



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 26 March 2012

Top Stories

- Government auditors said federal officials know little about and currently do not regulate tens of thousands of miles of pipelines that carry natural gas into residential and commercial areas. – *Associated Press* (See item [3](#))
- California officials said if the out-of-service San Onofre nuclear power plant remains offline through the summer, the San Diego and Los Angeles areas could experience energy shortages. – *Los Angeles Times* (See item [8](#))
- Police arrested a man who made hundreds of thousands of dollars stealing parts from railroad tracks. They said the thefts had the potential to damage tracks and put trains carrying hazardous materials at risk. – *Miami Herald* (See item [17](#))
- Police arrested 12 people and shut 2 health clinics in the Cape Coral, Florida area for their part in a scheme that used exaggerated or nonexistent medical treatments to defraud car insurance firms of \$22.5 million a year. – *Fort Myers News-Press* (See item [24](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
 - [Emergency Services](#)
 - [National Monuments and Icons](#)
-

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 23, KOVR 13 Sacramento; CNN* – (California) **Sneaky gas theft scheme uncovered.** Police in Davis, California, said some enterprising thieves came up with an unusual way to steal thousands of dollars worth of gasoline using a bread delivery truck, KOVR 13 Sacramento and CNN reported March 23. One suspect lifted the lid off an underground tank, then through a hole in the van, the suspects used their own pump to pump the gas out. The Valero gas station has been hit six times in March, costing the gas station \$8,000. Inside the truck, officers found a 1,000-gallon gas tank and a hose that could be lowered through the floor. Police were concerned a secret spark could have caused a catastrophe. Police believe these suspects were involved in other gas thefts at the station.
Source: <http://www.todaysthv.com/news/article/203413/70/Caught-on-Video-Sneaky-gas-theft-scheme-uncovered>
2. *March 23, Toledo Blade* – (Ohio) **Providence Twp. propane fire prompts evacuations.** A propane tank fire in Whitehouse, Ohio, March 22 caused the evacuation of several homes in Providence Township in Fulton County, Ohio, authorities said. A 1,000-gallon propane tank caught fire as a result of equipment failure. Area fire crews extinguished the fire and left the scene nearly 7 hours after the initial fire.
Source: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2012/03/23/Providence-Twp-propane-fire-prompts-evacuations.html>
3. *March 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Audit: Gas lines tied to fracking lack oversight.** Government auditors said federal officials know little about thousands of miles of pipelines that carry natural gas released through the drilling method known as fracking, and need to step up oversight to make sure they are running safely, the Associated Press reported March 23. Amid the gas-drilling boom, private companies have put in hundreds of small gathering pipelines to collect new fuel supplies released through the high-pressure drilling technique. Nationwide, about 240,000 miles of gathering pipelines ferry the gas and oil to processing facilities and larger pipelines in the major energy-producing states. Many of these pipelines course through densely populated areas, including neighborhoods in Fort Worth, Texas. The Government Accountability Office said in its report issued March 22, that most of those miles are not regulated by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, which means they are not regularly inspected for leaks or corrosion. In some states, officials do not know where the lines are. Nationwide, there are about 200,000 miles of gas-gathering lines and up to 40,000 miles of hazardous liquid gathering lines in rural and urban areas alike, ranging in diameter from about 2 to 12 inches. But only about 24,000 of those miles are regulated, according to the report.
Source: <http://www2.wsav.com/news/2012/mar/23/audit-gas-lines-tied-to-fracking-lack-oversight-ar-3462008/>

4. *March 19, Massachusetts Institute of Technology* – (National) **MIT research: Study finds room to store CO2 underground.** A new study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) March 19 shows there is enough capacity in deep saline aquifers in the United States to store at least a century's worth of carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's coal-fired power plants. One of the most promising places to store the gas is in deep saline aquifers: those more than half a mile below the surface, far below the freshwater sources used for human consumption and agriculture. However, estimates of the capacity of such formations in the United States have ranged from enough to store just a few years' worth of coal-plant emissions up to many thousands of years' worth, according to the report. The MIT team modeled how the carbon dioxide would percolate through the rock, accounting not only for the ultimate capacity of the formations but the rate of injection that could be sustained over time. Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2012-03/miot-mrs031912.php

For another story, see item [8](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 23, Baton Rouge Advocate* – (Louisiana) **Westlake plant fire extinguished.** A company spokesman said Westlake Chemical Corp's plant in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, will be shut for an indefinite period after an explosion and fire March 22. The incident knocked out a unit making feedstock for a widely used plastic resin. It also shut roads, closed down a 34-mile section of the Mississippi River, and forced some residents, plant workers, and schoolchildren and school employees to shelter indoors for many hours, authorities said. The fire occurred at the Geismar Vinyls Complex while workers were restarting a unit shut a few days earlier for normal maintenance, said a spokesman for Westlake Chemical. The fire was extinguished within 1 hour, state police reported. The U.S. Coast Guard shut river traffic for about 3 hours along a 34-mile stretch. The affected unit makes vinyl chloride monomer, the feedstock for polyvinyl chloride, a commonly used ingredient in many household products, including piping. The state department of environmental quality initially said four specific, hazardous chemicals were released. However, state and company officials later said they were not certain what chemicals were released. Source: <http://theadvocate.com/home/2387679-125/breaking-news-westlake-chemical-plant>
6. *March 23, Akron Beacon Journal* – (Ohio; International) **Akron-based Bridgestone Americas researcher charged with trade secrets theft.** The former project and group leader at Bridgestone Americas' Center for Research & Technology in Akron, Ohio, was indicted on federal charges he stole trade secrets, including polymer formulas, from the tire maker, gave some to a Chinese company, and also lied to investigators. The man, who was fired by Bridgestone in April 2010 for an unrelated issue, was arrested March 22 and appeared in court. The FBI said it believed the trade secrets found on computer records in his possession had data that had not been patented and was worth millions. The suspect came to the United States from China in 1989. An FBI

affidavit alleges that in 1989, he was under contract with China's Hubei Red Star Chemical Institute or Hong Xing Chemical Plant, which developed products for civilian and military uses. It also said he provided Bridgestone research data to the Shanghai Frontier Elastomer Company, Ltd. in China. An FBI search warrant turned up six CDs with Bridgestone research information at the suspect's home.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/business/akron-based-bridgestone-americas-researcher-charged-with-trade-secrets-theft-1.284100>

7. *March 22, Boise Weekly* – (Idaho) **Idaho site fined \$184K for failure to report disposal of hazardous waste.** The U.S. government said March 22 that a Southwest Idaho hazardous waste disposal site failed to report the on-site disposal of thousands of pounds of chemicals. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hit U.S. Ecology Idaho with \$184,400 in fines for disposing 10,000 pounds each of aluminum, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, diethanolamine, ethylene glycol, manganese, nickel, nitric acid, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc at its Grand View site. The EPA said U.S. Ecology has since corrected the violations. Through follow-up reporting to the EPA, U.S. Ecology said it had failed to report the on-site disposal of 20 chemicals and chemical categories during 2009. The federal agency said many chemicals disposed at the facility have dangerous human health effects and risks.
Source: <http://www.boiseweekly.com/CityDesk/archives/2012/03/22/idaho-site-fined-184k-for-failure-to-report-disposal-of-hazardous-waste>

For more stories, see items [9](#), [17](#), [20](#), and [30](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *March 22, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Energy officials prepare for summer without San Onofre plant.** California energy officials are working to stave off the potential for summer power shortages if the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station near San Diego remains out of service, the Los Angeles Times reported March 22. San Onofre has been shut down since January 31, when a tube in one of the plant's newly installed steam generators in the Unit 3 reactor sprang a leak. The reactor was taken offline and Southern California Edison, the plant's operator, began pressure-testing 129 tubes that showed excessive wear, while the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission dispatched a team to investigate the issue. Meanwhile, in Unit 2, the plant's other working reactor, which had been shut down for routine maintenance since early January, they found excessive wear and tear on 192 more tubes. An Edison spokeswoman said the company is planning for the possibility the plant could be offline through the summer. In a March 22 report, staffers said that in a major heat wave or transmission line outage during the peak season, South Orange County and the San Diego and Los Angeles areas could face energy shortages without the 2,200 megawatts of power generated by San Onofre.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0323-san-onofre-20120323,0,2483335.story>

9. *March 22, Seattle Times* – (Washington) **Technical problems still bedevil Hanford plant.** So many technical issues now plague a treatment plant that is supposed to rid Washington’s Hanford Nuclear Reservation of millions of gallons of radioactive waste that contractors told a federal panel March 22 they can not say how much waste it ultimately will treat. Engineers admitted they still have not resolved major safety problems with the plant, which is supposed to help dispose of 53 million gallons of nuclear waste. Even though the project is half-built, engineers acknowledged they still have not figured out how, once it is operational, they will keep waste stirred up so it does not lead to chemical or nuclear reactions. The site’s underground tanks of waste contain unusual mixes of chemicals and radionuclides that the project’s engineering manager said could present recurring problems as each mix is encountered and processed. Officials also are still working out ways to avoid hydrogen explosions in miles of piping, and to prevent radioactive waste from eating its way through metal tanks in a building that will be so polluted no human could get inside and make repairs during the 40-year life of the plant.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2012/03/22/technical-problems-still-bedevel-hanford-plant>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

See item [14](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

See items [6](#) and [30](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *March 23, Associated Press* – (California; National) **4 convicted in major bank fraud, identity thefts.** Four members of an Armenian organized crime ring were convicted in one of the largest bank fraud and identity theft schemes in California history, the U.S. attorney’s office announced March 22. All four were Armenian Power members or associates who targeted dozens of victims in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Texas, according to the assistant attorney general. Over the course of the 6-year conspiracy, more than \$10 million was stolen. The four were found guilty of conspiring to commit bank fraud, attempted bank fraud, and various counts of aggravated identity theft March 16. They are due for sentencing August 6. One of the defendants is a member of the Armenian Power organized crime group and was a ringleader of the massive fraud scheme, while the rest were associates, prosecutors said. Using cell phones smuggled into Avenal State Prison, the incarcerated ringleader and a co-

defendant coordinated a scheme to obtain Social Security numbers and birth dates and use the data to steal money from high-value account holders. The scheme transferred money, had unauthorized checks printed, and used forged signatures to write checks. In all, 20 defendants were charged in the plot that involved orders made from within prisons and the assistance of bank insiders who were enlisted by the criminal organization. To date, all but one of the defendants involved in the scheme have been convicted. The remaining defendant is awaiting trial. Those convicted face maximum sentences of 30 years in federal prison for each count of bank fraud, 30 years for each count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, and additional mandatory 2-year sentences for each count of aggravated identity theft.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/convicted-major-calif-bank-fraud-id-thefts-15983318#.T2xIOtn0VIs>

11. *March 23, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Belle Vernon man pleads guilty to arranging fraudulent loans.** A Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania man pleaded guilty to mail fraud and wire fraud March 22, agreeing to serve 5 years in prison for a series of scams involving mortgages and annuities. Prosecutors said the man ran businesses that helped people to arrange mortgages, settled property transfers, did construction work, and sold annuities. He was indicted for arranging \$5.2 million in fraudulent loans, in some cases steering proceeds to his construction company for work that was never done, in other cases inflating the creditworthiness of borrowers or the value of buildings. He also sold annuities with hidden surrender charges that would be triggered if the buyer tried to roll over the financial instrument.
Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-east/belle-vernon-man-pleads-guilty-to-arranging-fraudulent-loans-627704/>
12. *March 22, KBZK 7 Bozeman* – (National; International) **\$10M warrant issued for Bozeman man in int'l Ponzi scheme.** A \$10 million arrest warrant was issued for a Bozeman, Montana man wanted for his part in an alleged Ponzi scheme that reportedly defrauded millions of dollars from investors in 20 states and five countries, KBZK 7 Bozeman reported March 22. The suspect faces 20 felony charges that include operating a pyramid scheme, theft by embezzlement, failure to register as a securities salesperson, failure to register a security, and fraudulent practices. Court papers detail many counts of embezzlement. “[He] misled the investors by making untrue statements or omitting material facts when he failed to tell them that he was not investing their money and instead was using it for his Ponzi scheme and/or his own personal use,” papers filed in Gallatin County District Court state. One person told officials the man “used his affinity with various ministers, pastors, evangelists and other church-related people ... to solicit investors,” court documents state. “A review of the bank records obtained pursuant to the Investigative Subpoena shows that the Defendant and [his wife] received at least \$5,388,343 in investment funds from over 140 investors located in Montana, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, Germany, South Korea and Russia,” court papers state. The Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI) determined in an investigation that the man misappropriated about \$5.4 million and used about \$4.4 million of that for his and his wife’s own personal use, and

the other \$1 million or so for his Ponzi scheme.

Source: <http://www.kxlh.com/news/10m-warrant-issued-for-bozeman-man-in-int-l-ponzi-scheme/>

13. *March 22, Anderson Independent Mail* – (National) **Bank account frozen for man accused of Ponzi scheme.** South Carolina officials said March 22 they have placed a hold on a man’s bank account. The freeze came as new affidavits showed investigators felt an urgent need to lock the account because a temporary bank-initiated hold was about to expire. A state investigator noted the man and his silver business, Atlantic Bullion & Coin, ceased operations around March 12, when a securities complaint alleging fraud was made public. The complaint alleges the man and his business defrauded customers from 25 states out of millions of dollars while little, if any, silver was bought for clients. The state attorney general’s office has said the business was structured like a Ponzi scheme and took in about \$71 million for investments since 2009.

Source: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2012/mar/22/bank-account-has-been-frozen-ron-wilson-accused-po/?partner=popular>

For another story, see item [24](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

14. *March 22, Manufacturing.net* – (National) **Report: Cargo theft at all-time high due to improved data sharing.** CargoNet announced the key findings of a detailed survey of cargo theft activity in the United States in 2011, Manufacturing.net reported March 22. The report shows a rise in cargo theft reporting and underlines that the main driver of this trend is improvement in collaboration and data sharing between the insurance and transportation industries and law enforcement. The report includes information reported to CargoNet on the type of commodities most often stolen, theft incident locations, and additional analysis such as the time of day and day of the week when cargo is most often targeted. The 2011 report indicated 1,215 cargo theft incidents. Of the total incidents, 116 involved base metals, 229 involved electronics, 105 involved apparel and accessories, and 200 involved prepared foodstuffs and beverages. The most cargo theft incidents occurred on Fridays (227 incidents), Saturdays (202), and Sundays (198) at locations such as truck stops, carrier/terminal lots, and unsecured parking lots. The cargo theft report is available at CargoNet’s Web site.

Source: <http://www.manufacturing.net/news/2012/03/reportcargo-theft-at-all-time-high-due-to-improved-data-sharing>

15. *March 22, WJXT 4 Jacksonville* – (Florida) **Skyway reopens after being shut down.** The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Skyway in Jacksonville, Florida reopened March 22 after being closed for about 4 hours. Officials said an electrical rail was broken, though they did not know why. “We identified that the line was damaged,” said a JTA representative. “We can fix that damage. The thing that is going to take time is to inspect the entire line the length of the Skyway, including each

individual train. That is to determine if it caused damage to the undercarriage of the trains.” The March 22 breakdown was the latest in a string of problems for the Skyway. In recent months, the problem was with maintenance and the turnstiles.

Source: <http://www.news4jax.com/news/Broken-rail-shuts-down-JTA-Skyway/-/475880/9671644/-/12o6ril/-/index.html>

16. *March 22, KPLC 7 Lake Charles* – (Louisiana) **OHSEP issues State of Emergency for Calcasieu Parish.** The Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) declared a State of Emergency for the areas experiencing flooding in Louisiana. March 22, the director of OHSEP said that in Calcasieu Parish, 25 roads were closed due to the high water. Water levels on the roads ranged from at least 18 inches to 2 feet. “The water is getting deeper and the current is flowing across the roads,” he said. He urged drivers to stay off the roads with deep water. However, that is not the only problem. The OHSEP director said traffic in the flooded areas increased due to curiosity. Drivers are going around the barricades where the roads are blocked off and causing wakes. The state of emergency will be in effect until the early part of the week of March 26, the director said. He said evacuation in the area is not necessary, but if a resident has special medical needs, he or she should take that into consideration and relocate.

Source: <http://www.kplctv.com/story/17235224/ohsep-issues-state-of-emergency-for-calcasieu-parish>

17. *March 22, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Derailed: Miami man charged with dealing in stolen train-track parts.** In Miami, a man was charged with dealing in stolen railroad parts. Authorities said his illegal business — selling the parts to nearby recycling firms — could have damaged the tracks and put trains at risk. The man was arrested on a search warrant March 21 at his home. He is being held on \$38,000 bond, according to jail records. The suspect recruited people to steal precious metals that held down the tracks before dealing the parts to buyers, a Miami police spokeswoman said. He also sold sewer covers. He was charged with five counts of dealing stolen property and one count of business without a license, jail records show. Additional charges are pending.”He made hundreds of thousands of dollars,” said a spokeswoman for the Florida East Coast Railway system. The Miami police spokeswoman said safety could have been compromised. “Just imagine, a lot of these trains transport explosive chemicals,” she said. “Now imagine a derailment.”

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/03/22/2708558/derailed-miami-man-charged-with.html>

For more stories, see items [3](#), [5](#), [9](#), [20](#), [28](#), and [29](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

See item [14](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *March 23, WHNS 21 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Spartanburg pub catches fire, closes downtown street.** An Irish pub in Spartanburg, South Carolina, caught fire March 23, blocking West Main Street as crews battled the fire. According to the Spartanburg fire marshal, the fire started in the kitchen of Delaney's near the hood, and flames spread through the roof on the back side of the building. He said the sprinklers came on and helped, but they did not put out the fire entirely. There was heavy smoke in the building, including the attached businesses, but the fire marshal said it did not look like there was damage done to the adjoining buildings. Delaney's will be out of business for a while as they recover from the fire and water damage caused from the sprinklers and hose lines.
Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/17238680/spartanburg-pub-catches-fire>
19. *March 22, Bloomberg* – (International) **Foot and mouth outbreak in Egypt threatens region, UN's FAO says.** A major outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Egypt is threatening the North Africa and Middle East regions, the United Nations' (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on its Web site March 22. Egypt suspects 40,222 cases of the livestock disease, and 4,658 animals have already died, the Rome-based FAO wrote, citing official estimates. The strain of the disease is new, meaning livestock have no immune protection against it, according to the UN agency.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-03-22/foot-and-mouth-outbreak-in-egypt-threatens-region-un-s-fao-says>
20. *March 22, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Chemical tank outside Holyoke leaks, one man injured.** A chemical vapor leak near Holyoke, Colorado, injured one man March 22 and caused a few homes outside the town to be evacuated. The incident happened at the Grainland Cooperative, an agricultural chemical storage facility, said the Phillips County emergency manager. The injured man was taken to a hospital. Officials believe about 3 percent of a 30,000-gallon tank storing anhydrous ammonia leaked. The Holyoke Fire Department, with the help of surrounding fire departments, worked on containing the leak. Traffic was rerouted as a safety precaution to keep people away from the area where the gas was wafting. Colorado Highway 23 and Phillips County Road 45 were closed. A Colorado State Patrol HAZMAT team was called in to help, said a state patrol spokesman. Rain in the area helped keep the gas down; winds blowing out of the north helped steer the chemical away from town.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20233044/chemical-tank-outside-holyoke-leaks-one-man-injured
21. *March 22, Topeka Capital-Journal* – (Kansas) **Fire erupts at Cargill grain elevator in N.W. Topeka.** A fire in the underground belt system of a Cargill grain elevator March 22 in northwest Topeka, Kansas, caused about \$7,000 in damage, Topeka Fire Department officials said. Firefighters responded to a report of smoke. Workers at the site evacuated the structure prior to the arrival of suppression crews. Firefighters found heavy smoke coming from an underground grain movement system. Using thermal imaging cameras, they entered the underground tunnel system, found the fire source, and used specialized equipment to bring the fire under control. The belt system where

the fire started is used to move grain. Suppression crews were still on the scene more than 3 hours after they initially responded doing cleanup and overhaul. The Cargill plant was still in operation as the fire area was isolated.

Source: <http://cjonline.com/news/2012-03-22/fire-erupts-cargill-grain-elevator-nw-topeka>

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

22. *March 23, Conroe News* – (Texas) **Conroe line collapse sends 540,000 gallons of sewage into San Jacinto River.** A 50-inch sewer line maintained by Conroe, Texas, collapsed March 20 following heavy rains, causing 540,000 gallons of sewage to spill inside the boundaries of the 2,200-acre Camp Strake Boy Scout camp and then into the west fork of the San Jacinto River. The collapsed line caused domestic sewage to overflow from a manhole 200 yards to the northeast, adjacent to a small creek. Public works crews installed pumps and excavated the collapsed line to stop the overflow and return the normal flow of the sewage within 4 hours. State and local authorities were notified. This sewer line is currently under construction with a 19,000-foot section to be rehabilitated. Officials recommended that people using private drinking water supply wells located within a half-mile of the spill site, or within the potentially affected area, should use only water that has been distilled or boiled and have their water tested. Source: http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/courier/news/conroe-line-collapse-sends-gallons-of-sewage-into-san-jacinto/article_ad7fa870-8349-5bad-b902-01fc192d7a5c.html

23. *March 23, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **About 1,000 customers in Sissonville area under boil-water advisory.** About 1,000 West Virginia American Water customers in the Sissonville and Pocatlico areas of West Virginia were advised to boil their water before drinking, cooking, or bathing with it March 23, according to the company. A water main break in the area drained a water storage tank. The company said crews were working to repair the break, and noted customers might have little or no water for 3 to 4 hours. Sissonville Elementary School dismissed students at 9 a.m. due to the outage. Over the weekend of March 17, thousands of West Virginia American Water customers in Kanawha, Putnam, and Lincoln counties were under a boil-water advisory for days because a leaking valve at a major Kanawha River crossing in Nitro drained nearby water tanks. Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201203230034>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *March 22, Fort Myers News-Press* – (Florida) **Cape Coral police: 12 people arrested in multi-million dollar insurance fraud investigation.** A string of suspicious crashes

in Cape Coral, Florida, mushroomed into a 13-month investigation that took down two clinics and resulted in 12 arrests, the Fort Myers News-Press reported March 22. The dozen suspects are charged with defrauding car insurance companies of \$22.5 million a year. At a news conference March 22, investigators explained how the suspects, including the president of Cape-based Xtreme Care Rehabilitation Center, allegedly staged accidents and billed insurance companies for exaggerated or nonexistent medical treatments to pad their bank accounts. It is believed to be the first time in the state such an investigation resulted in the arrest of a doctor. In addition to Xtreme Care, the C&A Family Rehab Center, also in the Cape, was raided March 21. In all, 31 clinics were alleged to be involved. According to federal indictments of the 12 defendants in what was called Operation Whiplash, clinics allegedly even had fake victims sign blank forms indicating they had been treated when, in fact, they had not visited the clinic. To drum up business, the clinics allegedly employed recruiters to find participants willing to get involved in the staged crashes and clinic visits, often reaching across the state to places such as Miami. Authorities say they were caught in the act by undercover agents who got involved in the process, from staging the crashes to faking injuries and signing off on false claims. The investigation -- the largest of its kind in southwest Florida -- involved officers and agents from Hialeah Police Department, Miami Police Department, the U.S. Secret Service, the Internal Revenue Service, and Florida's Department of Financial Services, as well representatives from several car insurance companies, including State Farm, Met Life, Sentry, Travelers, Allstate, Nationwide, and Farmers.

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20120322/CRIME/303230014/Cape-police-12-people-arrested-multi-million-dollar-insurance-fraud-investigation?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|p>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

25. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **2-alarm fire at new Donegal High School.** A brand new high school under construction in Marietta, Pennsylvania, was severely damaged by fire. The blaze at the new Donegal High School in Lancaster County began March 22 and quickly went to a second alarm. The first crews on the scene found smoke pouring from the roof. At least 20 fire trucks from 7 fire companies responded. The Donegal School District superintendent said the school was set to open in the fall, but that could be delayed because of the heavy water and smoke damage.
Source: http://www.yorkdispatch.com/news/ci_20236623/2-alarm-fire-at-new-donegal-high-school
26. *March 23, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **'Person of interest' identified in recurrent bomb threats at Pitt.** University of Pittsburgh police in Pittsburgh have identified a "person of interest" in connection with three bomb threats at the Cathedral of Learning in 8 days, including a March 22 threat that emptied the 42-story building of hundreds of students and faculty. Pitt police enlisted the help of the FBI and the U.S. Secret Service. All three bomb threats were scrawled in a men's bathroom on the ground floor of the landmark building and bore other similarities that make

investigators believe they are the work of one person. Investigators did not find explosives after any of the threats.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/person-of-interest-identified-in-recurrent-bomb-threats-at-pitt-627641/>

For more stories, see items [5](#), [6](#), and [23](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 23, Associated Press; WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (New Jersey) **Blaze breaks out inside Gloucester County firehouse.** Officials are trying to determine what caused an early-morning fire in a south New Jersey firehouse. The Woodbury Heights fire chief said the fire broke out on the second floor of the volunteer department's headquarters March 23. It took nearly 90 minutes and the help of neighboring departments to bring the 3-alarm blaze under control. The fire chief said three pumps and an ambulance were safely removed from the building. However, he said the 101-year-old fire department's files, and historic records were near the area that burned. One firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8592269>
28. *March 22, WDAM 7 Laurel* – (Mississippi) **Jones County 911 center hit by lightning.** Jones County, Mississippi first responders had their hands full after lightning hit the emergency management center March 22. For several hours, the county's 9-1-1 line was down and residents had to call alternate numbers for emergency assistance. Meanwhile, nearly two dozen roads were closed because of flooding due to the heavy downpour of rain. Dozens of volunteer firefighters and other first responders were out manning roadways while phone technicians and engineers worked to restore services at the call center. The 9-1-1 system was restored.
Source: <http://www.wdam.com/story/17232001/jones-county-911-center-hit-by-lightening>
29. *March 22, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **More than 200 Pa. transit cops on strike.** More than 200 Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) police officers went on strike March 21, after announcing a stalemate in contract talks with the transit authority. Members of the Fraternal Order of Transit Police, Local 30, who have worked without a contract for nearly a year, walked off the job. SEPTA and the Philadelphia Police Department immediately implemented a contingency plan to provide security for city riders. The transit agency said it also was coordinating with suburban police departments, Amtrak, PATCO, the University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University. The union decided to go on strike after both sides refused to come to an agreement on pay raises based on the officers' police certifications. A SEPTA spokesman declined to discuss details of the negotiations, but said that what the union was seeking was out of line with what the agency had agreed to with its other unions.
Source: <http://www.officer.com/news/10666468/more-than-200-pa-transit-cops-on-strike>

Information Technology Sector

30. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **Fire official: Chemical explosion at Portland silicon factory injures 2**. A spokesman for the Portland Fire Department in Oregon said an explosion involving a chemical reactor at a silicon factory injured two people. He said two men were doing maintenance March 22 near the chemical reactor at Wacker Siltronics. The reactor combines chemicals for manufacturing. He said reports indicate the explosion occurred when oxygen interacted with a substance called trichlorosilane. He said that is a chemical compound of silicon, hydrogen, and chlorine. Two men reported respiratory problems after the explosion and were taken to a hospital. Two plant technicians and two Portland Fire HAZMAT technicians assessed the chemical reactor's condition. The explosion drew more than 40 Portland Fire personnel. The spokesman said the explosion was confined to one part of the plant, which makes semiconductor wafers.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/fire-official-chemical-explosion-at-portland-silicon-factory-injures-2/2012/03/23/gIQAN6HSVS_story.html
31. *March 23, Help Net Security* – (International) **Flash-based rogue AV targets users**. In a recently discovered spam e-mail campaign promoting fake AV, the links in the messages take users to one of more than 300 compromised domains. Once users lands on the page, a JavaScript message warning about a “critical process activity” prepares them for a fake scan which immediately starts “running.” “The page uses Flash making it look more convincing with realistic icons, progress bars, and dialog boxes,” according to the researchers. “Unsurprisingly, the fake antivirus detects plenty of viruses. Decompressing the Flash file and analyzing it shows a huge list of files contained within it. The Flash movie then simply picks some of these at random and claims they are infected (with equally random virus names).” Users are then offered the option of removing all the found malware. If they choose not to, they are bombarded with warnings about an imminent system crash and urged to change their decision. If they choose to remove the malware, they are offered a “Windows Risk Minimizer” for downloading and, once run, the fake solution appears legitimate. It also runs a scan and finds the system is overrun with malware. If users still fail to proceed to buy a subscription for the solution and close the window, the fake AV will vex them with pop-up warnings and balloon messages indicating a program was blocked from stealing data, identity theft is in process, or threats of prosecution. It then claims the problems can be solved by buying a lifetime subscription and support for the fake AV for \$99.
Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2046&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=2046&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)&utm_content=Google+Reader)
32. *March 22, H Security* – (International) **LibreOffice 3.4.6 fixes ‘potential security problem’**. The Document Foundation released version 3.4.6 of its open source LibreOffice productivity suite. The maintenance update addresses a “potential security problem” and includes fixes for a number of bugs, such as problems that could lead the

application to crash. Details of what the security problem in question is were not given. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/LibreOffice-3-4-6-fixes-potential-security-problem-1478393.html>

For more stories, see items [14](#), [34](#), [35](#), and [36](#)

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>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

33. *March 23, WKU Public Radio* – (Kentucky) **Transmitter repairs are underway in Somerset.** Radio station W277AA (103.3 FM), which is the translator for WDCL 89.7 FM in Somerset Kentucky remained off the air while major repairs continue. The station indicated that the signal should be restored by March 24. The week of March 12, the WDCL transmitter suffered a major equipment failure. Following temporary repairs, the signal was restored, but some key pieces of equipment must be replaced. That process is underway. The work will affect WDCL and W277AA. Source: <http://wkyufm.org/post/transmitter-repairs-are-underway-somerset>
34. *March 23, Quincy Herald-Whig* – (Illinois) **Severed cable disrupts Comcast TV, Internet connections.** A severed fiber optic cable in McDonough County disrupted Comcast cable service and phone service in parts of Western Illinois March 22. Illinois State Police in Macomb confirmed cable television and computer service were disrupted in parts of Adams, McDonough, and Fulton counties. Phone service was temporarily lost in the Bushnell area as well. Source: <http://www.whig.com/story/17238563/severed-cable-disrupts-comcast-tv-internet-connections>
35. *March 23, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **Fiber optic cut leaves Lamesa with service glitches.** WindStream phone and Internet service was cut off in Lamesa, Texas, March 22 due to what a Verizon Wireless representative described as a “fiber optic outage.” The outage left the town without any service for about 4 hours. According to another Verizon Wireless representative, the outage affected all phone companies excluding AT&T. The representative said the connections were back up, but glitches were still present. There was no word as to when glitch-free service would resume. Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2012-03-23/fiber-optic-cut-leaves-lamesa-service-glitches#.T2yYKHkehI4>
36. *March 22, IDG News Service* – (International) **ISPs commit to new cybersecurity measures.** March 22, a group of U.S. Internet service providers (ISPs) committed to

taking new steps to combat three major cybersecurity threats based on recommendations from a U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) advisory committee. The ISPs, including AT&T, Comcast, Time Warner Cable, and Verizon Communications, committed to implement measures to fight botnets, domain name fraud, and Internet route hijacking. The FCC's Communications, Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) also adopted the recommendations for voluntary action by ISPs March 22. Eight wired and wireless ISPs, representing about 80 percent of the broadband subscribers in the United States, are members of CSRIC and signed on to the recommendations.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225446/ISPs_commit_to_new_cybersecurity_measures?source=rss_security&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+computerworld/s/feed/topic/17+\(Computerworld+Security+News\)&utm_content=G](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9225446/ISPs_commit_to_new_cybersecurity_measures?source=rss_security&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+computerworld/s/feed/topic/17+(Computerworld+Security+News)&utm_content=G)

For another story, see item [31](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *March 23, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Muskogee Walmart evacuated after man takes rifles from safe.** Police evacuated a Walmart in Muskogee, Oklahoma, March 22 after a man was seen taking rifles from a gun safe in the store, police said. The suspect was arrested in the store on accusations that he broke into the safe, took an M-4 and mini-14 rifle and tried to load them, police said. Officers evacuated the store and found him in a room with the guns. No one was hurt, and safety locks prevented him from loading the guns, police said. The man was charged with grand larceny, reckless handling of a firearm, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and obstructing an officer, police said. He also had two felony warrants for knowingly concealing stolen property.

Source:

http://www.tulsaworld.com/specialprojects/news/crimewatch/article.aspx?subjectid=450&articleid=20120323_450_0_MSOEoi463687&r=8793

38. *March 23, Associated Press; WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **All-clear given in Rittenhouse Square apartment hazmat.** A high-rise apartment building in Philadelphia was evacuated March 23 because of a strong odor that sent eight people to hospitals complaining of throat irritation. The Philadelphia fire chief said air samples taken on the 7th floor came up negative and the cause of the odor had not yet been determined. A hazardous materials team declared the situation under control and residents were allowed back onto the 7th floor after about 3 hours.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8592302>

39. *March 22, KOTV 6 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Man accused of arson in meth chemical theft arrested in Muskogee.** The Tulsa Fire Department announced March 22 the arrest of a man they say started a fire in a Tulsa, Oklahoma hardware store to steal

meth-making chemicals. Investigators said the man started a fire the week of March 12 in the men's restroom at an Ace Hardware store in Tulsa to distract employees so he could steal chemicals needed to make meth. Investigators believe the man has been committing these types of arsons at other retailers. Bixby fire investigators joined the case after hearing news reports on the incident and realized the same type of crime had been committed in Bixby.

Source: <http://www.newson6.com/story/17234613/man>

For more stories, see items [3](#) and [22](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

40. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Earthquake damage found in Baltimore Basilica dome could cost \$5M to fix.** Baltimore Catholic archdiocese officials said earthquake damage to a dome at the 200-year-old Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore could cost \$5 million to repair. The Baltimore Sun reported March 22 that the cracks in one of the domes at the oldest cathedral in the United States appeared soon after the summer 2011 earthquake and have grown. A spokesman said it appears only plaster restored during a renovation completed 5 years ago was damaged. He said that so far, there does not appear to be structural damage to the dome. The Basilica will be closed to most visitors over 8 months starting in June while the damage is repaired. Also damaged in the quake was the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Repairs are expected to cost \$20 million.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/earthquake-damage-found-in-baltimore-basilica-dome-could-cost-5m-to-fix/2012/03/23/gIQAm1WpUS_story.html

41. *March 23, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Forest Service takes over brush fire at Jefferson National Forest.** Volunteer fire departments in Alleghany County, Virginia, worked 5 hours March 22 on a 23-acre brush fire in the Jefferson National Forest before handing the call over to the U.S. Forest Service, according to a lieutenant with the Falling Springs Volunteer Fire Department. The blaze was near Falling Spring Falls in Hot Springs. The Dunlap, Hot Springs, Covington, and Falling Springs volunteer fire departments responded. Firefighters had at least a 1-mile hike through steep terrain to get to the fire. Only one structure was threatened by the blaze, the lieutenant said. He said the Forest Service was expected to bring in a helicopter, bulldozer, and 40 firefighters March 23 to battle the blaze.

Source: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/306562>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

42. *March 22, KTUL 8 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Water released at Fort Gibson lake dam.** Officials at Fort Gibson Dam near Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, opened floodgates March 22 after Fort Gibson Lake reached more than 16 feet over normal level and was

still rising. The forecast showed it could peak at 18 feet. “We release the water to help reduce flood damage on the lake,” said the lake operations project manager. He said releases were 60,000 cubic feet per second but that this was a normal scenario at the lake and would continue for the next several days as the flood gates will remain open, allowing the lake level to recede.

Source: <http://www.ktul.com/story/17235404/water-released-at-fort-gibson-lake-dam>

43. *March 21, WVUE 8 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Corps closes London Avenue Canal.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers closed the London Avenue Canal in New Orleans as high winds pushed water from Lake Pontchartrain toward the south shore. As a result of water reaching the operational trigger of 2.5 ft and rising at the canal, engineers began closing gates on the interim structure put in place after Hurricane Katrina. Once the gates closed, which took slightly less than an hour, the Corps began pumping water from the canal into the lake. Additional Corps personnel were embedded with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans to coordinate pumping operations.

Source: <http://www.fox8live.com/news/local/story/Corps-closes-London-Avenue-Canal/RyOhv5XHgkyYKjj54gTPJw.csp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

About the reports - The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to cikr.productfeedback@hq.dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703)387-2267
Subscribe to the Distribution List:	Visit the DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report and follow instructions to Get e-mail updates when this information changes .
Removal from Distribution List:	Send mail to support@govdelivery.com .

Contact DHS

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

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.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.