



Homeland  
Security

# Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

## 25 October 2012

### Top Stories

- A judge sentenced a former Costa Rican businessman to 60 years in prison October 23, for his \$485 million international insurance fraud and money laundering scheme. – *Associated Press* (See item [7](#))
- An Amtrak train carrying 174 passengers and 4 crew members that derailed at high speed near Niles, Michigan, after departing Chicago October 21, stopped only 21 feet before it would have collided with parked freight hopper cars, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said October 23. – *Chicago Tribune* (See item [15](#))
- Researchers warned that security flaws in airline boarding passes could allow would-be terrorists or smugglers to know in advance whether they will be subject to certain security measures, and perhaps even permit them to modify the designated measures, the *Washington Post* reported October 23. – *Washington Post* (See item [16](#))
- The drug-mixing pharmacy in Massachusetts linked to a deadly meningitis outbreak failed to sterilize its products the minimum required time, did not keep its manufacturing equipment sanitary, and operated a leaky boiler near the “clean room” where drugs were packaged, State officials said October 22. – *Wall Street Journal* (See item [22](#))

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## Energy Sector

1. *October 23, Associated Press* – (California) **LA electric explosion gives woman minor injuries.** Officials in Los Angeles said a woman was injured as an underground explosion blew open the lids off two electrical vaults in the San Fernando Valley. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) said crews were testing a failed underground cable that blew October 23 and caused two manhole covers to fly off, injuring a woman who was driving by. The city fire department said in a statement that the woman was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. The DWP said there were no power outages, and crews kept working to repair the broken line.  
Source: <http://www.khsltv.com/news/state/story/LA-electric-explosion-gives-woman-minor-injuries/yaYUjm3C4kKJqmtVou80PQ.csp>

For another story, see item [39](#)

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## Chemical Industry Sector

2. *October 24, KTRE 9 Pollock* – (Texas) **Lufkin man fined 50K for disposing of hazardous waste without a permit.** A 49-year-old Lufkin, Texas man was sentenced for disposing of hazardous wastes without a permit in the Eastern District of Texas, a U.S. Attorney announced October 24. The man was also sentenced to 5 years probation with 6 months of home confinement. The defendant was the former owner and president of H.O.T. Transport, Inc. (HOT), a chemical transportation business which offered commercial transportation of industrial liquids. He must also hire an independent environmental engineering firm within 4 weeks to determine the full extent of soil contamination at HOT's former business site. The defendant must also spend up to \$250,000 towards the costs of cleaning up any contamination left at the site.

Source: <http://www.kltv.com/story/19901871/lufkin-man-fined-50k-for-disposing-of-hazardous-waste-without-a-permit>

3. *October 23, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Maryland) **U.S. Navy settles hazardous waste violations at its Patuxent River Naval Air Station.** The U.S. Navy agreed to pay a \$38,500 penalty to settle alleged hazardous waste violations at the Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, Maryland. Following an Environmental Protection Agency inspection, the Navy was cited for allegedly failing to: determine whether waste was hazardous, maintain aisle space for the movement of personnel and fire protection equipment, conduct weekly inspections of waste containers for leaks and deterioration, mark each container with a date and whether it contained hazardous waste, keep hazardous waste containers closed during storage, and failing to properly maintain leak detection and spill prevention equipment on underground storage tanks. The violations were found in 11 buildings.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/ea18074afcca14ff85257aa00073288f!OpenDocument>

For another story, see item [14](#)

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

4. *October 24, Richmond Times Dispatch* – (Virginia) **Dominion investigates shutdown of North Anna nuclear reactor.** Dominion Virginia Power is investigating what caused one of the two nuclear reactors at its North Anna power station in Louisa County, Virginia, to automatically shut down October 24. The shutdown came less than a week after the unit had been restarted following repairs. A preliminary report filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Unit 2 tripped automatically. “The unit is in a normal post-trip electrical configuration. All systems functioned as required,” the NRC report said. The commission’s report, filed one hour after the event, said Richmond-based Dominion was focusing on turbine intercept valves or reheat valves that malfunctioned “for reasons unknown at this time.” North Anna’s Unit 1 was unaffected by the automatic Unit 2 shutdown and continued to operate at full power, the NRC said.

Source: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2012/oct/24/12/dominion-investigates-unexplained-shutdown-north-a-ar-2307925/>

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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

5. *October 24, Plymouth Patch* – (Minnesota) **California man faces new charges in credit card-skimming scheme.** A California man arrested in Plymouth, Minnesota, in July and charged with masterminding a sophisticated identity theft scheme using credit card skimming devices in the Twin Cities is facing three more charges in connection with the scheme, the Plymouth Patch reported October 24. Plymouth police arrested the man and his wife July 6 for speeding. A search of their rental car turned up a list of 100 Twin Cities' gas stations, along with a computer file on how to repair a gasoline pump, a magnetic card reader, many new credit cards in both their names, numerous blank credit cards, a cordless drill, and a computer. When police visited one of the gas stations on the list they found that credit card-skimming devices were installed on six of the eight gas pumps. Earlier, the owner of another gas station contacted police and reported that credit-card skimmers were installed on two gas pumps. Officers were able to match DNA on the devices to the husband. Officers obtained a search warrant in September to conduct a forensic review of the credit-card skimmers and found more than 100 names and credit-card information was acquired. Prior to the Minnesota cases, the husband was previously arrested in May in Glendale, California, and charged with identity theft. Police found about 40 handwritten Social Security numbers and electronic storage devices containing more Social Security numbers and fraudulent credit cards in different names in his possession in that case, according to a complaint. Source: <http://plymouth-mn.patch.com/articles/california-man-faces-new-charges-in-credit-card-skimming-scheme>
6. *October 24, Reuters* – (National) **Barnes & Noble reports breach of U.S. customer credit card data.** Retailer Barnes & Noble said customers who shopped at 63 of its stores as recently as September may have had their credit card information stolen, and that federal law enforcement authorities have been informed of the breach, Reuters reported October 24. All PIN pads at its 700 stores were disconnected by the close of business September 14 due to signs of tampering on some of the units, the company said in a statement. Stores in California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island were affected, Barnes & Noble said. The company advised those who have swiped their cards at stores in the affected states to change their debit-card PIN numbers as a precaution, and to review their statements for unauthorized transactions. Still, the company said its customer database was secure, and that purchases made on the Barnes & Noble Web site, Nook e-reader, and Nook mobile apps were not affected. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/24/us-barnesnoble-breach-idUSBRE89N05L20121024>

7. *October 23, Associated Press* – (Virginia; International) **Former Costa Rican businessman convicted in \$485M fraud scheme sentenced in Va. to 60 years.** A judge sentenced a former Costa Rican businessman and professional soccer team owner to 60 years in prison October 23, for his \$485 million insurance fraud scheme. The man, the president of Provident Capital Indemnity Ltd, was convicted in April on 10 fraud and money laundering counts in a scam prosecutors said claimed thousands of victims worldwide. Provident sold bonds guaranteeing funding for life settlement firms. The bonds were sold based on fraudulent financial statements and were not protected by reinsurance agreements with major companies, as the man had claimed. As a result, many investors lost their life savings. The 60-year sentence equals the term given to a Spring, Texas man who worked for a life settlement company called A&O that did business with Provident. Another A&O principal was sentenced to 45 years, and five other conspirators have received shorter sentences. An accountant convicted of conducting a phony audit for Provident will be sentenced in November. The Provident and A&O cases were brought in Virginia because that was where some of the victims and transactions were located.  
Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/former-costa-rican-businessman-convicted-in-485m-fraud-scheme-sentenced-in-va-to-60-years/2012/10/23/1b8dc908-1d52-11e2-8817-41b9a7aaabc7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/former-costa-rican-businessman-convicted-in-485m-fraud-scheme-sentenced-in-va-to-60-years/2012/10/23/1b8dc908-1d52-11e2-8817-41b9a7aaabc7_story.html)
8. *October 23, WTOP 103.5 FM Washington D.C.* – (District of Columbia; Maryland; Virginia) **D.C. tax employee accused of filing millions in fraudulent returns.** An employee at the Washington D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue is facing charges for helping to file hundreds of bogus federal and local tax returns that, together with co-conspirators, netted about \$14 million in fraudulent tax refunds, WTOP 103.5 FM Washington D.C. reported October 23. Prosecutors charge that the employee and at least two co-conspirators filed more than 900 federal tax returns and nearly 300 D.C. tax returns that were fraudulent. Prosecutors have not determined the number of false returns filed in Maryland and Virginia, but acknowledge some were filed there as well. A filing by the U.S. Attorney's Office said the employee — a control technician at the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) — also worked at 2FT Fast Facts Tax Service, a tax preparation company that was the subject of a federal investigation. The court records indicated the employee would use her position in the OTR to monitor the audit status of her clients' tax returns and to help those clients file bogus tax returns. According to prosecutors, the employee and her co-conspirators would reduce their clients' taxable income by claiming bogus deductions for charitable contributions and work-related expenses.  
Source: <http://www.wtop.com/109/3089836/DC-tax-employee-accused-of-filing-millions-in-fraudulent-returns>
9. *October 23, U.S. Federal Trade Commission* – (International) **U.S. defendants who allegedly abetted fake debt collector calls from India agree to settle FTC charges.** A man who worked with bogus debt collectors in India agreed to settle U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charges that he and his companies deceived and threatened consumers into paying debts that were not owed or that the defendants were not authorized to collect totaling \$5.4 million, according to a October 23 FTC release. The settlement bars the man, American Credit Crunchers, LLC, and Ebeezee, LLC, from

debt collection, and prohibits them from misrepresenting that they are affiliated with the government or a non-profit group, buying any good or service, any aspects of the good or service, and their refund policy. The FTC's February 2012 complaint alleged that the callers who worked with the defendants would contact consumers who previously received or inquired about online payday loans. Often pretending to be law enforcement or other government authorities, the callers would falsely threaten to immediately arrest and jail consumers if they did not agree to make a payment on a supposedly delinquent payday loan. The FTC alleged that information submitted by consumers who had applied online for these loans found its way into the hands of the defendants, who used it to convince consumers that they owed them money. The FTC charged the defendants with violating the FTC Act and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2012/10/americancredit.shtm>

10. *October 23, Riverside Press-Enterprise* – (California) **'Desperate Bandit' linked to bank robbery.** A man who robbed a Temecula, California bank October 15, is believed to be the "Desperate Bandit," who is suspected in seven other bank robberies, including one in Corona, authorities said October 23. Riverside County sheriff's officials said the man went into a Pacific Trust Bank carrying a black briefcase. He gave a teller a note that said he had a weapon and demanded cash. The string of robberies appears to have begun August 8, at a US Bank branch in Chino, FBI officials said. The man is also suspected of robbing a Bank of America branch in Corona on September 15, and robbing banks in Anaheim, Fullerton, La Habra, Placentia, and Tustin.

Source: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/temecula/temecula-headlines-index/20121023-temecula-desperate-bandit-linked-to-bank-robbery.ece>

11. *October 23, USA Today* – (Pennsylvania) **FBI: Phila. baggage worker stole \$20K in new \$100 bills.** The FBI arrested a US Airways baggage handler at Philadelphia International Airport October 23, for allegedly stealing \$20,000 worth of redesigned \$100 bills not yet in circulation. The man admitted swiping the currency after a polygraph, an FBI agent said in an affidavit. He then led agents to the new bills, which he had stashed in his wife's car. The FBI said the money was stolen October 11, from a \$3.2 million shipment of new, security-enhanced bills being transferred from Dallas to the Federal Reserve in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The FBI said the man was the only handler who had access to the money.

Source:

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/usatoday/article/1653415?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|News|s>

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## **Transportation Sector**

12. *October 24, NBC News* – (Michigan) **Investigators link Michigan highway shootings.** Shell casings found in Perry, Michigan, may represent the first big break in the case of mysterious shootings at vehicles on roadways near Interstate 96, NBC News

reported October 24. Twenty-two shootings were reported as of October 22. Ten were reported in Wixom, 10 more in Ingham County, Oakland County, Livingston County, and two in Perry and Shiawassee County. No one was injured in the shootings. Police were sitting at highway off ramps to deter the shooter and provide help if another shooting occurs. Federal investigators were also involved. School recesses were canceled for Wixom's elementary and middle schools.

Source: <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/national/article/219695/44/Investigators-link-Michigan-highway-shootings>

13. *October 24, WSVN 7 Fort Lauderdale* – (Florida) **Driver plows into bus stop, 1 dead.** A south Florida woman died and two other women were in critical condition after a driver crashed into a bus stop. The accident happened October 23 near Northwest 199th Street and Second Avenue in Miami-Dade County. A total of six people were injured in the crash. Three others who were struck by the car were recovering. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue arrived on scene quickly with both its air rescue units. According to Miami Gardens Police, the driver of a white car was traveling at a high rate of speed on 199th Street when he hit a black vehicle. The impact sent the white car careening into a bus stop in front of a CVS. One person died at the hospital, while another remained in critical condition. Two juveniles were also injured in the crash while another person was treated and released. As of October 24, three people remained at a hospital in critical condition, and two were released.  
Source: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21008872318926/driver-plows-into-bus-stop-1-dead/>
14. *October 24, Easton Express-Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Route 22 shut in both directions in Easton after chemical spill.** Authorities closed Route 22 in both directions after a chemical spill October 24 in Easton, Pennsylvania, according to emergency officials. There was a long trail from a spill traced to a blue barrel on the westbound side of the highway and a distinct chemical odor, akin to that of chlorine, emergency radio reports indicated. Authorities labeled it a hazardous materials incident.  
Source:  
[http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/easton/index.ssf/2012/10/route\\_22\\_shut\\_in\\_both\\_directions.html](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/easton/index.ssf/2012/10/route_22_shut_in_both_directions.html)
15. *October 23, Chicago Tribune* – (Michigan) **NTSB: Chicago-Michigan Amtrak missed freight cars by 21 feet.** An Amtrak train carrying 174 passengers and 4 crew members that derailed at high speed near Niles, Michigan, after departing Chicago October 21 stopped only 21 feet before it would have collided with parked freight hopper cars, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said October 23. Moments before the accident, which injured nine passengers, the train traveled over a misaligned track switch that diverted it into a rail yard, investigators said. The misaligned, or reversed, track switch sent the train into the rail yard instead of continuing on the main track it was on, the investigation determined. The reversed track switch would appear to indicate human error on the part of Amtrak. A derailing device had been installed between the yard track and the main track as a protective measure to derail any cars that might accidentally roll out of the yard before they could reach the main track, officials said. The Amtrak train dislodged the derailing device, but the train

did not derail at that point, investigators found. The train continued on the yard track and derailed about 290 feet beyond the reversed switch, stopping with all cars upright, officials said. The Amtrak locomotive was a so-called “smart train,” equipped with a safety system called Incremental Train Control System that is designed to detect problems involving track switches, signals, and railroad crossing warning devices. The cause of the derailment was still under investigation.

Source: [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-10-23/news/chi-ntsb-chicagomichigan-amtrak-missed-hitting-freight-car-by-21-feet-20121023\\_1\\_marc-magliari-amtrak-trains-track-switch](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-10-23/news/chi-ntsb-chicagomichigan-amtrak-missed-hitting-freight-car-by-21-feet-20121023_1_marc-magliari-amtrak-trains-track-switch)

16. *October 23, Washington Post* – (National) **Experts warn about security flaws in airline boarding passes.** Researchers warned that security flaws in airline boarding passes could allow would-be terrorists or smugglers to know in advance whether they will be subject to certain security measures, and perhaps even permit them to modify the designated measures, the Washington Post reported October 23. The vulnerabilities center on the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) pre-screening system, a paid-for program in which the screening process is expedited for travelers at the airport: Under the program, passengers can still be subject at random to conventional security screening. Flight enthusiasts, however, recently discovered that the bar codes printed on all boarding passes — which travelers can obtain up to 24 hours before arriving at the airport — contain information on which security screening a passenger is set to receive. Simply by using a smartphone or similar device to check the bar code, travelers could determine whether they would pass through full security screening, or the expedited process. The findings highlight serious vulnerabilities in the current TSA security systems, according to a security expert.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/experts-warn-about-security-flaws-in-airline-boarding-passes/2012/10/23/ed408c80-1d3c-11e2-b647-bb1668e64058\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/experts-warn-about-security-flaws-in-airline-boarding-passes/2012/10/23/ed408c80-1d3c-11e2-b647-bb1668e64058_story.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *October 24, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Mail theft suspects from Hercules and Vallejo arrested in Marin County.** Two suspects were arrested October 23 in an area of Novato, California, that has been plagued by mail thefts, a sheriff’s investigator said. They were booked into Marin County Jail on suspicion of possessing stolen property, possessing burglary tools, and conspiracy. The suspects were arrested where deputies were on increased patrols because of a crime spree in the area. The sheriff’s department has received reports of 10 mail thefts and 2 residential burglaries in the neighborhood in recent weeks.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_21843902/mail-theft-suspects-from-hercules-and-vallejo-arrested](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_21843902/mail-theft-suspects-from-hercules-and-vallejo-arrested)

18. *October 24, San Juan Islander* – (Washington) **Mail theft alert.** Sheriff’s deputies on San Juan Island, Washington, have responded to a handful of recent mail thefts from clusters of rural mailboxes, the San Juan Islander reported October 24. The cases came

to light when a significant amount of mail was discarded, typically as litter in isolated locations. Often, the victims were not even aware that they are missing mail. In the cases reported, there were multiple victims clustered in a particular area. Deputies were working with the Post Office towards resolving the crimes.

Source: <http://www.sanjuanislander.com/island-newshome/more/san-juan-county-sheriff/5763-mail-theft-alert->

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

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## **Water Sector**

19. *October 24, New Bedford Standard-Times* – (Massachusetts) **Sewage blockage causes week-long shellfishing ban.** Raw sewage that flowed into Bedford Harbor in Massachusetts October 22 prompted State officials to place a 1-week shellfishing ban on the outer harbor and to recall any shellfish caught there October 22. The ban, caused by a blockage in the New Bedford sewer system, only affects shellfish and extends to outer harbor areas of Fairhaven and New Bedford, according to a Department of Marine Fisheries spokesman. It does not affect Clarks Cove in New Bedford, but does affect shore areas of Sconticut Neck and West Island in Fairhaven. State officials would test the water quality of the harbor to determine whether the ban can be lifted. The New Bedford Superintendent of Water said the blockage consisted of soda bottles, oil, and grease. It was discovered after Department of Public Infrastructure workers noticed sewage discharging into the harbor from a combined sewer overflow pipe. The pipe was unblocked October 22, but it was unclear when sewage began flowing into the harbor.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121024/NEWS/210240343/1018/OPINION>

20. *October 23, Prescott Daily Courier* – (Arizona) **35.3M wastewater plant expansion approved: Sewage has become 3 times more concentrated in recent years.** A wastewater treatment plant project in Prescott, Arizona, will begin later in October and will continue for much of the next 2 years. In a vote October 23, the Prescott City Council approved a \$35.3 million contract with PCL Construction/Fann Environmental for the expansion and improvement of the wastewater treatment plant located near the Prescott Airport. The project, which should be complete by fall 2014, will increase the capacity of the plant from its current 1.2-million-gallon-per-day capacity to 3.75 million gallons per day. In recent years, the sewage going into the plant has become about three times more concentrated. The engineering services director attributed that to a number of factors, including less water use by city residents because of conservation efforts, and more widespread use of garbage disposals. The concentration

of the material going in has made the city's plants less effective, and has reduced the daily capacity, city officials said. While the city memo for the meeting the week of October 22 listed the contract cost at \$35,287,006, information at the meeting listed the entire project cost at \$42,607,324.

Source:

<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=112189>

21. *October 23, KRCG 13 New Bloomfield* – (Missouri) **Water main break impacts Jefferson City customers.** An old water main broke in Jefferson City, Missouri, KRCG 13 New Bloomfield reported October 23. While Missouri American Water Company officials worked on the problem, water customers were placed under a boil advisory. The water shortage was a major inconvenience for thousands of people in Jefferson City. Authorities worried about health care facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. The water main break forced the early closure of schools. Cole County Sheriff's Deputies scrambled to get drinking water for inmates. Dozens of fast food restaurants on Missouri Boulevard closed. The broken water line impacts every Missouri American Water Company customer in Jefferson City.

Source:

<http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=816556#.UIfnlq7kGok>

For another story, see item [25](#)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

22. *October 23, Wall Street Journal* – (Massachusetts) **State: Pharmacy ignored safety rules.** The drug-mixing pharmacy in Massachusetts linked to a deadly meningitis outbreak failed to sterilize its products the minimum required time, did not keep its manufacturing equipment sanitary, and operated a leaky boiler near the “clean room” where drugs were packaged, State officials said October 22. On 13 occasions, New England Compounding Center (NECC) shipped products from two now-recalled batches of the steroid linked to the outbreak before receiving a report from an outside lab that tested them for safety, violating industry-backed guidelines the company said it followed, Massachusetts health officials said. Some medicines were sent 11 days before receiving a report. In addition, NECC did not test its manufacturing equipment, such as a machine used to sterilize its injectable drugs, as regularly as industry standards call for. October 2, officials found “visible particulate black matter” in several vials of the drug that had been recalled, which later were confirmed by the Food and Drug Administration to be a fungal contaminant. The findings were preliminary results from an investigation by State and federal health officials into the nationwide outbreak, which has sickened 304 people, killing 23. The State has taken the first step towards permanently revoking the license of the pharmacy and its three principal pharmacists. Investigators have not yet pinpointed what contaminated the vials of steroid injections. Still under investigation is the presence of a recycling center in the same building complex as the pharmacy and a boiler that was leaking in the room next to the laboratory where medicines were made. The leaking water “created an environment in

which contaminations could have occurred,” a health official said. The findings underscore the gray area of regulation that NECC and other compounding pharmacies occupy. The company was covered by rules intended for small pharmacies, while operating more like a traditional drug maker, with significant manufacturing and interstate distribution, officials said.

Source:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203406404578075092760806164.html?KEYWORDS=pharmacy>

23. *October 23, Knoxville News-Sentinel* – (National) **Providers angry, patients worried as FDA yanks ‘incorrect’ list of facilities receiving recalled meds.** October 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removed a 28-page list of more than 1,200 facilities nationwide that it said received potentially dangerous injectable steroid from New England Compounding Center (NECC) from its Web site after it had “found some technical problems with the list and the data are incorrect.” Tennessee Department of Health sent out a list of 74 facilities that the FDA said had received products from the company. A Tennessee Department of Health spokesman issued a follow-up release saying it now appears the information the State got from the FDA was incorrect. He called the mistake, which resulted in worried patients bombarding providers, “very frustrating.” He believed NECC supplied the list the FDA released. A business manager for Dermatology Associates in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which was on the list, said her office was swamped by patients calling and, if they could not get through on the phone, walking in, worried they were at risk. The “false information” the FDA provided “has really messed up our work,” she said. The NECC recalled all its products after an outbreak of fungal meningitis was traced to a contaminated injectable steroid. Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/oct/23/providers-angry-patients-worried-as-fda-yanks-of/>

For another story, see item [21](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

24. *October 24, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Shot fired at entrance to Walter Reed.** A woman was in custody October 23, after police said she crashed her car into another vehicle, then tried to ram into a security officer, in a confrontation outside the entrance of Walter Reed hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. The civilian security officer fired a shot at the woman’s car, but she was not injured, police said. The woman drove away after the shot was fired and crashed her car into a nearby construction zone, where she was taken into custody, police said. The officer suffered minor injuries, apparently when he used his baton to smash out a window in the woman’s car. Before the crash at the hospital, police in nearby Virginia doing radar enforcement clocked the woman’s car traveling 93 mph. Police alerted officials in Maryland to the speeding car, which made a U-turn in front of the security gate at Walter Reed. Officers who approached the car also said they observed the woman “biting or attempting to eat a bar of soap,” said a Montgomery County police spokesman. But officers were not able to stop or

engage her before she crashed into another car and headed back onto the street. Police said the woman then drove back toward the hospital entrance and refused to roll down her window as an officer approached her car. The officer used his baton to break the rear driver's side window, at which point the woman backed up and rammed her car into a marked cruiser, then across the grass and into the sidewalk. She then directed her car toward another officer, who shot once at the car, police said.

Source: [http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/region/shot-fired-at-md-base-that-includes-walter-reed/article\\_dc5fb5f5-1823-5089-a62e-ec762e8986f9.html](http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/region/shot-fired-at-md-base-that-includes-walter-reed/article_dc5fb5f5-1823-5089-a62e-ec762e8986f9.html)

25. *October 23, Hudson Hub Times* – (Ohio) **Hudson High School, Ellsworth Hill back in session Wednesday; district will take precautions.** Drinking fountains at Hudson High School and Ellsworth Hill in Ohio would be off limits when students return to classrooms October 24 following October 23's water main break that closed the two schools. Akron Water issued a 48-hour boil alert October 23 following the water main break, which disrupted water service for many Akron Water customers in north Hudson, including Hudson High School and Ellsworth Hill. The district sent students home from those schools because they did not have water. School was scheduled to resume at the two buildings October 24. Students at the two schools will not be allowed to drink from drinking fountains until Akron Water lifts the boil alert. The boil alert will continue until October 25 at the earliest. In addition to the drinking fountain ban, hot lunches would be prepared "using precautionary measures including the boiling of water," according to the district. Hand sanitizer and distilled water will be available to students, and students can bring their own bottled water and hand sanitizer, the district reported. "We anticipate the water situation will be resolved by October 26, if not before," the district reported.

Source: <http://www.hudsonhubtimes.com/news/article/5224107>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

26. *October 24, Monroe Sky Valley Chronicle* – (Washington) **Cut cable leads to 911 service problems in Monroe area.** Monroe, Washington, was hit with a 9-1-1 outage October 23 caused by an accidentally cut cable. Monroe police and fire officials received reports of a cut fiber optical cable at a construction site impacting phone service in the area. The cut cable impacted both land lines and cell phone service and thus some people's ability to call 9-1-1. The early reports on the outage indicated Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile phone networks were functioning properly, however AT&T Wireless and Sprint/Nextel were not. The city of Monroe activated its emergency operations center as a precautionary measure. A city issued advisory on the outage asked people not to call 9-1-1 unless they had an emergency. The city of Monroe sent out an emergency notice which stated Frontier Communication's land lines were expected to be disabled until October 24.

Source: <http://www.skyvalleychronicle.com/BREAKING-NEWS/CUT-CABLE-LEADS-TO-911-SERVICE-PROBLEMS-IN-MONROE-AREA-1155012>

For more stories, see items [21](#) and [31](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

27. *October 24, The Register* – (International) **Hackers get 10 months to pwn victims with 0-days before world+dog finds out.** Hackers exploit security vulnerabilities in software for 10 months on average before details of the holes surface in public, according to a new study. Researchers from Symantec believe that these zero-day attacks, so called because they are launched well before vendors are even aware of the vulnerabilities, are more prevalent and more potent than previously thought. Zero-day exploits are often closely guarded secrets and can be very valuable to criminals — but once details of the exploited flaws emerge in public, developers and system administrators can get to work to mitigate or halt the attacks. However, this also reveals to everyone else that these holes exist in systems. Two researchers from Symantec Research Labs identified 18 zero-day attacks between 2008 and 2011, and 11 of them were previously undetected. “A typical zero-day attack lasts 312 days on average and that, after vulnerabilities are disclosed publicly, the volume of attacks exploiting them increases by up to five orders of magnitude,” the researchers noted.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/10/24/zero\\_day\\_study/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/10/24/zero_day_study/)
  
28. *October 24, Softpedia* – (International) **The FBI warns of dating extortion scams and payday loan schemes.** The FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) issued an alert to warn Internet users about the new twists added by scammers to previously existing scams. The advisory comes after the agency received a large number of complaints from victims. The first type of improved scam detailed in the advisory refers to “dating extortion.” In these plots, the criminals select their victims on online dating Web sites. After gaining their trust, the fraudsters attempt to convince users to take part in sexual conversations. Soon afterwards, the victims receive a text message with a link to a Web site that contains their names, phone numbers, photographs, and the adult-themed conversations they had with the con artist. These “cheater” Web sites offer customers the chance to purchase the conversations for \$9. The information can also be removed from the site for \$99. However, according to the victims’ reports, the information was not removed from the Web sites even after the money was paid. Payday loan schemes are also highly common, but the “improved” variants do not just involve harassing phone calls, but also home visits from the so-called debt collectors. In these scams, victims are harassed in myriad ways about an alleged loan which they must repay. Although many of the targets of these plots never applied for payday loans, the con artists keep threatening them until they submit.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/The-FBI-Warns-of-Dating-Extortion-Scams-and-Payday-Loan-Schemes-301859.shtml>
  
29. *October 24, Infosecurity* – (International) **Sony PS3 hacked again.** Sony’s policy of maintaining control over what software can run on its PS3 console has been undermined — some suggest permanently — by the release of the PS3 LVO decryption keys. The PS3 has been hacked before, notably by a hacking group called fail0verflow

which discovered the ECDSA cryptographic key used by the console to authorize high-level operations. This allowed users to run any code, rather than just Sony-allowed code. Sony responded with the release of the 3.60 firmware, which plugged most known security holes. Now, a group called the Three Muskateers has leaked the LVO decryption keys. According to Eurogamer, “the reveal of the LVO key basically means that any system update released by Sony going forward can be decrypted with little or no effort whatsoever.”

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/28956/sony-ps3-hacked-again/>

30. *October 24, Help Net Security* – (International) **Weak crypto allowed spoofing emails from Google, PayPal domains.** A mathematician discovered that Google and many other big Internet companies use weak cryptographic keys for certifying the emails sent from their corporate domains — a weakness that can easily be exploited by spammers and phishers to deliver emails that look like they were sent by the companies in question. According to Wired, he discovered the flaw after receiving an email from a Google job recruiter. Doubting its authenticity, he checked the email’s header information, and it seemed legitimate. However, he also noticed the DomainKeys Identified Mail key the company uses for the google.com emails was only 512 bits long and, therefore, crackable within days with the help of cloud computing. Believing this to be a recruiting test, he decided to crack the key and use it send emails to Google’s two founders from themselves. After receiving no reply at first, he decided to re-check Google’s cryptographic key. He discovered it changed to the standard length, leading him to conclude Google was unaware of this vulnerability until they received his emails. The mathematician then examined whether other popular firms, online services, and social networks were vulnerable to the same attack. He discovered that PayPal, eBay, Apple, Amazon, Twitter, and many other companies — including several banks — were using 384 bits, 512 bits, or 768 bits keys.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=13833>

For another story, see item [16](#)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto: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

31. *October 24, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Authorities report phone problems around Michigan.** Authorities in Michigan reported scattered problems with phone service around the State. Officials in Oakland County, which includes Detroit’s northern suburbs, said government offices had trouble October 24 with incoming and outgoing phone calls because of a problem with its carrier’s network. Calls still were

going through to a switchboard and toll-free lines. In west Michigan, police in the Grand Rapids suburb of Wyoming reported problems with incoming and outgoing calls. MLive.com reported 9-1-1 service was working. AnnArbor.com reported non-emergency phone service at City of Ann Arbor offices was down October 24. Employees could not make or receive calls. Non-emergency service was affected at a Washtenaw County dispatch center, which handles dispatching for Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and Ypsilanti. Phone problems also were reported in Midland and St. Clair counties.

Source: [http://wwmt.com/template/inews\\_wire/wires.regional.mi/3e4bbd56-www.wwmt.com.shtml](http://wwmt.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.mi/3e4bbd56-www.wwmt.com.shtml)

For another story, see item [26](#)

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *October 24, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Ex-megachurch employee sought in fatal shooting.** Police said the man suspected in a fatal shooting at a College Park, Georgia megachurch was a former church employee. October 24, authorities searched for the suspect and considered him armed and dangerous. A Fulton County Police spokesman said he calmly walked into the chapel of World Changers Church International before a morning service, opened fire, and then left “as calmly as he came.” The victim was described as a church volunteer who was leading a prayer. Police said the church’s founder and leader was not injured. The church leader and founder is a prominent preacher based around Atlanta, with a ministry of satellite churches across the United States.  
Source: <http://www.wtvm.com/story/19902996/gunman-kills-1-in-chapel-of-ga-megachurch>
33. *October 24, Associated Press* – (California) **2 dead in suburban LA shootings.** At least two people were killed in a shooting in Downey, California, October 24. A Downey Fire Department spokesman said he was unsure whether the shooting occurred at a business or at a nearby home, but two locations may be involved. Television news helicopters showed crime scenes at a business and on a block of nearby homes. Downey is about 20 miles southeast of Los Angeles.  
Source: <http://www.keyc.tv/story/19905024/2-dead-in-suburban-la-shootings>
34. *October 23, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **4 tornadoes confirmed in valley.** Four of the funnel clouds that swirled over the northern Sacramento Valley in California October 22 were tornadoes, the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed. The first touched down at Mallard Lake Golf Course. The NWS classified it as an EF1 tornado with wind speeds up to 100 mph. The golf course and buildings were damaged. There was an E0 tornado in the Browns Valley/Palermo/Bangor area in a rice field. Winds were an estimated 70-80 mph and the twister traveled about 100 feet, according to the NWS. A NWS meteorologist said a third twister was confirmed in Elk Grove and it traveled about 1 mile in a northeasterly direction, with winds of 90-100 mph, making

it an EF1 event. According to Elk Grove police and city officials and the Cosumnes Fire District, there were 52 homes and 1 commercial building damaged as well as several vehicles in the Clarke Farms area. The meteorologist said they determined a fourth EF1 tornado struck in Nevada County. Tree trunks were snapped and power lines were blown down.

Source: <http://elkgrove.news10.net/news/news/106336-4-tornadoes-confirmed-valley>

35. *October 23, WCNC 36 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Fire damages south Charlotte office building.** A fire damaged an office building October 23 in south Charlotte, North Carolina. Crews briefly shutdown portions of Pineville-Matthews Road to fight the fire, but the road was later re-opened. The fire seemed to be confined to the center of the building. The structure suffered smoke and water damage. Investigators said the fire started due to an electrical issue in the middle of the building. The estimated damage to the building was at \$500,000, according to officials. The owners of the building were on scene and said they notified the tenants about the fire. Some of those tenants included a dentist, attorney, and counselor.

Source: <http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/South-Charlotte-road-reopened-after-business-fire-175374431.html>

36. *October 23, Stoughton Patch* – (Massachusetts) **State HAZMAT team called to investigate strange odor at Stoughton business.** The Stoughton Fire Department, Stoughton Police Department, and crews from the Massachusetts' HAZMAT team were at a Stoughton, Massachusetts business October 23 to investigate a Level 2 hazardous materials situation, trying to identify a strange odor detected at unit A in the building. The Stoughton Fire Department received the call for an odor detected at Honorcraft Inc., the Stoughton fire chief said. The scene was not cleared until about 6 hours later, the chief said. Crews were not entirely sure of what caused the odor, but unit A was ventilated and cleared for occupancy. The chief reported the first responders' eyes watered slightly and they also smelled something that was not a normal odor for the environment. The State HAZMAT team was called to respond to the scene. Initially a Level 1 response, the incident was raised to Level 2, which required additional responders from the HAZMAT team, when the odor could not be identified without the use of special exposure suits. There were no reported injuries or medical emergencies, and no one was transported to the hospital as a result of the incident. The entire building was evacuated as a precaution, but the other businesses, located in units B-J, were allowed to re-enter about 4 hours after the emergency call.

Source: <http://stoughton.patch.com/articles/state-hazmat-team-investigating-strange-odor-at-stoughton-business>

37. *October 23, Biloxi-Gulfport Sun Herald* – (Mississippi) **ATF: Ocean Springs hotel fire intentionally set.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and related investigating agencies determined a fire that damaged the Howard Johnson Inn in the St. Martin community of Mississippi October 17 was intentionally set. The resident agent in charge of ATF's Gulfport office announced the decision October 23. He said damage at the 30,000-square-foot building was estimated at \$4 million. No details were released on a possible suspect, but he said the investigation of the fire has been ongoing with help from the Mississippi State Fire Marshals' Office

and fire officials in Jackson County, including the Bayou Volunteer Fire Department. Also assisting are the District Attorney's Office and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/2012/10/23/4261433/atf-ocean-springs-hotel-fire-intentionally.html>

38. *October 23, Vandenberg Air Force Base* – (California) **Man dies after suspected shark attack at Surf Beach.** A man was fatally injured October 23 while surfing at Surf Beach near Los Angeles. A Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Santa Maria Station spokesperson said the fatal injury appeared to be a shark bite and the surf board had visible signs of bite marks. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office contacted a shark bite expert to confirm the injury. The 9-1-1 call was placed by a friend of the injured surfer during the incident, which occurred in the waters off of Surf Beach. The injured man's friend was performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when the Vandenberg Fire Department arrived and took over CPR. Santa Barbara County first responders arrived soon after and took over lifesaving actions. The individual was pronounced dead on-scene by the Santa Barbara County sheriff's coroner. Surf Beach was closed until further notice and officials at Vandenberg Air Force Base requested the public avoid the area due to safety considerations. Santa Barbara County and Vandenberg officials will work together to reopen the beach once the investigation is completed.

Source: <http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123323469>

39. *October 23, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Electrical fire prompts evacuation in Norristown.** A transformer fire sparked by an electrical accident October 23 in Norristown, Pennsylvania, spread to a Dunkin' Donuts and prompted evacuations in the area. When Norristown firefighter crews arrived on the scene, they found smoke coming up from the sidewalk. PECO said contractors were doing some improvement work when a worker digging hit a wire that caused a short and sparked a fire. Sparks went all the way around the corner to a Dunkin' Donuts, causing a fire to break out on the inside and outside of the building. A worker was burned and taken to a hospital for treatment. There were no other injuries reported. The faulty wires caused a carbon monoxide leak to send gas into several of the businesses, which forced evacuations along the street. Crews were able to contain the leak and PECO shut off the electricity to the businesses so they could start repairing the underground wires. Officials said the street would be closed October 23 and probably part of October 24.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8856660>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

40. *October 24, Sangre de Cristo Chronicle* – (New Mexico) **Red River-area wildfire grows to 323 acres.** A wildfire that started October 23 about 5 miles north of Red River, New Mexico, has grown to 323 acres in size, New Mexico's Carson National

Forest reported October 24. The Midnight Fire was reported on Carson's Questa Ranger District, a report from the Forest Service stated. It was located in the Midnight Meadow area south of Ortiz Peak. The Forest Service did not yet know the cause of the fire, a spokeswoman said. Campers in the Valle Vidal, McCrystal, and Cimarron campgrounds were being asked to prepare to evacuate as a precautionary measure, the Forest Service reported. October 23, the Town of Red River reported that the wind-driven fire was moving away from town and no structures were threatened at that time. Source:

<http://www.sangrechronicle.com/articles/2012/10/24/news/doc50871a7aed7df743769478.txt>

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## **Dams Sector**

41. *October 24, WNAX 570 AM Yankton* – (South Dakota) **Flood repair work continues on the Missouri River.** Even though drought dropped levels in Missouri River reservoirs drastically, 2011's flood damage is still being repaired at key points along the waterway, WNAX 570 AM Yankton reported October 24. Upriver, restoration is underway at Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, South Dakota. The dam's operations manager said bank restoration work was being done just downstream from the dam on the north shore. "We lost about 12 foot of river bed there so we lost the foundation for that riprap," he said. "That riprap work is going on and that'll probably be going on for three or four more months." The water releases during the summer of 2011 topped 160,000 cubic feet per second and caused damage along and under the concrete slab just in front of the spillway gates. The operations manager said repairs are planned for that area, too. Contractors would drill through the massive slab, working to fill some voids that developed in the gravel bed under the concrete as the floodwaters churned. Source: <http://www.radioiowa.com/2012/10/24/flood-repair-work-continues-on-the-missouri-river/>
42. *October 24, Dredging Today* – (California) **USA: Work on West Sacramento levee paused for rainy season.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sacramento District concluded 2012's construction of a setback levee along South River Road in West Sacramento, California, with plans to resume during the spring of 2013, Dredging Today reported October 24. The construction site would shut down for the winter and South River Road from Marina Green Drive to Linden Road would continue to be limited to police, fire, and levee patrols until the project is complete in the fall of 2013. Road closure signs were scheduled to be updated the week of October 22 to reflect the new completion date, and no-trespassing signs and detours for residents are clearly marked. The existing levee remains intact, so there is no additional increase in flood risk due to the construction delay of the new levee. The project is a joint effort between USACE and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to strengthen levees along the Sacramento River and its tributaries, a part of the Corps' Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. When finished, the new levee will be set back 250 feet from the old levee and will be 15 feet high, 2,200 feet long, and have up to a 75-foot-deep seepage cutoff wall in its center. Cutoff walls strengthen levees and help prevent water from

leaking through or under them. Work should resume when the 2013 construction season begins in June.

Source: <http://www.dredgingtoday.com/2012/10/24/usa-work-on-west-sacramento-levee-paused-for-rainy-season/>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@hq.dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

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

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