



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 15 March 2012

Top Stories

- A transformer explosion and fire knocked out power to over 10,000 homes and businesses in downtown Boston March 13 and 14. The explosion caused many buildings to evacuate, and streets and transit stations to close. – *WHDH 7 Boston* (See item [1](#))
- Congressional auditors found that despite vast government expenditures, many hospitals had lax or improper security of medical radioactive materials that could be used to make a “dirty bomb.” – *New York Times* (See item [8](#))
- A strange foam found in about 1 in 4 hog farms in the midwestern United States has led to at least 6 explosions since 2009. Experts said that there was little farmers could do about it. – *Wired* (See item [22](#))
- A suspect surrendered to police after shooting four people, killing at least one, outside a county courthouse in Beaumont, Texas, March 14. – *MSNBC* (See item [27](#))
- Police said a man was shot by a police officer after he stabbed four people — critically wounding three — in an attack near a Columbus, Ohio technical school. – *Associated Press* (See item [28](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW

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

1. *March 14, WHDH 7 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Transformer fire causes Back Bay black out.** About 12,000 people remained without power March 14 a day after a 3-alarm fire broke out in a Back Bay utility building where a 15,000-volt transformer exploded in Boston. The early evening March 13 fire from a substation that housed two transformers created a power outage in Boston that officials of utility NSTAR said they had not seen before because of the concentration of homes and businesses affected. The lights went out on several major thoroughfares and in commercial areas such as the Back Bay, Chinatown, the Theater District, and Kenmore Square. About 100 generators were brought into the city early the afternoon of March 14 to help customers get back online. Due to the outages, several private colleges, businesses, transit stations, and a Boston Public Library location were closed. About 21,000 customers were without electricity at the height of the outage. The Boston Fire Department said the transformer that caught fire was in a utility building next to the Sheraton Back Bay and Hilton Back Bay hotels, which were evacuated due to the heavy smoke and power outages. Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12006937742125/3-alarm-transformer-fire-breaks-out-in-back-bay/>
2. *March 14, Hattiesburg American* – (Mississippi) **Spill reported at Chevron refinery.** A line leak released about 45 barrels of heavy oil into the water around Chevron Corp.'s Pascagoula, Mississippi refinery wharf. The company said the spill occurred March 13 and specialized refinery teams responded. Chevron officials said skimmer boats and oil absorbent boom were deployed. There was no danger to the community. Source: <http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20120314/NEWS01/203140308/Spill-reported-Chevron-refinery>
3. *March 13, KFYP 5 Bismarck* – (North Dakota) **OSHA cites Powers Lake well.** The U.S. Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited an oil well in Powers Lake, North Dakota, for violations for exposing workers to unsafe conditions, KFYP 5 Bismarck reported March 13. The OSHA inspected Carlson Well Services after an explosion killed two workers and seriously injured two others in September 2011. Violations include failing to ensure an alternate escape on land rigs, failing to properly install a blow-out preventer, and failing to provide protective equipment and clothing. Carlson Well Service is penalized with violations totaling \$85,000. Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=55754

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 14, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **Overtaken truck shuts down Highway 61 in Lincoln County.** A tractor-trailer carrying 8,000 gallons of denatured alcohol overturned early March 14 near Troy, Missouri, injuring the driver and shutting down Highway 61 in both directions. The highway was expected to remain closed for about 7 hours. The Missouri Highway Patrol was investigating the crash. The alcohol did not catch fire, and nearby residents did not have to be evacuated, according to a fire marshal with the Lincoln County Fire Protection District. Denatured alcohol, which is highly flammable, has a variety of uses including as a solvent and an alternative fuel, he said. Some of the alcohol spilled and was still leaking after the crash, but the fire marshal said he is confident most of it remained in the tanker. Another tanker was brought in so the remaining alcohol could be transferred before crews upright the toppled truck. The driver of the crashed truck was taken by medical helicopter to a hospital.
Source: http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/overtaken-truck-shuts-down-highway-in-lincoln-county/article_6a14d056-6dc8-11e1-a26b-0019bb30f31a.html

5. *March 14, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Judge accepts Scotts Miracle-Gro guilty plea.** A judge accepted a guilty plea by Ohio lawn and garden company Scotts Miracle-Gro for violating federal pesticides law, while deferring a decision on a deal that requires the company to pay a \$4 million fine and give \$500,000 to help support wildlife study and preservation. The judge said March 13 he would make a decision on the plea deal at sentencing, which has yet to be scheduled. The Marysville-based company faced allegations it used a toxic pesticide on bird feed for 2 years, including 6 months after employees warned against it. The government also said a manager used bogus federal documents to obtain state registrations for several products, and created fake correspondence between the company and the government when challenged.
Source:
http://www.abc6onyourside.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.oh/3541a0b4-www.abc6onyourside.com.shtml

6. *March 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Arkansas) **EPA proposes to add Phillips County chemical company to national priorities list of Superfund sites.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed March 13 to add the Cedar Chemical Corporation site in Phillips County, Arkansas, to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites, a list of sites that pose risks to people's health and the environment. The site consists of six former production units, support facilities, and an office. The area was occupied by many chemical companies since 1970, with the last owner, Cedar Chemical, filing for bankruptcy in 2002. Cedar manufactured agricultural chemicals, including insecticides and herbicides, which left behind contaminants such as chloroform and methylene chloride. Other threats include abandoned chemicals, buried drums, groundwater contamination, and an abandoned stormwater treatment system. In 2003, the EPA removed abandoned tanks and containers, and in 2007 the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality issued an administrative order to several former operators of the site to address environmental concerns.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/9e88f8aa2cd1b2de852579c0006304ca?OpenDocument>

7. *March 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Alaska) **Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks mismanaged hazardous waste and failed to maintain adequate training plan for personnel handling waste.** Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, Alaska, mismanaged hazardous waste at its facilities and failed to ensure personnel handling hazardous waste had proper training, according to a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The base agreed to: pay a penalty of \$45,700 for alleged violations of federal hazardous waste management laws, correct the violations, and improve its waste management and training practices. Eielson Air Force Base generates and stores thousands of pounds of hazardous waste each year from vehicle maintenance, aircraft maintenance, and other activities. The wastes included coatings containing chromium, a toxic chemical that can be carcinogenic; toxic and highly flammable paint solvents; and fluorescent light tubes containing mercury. EPA inspectors found a series of hazardous waste violations at Eielson during an inspection in 2010.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/f5a390db71c0624f852579c000800a32!OpenDocument>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *March 14, New York Times* – (National) **Hospital audit finds radioactive materials unsecured.** Congressional auditors found many hospitals with lax or improper security of medical radioactive materials, the New York Times reported March 14. In testimony prepared for delivery to a Senate panel, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) official planned to say that people with responsibility for security told the auditors that they were trained as physicists or radiation health technicians and were being told to enforce rules “that they did not believe they were fully qualified to interpret.” The materials, such as cesium 137, could be included in a device with conventional explosives to make a “dirty bomb.” There are about 1,500 hospitals and medical buildings that use radioactive materials, according to the Energy Department, which has spent about \$96 million to secure them.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/14/us/hospital-audit-finds-radioactive-materials-unsecured.html?_r=1

9. *March 13, New Mexico Business Weekly* – (New Mexico) **Closed Laguna uranium mine added to Superfund list.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed adding the shuttered Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine in Cibola County, New Mexico, to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites March 13. The listing indicates the site could pose a risk to people’s health and the environment. Operations

between 1953 and 1982 left open pits, waste dumps, and ore stockpiles. Contaminants found at the site include uranium, arsenic, barium, chromium, and lead. Previous attempts have been made to clean it up, but a 2007 assessment determined those were not thorough enough. The nearby Rio Paguete and Paguete Reservoir have shown elevated levels of isotopic uranium. Releases from the mine are still occurring and the Pueblo of Laguna asked the EPA to consider the site for the NPL.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/news/2012/03/13/closed-laguna-uranium-mine-added-to.html?page=all>

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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

10. *March 14, Reuters* – (New York) **Banks to pay \$25 million to NY state over mortgage system.** Five major U.S. banks have agreed to pay \$25 million to New York State over their use of an electronic mortgage database the state said resulted in deceptive and illegal practices that led to more than 13,000 foreclosures, Reuters reported March 14. JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp., and Wells Fargo & Co. each agreed to pay \$5.9 million in order to partially settle a lawsuit over their use of the Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS). Two other banks, Citigroup Inc. and Ally Financial, also agreed to pay \$5.9 million and \$1.25 million respectively, although they were not named in the February 3 lawsuit. All five banks in February reached a settlement with 49 states and federal agencies to pay \$25 billion to resolve government lawsuits over faulty foreclosures and the handling of requests for loan modification. In the New York settlement in February, none of the banks admitted nor denied the MERS allegations, the agreement said, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters March 13. In exchange for the \$25 million, New York State agreed to drop some specific MERS claims. The state will use the money to address housing issues, such as mortgage defaults and foreclosures, and for further investigation and prosecutions.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/banks-pay-25-million-ny-state-over-mortgage-050724137.html>

11. *March 14, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Kissimmee credit union evacuated for suspicious smell.** A St. Cloud, Florida credit union was declared safe March 14, shortly

after a sickening odor prompted an evacuation. Two workers were treated after they inhaled the smell at The CFE Federal Credit Union. A St. Cloud police sergeant indicated all air samples taken by fire rescue and HAZMAT personnel came back negative. She said the building was cleared and turned over to CFE staff, noting the odor was possibly related to sewer gas from a dried up floor drain.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-smell-evacuation-bank-st-cloud-20120314,0,6633889.story>

12. *March 13, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (National) **SEC charges three mortgage executives with fraudulent accounting maneuvers in midst of financial crisis.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) charged the senior-most executives at formerly one of the nation's largest mortgage companies March 13 with hiding the company's deteriorating financial condition at the onset of the financial crisis. The plan backfired and the company lost 90 percent of its value in 2 weeks. The SEC alleges that Thornburg Mortgage Inc.'s chief executive officer (CEO), chief financial officer (CFO), and chief accounting officer schemed to fraudulently overstate the company's income by more than \$400 million and falsely record a profit rather than an actual loss for the fourth quarter in its 2007 annual report. Behind the scenes, Thornburg was facing a severe liquidity crisis and was unable to make on-time payments for substantial margin calls it received from its lenders. When Thornburg began to default on this new round of margin calls, it was forced to disclose its problems in 8-K filings with the SEC. By the time the company filed an amended annual report March 11, 2008, its stock price had collapsed by more than 90 percent. Thornburg never fully recovered and filed for bankruptcy May 1, 2009. The SEC's complaint charges the executives with violations of the antifraud, deceit of auditors, reporting, record keeping, and internal controls provisions of the federal securities laws. The complaint seeks officer and director bars, disgorgement, and financial penalties.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-42.htm>

13. *March 13, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission* – (National) **CFTC charges Arjent Capital Markets LLC, Chicago Trading Managers LLC with commodity pool fraud.** The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) filed an enforcement action March 13 charging Arjent Capital Markets LLC (Arjent), Chicago Trading Managers LLC (CT Managers), and two individuals with defrauding commodity pool investors by knowingly or recklessly issuing false account statements for three separate commodity pools. The complaint, filed in a New York district court, alleges that beginning around June 2008 through at least November 2009, participants in the three commodity pools invested about \$10.5 million. The defendants allegedly aggregated investors' funds into a single account in Arjent's name, the Arjent Trading Account (ATA), held at and cleared by a futures commission merchant (FCM) in New York. The defendants then assigned subaccounts of the ATA to the pools so the value of each depended on the overall value of the ATA. Some subaccounts carried negative balances and by June 2009, some had losses of millions of dollars, the complaint said. A statement provided by Arjent to the FCM in December 2009 allegedly disclosed Arjent had carried negative balances of about \$6.8 million since October 2009. However, account statements provided to investors did not disclose these critical facts.

By not disclosing the negative balances, the defendants fraudulently overstated the value of the subaccounts, creating the false impression the individual accounts were worth more than they actually were.

Source: <http://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/pr6207-12>

14. **March 13, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** – (National) **Court orders two officers of United American Ventures to pay \$1 million penalties and \$8.5 million in disgorgement in SEC case.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced March 13 that a federal judge has ordered two current and former officers of United American Ventures, LLC to pay \$2 million in civil penalties and to disgorge more than \$8.5 million in ill-gotten profits in a securities fraud case. The SEC litigated the case beginning in June 14, 2010 when the agency charged four individuals, United American Ventures, LLC (UAV), and Integra Investment Group, LLC (Integra) with securities fraud. The complaint alleged UAV raised \$10 million from at least 100 investors through the unregistered and fraudulent sale of convertible bonds. According to the complaint, two of the defendants founded UAV, with one acting as the company's president from 2006 until 2009, when the other defendant took over as president of the company. A judge in federal court in New Mexico granted judgment in favor of the SEC March 2, finding the men and UAV jointly liable for disgorgement of \$8,652,942 and prejudgment interest of \$426,430. The court also assessed civil penalties of \$1 million each against the men. The court also granted judgment in favor of the SEC finding the third defendant and Integra jointly liable for \$284,039 in disgorgement, and the fourth defendant liable for \$54,381 in disgorgement. It assessed a \$130,000 civil penalty against the third defendant, and a \$54,381 penalty against the fourth.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/2012/lr22286.htm>

15. **March 13, Reuters** – (National) **CIT Group offers to pay \$75 million to end fraud lawsuit.** CIT Group Inc. asked a federal judge March 13 to approve a \$75 million settlement proposal with former CIT shareholders in a class-action securities fraud lawsuit over actions preceding the large commercial lender's 2009 bankruptcy. The preliminary settlement, which was submitted to a Manhattan, New York federal court judge for approval, would put an end to a lawsuit brought on behalf of purchasers of CIT securities from December 12, 2006 to March 5, 2008. CIT once lent to 1 million small- and mid-sized businesses, but filed one of the five largest bankruptcies in U.S. history November 1, 2009, after loan losses surged. The deal calls for CIT to pay \$75 million in cash to be distributed among class members. In refusing to dismiss the case 2 years ago, the judge said investors had sufficiently alleged they were misled. The plaintiffs accused CIT of failing to disclose a lowering of credit standards, misrepresenting the performance of subprime mortgage and student loan portfolios. CIT's bankruptcy filing caused the government to lose the \$2.3 billion in bailout money it had injected into CIT in December 2008.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/14/us-cit-lawsuit-idUSBRE82D02U20120314>

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Transportation Sector

16. *March 14, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **At least one dead in Somerset County school bus crash.** One person was killed and several more were people injured after a tractor-trailer collided with a school bus on Route 281 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, March 14. At least 10 ambulances and several helicopters responded. State police confirmed at least one death. The bus was carrying students from Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District who attend the Somerset County Vocational-Technical School, a business secretary with the school district said. She said the accident happened around 2:30 p.m. when the students were being transported to the high school. It was unclear how many students were on the bus or how many were injured. A spokesman for Somerset Hospital said 8 students were transported to the hospital by ambulance, and 7 to 10 patients with less serious injuries went by bus. Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-east/at-least-one-dead-in-somerset-county-school-bus-crash-289801/>

17. *March 13, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Greyhound bus station in Tucson evacuated.** The Greyhound bus station in Tucson, Arizona, and surrounding streets reopened 5 hours after a suspicious device found in a trash can proved to be fake. A Tucson police spokeswoman said the report of a suspicious device outside of the station was made just before 10 a.m. March 13 and prompted the closure of nearby streets. Police said the device was non-explosive, but was extremely realistic and was clearly designed to have every appearance of being an improvised explosive. Source: http://azdailysun.com/news/state-and-regional/greyhound-bus-station-in-tucson-evacuated/article_6a2bb40d-c1db-502d-8422-60b8ff66dd48.html

18. *March 13, WSPA 7 Spartanburg* – (South Carolina) **Tracks open after train derailment in Abbeville Co. last week.** CSX officials said freight operations on a train line where a derailment occurred in Abbeville, South Carolina, resumed, according to a March 13 report from WSPA 7 Spartanburg. The cost of the derailment and following cleanup of spilled liquids has not been determined. The investigation continues, and officials said it could be several months before it is complete. Fifty residents were evacuated after 28 train cars, including some carrying hazardous chemicals, derailed March 8. Source: <http://www2.wspa.com/news/2012/mar/13/news-alert-train-derails-abbeville-county-evacuati-ar-3372811/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *March 14, Food Safety News* – (International) **Recall expands for beef linked to E. coli case.** The February recall of certain beef burgers and beef steaks in Canada was expanded, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Food Safety News reported March 14. The beef may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7 and has been linked to one illness. The expanded recall by New Food Classics of Burlington, Ontario is for: no name 12 Beef Burgers and no name Club Pack Beef Steakettes. These recalled burgers and steaks were distributed by Loblaws nationally.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/canada-beef-recall-expanded/>
20. *March 14, Food Safety News* – (International) **Allergen alert: Nuts in protein powder.** Raw Elements Inc. is recalling Sunwarrior Warrior Blend Plant-Based Raw Protein because it contains tree nuts, an undeclared allergen, Food Safety News reported March 14. The raw protein was distributed in several Canadian provinces, including Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. The recalled 1-kilogram raw protein has an enjoyed-best by date of March 2013.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/allergen-alert-nuts-in-protein-powder/>
21. *March 14, Ottawa Citizen* – (International) **Salmonella outbreak investigated.** In Canada, a salmonella outbreak has put three children in the hospital in the past few days, and Ottawa’s public health department is investigating a catering company that specializes in serving day cares and schools as a possible source of the contamination, the Ottawa Citizen reported March 14. March 13, the department knew of 16 lab-confirmed cases, said the city’s top public-health official. All the cases are in children between the ages of 15 months and 14 years, and are concentrated at 3 schools, and 1 day care facility. The health agency’s investigation is in its early stages, with staff still interviewing children and parents to see what food sources they might have in common. But “one name that has come up” is a service called The Lunch Lady, a caterer that delivers hot meals for kids. It has three kitchens in Ottawa. The investigation is homing in on one food item that the kitchen prepared. It is possible that a particular ingredient was contaminated when it arrived.
Source:
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Salmonella+outbreak+investigated/6297784/story.html>
22. *March 13, Wired* – (Midwest) **Mysterious hog farm explosions stump scientists.** A strange new growth has emerged from the manure pits of midwestern hog farms, and the results are literally explosive, Wired reported March 13. Since 2009, six farms have blown up after methane trapped in an unidentified, pit-topping foam caught a spark. In the afflicted region, the foam is found in roughly 1 in 4 hog farms. There is nothing farmers can do except be very careful. Researchers are not even sure what the foam is. “This has all started in the last 4 or 5 years. We don’t have any idea where it came from or how it got started,” said an agricultural engineer of the University of Minnesota. The

pits are emptied each fall, after which waste builds up again. Methane is a natural byproduct, and is typically dispersed by fans before it reaches explosive levels. However, inside the foam's bubbles, methane reaches levels of 60 to 70 percent, or more than 4 times what is considered dangerous. The foam can reach depths of more than 4 feet. Disturb the bubbles and enormous quantities of methane are released in a very short time. Add a spark — from, say, a bit of routine metal repair, as happened in a September 2011 accident that killed 1,500 hogs and injured a worker — and the barn will blow. The foam can appear in one barn but not another on a farm where every barn is operated identically. Once the foam is established, it keeps coming back, regardless of cleaning and decontamination efforts. However, though it is now common in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, and in adjacent parts of northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin, the foam does not seem to be spreading outside that area. Source: <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/03/hog-manure-foam/>

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Water Sector

23. *March 14, DNAinfo.com* – (New York) **City makes \$3.8 billion deal to limit sewage flow into waterways.** An agreement to invest more than \$3.8 billion over 18 years to prevent untreated sewage from entering New York City waterways has been reached between the city and New York State, DNAinfo.com reported March 14. Under the agreement with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York City will invest the money to improve gray and green infrastructure to prevent water runoff from entering waterways. Systems such as green roofs, tree pits, and porous pavement parking lots that absorb water and prevent it from flowing into the sewer system would be used. Cost effective gray infrastructure will also be used. The DEC commissioner said the agreement “represents a breakthrough in how we re- envision stormwater management.” It establishes fines if the city does not meet certain goals. Wastewater treatment plants regularly expel sewage into the city's waters because the city's antiquated combined sewer system transports rainwater and sewage for treatment. The North River plant alone expels 800 million gallons of untreated runoff into the Hudson River. Each year, more than 30 billion gallons of untreated sewage hits the city's waterways. With the new green infrastructure changes, 1.5 billion gallons of sewer overflow will be removed each year by 2030. Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/20120314/manhattan/city-makes-38-billion-deal-limit-sewage-flow-into-waterways>

24. *March 13, San Gabriel Valley Tribune* – (California) **Human error, age of treatment plant, caused drinking water ban.** A faulty repair made on an aging treatment plant caused a breach in the supply of clean drinking water to 10,000 residents of Baldwin Park and La Puente, California March 9, according to industry and state regulatory sources. The breakdown at the treatment plant, built in 2004, was the first of its kind in nearly 20 years of federally ordered ground-water treatment in the San Gabriel Valley, a water consultant said. The utility, which has been shut down indefinitely, is making

up for the lost supply with water from other wells. It operates about 35 wells in the San Gabriel Valley and serves 300,000 residents. Customers were left without water when levels of perchlorate reached as high as 20 parts per billion (ppb) at the plant, the consultant said. The San Gabriel Valley Water Co. shut off the water and flushed the system. State health agencies said perchlorate levels in drinking water must remain at or below 6 ppb. The California Department of Public Health confirmed the problem was rectified. But it is still investigating.

Source: http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_20167217/human-error-age-treatment-plant-caused-drinking-water

25. *March 13, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Missouri) **EPA adds Compass Plaza Well TEC site in Rogersville, Mo., to superfund’s national priorities list.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) March 13 announced the addition of the Compass Plaza Well TCE Site near Rogersville, Missouri, to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The site consists of contaminated ground water that has impacted domestic and irrigation wells. It includes a small cluster of wells in Greene County near Compass Plaza. In 2010, following public drinking water monitoring by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected in the Compass Plaza strip mall drinking water well, and at two nearby public wells. Municipal wells belonging to the City of Rogersville are not contaminated with TCE. The addition of the plaza site to the NPL makes it eligible for federal funds to comprehensively investigate and address site contamination. These funds also guarantee the public an opportunity to fully participate in cleanup decisions. The EPA will work to identify companies or people responsible for the contamination at the site and require them to conduct or pay for the cleanup. If no viable potentially responsible parties are found, the EPA will investigate the full extent of the contamination before starting significant cleanup.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/d23f590ecea6a14d852579c00075c6a3!OpenDocument>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *March 13, Computer World* – (Tennessee) **Tennessee insurer to pay \$1.5 million for breach-related violations.** March 13, BlueCross BlueShield agreed to pay \$1.5 million to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to settle Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) violations related to a 2009 data breach. Under the settlement, BlueCross BlueShield has also agreed to review and revise its privacy and security policies, and to regularly train employees on their responsibilities under the HIPAA. The settlement is the first resulting from enforcement action taken by the HHS under Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) breach notification rules. It stems from an October 2009 data breach in which an unidentified intruder broke into a Blue Cross training center in Chattanooga,

Tennessee, and stole 57 hard drives with unencrypted data on about 1 million members. The compromised data included about 600,000 audio recordings of customer support calls, and more than 300,000 screen shots showing what BlueCross call center staff had on their computer screens when they were handling the calls. According to BlueCross, the drives contained varying degrees of personal data, though there is little indication any of it has been misused to date.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225170/Tennessee_insurer_to_pay_1.5_million_for_breach_related_violations?taxonomyId=17

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *March 14, MSNBC* – (Texas) **Woman shot dead outside courthouse.** At least one person was shot dead by a man outside a county courthouse in Beaumont, Texas, local media reported March 14. An elderly woman was killed and at least three others were shot, including two rushed to the hospital with several gunshot wounds, KFDM 6 Beaumont reported. The shootings took place outside the courthouse, in the basement of the county clerk's office, and at a bus station. The suspect reportedly surrendered to police after barricading himself in a building two blocks from the courthouse. A judge told KBMT 12 Beaumont the suspect is a man facing charges of having sexually assaulted his young daughter, who reportedly is mentally handicapped. He had been expected at a hearing the afternoon of March 14, the judge said.
Source: <http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/03/14/10686555-woman-reportedly-shot-dead-outside-courthouse>
28. *March 14, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Police: 4 stabbed at Ohio downtown office building.** Police said a man stabbed four people in an attack that began near a Columbus, Ohio technical school and then was shot by a police officer as he left the downtown office building March 14. A Columbus police spokesman said the suspect confronted one victim inside the building near Miami-Jacobs Career College. He said other people inside intervened and took away one knife the suspect was using. The spokesman said those who intervened did not realize suspect had a second knife. Three male victims were in critical condition, while a fourth man has minor injuries. The suspect was in critical condition. A school spokesman said he did not know whether the victims were students or staff.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/03/14/4337058/police-4-stabbed-at-ohio-downtown.html>
29. *March 13, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Blue Grass Army Depot reports separate incidents.** The Blue Grass Army Depot said it contained a small mustard agent leak at the facility in Richmond, Kentucky. The spokeswoman for chemical weapons activity, told the Richmond Register a tiny amount of the chemical weapon was detected March 12 in a storage igloo. She said the vapor was not able to escape into the outside air. In a

separate incident, the depot said it is investigating how contaminants including TNT from a washout plant used to demilitarize conventional weapons got into the facility's wastewater treatment plant on at least two occasions. Workers at the wastewater plant noticed discolored water flowing into the facility February 27 and March 5. Testing showed the contaminants were from the washout facility, which has been closed while officials investigate what happened. The 64 workers at the washout plant have been reassigned until the investigation is complete. The depot said there is no indication any of the contaminants were released off the installation in Richmond.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/2012/03/13/2107691/blue-grass-army-depot-reports.html>

For more stories, see items [1](#) and [7](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *March 14, Associated Press* – (California) **Three inmates injured during prison riot in California.** Three inmates are recuperating from injuries following a riot at the Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, California. Authorities said March 13 correctional officers used pepper spray to break up the fight involving about 30 inmates in the prison's Facility C medium-security yard. After the riot, officers found three homemade, knife-like weapons in the vicinity. The wounded inmates suffered serious but non life-threatening injuries and were taken to local hospitals. Investigators are trying to determine the cause of the disturbance. The prison's C unit was placed on lockdown as the investigation continued.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/three-inmates-injured-during-prison-riot-in-california-142594236.html?ref=236>

31. *March 14, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Two 911 emergency dispatch outages blamed on Verizon.** Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania officials said they hope the third disruption of service to the 9-1-1 dispatch system will be the last. The system sustained sporadic outages March 11, prompting dispatchers to use portable radios for about 15 minutes to send emergency-response crews to the western part of the county. The outage was the third in the last 2 weeks at the emergency dispatch center in Hempfield. The commissioners said March 13 a review of operations determined a glitch that affected communications March 11 and March 8 was caused by equipment provided by Verizon — not related to internal software and other county computer system failures. A Verizon spokesman confirmed March 13 investigators determined the outages were caused by a failed telecommunications computer card that works with the radio-dispatch system. The card was changed March 12. A public safety department spokesman said the latest outage affected only dispatches. No 9-1-1 calls were lost as a result of the malfunction.

Source:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_786392.html

32. *March 14, Government Security News* – (National) **Tens of thousands of emergency responders nationwide get training in HAZMAT program.** The American Chemistry Council trained 60,000 emergency responders nationwide in safety techniques for a common, yet possibly highly-dangerous chemical, Government Security News reported March 14. The council said through its Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) program thousands of emergency responders across 37 states received training in the safe handling and distribution of anhydrous ammonia, a common chemical used in agricultural and refrigeration industries. TRANSCAER, it said, is a voluntary national outreach effort that helps communities prepare for and respond to possible hazardous material transportation incidents. Program members consist of volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distributor, and emergency response industries, as well as the government. The Anhydrous Ammonia Training Tour initiative, said the association, is the first nationwide, product-specific training module of its kind. Launched in the spring of 2011, the program concentrates on a number of topics, including ammonia properties, transportation protocol, equipment handling, and emergency response in the event of a release, it said. The tour focuses on regions of the country where the use of anhydrous ammonia in agriculture and refrigeration applications is prevalent, it added.

Source:

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/25838?c=law_enforcement_first_responders

33. *March 14, Davenport Quad-City Times* – (Iowa) **Clinton County's 911 network running again.** Landline phones are working and 911 service has been restored in Welton and Delmar, Iowa, and the surrounding areas, according to a media release from the Clinton County Emergency Management Agency. Windstream Communications reported that late the morning of March 14, service had been completely restored about 2.5 hours after a wire was severed by a road maintenance crew. The wire was unmarked, and the crew did not know it was there, according to the agency. Emergency personnel were available in person at the Delmar and Welton fire departments during the outage.

Source: http://qctimes.com/news/local/portions-of-clinton-county-s-network-down/article_de071450-6de7-11e1-bf5d-0019bb2963f4.html

34. *March 13, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **San Antonio firefighters learn from mistakes at blaze.** Two minutes before a second alarm that triggered a request for more resources to fight the inferno that eventually destroyed the historic Wolfson Building October 2011, a pair of San Antonio firefighters found themselves in the heart of the fire, disobeying protocol. The fire and the department's response are detailed in a post-incident analysis, a report used to assess the San Antonio Fire Department's (SAFD) actions on every multiple-alarm fire, recently released to the San Antonio Express-News, March 13. Several ill-advised actions were discussed in the review, the assistant chief and chief said, including "freelancing," in which firefighters make their own assignments instead of awaiting orders. Things done well were retold in the analysis, too, such as a safety officer's reports that caused the battalion chief to move fire trucks before the building collapsed. Overall, the fire, which also damaged an adjacent high-rise office building, was seen as a devastating-yet-successful incident, the

chief said. The assistant chief said following the analysis, SAFD instituted training that directly related to lessons learned from the massive fire, including on firefighter accountability to ensure freelancing and crew separation does not occur, and also bought needed equipment.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10655087/san-antonio-firefighters-learn-from-mistakes-at-blaze>

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Information Technology Sector

35. *March 14, Help Net Security* – (International) **Fake online streaming service phishes and robs users.** BitDefender researchers recently spotted a bogus online video player by the name of Web Player being offered to users searching for media players through Google. The player appears legitimate at first glance. During the installation process, it presents a EULA and information about its supposed developer, but once installed, it asks users to log in with an e-mail address and a password. Even though users do not have to share that data with the software to be able to “connect” to the video, it is probable many inexperienced ones do, thus allowing crooks to access their e-mail accounts. According to the researchers, no matter what data the victims type in, they are redirected towards an HTML page that allegedly offers a free-of-charge movie online player for many classic movies and new releases. The pages to which the users are taken change constantly, as they often get blocked by antivirus vendors. However, all require users to “register” with credit card data to watch the movies they want. As such, not only do the users get scammed to share their e-mail credentials, but also their credit card data.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2033

36. *March 14, H Security* – (International) **Microsoft closes critical RDP hole in Windows.** Microsoft released six security bulletins to close seven holes. It said one of the bulletins (MS12-020), rated as critical, addresses two privately reported vulnerabilities in its implementation of the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP). The first is a “critical-class” issue in RDP that could be exploited by an attacker to remotely execute arbitrary code. Although RDP is disabled by default, many users enable it so they can administer systems remotely within their organizations or over the Internet. All supported versions of Windows from Windows XP Service Pack 3 to Windows 7 Service Pack 1 and Windows Server 2008 R2 are affected. As the issue was reported by the Zero Day Initiative, Microsoft said it has yet to see any active attacks exploiting these in the wild, but warns, “due to the attractiveness of this vulnerability to attackers,” it anticipates “that an exploit for code execution will be developed in the next 30 days.” Because of this, the company said installing the updates should be a priority. However, as some customers “need time to evaluate and test all bulletins before applying them,” Microsoft also provided a workaround and a no-reboot “Fix it” tool that enables Network-Level Authentication to mitigate the problem. A second “moderate-class” denial-of-service that can cripple an RDP server was also fixed. Another vulnerability is fixed in bulletin MS12-018 which provides a patch for a privilege escalation issue in all versions of Windows that could allow a user with

limited rights to run arbitrary code in kernel mode, that is, with system privileges. The vulnerability exists in the PostMessage function of the kernel-mode driver in win32k.sys. Microsoft's bulletin MS12-019 addresses a denial of service vulnerability in DirectX's DirectWrite where trying to render a particular sequence of Unicode characters can lock up an application; the bug affects Vista and later versions of Windows.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-closes-critical-RDP-hole-in-Windows-1471581.html>

37. *March 13, Computerworld* – (International) **Mozilla nixes Firefox 11 delay, will launch upgrade today.** March 12, Mozilla announced it was postponing the release of Firefox 11, but changed its mind March 13, saying the browser upgrade would go out on schedule. March 12, the senior director of Firefox engineering said Mozilla was delaying Firefox 11's launch to examine a bug unveiled at the Pwn2Own hacking contest the week of March 5, and to give developers time to scrutinize Microsoft's security updates, set to release March 13. Originally, he said the delay would be "a day or two." March 13, he updated his post to a Mozilla blog confirming the upgrade would go out after all. As for Windows security updates released March 13 — which he acknowledged "interacted badly with [Mozilla's] updates before" — the company was taking a different tack. "In order to understand the impacts of Microsoft's 'Patch Tuesday' fixes, we will initially release Firefox for manual updates only," he said March 13. "Once those impacts are understood, we'll push automatic updates out to all of our users." Firefox 11 will include the usual security patches.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225149/Mozilla_nixes_Firefox_11_delay_will_launch_upgrade_today?taxonomyId=17

38. *March 13, Infosecurity* – (International) **Adobe ships patch for ColdFusion flaw that could lead to DoS attacks.** Adobe released a Priority 2 security update for ColdFusion that fixes a vulnerability that puts users at risk for denial-of-service attacks. The flaw, which is rated "important," affects ColdFusion 9.0.1 and earlier version for Windows, Mac, and UNIX. "This vulnerability could lead to a denial of service attack using a hash algorithm collision," Adobe said in its security bulletin. The Priority 2 rating, part of the new advisory system introduced by Adobe in February, means the "update resolves vulnerabilities in a product that has historically been at elevated risk. There are currently no known exploits." The "important" rating indicates the vulnerability, if exploited, "would compromise data security, potentially allowing access to confidential data, or could compromise processing resources in a user's computer." Adobe provided a hotfix for the vulnerability and recommended that users of ColdFusion apply the patch within the next 30 days.

Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/24510/>

39. *March 13, Threatpost* – (International) **Microsoft adds new exploit mitigations to IE 10.** Microsoft's new version of Internet Explorer (IE) 10 includes major changes to the exploit mitigations. In addition to the existing implementations of address space layout randomization (ASLR), DEP, and other technologies in Windows and IE, Microsoft included many new ones designed to further inhibit memory attacks. The biggest

change in IE 10 is a technology called ForceASLR meant to help compensate for the fact not every application on Windows is compiled with the flag that opts them into ASLR. One of the main exploit mitigations Microsoft added to Windows in recent years, ASLR basically turns memory modules into moving targets for attackers, making it more difficult for them to locate payloads where they want. This made browser-based exploits more complicated, but it only works if developers compile their applications with a specific flag, called /DYNAMICBASE, set. The new ForceASLR technology helps fix that shortcoming by allowing IE to tell Windows to load every module in a random location, regardless of whether it was compiled with the /DYNAMICBASE flag. Microsoft security officials said this is among the more important additions it has made to the security of its browser and Windows machines.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/microsoft-adds-new-exploit-mitigations-ie-10-031312

40. *March 13, Dark Reading* – (International) **Malicious proxies may become standard fare.** A number of security-as-a-service applications — from Postini to OpenDNS to Zscaler — reroute domain-name system (DNS) requests through centralized servers or proxies to detect security threats and sanitize traffic before it reaches the client network. Yet proxies are not just used by security companies, but by criminals as well. DNSChanger, which authorities shut down November 2011, used just such a strategy to reroute victims to custom advertisements and malicious installers. When the program compromised a system, it would replace the list of valid DNS servers with entries that pointed to servers controlled by the criminal operators, allowing the botnet owners to reroute victims' Internet requests to any site. While DNSChanger itself did little damage with Internet traffic under the control of malicious actors, compromised systems quickly became laden with secondary infections.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/client-security/232602543/>

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

Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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Communications Sector

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Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *March 14, Springfield News-Leader* – (Missouri) **Red Cross preparing shelter after apartment fire forces 75 people to evacuate.** Firefighters battled a fire that did extensive damage at Chardonay Apartments in Springfield, Missouri, March 14. The Springfield fire chief said about 75 people were evacuated from the apartment building. One person received minor injuries. The chief estimated 12 to 14 apartments were completely destroyed in the fire; another 35 received some smoke or water damage. About 50 fire personnel responded.
Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20120314/NEWS01/303140066/fire-chardonay-springfield-missouri>
42. *March 14, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Cape Cod church goes up in flames.** A three-alarm fire caused extensive damage to the Calvary Baptist Church in Hyannis, Massachusetts, a church that also served as a shelter for the homeless, March 13. One firefighter suffered minor injuries but none of the homeless people staying in the church were injured. The cause remained under investigation.
Source: <http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/cape-cod-church-goes-up-in-flames-20120314>
43. *March 13, Portsmouth Herald* – (Maine) **Students rushed to hospital after pool evacuated.** Three students were taken to the hospital for decontamination March 13 after they were among swimmers at the Northern York County YMCA in Biddeford, Maine, complaining of respiratory problems and skin irritation. The swim team members were at practice when several of them began having difficulty breathing, and it appeared there was an irritant present in the pool area. The building was evacuated in the early evening, and members of the Biddeford Fire Department remained on scene hours later investigating. The three students were taken to a hospital and released. None were expected to have any long-term effects.
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120313-NEWS-120319878>
44. *March 13, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Fire leads to evacuation of Waikiki hotel.** A fire in the kitchen of a restaurant at the Outrigger Reef Hotel in the Waikiki section of Honolulu, Hawaii, forced the evacuation of hundreds of hotel guests and staff March 13. The fire broke out and spread into the kitchen's duct system. Hotel staff evacuated the Ocean Tower shortly after. Witnesses reported seeing embers from the hotel's roof, prompting firefighters to search additional floors to see if the fire had spread. The fire was deemed under control, and contained shortly after 11 p.m.
Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/30674021/detail.html>
45. *March 13, Battle Creek Enquirer* – (Michigan) **Residents returning to Marshall House.** Most residents were expected to return to the Marshall House apartments in Marshall, Michigan, March 13 after a fire that morning severely burned one woman, and sent two more to the hospital. The apartments are home to 96 residents, most of which were allowed to return by 5 p.m. Residents who live on the second-floor wing

where the fire broke out may have had to wait until late in the evening or the next day to return.

Source:

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120313/NEWS01/303130003/Residents-returning-Marshall-House?odyssey=nav|head><<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120313/NEWS01/303130003/Residents-returning-Marshall-House?odyssey=nav|head>>

For another story, see item [1](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

46. *March 13, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Mississippi River creates its own diversion at Bohemia.** The Mississippi River broke through its eastern bank at the Bohemia Spillway in southeast Louisiana, creating a natural diversion of freshwater and sediment that officials with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation would like to see continue, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported March 13. The breach is 32 feet wide and 5 feet deep and first broke on Mardi Gras, according to the executive director of the foundation. During the record flooding of 2011, the river was high enough at Bohemia that the spillway was over-topped for months. The water washed out a large section of roadway running through the spillway, and created a channel that almost cut through to the river. The river connection was completed by high river events recently, the director said, adding it is now rising again, with an expected crest the weekend of March 17. Scientists with the lake foundation believe the flooding of the spillway with freshwater and sediment has been a boon to its wetlands. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which maintains the Mississippi River channel, said the agency is not yet concerned about the new crevasse, but will keep a close eye on it. The state proposal calls for a diversion of 50,000 cubic feet per second of water and sediment at a location about a mile away.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/03/river_creates_its_own_diversio.html

47. *March 13, TCPalm.com* – (Florida) **Seven years later, \$33 million clean water project in St. Lucie County sits unused.** The \$33 million reservoir and pumping stations at Ten Mile Creek clean water project west of Fort Pierce, Florida, bankrolled by federal, state, and Seminole Tribe funds, are “not functioning,” a project manager

with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said March 13. The reservoir and pumping stations “cannot impound water safely at this point to government standards,” the manager said. It could cost another \$13 million to raise the 12-to-15-foot levee height and fix the leaks that could flood Interstate 95 and surrounding areas during a major storm. The problems prompted the South Florida Water Management District, which had planned to take ownership of the completed project, to turn it back to the federal government in September 2007. According to the Corps, the project was designed to slowly release stormwater to “moderate salinity levels and reduce sediment loads (and) improve habitat conditions for a wide variety of estuarine species.” Combined with other efforts, it was supposed to yield “significant improvements among the fish populations, seagrasses, and oyster beds” in the estuaries.

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2012/mar/13/seven-years-later-33-million-clean-water-project/>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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