



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 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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- According to the Associated Press, Grand Forks officials closed the Point Bridge between Grand Forks, North Dakota and neighboring East Grand Forks, Minnesota due to the rising Red River. (See item [13](#))
- The National Park Service reports that Mount Redoubt volcano in Lake Clark National Park, Alaska erupted Monday, sending ash clouds to 50,000 feet and spreading ash in small amounts at least 120 miles to the northeast. The Regional Office in Anchorage has reactivated its incident command team. (See item [36](#))

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 24, Reuters* – (West Virginia) **Patriot Coal to pay \$50,000 to settle clean water case.** Patriot Coal Corp. said it agreed to pay a \$50,000 penalty to settle claims under the Clean Water Act relating to its Apogee and Hobet mining complexes in West Virginia. The consent decree with Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition Inc. and West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Inc. extends the deadline for compliance with selenium effluent limitations at outfalls to April 5, 2010 from June 30, 2009. The company also agreed to implement a \$350,000 pilot project that uses reverse osmosis technology to evaluate its feasibility for use in selenium treatment in coal mines. Last month, the company agreed to pay \$6.5 million to settle claims that it violated its permits more than 1,400 times,

between January 2003 and December 2007, at its mining complexes in West Virginia.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSBNG31534220090324>

2. *March 24, Reuters* – (Texas) **Total briefly shuts Port Arthur compressor.** Total Petrochemicals USA briefly shut a compressor on March 23 at its 232,000 barrel-per-day Port Arthur, Texas refinery, according to a notice filed on March 24 with state pollution regulators. “C-200A compressor failed and shut down, resulting in flaring,” noted the filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. “Electricians were called and the shutdown was jumped out and the compressor was restarted at 10:20 a.m.,” the morning of March 23, the filing added.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2433465420090324>
3. *March 24, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Exxon avoids federal fine for not shutting down before Gustav landfall.** The Exxon plant in Baton Rouge will avoid a federal fine from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for not shutting down the refinery during Hurricane Gustav by agreeing to review how it operates during the threat of a hurricane. OSHA says Exxon did not shut down the refinery before Gustav made landfall, which caused an emergency shutdown during the brunt of the storm, putting workers at serious risk of injuries from potential fires, explosions, and flying debris. The union representing Exxon workers filed the complaint. An Exxon spokeswoman says OSHA agreed to drop a \$5,000 fine in exchange for Exxon agreeing to let a third party review its hurricane plans.
Source: http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=10056511&nav=menu57_2
4. *March 23, KXLY 4 Spokane* – (Washington) **Tanker truck bursts into flames along Hwy 195.** A fiery crash between a semi hauling diesel fuel and a pickup truck closed a 10 mile stretch of Highway 195 in Spangle the morning of March 23. The Washington State Patrol (WSP) says the collision between the tanker and the truck happened at mile marker 75 just after 5:00 a.m. Both the semi and the pickup tumbled down a hillside next to Highway 195, where one of the 4,000 gallon tanks filled with diesel fuel ruptured. The fuel then caught on fire sending flames shooting into the air. A foam truck from Spokane International Airport was sent in to put out the fire, and hazmat was on scene to clean up the diesel spill. Investigators say the tanker and the pickup were both driving southbound on Highway 195 when the driver of the pickup attempted to pass the semi and lost control. Both the pickup and the semi crashed through a guardrail, sending the diesel tanks and the pickup down the hillside. Troopers at the scene say both drivers suffered only minor injuries and were sent to an area hospital as a precaution. The WSP shut down both directions of Highway 195 from Plaza to Spangle.
Source: http://www.kxly.com/Global/story.asp?S=10053410&nav=menu683_2
5. *March 23, Associated Press* – (California) **SoCal utilities restore power after wind outages.** Utility crews have restored electricity to most of more than 130,000 customers who lost power as strong winds swept into Southern California behind a weekend storm. One gust hit 85 mph in the mountains north of Los Angeles on March 23. Southern California Edison officials say about 127,000 customers lost power since early March 22 and about 100 remain out. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power officials say

3,000 customers were in the dark, but only 100 remain without power the afternoon of March 23. A wind advisory is in effect until 10 a.m. March 24 for the mountains around Los Angeles.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_11979627

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *March 23, WBZ 1030 Boston and Associated Press* – (Massachusetts; Vermont) **NRC will consider nuclear waste issue at MA, VT nuclear plants.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is agreeing to extend the relicensing period for aging nuclear power plants in Plymouth, Massachusetts and Vernon, Vermont in part to allow time to study the storage of spent fuel rods. The Massachusetts attorney general had asked the NRC for greater consideration of the environmental impact of a possible terrorist attack on spent fuel rods at the two plants. But the agency denied her request last August, saying tight security made the risk of attack low. Now it says it is putting the two plants' relicensing processes on hold, which will provide time to study the fuel-rod question. The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth — 40 miles south of Boston — and the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant — about 5 miles north of the Massachusetts state line near Greenfield — both are asking for extensions of operating licenses that expire in 2012.

Source: <http://www.wbz.com/NRC-will-consider-nuclear-waste-issue-at-MA--VT-nu/4070641>

7. *March 23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (South Carolina) **Degraded item for safety in the Pelleting Area.** The Westinghouse Electric Company, Commercial Fuel Fabrication Facility (WEC CFFF) in Columbia, South Carolina has identified a degraded items relied on for safety (IROFS) condition that exists in the Pelleting Area. GE PLC of the type discussed in the Safety Bulletin is used in Pelleting Area Furnaces 1B, 2B, and 4C. These IROFS are preventive controls for a Hydrogen Deflagration Event in the sintering furnaces. While several potential initiating sequences can lead to this event, the only scenario where the performance requirements are not met due to this degraded condition is if the furnace is above the auto ignition temperature for hydrogen and the PLC CPU fails as the furnace is cooling, then the hydrogen shut-off valve could remain open with a potential to result in an explosive atmosphere in the furnace. Furnace 1B is currently at normal operating temperature (above auto ignition temperature) and in operation with approximately 550 kg's of Uranium. The other two Furnaces, 2B and 4C, are currently at normal temperature (above auto ignition temperature) with no uranium present in either furnace. The licensee will contact NRC Region 2.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event->

<status/event/en.html#en44928>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 24, United Launch Alliance* – (Florida) **United Launch Alliance successfully launches 47th Air Force GPS mission.** A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Delta II rocket successfully launched the Air Force's Global Positioning Satellite IIR-20(M) into orbit from Cape Canaveral March 24. This was the 47th successful GPS launch for the Delta II. Following a 68 minute flight, the rocket deployed the GPS spacecraft, a modernized NAVSTAR navigation satellite. The ULA Delta II 7925-9.5 configuration vehicle featured an ULA first stage booster powered by a Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne RS-27A main engine and nine Alliant Techsystems (ATK) strap-on solid rocket motors. An Aerojet AJ10-118K engine powered the second stage. A spin-stabilized Star-48B solid-rocket motor built by ATK boosted the third stage. The payload was encased by a 9.5-foot-diameter metallic payload fairing.

Source:

<http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-24-2009/0004993482&EDATE>

9. *March 24, Washington Post* – (National) **Nuclear security official hints at leaner, less costly weapons complex.** The best status report on the U.S. nuclear weapons program and its future was delivered March 17 at a session of the House Appropriations subcommittee on energy and water development, where the head of the program declared, "We must stop pouring money into an old, Cold War complex that is too big and too expensive." The speaker heads the National Nuclear Security Administration, which runs the nuclear weapons complex. He noted that the projection of the number of new plutonium triggers that will be needed has steadily dropped from 450 a year to 20. During the last Administration, the number of deployed strategic warheads was sharply reduced, from 6,000 to between 1,700 and 2,200 projected for 2012. At the same time, there were extensive plans for a major modernization and consolidation of the nuclear-weapons-production complex, including construction of a multibillion-dollar facility to build plutonium pits and production of a new generation of more secure nuclear warheads. Among the other pending decisions, the NNSA director said, were replacing Cold War-era uranium facilities at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and plutonium facilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The plan had been to build a new uranium processing facility at Oak Ridge to replace buildings, some of which date to the Manhattan Project. However, the planned facility's workspace was "at least 25 percent too big" because "the design was started several years ago, when the workload appeared to be considerably larger than now appears to be the case."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/23/AR2009032303091.html>

10. *March 23, Las Cruces Sun-News* – (New Mexico) **WSMR now equipped to test microwave-based weapons.** White Sands Missile Range expanded its test capabilities with the opening of the High Powered Microwave Assets and Complex Facility March

12. The one-of-a-kind complex is part of the Directed Energy Test and Evaluation Capability (DETEC) project and will be used to test the effects of high powered microwave and energy weapons. Microwave-based weapons systems can be used to attack the electronic components in advanced weapons systems and vehicles. “We know that potential adversaries are investing in microwave weapons,” said the facility’s survivability, vulnerability, and assessment director. Composed of several different modules, the facility has the ability to generate or simulate high powered microwaves and related energy across a very wide frequency and power range. After a vulnerability has been determined, the facility’s emitters can be used to develop solutions and protective systems. “All types of military equipment can be tested here, Abrams (tanks) Bradley (infantry fighting vehicles), Future Combat Systems, and all the legacy systems, as well as UAVs,” the director said. In addition to the development of systems to protect against microwave threats, DETEC plans to support other missions like the development of counter-IED systems, and protective systems for other branches of the military and government.

Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci_11974486

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *March 23, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FDIC chief says new plan won’t save all banks.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. chairman said the public-private partnership to buy bad loans from banks will not help prevent all lenders from failing, but it could help many clean up their balance sheets and make them healthier. “There will need to be a consulting process with the primary regulator, and we will ultimately decide participation and eligibility,” the FDIC chairwoman said on a conference call. “There may be some banks beyond help,” but the program will help many others, she said. The government plan could actually be “very profitable” for taxpayers, and the chairwoman was still reviewing how much of the upside the government would share with private investors. “I do think there is significant profit making potential here,” she told reporters in a conference call. She plans to seek public comment on some of the major issues in the coming weeks. The FDIC will collect premiums to participate in the program, and its guarantees will not expose the depleted deposit insurance fund to more losses. Instead, potential losses will come out of a new reserve fund that is capitalized by both the government and private investors. In fact, the chairwoman said the guarantee fees will actually help replenish the bank deposit insurance fund. The FDIC is going to cite its “systemic risk” authority to implement the new program, which gives it more flexibility in how the system is designed.

Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2009/03/23/fdic-chief-says-new-plan-wont-save-all-banks/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

12. *March 24, KVUE 24 Austin* – (Texas) **MetroRail launch date still unknown.** Capital

Metro will not set a new launch date for its trouble rail system from Leander to downtown Austin anytime soon. The chief development officer told the Capital Metro board on March 23 a new date would not be set until further construction and training was complete. On March 20, Capital Metro cancelled a celebration planned to kick off commuter rail service in Central Texas. The abrupt cancellation came after the Federal Railroad Administration and TXDOT notified Capital Metro of several violations involving Veolia Transportation, the rail operations contractor. Several board members said they were disappointed at the indefinite delay but said nothing could take priority over safety.

Source: http://www.kvue.com/news/tuma/stories/032409kvue_Capital_metro_meeting-cb.6800a9ae.html

13. *March 23, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Bridge closed in Grand Forks.** Grand Forks officials are closing the Point Bridge between Grand Forks and neighboring East Grand Forks, Minnesota. A city spokesman says the bridge usually closes when the Red River reaches a level of 45 feet. He says that is not expected to happen until March 26, but city officials are doing it early because they think the river will rise quickly. He also says snow and ice in the forecast will make it more difficult to close the bridge. Two other bridges link the two cities. The Sorlie Bridge also is expected to be closed this week. The Kennedy Bridge would close if the river reaches a river level of about 52 feet. The Greenway in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks has been closed.

Source: <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=10059382>

14. *March 22, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Alarm forces crews to evacuate Bush Intercontinental Airport.** An alarm forced crews to evacuate a building at Bush Intercontinental Airport on March 21. It happened at the airport cargo center on Lee Road. About 50 people were told to leave. Investigators say fumes from a component of TNT or some sort of solvent may have triggered the alarm. Hazmat has cleared the scene, and the building is open again.

Source: http://www.khou.com/topstories/stories/khou090322_mp_bush-airport-evacuation.5e288f65.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *March 24, Oregonian* – (National) **US: FDA issues rare warning in salmonella outbreak.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took the unusual step of directly warning consumers across the country Tuesday against eating food containing peanuts from a New Jersey-based company. The FDA said it asked Westco Fruit and Nuts Inc. of Irvington, New Jersey to pull products made with peanuts from the Peanut

Corporation of America (PCA), which is facing a criminal investigation in the salmonella outbreak. The company did not issue its own recall notice as is customary. So, for the first time in this current outbreak, the FDA put out its own warning to consumers, asking them not to eat the company's peanut products. The FDA said the potentially contaminated items sold under the Westco and Westcott brands were produced from November 19, 2008 to mid-February and were distributed in various packaging and included in mixed nuts and a trail mix. Contacted by the Oregonian Tuesday morning, an employee at the company refused to answer questions about the recall and would not say where the items had been distributed. And, in another unusual move, a Marysville, Ohio company said Tuesday it was pulling seven varieties of wild bird food suet products because they were made with peanut meal from PCA. The other items that have been recalled this year — surpassing more than 3,000 so far — have been destroyed by stores or manufacturers to ensure they do not re-enter the food chain. Source: http://www.freshplaza.com/news_detail.asp?id=40578

16. *March 24, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **New Mexico gets split status for bovine TB.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has given New Mexico “split status” for bovine tuberculosis (TB) — meaning only two counties in the state will be under strict requirements for moving and testing cattle. The status, announced on March 20, will require bovine TB tests only for cattle shipped from eastern New Mexico's Curry and Roosevelt counties, said Senators from New Mexico. They cautioned, however, that the decision has not been published in the Federal Register, so details were not known. The New Mexico Livestock Board executive director expects it to be published soon. Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5icZA6NV_aS9hykyHiAMCQ9_BHfhAD9748M480
17. *March 23, Californian* – (California) **Chemical leak sends two workers to hospital for exposure.** Two people were taken to area hospitals for ammonia exposure Monday afternoon after a chemical leak at Taylor Farms in Salinas, California, firefighters said. As a precaution, another 150 people at surrounding businesses — including Mann Packing Co. — were kept indoors for about 50 minutes following the leak, which involved about 100 pounds of anhydrous ammonia — which is a small amount, fire officials said. The Salinas Fire Department and Monterey County Environmental Health Division responded to the scene. Plant technicians were able to isolate the leak, which was caused by a mechanical failure, according to fire officials. Source: <http://thecalifornian.com/article/20090323/NEWS01/90323028/1002>
18. *March 23, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Damage at Fargo plant moderate.** A fire at a Fargo sunflower processing plant resulted in only moderate damage, and the company expects to resume operations soon. Firefighters said the March 20 blaze at the CHS Sunflower business started in a roasting oven and spread along a conveyer and into the ventilation system. A fire captain said it did an estimated \$50,000 in damage to the oven. Firefighters knocked down the blaze in about half an hour. Some neighboring homes were evacuated. Source: <http://www.jamestownsun.com/articles/index.cfm?id=82541§ion=news>

19. *March 23, Reuters* – (Minnesota; North Dakota) **Red River floods disrupt rail shipments of grain.** The rising Red River, still days ahead of cresting at its headwaters, already is forcing some grain shipments by rail to find new, slower paths to market. Burlington Northern Santa Fe has already seen washouts along its north-south line in North Dakota ahead of the Red River crest, forecast to hit Fargo, North Dakota on March 27. The washouts are causing one- to four-day delays for shipments of agricultural products coming mainly from Canada, said a spokeswoman for Burlington. The flood outlook for the Red River, which runs north between Minnesota and North Dakota into the central Canadian province of Manitoba, may worsen depending on how much more rain falls in the next few days. Flooding is forecast to rank among the worst years on record on both sides of the border. The length of the rail disruption depends on the flood's severity. Washed-out roads will also delay grain shipments. Transportation in the flooded area will be difficult, but there are alternative paths for grain shipments to enter the United States by rail, says the director of weather and market analysis for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2327397120090323>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *March 2009, Scientific American* – (National) **The Ogallala Aquifer: saving a vital U.S. water source.** The Ogallala Aquifer, the vast underground reservoir, is disappearing. In some places, the groundwater is already gone. This is the breadbasket of America — the region that supplies at least one fifth of the total annual U.S. agricultural harvest. If the aquifer goes dry, more than \$20 billion worth of food and fiber will vanish from the world's markets. And scientists say it will take natural processes 6,000 years to refill the reservoir. The challenge of the Ogallala is how to manage human demands on the layer of water that sprawls underneath parts of eight states from South Dakota to Texas. As landowners strive to conserve what is left, they face a tug-of-war between economic growth and declining natural resources. In southern Kansas, 180 miles west of Wichita, groundwater level has dropped 150 feet or more, forcing many farmers to abandon their wells. The cause is obvious, says the executive director of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District: overuse. In Garden City, however, the severity of farmer's circumstances is already forcing farmers to take action. They are grappling with how to maintain successful agricultural operations while relying on less and less water, an issue that water users throughout the region, and the world, must eventually face, the director says. "The community of water users needs to figure this out," he adds. "We'll get to sustainability one way or another, but it may be sustaining an economy without the Ogallala Aquifer."

Source: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-ogallala-aquifer>

21. *March 22, Mankato Free Press* – (Minnesota; National) **Plant eyes wastewater.** The city of Winnebago discharges a minimum of about 350,000 gallons of treated wastewater into the Blue Earth River each day. The ethanol plant just east of town uses up to 350,000 gallons of fresh groundwater daily to produce its fuel. The ethanol

industry is facing criticism for the growing amounts of water it is sucking out of aquifers across the Upper Midwest. For officials at Winnebago's Corn Plus ethanol plant, which has made a habit of seeking innovative solutions to boost efficiency, the thread that tied those three facts together was difficult to ignore. So the Corn Plus general manager talked to Winnebago officials about exploring the possibility of diverting the city's wastewater from the river to the ethanol plant. "They really liked the idea, so I made a few phone calls," he said. The calls included state lawmakers who represent Winnebago. One of them described the bill in a House committee hearing recently as legislation for a city and an industrial water consumer "that simply wants to do what is right." The legislation seeks an unspecified amount of money, but the total is expected to be somewhere between \$250,000 and \$300,000 when final costs are tallied up. A study by the Argonne National Laboratory released earlier this year projects that water consumption for biofuels production will increase from 7.4 billion gallons a day in 2005 to more than 26 billion gallons daily in 2030. The vast majority of that water will be consumed by ethanol production in the Upper Midwest, the report predicts. In the region made up of Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri, water consumption for ethanol production alone is projected to grow from under six billion gallons a day in 2005 to nearly 19 billion in 2030. Much of the projected water use is in areas where farmers use irrigation in corn production, but water consumption for the processing of grain into ethanol is also significant. The consumption averaged six gallons of water for each gallon of ethanol in early ethanol plants, although the average has dropped to a four-to-one ratio in recent years. Already, Corn Plus has reduced its ratio to three gallons of water for each gallon of ethanol produced.

Source:

http://www.mankatofreepress.com/local/local_story_081011508.html?keyword=topstory

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Miami vets get procedures with unsterile equipment.** Officials say more than 3,000 patients at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Miami had colonoscopies with equipment that was not properly sterilized. They have been told they should be tested for HIV and other diseases. The VA insists the risk of infection is minimal and only involved tubing on equipment, not any device that actually touched a patient. But it is the second recent announcement of errors during colonoscopies at VA facilities. Last month, more than 6,000 patients at a clinic in Tennessee were told they may have been exposed to infectious body fluids during colonoscopies. The VA also said 1,800 veterans treated at an ear, nose, and throat clinic in Augusta, Georgia were alerted they could have been exposed to an infection due to improper disinfection of an instrument.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hRfzwTuaKGyWdjqvjGCLJpLI6AIAD97403081>

23. *March 24, Xinhua* – (International) **Egypt confirms 59th human case of bird flu:**

WHO. A 38-year-old Egyptian woman has contracted the virus of bird flu, bringing the number of human cases of the fatal avian influenza in the country to 59, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday. The woman came from the Elfath district in the central Egyptian governorate of Asyut, some 330 km south of Cairo, the WHO said in a press release on its Web site. On March 14, the woman showed the symptoms of a fever and headache and was admitted to Assiut Fever Hospital for treatment, said the WHO, citing reports of the Egyptian health ministry. Investigations indicated that she had contacted with dead and sick poultry. Egypt is the most affected country by the deadly avian influenza outside Asia.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/24/content_11060323.htm

24. *March 24, Albany Times-Union* – (New York) **Staff levels called issue in deadly fire.** The Adirondack group home that caught fire Saturday may not have had enough staff to evacuate the profoundly mentally and physically disabled people who lived there, according to an independent monitoring group. Two employees at the Riverview group home in Hamilton County, New York pulled five people to safety after the one-story structure's fire alarm sounded around 5:30 a.m. But two other residents died inside the house, and another two died while being flown to Albany Medical Center Hospital. People close to the tragedy, as well staffers at other facilities, also questioned whether two people are enough to work the night shift at such a group home.
- Source: <http://timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=783001>

25. *March 23, Clinton Press-Republican* – (New York) **AMC chimney blamed.** A structural collapse caused the lower portion of a 40-foot chimney at Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake to implode Sunday. The resultant cave-in blew cement and brick across the boiler room and eventually forced the evacuation of 35 patients. Fire and hospital officials initially thought something had exploded in or near the chimney flue, though there was no fire. The collapse threatened the structural integrity of the chimney situated on top of the Medical Center's single-story utility building. There were no indications of imminent structural failure before the chimney collapse, and engineers have not arrived at a formal explanation for what happened. An evacuation was ordered within two hours of the chimney failure, when the chief nursing officer realized there would be no heat or hot water.

Source:

http://www.pressrepublican.com/homepage/local_story_082224556.html?keyword=topstory

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

26. *March 24, Delmarva Media Group* – (Maryland) **Wicomico student charged with e-threats.** A Wicomico County student is in the custody of juvenile service after he was arrested by police in connection with electronic threats sent to students at two county schools. On March 23, a 16-year-old male was charged with telephone misuse, school threats and harassment, and disturbing the school learning environment after confessing to police that he allegedly sent menacing messages to students about possible incidents

at Wicomico and Parkside high schools. “When these kinds of messages come into our schools, whether they come in telephonically or electronically via e-mail, we react immediately,” the Wicomico County Sheriff said. “Within an hour, we identified and apprehended the suspect.” The announcement of the arrest was made by the Sheriff and the Wicomico County schools superintendent, during an afternoon news conference at the Board of Education.

Source: <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20090324/NEWS01/903240326/1002>

27. *March 24, Farmington Daily Times* – (New Mexico) **Fire hazardous team clears Farmington Lujan’s office for suspicious package.** Several City Hall offices in Farmington were evacuated on March 23 after a suspicious package was found outside an office for a U.S. Representative. The Farmington Fire hazardous materials team after two hours of field testing determined the unidentified letter posed no threat. The envelope was found at the office around 4 p.m. on March 23, and it leaked a brown powdery substance, an FBI supervisory special agent said. Because the threat involved a U.S. congressman, the suspicious letter is being investigated by the FBI. Following the discovery of the questionable letter at the congressman’s office, authorities evacuated the east side of the city hall building, which include offices for the Farmington mayor and city manager staff in addition to the congressional field office, the city manager said. Fearing a potential chemical threat, four of the five people forced to leave the building were quarantined to prevent a potential spread of any unknown substance. After the item was found to be benign, everyone involved was free to leave, the city manager added. The FBI spokesman noted that the letter was found to have no trace of explosives or dangerous chemical agents such as anthrax or ricin.

Source: http://www.daily-times.com/ci_11982026

28. *March 23, Wicked Local* – (Massachusetts) **Raynham school evacuated in bomb scare.** The Massachusetts State police bomb squad was called on March 23, and the Raynham Middle School was evacuated after local authorities found a suspicious package outside the main entrance. Just before 7 a.m. on March 23, a police officer was on routine patrol when he spotted a wrapped parcel in front of the main doors. He notified his sergeant, who immediately called the fire chief. Treating the incident as a potential threat, the fire chief had police cordon off the area, evacuated school personnel, and called in the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad. Arriving buses were diverted to other schools, and the school superintendent alerted parents of the situation over the district’s instant alert system. Within 30 minutes, the Massachusetts State Police Bomb arrived, X-rayed the package, and found it to be a set of school books in a milk crate wrapped in a plastic bag. A few minutes after the package was cleared, a parent called to say she had just seen the text message and admitted to dropping the package off. Schools returned to normal routine. “Everything worked, police, fire, state police, and schools. Good job all the way around,” the fire chief said of the performance of the first-responders who came to the scene of the incident.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/raynham/news/x2087808426/Raynham-school-evacuated-in-bomb-scare>

29. *March 23, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Suspicious envelope closes downtown Fresno**

street. Fresno firefighters ordered P Street closed at Tulare Street late on the morning of March 23 because a suspicious envelope was found inside the federal courthouse in downtown Fresno. A fire department spokesman said “a small package” or envelope was discovered about 11:30 a.m. on the premises of the courthouse. Nobody became ill, the fire department official added, but authorities closed P Street between Tulare and Capitol streets while they investigated. Courthouse business was not affected. Fresno fire officials later tested the substance found in the envelope and determined that it was “benign.” However, the Fresno fire spokesman declined to say what the substance was, other than to note it was not a white powder.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/updates/story/1280080.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

30. *March 24, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Man turns in backpack filled with pipe bombs.** A man who found seven pipe bombs in a backpack turned them in to the Sheriff’s Department substation in Santee Monday, prompting authorities to evacuate nearby businesses. The man walked into the station and left the backpack in the lobby, saying that he found the bag with the bombs the night before, and one of them was leaking. The sheriff’s bomb-arson unit inspected the backpack and detonated each bomb individually.

Source: <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/mar/24/1m24pipe234243/>

31. *March 23, KFDA 10 Amarillo* – (Texas) **Ammunition shortage hurts law enforcement budgets, store owners.** As prices continue to skyrocket, Amarillo, Texas local law enforcement says they are contributing more and more of their budgets to ammunition. And even though orders have been placed, the bullets still have not arrived. “They ordered some over a year ago. I mean it’s been a while back, but it almost took a year to get here as well,” the sheriff said. “There’s a little bit of a delay trying to get these things in.” The Amarillo Police Department said that two years ago there was a 10 percent increase in the budget for ammunition. This year, there is a 20 percent increase on the table.

Source: <http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=10057229>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

32. *March 23, RedOrbit* – (International) **Cybercriminals manipulate search engines to sell fake software.** According to research cited by BBC News, some cybercriminals could be earning as much as \$10,000 a day by deceiving users into downloading their fake security software. Finjan, a computer security firm, reported new research that shows many cyber criminals continue to use so-called “scareware” to trick Web surfers into believing their computer is infected with a virus. Fraudsters use deceptive pop-up advertisements to convince users to buy their fake anti-virus software. “They are misleading people with evidence that their machine is infected with viruses and they are

encouraging them to download and buy software that basically does nothing,” said the chief technology officer at Finjan. In order to reach susceptible Web users, the cybercriminals manipulate Web searches to direct them to the site where they are informed of a fake computer infection. In March 2009, the Anti-Phishing Working Group counted 9,287 fake anti-malware programs being sold on the Web in December 2008. That number accounted for a 225 percent increase since January 2008.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/1658777/cybercriminals_manipulate_search_engines_to_sell_fake_software/

33. *March 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Free tool from HP scans for Flash vulnerabilities.** Hewlett-Packard has released a free development tool that finds vulnerabilities in Flash, Adobe System’s widely used but occasionally buggy interactive Web technology. The tool, SWFScan, is designed for developers without security backgrounds, the company said on one of its blogs. It was built by HP’s Web Security Research Group. HP said SWFScan joins other tools that can spot problems with Flash, such as Flare and SWFIntruder. But HP said SWFScan is the only one that can be used with Flash versions 9 and 10; ActionScript 3, Flash’s scripting language; and Flex, an open-source Web application framework used by Adobe. SWFScan will decompile ActionScript 2 and 3 into original source code and perform static analysis, looking for more than 60 vulnerabilities including data leakage, cross-site scripting vulnerabilities, and cross-domain privilege escalation, HP said. The tool highlights troublesome lines in source code and will also provide remediation advice. It will format a vulnerability report, as well as allow the export of source code for work in other tools, HP said. HP said it tested SWFScan on some 4,000 Flash applications and found that 35 percent violated Adobe’s best security practices. Sixteen percent of applications for Flash player 8 and earlier contained cross-site scripting vulnerabilities. Fifteen percent of those applications with login forms had user names or passwords hard coded into the application, HP said. HP cautioned that the tool only looks at the part of a Flash application that runs in a browser and not those parts running on a server.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/161776/free_tool_from_hp_scans_for_flash_vulnerabilities.html

34. *March 23, Core Security Technology* – (International) **Core security finds vulnerability trio in HP OpenView.** Core Security Technologies, provider of CORE IMPACT solutions for comprehensive enterprise security testing, on March 23 issued an advisory disclosing multiple vulnerabilities that could affect millions of organizations using HP’s OpenView systems and network management software. An engineer from CoreLabs, the research arm of Core Security, determined that a trio of vulnerabilities in HP OpenView Network Node Manager (NNM) can be exploited remotely via buffer overflow to compromise mission-critical servers within an organization using the software. Upon making the discovery, CoreLabs immediately alerted HP’s Software Security Response Team to the vulnerabilities, and the two companies have since coordinated efforts to ensure that a patch could be created and made available to protect users of the program. CoreLabs experts uncovered the trio of reported vulnerabilities in

HP OpenView NNM, which offers remote network system event and performance monitoring, while investigating other previously reported flaws in the software, and an HP-issued security patch meant to address those issues.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=216200217&subSection=Attacks/breaches>

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/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

35. *March 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Skype will let its VOIP service talk to SIP phone switches.** Skype is diving deeper into the business phone market with a system that lets companies integrate their existing, open VoIP phone systems with Skype's proprietary VoIP service. The new offering, called Skype for SIP, uses Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) to exchange signaling between PBXs and the free or inexpensive voice service. The latest PBXes support SIP, a signaling protocol designed to span IP-based phones, software clients, and other components of unified communications systems. Business users will be able to make and take Skype VoIP calls using all the features of their internal switches, according to the company, a division of eBay. Enterprises are widely adopting IP-based phone switches as they replace aging circuit-switched units. Some vendors already offer equipment or services to link Skype's network to other types of telephone system. Skype's latest move, however, could enable its customers to do without such third-party products.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/032309-skype-will-let-its-voip.html?page=1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *March 24, National Park Service* – (Alaska) **Mount Redoubt erupts.** Mount Redoubt volcano erupted early March 23, sending ash clouds to 50,000 feet and spreading ash in small amounts at least 120 miles to the northeast. The 10,190-foot stratovolcano is located in Lake Clark National Park, about 100 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska.

A park historian said the small community of Port Alsworth, where the park's field offices are located, did not have any ashfall, but the sulphurous, rotten-egg smell lingered for at least a couple of hours until the winds shifted. The volcano provided seismic hints of activity for several weeks prior to the March 23 eruption. The ash resulted in some cancelled commercial airline flights, particularly those headed north or west from Anchorage. Ash made a thin and spotty dusting in Talkeetna, where the south district ranger station of Denali National Park is located. One small community north and west of Anchorage reported that a quarter inch of ash had fallen. Redoubt last erupted in 1989 in an event that lasted four months and included over 23 major explosive events. Regional Office employees in Anchorage are under instructions this week to take some precautionary measures by covering computers and phones. The office air handling systems are also being shut down at night. Volcanic ash is a very fine material, and has very sharp edges which can damage everything from electronics to eyes and lungs. The regional office has also reactivated its incident command team, which is providing daily early morning telephone message updates to employees regarding the volcano and what, if any, effects it is having on normal office operations. Contingency plans have also been updated over the past several weeks to have dust masks on hand at the office, to utilize a system keeping any ash from being tracked in the building, and to provide advice to employees on home emergency supplies, vehicle use, and maintenance, and other ash-related issues.

Source: <http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=4439>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

37. *March 23, Hot Springs Star* – (South Dakota) **Corps seeks Cold Brook warning system improvements.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin working with the National Weather Service, Fall River County, and the City of Hot Springs to improve the flood warning system for Cold Brook Dam and areas downstream. In a news release dated January 26, the Corps noted that the plans are in the early stages but that the early-warning system would need to be revamped. The dam was designed in 1944 to accommodate a rainfall event of 9.1 inches in a 24-hour period. Corps dam designs have changed and are now designed for a rainfall event called the “Probable Maximum Precipitation” or PMP. The Cold Brook drainage basin’s PMP would be just under 24 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Such a rainstorm would fill the reservoir and could top the dam. On a scale of one to five, with one being Critical and five being Absolutely Safe, “Cold Brook Dam was given a four in their evaluation,” said the Fall River County emergency manager. He said that discussions have begun on the warning system, but said he believes that sensors placed further up the drainage basin could be in the works. Determining early that a heavy rainfall occurring 20 miles northwest of Hot Springs is headed toward Cold Brook will allow emergency measures to be instigated in time to evacuate people. Current studies, according to the release, indicate that under existing conditions, Cold Brook Dam could safely pass 55 percent of the runoff produced from the PMP. To ensure Corps dams do not present unacceptable risks to the public, the Corps is implementing a new risk-based process to prioritize dam safety deficiencies on a nationwide basis. The hydrologic capacity issue at Cold Brook Dam will be carried

forward and included as part of the Corps' risk-based approach to dam safety and prioritized on a national level. In addition to improving the flood warning system for Cold Brook Dam, the Corps is planning to update the dam's Emergency Action Plan. The Corps will conduct an exercise this spring, in collaboration with state and local emergency management agencies and responders, to improve coordination and response actions to flooding or a dam safety situation.

Source:

http://www.hotspringsstar.com/articles/2009/03/23/hot_springs/news/doc49872b16d35fb822679469.txt

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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