



## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 28 November 2012

### Top Stories

- The undamaged westbound side of New York's Ocean Parkway was reopened for 4.8 miles between Cedar Beach and Tobay Beach November 26. The 15.5-mile long road sustained unprecedented damage during Hurricane Sandy and has been closed since October 30. – *Examiner.com* (See item [10](#))
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended Sunland Inc.'s operations November 26. The New Mexico food producer is linked to Salmonella-tainted peanut butter that has sickened at least 41 people in 2012. – *Reuters* (See item [15](#))
- An attorney, an accountant, and two medical administrators were convicted November 26 for their parts in a \$154-million insurance fraud scheme in which hundreds of healthy patients from across the U.S. were recruited to undergo unnecessary and dangerous surgeries to fraudulently bill insurance providers, Orange County, California prosecutors said. – *Los Angeles Times* (See item [5](#))
- New York health officials asked the federal government for almost a half-billion dollars worth of special Medicaid funding for hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics affected by Sandy, WNYC 93.9 FM New York City reported November 26. – *WNYC 93.9 FM New York City* (See item [21](#))

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## Energy Sector

Nothing to report

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## Chemical Industry Sector

1. *November 26, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Mississippi) **US Department of Labor’s OSHA cites Mississippi Phosphates for 40 safety and health violations following 2 worker fatalities.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Mississippi Phosphates Corp. with 40 safety and health violations following the deaths of two workers in separate incidents at the company’s Pascagoula facilities, the U.S. Department of Labor reported November 26. The fatalities led to comprehensive inspections by OSHA. OSHA cited the company for three serious safety violations related to the fatalities, including exposing workers to “struck-by” hazards by not protecting them against overpressurization, and failing to maintain and service equipment in accordance with the company’s maintenance program to prevent overpressurization. Mississippi Phosphates is a producer and marketer of diammonium phosphate, which is used as a fertilizer. The company’s manufacturing facilities consist of two sulfuric acid plants, a phosphoric acid plant and diammonium phosphate granulation plant. The citations for the serious and repeat violations carry total proposed penalties of \$165,900. The citations for the other-than-serious violations do not carry monetary penalties.  
Source:  
[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=23301](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=23301)
2. *November 26, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Georgia) **Dalton, Ga., chemical manufacturer cited by US Department of Labor’s OSHA for 20 safety violations following explosion; proposed penalties total \$77,000.** MFG Chemical Inc. in Dalton, Georgia, has been cited by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration for 20 safety violations following a plant explosion that resulted in the hospitalization of approximately 40 employees of other companies, working in the surrounding area, for decontamination. Proposed penalties total \$77,000. The May explosion was caused by a runaway reaction from an overheated reactor. During the production of coagulant 129, a compound used in water treatment, an increase in temperature caused the reactor to over pressurize, rupturing the dome cover and blowing a hole in the roof of the facility. In response to the incident, OSHA conducted an inspection under the agency’s national emphasis program on process safety management for covered chemical facilities. Nineteen serious violations involve exposing workers to fire and explosion hazards while they performed manufacturing duties. The citations carry \$76,300 in penalties. One other-than-serious violation is failing to ensure that a material safety data worksheet contained the required information. The citation carries a \$700 penalty. MFG Chemical manufactures a range of specialty chemicals for the water treatment, agriculture, pulp and paper industries.

Source:

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=23304](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=23304)

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

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

3. *November 26, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Entergy replaces transformer after fire at Fitzpatrick Reactor.** Entergy Corp. replaced a damaged transformer at the 852-megawatt Fitzpatrick 1 reactor near Oswego, New York, after a failure caused a fire and shut down the plant November 11. The reactor connected to the grid November 25 and operated at 38 percent of power November 26 after crews installed a spare transformer that was on site, said a company spokeswoman. The cause of the equipment failure is being investigated. The spokeswoman stated that “preliminary results suggest the fire was caused by an internal fault.” The reactor experienced two automatic production halts in November. Fitzpatrick 1 shut down once when a main turbine tripped and shut down again after the equipment malfunction. The transformer that failed is one of two that take electrical power produced by the plant’s generator, step up the voltage, and then send it out to the grid, said a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s spokesman for the Northeast region. If a reactor experiences three such halts in a period of 7,000 operating hours, the commission is required to heighten the level of oversight at the unit.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-11-26/entergy-replaces-transformer-after-fire-at-fitzpatrick-reactor>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

4. *November 27, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Harbor Freight Tools recalls cordless drill due to fire and burn hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Harbor Freight Tools, November 27 announced a voluntary recall of about 108,000 cordless drills. The black trigger switch on the 19.2v cordless drill can overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers. Harbor Freight Tools has received one report of a drill overheating and burning through the handle of the unit, which resulted in a consumer receiving a minor injury. The drills were sold at Harbor Freight Tools stores nationwide, via catalog and online, from April, 2008 through May 2012. Consumers should stop using the recalled drill immediately, remove the rechargeable battery, and contact Harbor Freight Tools to receive a free replacement drill.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml13/13047.html>

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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## Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 26, Los Angeles Times* – (California; National) **Four convicted in \$154-million medical insurance fraud.** An attorney, an accountant, and two medical administrators were convicted November 26 for their parts in a \$154-million insurance fraud scheme in which hundreds of healthy patients from across the U.S. were recruited to undergo unnecessary and dangerous surgeries to fraudulently bill insurance providers, Orange County, California prosecutors said. A jury found the four defendants guilty of charges related to revenue and tax fraud for the massive scheme. Each of the four also faces at least 100 additional felony counts because the court has broken the scheme into multiple cases because of its size, prosecutors said. Those additional charges include conspiracy, paying for referrals, grand theft, insurance fraud, making false and fraudulent claims, and filing a false tax return. A number of other defendants, including three doctors, previously pleaded guilty to charges related to conspiracy and insurance fraud. Employees of Unity Outpatient Surgery Center in Buena Park were named as participating in the fraud, which recruited 2,841 healthy people from across the country to receive unnecessary surgeries in exchange for money or low-cost cosmetic surgery.  
Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/11/4-convicted-medical-insurance-fraud.html>
6. *November 26, Sarasota Herald-Tribune* – (Florida) **Mortgage banker pleads guilty in flipping fraud case.** Shortly after being indicted for bank fraud, a former Sarasota, Florida mortgage banker pleaded guilty to conspiring to make false statements to a federally insured lender, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune reported November 26. He was the 20th person to be indicted in the massive flipping fraud scheme masterminded by two former Sarasota real estate agents that borrowed over \$200 million from local banks. In 2006 and 2007, the banker made at least 19 home equity loans to members of the conspiracy. In both cases, one of the real estate agents forged the names of his relatives on the loan applications and the banker notarized the fraudulent signatures, the plea agreement states. Eighteen members of the conspiracy have been sentenced thus far and more indictments are expected.  
Source: <http://insidereaalestate.heraldtribune.com/2012/11/26/mortgage-banker-pleads-guilty-in-flipping-fraud-case/>
7. *November 26, The Register* – (International) **Claimed \$400m Google buyout is fake, ICOA boss warns.** Wireless hotspot provider ICOA appeared to fall victim to what looks like a classic pump-and-dump stock scam after a fake press release announcing that Google had paid \$400 million to buy the company, The Register reported November 26. A press release posted on PRweb announced the purported deal and caused heavy trading in the firm's shares. However, the company's Chief Financial

Officer confirmed that the story was not true. “It’s a false release,” he stated. “The [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission] SEC has been notified.” ICOA is firmly in the penny share category, with shares trading on the OTC Pink sheets for fractions of a cent. Nevertheless, the press release more than quadrupled the share price, and at its peak over 500 million shares were traded, indicating that someone made off with at least \$200,000 in profit.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/11/26/icoa\\_google\\_buyout\\_fake/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/11/26/icoa_google_buyout_fake/)

8. *November 26, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan; National) **Michigan AG charges Georgia woman with racketeering in ‘robo-signing’ mortgage fraud scheme.** Michigan’s attorney general announced November 26 that he is filing a criminal charge against the former executive of a Georgia-based document processing firm where workers allegedly forged close to a million signatures on home mortgage documents nationwide, including more than 1,000 signatures for Michigan mortgages. The former president of DocX of Alpharetta, Georgia, was to be charged in Kent County, Michigan with racketeering for what the attorney general described as having orchestrated a vast mortgage document “robo-signing” scheme. Earlier this month the woman agreed to plead guilty in Missouri to felony counts of forgery and perjury and a misdemeanor count of making a false declaration. She also pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Florida to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. The attorney general said that from 2006 through 2009, the woman directed her employees to fraudulently sign various bank officials’ names on mortgage documents. The attorney general said arrangements are presently being made for the woman to surrender to Michigan authorities.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20121126/BUSINESS/121126038/Michigan-AG-announces-racketeering-charged-forged-signature-case>

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## **Transportation Sector**

9. *November 27, Somerville Courier News* – (New Jersey) **NJ Transit’s Gladstone Branch still shutdown after Sandy.** As a result of Hurricane Sandy’s impact, five catenary – overhead wire – poles snapped causing a shutdown to the New Jersey Transit Gladstone Branch line. The poles, which exceed 90 feet in length, are custom-made, according to a spokesman from New Jersey Transit. The company said it needs to replace more than 5 miles of overhead wire to the Branch line. In addition, fallen trees damaged the tracks as well as critical equipment such as the signals and switches along the line. As a result of Hoboken’s substation damage from the storm, the only trains that can navigate into the terminal are diesel operated equipment. According to the New Jersey Transit Web site, when service resumes, Gladstone trains will operate using diesel locomotives to and from Hoboken while repairs to the substation continue through 2013. Electric trains will operate Midtown Direct service to New York via Secaucus.

Source:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20121127/NJNEWS10/311270038/NJ-Transit-s-Gladstone-branch-still-shutdown-after-Sandy>

10. *November 26, Examiner.com* – (New York) **Ocean Parkway reopens.** The undamaged westbound side of New York’s Ocean Parkway was reopened for 4.8 miles between Cedar Beach and Tobay Beach November 26. The 15.5-mile long road sustained unprecedented damage during Hurricane Sandy and has been closed since October 30. Approximately 5 miles of the eastbound section of the road and its protective sand dunes were severely damaged; one-half mile of the roadway, and 1.6 miles of the sand dunes east of Gilgo were completely destroyed. New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), and the Department of Environmental Conservation are working with the Federal Highway Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a coastal barrier protection roadway repair project to restore Ocean Parkway to its pre-storm condition. NYSDOT and NYSOPRHP are also collaborating to design a project to rebuild damaged lanes to the traffic circle in Robert Moses State Park. New York State is examining options to strengthen those sections of the protective sand dunes that were damaged to provide better stability and resiliency to future storms. In addition to providing needed sand, the dredging project will also make the Fire Island Inlet safe for commercial and recreational boating.  
Source: <http://www.examiner.com/article/ocean-parkway-reopens>
11. *November 26, Knoxville News-Sentinel* – (Tennessee) **Washington Pike traffic snarl should be cleared about 1 p.m.** Authorities closed southbound Washington Pike in Knoxville, Tennessee, at Interstate 640 for three hours after a liquid chemical began leaking from a tanker trailer truck November 26. The tanker was carrying sodium hydroxide. An official said the liquid leaked from a valve under the tanker, and a police spokesman said the leak began after the truck made a right-hand turn. A bucket was placed under the leaking valve to collect the sodium hydroxide while firefighters spread an absorbent on the already leaked material.  
Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/nov/26/leaking-tanker-truck-snarl-traffic-i-640-ramp-eas/>
12. *November 26, New York Daily News* – (New York) **MTA exploring using inflatable and expandable devices to seal subway tunnels and prevent type of flooding that crippled system during Sandy.** New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is exploring using inflatable and expandable devices to seal subway tunnels and prevent the type of flooding that crippled the system during Hurricane Sandy, a transit official said November 26. A team of engineers at West Virginia University has been developing a tunnel plug for 5 years. Eight of the MTA’s 14 underwater tunnels flooded during the superstorm, causing extensive damage to signals, electrical relays, and other equipment. Service was completely off line for days. November 26, the New York City Transit president told an MTA board committee that the agency is now investigating the possible deployment of “bladders” or steel floodgates to handle flooding. Other concepts up for consideration include custom-built enclosures for subway station entrances that would be installed temporarily as a storm approached, additional water-pumping trains, and air-vent closures. The plug is made out of a synthetic fiber similar to Kevlar, and can be inflated with air or water. It passed four tests carried out in a mock subway tunnel at the university, reducing the flow of water to a modest level that could be handled by pumps.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/mta-exploring-inflatable-expandable-devices-seal-tunnels-article-1.1208561?localLinksEnabled=false>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *November 27, Lake County News* – (California) **Woman pleads guilty to identity theft; faces 15 years in prison.** Lake County News reported November 27 that a woman with numerous identity theft cases around California's North Coast and Bay Area has entered a plea to 20 different felony charges with Sonoma County prosecutors, all of which relate to identity theft involving numerous victims. The Sonoma County District Attorney said she obtained her victims' information mostly through stolen mail and by stealing wallets. She then used that information to open bank accounts and store accounts. She was arrested in September after a joint investigation by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department and the Calistoga Police Department.

Source:

[http://www.lakeconews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=28214:regional-woman-pleads-guilty-to-identity-theft-facing-15-years-in-prison&catid=1:latest&Itemid=197](http://www.lakeconews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28214:regional-woman-pleads-guilty-to-identity-theft-facing-15-years-in-prison&catid=1:latest&Itemid=197)

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

14. *November 26, Food Poison Journal* – (Illinois) **McDonalds link to Salmonella outbreak in Illinois.** The McLean County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health were investigating a cluster of Salmonella cases that were reported after eating at a variety of restaurants in central Illinois from October 18 through November 11. The McDonald's in Bloomington, Illinois was found to have a suspected connection to the Salmonella cases. The franchise chose to voluntarily close as a precaution. During initial investigations the suspected link did not seem to stem from a certain food, but rather human transmission. The employees of the establishment are being tested and will be allowed to return to work as lab results confirm they are safe to serve food to the public.

Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/foodborne-illness-outbreaks/mcdonalds-link-to-salmonella-outbreak-in-illinois/>

15. *November 26, Reuters* – (National) **FDA suspends peanut butter plant linked to Salmonella outbreak.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended Sunland Inc.'s operations November 26. The New Mexico food producer is linked to Salmonella-tainted peanut butter that has sickened at least 41 people in 2012, the agency said in a statement. The FDA said a review of Sunland Inc.'s product testing records showed that 11 product lots of nut butter tested positive for Salmonella between

June 2009 and September 2012. Between March 2010 and September 2012, a portion of eight product lots of nut butter containing Salmonella was distributed by the company to consumers, the organization said. Additionally, the FDA found the presence of Salmonella during its inspection of the plant in September and October, both in samples taken in food production areas and in food products themselves. In a November 15 statement the company said “at no time in its twenty four year history has Sunland, Inc. released for distribution any products that it knew to be potentially contaminated with harmful microorganisms.”

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/27/usa-salmonella-peanuts-idUSL1E8MR00L20121127>

16. *November 26, Brentwood Weekly News* – (International) **Chemical leak at dairy in Hatfield.** A chemical leak in a Hatfield Peveral dairy factory in England caused a 200 meter exclusion zone to be set up, Brentwood Weekly News reported November 26. Firefighters were called to the Arla Food building November 20 after receiving reports of a spillage of hydrochloric acid vapors from a container. When the crews arrived at the scene, they evacuated staff from out of the building and set up the exclusion zone while they attempted to clear the acid. Crews from Witham, Chelmsford, Maldon, and Colchester were able to make the site safe again several hours later. A full investigation is now being carried out by Arla into what caused the spillage.

Source:

[http://www.brentwoodweeklynews.co.uk/news/10071064.Chemical\\_leak\\_at\\_dairy\\_in\\_Hatfield/](http://www.brentwoodweeklynews.co.uk/news/10071064.Chemical_leak_at_dairy_in_Hatfield/)

17. *November 21, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Capital City Fruit issues voluntary recall on cherry tomatoes due to possible Salmonella contamination.** Capital City Fruit, Inc. of Norwalk, Iowa issued a voluntary recall November 21 of cherry tomatoes shipped by Rio Queen Citrus Inc. November 10. Capital City Fruit, Inc. received notification from Rio Queen Citrus, Inc. following the discovery of a potentially pathogenic organism Salmonella by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in random testing of an incoming load of cherry tomatoes. The product being recalled is a Capital Brand 1-pint clamshell container. Cherry tomatoes associated with the Rio Queen Citrus, Inc. recall received November 12 and used in the packaging of certain lots of Capital Brand Clamshell Cherry tomatoes have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. These cherry tomatoes were shipped to retail stores from November 14 through November 18. The recalled product was sold in retail stores in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm329431.htm>

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## Water Sector

18. *November 27, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Lake Lanier at lowest level since historic drought.** Lake Lanier in Georgia is now at its lowest level since March 2009 after dropping 2 feet in 2 weeks, authorities said November 27. The lake was at 1,058 feet

above sea level, or 13 feet below full pool, officials said. The last time Lake Lanier hit such a low mark was during the 2007-2009 drought, when the lake was at 1,050.79 feet, the Times of Gainesville reported. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts that Lanier could drop to 1,055.2 feet by December 21. “There has been very little rain anywhere in the basin over the last two weeks and it appears that this will continue over the next few weeks as well,” the agency stated in its recent drought update for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin. The basin includes portions of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. “We are approaching the time of year where we will typically begin seeing frontal systems move through the Southeast, bringing much-needed rain to the basin,” the agency’s drought report stated. “While the two-week outlook shows no significant rain, the extended climatic outlook still indicates equal chances of above or below average rainfall for the upcoming winter months.”

Source: [http://mdjonline.com/view/full\\_story/20945637/article-Lake-Lanier-at-lowest-level-since-historic-drought?instance=secondary\\_story\\_left\\_column](http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story/20945637/article-Lake-Lanier-at-lowest-level-since-historic-drought?instance=secondary_story_left_column)

19. *November 26, WSAV 3 Savannah* – (National) **EPA cites businesses in Parris Island; Port Royal.** Over the 2012 fiscal year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 issued Consent Agreements and Final Orders (CA/FOs) against 25 entities throughout the Southeast for violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA), WSAV 3 Savannah reported November 26. As part of the settlements, the responsible parties in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee agreed to come into compliance and pay \$343,000 in civil penalties. Additionally, these entities will spend an estimated \$53,666,000 to come into compliance. Thirteen entities were cited for alleged stormwater-related violations of the CWA. Polluted storm water runoff was a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Over land or via storm sewer systems, polluted runoff is discharged, often untreated, directly into local water bodies. Three municipalities were cited for unauthorized discharges of sewage from their wastewater collection and transmission systems known as sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Municipal systems with separate sanitary sewers may have overflows due to inadequate capacity of the sewer lines and/or at the wastewater treatment plants. Lastly, wastewater utilities in 11 municipalities were penalized for failing to provide biosolids reports and/or otherwise failing to comply with Section 503 of the CWA covering requirements for land disposal of sewage sludge.

Source: <http://www2.wsav.com/news/2012/nov/26/epa-cites-businesses-parris-island-port-royal-ar-5050219/>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

20. *November 26, KARK 4 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Medical records breach affects 1,500 UAMS patients.** The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) was notifying about 1,500 patients of a medical records breach involving a resident physician who was terminated in 2010, KARK 4 Little Rock reported November 26. In a news release, UAMS said it recently discovered that the former resident doctor kept some patient lists and notes regarding patients in violation of UAMS policy after

leaving UAMS June 3, 2010. The documents this resident kept were from January 2010 to June 2010 and contained patient names, partial addresses, medical record numbers, dates of birth, ages, locations of care, dates of service, diagnoses, medications, surgical and other procedure names, and lab results. No social security, bank account, or credit card numbers were included with this information. The release also states that UAMS is notifying affected patients by mail and through its website. The UAMS HIPAA Office became aware of this incident October 9, 2012, when the resident produced the documents during her lawsuit against UAMS regarding her termination from a residency program.

Source: [http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=733582](http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=733582)

21. *November 26, WNYC 93.9 FM New York City* – (New York) **NY seeks Medicaid funds for State’s Sandy-affected healthcare providers.** New York health officials asked the federal government for almost a half-billion dollars worth of special Medicaid funding for hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics affected by Sandy, WNYC 93.9 FM reported November 26. Much of the money is to repair damaged buildings and equipment, but some is also intended to compensate places that either have closed and lost patients, or stayed open and received evacuees. The \$427 million application is for up to three weeks of special funding. Close to \$200 million of that would be for hospitals, with the rest going to nursing homes, clinics, housing for the mentally ill and disabled, substance abuse centers, and medical transportation companies. State officials estimated more than 5,000 patients were displaced by Sandy, and they say healthcare facilities have experienced more than a billion dollars worth of physical damage and lost income.

Source: <http://www.wnyc.org/articles/wnyc-news/2012/nov/26/state-seeks-medicaid-funding-sandy/>

For another story, see item [5](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

22. *November 26, WCMH Columbus* – (Ohio) **Dublin parents frustrated by slow communication during bomb threat.** Parents in Dublin City Schools were frustrated by a lack of communication during a bomb threat and subsequent 2-hour delay November 26. Dublin police confirmed that crews searched the schools in the district due to the threat. School officials said the bomb threat came in the form of a email that was sent to administrators November 26. The school district began following the emergency crisis plan, which included automated calls to parents in the district, and put on a 2-hour delay schedule. A Dublin City Schools official said that all schools were back in normal session. Parents said they were more than confused by the last-minute delay. Several students were waiting for the bus or on their way to school when the delay was issued. The first call parents received notified them of the delay, and the second call included more details about the bomb threat. Parents said that between the phone calls, there was a lack of information being released, causing concern for why classes were delayed. Parents said they tried to access the district’s website, but

received an error message.

Source: <http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2012/nov/26/7/bomb-threat-prompts-2-hour-delay-dublin-city-schoo-ar-1253104/>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

23. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **3 men escape from Orleans jail; 2 caught Monday.** Two of three inmates who escaped from a tent at the Orleans Parish Prison in Louisiana, have been captured. The Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office said the two inmates were caught November 26. The third inmate who escaped November 25, remains at large. All three were being held on drug charges. The inmates apparently cut through their tent in the Temporary Housing Center.  
Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/crime/article/2-of-3-men-who-escape-from-Orleans-jail-captured-4066589.php>
24. *November 26, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **7 inmates get botulism from homemade 'Hooch.'** Seven inmates are suspected of getting botulism from prisoner-made alcohol over the weekend of November 24 in the Special Management Unit 1 on the Arizona State Prison Complex Eyman in Florence. It is suspected that the inmates may have contracted the botulism poisoning from "hooch," a prison homemade alcohol, that is made from fermented fruit. Samples of the hooch were sent for testing and officials are still waiting on the lab results for confirmation. Five inmates were hospitalized November 24 because of severe illness. Two inmates were hospitalized November 25. All seven inmates are currently in the intensive care unit. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were notified of a preliminary confirmation of the botulism poisoning and ordered the State to be authorized for an anti-toxin treatment.  
Source: [http://www.kpho.com/story/20185564/7-inmates-get-bo?hpt=us\\_bn10](http://www.kpho.com/story/20185564/7-inmates-get-bo?hpt=us_bn10)
25. *November 26, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **5 inmates charged in Miami Co. jail 'riot'.** Five inmates in Miami County jail in Ohio were charged November 25 with rioting. Deputies said that correction officers asked the inmates in cellblock 305 for a volunteer to move from a lower bunk to an upper bunk. The request set off a disturbance. Several of the inmates attempted to flood the jail cell and reportedly added soap to the water to make the floor slippery, according to an offense report. Sheriff's deputies had to be called off the road to help jailers regain control of the cellblock. Officers had to use force. All five prisoners were arraigned November 26 in Miami County Municipal Court.  
Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/local/5-inmates-charged-miami-county-jail-riot/nTGF7/>

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## Information Technology Sector

26. *November 27, Help Net Security* – (International) **Go Daddy says DNS records hijacking was due to phishing.** Go Daddy’s director of information security operations stated November 26 that the compromise of domain name system (DNS) records at Go Daddy hosted Web sites the week of November 19 was due to phishing and not a vulnerability in the My Account or DNS management systems. The DNS records were compromised so that malware peddlers could redirect victims to malicious sites hosting the Cool exploit kit and ultimately leading to ransomware. “Go Daddy has detected a very small number of accounts have malicious DNS entries placed on their domain names. We have been identifying affected customers and reversing the malicious entries as we find them. Also, we’re expiring the passwords of affected customers so the threat actors cannot continue to use the accounts to spread malware,” the director said. He advised customers located in the U.S. and Canada to enable two-step authentication to help protect their accounts and prevent this from happening to them.  
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=2334&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+\(Help+Net+Security\)&utm\\_content=Google+Reader](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2334&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)&utm_content=Google+Reader)
27. *November 27, Softpedia* – (International) **PlugX RAT developers release new version, become more confident.** The PlugX Remote Administration Tool (RAT) has been around for quite some time and, according to researchers, its developers continue to improve it. The latest version comes with some interesting changes in terms of logging activity. Kaspersky Lab Experts reveal that a new version, which was landing in the inboxes of a company, shows that the developers are becoming more confident in their work. The old variant contained numerous lines of code designed to process potential errors. The new version does not contain this logging function. Experts believe that this demonstrates the fact that the author trusts that the code flow runs successfully. It is likely that the cyber criminals have managed to infect a large number of computers, which allowed them to properly test their malicious tool. Now that they are done checking the new version, they are probably ready to move forward in development.  
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/PlugX-RAT-Developers-Release-New-Version-Become-More-Confident-310014.shtml>
28. *November 27, Softpedia* – (International) **Piwik.org hacked, attacker adds malicious code to installation files.** Piwik.org, the official Web site of the free software Web analytics system for PHP/MySQL webservers, was hacked. The attacker planted a piece of malicious code inside the .zip file containing Piwik 1.9.2. According to Piwik representatives, the incident affects only users who updated or installed Piwik 1.9.2 on November 26 between 15:43 UTC and 23:59 UTC. Customers who believe they might be impacted are advised to check for a piece of malicious code at the end of the Loader.php file located in the Core directory. If the code is present, they must back up config.ini.php, delete the Piwik directory, and download a clean version from piwik.org. The hacker gained access to the company’s servers by leveraging a

vulnerability in a WordPress plugin. “The website Piwik.org is running WordPress and got compromised, because of a security issue in a WordPress plugin. As far as we know, the Piwik software does not have any exploitable security issue,” the Piwik team wrote. Fortunately, since the Web site does not track any Web analytics data from users, no personal or sensitive data was obtained by the attacker. Piwik is currently working on implementing new mechanisms to avoid such incidents from occurring in the future.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Piwik-org-Hacked-Attacker-Adds-Malicious-Code-to-Installation-Files-310082.shtml>

29. *November 26, Dark Reading* – (International) **Evolving DDoS attacks force defenders to adapt.** In the past, attackers using distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks to take down Web sites or network servers typically adopted one of two tactics; flooding the site with a deluge of data or overwhelming an application server with seemingly valid requests. Yet increasingly, attackers are using a hybrid approach, using multiple vectors to attack. The attacks that hit financial firms in September and October, for example, often used a massive flood of data packets that would overwhelm a victim’s network connection, while a much smaller subset of traffic would target vulnerable applications functions, consuming server resources. The one-two punch is potent. Many financial firms thought they had the defenses in place to defeat such attacks but had problems staying accessible during the onslaught. Companies prepared to handle application-layer attacks or smaller volumetric attacks could not handle the 20Gbps or more that saturated their Internet connection. A recent report from network-security firm Prolexic found that the average attack bandwidth increased to nearly 5Gbps, with 20Gbps attacks quite common. In a year, the average volume of attacks had doubled, the firm found.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security-services/167801101/security/perimeter-security/240142616/evolving-ddos-attacks-force-defenders-to-adapt.html>

30. *November 26, Help Net Security* – (International) **DIY mass iFrame injecting Apache module sold online.** A Webroot researcher recently spotted an Apache 2.x module for automated mass iFrame injection being sold in an underground market advertisement. “The Apache 2.x based stealth module is capable of inserting and rotating iFrames on all pages at a particular website hosted on the compromised server. The process will only work with a cookie+unique IP in an attempt by the cybercriminal behind the kit to make the process of analyzing the module harder to perform. The module would also not reveal the iFrame URL to search engines, Google Chrome and Linux users, as well as local IP,” he shares, adding that this makes it virtually impossible for a webmaster to remove the infection from their Web site. The module is for sale for \$1,000, and in order to incite buyers, the seller offers statistics that apparently prove that the return on investment is good. The seller also reveals in the ad that the module has already been successfully use in a number of security incidents across the globe.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=2332&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+\(Help+Net+Security\)&utm\\_content=Google+Reader](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2332&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)&utm_content=Google+Reader)

For more stories, see items [7](#)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their 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. *November 27, Softpedia* – (Nevada) **4 Las Vegas news Web sites disrupted by DDOS attacks.** Over the weekend of November 24, four news Web sites owned by Greenspun Media Group – [vegasinc.com](http://vegasinc.com), [vegasdeluxe.com](http://vegasdeluxe.com), [lasvegassun.com](http://lasvegassun.com), and [lasvegasweekly.com](http://lasvegasweekly.com) – were disrupted after being hit by a distributed denial-of-service (DDOS) attack. The servers that hosted the Web sites were overwhelmed by the large number of packets going their way, causing the Web sites to experience outages for several hours, the Las Vegas Sun reported. Currently, the sites are back online and Greenspun Media Group representatives have notified authorities.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/4-Las-Vegas-News-Websites-Disrupted-by-DDOS-Attacks-310139.shtml>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *November 27, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Three-alarm fire displaces residents of New Carrollton apartment building.** A three-alarm fire burned through a New Carrollton, Maryland apartment building November 26. According to officials, the fire appears to have started in a rear unit in the garden-style apartment building and spread through the top two floors and attic. Utilities were shut off while firefighters battled the fire. Two firefighters sustained minor burn injuries and were transported to the burn unit at a local hospital center for treatment. Fire officials said that a total of 43 apartments were affected by the fire and lack of utilities. At least 11 of those units are uninhabitable due to fire, heat, smoke, and water damage. Officials said the fire was ruled “accidental,” caused by a malfunctioning natural gas stove in a second-floor apartment. Total fire loss was estimated at \$750,000.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/three-alarm-fire-displaces-residents-of-new-carrollton-apartment-building/2012/11/27/2d7c3650-3881-11e2-a263-f0ebffed2f15\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/three-alarm-fire-displaces-residents-of-new-carrollton-apartment-building/2012/11/27/2d7c3650-3881-11e2-a263-f0ebffed2f15_story.html)

33. *November 26, Beaufort Gazette* – (South Carolina) **Arson suspected in fire at Hilton Head golf course.** Arson probably caused a fire that destroyed a cart barn at a Hilton Head Plantation golf club in Beaufort, South Carolina, November 26, according to the Town of Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Division. Firefighters and Beaufort County

sheriff's deputies responded to a fire alarm at the private Bear Creek course inside the gated community where the fire consumed the cart barn and damaged a storage area. A utility cart with its lights on was found near the scene and appeared to have been used to break through a gate at the maintenance yard, according to the Sheriff's Office. The club was not open, and no employees were there when the fire broke out, according to the Sheriff's Office, which investigated the fire. The fire originated in the cart barn and spread to the attic of the locker rooms and golf-bag storage area, according to a Fire & Rescue Division news release. Firefighters stopped the fire before it damaged the locker rooms and offices. The cart barn, which housed 52 golf carts at the time of the fire, was considered a total loss.

Source: <http://www.islandpacket.com/2012/11/26/2291424/arson-suspected-in-fire-at-hilton.html>

34. *November 26, WBBN 2 Chicago* – (Illinois) **1 fatally shot, 1 injured outside funeral at South Side church.** Two people were shot — one fatally — outside a church funeral on the South Side of Chicago November 26. One of the victims died and the second man was in critical condition at a local hospital. Police said both were convicted felons and gang members. The shooting occurred outside St. Columbanus Church where mourners had gathered. The gunman shot the two victims as they fled the building. A police source said two weapons were recovered in connection with the shootings. One gun was found on one of the victims. Another gun was found nearby, the source said. The motive for the shootings remained unclear, said the source, but he added that there was an ongoing battle between the rival gangs in the area. Police said the funeral was not one that they thought needed security for possible gang violence. The Chicago Transportation Authority's 71st/South Shore bus had to be rerouted in both directions. Source: <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/11/26/two-people-shot-outside-funeral-at-south-side-church/>
35. *November 26, KTVU 2 Oakland* – (California) **Eucalyptus oil causes HAZMAT scare at SJ sports club.** More than 100 people were evacuated from a San Jose, California fitness center November 26 after they complained of shortness of breath and skin irritations. The evacuation took place at Club One in the Silver Creek Sports Complex. The lobby turned into a temporary treatment center for about 10 people. Firefighters said they complained of breathing and throat irritation from a strong odor in the women's locker room. Several ambulances were parked outside just in case anybody needed to be taken to the hospital. Firefighters used self-contained breathing apparatuses as they looked for the root of the problem. Firefighters said they determined the odor was caused by eucalyptus oil, something that is non-toxic and is commonly used in saunas or steam rooms. Firefighters told the media the injuries were minor and the symptoms dissipated after about 90 minutes. Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/local/eucalyptus-oil-causes-hazmat-scare-sj-sports-club/nTGMD/>
36. *November 26, WPED 15 Myrtle Beach* – (South Carolina) **Active meth lab discovered in Myrtle Beach building.** An apartment building in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, was evacuated while crews dealt with a "shake and bake" methamphetamine lab, according to a police captain with Myrtle Beach police WPED 15 Myrtle Beach

reported November 26. The Myrtle Beach Fire Department HAZMAT crew was dispatched to the building. They said the drug was found in a large bottle, around 32 ounces. Three men were taken into custody, according to a field agent with the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU). Agents said all three lived in the apartment, but the landlord said only one of them was on the lease. Police arrested one of the suspects November 26 during a traffic stop. DEU then found a second suspect in the apartment. DEU officers found an ID in the apartment that led them to the third arrest. The scene was declared safe and tenants were allowed to return to the building.

Source: <http://www.carolinalive.com/sports/story.aspx?id=829759#.ULS5267kGok>

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

37. *November 27, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **Slow, but steady recovery at Staten Island’s national parks.** The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) Incident Management Team has been carting off debris, redistributing sand, and assessing damage at its parks and beaches in New York and New Jersey for the past 22 days. On Staten Island, the progress may be most evident at the Gateway National Recreation Area in Great Kills, where commuters boarded the first fast ferries into Manhattan on November 26. The Ranger Station there was reopened and debris removal from the parking lots was 60 percent complete, with sand redistribution at 25 percent complete. At Miller Field in New Drop, debris removal was 60 percent complete and sand redistribution was 40 percent complete. Work continued on water heaters and waterline work. Debris removal at Seabee Park, located at Fort Wadsworth, was 65 percent complete. Both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island were to remain closed for the rest of the year. There was no projected opening date for either.

Source:

[http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/11/slow\\_but\\_steady\\_recovery\\_at\\_st.html](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/11/slow_but_steady_recovery_at_st.html)

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## **Dams Sector**

38. *November 26, Lafourche Parish Comet* – (Louisiana) **New floodwalls protect south Lafourche.** New floodwalls driven more than 35 feet into the earth will provide protection to some of the most-vulnerable spots in the south Lafourche, Louisiana levee system, the Lafourche Daily Comet reported November 26. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project aimed at elevating and strengthening south Lafourche’s floodwalls wrapped up in November. However, more work was planned to raise floodwalls along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Larose, Louisiana. South Lafourche is surrounded by 40 miles of levees, floodwalls, and a lock on Bayou Lafourche. After Hurricane Katrina, south Lafourche officials identified the Larose to Golden Meadow levee

system's floodwalls as the part of the system most-vulnerable to failure or blowout. That was because the floodwalls were what failed in the New Orleans system, and many of south Lafourche's floodwalls were anchored less than 20 feet underground. The project of greatest concern for the levee district was the Golden Meadow pump-station wall, according to the South Lafourche levee director. That wall, at 11.5 feet high, lies on the southern end of the system where levees were raised to 16 feet.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20121126/ARTICLES/121129736?tc=ar>

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**Contact DHS**

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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