



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 April 2009

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- The Associated Press reports that the FBI’s Los Angeles office was dispatched to La Mesa Junior High School in Santa Clarita, California on April 23 because school officials reported that 12 students were complaining of headaches, nausea, and dizziness after consuming Aquafina water from a vending machine that appeared to contain a “bleach-like substance.” (See item [25](#))
- According to Reuters, the World Health Organization voiced concern on April 24 at a confirmed outbreak of swine flu in the United States and what it called more than 800 human “influenza-like” cases in Mexico, including about 60 deaths. (See item [33](#))

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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 24, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Fuel fire at Russellville gas station ignites several tense moments but is put out.** Authorities are investigating a fire at a fuel transfer station in Russellville that took firefighters from five departments about 45 minutes to contain. The Russellville fire chief said firefighters used foam on April 23 to

keep other large aboveground fuel tanks from igniting. Authorities said the fire started around 11:30 a.m., minutes after a fuel truck filled up and left the facility. Webb Oil Co. owns the station, which is behind a Parade Convenience store. Firefighters said a spark or exhaust could have ignited the fuel fumes. The fire chief said one of the six large aboveground tanks was damaged by the fire's heat, but did not rupture.

Source: <http://www.whnt.com/news/sns-ap-al--fuelfire,0,7805481.story>

2. *April 23, Bloomberg* – (Washington) **Shell is restarting Puget Sound oil refinery after power loss.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's largest oil company, is in the process of restarting its Puget Sound crude oil refinery in Anacortes, Washington after a power failure, said a company official. The electricity outage began at 5:40 p.m. on April 23 and lasted about one hour, the facility's human resources manager said in a telephone interview. The restart will take "several hours" and should be completed later on April 24. "Power has been restored but before we start bringing units back we want to make sure everything is mechanically sound," he said. He was unsure when the plant would be back at full capacity as equipment assessments were still to be completed. The power outage also shut the nearby Tesoro Anacortes, refinery, according to a report from the Associated Press. A Tesoro spokesman was unable to be reached for comment. The facility can refine 115,000 barrels a day, Bloomberg data shows.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=advh0lp.dXLw&refer=energy>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *April 24, Montgomery Advertiser* – (Alabama) **Responders simulate dangerous chemical spill.** Emergency responders honed their skills the morning of April 23 with a simulation of a chemical spill that would endanger hundreds of children. The exercise simulated a collision between a school bus and an 18-wheeler hauling chlorine. The crash was staged in an area between Wynton M. Blount Elementary School and Grace Pointe Child Development Center on Ray Thorington Road. Homes in the area surrounding the crash site received Reverse 911 calls informing them that an emergency response exercise was taking place. In a real emergency, the calls would warn residents about what happened. There were about 900 students in the area of the staged chemical spill.

Source: <http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20090424/NEWS01/904240343>

4. *April 23, New York Times* – (West Virginia) **Safety panel cites errors in blast at chemical plant.** The explosion that tore through the Bayer CropScience chemical plant in August 2008, killing two employees, was an easily avoidable accident caused by management decisions and human error, a federal agency said April 23. The agency, the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, also concluded that Bayer had orchestrated a long effort to stifle the release of information about the accident. Bayer, a subsidiary of Bayer AG, had argued that under antiterrorist legislation, elements of the board's report should not be disclosed. The United States attorney for the Southern

District of West Virginia said he would look at evidentiary reports both from Congress and the chemical safety board and decide whether to investigate the accident further for criminal conduct. Critics of the plant said they were glad to hear the safety board's results, but wanted even more action. "We come before you asking that you will finally hear our voices and stop the systematic exploitation of our community," said a spokeswoman for People Concerned About MIC, a local group that has pushed to eliminate a particularly toxic chemical at the plant, methyl isocyanate, or MIC. The chemical safety board's chairman said that because of the chemicals in use, the 400-acre Bayer site was among the most hazardous chemical plants in the country.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/24/us/24chemical.html?ref=global-home>

5. *April 21, Raleigh News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **Hazmat team dispatched to industrial plant.** The City of Raleigh hazardous materials team was dispatched to the northern part of Wake County the morning of April 21 when a line ruptured inside of an industrial plant, town officials reported. No injuries were reported, but emergency workers ordered the facility evacuated, according to a Town of Wake Forest press statement made public that afternoon. The line ruptured about 11:15 a.m., emitting ammonia vapors inside the Air Liquide America Corporation, an industrial gas company at 326 Forestville Road. The hazmat team, along with the Wake Forest Fire Department and Wake County emergency medical services, secured the ruptured line and contained the ammonia leak shortly before 2 p.m., town officials reported. Traffic along Forestville Road was not affected by the leak, officials reported.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1494786.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *April 22, Associated Press* – (National) **NRC turns over depleted uranium documents.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has turned over thousands of pages of documents that might help explain why it recently decided to classify large quantities of depleted uranium as the least hazardous type of low-level radioactive waste. The NRC's March decision could open the door for more than 1 million tons of depleted uranium to be disposed of in Utah and Texas at private disposal sites in the rural western parts of both states. Depleted uranium is different from other low-level radioactive waste because it becomes more radioactive over time for up to 1 million years. Two U.S. Representatives in a March 19 letter had requested that the NRC give them all e-mails, meeting notes, memoranda and analyses related to the depleted uranium decision. An NRC spokesman said on April 22 that three boxes worth of documents and an additional six expandable folders worth of information were delivered to the congressmen's offices on Tuesday. "The commission's action to classify depleted uranium as Class A even though it poses more severe risks to health and safety, and requires much greater effort for disposal, seems to be unsupportable and inconsistent with the intent of the law," the representatives wrote to the NRC chairman. The chairman responded in a letter that the commission believes that reclassifying depleted uranium as a hotter type of low-level radioactive waste without further study "could have significant and unforeseeable consequences, and would not provide for more

protection of public health and safety and the environment.”

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6386973.html>

7. *April 21, Today's Sunbeam* – (New Jersey) **Emergency nuclear power plant siren accidentally sounded in Lower Alloways Creek.** An emergency warning siren, designed to alert residents of a problem at the neighboring nuclear power plants, was mistakenly sounded for about two minutes on Monday in Lower Alloways Creek Township, New Jersey, officials said. Three of the sirens were impacted when a power outage occurred in the area. The three sirens automatically switched over to battery backup power. When this took place, the county 9-1-1 Center received an alarm noting the switch to battery power, officials said on April 21. When acknowledging the switch, a dispatcher at the center mistakenly hit a button at about 12:50 p.m. which activated one of the sirens for about two minutes. Made aware of the mistake, the emergency center turned off the siren, according to a report filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the agency which oversees operation of the nation's nuclear power plants, including emergency warning systems.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/south/index.ssf/2009/04/emergency_nuclear_power_plant.html

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Critical Manufacturing

8. *April 24, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (Nevada) **EPA says ARCO will spend \$10.2M for mine cleanup.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says Atlantic Richfield Company has agreed to spend \$10.2 million for future and past cleanup efforts at the old Anaconda copper mine in Yerington. Under a settlement announced April 23, ARCO has reportedly agreed to perform site cleanup estimated at \$8 million and reimburse the EPA \$2.2 million for past work. EPA officials say the federal agency will use the recovered costs for further contamination containment efforts. Last year, ARCO reimbursed the EPA some \$2.7 million.

Source: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20090424/MVN01/904240320/1305/BIZ01>

9. *April 24, CharterX* – (National) **NTSB recommends light sport airplane be banned.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified the Zodiac CH-601 XL in 2005. This model is a light sport aircraft that can be purchased as a kit to be later assembled. Since 2005, there have been six fatal crashes in the United States and Europe, killing ten people. The NTSB said in its report the week of April 13 that it suspects aerodynamic flutter, when the surfaces of an airplane suddenly vibrate, contributed to all of the accidents. Zenair is the company that designs the Zodiac, and according to their Web site, Zenith Aircraft Company in Mexico, Missouri has acquired the exclusive rights to manufacture and market Zenair kit aircraft designs from its designer. A representative from Zenith Aircraft was not available for comment. But in a press release on their Web site, Zenith said they believe wing flutter will not occur in the Zodiac if the control cables are adjusted properly. The release also said Zenith was taking the recommendation into consideration, and they plan to communicate with the FAA about the issue.

Source: <http://www.charterx.com/resources/article.aspx?id=4122>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *April 24, Daily Press* – (National) **Problems found on Bush carrier “unexpected,” yard says.** Northrop Grumman Corp. officials were taken by surprise by the U.S. Navy’s move to not accept the George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier following its final round of sea trials earlier this month. Immediately following the ship exam conducted at sea April 7-9, both the Navy and Northrop officials described the trials as successful. The ship performed as expected, Northrop officials said at the time, and the yard General Manager said he expected the Navy to take delivery within a week. The Navy, meanwhile, said in a release that the Bush “successfully completed acceptance sea trials” and “is in final preparation for delivery.” A week later, the Navy said it was not going to accept the ship. Following the trials, Navy Board of Inspection and Survey inspectors found “discrepancies” in two of the ship’s four emergency diesel-powered generators. The Navy said it would not accept delivery until the problems were fixed. Inspectors found “small particles of material” in the generators’ lube-oil systems, said a Northrop spokeswoman. The debris “may have come loose during the strenuous testing during sea trials and/or was introduced into the lube oil system during routine work or preventive maintenance,” she said. “We are unsure of exactly how it happened, but we will ensure it is removed.” A Navy spokesman said April 23 that the Navy will accept the ship once the discrepancies are corrected.

Source: http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz_bush_0424apr24,0,5099116.story

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *April 23, Bloomberg* – (International) **Seattle bank sued over role in \$600 million swindle.** Regal Financial Bancorp Inc., which operates a closely held bank in Seattle, was sued by a group of more than 4,000 Indonesian investors over accusations it helped operate a \$600 million Ponzi scheme. Regal Financial helped to promote the scheme that embezzled \$500 million to \$600 million using two investment funds operated through an Indonesian corporation, according to a complaint filed in federal court in Seattle the week of April 13. Investors are seeking to recoup at least \$175 million in losses, according to the complaint filed by Investor Association of Crisis Center Dressel, based in Jakarta. “The vast majority of these Indonesians were middle-class citizens who could ill afford to lose their life savings to an American-operated criminal enterprise,” U.S. lawyers for the association said in the complaint filed April 17. According to the complaint, the Ponzi scheme was operated by Dressel Investment Ltd., based in the British Virgin Islands, which began to raise money in Indonesia around April 2001 through two investment funds promising annual returns of 24 percent. The Regal Financial Bank president allegedly conspired with Dressel by providing letters of recommendation to help raise funds for the fraud, according to the complaint.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aYmceZJOvcuQ&refer=us>

12. *April 23, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Cosmo indicted for mail, wire fraud in Ponzi scheme.** An investor, accused by prosecutors the week of April 13 of operating a Ponzi scheme that swindled at least 6,000 people out of \$413 million, was indicted on April 23 on charges of wire and mail fraud. The owner of Agape World Inc. and Agape Merchant Advance LLC on New York's Long Island has been in custody since January 26, when prosecutors charged him with operating a fraud scheme that they initially believed cheated at least 3,000 investors out of \$370 million. Prosecutors in the office of the U.S. Attorney in Brooklyn, New York unsealed a 32-count indictment against the defendant that includes 10 counts of wire fraud and 22 counts of mail fraud. The defendant claimed Agape solicited investor funds that were used to make short-term bridge loans. Agape received about \$413 million from investors, while only about \$30 million in loans were made, prosecutors said. "Although he told investors that their money was needed to fund specific bridge loans, the defendant and account representatives working at his direction solicited investments well in excess of what was needed to fund the specific loans," the U.S. said in the indictment. "The defendant also claimed that Agape was making certain loans to particular borrowers when, in fact, as defendant then well knew and believed, Agape was not," the U.S. said in the indictment.

Source:

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

13. *April 23, KOLR 10 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Koster investigating mortgage scams.** Mortgage companies are using the housing crisis as a way to prey on people who may be down on their luck. They are sending tens of thousands of letters to people in Missouri. Those letters are designed to use what is thought to be private information to rip people off. A real estate manager says a recent rise in mortgage scams has sent up a red flag. "Hopefully, they will not go directly to that source that is on the document or phone call that they receive." The manager says she is worried about mortgage companies who are using public housing records to make them look like a bank. "It is a little challenging for us because we will not solicit like that. Number two it makes our customers a little confused. We do not want them to be that way." That confusion is angering the Missouri Attorney General. "They are intended for the recipient to think this came from the Federal Government." The Attorney General says his office is investigating at least a dozen companies who are targeting people in Missouri. He says the companies are sending out fraudulent letters claiming to be federal agents or representatives of banks. The Attorney General's office has filed three lawsuits hoping to put an end to the misleading ads. "The fact that there are so many consumers in desperate financial situations is actually providing unscrupulous business with additional targets."

Source: <http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=142031>

14. *April 23, PC World* – (National) **Forget computers, phone crime is worrying banks.** Computer fraud may be a big problem for banks currently, but the telephone is becoming a critical tool for fraudsters, bank executives say. In addition to calling

customers about suspicious transactions, banks use SMS (Short Message Service) to request that customers contact them. So, fraudsters have begun using a variety of techniques to try to trick the banks into thinking they are communicating with legitimate customers via the telephone. “Call-center authentication is, to me, the biggest pain point right now,” said the remote channel risk director with JP Morgan Chase, speaking at the RSA conference in San Francisco the week of April 20. Malware, phishing and cyberattacks may get talked about, but “we should never fool ourselves into thinking that is the only place [crime is happening],” he said. “The biggest risks I see are social engineering, and that is exactly how the crooks are getting in.” Social-engineering attacks occur when fraudsters trick bank customers or employees into divulging sensitive information, usually by pretending to be someone they are not. Sometimes fraudsters will hack into a bank account and change the customer’s contact phone number. Then, when a suspicious transaction posts to the account, the bank will call the fraudster instead of the customer. In cybercrime forums there is even a job title for people who do this: confirmer. “There are companies that specialize in it,” said the senior vice president for online security and enrollment with Bank of America. Fraudsters will sell the services of people who have the language skills to mimic legitimate customers, offering, for example, four males and six females who speak English, one with a Spanish accent. “They say, ‘We can match the phone number where your real customer is calling from,’” he said. In another scam, criminals activate automatic call-forwarding features to essentially take over their victim’s telephone lines for a period of time.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/163741/forget_computers_phone_crime_is_worrying_banks.html

15. *April 23, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. plans test sales of distressed assets, Bair says.** The U.S. government will conduct a trial run of its Public-Private Investment Program by June using at least \$1 billion of distressed loans in a pilot sale, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. chairman said on April 23. The FDIC is working with the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve to complete planning for the program, the chairman said at a conference in Washington. The program will use as much as \$100 billion of Troubled Asset Relief Program funds to remove impaired assets from banks’ balance sheets. “We are working very hard on getting that and we hope to have a pilot sale by at least early June,” the chairman told reporters after giving a speech. “We do have some interested banks that are willing to be our guinea pigs.” The U.S. Presidential Administration unveiled the program on March 23 as the centerpiece of its effort to clean up the U.S. banking system after the worst financial collapse since the Great Depression. The effort aims to use government matching funds and debt guarantees to attract private investors to buy loan pools. The government said the plan will provide as much as \$500 billion of buying power to purchase banks’ distressed assets. The FDIC has received a “tremendous amount of investor interest” and has lined up banks willing to unload illiquid loans into public-private investment funds, the chairman said. The agency is considering allowing banks selling loans to also take equity stakes in the investment funds, she said.

Source:

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Transportation Sector

16. *April 24, Daily Item of Lynn* – (Massachusetts) **Revere fire chief speaks on rotary rollover.** The fire chief of the city of Revere said extraordinary measures must be taken to prevent future tanker truck crashes like the one that spilled heating oil and snarled traffic April 20 in Brown Circle. State police cited the driver from Parsons Transportation with speeding and marked lane violations after he lost control of his tractor at 5:40 a.m., spilling 10,000 gallons of heating oil. The crash shut down the busy rotary until mid-afternoon, and environmental cleanup crews worked from April 20 into April 21 removing oil from the salt water marsh off Route 107. The state environmental affairs secretary inspected the cleanup site April 21 and credited a quick response by city emergency crews with containing the spill. The accident was the latest to occur in Brown Circle. The fire chief said a half dozen truck accidents have occurred in Brown Circle in the last 10 years. None of the rollovers ignited the trucks' fuel loads or gasoline in the service stations located in the rotary. The fire chief said the accidents merit a state investigation into pay practices used by trucking companies. He said some firms pay drivers "as per load" promising them an hourly rate provided they deliver the load in a specified time period. He said the time allotted to the driver is often too short, prompting truckers to use excessive speed. He also proposed placing billboards in the rotary warning truckers to slow down as they enter the rotary.

Source: <http://www.thedailyitemoflynn.com/articles/2009/04/22/news/news10.txt>

17. *April 24, KGW 8 Portland* – (Oregon) **Three injured in crash landing at Hillsboro Airport.** It was a close call for a pilot and two flying students after their airplane crash landed at the Hillsboro Airport April 23. A twin engine Piper Seminole came in for a landing at Hillsboro Airport just before 9:00 p.m. A spokesperson said the pilot told the tower that all indicator lights indicated everything was fine on the plane as it made its approach. When the plane came down to land though, the landing gear folded up unexpectedly. The plane skidded to a stop. All three people were treated at the scene for minor injuries. A Hillsboro Fire spokesman said the plane is owned by Hillsboro Aviation. One of the students was piloting the plane when it crashed. The investigation was continuing.

Source: http://www.kgw.com/news-local/stories/kgw_042309_news_hillsboro_plane_landing.105869b34.html

18. *April 23, Long Beach Press-Telegram* – (California) **Long Beach Airport evacuated briefly; suspicious package deemed harmless.** Long Beach Airport's terminal was briefly evacuated April 23 when officials found a suspicious item in a traveler's luggage that turned out to be a water filter. At 8:30 a.m., airport security ushered a few hundred people out of the airport's main terminal and into a nearby parking lot after they discovered an item that resembled a pipe bomb in a traveler's luggage, said a spokeswoman. Long Beach Police and an explosives expert for the Airport Transportation Administration examined the item and determined that it was an

unlabeled water filter, she said. Normal operations resumed at about 8:42 a.m. and travelers were allowed to return to the terminal.

Source: http://www.presselegram.com/news/ci_12212320

19. *April 23, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority* – (District of Columbia) **Metro to install emergency exterior door release devices on two-thirds of rail fleet.** To enhance passenger safety, Metro will install exterior manual door release devices on 846 rail cars, which will permit first responders and Metro staff to open rail car doors from the outside in an emergency. On April 23, the Metro Board of Directors approved the installation of these devices on two-thirds of the Metrorail fleet by next summer at a cost of \$1.6 million. Metro is complying with a National Transportation Safety Board recommendation that all rail passenger cars have manual exterior door releases. For the past six months, Metro officials have been testing an exterior manual door device on the 6000 series rail cars. “The installation of these exterior manual devices will greatly benefit emergency first responders in the event they have to respond to a life-safety issue aboard a Metro train,” said the Metro’s assistant general manager for Metrorail.
Source: http://wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=2557
20. *April 23, CNN* – (Georgia) **Atlanta airport reopens after lightning strike.** Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport was back in operation late April 23 after lightning hit the control tower and severe storms knocked out power to the area. The control tower and three of the airport’s five runways were open, said a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. All systems were running on emergency generator power. A ground stoppage was already in place for arriving or departing flights when lightning struck the tower at 8:45 p.m., according to the spokeswoman. People evacuated the tower and a smoky odor was investigated. At 9:10 p.m., the all-clear was given and controllers returned to the tower, she said. But at 9:20 p.m., the tower and parts of the airport were hit by a power outage. The outage affected all the airport’s runway lights, the spokeswoman said. During the outage, planes headed to Atlanta from other airports were being held on the ground, she said, and arrivals were circling or being diverted to other airports.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/04/23/ga.airport.storms/>
21. *April 23, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **New radar at O’Hare Airport.** A new radar system started has been installed at O’Hare Airport. The Airport Surveillance Radar-9 tower is the second major radar system covering a 40-mile area surrounding O’Hare. A second ASR-9 radar is needed to provide complete coverage as O’Hare changes to multiple, parallel runways with an east-west orientation, according to an Federal Aviation Administration spokesman. The FAA will eventually replace the older radar system that is on the west side of the airport with a new tower on the south end of the airport. The new system can also support current radar and offer duplicate coverage if the primary system unexpectedly stops working. While this has not happened in the last few years, it has happened in the past, and O’Hare then had to rely on radar from Tinley Park, which covers Midway Airport. With a new runway that went in last fall, O’Hare now has four runways running east and west. Two runways run northwest to southeast, and another runs northeast to southwest. If O’Hare expansion goes as plans, the airport

will have six parallel east-west runways.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/transportation/1540922,ohare-airport-new-radar-042309>.

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *April 24, Lewiston Sun Journal* – (Maine) **Powder causes scare at Lewiston business.**

A hazardous materials team determined Thursday that the mysterious white power found in an envelope at a TD Banknorth processing center in Lewiston early that morning was not a protein-based poison, such as anthrax. The powder, which was tested on-scene twice, will be sent to a lab in Augusta for further testing to positively identify it. Safety officials expected to learn the results within 24 to 48 hours. The envelope contained a blank sheet of white paper and the powdery substance, a police lieutenant said. There was no return address on the envelope, he said. Workers at the Atlantis Way processing center, near the Wal-Mart distribution center at the eastern end of the city, were told to leave the building when the powder was discovered. Hazmat teams were dispatched to the center. One woman who was directly exposed to the substance and another person who was later exposed were examined by emergency medical personnel at the scene, police said. Before the hazmat team tested the powder, the acting police chief said, “We have to look at this as a worst-case scenario” by taking the highest possible precautions to protect workers. Roughly 60 workers were gathered in the back parking lot after a call to authorities at about 8:10 a.m. Workers were later allowed back inside. They were not permitted in the area of the building where the contaminated letter was discovered for the rest of the morning. The acting police chief declined to say who the envelope was addressed to.

Source: [http://www.sunjournal.com/story/314069-3/LewistonAuburn/Powder causes scare at Lewiston business/](http://www.sunjournal.com/story/314069-3/LewistonAuburn/Powder%20causes%20scare%20at%20Lewiston%20business/)

23. *April 24, Beaver Dam Daily Citizen* – (Wisconsin) **Four suspects in bombing located.**

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Department has arrested four people who are suspected of detonating two bombs within 36 hours of each other. The sheriff’s department on Wednesday released a store surveillance photo of three men who purchased a pipe similar to that used in a recent mailbox explosion. Two of the suspects from the photo, and an unpictured third person, were apprehended before noon on Thursday. The sheriff said the fourth suspect pictured in the photo was apprehended Thursday afternoon in Dane County. The names of the suspects have not yet been released. The sheriff said they are currently in custody on probation holds, and local charges have not been filed. The first improvised explosive device (IED) destroyed a mailbox on Prospect Road in the town of Burnett. The second explosion, at 10:30 p.m. on April 21, destroyed a portable toilet at Lost Lake Park in the town of Calamus, according to the Dodge County Sheriff’s Department. Agencies working with the sheriff’s department on this case included the FBI, State Department of Justice – Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Postal Inspectors Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives. Assistance has also been provided by the Beaver Dam Police Department and Beaver Dam Fire Department dive team.

Source: <http://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/448380>

24. *April 22, Hampton Roads Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Police: Exploding soda bottles “not a prank.”** Investigators are asking for the public’s help in identifying and locating one or more people who have been planting explosive soda bottles in York County, Virginia. A sergeant said investigators are looking into at least two incidents on April 18, one in which the bottle exploded in a mailbox and the other inside a car. Both incidents involved a Dr. Pepper bottle splattering blue gel over the target. One bottle exploded inside a mailbox at a residence on Lake Dale Way in the Tabb section of York County. The other was inside a car on Lakeland Crescent, also in Tabb. The owner of the car sat down in the blue chemical and suffered burns on her leg. In a press release, the sergeant said: “The use of these explosive devices is not to be viewed as a harmless prank or joke. The offenders utilizing these explosive devices are responsible for untold property damage and physical harm to another.”

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-now-york-explosives.a22,0,6511170.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *April 24, Associated Press* – (California) **FBI investigates bottled water contamination that sickened 12 California students.** An FBI spokeswoman said the agency’s Los Angeles office was dispatched to La Mesa Junior High School in Santa Clarita on Thursday. The Los Angeles County fire inspector said that at about 12:45 p.m., school officials reported that 12 students were complaining of headaches, nausea, and dizziness after consuming Aquafina water from a vending machine that appeared to contain a “bleach-like substance.” The students were taken to a hospital and released. A spokesman for the Pepsi Bottling Group, which manufactures Aquafina, said there is no evidence that the contamination was caused by the company’s manufacturing process and the company believes it was an isolated incident. “We have examined and tasted numerous bottles that were produced at the same time as those in this case and have found them to be free of any problems whatsoever,” a Pepsi statement said. “The only products in question have been those that were previously opened, and we are working closely with local authorities to determine exactly what happened.” Pepsi is conducting its own tests, he said. Students who spoke with a KTLA reporter at the scene said the water looked cloudy and had a chemical smell. A community liaison for William S. Hart Union School district said the district ordered all schools to remove the water from vending machines or shut down the machines until further notice.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,517752,00.html>

26. *April 24, Voice of America* – (International) **Complete genetic sequence of cow revealed.** An international consortium of researchers has completed mapping the genetic blueprint of the domestic cow, a source of nutrition and livelihood for billions of people around the world. Scientists say the landmark accomplishment will lead to better food production and improvements in human medicine. The map, published Friday in the journal *Science*, is the fruit of a six-year international research effort called the Bovine Genome Sequencing and Analysis Project. The consortium of 300 international

scientists mapped the nearly twenty-two thousand genes, or hereditary building blocks, of a Hereford cow — a beef-producing ruminant in wide use around the world. Cracking the bovine genetic code will make it a lot simpler and cheaper for cattle breeders to enhance the desirable traits in cattle to produce higher-quality milk and meat, according to a geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. He says breeders will no longer have to wait years for a bull to produce offspring to learn whether they have desirable genes. “Specifically what we’re able to do is generate a genetic value for a bull the day he’s born essentially...that replaces a process that took six to seven years and \$25,000 to \$50,000 by collecting performance data on daughters,” he said.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-04-24-voa1.cfm>

See also: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci;324/5926/522>

27. *April 23, Cattle Network* – (Texas) **TAHC: Preliminary tests indicate cattle TB infection in Texas dairy.** Preliminary test results indicate that a dairy in West Texas is infected with cattle tuberculosis (TB). Milk from commercial dairies is pasteurized, killing bacteria with heat, so there is no public health concern from this herd detection. “Animals from the 2,600-head dairy were being prepared for sale and some reacted to TB skin tests. The follow-up blood tests on these animals also were positive,” said a Texas state veterinarian and executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, the state’s livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. “Samples were collected from two of the cattle slaughtered for examination, and the tissues were submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for additional testing. The lesions are microscopically compatible with TB, and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests on the tissues have detected the DNA, or the basic genetic material of the disease. The final confirmation is based on a culture, which may take several weeks. It involves identifying bacterial growth from the tissue samples as *Mycobacterium bovis*.” Texas regained cattle TB-free status in fall 2006, after losing the coveted status in spring 2002. The state veterinarian noted that one TB-infected herd will not affect the state’s status, but two infected herds within a 48-month period will result in a loss of TB-free status. Texas’ most recent TB-infected herd was a dairy, detected in 2004 and depopulated. All other states currently are TB-free.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=309503>

28. *April 23, Michigan Ag Connection* – (Michigan) **Salmonella Saintpaul outbreak in southeast Michigan involving sprouts.** The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is issuing a public health alert regarding illness from Salmonella infections among people who have reported raw alfalfa sprouts consumption in southeast Michigan. At this time, MDCH is recommending that people avoid consumption of raw alfalfa sprouts until they have further information about the origin of the contaminated sprouts. Michigan currently has 16 confirmed Salmonella Saintpaul cases from six jurisdictions in southeast Michigan (Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties; City of Detroit). The illness onset dates range from March 23 to April 6. There have been two known hospitalizations. Ten of the 16 people reported consumption of raw alfalfa sprouts at sandwich shops in southeast Michigan. MDCH is working closely with local health departments, the Michigan Department of

Agriculture (MDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine the source of the outbreak. The Michigan cases are presenting the same genetic fingerprint as uncovered in the Midwest earlier this year, which resulted in a recall of alfalfa sprouts.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-regional.php?tble=MI2009&ID=295>

29. *April 23, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **To save the oyster or the salmon?** The oyster industry is worth millions to Washington State. To protect the oysters, growers use pesticides. But those same pesticides hurt salmon, according to federal biologists. So the feds have proposed a solution which has upset oyster growers in Bay Center, where the oyster is life itself. Some 1,200 people work in the state's oyster industry, a \$60 million business. And in Bay Center, it is about the only job around. A problem for oysters is a new federal proposal to protect salmon. The National Marine Fisheries Service wants to ban several pesticides, including Sevin, the only pesticide that can kill burrowing shrimp that cause oysters to sink and die. A local marine doctor says 200 scientific papers and six environmental impact statements have found no harmful link between Sevin and salmon. He also says Sevin has never been used during salmon season. Federal scientists will make the final decision in about a year.

Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/43605132.html>

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Water Sector

30. *April 24, Honolulu Advertiser* – (Hawaii) **Sewage spills into Waimano Stream after valve failure.** A valve malfunction led to a spill of about 17,500 gallons of untreated sewage in the Pearl City area Thursday, the city said. The Pacific Palisades Pump Station's 10-inch steel force main became obstructed when an isolation valve in a manhole on Komo Mai Drive failed. That blocked the flow of wastewater, causing the station's backup well to overflow. The city said 16,389 gallons of untreated wastewater reached Waimano Stream, which empties into Pearl Harbor. In addition, another 1,154 gallons came out of the manhole during repairs and went into a storm drain that led to Waimano Stream. City crews repaired the valve and were able to collect 105,000 gallons of sewage and transfer it back into the treatment system. The city notified the state Department of Health. City crews posted warning signs and disinfected the area.

Source:

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20090424/NEWS25/904240342/1318>

31. *April 22, Washington Examiner* – (District of Columbia) **Leak discovered in WASA's 25-year-old crosstown tunnel.** The D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) are investigating a leak in a pressurized 2.5-mile tunnel that carries as much as 30 millions gallons of drinking water a day from the Washington Aqueduct across Northwest Washington and through downtown. All potable water flowing through the so-called Crosstown Water Tunnel has been rerouted to other mains as the agency gears up for a monthlong inspection of the pressurized chute, which runs from Foxhall Road to Scott Circle. The tunnel is 7 feet in diameter and ranges from 70 feet to 200 feet below

ground. WASA officials say there should be no effect on water service during the investigation. The leak, which released about a half gallon per minute, was discovered several months ago roughly just west of 25th and N streets in Rock Creek Park. A National Park Service employee found an inexplicable patch of wet ground on a dry day, and the water authority was called in to figure out why, said a WASA project manager. WASA stopped the 10 million to 30 million gallon per day flow through the 25-year-old tunnel and the wetness disappeared, the manager said April 22. Four million gallons of standing water were then pumped out of the tunnel, dechlorinated and redirected into the C&O Canal, so that work could get under way.

Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/Leak-discovered-in-WASAs--25-year-old-crosstown-tunnel-43445052.html>

32. *April 22, Greenville Herald-Banner* – (Texas) **Area water suppliers violate state standards.** Three area water suppliers violated state safety standards during the first quarter of 2009. The City of West Tawakoni, Combined Consumers Special Utility District and Rolling Hills Water System exceeded maximum contaminant levels set forth by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). According to the TCEQ record review, the City of West Tawakoni violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes (TTHM), a possible carcinogen, in the water supplied to its customers. During the first quarter of 2009, it was determined that the running average of TTHM was 0.010 milligrams per liter higher than the TCEQ maximum limit of 0.080 milligrams per liter. The Rolling Hills Water System, based in Point, and Combined Consumers SUD, based in Quinlan, both exceeded the maximum contaminant level of 0.060 milligrams per liter for haloacetic acids supplied to customers in the first quarter of 2009. TCEQ determined that Rolling Hills water System had a running average of 0.070 milligrams per liter during the first quarter of 2009, while Combined Consumers SUD had a running average of 0.061 milligrams per liter. Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals formed along with other disinfectant byproducts when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in the water. Combined Consumers SUD also exceeded the maximum contaminant level for haloacetic acids during the second quarter of 2008. According to the TCEQ, some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years have an increased risk of cancer.

Source: http://www.heraldbanner.com/local/local_story_113004147.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *April 24, Reuters* – (International) **WHO concerned at new swine flu in U.S., flu in Mexico.** The World Health Organization voiced concern on Friday at a confirmed outbreak of swine flu in the United States and what it called more than 800 human “influenza-like” cases in Mexico, including about 60 deaths. The United Nations agency said it had activated its Strategic Health Operations Center — its command and control center for acute public health events — but could not say whether it was considering issuing a travel advisory. U.S. public health officials said on Thursday that seven people

had been diagnosed with a new kind of swine flu in California and Texas while Mexican authorities were due to announce test results later on Friday.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUKLO570990>

34. *April 23, CNET News* – (National) **Conficker infected critical hospital equipment, expert says.** The Conficker worm infected several hundred machines and critical medical equipment in an undisclosed number of hospitals recently, a security expert said on Thursday in a panel at the RSA security conference in San Francisco. “It was not widespread, but it raises the awareness of what we would do if there were millions” of computers infected at hospitals or in critical infrastructure locations, the SANS Internet Storm Center and a former White House cybersecurity official told CNET News after the session. It is unclear how the devices, which control things like heart monitors and MRI machines, and the PCs got infected, he said. The computers are older machines running Windows NT and Windows 2000 in a local area network that was not supposed to have access to the Internet, however, the network was connected to one that has direct Internet access and so they were infected, he said.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10226448-83.html

35. *April 23, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. hospitals better prepared for disaster – report.** U.S. hospitals are better prepared for disasters than they were before the September 11th attacks, but many medical facilities remain ill-equipped for catastrophic situations like large natural disasters or terrorist attacks, preparedness experts said on Thursday. A 2002 U.S. government program, initiated after the attacks, has helped hospitals train staff and coordinate planning with one another and with emergency officials, the report from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Center for Biosecurity found. “Prior to 2002, most hospitals did not have adequate plans to handle common medical disasters, much less catastrophic emergencies,” the report reads. “Our research found that U.S. hospitals are significantly better prepared than they were in 2001 to deal with common disasters, such as tornadoes, bridge collapses and mass shootings. Moreover, much of that progress is attributable to the Hospital Preparedness Program,” the center’s experts wrote. But the report, available at www.upmc-biosecurity.org, found that hospitals still lack the capacity to deal with big influxes of patients for large and ongoing disasters.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN23338376>

36. *April 23, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **CDC expert: Meningitis outbreak a ‘unique situation’ in U.S.** The outbreak of the W135 form of meningitis that has killed four people in South Florida is a “unique situation,” an expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday morning. “We’ve never had a transmission like this in the United States,” said a physician who specializes in studying meningitis. The CDC has seen individual cases in the United States of the deadly, fast-moving strain, and there have been outbreaks in other parts of the world, including one that hit Muslims on the pilgrimage to Mecca and in the African country of Burkina Faso, she said. But the CDC has never seen a case in which four people have died and eight others made ill during a six-month period in one area, as has happened in South Florida. They are particularly puzzled because there are no obvious connections between the patients. The

strain can kill within hours, and anyone experiencing severe headache, fever, nausea, vomiting and stiff neck should see a doctor immediately, health officials warned.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/breaking-news/story/1014181.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

37. *April 24, New York Times* – (New York) **Bronx school evacuated after teacher’s threat.** A Bronx educational building that houses three public middle schools with about 1,200 students was evacuated by the authorities around 8:30 a.m. Friday after a disgruntled computer teacher falsely claimed to have planted a bomb in the library. The Police Department dispatched officers, hostage negotiators and bomb squad technicians to the scene, after the teacher, evidently angry about being reassigned because of a disciplinary proceeding, made the threat, the authorities said. The teacher, a union chapter chairman at the school, barricaded himself inside a computer lab, but surrendered to the authorities at around 11:15 a.m. The teacher has been an employee of the school system since 1986, worked at New Millennium Business Academy Middle School, or Middle School 328. The school shares a building with Junior High School 145 (also known as the Arturo Toscanini School) and the Urban Science Academy at 1000 Teller Avenue, near East 165th Street, in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. The authorities said the episode began to unfold around 8:30 a.m., shortly after the school day got underway, when the teacher barricaded himself inside a computer lab and made threats about the explosive.

Source: <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/24/bronx-school-evacuated-after-teachers-threat/?hp>

38. *April 24, NewsOK.com* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma DHS data loss puts 1M at risk.** A laptop computer stolen this month from a state employee contained personal information on about 1 million Oklahomans, the Department of Human Services said on April 23. “The risk of the data being accessed is low because the computer uses a password-protected system,” the department’s director said in a news release. “Nevertheless, we have contacted our clients to inform them there is a possibility their personal information may be viewed.” The risk may be greater than the department has acknowledged, the director of the Oklahoma State University’s Center for Telecommunications and Network Security said, because the data was not encrypted. “Really, anybody could take that hard drive and stick it in another machine and read everything on it,” the director said. Authorities have not recovered the computer, which was stolen April 3 after an agency employee stopped near NW 50 and Classen Boulevard on her way home from work. The woman’s purse and other personal items also were taken, according to a police report. “That information, in the right hands, could do some serious damage,” said a Secret Service agent from the Oklahoma office.

Source: <http://www.newsok.com/oklahoma-dhs-data-loss-puts-1m-at-risk/article/3364058>

39. *April 23, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Penn student faces arson charges in dorm fire.** A University of Pennsylvania student is facing an arson charge and related

criminal counts after a fire was started in a high-rise dormitory. The fire erupted about 2 a.m. Wednesday on the 22nd floor of Rodin College House, police said. The 22-year-old suspect's name was withheld pending arraignment. The Daily Pennsylvanian, the student newspaper, reported that the student had been spraying butane through a cigarette-lighter flame, igniting nearby recycling material. The building was evacuated and no injuries were reported, but the sprinkler system caused significant water damage, the newspaper said.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/20090423_Penn_student_faces_arson_charge_in_dorm_fire.html

40. *April 23, Palestine Herald* – (Texas) **Westwood graduate arrested in connection with SFA threats.** A 2007 Westwood High School graduate has been arrested in connection with threats made the week of April 13 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. The 20-year old suspect, of Palestine, Texas, was arrested April 22 and charged with felony terroristic threat after admitting to committing the offense, according to SFA police chief. The suspect, a sophomore at SFA, was released from the Nacogdoches County Jail Thursday after posting a \$7,500 bond set by the Nacogdoches County Justice of the Peace, according to the SFA police chief. The police chief told the Herald-Press the afternoon of April 23 that she was interviewed on multiple occasions following the threats and confessed to the crime on April 22. “We started getting more and more information,” the police chief told the Herald-Press. “She came in (Wednesday) and voluntarily admitted to it.” On April 16, officials say signs were found on the SFA campus, reading, ‘a shooting will occur today and students will die.’ Other signs were discovered at the off-campus, student apartment complex The Grove, bearing the message, ‘10 people will be shot and killed today at grove.’

Source:

http://www.palestineherald.com/breakingnews/local_story_113184334.html?keyword=topstory

41. *April 22, KNDU 25 Yakima* – (Oregon) **Annual CSEPP drill Tuesday night at the Umatilla chemical depot.** The Umatilla Chemical Depot had its annual Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, or CSEPP, on April 21. Every year they simulate a chemical accident on the Depot site to see how workers respond. The Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency explained the exercise, saying: “Inside the Depot today, we are simulating an accident involving 3 1-ton containers of mustard agent. There were injuries, leakage, fire, smoke.” The on-site accident was called in through a radio and emergency personnel had to act quickly. The CSEPP Drill is not only for Depot workers, surrounding counties also have to react to both the on-site emergency, as well as other scenarios that may happen. A CSEPP specialist says, “Responders will also have the opportunity to go to a 2 car accident that will involve a farm chemical and a pickup truck. There will be a simulated train accident in Prosser.” Fire crews, police officers, Red Cross, hospital workers, and more also participated in the drill. If there ever were a real accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, it could potentially effect Morrow, Umatilla, and Benton counties. This could be the last drill in the area because only one chemical agent, mustard agent, is left on the

site and it could be disposed of within the next year.
Source: <http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=10225956>

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Emergency Services Sector

42. *April 24, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **City investigates alleged cheating on EMT test.** D.C. officials are investigating allegations that rescue workers cheated on a certification exam for emergency medical technicians at a Maryland testing facility, authorities said Thursday. Internal affairs investigators are probing whether fire department personnel brought in “outside materials,” the department said in a statement. The statement did not say how many employees might have been involved. The exam is administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. The allegations involve tests administered at the Pearson VUE training center in La Plata, officials said. D.C. fire officials said department personnel have been barred from using the facility until the investigation is complete. A D.C. Council member with oversight of the department said he is disturbed by the allegations, particularly because of similar incidents in the past. He said the testing was required under an agreement made by the city after the emergency response failures in the fatal beating of a former New York Times journalist.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/23/AR2009042304902.html>
43. *April 24, KOVR 13 Sacramento* – (California) **Assault rifle stolen out of unmarked police SUV.** A high powered police assault rifle was stolen right out of a police vehicle. The weapon was stolen in broad daylight out of an unmarked Santa Rosa Police SUV, along with several rounds of ammunition. “And this isn’t the type of weapon police want in the wrong hands. It’s got a lot of fire power. It’s a semi-automatic, and it can hit people as far away as 500 yards,” say authorities. Only the most highly trained officers are issued weapons such as an assault rifle. When CBS13 asked the Santa Rosa Police Department spokesman how many the department owns, they could not answer. Sacramento Police are investigating the crime.
Source: <http://cbs13.com/local/Assault.Rifle.Stolen.2.993173.html>
44. *April 23, AZfamily.com* – (Arizona) **Police misplace almost a dozen high-powered assault rifles.** A spokesperson for the Phoenix Police Department says they cannot find nearly a dozen of their high-powered assault rifles. A total of 11 guns are missing. Officers noticed the missing assault rifles after a report filed this month. Most of the missing rifles are AR-15s. The total value of the weapons is said to be about \$9,500. Officials say the missing rifles are still within the department, somewhere in cars, bureaus or precincts. Police also say the weapons have not been stolen.
Source: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/stories/Phoenix-local-news-042309-police-missing-rifles.1051e2866.html>
45. *April 23, Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune* – (Indiana) **New vehicles expand emergency services’ capabilities.** Indiana’s Department of Homeland Security received two new

vehicles recently. They are displayed in Crown Point. The district administrative coordinator for the Department of Homeland Security said the mobile command post and the mass casualty incident trailer will improve emergency services in this area. “Emergency agencies will have a mobile incident command post that can support any type of event or incident,” he said. “The trailer provides emergency medical services equipment in the event of a mass casualty incident, such as a transportation accident or a multiple shooting.” He said the command truck provides a centralized area in the field, with all the technical equipment and support that are needed. “The mass casualty incident trailer will allow us to treat up to 200 victims in an MCI,” he added. “It has emergency medical equipment to support EMS personnel in the field responding to large-scale emergency medical events, with hundreds of victims.”

Source: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/neighbors/1540788,homeland.article>

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Information Technology

46. *April 24, IDG News Service* – (International) **Conficker hype a ‘problem,’ says FBI cyber-chief.** Mainstream media hype leading up to the Conficker worm’s April 1 software update may have distracted people from legitimate cyber threats, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation’s head of cyber security said on April 23. “For the general public to focus on Conficker, that is the threat they are worried about, I think that is actually a bit of a problem for us as a society,” said the assistant director of the FBI’s Cyber Division, speaking at the RSA security conference in San Francisco on April 23. “There are dozens of Conficker-like threats and vulnerabilities out there...while the media stories helped to raise awareness, I think that focusing people on that particular aspect, perhaps took away their attention from the overall threat, which is just as great or greater than Conficker itself.” Although nobody knows the worm-network’s exact size, security researchers agree that Conficker is an unusually large ‘botnet’ of hacked computers, perhaps numbering as many as 4 million machines. However, there are many other threats on the Internet, including other, less-publicized botnet networks, fake antivirus software, and targeted ‘spear-phishing’ attacks.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/163783/conficker_hype_a_problem_says_fbi_cyberchief.html

47. *April 24, ComputerWeekly* – (International) **Facebook hacks highlight business vulnerability, says security firm.** The hacking of the former British prime minister’s charity foundation profile on Facebook should serve as a serious warning, says security firm Fortify Software. The Facebook profile set up to promote his Faith Foundation was defaced by hackers the week of April 13 who covered the site with personal attacks on the former prime minister and his wife. The fact that his page was hackable highlights the need to include code auditing in the software development process, said Fortify’s European director. “That is something that whoever created the Facebook application used by the Faith Foundation appears to have overlooked,” he said. According to the director, the sheer volume of hacking activity on Web portals in general means that any company planning to show its Web pages to the public on the Internet should audit the

code of any pages or applications used on the Internet. This especially applies to Web 2.0 services such as Facebook, he said, where the extensible nature of the Internet environment allows users to program their own applets for use on the service.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2009/04/24/235778/facebook-hacks-highlight-business-vulnerability-says-security.htm>

48. *April 23, CNET News* – (International) **Google fixes severe Chrome security hole.** Google released a new version of its Chrome browser on April 23 to fix a high-severity security problem. The problem affects Google's mainstream stable version of Chrome and is fixed in the new version 1.0.154.59. Google has built Chrome so it updates itself automatically with no user intervention, though the software must be restarted for the new version to run. The security problem, reported April 8 by the IBM Rational Application Security Research Group, allowed cross-site scripting attacks. Such methods can make a Web browser process unauthorized code such as JavaScript, enabling a variety of attacks, including impersonation or phishing. The Google Chrome program manager described the problem this way in a blog posting on April 23: An error in handling URLs with a chromehtml: protocol could allow an attacker to run scripts of his choosing on any page or enumerate files on the local disk under certain conditions. If a user has Google Chrome installed, visiting an attacker-controlled Web page in Internet Explorer could have caused Google Chrome to launch, open multiple tabs, and load scripts that run after navigating to a URL of the attacker's choice. Such an attack only works if Chrome is not already running.
- Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10226578-83.html
49. *April 23, HS Daily Wire* – (International) **Cybercriminals adopt industrial methods to enhance effectiveness.** Cybercriminals have become industrialized to increase their effectiveness. They are increasingly using encryption to cover their tracks and prevent forensic investigators from recovering evidence, according to a security researcher for SecureWorks. The researcher, speaking at the RSA Security Conference in San Francisco on April 23, said the criminals are using virtual private networks to siphon stolen information from hacked companies so the stream of exiting data often goes undetected by the victim. They have also wised up to encrypting their hard drives so even when they are captured by authorities, evidence stored on their computers cannot be cracked. A security consultant and operator of MyNetWatchman, who spoke on a panel with the researcher, described malware-distribution services that help malicious-code creators infect machines with viruses and keystroke logging programs. The entrepreneurs behind the distribution services control legions of hacked computers corralled into botnets, and charge customers (other hackers and spammers) for the privilege of running their own malware on the hacked machines. The going rate for infection distribution varies from \$5 per 1,000 computers in Asia to \$130 for 1,000 installations in the United States. The distribution services are just one example of the ways that criminals in the computer underground have become industrialized to trade niche skills and expertise. The security consultant also described anonymization VPN services catering to the underground that use hijacked botnet computers to hide a criminal's tracks. Using a VPN client, a criminal can choose any hacked system or node on the botnet through which to tunnel his traffic or access a victim's bank account.

Source: <http://www.hsdailywire.com/single.php?id=7845>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

50. *April 23, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Power poles topped with communications gear go unchecked.** It is uncertain why Southern California Edison is allowing various wireless communications companies to add heavy, wind-catching cables and antennas to wooden electric-wire poles without calculating possible collapse risk. Some government officials say the utility's decision may mean that no one is keeping track of weight and wind-load dangers on power poles across Edison's 50,000-square-mile service area, home to 13 million people in Ventura and 10 other counties. The Malibu mayor was aghast at the state's inquiry into who, if anyone, was in charge of making sure utility poles are not top-heavy. The formal probe by the California Public Utilities Commission was triggered by the collapse of three utility poles in Malibu Canyon on October 17, 2007, which snapped in 50-mph winds. The wooden poles had just passed a state-mandated inspection by Edison, and should have withstood winds of 92 mph. The three poles were supporting four sets of heavy, insulated fiber-optic trunk lines; cell antennas; a 66,000-volt electrical circuit; a 16,000-volt local distribution circuit; and street lights. The gear toppled onto the road with such force that a guy-wire yanked a 2,600-pound concrete anchor from surrounding rocks, landing in the middle of Malibu Canyon Road, the state report says. In four hours, the subsequent fire burned 3,836 acres, 10 houses, a landmark Malibu castle, several businesses and classrooms at two schools. Edison is a state-regulated utility owned by the shareholders of Edison International, a for-profit company that could be on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from this one fire alone. The Public Utilities Commission said Edison and four cellular companies — Verizon, Sprint, AT&T and NextG Networks — apparently failed to coordinate weight loads with each other, or properly measure just how sturdy the aging poles were as heavy new cables and cellular phone transceivers and antennas were added.

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/apr/23/no-oversight-of-power-poles-topped-with-heavy/>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

51. *April 22, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Fort Baker toxic spill scare causes a stir.** Some dead birds and a sealed, 5-gallon paint can on a Fort Baker beach caused a

stir Wednesday morning and forced closure of the Bay Area Discovery Museum, but the incident turned out to be nothing. Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) staff noticed the can and dead birds washing ashore near the Presidio Yacht Club at about 10 a.m., said a spokesman for the GGNRA. About a dozen dead cormorants were also in the area and a hazardous materials team was called. Initially, children and adults were asked to stay indoors at the nearby Discovery Museum; museum staffers later decided to close for the day, the spokesman said. Crews were able to determine there was no link between the sealed can and the dead birds. The birds will be studied to see what killed them.

Source: http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_12203171

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

52. *April 24, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **2 teens to be charged in Mt. Pleasant war memorial theft.** Two teenagers are being charged in juvenile court in the vandalism of the Iraqi Freedom Memorial at Island Park in Mt. Pleasant. The Morning Sun in Mt. Pleasant reports that the 13- and 14-year-olds are being charged with malicious destruction of a memorial with damage between \$1,000 and \$20,000. Names were not released. Police received a tip about the boys' involvement. They face a May 11 hearing. A brass rifle and helmet were stolen earlier this month from the memorial, about 120 miles northwest of Detroit. It honors members of the U.S. military killed in Iraq.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20090424/NEWS06/90424034>

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Dams Sector

53. *April 24, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **100-year flood protection not enough for New Orleans, new report says.** A 100-year level of levee protection from hurricane storm surge is inadequate for a major city like New Orleans, and officials should consider relocating residents out of the most vulnerable areas, says a new report by the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council. New Orleans residents need to recognize that no matter how high or sturdy they are built, the levees and floodwalls surrounding the city cannot provide absolute protection against overtopping or failure in extreme events, the scientists and engineers concluded. "A 100-year profile does not include a Katrina," said the chairman of the peer review committee, referring to the standard used by the Army Corps of Engineers in its plans to improve the area's levee system by 2011. "We believe the government should consider a higher level of protection, and not only for the levees in New Orleans, but also in Sacramento and other places where there are similar concerns," said the chairman, who is secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and former president of the Georgia Institute of Technology. That also would mean changing the present National Flood Insurance program standard of insuring properties from a 100-year event to require a higher standard for high-population areas like New Orleans, he said.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/04/100year_protection_not_enough.html

54. *April 23, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **DNR disapproves of board’s \$5,000 Estabrook Dam fix.** Estabrook Dam could get a quick \$5,000 fix this year and a vague promise of \$250,000 for debris removal later, under action April 23 by the Milwaukee County Board. The county also would ask for a state grant to study the feasibility of converting the dam to generate hydroelectric power, under the board action. The move was aimed at sidestepping the more politically controversial decision of taking on a more extensive repair job, estimated to cost \$12 million, or removing the dam for about \$2 million. Environmental groups favor dam removal, while nearby residents, who use the upstream portion of the Milwaukee River for recreation, prefer a fix-up of the 1938 dam. The board voted 16-3 for spending \$5,000 to replace damaged timbers and steel rods on the dam spillway. That should be enough to allow the dam to be closed and the river to fill in the area just upstream in Glendale, said a supervisor. The need for extensive repair should not come as a surprise, given the age of the dam, DNR officials said. The average life span for that type of structure is 50 years, said a DNR dam safety engineer. The Estabrook Dam passed that milestone 21 years ago, in 1988.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/43600432.html>

55. *April 23, Associated Press* – (California; Nevada) **Feds plan Boca Dam quake safety improvements.** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said it plans studies to determine how to shore up a main dam along the Truckee River to prevent serious damage in the event of a large earthquake. Though total failure of Boca Dam is remote, officials said recent safety evaluations reveal significant improvements are necessary. “Our understanding of what could happen there is quite a bit more than what it used to be,” a bureau project manager told the Reno Gazette-Journal. “The possibility of any failure is extremely remote, but since our requirements are so stringent, it puts us in the range of justifications to take corrective action.” He said the concern is that foundation materials beneath the dam could crumble during a major earthquake. Studies and a cost analysis will take about two years. Completed in 1939, Boca Dam is 116 feet high and 1,629-foot-long. Its reservoir has a capacity of about 40,000 acre-feet of water. Located in California about 5 miles northeast of Truckee, it is in a seismically active area near the center of a cluster of quakes that rattled the Reno area last year. The largest in April 2008 collapsed a wooden water flume in Mogul. Potential failure of upstream dams is among the “catastrophic scenarios” that must be planned for, said a Washoe County emergency manager. If Boca Dam were to fail while the reservoir was full, “it would make a mess” and inundate parts of Reno and Sparks, he said.

Source:

<http://cbs5.com/californiawire/22.0.html?type=local&state=CA&category=n&filename=NV--BocaDam.xml>

56. *April 22, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Experts: ‘Device’ found near dam was treasure hunt prize.** Police said that a “suspicious device” was found near a dam in Ware Shoals on Tuesday afternoon and detonated. They later said it was part of a global treasure hunt game. According to the Ware Shoals Police Department, a

fisherman found a device that resembled a pipe bomb near a dam on Power House Road at about 3:45 p.m. Police said the device was about 8 inches long and about 2 inches around. It was sealed on one end and had a cap in place on the other, police said. It also had the phrase “terra tube” written on it. A team of bomb experts from the State Law Enforcement Division was called to the scene and confirmed the device was part of a “geocache game.” Geocache, a high-tech treasure hunting game that uses global positioning systems, is being played around the world. Once the device was detonated, SLED officials found Brazilian money inside, SLED officials said. SLED officials said this is not the first time they have seen geocaching surface in South Carolina.

Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/news/19242497/detail.html>

57. *April 22, Macon Telegraph* – (Georgia) **Large sinkhole forms near levee at Central City Park.** A few feet from Macon’s levee, a large sinkhole has gaped for several weeks in Central City Park at the spot where the river trail begins. Officials with the city and Macon Water Authority suspect the sinkhole is related to one of the large sewer lines in the area, and the authority is hiring a contractor to investigate. “This is an unknown for us, and it will have to be kind of a trial and error approach,” said the authority’s assistant executive director. “It is a real concern for the levee and for the safety of the park.” The hole has swallowed pavement in one of the park roads, and the parking area near it has been blocked off. The sidewalk of the Ocmulgee Heritage trail dead-ends directly into the hole, which is about 20 feet in diameter and about 10 feet deep. The hole could have implications for the integrity of Macon’s levee, which is supposed to keep the river from flooding downtown Macon. Years ago there were “boils” behind the levee where water was infiltrating the earthen wall, but those were fixed and were not in the same area, said the director of Macon’s engineering department. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers threatened for several years to decertify Macon’s levee — potentially stripping flood insurance protection from many properties — unless repairs and maintenance were done. The water authority completed the last of these in the fall when it removed trees from a southern portion of the levee.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/198/story/690664.html>

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