WPAD is a way to automatically configure proxy servers on machines,” he explained. “When the browser, like Internet Explorer, is configured to ‘Automatically Detect Settings,’ it will look for wpad.company.com and attempt to resolve and pull down a configuration file. But if an attacker can manipulate the WPAD entry, all the traffic from those machines will go through his server. That would let him run ‘man-in-the-middle’ attacks to steal passwords or any other information.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9129722&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

35. *March 16, CNET News* – (International) **Scammers customize news to deliver you malware.** Security experts warned on March 16 of a new insidious e-mail scam that features false information about a bomb explosion in the recipient’s hometown and leads to a malicious Web site. The subject lines include “Take Care!” and “Are you and your friends in good health?” The e-mail includes a link to what looks like a news article on a Reuters page about the bombing. But the Web page and the news are fake, according to e-mail security provider Marshal and antivirus firm Sophos. The scammers are using IP address geolocation techniques to figure out what city the recipient lives in and are localizing the fake bomb news to that location. Meanwhile, clicking on the fake Reuters video page leads to malicious Waledac code being downloaded on the computer, the security firms said.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10197279-83.html

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

36. *March 16, CNET News* – (National) **Comcast passwords leaked onto the Web.** A list of thousands of user names and passwords for Comcast customers was removed from document sharing Web site Scribd on March 16, two months after it was posted there. Scribd removed the list of more than 8,000 passwords and user names after being

contacted by a journalist at the New York Times. The journalist wrote that he was contacted by a Comcast customer who happened across the list after doing a search on his own e-mail address on search engine Pipl. A Comcast spokeswoman told the New York Times that the list was probably compiled from phishing or some other related type of attack and not from inside Comcast. Comcast is freezing the e-mail accounts of customers whose data was exposed and is contacting them, she said. Half of the items are duplicates, so only about 4,000 customers had information exposed, according to Comcast.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10197789-83.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *March 17, Highlands Today* – (Florida) **Brush fire contained, but smoke lingers.** Smoke from a March 14 brush fire that endangered Lakeshore Mall and the nearby post office was still visible on March 16 and probably will be for several weeks. The fire is contained, but not out, according to a chief with the West Sebring Fire Department. Members of the Florida Division of Forestry made three control lines around the fire and firefighters are going out with brush trucks at least three times a day to make sure it does not get out of control. The trouble began March 14 at 1 p.m., when the West Sebring Fire Department got the call about a grass fire around a Flare Road fireworks warehouse. The Division of Forestry used bulldozers to establish fire lines, but the flames had jumped those ditches by 2:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., the evacuation of Lakeshore Mall was ordered, according to its office manager. He estimated that between 300 and 500 employees and shoppers were inside the mall when the evacuation was ordered. It was reopened at 5:45 p.m., but by then, most of the tenants had sent their employees home. On Monday, there were no reports of substantial damage within the mall. The director of nursing for the Highlands County Health Department's Sebring office said sufferers could experience an increase in shortness of breath, coughing, and general difficulty with breathing.

Source: <http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2009/mar/17/1a-brush-fire-contained-but-smoke-lingers/>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

38. *March 17, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Reno panel scraps plans for flood dam.** A regional flood control panel has scrapped plans for a dam in the Huffaker Hills area of Reno after recent studies raised questions about the project's effectiveness. Officials

with the Regional Flood Control Coordinating Committee were told the dam, estimated at \$300 million, would help control waters during smaller floods, but do little in big floods and might even make matters worse. Removal of the Huffaker dam will speed completion and substantially reduce the cost of a major flood control project proposed along the Truckee River. A dam at Huffaker Narrows and detention basin to store floodwaters from Steamboat Creek have long been envisioned as an important component of the flood project. But new studies suggest otherwise because of development in the area over the past decade, officials said. “We are actually causing a negative impact. There’s really no need to have it at this point,” the flood project manager told the committee made up of officials from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the University of Nevada, Reno. To protect homes in the Huffaker area, stored floodwaters would have to be released and potentially worsen downstream flooding problems during a flood as serious as the one in 1997, officials said. A Reno councilwoman said she still wants flood planners to look at purchasing land in the area so it can remain undeveloped and absorb water naturally during a flood. The site could still be used as a park.

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/mar/17/reno-panel-scraps-plans-for-flood-dam/>

39. *March 17, Gary Post-Tribune* – (Indiana) **Levee bursts sending river across counties.** A levee along the Yellow River in Starke County burst over the weekend of March 14 and 15, flooding nearly 9,000 acres of farm fields. Rushing waters overtopped a bridge south of the intersection of Indiana 8 and Indiana 39 and washed out part of the road, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The water is already receding, but a North Judson farmer who is helping plug the levee, said it could be three to four days before that job is complete. Officials are not certain when the levee broke, but farmland — mostly south of Indiana 8 and west of Indiana 39 — began filling with water early Sunday. Local police agencies began closing roads in the area. Monday morning, moving water washed out dirt under the pavement on Indiana 39. “It caved in,” said an Indiana state trooper, who was turning around travelers south of the collapsed road. He pointed to a portion of the blacktop at the County Road 50N and Indiana 39 intersection. As result, the highway is closed south of Indiana 8. An INDOT spokesperson said sand and large rocks will be brought in to shore up the road, but they will not know the full extent of the damage until the waters recede. It will be tested before it is reopened to drivers. The Department of Natural Resources and INDOT have been jointly working to repair the levee.
- Source: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/1479731,flood.article>
40. *March 16, Beaumont Enterprise* – (Texas) **Levee erosion needs fix, officials need comment on it.** Within 60 days contractors could begin making \$8 million in repairs to the Port Arthur levee, which was damaged by erosion caused by Hurricane Ike. The breaches, unrepaired, could affect hundreds of homes that are behind the 36-mile levee that protects Port Arthur, Port Acres, Groves, Port Neches, and Nederland. At least four sections of seawall near Lakeshore Drive eroded in the hurricane. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends repairing those sections by installing a concrete pad at the base of the wall to reinforce the levee. “If the storm surge would have been higher than the wall and began washing over the top, we are not sure if that wall would have held

up,” said the Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 manager. The drainage district manages the 36-mile levee. The \$95 million levee project began in 1966 and was complete in 1979, according to Enterprise archives from the 1970s. The reinforcement concrete that would be poured at the base of the wall does not increase the category of hurricane it can withstand just gives it more support from the pressure that can build up from the water, he said. The levee is rated to withstand a category 3 storm. Hurricane Ike was a category 2 when it made landfall. After the levee failures in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, levee construction was changed to include the concrete pads. “Water began to run over and it eroded on the inside and they fell in,” he explained. “It won’t fail there it just needs to be filled back in,” he said.

Source:

http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/levee_erosion_needs_fix_officials_need_comment_on_it_03-16-2009.html

41. *March 16, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Dam sinkhole raises flooding fears along Green River.** A sinkhole at a major dam is raising fears of flooding along parts of the Green River. Now the cities of Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, and Renton are warning property owners near the river that it could lead to additional flooding this fall. There are 22 miles of levees in Kent, and none of them are FEMA certified. And now the city is learning that problems upstream could raise the Green River over those levees. A local resident just got a letter from the City of Kent warning him of the danger. “The river has come nice and high in the winter when we’ve had a lot of rain but, with the dam up river, it’s never released it quite that much,” he said. But now, there is a sink hole next to the Howard Hanson Dam. It is just big enough for the Army Corps of Engineers to put the King County flood control district on alert. “I am not worried about any failure of the dam,” said a colonel with the Army Corps of Engineers. “I am worried about causing more damage to the structure from sustained high pools of water behind it as it works for flood control.” The Corps will try to figure out what caused the sinkhole this spring. But the repairs could take months or years and possibly cost \$100 million. “The potential for economic harm here is in the billions of dollars,” said the mayor of Kent. She got the Corps’ message weeks ago. So she warned businesses and families to buy flood insurance and come up with an evacuation plan. She was told several areas along the river could be covered by a foot of water. “There is such a slim chance that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would actually allow this area to flood,” she said. “But we do need to be aware that there is a small possibility of it.”

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/41343402.html>

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