

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 27 March 2012

Top Stories

- An independent panel appointed by a federal agency faulted Mine Safety and Health Administration enforcement for the massive gas explosion in 2010 that killed 29 miners in West Virginia. – *United Press International* (See item 4)
- Microsoft and several partners seized servers in Pennsylvania and Illinois, and filed charges against 39 defendants they said were part of several cybercrime rings. They charged the rings for using Zeus financial malware to steal \$100 million over the last 5 years. *IDG News Service* (See item 11)
- A man was arrested after he tried to bring four loaded guns through a security checkpoint at Sacramento International Airport in California. Authorities later found eight more firearms, several of them loaded, in the man's car in an off-site parking lot. *Reuters* (See item 21)
- Agriculture officials recently said crop and livestock losses from Texas' historic drought are \$7.62 billion for 2011, or more than \$2 billion more than previously thought. *USA Today* (See item **30**)

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Energy Sector

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

1. *March 26, Associated Press* – (California) **Thousands without power as So. Cal storm retreats.** More than 2,000 people remained without power in Southern California March 26 after a storm knocked down power lines, snarled roads, and left a blanket of snow in the mountains March 25. At its peak, the storm left some 21,000 people without power. About 4,300 customers in the San Diego area lost power shortly before 1 a.m. but electricity was later restored. The storm accounted for nearly an inch of rain in downtown Los Angeles, and 2 to 3 inches in coastal Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_20256166/storm-brings-rain-snow-southern-california

2. *March 26, WPSD 6 Paducah* – (Kentucky) **Six Kentucky coal mines cited for violations during special impact inspections.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) announced the week of March 19 that federal inspectors issued 253 citations and orders during special impact inspections conducted at 15 coal mines, 6 of which were located in Kentucky, and 2 metal/nonmetal mines in February. The coal mines were issued 235 citations and 8 orders, while the metal/nonmetal operations were issued 23 citations and 6 orders. Five of the coal mines were selected in part because of frequent hazard complaints. Investigations of 20 anonymous complaints between March 1, 2011, and March 1, 2012, at these 5 mines resulted in citations being issued when allegations in 12 of the complaints proved true. These inspections, which began in force in April 2010 following the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia that killed 29 people, involve mines that merit increased agency attention and enforcement due to their poor compliance history or particular compliance concerns.

Source: http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/home/ticker/Six-Kentucky-coal-mines-cited-for-violations-during-special-impact-inspections-144227125.html

3. March 23, KOSA 7 Odessa – (Texas) OSHA proposing fines for company concerning dangers at Pyote rig site. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Palestine-based Mercer Well Service for five repeat violations after an inspection of Rig No. 39, 15 miles northwest of Pyote, Texas, KOSA 7 Odessa reported March 23. The proposed fines total \$71,500. The November 2011 inspection was part of OSHA's Oil and Gas Regional Emphasis Program, aimed at preventing fatalities and catastrophic events at oil drilling and gas wells. OSHA said inspectors found four workers exposed to possible injuries from unguarded platforms, a lack of fire protection, and caught-between/struck-by hazards while trying to retrieve a piece of broken pipe in a well hole. The violations include failing to: provide guardrails for employees working on platforms 7 feet above the ground; provide standard railings on open sides of stairways; ensure fixed stairs were uniform in rise height; provide required protection in case of fire; and ensure workers were protected from caught-between/struck-by hazards. Similar violations were cited at locations in Texas in 2008 and 2009, and Pennsylvania in 2011.

Source: http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=33479

4. *March 23, United Press International* – (West Virginia) **Panel says MHSA lax in Upper Big Branch.** March 23, an independent panel faulted Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement for the massive gas explosion that killed 29 miners in West Virginia. The panel, appointed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, examined the causes of the April 5, 2010 blast that wracked the Upper Big Branch Mine South in Montcoal, about 30 miles south of Charleston. The panel concluded though mine operators ultimately were responsible for the blast, mine safety inspectors failed to take "appropriate actions during the inspections in the months prior to the explosion" that might have prevented the disaster or led to the mine being idled. "If [mine safety inspectors] had engaged in timely enforcement of the Mine Act, and applicable standards and regulation, it would have lessened the chances of — and possibly prevented — the explosion," the panel said. It concluded an earlier investigation by the MSHA was too narrow and failed to identify the problems.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/03/23/Panel-says-MHSA-lax-in-Upper-Big-Branch/UPI-19191332541591/

5. March 22, Reuters – (Indiana; Ilinois) Magellan shuts oil products pipeline after diesel leak. Magellan Midstream said it shut down a refined products pipeline in Illinois March 21 after reporting a potential 250 barrels leak of diesel fuel 30 miles west of Chicago. The 12-inch diameter pipeline, which runs between Iowa City, Indiana, and Franklin Park, Illinois, was shut down. "This incident will not impact supply to our terminals in Iowa, Illinois, or other terminals connected to the Magellan Pipeline system," a Magellan spokesman said. March 22, he said Magellan had not determined when it would restart the pipeline.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/22/pipeline-operations-magellan-idUSL1E8EM64720120322?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. March 26, Baton Rouge Advocate – (Louisiana) Plant crews work to clean, stabilize area. Westlake Chemical Corp. personnel worked March 24 to clean up chemicals at the site of the March 22 fire and explosion at one of the Ascension Parish, Louisiana plant's towers, a state environmental quality official said. Based in Houston, the firm was waiting on a crane to stabilize the tower, which has been leaning off center since the explosion, so workers can pull chemicals out of it, according to the emergency response manager for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He said he thought it would take workers up to 12 hours to set the crane up before workers could empty the tower. The work was expected to start March 26. The explosion and fire occurred as the tower at Geismar Vinyls Complex was being restarted for maintenance. Workers returned to the plant March 23, but production remained shut down at that time, said a Westlake spokesman. The DEO emergency response manager said March 24 that Westlake workers would be on the scene 24 hours a day to fix the problem, and DEQ officials will be on hand twice a day to monitor the situation and test the ground for leaked chemicals. He said the DEQ has not detected any materials leaking since March 22.

Source: http://theadvocate.com/home/2406578-125/plant-crews-work-to-clean

7. *March* 24, *KKTV* 11 *Colorado Springs* – (Colorado) **Highway** 285 reopens after **HAZMAT spill.** Highway 285 south of Fairplay, Colorado, reopened in both directions early March 24 following a HAZMAT spill that shut down the highway for more than 8 hours. The Colorado State Patrol said about 5 tons of ammonium nitrate had to be cleared from the scene where a trailer broke away from a truck and crashed, March 23. About 10,000 pounds of the material, typically used as fertilizer, spilled. Early reports indicated the spill had not endangered groundwater supplies. A HAZMAT crew from Golden was called in to clear the spill.

Source: http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/144062276.html

8. *March 23, KVUE 24 Austin* – (Texas) **Business pleads guilty to toxic acid in storage unit.** Bencor Fabrication and its owner pleaded guilty March 23 to Texas water code violations on hazardous waste for storing about two-dozen 55-gallon drums of acid at a self-storage business in Austin, Texas. The court ordered the owner and firm to pay a combined \$60,000 in fines for improper waste handling. Investigators said that for 6 months, Bencor stored toxic acid in a 10-foot by 20-foot storage room at Pond Springs Mini Storage. Pond Springs management found the problem when they cut a lock off the unit after Bencor had not paid for 6 months. HAZMAT crews said the acid they found in the drums was an inhalation hazard. Investigators traced it to Bencor's plant in Brenham where they manufacture circuit boards. Officials said if injuries occurred, those responsible could have faced jail time.

Source: http://www.kvue.com/news/Business-pleads-guilty-to-toxic-acid-in-storage-unit--144045336.html

9. *March 23, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Leaky chemical container stops train near Douglas.** A CSX train hauling 53 container cars of stannic chloride stopped near the crossing at Willie Anderson Road in Coffee County, Georgia, early March 23, when vapors were noticed coming from one of the cars. The vapor was the result of the rupture of a steel drum. The train was en route to Jacksonville, Florida, from North Bergen, New Jersey. Stannic chloride is a chemical used in glass etching, and is generally harmless unless it mixes with water. Then it can form hazardous hydrochloric acid. A regional emergency management official said they did not see evidence of water in the container car, so area residents were only evacuated temporarily. The drum was scheduled to be removed the afternoon of March 23, allowing the train to continue to its destination.

Source: http://www.walb.com/story/17238701/leaky-chemical-container-stops-train-in-coffee-county

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *March 26, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Salem 2 nuclear plant shut down.** The Salem 2 nuclear reactor in Lower Alloways Creek Township in Salem, New Jersey, was out of service March 26 after it automatically shut down. Officials said a turbine trip triggered the shutdown March 23. The plant's operator is trying to determine what caused the problem in the system which controls the speed of the turbine. Officials said there was no danger to the public.

Source: http://www.njherald.com/story/17255858/salem-2-nuclear-plant-shut-down

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *March 26, IDG News Service* – (Pennsylvania; Illinois, International) **Microsoft leads** seizure of Zeus-related cybercrime servers. March 26, Microsoft said it and several partners disrupted several cybercrime rings that used a piece of malicious software called Zeus to steal \$100 million over the last 5 years. The company said a consolidated legal case was filed against those allegedly responsible that for the first time applies the

Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Zeus is difficult for financial institutions to address because of its stealthy nature and advanced spying capabilities that center around stealing online banking and e-commerce credentials. According to a complaint filed under seal March 19 in New York, Microsoft accused the defendants of infecting more than 13 million computers and stealing more than \$100 million. The civil complaint lists 39 "John Doe" defendants, many of whom are identified only by online nicknames. The senior manager of investigations for Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit said the creators of Zeus sold "builder kits" to other would-be cybercriminals. Simple versions sold for as little as \$700, while more advanced versions could cost \$15,000 or more, the affidavit said. Microsoft also said this is the first time other parties joined it as a plaintiff in a botnet case. The other plaintiffs are the Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and the National Automated Clearing House Association. The court granted Microsoft and its partners permission to seize servers located in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Lombard, Illinois, March 23. Microsoft took control of 800 domains that are part of Zeus' infrastructure in an attempt to completely wrest control of the networks from their operators. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225529/Microsoft_leads_seizure_of_Zeus_r elated_cybercrime_servers

- 12. *March 25, KCPQ 13 Tacoma* (Washington) **Cops seek to identify 'Beanie Bandit'.** A man has been dubbed the "Beanie Bandit" for the hats he has worn during bank robberies in Washington state, KCPQ 13 Tacoma reported March 25. First, he hit the Opus Bank in Shoreline January 10, wearing a knit hat with tassels. Then, February 13, he robbed a Key Bank in Factoria wearing a two-tone beanie hat. Finally, March 20, he wore a bright blue beanie when he robbed a bank in Bothell. Detectives said the suspect does not show a weapon, but does use threats and intimidation.

 Source: http://www.q13fox.com/community/wamostwanted/featuredcases/kcpq-wmw-cops-seek-to-identify-beanie-bandit-20120325,0,3860830.story
- 13. March 24, Asheville Citizen-Times (North Carolina; National) Spruce Pine man indicted in land fraud scheme. A Spruce Pine, North Carolina man faces up to 38 years in prison in connection with a Mitchell County real estate fraud scheme authorities say is one of the largest in state history, according to an indictment handed up March 23. The defendant is accused of defrauding banks and investors out of more than \$82 million in improper loans tied to a development called the Village of Penland. A grand jury in Charlotte indicted the man on seven felony counts including bank fraud, filing false tax returns, and conspiracy to commit mail, wire, and bank fraud. Five other people have already pleaded guilty in the case and been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 3 to 10 years. According to court records, the defendants sold overpriced lots in what was supposed to become an upscale housing development between 2002 and 2007. Prosecutors said the scheme bilked more than 200 investors in several states. The North Carolina attorney general shut the project down in 2007, citing fraudulent business practices. The indictment alleges the defendant closed more than 300 residential real estate loans to individuals secured by Penland lots valued at about \$108 million. He also is accused of defrauding investors and banks by failing to provide legal services, and making false statements to obtain the loans. He was paid

about \$2 million in fees related to the Penland transactions, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Source: http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120325/NEWS/303250059/Real-estate-scheme-alleged?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

14. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Oakridge bank damaged by fire.** Fire has badly damaged a Siuslaw Bank branch in Oakridge, Oregon. Employees evacuated the burning bank the afternoon of March 23. Fire crews told KEZI 9 Eugene they thought a power surge started the fire at the back of the bank. They arrived to find smoke billowing from three sides of the building and flames in the back. The bank's assistant vice president said client deposits and safe deposit boxes were safe. There was no immediate damage estimate.

Source: http://www.heraldandnews.com/news/article_799c835a-757c-11e1-9f6e-001871e3ce6c.html

15. March 23, Softpedia – (International) Traders drop price of silver by exploiting NASDAQ vulnerability. Experts have long argued the flaws present in trading systems can be leveraged to manipulate prices and basically perform fraudulent operations, but a recent incident demonstrated these vulnerabilities. "On March 20, 2012 at 13:22:33, the quote rate in the ETF symbol SLV sustained a rate exceeding 75,000/sec (75/ms) for 25 milliseconds. Nasdaq quotes lagged other exchanges by about 50 milliseconds. Nasdaq quotes even lagged their own trades — a condition we have jokingly referred to as fantaseconds," Nanex reported. This means that some traders flooded the system which, due to the security holes that exist, caused silver prices to drop considerably. High frequency traders took advantage of the flaws and exploited the NASDAQ silver ETF, a researcher explained. The fantaseconds Nanex refers to is a term that defines a unit of time measurement unveiled back in September 2011 when a "time warp" was recorded in the trading of Yahoo! stock. At the time, exchange timestamps revealed the Yahoo! trades were executed on quotes that came into existence only 190 milliseconds later. By taking advantage of this flaw, traders can execute quotes before they even exist in the system. Zero Hedge believes someone wanted the price of silver to drop at precisely 13:22:33, March 20, so they "bent the laws of relativity" and executed quotes in the future.

Source: http://news.softpedia.com/news/Traders-Drop-Price-of-Silver-by-Exploiting-NASDAQ-Vulnerability-260499.shtml

16. *March 23*, *NJ.com* – (New Jersey; New York) **Man who robbed Hoboken bank with bomb threat believed to have robbed Palisades Park, New York banks.** The FBI has released surveillance photos of a man they believe is connected to a string of bank robberies in New Jersey and New York, including one in Palisades Park, New Jersey, March 22. The images were taken from cameras in three Chase Bank branches in Manhattan and New Jersey which have fallen victim to robberies in one week. The suspect is also believed to have attempted to rob a Capitol One Bank in New York. The Jersey Journal reported a man robbed a Chase bank branch in Hoboken, New Jersey, March 19 with a note that read, "I have a bomb. No silent alarm. Just all cash. 60 seconds. NOW. I'm desperate so I will not hesitate. Act normal." The two New York robberies occurred 2 days later, police said. In each case, the suspect handed the teller a

note demanding undisclosed sums. He successfully robbed all of the banks except for the Capitol One branch in Manhattan.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2012/03/fbi_police_search_for_palisades_park_bank_robber_see_links_to_robberies_in_new_york_and_hoboken.html

17. March 23, KRXI 11 Reno – (Nevada; California) Financial forgery gang and lab taken down. A gang allegedly dedicated to identity theft and other financial fraud crimes was arrested in Sparks, Nevada, March 22 after an investigation lead authorities to their financial forgery lab. Detectives from a Sparks police unit, and detectives from a northern Nevada regional identify theft task force received information about the possibility of the lab operating inside the Nugget Hotel and Casino. They set up a lengthy surveillance and learned the two main suspects had obtained five rooms between them and had several associates using the rooms since about March 11. After obtaining several search warrants, detectives located the two primary suspects along with eight other suspects in a room at the hotel. All of the suspects were detained and subsequently arrested. Numerous stolen and manufactured various state ID's were located, as well as personal identifying information of several victims in Nevada and California. Numerous computers and printers, as well as other digital equipment for making checks, ID's, stolen identities, etc., were located inside several of the rooms. Source: http://www.foxreno.com/news/news/crime-law/financial-forgery-gang-and-labtaken-down/nLbY6/

For another story, see item 40

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Transportation Sector

- 18. *March* 26, *KERO* 23 *Bakersfield* (California) **Big rig crash shut down Highway** 99. Highway 99 was shut down for approximately 4 hours after a semi truck triggered a chain collision near Highway 58. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) said the driver was driving a big rig southbound on Highway 99 March 25. Authorities said he was traveling at unsafe speeds, and the wet road conditions caused him to lose control of his tractor trailer. After the crash, CHP officers said the semi started leaking fuel onto the roadway. Authorities said rainy conditions delayed cleanup of the accident. Source: http://www.turnto23.com/news/30758577/detail.html
- 19. *March 26*, *WBZ 4 Boston* (Massachusetts) **Bag odor makes TSA workers at Logan Airport sick.** A luggage room at Boston's Logan Airport was evacuated March 26
 after a strange odor was detected in a bag. Authorities cleared out the screening room at
 terminal A, which serves Delta and Continental Airlines, after security searched the
 luggage and found camphor, a chemical with many uses. The owner of the bag told
 investigators he was flying to Beijing, China, and planned to use the camphor as rat
 repellant. A HAZMAT team was called in, along with state police and the fire
 department. A Massachusetts Port Authority spokesman said four Transportation
 Security Administration employees were taken to the hospital. Several complained

about eye irritation, headaches, and scratchy throats. The man who had the bag was allowed to continue on his trip, but without the camphor.

Source: http://boston.cbslocal.com/2012/03/26/bag-odor-causes-evacuation-at-logan-airport-luggage-room/

20. *March 25*, *WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Woman arrested for bringing gun to OIA.** Police arrested a woman for allegedly attempting to bring a gun through security at Orlando International Airport in Orlando, Florida. The woman was arrested March 23 after a Transportation Security Administration screener noticed a handgun in her tote bag. She told police she forgot to give the gun to her nephew before being dropped off at the airport. Police said the woman had a Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum with four rounds in the cylinder in her bag. She was charged with carrying a firearm in a place prohibited by law, and has since bonded out of jail. Source: http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/woman-arrested-bringing-gun-

Source: http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/woman-arrested-bringing-gunoia/nLcR6/

21. *March* 24, *Reuters* – (California) Man arrested at Sacramento airport security with 4 guns. A Montana man was arrested after he tried to bring four loaded guns through a security checkpoint at Sacramento International Airport in Sacramento, California, and is being held without bail, the sheriff's office said March 24. The suspect was arrested March 22 after Transportation Security Administration officers at a checkpoint found a firearm inside a carry-on bag, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. Further checks showed he was carrying a loaded handgun and had three loaded firearms in his carry-on bags, it said. Sheriff's deputies searched his car at an off-site parking lot and turned up eight more firearms, several of them loaded. The man faces charges including unlawful possession of a loaded firearm, unlawful possession of a concealed firearm, possession of an unauthorized weapon in a public building, and possession of a firearm within a sterile area of an airport, the sheriff's department statement said.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-airport-gunsbre82n0b3-20120324,0,7550388.story

22. *March* 24, *Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Federal aid for tornado victims.** The Federal Emergnecy Management Agency announced federal public assistance has been made available to Indiana, the Associated Press reported March 24. Federal aid has been granted to augment state and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes February 29 through March 3 in Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, and Washington counties. All seven categories are now available to state and eligible local governments and certain private, nonprofit organizations on a 75 percent cost-sharing basis for eligible expenditures. These may include emergency work, debris removal, and repair or replacement of damaged roads, bridges, and other elements of the infrastructure. Public assistance funding also covers partial or complete repair of schools and other critical functions such as public water tanks or sewer systems.

Source: http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/indiana/aid-for-tornado-victims

23. March 20, Associated Press – (International) FAA finds Philippine aviation standards lacking. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) found lingering deficiencies in Philippine air safety standards despite the country's efforts to fix the problems, the Associated Press reported March 20. Unqualified personnel inspect aircraft and airport facilities, inspectors accept free rides on the same airlines they are checking, and airlines receive certification despite failing to meet requirements, according to a report summary made available to the Associated Press. Safety and management concerns led the U.S. aviation watchdog to downgrade the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines in 2007 and limit U.S.-bound flights from the Philippines. In 2010, the European Union also blacklisted Philippine carriers. The country's transportation and communications secretary said March 20 the government would take measures to address the deficiencies. He acknowledged the FAA findings will adversely affect the Philippine airline industry and may discourage tourists. A team from the Philippine aviation authority is set to visit Washington, D.C. in mid-April to present an action plan to address the more than 20 issues mentioned in the FAA report following the technical review in January.

Source: http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-03/D9TK6OT00.htm

For more stories, see items 1, 5, 7, 9, and 42

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *March* 23, *Hastings Star-Gazette* – (Minnesota) **Outbreak of mail thefts**reported. March 23, the Hasting Star-Gazette reported mail was being stolen from mailboxes in Hastings, Minnesota, and the surrounding area, according to the city's postmaster. She said rural areas have been targeted in recent months, with Denmark Township being hit especially hard. The week of March 19, at least two homes near the Hastings Country Club had mail stolen from them. A witness observed a black Honda Accord or similar vehicle stop by the mailbox, and observed a white male driver and white female passenger. Hastings police are investigating the cases. "We definitely want people to report any type of suspicious activity," the chief of police said. "Right now we don't have a great deal of information indicating that the proceeds of these thefts have been used in other types of fraudulent activities."

Source: http://www.hastingsstargazette.com/event/article/id/27037/group/News/

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *March* 26, *Food Safety News* – (International) Ottawa's 'Lunch Lady' served up two strains of Salmonella. Salmonella Typhimurium was found in frozen uncooked ground beef sampled March 13 and Salmonella Heidelberg was found in raw Halal chicken sampled March 15, Ottawa health officials said, Food Safety News reported March 26. While Salmonella was not isolated from any other food samples collected from March 12 to 15, the laboratory results pretty well connect an Ottawa catering company to

responsibility for an outbreak. Known as "The Lunch Lady," the business serves the day care or one of the schools where at least 46 children were stricken with Salmonella infections. At least four adults were also ill, and two of those were thought to be connected to the school cases. The Lunch Lady suspended operations while the investigation continued.

Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/ottawas-lunch-lady-served-up-two-strains-of-salmonella/

- 26. *March* 25, *seattlepi.com* (National; International) **Beef patties recalled due to**possible E. coli threat. A Seattle food products distributor is recalling about 16,800
 pounds of ground beef patties due to a risk of contamination by E. coli bacteria, the
 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported, according to seattlepi.com March
 25. Sysco Seattle Inc. is recalling meat imported from Canada that may have been
 tainted by potentially deadly E. coli 0157:H7. The patties were produced by New Food
 Classics of Burlington, Ontario, and were intended for distribution to restaurants in
 Washington, Arizona, Colorado, and Texas, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection
 Service reported. New Food Classics has been at the center of several recalls in Canada
 first announced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. At least one illness was
 reported from consumption of meat products affected by the Canadian recall.
 Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Beef-patties-recalled-due-to-possible-E-coli-3434061.php
- 27. *March* 25, *Food Safety News* (National) **Salmonella causes recall of fresh jalapenos.** Newport, Kentucky-based Castellini Produce issued an unclassified recall for fresh jalapenos in packs of 2, 10, and 40. The recalled jalapenos reached five divisions of Rosemont, Illinois-based US Foods between March 9 and 24, according to the food distribution company. Routine test results showed possible presence of Salmonella. The recalled product may be identified by packaging bearing the name Professional Produce of Florida/South Florida Produce. Castellini is one of the largest distributors of fresh produce in the United States.

 Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/salmonella-bring-recall-of-fresh-jalapenos/
- 28. *March* 24, *Rochester Post-Bulletin* (Minnesota) Pannekoeken fire causes \$100,000 in damage. A fire in a Pannekoeken restaurant fryer at the Days Inn Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota, March 24 caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage. The fire sparked in the fryer. "After a time the fryer was noted to be boiling excessively (and) efforts by employees to shut down the fryer were unsuccessful," the deputy fire chief said. "The oil in the fryer reached its ignition temperature; the employees tried to extinguish the fire with a fire extinguisher, which was ineffective against the burning oil." The built-in fire extinguisher system slowed the fire but was overcome when the fire became too large. Firefighters used two large portable fire extinguishers. At first, each time they knocked it down, it came back. Guests were evacuated but were allowed to return to their rooms about 2 hours after the fire sparked.

Source: http://postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1491004&query=

- 29. *March 23, Food Safety News* (National) **Allergen alert: Mini chocolate chip cookies with walnuts.** Whole Foods Market said people who have an allergy or sensitivity to walnuts should not eat certain Mini Chocolate Chip Cookies, which are being recalled due to a labeling error in which walnuts were left off the ingredient list, Food Safety News reported March 23. The recalled cookies were sold at Whole Foods Market stores in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

 Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/allergen-alert-mini-chocolate-chip-cookies-with-walnuts/
- 30. *March* 22, *USA Today* (Texas) **Drought cost Texas nearly \$8 billion in agriculture losses.** Agriculture officials said losses from Texas' historic drought are more than \$2 billion more than previously thought, USA Today reported March 22. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service now estimates crop and livestock losses at \$7.62 billion for 2011. The extension service's preliminary estimate of \$5.2 billion in August 2011 already topped the previous record of \$4.1 billion in 2006. Texas has a long history of drought. Since 1998, it has cost the state's agriculture industry more than \$14 billion.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.usatoday.com/weather/drought/story/2012-03-22/texas-drought-losses/53703926/1}$

For more stories, see items $\frac{7}{2}$, $\frac{33}{2}$, and $\frac{49}{2}$

2011 was the driest year in state history.

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Water Sector

- 31. *March 26, WPLG 10 Miami* (Florida) **Keys man charged in computer hacking.** A Key West, Florida man was arrested and charged with illegally accessing computers that belong to the Key Largo Water Treatment Facility, WPLG 10 Miami reported March 25. The man used to work at the facility, but his contract was not renewed. He used usernames and passwords of other current employees to access the system from home. He bragged to police detectives who interviewed him March 14, saying he was able to prove the computer system was not secure. The man downloaded e-mails and documents from the system pertaining to him. The facility's computer manager called police in February 2012 after doing a routine check of the e-mail system and finding a number of e-mails addressed to what he recognized as the man's personal e-mail address. The former employee faces 9 misdemeanor and 21 felony counts.

 Source: http://www.local10.com/news/Keys-man-charged-in-computer-hacking/-/1717324/9696274/-/ln6ek/-/
- 32. *March* 24, *Joplin Globe* (Missouri) Floodwaters cause breach in Neosho sewage basin. City workers were repairing damage March 24 created by the failure of a sewage equalization basin near Neosho, Missouri's wastewater treatment plant. The public works director said the leak occurred March 22 when the concrete walls of the rainswollen basin collapsed, spilling a mixture of rainwater and raw sewage into Hickory Creek, a tributary of Shoal Creek. The director estimated 10 million gallons of the mixture was released by the spill. He said officials with the Missouri Department of

Natural Resources conducted a water quality survey of Shoal Creek and determined the effects of the spill were largely diluted by floodwaters. The spill damaged a water line to the treatment plant, but crews were expected to have the line repaired March 26. The director said the city has not received a repair cost estimate. There will be no interruption of sewer services from the spill as long as there is no more significant rainfall, officials said.

Source: http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/x1437238610/Floodwaters-cause-breach-in-Neosho-sewage-basin

33. March 23, Albany Democrat-Herald – (Oregon) Power restored to Albany-Millersburg Water Treatment Plant after 10-hour outage. The Albany-Millersburg Water Treatment Plant in Oregon lost power for more than 10 hours March 22, prompting Albany and Millersburg officials to ask customers to voluntarily cut back on water consumption. Limbs from trees near the treatment plant are believed to have fallen onto Pacific Power lines, causing the outage, a spokeswoman for the city of Albany said. When power was cut, the plant could not treat water or pump it out of the Santiam River. Complicating matters were that two of Albany's six reservoirs were offline. The city's 8-million gallon reservoir was empty because it is undergoing repairs, as was the 2-million gallon reservoir near the Vine Street plant. In Albany, customers asked to reduce water consumption included the hospital, restaurants, and food processors.

Source: http://democratherald.com/news/local/power-restored-to-albany-millersburg-water-treatment-plant-after-/article_6d477034-749a-11e1-bd34-0019bb2963f4.html

34. *March* 22, *U.S. Geological Survey* – (California) **High concentration of solvents in some San Fernando and San Gabriel groundwater.** Organic solvents were detected at high concentrations in 18 percent of the aquifer system used for public supply in the San Fernando and San Gabriel basins of California, according to the results a statewide study assessing groundwater quality announced March 22 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Scientists analyzed untreated groundwater from wells, not treated tap water, looking for 262 possible constituents over a 10-year period. Of the 212 organic compounds analyzed, 66 were detected in the aquifer system. Six solvents were detected at high concentrations, above health standards for drinking water. Perchlorate was also detected at high concentrations in about 11 percent of the groundwater in the study-area aquifers. Nutrients were present at high concentrations in about 9 percent of the groundwater in the aquifers. In most of the California areas previously studied, organic solvents were often detected in groundwater, but not at high concentrations; statewide, high concentrations of organic solvents were found in less than 2 percent of the groundwater.

Source: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3151

For another story, see item 22

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *March 26, The Register* – (National) **Dot Pharmacy: New web weapon in war on duff drug peddlers.** An American trade group wants to create top-level domain name .pharmacy to stem the sale of bogus medicines online. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) will file the application with Internet policymaker ICANN, according to FairWinds Partners, a domain-name consulting firm. "The goal of .pharmacy is to provide pharmacists, doctors, nurses, caregivers, patients and others a secure space in which to search for information about or purchase prescription drugs online without having to worry about cybercrime or receiving counterfeit drugs," FairWinds said. Before getting a .pharmacy Web address, companies would be vetted to ensure they are in fact legitimate and licensed, according to FairWinds. FairWinds said the .pharmacy gTLD would be subject to ongoing monitoring for compliance via LegitScript, a U.S.-based pharmacy certification program provider. The news comes as the NABP wages war against a small number of domain name registrars it says are not doing enough to fight the sale of counterfeit treatments online.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/26/dot_pharmacy_bid/

- 36. *March* 24, *Associated Press* (Ohio) Ohio nursing home shuts doors after meth lab fire. Park Haven, the Ashtabula, Ohio nursing home where a methamphetamine-lab fire in a resident's room killed a man, closed March 23 after it was cited for violating federal regulations and the state took steps to revoke the facility's license. More than 30 residents relocated to other care facilities, the Star-Beacon newspaper in Ashtabula reported. The week of March 5, state agencies began trying to revoke the facility's license and end its Medicaid provider agreement, a necessity for a facility to serve individuals enrolled in the medical insurance program. A report after the fire indicated most of the 33 residents at Park Haven used Medicaid. Police said they expect to file charges against two men who were burned in the fire. A police chief told media that investigators believe two visitors and one Park Haven resident knew about the lab. Source: http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/briefs/x1844274445/Ohio-nursing-home-shuts-doors-after-meth-lab-fire
- 37. *March* 23, *Infosecurity* (California) **Kaiser Permanente data breach affects thousands of employees.** Managed health care consortium Kaiser Permanente has notified thousands of current and former employees that their personal information, such as names, phone numbers, and Social Security numbers, was found on a non-Kaiser external hard drive purchased in a second-hand store in California September 2011, according to a report by KXL 101.1 Portland. The person who bought the hard drive called Kaiser and gave the hard drive to police, according to the report. The Office of Inadequate Security blog noted that because the breach did not involve patient data, it was not subject to California's 5-day notification requirement or the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) 60-day framework.

Source: http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/24739/

For another story, see item 33

Government Facilities Sector

- 38. March 26, Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Georgia) Student arrested for threatening to blow up Douglas County school. A senior at New Manchester High School in Douglasville, Georgia, was arrested March 26 for allegedly posting a note on Twitter the week of March 19 threatening to blow up the Douglas County school. The arrest was the third one involving threatened or planned violence at a northwest Atlanta metro high school. A Douglas County sheriff's major said the student was arrested at the school March 26. The student told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution he admitted to making a Twitter posting March 23 that read, "I'm gonna blow up New Manchester, fear me grrr!!" The sheriff said investigators learned of the posting March 25 The student is being held in the Douglas County Jail on charges of making terroristic threats and disrupting a public school. He was the second New Manchester student arrested in less than a week for allegedly threatening or planning violence at the school, which opened in the fall of 2011. Another student was arrested March 20 after investigators determined he was researching ways to launch a chemical attack at the school, according to authorities. He was charged with criminal attempt to commit an act of terrorism and was being held without bond March 26 in the county jail. After deputies were tipped-off about his plans, investigators searched his computer and found evidence of searches on hazardous materials such as cyanide, the sheriff said. In neighboring Paulding County, a third student was arrested March 21 after allegedly admitting he threatened in a Facebook post to shoot students at Hiram High School. Source: http://www.ajc.com/news/student-arrested-for-threatening-1398649.html
- 39. *March* 25, *CNN* (Mississippi) **Mississippi State president: Student's shooting believed 'isolated incident'.** The shooting death of a Mississippi State University student in a campus dorm room in Starskville, Mississippi, is thought to be an "isolated incident," and there is no indication others are endangered, the school's president said March 25. Campus police were notified March 24 of an incident in Evans Hall, a dorm for male students. The student was found with "what appeared to be serious injuries". He was transported to a nearby hospital, but "could not be saved," the president said. The vice president for student affairs said the victim was shot more than once. Three men who did not appear to be university students were seen fleeing in a blue sedan, he said. The shooting prompted the school to send out a campus-wide alert through a series of text messages. Police were talking to witnesses and reviewing surveillance tapes. Campus police stepped up patrols, the president said, assisted by officers from Starkville and the Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Office.

 Source: http://articles.cnn.com/2012-03-25/justice/justice_mississippi-college-shooting-1 campus-police-campus-safety-dorm? s=PM:JUSTICE
- 40. *March 23*, *WPXI 11 Pittsburgh* (International) **Warning: New Homeland Security phishing scheme.** A new e-mail spoofing the DHS has been spotted making the rounds, WPXI Pittsburgh reported March 23. The message indicates the government agency intercepted a cashier's check with the recipient's name on it and they need additional information. At first glance, the e-mail looks authentic, with a colorful

letterhead and a government address. Further examination, however, reveals red flags. These include the fact the sender's address is from a Gmail account. "Many times the red flags that we see in these phishing emails are misspelling of words or language that normally we wouldn't use," said the president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Better Business Bureau. The e-mail asks for a user's name, address, and phone number, along with financial data such as a bank account number or an ATM card.

Source: http://www.wpxi.com/news/news/local/warning-new-homeland-security-phishing-scheme/nLbjp/

For more stories, see items 22 and 53

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Emergency Services Sector

41. *March 26*, *WTKR 3 Hampton Roads* – (Florida) **Man arrested for sending death threats to Sanford police chief.** Authorities said a Florida man was charged with threatening the police chief who had been overseeing the investigation into the shooting death of an unarmed black teen by a neighborhood watch captain in Sanford. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office said the man e-mailed the Sanford police chief March 23, saying he and his family should be killed. The sheriff's office said the man has sent threatening e-mails to other individuals previously, including threats to the Penn State University assistant football coach. He was placed on electronic monitoring as a condition of his \$10,000 bond.

Source: http://www.wtkr.com/news/wtkr-death-threat,0,3032847.story

42. *March 24*, *Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **NJ firehouse catches fire; cause not yet known.** Investigators were trying to determine what caused a fire March 23 at a Woodbury Heights, New Jersey firehouse. The Woodbury Heights fire chief said the fire broke out on the second floor of the volunteer department's headquarters. One firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation. Part of the building that contained a meeting room and offices had to be demolished because of fire damage. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms conducted tests on materials from the fire scene to determine what caused the blaze. Traffic in the vicinity was diverted during the morning hours after the blaze broke out.

Source: http://trib.com/news/national/us/nj-firehouse-catches-fire-cause-not-yet-known/article_10869d54-4776-5699-8a59-7ceaf51f5a27.html

43. *March 24, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Baltimore fire truck, ambulance collide; two hurt.** A fire truck and ambulance collided as they were headed to a building fire in Baltimore, March 23, sending two paramedics to the hospital. Two Baltimore City Fire Department units were responding to a fire when they smashed into each other at an intersection, according to a statement from a spokesman for the fire department. The two vehicles were moderately damaged in the crash, he said. The cause of the crash was being investigated.

Source: http://www.firehouse.com/news/10678555/baltimore-fire-truck-ambulance-collide-two-hurt

Information Technology Sector

44. March 26, IDG News Service – (International) Facebook scammers host Trojan horse extensions on Chrome Web Store. Cybercriminals are uploading malicious Chrome browser extensions to the official Chrome Web Store and using them to hijack Facebook accounts, according to security researchers from Kaspersky Lab. The rogue extensions are advertised on Facebook by scammers and claim to allow changing the color of profile pages, tracking profile visitors, or even removing social media viruses, a Kaspersky Lab expert said March 23. He recently observed an increase in Facebook scams that use malicious Chrome extensions and originate in Brazil. Once installed in the browser, these extensions give attackers complete control over the victim's Facebook account and can be used to spam their friends or to Like pages without authorization. In one case, a rogue extension masqueraded as Adobe Flash Player and was hosted on the official Chrome Web Store, the expert said. By the time it was identified, it was already installed by 923 users. Uploading multiple rogue extensions on the Chrome store and running many Facebook spam campaigns to advertise them allows attackers to quickly compromise thousands of accounts. The accounts are then used to earn scammers money by Liking particular pages. The people behind these campaigns sell packages of 1, 10, 50, or 100 thousand Likes to companies who wish to gain visibility on Facebook.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225536/Facebook_scammers_host_Trojan_horse_extensions_on_Chrome_Web_Store?source=rss_security&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+computerworld/s/feed/topic/17+(Computerworld+Security+News)&utm

- 45. March 26, Threatpost (International) New TGLoader Android malware found in alternative markets. The TGLoader malware appeared in some alternative Android app markets recently, and researchers at North Carolina State University discovered and analyzed it, finding it has a wide range of capabilities. The malware uses the "exploid" root exploit to get root privileges on compromised phones, and from there it starts installing a variety of apps and Android code that are designed to perform myriad malicious actions. "After that, it further installed several payloads (including both native binary programs and Android apps) unbeknownst to users. The malware also listens to remote C&C servers for further instructions. Specifically, one particular "phone-home" function supported in TGLoader is to retrieve a destination number and related message body from the C&C servers. Once received, it composes the message and sends it out in the background. This is a typical strategy that has been widely used in recent Android malware to send out SMS messages to premium-rate numbers," an assistant professor at North Carolina State wrote in an analysis of the new malware. Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/new-tgloader-android-malware-foundalternative-markets-032612
- 46. *March* 26, *H Security* (International) **Apache Traffic Server update closes important security hole.** Version 3.0.4 of Apache Traffic Server (ATS), the high-

performance caching HTTP/1.1 proxy server, has been released, closing a security hole that could be exploited by an attacker to remotely compromise a vulnerable system. An error when parsing a large "Host:" HTTP header can be used to cause a heap-based buffer overflow, which could lead to a denial-of-service condition or the execution of arbitrary code. The vulnerability (CVE-2012-0256) was reported to Apache by Codenomicon via CERT-FI and is rated as "Important." All 2.0.x versions as well as 3.0.x and 3.1.x up to and including 3.0.3 and 3.1.2 are affected. Upgrading to 3.0.4 fixes the problem. The developers also released an update, version 3.1.3, to the unstable development branch of ATS to fix the security problem and urged all users to upgrade as soon as possible.

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Apache-Traffic-Server-update-closes-important-security-hole-1479853.html

47. *March 23, The Register* – (International) **Survey scammers fling spam at Pinterest punters.** Cyber criminals have latched on the success of social networking site Pinterest by launching a variety of money-making scams. Just like Facebook before it, Pinterest has become a haven for survey scams. Would-be targets are invited to complete surveys under the pretext that they might win an iPad or obtain a discount voucher. In reality, they end up revealing personal information to unscrupulous marketing firms or signing up for mobile phone subscription services of dubious utility. In some cases, these scams are even used to distribute malware.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/23/pinterest_attracts_scammers/

For more stories, see items <u>8</u>, <u>11</u>, <u>15</u>, <u>31</u>, <u>35</u>, <u>37</u>, and <u>40</u>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: http://www.us-cert.gov

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

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Communications Sector

48. *March 26, Albany Times Union* – (New York) **Verizon FiOS customers frustrated by weekend TV outage.** Capital region customers of Verizon FiOS TV near Albany, New York, were frustrated the weekend of March 23 after many cable channels were knocked off the air. The issue was caused by a software problem at Verizon's Buffalo, New York hub that broadcasts TV signals to customers in the Syracuse area, and in the capital region, a Verizon spokesman said. The outage started March 23, but some customers were still without their channels as of March 26, except for some local ones like CBS. The spokesman said customers can get their TV back by rebooting their settop box, something a technical support rep. can do over the phone. He said he did not have data on the number of customers affected.

Source: http://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Verizon-FiOS-customers-frustrated-by-weekend-TV-3435117.php

For more stories, see items $\underline{44}$, $\underline{45}$, and $\underline{47}$

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *March 26*, *San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Concord Costco evacuated after gas leak.** A Costco warehouse store in Concord, California, was evacuated March 25 after a broken pipe led to a dangerous coolant leak. Employees found the leak at the back of the store when an alarm sounded. A Concord-based fire crew was shopping in the store at the time and helped evacuate employees and customers. The store reopened to employees about five and a half hours later.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_20255247/concord-costco-evacuated-after-gas-leak

50. *March* 26, *WTMJ* 620 *AM Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Little girl dead after north side Milwaukee fire.** A fire that broke out in a 12 unit apartment building in Milwaukee resulted in one death and two injured firefighters, March 26. Rescue crews took one firefighter to a hospital, while the other was treated at the scene. The father of the deceased also suffered minor burns. The fire was contained to one apartment in the building, but the entire building was evacuated and declared uninhabitable, displacing more than 20 residents.

Source: http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/144190915.html

- 51. *March 26, WHNS 21 Greenville* (South Carolina) **Churchgoers subdue gunman at Spartanburg church.** A man and his sister were accused of breaking into and pointing a shotgun at a church full of members March 25, in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Deputies said the man returned to the South Side Free Will Baptist Church, where he kicked in a door and entered the church armed with a shotgun before he was taken down by the pastor, the pastor's grandson, and two church members. Once deputies arrived he was taken into custody, along with his sister, and the two were transported to the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

 Source: http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/17251517/churchgoers-subdue-gunman-at-spartanburg-church
- 52. *March 26*, *Associated Press* (Ohio) **Fatal northwest Ohio fire destroys** apartments. A fire at a Holland, Ohio apartment building March 25, completely destroyed the 24-unit building. Residents of three units remained unaccounted for as of March 26, a fire chief said. One woman who jumped from the building's third floor was taken to a hospital. Another person was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation. The fire spread so quickly it looked suspicious, the Springfield Township fire chief said. But he said it was too early to say whether it was deliberately set or accidental. Three other fires since 2000 have destroyed at least one building at the complex. The apartments, built in the early 1970s, do not have firewalls or many safety features now

required at new multi-unit buildings.

Source: http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20120326/NEWS11/120329537

53. *March* 24, *Reuters* – (New York) **Police arrest 14 in two New York Occupy protests.** Fourteen protesters were arrested March 24 in separate Occupy Wall Street protests in New York City, one that involved an hours-long march through Manhattan streets and a second at the United Nations, authorities said. Several hundred protesters zig-zagged from Zuccotti Park in lower Manhattan where the anti-Wall Street Occupy movement was born in 2011 to Union Square Park. Police detained two demonstrators who lied down in the middle of a Manhattan street. Dozens of protesters lied down on sidewalks, or cut across busy intersections. Two men and two women were also arrested for trespassing during a protest at the United Nations. Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/25/us-occupy-newyork-

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/25/us-occupy-newyork-idUSBRE82O01I20120325

54. *March 23*, *WNCN 17 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **2 dead, 3 injured in Durham tire store shooting.** Two people were killed and three injured following a shooting at a Durham, North Carolina tire store March 23. The Durham County Sheriff's Office said that the suspect fired multiple shots then reportedly fled the scene driving a silver sedan. The store owner reported that he was pistolwhipped by the gunman after the assailant ran out of bullets.

Source: http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2012/mar/23/18/1-dead-4-injured-durham-tire-store-shooting-ar-2080872/

55. *March* 23, *WALB* 10 *Albany* – (Georgia) **Church floor collapse injures five.** A portion of the floor collapsed during a funeral in a small Randolph County, Georgia church March 23. Five people were taken to the hospital for treatment, but all were released with only minor injuries. Witnesses said about 300 people were inside the Virgil Chapel Baptist Church preparing for a funeral, when they heard a loud bang. The 144-year-old church building floor joists apparently broke under the weight. The floor fell about 10 feet, and about 10 pews sagged down into the hole, along with the people sitting on them. Attendees left the building quickly, because the part of the floor that collapsed was near a propane tank, but there was no leak.

Source: http://www.walb.com/story/17241400/church-floor-collapse-prompts-help-call

For more stories, see items 8 and 28

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

56. *March* 26, *WESH* 2 *Orlando* – (Florida) **Brush fire prompts evacuation in Orange Co.** A small but intense brush fire in east Orange County, Florida, prompted an evacuation of more than 50 homes March 26. Several Orange County Fire Department units were dispatched as arriving firefighters found the blaze burning close to homes. Firefighters protected the homes and prevented any of them from being damaged, but four vehicles and a shed were destroyed. There were no injuries. About 2 hours later,

firefighters and deputies allowed residents to return to their homes after extinguishing the fire that grew to approximately two acres. Large columns of smoke were visible for miles. An Orange County Fire Department spokeswoman said the cause of the fire was not yet known, and will be investigated by the Florida Forest Service.

Source: http://www.wesh.com/hometest/30757355/detail.html

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Dams Sector

57. March 26, DoÄ an News Agency— (International) Villages evacuated, two trapped after dam explosion in Turkey. Two workers were left trapped under rubble after an explosion tore through a water pumping station at Hancagız Dam in the southeastern province of Gaziantep, Turkey, March 26. There were no initial reports of damage to the dam itself, but officials evacuated surrounding villages in case of a possible collapse. The workers entered a 400-meter tunnel to open a main valve at a pumping station when an explosion shook the tunnel. A 1-ton generator at the pumping station was torn apart and the workers were trapped under the wreckage. Officials said the explosion happened 200 meters from the dam, and that cracks formed on pipes carrying waters to agricultural fields. There is a risk the cracks could become wide tears along the pipes, they added. The explosion was thought to have been caused by methane gas trapped in the tunnel.

Source: http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/villages-evacuated-two-trapped-after-dam-explosion-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nid=16893&NewsCatID=341

58. *March 24*, *Associated Press* – (Nebraska) **Nebraska wildlife area closed for levee repair.** The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission said work on a flood-control levee has closed the Hamburg Bend Wildlife Management area south of Nebraska City in Otoe County, the Associated Press reported March 24. The work is expected to take about 2 months.

 ${\bf Source:} \ \underline{http://washingtonexaminer.com/sports/2012/03/nebraska-wildlife-area-closed-levee-repair/402296}$

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