



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 April 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here: <http://www.dhs.gov>

### Top Stories

- According to Mount Vernon News, a tanker truck which overturned while carrying 41,100 pounds of liquid anhydrous ammonia created a potential hazmat incident south of Fredericktown, Ohio on Monday. Emergency personnel closed several roads, and almost 200 homes were evacuated. (See item [7](#))
- CBS News reports that the FBI and British law enforcement authorities are trying to hunt down hackers responsible for a botnet that security firm Finjan says compromised 1.9 million computers worldwide in just two months. Nearly half of the infected computers were in the United States. (See item [40](#))

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### Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

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

1. *April 22, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Power outage strikes CSUMB, Marina.** A power outage Tuesday that affected traffic lights and closed down a local university campus during another sweltering day on the Central Coast was caused by equipment failure, officials said. An equipment failure at the Fort Ord substation caused the outage,

which affected about 11,000 PG&E customers in Marina and some areas in Seaside, a PG&E spokeswoman said. The outage occurred around 10:30 a.m. and was restored by 2:30 p.m. PG&E workers are investigating the cause of the equipment failure.

Source: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20090422/NEWS01/904220314>

2. *April 22, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Power outage affects 38,000 customers.** Officials with Dayton Power and Light (DP&L) and local law enforcement said that a large power outage affected Preble, Darke, Mercer and Miami counties. DP&L said it appears that a transmission issue was the problem, but they continue to investigate. The outage happened around 9 a.m. the morning of April 22 and left thousands of homes, businesses and schools without power and phone lines. Power was restored around 9:30 a.m. Officials with DP&L said 38,000 customers were affected during the outage.  
Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/19248631/detail.html>
3. *April 22, Portworld News* – (International) **Total, Chevron and BP say no to single hulls.** Oil majors Total, Chevron and BP are no longer using single hull tankers for transportation operations, either on the spot market or for long term contracts. A vetting manager for Total Trading Asia Pte Ltd told Tankerworld that the French group had completely stopped chartering single-hulled tankers. Speaking at the sidelines of the International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition (ICOPCE) in Singapore on April 21, the captain, who oversees ship inspections, told Tankerworld that previous long-term charters of single hulls had all expired and not been renewed. “And we are definitely not fixing any single hulls for spot voyages anymore,” he added. “In fact, the minute we see that a single hull has been proposed, the proposal’s thrown out the window completely. We do not consider single hulls at all, they don’t even pass the first vetting stage” he said. As for British major BP, it has been quoted on many occasions affirming that it does not hire single hulls anymore “because of the risk of leaking.” Earlier during the ICOPCE, the Chevron Shipping Company LLC vice-president had said that players must “ensure that decisions on maintenance, training and people are based on minimizing risk, not minimizing cost.”  
Source:  
[http://www.portworld.com/news/popular/i76559/Total\\_Chevron\\_and\\_BP\\_say\\_no\\_to\\_single\\_hulls](http://www.portworld.com/news/popular/i76559/Total_Chevron_and_BP_say_no_to_single_hulls)
4. *April 20, Orange County Register* – (California) **Businesses evacuated after Newport Beach explosion.** Authorities are investigating reports of a loud explosion and have evacuated several businesses in the MacArthur Boulevard and Birch Street area as a precaution. The explosion was reported at 10:54 a.m., said a Newport Beach sergeant. Investigators found that it was an underground electrical vault that exploded, a MetroNet dispatch supervisor said. Businesses in the area were evacuated as a precaution. Southern California Edison was called out to determine what caused the explosion and make repairs. No injuries were reported.  
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/explosion-street-businesses-2369449-macarthur-reported>
5. *April 20, Press Republican* – (New York) **Wind, rain short power in area.** More than

12,000 National Grid customers in Franklin County were without power the afternoon of April 20. Windy and rainy conditions reportedly caused an insulator at the Malone National Grid substation to blow, knocking out power to about 7,000 homes and businesses in the greater Malone area. Power went out at about 2:30 p.m. to the seven surrounding communities that have feeder lines into the substation, said a spokeswoman for the power company. Those sites include the towns of Malone, Belmont and Bangor in Franklin County and the Town of Stockholm in St. Lawrence County. As of 3:40 p.m., 12,379 customers had experienced an outage in Franklin County, according to National Grid's Web site. In Essex County, 378 customers were without power as of 3:30 p.m., and in the Town of Black Brook in Clinton County, 53 customers were affected. The outages required police and emergency responders to direct traffic at several sites in Malone where traffic lights were out. Businesses were also hampered by the lack of power. According to the National Weather Service observers in Burlington, winds gusted between 22 and 30 mph on April 20. Power had been restored to most customers by 8 p.m.

Source: [http://www.pressrepublican.com/homepage/local\\_story\\_110230143.html](http://www.pressrepublican.com/homepage/local_story_110230143.html)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

6. *April 21, New York Times* – (West Virginia) **Lawmakers say chemical company withheld information about explosion.** When a huge explosion occurred last August at a West Virginia chemical plant, managers refused for several hours to tell emergency responders the nature of the blast or the toxic chemical it released, and they later misused a law intended to keep information from terrorists to try to stop federal investigators from learning what had happened, members of a House subcommittee said April 21. The explosion, at Bayer CropScience, in Institute, West Virginia killed two employees and sickened six volunteer firefighters. It was felt 10 miles away, and a tank weighing several thousand pounds “rocketed 50 feet through the plant,” committee investigators found. The company acted under a 2002 law intended to make ports more secure — Bayer CropScience brings barges in on the Kanawha River — and said that it was under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, an agency that does not have extensive experience in chemical processing. In response to questions, the company later found that 88 percent of the 2,000 documents it had marked as being “security sensitive” were not. A Michigan congressman said he thought the company was trying to overwhelm the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board and the committee, by giving them thousands of pages marked that way so that they could not disclose the documents. He said the committee would consider changes to the law, perhaps instituting penalties for excessive use of the “security sensitive” designation. The Bayer CEO said that the company had inadvertently withheld information from emergency responders in the hours after the explosion. A plant official had tried to send word to the fire personnel at the main gate about what was going on, but, he said, the information had been garbled by a security guard.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/22/us/22chemical.html?\\_r=1&ref=us](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/22/us/22chemical.html?_r=1&ref=us)

7. *April 21, Mount Vernon News* – (Ohio) **Overtaken tanker closes highway.** A tanker

truck which overturned while carrying anhydrous ammonia April 20 created a potential hazmat incident south of Fredericktown, causing emergency personnel to close several roads, including Ohio 13. Almost 200 homes near the scene of the accident were evacuated. A hot zone, which is a potential imminent threat to life and safety, was declared in the area surrounding the overturned McIlvaine Trucking semitrailer. The truck carried 41,100 pounds of liquid anhydrous ammonia, a commonly used fertilizer which becomes a toxic vapor at temperatures above minus 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Fredericktown fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene immediately after the accident was reported around 3 p.m. They found the truck overturned on its right side, on the west side of the roadway and off an embankment. Because of the damage to the truck and the precarious nature of the hazardous substance inside the disabled vehicle, which weighs 70,000 pounds loaded, the Fire Chief ordered the road closed, and requested Knox County Emergency Management to respond to the scene. Fire crews initially blocked off Ohio 13 at Beckley Road to the south and the Ohio 95 bypass to the north. Those barricades were eventually extended once the scene was assessed by firefighters and emergency management.

Source: <http://www.mountvernonnews.com/local/09/04/21/overturned-tanker-closes-highway>

8. *April 21, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Overturned locomotive at Benning Yard.** The D.C. fire department is working to contain a fuel and chemical spill from two overturned locomotives. A Fire department spokesman said two CSX Corp. locomotives overturned about 11 a.m. on April 21 in a rail yard at Benning Road in northeast Washington. He says hazmat crews are trying to contain less than 100 gallons of fuel and lubricant that spilled from the locomotives. CSX will lead the cleanup effort after the chemicals are fully contained. Officials say the spill is not affecting area waterways and no injuries have been reported.

Source: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/breaking/story.aspx?storyid=84653&catid=158>

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

9. *April 21, Republican Eagle* – (Minnesota) **Local critics blast Xcel Energy plan.** The state's environmental review of Xcel Energy's proposal to ramp up operations at its Prairie Island nuclear plant is too narrow, critics said on April 21. State officials met with the public at Red Wing Public Library for feedback on a study about the potential environmental impacts of increasing operations at the Prairie Island nuclear power plant. "I feel there are many unanswered questions," a Florence Township resident said. The most common criticism was that the report does not prepare for the possibility that nuclear storage at Prairie Island will potentially be permanent. A Lake City Council member said even if a site were selected to store the nation's nuclear waste, transportation would still pose a problem. He said the current study fails to consider many safety and regulatory issues with regard to transporting nuclear waste. "There's [sic] some discrepancies they'll have to take a look at on the transportation side," the council member said. Concerns were also raised about increased water temperatures in the Mississippi River.

Source: <http://www.republican-eagle.com/articles/index.cfm?id=58498&section=news>

10. *April 17, National Post* – (International) **Canadian plotted to send Iran nuclear technology: Police.** Canada is experiencing a significant increase in attempts to illicitly move nuclear technology out of the country, a senior official said following the arrest of a Toronto man accused of attempting to export devices needed to make nuclear weapons to Iran. The man appeared briefly in a Toronto courtroom on April 17, charged with violating the Customs Act and a United Nations embargo on nuclear-related exports to Iran. The 35-year-old Iranian-Canadian attempted to export “pressure transducers” that can be used to produce weapons-grade uranium, said an inspector who heads the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Customs and Excise Section in the Toronto area. Investigators spent most of the afternoon of April 16 searching the man’s Toronto bungalow. The investigation is the first of its type to result in charges in Canada, but the RCMP said it is investigating an increasing number of similar cases. Customs officials have seized more than two dozen nuclear-related components just in the past year, said a manager of the counter-proliferation section of the Canada Border Services Agency. They include “isolation chambers, isotope splitters, everything from soup to nuts,” he said. No charges were previously laid because the companies listed as the exporters were fictitious and could not be located. Police said the investigation began eight weeks ago after the man allegedly purchased two transducers in Boston for \$1,100 each and brought them to Canada by truck. The company that sold them eventually became suspicious and reported the man to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement branch of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which tipped off the Canadian authorities.

Source:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Technology/Canadian+plotted+send+Iran+nuclear+technology+Police/1506872/story.html>

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## **Critical Manufacturing**

11. *April 22, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **EPA wants crackdown on cement plants’ mercury.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule April 21 that will require cement plants in the United States to reduce stack emissions of mercury, dust and other pollutants. For a decade, environmental groups have been urging the EPA to set standards for the potent neurotoxin that comes out of the stacks and falls into oceans and rivers, eventually contaminating fish and raising mercury levels in the humans who eat the seafood. The new standards, which apply to 99 cement plants in 35 states, are expected to reduce pollutants by 90 percent, said representatives of environmental groups who held a press conference to praise the federal action. The mercury comes, in part, from limestone feedstock, an ingredient used in making cement, and petroleum coke fuel, used in plant furnaces. The Portland Cement Association, a trade group for the 99 plants with 163 active kilns, issued a statement saying it is reviewing the proposed rule and would make comments.

Source: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/21/BAHJ176QGE.DTL)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/21/BAHJ176QGE.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/21/BAHJ176QGE.DTL)

12. *April 21, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Plant manager sentenced to 70 months in prison in pollution, safety case.** A federal judge on April 20 sentenced the plant manager at a Warren County, New Jersey pipe foundry to 70 months in prison for criminal conspiracy, polluting the air and Delaware River, as well as covering up safety violations that led to the death of a worker using a broken forklift. He is the first of four people expected to be sentenced this week as a result of one of the longest environmental crime trials ever prosecuted by the Department of Justice. The company also is expected to be sentenced. Two years ago, Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Co. was found guilty on 32 of 34 charges, including dumping oil-contaminated water into the Delaware River. Buildup from legal and illegal waste disposal caused an 8.5-mile oil sheen in December 1999. Since 2005, the parent company of Atlantic States, McWane Inc., has been convicted of environmental crimes in Utah, Texas and Alabama. McWane is one of the world's largest manufacturers of cast-iron water and sewer pipes and has plants in the United States and Canada.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-13/1240287363163860.xml&coll=1>

13. *April 20, Kitplanes Magazine* – (National) **FAA says second phase of S-LSA manufacturer audits is complete.** The Federal Aviation Administration has completed initial interviews of 30 Light Sport Aircraft manufacturers and importers for the audit program that began last September. While the agency is still crunching the numbers, the agency found “good” levels of compliance with key criteria and that it had very good assistance from manufacturers, who allowed complete access to the FAA team. Among the aspects checked in this fact-finding mission — ensuring that the manufacturers were in compliance with the design standards; quality-assurance systems integrity; assembly procedures and documentation; maintenance procedures and documentation; and continued airworthiness programs. This round of in-person inspections of the manufacturers and importers was the second of three phases in the program. Next comes analysis of the data and reporting, which is planned for the end of July.

Source:

[http://www.avweb.com/news/snf/SunNFun2009\\_FAASaysSecondPhaseOfSLSAManufacturerAuditsIsComplete\\_200200-1.html](http://www.avweb.com/news/snf/SunNFun2009_FAASaysSecondPhaseOfSLSAManufacturerAuditsIsComplete_200200-1.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

14. *April 22, Strategy Page* – (National) **Got the ball busting B-1 breakdown blues.** The U.S. Air Force is seeking to radically change how it maintains its aircraft, in an effort to increase the number available for combat. Of particular concern are the maintenance problems with the B-1B and B-2 heavy bombers. Last year, for example, an average of 54 percent of the 67 B-1B bombers were out of action for maintenance issues. An average of only 42 percent were available for action. All the larger aircraft, especially the C-130 transports, are having problems getting maintenance problems fixed quickly. While the B-1B availability rate (aircraft that can be sent into action, including some with minor maintenance issues) was about 51 percent, it was 56 percent in 2003. Last year, B-1Bs flew about 80 combat sorties a month. However, most of the time B-1Bs



spend in the air (about 31 hours a month per aircraft) is for training. Combat sorties average about 11 hours, while training sorties tend to be shorter. All new aircraft have a lot more complex mechanical and electronic systems, and keeping them all fit to fly has become a problem that existing maintenance methods are not able to handle. So the air force is looking for new solutions. They are taking a closer look at new techniques developed by commercial airlines and air forces in other countries.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htcbtsp/articles/20090422.aspx>

15. *April 20, KSBY 6 Santa Maria* – (California) **Fire causes \$100,000 in damage at Raytheon building in Goleta.** On April 20, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 75 Coromar Rd. Raytheon Building B. Four engines and a ladder truck from Santa Barbara County Fire Department responded along with an engine from Santa Barbara City Fire Department. The first arriving engine found smoke showing from a large, single story commercial building. Firefighters made an aggressive interior attack. The fire was held in check by the building's automatic sprinkler system. Firefighters knocked down the fire at 4:04 pm. The fire was contained to the room of origin. The fire caused approximately \$100,000 in damage to the building and equipment. There were no injuries reported. The occupants of the building evacuated quickly. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=10217389>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

16. *April 22, Appleton Post-Crescent* – (Wisconsin) **New Holstein woman faces fraud charges.** A 54-year-old New Holstein securities agent was bound over for trial on April 21 on accusations of taking \$2.4 million for an investment product that did not exist. The woman waived her right to a preliminary hearing on six felony charges during an initial appearance in Calumet County Court. She was charged last week with four counts of theft and two counts of securities fraud. She recommended and collected investments in a firm she called Denuer from 1998 through January, the criminal complaint says. The state Department of Financial Institutions found no evidence that such a firm exists. It was later found that the money was deposited in her personal accounts. Investigators also found that more than \$1.2 million from her accounts went to casino-related expenses during the last four years.

Source:

<http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20090422/APC0101/904220484/1003/APC01>

17. *April 21, United Press International* – (International) **Wise Millennium Bank probe ongoing.** U.S. investigators said they are still investigating the Wise Millennium Bank and its founder, who allegedly ran an \$80 million Ponzi scam. Civil suits have been filed in Texas, Tennessee and North Carolina and investigators in Kentucky have forwarded results of an investigation to a Federal Bureau of Investigation team in Raleigh, North Carolina, the Raleigh News & Observer reported April 21. The Sheriff's investigator in Kentucky said they are up to four reported victims, with losses of a million dollars each. No criminal charges have been filed yet, but the Securities and Exchange Commission

said more than 350 investors bought worthless certificates of deposit from the bank that operates in the island nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Source:

[http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1674813/wise\\_millennium\\_bank\\_probe ONGOING/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1674813/wise_millennium_bank_probe ONGOING/)

18. *April 21, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Lindon man indicted in Ponzi scheme.** A federal indictment was unsealed Tuesday involving a man who prosecutors say defrauded investors of more than \$18 million in a Ponzi scheme and then used much of that money to acquire an extensive collection of vintage and high-end cars. The suspect was indicted by a grand jury in February on three counts of wire fraud, the U.S. Attorney for Utah announced Tuesday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) believes the suspect is currently on the run, possibly hiding somewhere outside the United States. He speaks Spanish and was last known to be in Panama, said the special agent in charge of the Salt Lake office of the FBI. The suspect promised investors they could make money either through a foreign-currency trading program or a real estate leveraging program. Instead, he bought more than 200 classic cars, trucks, motorcycles and three-wheelers.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705298766/Lindon-man-indicted-in-Ponzi-scheme.html>

19. *April 21, WGBA 26 Appleton* – (Wisconsin) **Credit union call scam.** There is a new phone scam involving Fox Communities Credit Union. The recorded calls are going out to customers and random numbers including the offices at NBC 26. “About 10:30 [this morning] they started coming in and it’s been one right after another,” says the NBC 26 receptionist. The message says, “Hello, this is a message from your bank, Fox Communities Credit Union. Your card has been suspended because we believe it has been accessed by a third party. Please press ‘one’ now to be transferred to the security department.” Once a person hits “one,” it asks for the person’s card number. A spokesperson at Fox Communities said, “Fox Communities Credit Union would never call or email requesting information like this. We have that information. We don’t need to ask you for it.”

Source: <http://www.nbc26.com/Global/story.asp?S=10224045>

20. *April 21, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Honolulu couple pleads guilty in mortgage scam.** A couple who owned a Honolulu mortgage brokerage firm is facing many years in prison after pleading guilty to federal charges based on fraudulent loans and foreclosures. The couple faces penalties of five years in prison and \$250,000 fines for conspiring to commit mail and wire fraud, as well as 10 years in prison for transferring money from unlawful activities.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/04/21/ap6318415.html>

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## **Transportation Sector**

21. *April 22, Chicago Sun Times* – (National) **U.S. tightening re-entry rules, requiring passports at land and sea checkpoints.** Starting in June, most U.S. citizens coming



home by land or sea will need to present a passport or similar document proving both citizenship and identity. The fast-approaching requirements are the final phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, or WHTI. The first phase rolled out in 2007 and dealt solely with air travel. It required air passengers to have a passport when flying between the United States and Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean or Bermuda. Now, new passport cards, which are smaller and cost less than regular passports, allow for entry into the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda. Passport cards and traditional passports are both valid for 10 years for adults, five years for children. The big drawback of passport cards: They are not valid for international air travel. Other WHTI-compliant documents for cross-border travel into the United States by land or sea include “enhanced driver’s licenses” offered by a handful of states — but not Illinois. Quite a bit of confusion has revolved around how the new regulations will affect cruise ship passengers. The bottom line is that if someone is on a so-called “closed loop cruise” that departs and arrives from the same U.S. port, a driver’s license and birth certificate will get the person back into the country, even if the ship stopped at ports in the Caribbean or Mexico, for instance. But if that Caribbean cruise starts in Miami and ends in Ft. Lauderdale, the person will need a passport or one of the WHTI-compliant documents listed above. Even on a “closed loop” cruise, a person might need a passport to disembark at some foreign ports of call.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/lifestyles/travel/1537834,CST-FTR-pass0422.article>

22. *April 22, Delaware County Daily Times* – (Pennsylvania) **King of Prussia road closed for 3-4 weeks.** Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) shut down a bridge that about 16,000 vehicles a day use on April 20 and started working to repair the crumbling stone masonry bridge at the intersection of Gulph Creek Road at 6 a.m. April 21. The 75-year-old bridge located between Biddulph and Gulph Creek Road was closed down because of severe damage to a wing wall that supports the roadway approach to the bridge. The damaged portion of the wall is 12 feet wide by 12 feet high. PennDOT got a letter from its bridge unit to do some work there and started clearing out the area to get equipment down in that area and came back April 20 and “saw that it had collapsed.” King of Prussia Road is a main artery to Eastern University and Cabrini College, which are located about a block above the northern end of the bridge. It is also a major connection to the Blue Route exit/entrance (Exit 13) at Lancaster Avenue (Route 30).

Source:

<http://www.delcotimes.com/articles/2009/04/22/news/doc49ee89a2f1e66958401338.txt>

23. *April 21, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **NJ flight delayed after knives found in bags.** Security officials at Newark Liberty International Airport delayed a Las Vegas-bound flight on April 21 because a passenger was carrying two small knives in her luggage. Continental Flight 768 missed its scheduled 7:30 a.m. departure. A Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman says a passenger looking through her overhead luggage had a small Swiss Army knife and another knife with a 2 1/2 inch blade. The spokeswoman said the plane returned to the gate and was cleared of passengers so a check could be conducted. The passenger was questioned and released.

Source:

[http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/new\\_jersey/20090421\\_ap\\_njflightdela](http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/new_jersey/20090421_ap_njflightdela)

[yedafterknivesfoundinbags.html](#)

24. *April 20, Associated Press* – (Washington) **FAA: Pilot not qualified in Stehekin plane crash.** Documents from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) say the pilot of a Chelan Airways float plane that crashed into Lake Chelan — killing two people — was technically not qualified for positions he held at the time, and had his license suspended for six months after the crash. The documents, provided to the Wenatchee World under a public records request, show the pilot is now allowed to fly commercial planes again. An earlier report from the National Transportation Safety Board said the pilot had disconnected warning instruments telling him the position of the plane’s landing gear. The agency said the wheels were down — protruding from the plane’s pontoons — when the plane landed and flipped on the lake at Stehekin last May 17. The FAA documents say the pilot was not qualified to act as chief pilot or director of operations for Lake Chelan Airways. A co-owner of Lake Chelan Airways says the airline had applied for and believes it had been approved for a “deviation” from the requirements for chief pilot and director of operations — two management positions that require a certain level of oversight experience.

Source:

[http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap\\_wa\\_float\\_plane\\_crash.html?source=mypi](http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_float_plane_crash.html?source=mypi)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

25. *April 21, KGET 17 Bakersfield* – (California) **DA’s office re-opened after chemical scare.** Parts of the Kern County District Attorney’s Office were evacuated on the morning of April 21 after employees opened an envelope with white powder inside. Fire department hazardous materials teams were called to the office in the Justice Center, which was re-opened shortly after 11. No injuries were reported. A similar envelope was delivered to the sheriff’s department on April 16. The white powder inside that envelope was determined to be talcum. The investigation of that incident was turned over to the FBI. Authorities take no chances with such deliveries because of a series of chemical attacks several years ago. It is the policy of most first responders to treat all such suspicious materials as if they were deadly until they are proven to be safe.

Source: <http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/DAs-Office-re-opened-after-chemical-scare/nRArtdZ2cEadqEKWMJKc6Q.cspX>

26. *April 21, Waynesboro News Virginian* – (Virginia) **Suspicious powder found in mailbox.** A Grottoes woman called for help on April 17 when she found a suspicious powder in her mailbox. Authorities responded to the 70 block of Harriston Road, where they found a “fine powder with slight yellow tint,” according to a Captain with the Augusta County Sheriff’s Office. A test determined the substance to be calcium phosphate, a non-hazardous ingredient in baking powder and plant fertilizer. No similar reports have been received, the Captain said.

Source:

[http://www.newsvirginian.com/wnv/news/local/article/suspicious\\_powder\\_found\\_in\\_mailbox/39067/](http://www.newsvirginian.com/wnv/news/local/article/suspicious_powder_found_in_mailbox/39067/)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

27. *April 21, KMBC 9 Kansas City* – (National) **6 stolen refrigerated trucks found in KC.**

Six stolen refrigerated tractor-trailers were recovered in Kansas City, Missouri near Truman Road and Jackson Avenue on Tuesday. The trucks held hundreds of thousands of pounds of chicken and ribs, most of which is now missing. Police and U.S. Department of Agriculture are investigating. Authorities are concerned that the meat may be spoiled and was sold to unsuspecting vendors. The trucks were taken from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. Simmons Foods, an Arkansas-based company, was able to find one of its trucks by using a GPS device attached to it. “It’s a hidden device. Not everybody knows about it. But it works very well,” said Simmons Foods. “We’re talking about \$50,000 trucks each and then the loads on them. The one with a pallet left on it, it was about \$60,000 worth of chicken stolen. And all that’s out there on the streets,” a police officer said. Police said mainstream grocers typically buy direct from manufacturers, so it is unlikely they bought the stolen meat.

Source: <http://www.kmbc.com/news/19241728/detail.html>

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## **Water Sector**

28. *April 22, Rochester Post-Bulletin* – (Minnesota) **Waste water from fire fighting effort blamed for fish kill.** Two state agencies have confirmed that a fish kill discovered April 18 in the Whitewater River is linked to the April 17 fire at North Star Foods in St. Charles. A waste water worker with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency said water used fighting the fire went through the building’s drains and into the city’s wastewater treatment plant. He said the water was probably contaminated by ammonia. Between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. April 17, the wastewater treatment facility became overwhelmed with the contaminated water, and the bacteria used to purify the water was killed, he said. “The high concentration caused the fish kill, but I don’t know the exact extent of the kill,” he added. The matter has been referred to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which gathered some of the fish for testing. Pollution spills program manager for the DNR, said most of the fish killed were white suckers and minnows, but a few brown trout were also found dead. The area of the fish kill stretched about 5 miles on the south branch of the Whitewater River. Anglers fishing downstream during the trout season opener Saturday can still eat the fish they caught, said the pollution spills program manager for the DNR.

Source:

[http://news.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews\\_story.asp?z=2&a=395685](http://news.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=2&a=395685)

29. *April 21, Wilmington Star-News* – (North Carolina) **Human fecal contamination stymies water cleanup.** Using DNA scanning equipment, researchers at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) were able to determine that 18 percent of water

samples collected from New Hanover County's six tidal creeks between December 2005 and June 2007 indicated human fecal contamination. That is still below the 23 percent of samples that contained dog waste and the 22 percent that showed traces of waste from hooved animals like deer, cows and horses. But a UNCW water quality expert said finding human waste raises significant health and welfare concerns. He said finding human waste in Futch Creek was a worrisome sign. "Historically, that's been our cleanest creek," he said. The Futch Creek watershed is the county's least developed, although homes and businesses are quickly sprouting in the fast-growing Porters Neck area. More recently and potentially more surprising, he said traces of human waste have been found in Pages Creek, which unlike the Futch Creek area is largely sewered. The county senior environmental planner said the contaminated samples were found in the upper reaches of the creek around the boat ramp in Bayshore. She said the county has responded to the findings by posting signs at the boat ramp, mailing out letters to nearby residents and surveying the area for potential sources. She said city and county officials would continue to push to improve or at least stabilize water quality through educational outreach efforts, via buffering projects along places like Burnt Mill and Smith creeks and by promoting low-impact development techniques that aim to treat contaminated runoff before it reaches surface waters.

Source: <http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20090421/ARTICLES/904214003/-1/NEWS01?Title=Human-fecal-contamination-stymies-water-cleanup>

30. *April 21, Water Technology Online* – (National) **Water security device recognized.** Hach Homeland Security Technologies (HST), a Hach Co. division, recently announced that its GuardianBlue Early Warning System (EWS) was selected as the top new product in the "homeland security" category at a special awards program sponsored by business-to-business magazine Security Products. The program recognized outstanding IT products showcased at the GovSec, U.S. Law Conference and Exhibition, which was held March 11-12 in Washington, D.C., the company said. According to Hach HST, the GuardianBlue EWS analyzes drinking water to guard against contamination and is certified and designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an approved product for early-warning drinking water security. GuardianBlue EWSs were used at the Beijing 2008 Olympics to provide continuous and accurate screening for toxicity that would characterize an intentional contamination of the water supply, the company said. Source: [http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N\\_ID=71770](http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71770)
31. *April 20, Arkansas News Bureau* – (Arkansas) **Study finds problems with water used to drill natural gas wells.** Evidence of environmental contamination has been discovered at 11 permitted "land farms" where water used in natural gas drilling is stored, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) said April 20. At each of the sites, ADEQ found that contaminated fluids had run off into nearby creeks or streams and chloride concentrations in surrounding soil were abnormally high, according to a release. Four of the 11 sites are in the Fayetteville Shale formation in north and central Arkansas where natural gas drilling has increased substantially in the past few years. The other seven are in the older Arkoma Basin in western Arkansas. The ADEQ director said the permit revocation process has begun on land farms in White and Lonoke counties — both are in the Fayetteville Shale play area and are owned by

Fayetteville Shale Land Farm. Other revocations could be forthcoming at other locations. Some of the changes include adding fencing around all on-site ponds to protect wildlife from getting into the water, and requiring that routine soil and water sampling be conducted at specified locations in the presence of an ADEQ inspector. “The bottom line is we’re concerned about the environmental effects of these operations and we have to put those environmental effects first,” she said. “We want to make sure that when the drilling is over that there is not any damage to our environment.”  
Source: <http://arkansasnews.com/2009/04/20/study-finds-problems-with-water-used-to-drill-natural-gas-wells/>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

32. *April 21, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Edmond police investigate suspicious package in doctor’s building.** A suspicious package found inside a doctor’s office building in Edmond turned out to be filled with medical supplies. The Edmond Regional Medical Building next to the Edmond hospital was evacuated about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday when the package was found next to a hyperbaric chamber in the building. A police spokeswoman says a bomb squad X-rayed the box and determined the contents were not explosive. When the box was opened it held iodine, swab sticks and gloves. She says police are trying to determine who left the package outside the door.  
Source: <http://www.kfsm.com/sns-ap-ok--suspiciouspackage.0,185204.story>
  
33. *April 21, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Mayo Clinic backs new personal health record site.** The Mayo Clinic has combined its medical expertise with Microsoft Corp.’s technology in a free Web site launching Tuesday that will let people store personal health and medical information. The Mayo Clinic Health Manager, as the site is called, is one of many emerging services for so-called personal health records. The sites, from companies such as Microsoft and Google Inc. and major health insurers, are meant to give people an easy way to stash medical information and transfer it to a new clinic, hospital or specialist. But those providers are not necessarily ready for such an electronic revolution, which for now means it takes some work on the patient’s part to set up and maintain the records. The Mayo Clinic Health Manager uses Microsoft’s HealthVault system to store medical histories, test results, immunization files and other records from doctors’ offices and hospital visits, along with data from home devices like heart rate monitors. Anyone can sign up for an account, not just Mayo Clinic patients. Users can give access to different slices of their health information to doctors and family members as the need arises. Advocates of electronic medical records say the technology is more cost-effective than paper files and reduces medical errors. But the rollout has been slow, which is why the federal stimulus package this year included incentives for doctors and hospitals to adopt electronic health records.  
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h9te2en3erc1UbFaATOQaBIr22wD97MOQB00>

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## Government Facilities Sector

34. *April 22, Washington Post* – (National) **A Pentagon cyber-command is in the works.** The Presidential Administration is finalizing plans for a new Pentagon command to coordinate the security of military computer networks and to develop new offensive cyber-weapons, sources said on April 21. Planning for the reorganization of Defense Department and intelligence agencies is underway, and a decision is imminent, according to a person familiar with the White House plans. The new command would affect U.S. Strategic Command, whose mission includes ensuring U.S. “freedom of action” in space and cyberspace, and the National Security Agency, which shares Pentagon cybersecurity responsibilities with the Defense Information Systems Agency. The Pentagon plans do not involve the Department of Homeland Security, which has responsibility for securing the government’s non-military computer domain. But the President must approve the changes and Congress must be notified of them before they can be implemented, said this source, who has spoken with several White House and military officials. News of the proposal comes on the heels of a 60-day White House review of cybersecurity efforts. Federal agency deputies are expected to meet Friday to consider the recommendations of the review team.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/22/AR2009042200029.html?hpid=topnews>
35. *April 22, NBC Washington* – (Virginia) **Suspicious vehicle closes Pentagon parking lot.** A suspicious vehicle led to the closure of the Pentagon South parking lot, a Pentagon representative said on April 22. Access to the parking lot from Interstate 395 was closed and the highway surrounding the building is jammed. An explosive ordnance team was sent to check out the vehicle. Pentagon Police said it would take at least two hours to clear the scene.  
Source: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Suspicious-Vehicle-Closes-Pentagon-Parking-Lot.html>
36. *April 21, Southern Illinoisan* – (Illinois) **Officials will analyze package left in Mount Vernon state office.** A suspicious package found at the Illinois Secretary of State’s Administrative Hearing Office in Mount Vernon has been rendered and will be analyzed, a deputy press secretary for the secretary of state said. The spokesman said the package was received at about 9 a.m. on April 21, though it is unclear whether or not it was mailed or dropped off. He said there was an electronic device attached to the package. The Secretary of State’s Bomb Squad in Marion was called and the building and a one-block radius was cleared. The package was X-rayed and “deemed suspicious.” At about 12:35 p.m., the squad destroyed the package with a water cannon. There were no injuries or damage to property. The spokesman said the package will be analyzed to determine the exact nature of the package. He said the bomb squad is deployed to deal with any bomb threat, not just ones at the Secretary of State’s Office.  
Source:  
[http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2009/04/21/breaking\\_news/doc49ee329c55981381823786.txt](http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2009/04/21/breaking_news/doc49ee329c55981381823786.txt)



37. *April 21, NYU News* – (New York) **Car falls, hits NYU building.** A car fell five stories from the window of a parking garage on April 21, hitting an NYU building on its way down. Shortly after 3 p.m., a silver Mercedes SUV fell out of a Hertz parking garage window at 12 E. 13th St. behind NYU’s Fairchild building, which was evacuated shortly after. The driver, a parking attendant at the garage, was transported to St. Vincent’s Hospital with minor injuries. The NYU Office of Emergency Management said the accident was due to brake failure. The NYU Public Safety officer on duty went on the intercom several minutes later, telling students and employees inside to evacuate the building. According to a NYU spokesman the building was evacuated out of concern that the car’s gasoline may have caught fire or that the structural integrity of the edifice might have been damaged by the car’s impact. No one inside the NYU building was injured, although a cooling system was destroyed, and several windows on the second floor of Fairchild facing 13th Street were broken following the car’s fall, according to the building’s manager. The building will remain closed on April 21; workers are scheduled to begin removing the vehicle by crane at 7 a.m.

Source: <http://www.nyunews.com/news/city-state/car-falls-hits-nyu-building-1.1725070>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

38. *April 22, USA Today* – (National) **Report IDs air-ambulance problems.** The air-ambulance helicopter industry has jumbled oversight and poor organization that led to safety problems and a record number of fatalities last year, according to safety review released Monday. The report released by the Flight Safety Foundation, a research group, identifies eight “very high” risks within the industry and 18 factors it labels “high” risks. Unlike the airline industry, which is a highly regulated business, air-ambulance companies are overseen by a patchwork of state and federal agencies that overlap or leave some areas untended, the report says. The industry has so many different styles of operation — from government-run programs to fiercely competitive for-profit businesses — that regulation and standardization is difficult, the report says. The report comes as tensions are brewing within an industry that has come under the spotlight for a record spate of crashes. After nine crashes killed 35 people from December 2007 to October 2008, the National Transportation Safety Board held a public hearing to address the problem. Six patients were among the dead during that period. The Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates the industry’s flight operations, issued a statement saying it welcomed the report. “It confirms what we believe: Reducing risk in helicopter EMS operations demands a systematic approach,” the statement says.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-04-20-chopper\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-04-20-chopper_N.htm)

39. *April 20, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Emergency drill provides real-life lessons.** Dozens of victims were rolled, wheeled and carried into the Timpanogos Regional Hospital Monday during a mock earthquake drill aimed at evaluating preparedness in Utah County. Some of the exercise went well, while gaps in other areas became apparent. Some areas in the hospital were radio “dead spots” and communication was difficult, Utah County’s Medical Reserve Corps coordinator said. The exercise was built around the scenario that a 6.7 magnitude earthquake hit along the Utah County segment of the

Wasatch fault line at 10:45 a.m. Monday, disrupting traffic, damaging buildings, including hospitals, breaking power and water lines, and leaving at least 24 people dead. A train had also derailed near Geneva Road and 800 North, contaminating nearby people with an unknown substance that was leaking from one of the tank cars.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705298590/Drill-provides-real-life-lessons.html>

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## **Information Technology**

40. *April 22, CBS News* – (International) **Cops hunting monster-botnet builders.** The FBI and British law enforcement authorities are trying to hunt down hackers responsible for the largest botnet ever known to the IT world, according to a California-based Internet security company. Finjan's Chief Technology Officer has told the Financial Times that six people based in Ukraine are suspected of compromising 1.9 million computers worldwide in just two months — many of them in the United States. London's Metropolitan Police department confirmed to CBS News on Wednesday that their e-crime unit was investigating a botnet created by Ukrainian hackers. The Met would not say what other agencies they are working with, but they do often work with other agencies on cases involving international cyber-crime, including the FBI. According to Finjan, nearly half of the infected computers were in the United States and almost 80 percent of the infected computers were running Internet Explorer, while 15 percent were using the Firefox Web browser, CNET reported. Some critics have said Finjan has not provided evidence that this is the biggest botnet ever.

Source:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2009/04/22/world/worldwatch/entry4960984.shtml>

41. *April 21, IDG News Service* – (International) **Nokia: We don't know why criminals want our old phones.** The mystery why cybercriminals want a discontinued Nokia phone is not getting any clearer. Hackers have been offering up to US\$32,413 in undergrounds forums for Nokia 1100 phones made in the company's former factory in Bochum, Germany. The phone can allegedly be hacked so as to facilitate illegal online banking transfers, according to the Dutch company Ultrascan Advanced Global Investigations. Nokia maintains the phone's software is not flawed. "We have not identified any phone software problem that would allow alleged use cases," the company said in an e-mailed statement. The 1100 can apparently be reprogrammed to use someone else's phone number, which would also let the device receive text messages. That capability opens up an opportunity for online banking fraud.

Source:

[http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/163515/nokia\\_we\\_dont\\_know\\_why\\_criminals\\_want\\_our\\_old\\_phones.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/163515/nokia_we_dont_know_why_criminals_want_our_old_phones.html)

42. *April 21, Computerworld* – (International) **Mozilla patches 12 Firefox bugs, a third of them critical.** Mozilla Corp. on Tuesday patched 12 security vulnerabilities in Firefox 3, just days before it hopes to roll out the newest beta of its next open-source browser, Firefox 3.5. Of the dozen flaws fixed in Firefox 3.0.9, four were rated "critical," two

“high,” two “moderate” and four “low” in Mozilla’s four-step ranking system. It was the most vulnerabilities Mozilla has patched since December 2008, when it quashed 13 bugs. Tuesday’s update, the third this year, follows by four weeks an emergency patch that Mozilla hustled out to fix a bug that had earned a German college student \$5,000 in the Pwn2Own hacking contest. Firefox 3.0.9 may not be the only update Mozilla unveils this week; the company is still planning on releasing Firefox 3.5 Beta 4 by the end of the week, according to posted meeting notes. That schedule may slip, however, as Mozilla developers have yet to declare a “code freeze,” a milestone that means all the bugs that will be fixed have been. There are currently seven bugs that must be resolved before the beta can move into internal testing prior to actual release.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9131951&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9131951&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

43. *April 21, Computerworld* – (National) **We don’t want to run U.S. cybersecurity efforts, NSA chief says.** The director of the National Security Agency (NSA) Tuesday downplayed widespread concerns about his agency’s growing role in national cybersecurity affairs. Speaking at the security-oriented RSA Conference 2009 being held in San Francisco this week, he stressed that the NSA has no desire to run cybersecurity for the Federal Government. Instead, the NSA wants to team up with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in developing and enforcing cyberdefenses for government and military networks. “I think we need to dispel the rumor” about the NSA wanting to take control of the national cybersecurity agenda, he said. “It’s not NSA or the DHS. It is one team for the good of the nation. The DHS has a really tough job. We want to provide them with the technical support” needed to combat threats in cyberspace. He pointed to the vast technical skills and experience within his agency, especially in areas such as cryptography and intelligence-gathering, which he said are crucial to understanding — and defeating — cyberthreats, but also said another panelist was right when he told the audience during a panel discussion that “nobody” should be in charge of overall cybersecurity efforts. “A top-down, somebody’s-in-charge model is not the right model,” said the expert, who is chief security technology officer at managed security services provider BT Counterpane.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9131933&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9131933&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

44. *April 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Lawmakers to re-examine Internet-sharing software.** A House committee is reopening its investigation of Internet services that let computer users distribute music and movies online amid reports the same software was exploited to gain unauthorized access to government and private data. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee sent letters Monday to the Justice Department, Federal Trade Commission and The Lime Group, which runs LimeWire, a popular file-sharing service. The letters sought information about any such breaches and what the current administration and company are doing to protect against them. Asked about the renewed investigation, a LimeWire spokeswoman responded, “We at LimeWire understand that Internet safety is paramount, and we strive to offer peer-to-

peer's most secure technology." She said the company had worked with other P2P providers and regulators to develop and implement protections, including changes in default settings; file-sharing controls; shared folder configurations; and sensitive-file-type restrictions. "Our newest version, LimeWire 5.0, by default, does not share sensitive file types such as spreadsheets or documents," she said. "In fact, the software does not share any file or directory without explicit permission from the user."

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j1CHQiB2PPmjdaj1QZDUZ3j3u5MwD97N469G5>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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## Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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## National Monuments & Icons Sector

45. *April 22, USA Today* – (National) **National parks to get \$750 million today.** National parks get \$750 million in federal economic stimulus money on April 22 to chip into a to-do list that includes repairing historic buildings, constructing trails and increasing renewable energy use from Independence Hall in Philadelphia to Yosemite in California. "This is probably the most significant investment made in more than a generation," the Secretary of the Interior said in an interview before the Earth Day announcement. More than 750 projects in 48 states are expected to create 30,000 to 40,000 jobs starting this summer. That includes 15,000 jobs in a proposed 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-04-22-national-parks\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-04-22-national-parks_N.htm)

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## Dams Sector

46. *April 21, Government Security News* – (Colorado) **Pueblo County Sheriff’s Dept. to protect local dam.** Because the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office is the only law enforcement agency that could respond immediately to an intrusion alarm or terrorist threat at the Pueblo Dam, and provide protection on a 24/7 basis, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation intends to negotiate with the sheriff’s department to provide security surveillance and law enforcement support at the Pueblo Dam and field office. The federal agency’s security program requires that armed law enforcement personnel are readily available to respond to intrusions or domestic threats. “These facilities are within the jurisdiction authority of the Sheriff who would be the first responder for emergencies and non-emergency call for service,” explained the Reclamation Bureau, which is a unit of the Department of Interior. “Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office is empowered by the State of Colorado with full arrest authority in Pueblo County and is authorized by the State of Colorado to carry firearms in the performance of duty,” the Bureau added, in a presolicitation notice published online on April 13. The Pueblo Dam, which was originally constructed between 1970 and 1975, is located about six miles west of Pueblo, Colorado.  
Source: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1877.html>
47. *April 21, KOHD 51 Bend* – (Oregon) **BMPRD wants to change dangerous spillway.** A new study shows multiple dangers lurk around the Colorado Avenue Spillway near the Old Mill District in Bend: a combination of loose boulders, low clearance, and criss-crossed iron supports. So far there has been one fatal and many near fatal accidents around the spillway. Bend Metro Park and Recreation is now looking at an option to divide the river, separating areas for recreation and wildlife. One area would be off limits to recreationists and protect habitat. The middle section would have whitewater access, and the third, closest to McKay Park, would be smooth, fast-flowing water. But improving safety and building a recreation mecca would cost about \$1.7 million. Designers will make some adjustments to the drawings and then bring the plan back for a public hearing and park board approval.  
Source: <http://kohd.com/news/local/109998>
48. *April 20, 2theadvocate.com* – (Louisiana) **MRGO closing to boat traffic.** The long-awaited closure of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet will reach another milestone April 22, when the channel becomes officially closed to boat traffic. But that will not be the end of the work that is needed, members of the MRGO Must Go coalition say. “While they shut the channel down to boat traffic, MRGO is still an accident waiting to happen,” said a spokesperson of the Gulf Restoration Network. The MRGO is blamed with bringing salt water from the Gulf of Mexico into the freshwater marshes in St. Bernard Parish and hastening marsh and land loss. The wetlands — and cypress forests — that used to exist are what members of the MRGO Must Go coalition would like to see restored for ecological and hurricane protection reasons, said a consultant with the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building a rock closure on the man-made shipping channel between New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico at Bayou La Loutre in St. Bernard Parish. The structure will include

433,500 tons of rocks piled 450 feet wide at the bottom of the structure and 12 feet across at the top, according to a corps news release.

Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/43260867.html>

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