



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 29 March 2012

Top Stories

- The San Onofre nuclear plant near San Diego will remain shut down while investigators try to discover what is causing the rapid decay of generator tubing that carries radioactive water. – *Associated Press* (See item [6](#))
- The Securities and Exchange Commission sued a former United Commercial Bank vice president, accusing him of creating false records that contributed to the bank’s failure. The collapse cost the federal government \$2.5 billion. – *Bloomberg* (See item [9](#))
- A section of railroad in northeastern Indiana that carries up to 100 trains per day was shut for a second day while crews contended with a chemical fire caused by a train derailment. – *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* (See item [14](#))
- For the second time in 6 months, researchers from Kaspersky Lab led an operation to take down the newest iteration of the Kelihos botnet. The bot is used to send spam, carry out distributed denial-of-service attacks, and steal online currency. – *Threatpost* (See item [36](#))

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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 28, KTBC 7 Austin* – (Texas) **Tanker truck crash leaves one dead.** One person is dead and two others are in serious condition after a crash between a tanker truck and a car March 28 in Austin, Texas. According to a police sergeant, a BMW went through a stop sign and hit the tanker truck as was southbound on the 130 service road. The impact caused the truck to lose control, and the trailer part of the truck did a counterclockwise spin before catching fire. The driver of the tanker truck did not make it out. Firefighters said they had to let the fuel that spilled from the tanker burn off and that took about 2 hours. The driver of the BMW was transported to a hospital and was treated and released. Some fuel from the tanker leaked out and environmental crews will clean it up after emergency responders leave the scene. A battalion chief said intense heat from the explosion destroyed part of the access road that will need to be repaved.
Source: <http://www.myfoxaustin.com/dpp/news/Tanker-Truck-Crash-Leaves-One-Dead-20120328-ktbcw#axzz1qPwRgsXC>
2. *March 28, Oklahoma City Oklahoman* – (National) **EPA proposes rules for carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants.** New coal-fired power plants will have a harder time getting built if they do not include technology that limits carbon emissions under proposed rules released March 27 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The rules would put national limits on the amount of carbon released by power plants run by natural gas, coal, or other fossil fuels. However, they would apply only to new plants or plants set to begin construction within the next year. The EPA Administrator said the rules reflect industry moves toward natural gas as the fuel of choice for new electric power plants. The rules will limit future greenhouse gas emissions, she said.
Source: <http://newsok.com/epa-proposes-rules-for-carbon-dioxide-emissions-from-new-power-plants/article/3661345>
3. *March 27, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Kansas) **National Cooperative Refinery Association to pay \$700,000 in penalties for violations at Kansas refinery and storage facility.** The National Cooperative Refinery Association (NCRA) agreed to pay \$700,000 in penalties to the United States and the State of Kansas, and perform a series of injunctive relief actions, to settle violations of federal environmental laws and the Kansas State Implementation Plan at its petroleum refinery and underground storage facility in McPherson County, Kansas. As part of a consent decree lodged March 26 in federal court, NCRA will pay \$475,000 in penalties to the United States and \$225,000 to the State of Kansas. As a part of the settlement, NCRA agreed to spend about \$745,000 on supplemental environmental projects involving the purchase of emergency response equipment and services for the benefit of citizens and emergency response agencies in McPherson County. The NCRA owns and operates an 85,000-barrel-per-day petroleum refinery in the city of McPherson, and an associated

underground product storage facility in the unincorporated community of Conway, Kansas.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/512beac143e9b66a852579ce005fc4b4?OpenDocument>

4. *March 27, Reuters* – (Texas) **BP refinery leaks acid in Texas City; no injuries.** Hydrofluoric acid leaked from an alkylation unit at BP Plc's 406,570-barrels-per-day refinery in Texas City, Texas, March 27, triggering alarms in the plant and warnings to area residents, company and city officials said. Water cannons surrounding alkylation unit 3 were triggered when monitors detected the leak. Workers in the refinery not battling the leak were ordered to shelter in place. The cause of the leak had not been determined, and a spokesman declined to say whether gasoline production was affected. Hydrofluoric acid can damage skin, eyes, lungs, bones, and the heart in humans. Exposure can be fatal, and the acid can form into vapor clouds that are able to spread over large distances.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/27/us-refinery-operations-bp-texascity-idUSBRE82Q0R820120327>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 27, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Houston firefighters rescue men trapped inside fertilizer truck.** Firefighters in Houston rescued a man overcome by toxic fumes inside a fertilizer truck March 27, a Houston Fire Department spokeswoman said. Investigators said the man and a co-worker were inside a tank on the mulch truck in a warehouse when they became overwhelmed by toxic fumes. One man was able to climb out of the tank, but the other had to be rescued, a deputy chief said. Neither appeared to be wearing protective gear, officials said. The men were given oxygen and transported by ambulance to a local hospital. They did not appear to have serious injuries. The spokeswoman said 17 units responded, including the department's HAZMAT team and the rescue team with special equipment.

Source: <http://blog.chron.com/newswatch/2012/03/houston-firefighters-rescue-man-trapped-inside-mulch-truck/?plckFindCommentKey=CommentKey:c65e2781-0a17-4845-b995-0dd5e708c42d>

For more stories, see items [4](#), [8](#), [14](#), [19](#), [20](#), [21](#), and [33](#)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *March 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Feds: State nuke plant to remain shut for probe.** The San Onofre nuclear plant near San Diego will remain shut down while

investigators try to solve a mystery inside its massive generators — the rapid decay of tubing that carries radioactive water, federal regulators said March 27. A four-page letter to plant operator Edison from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regional administrator laid out a series of steps the company must take before restarting the seaside reactors, underscoring the concern over the unusual degradation in the tubes. The administrator wrote that the problems in the generators must be resolved and fixed and “until we are satisfied that has been done, the plant will not be permitted to restart.” The plant’s 4 steam generators each contain nearly 10,000 alloy tubes that carry hot, pressurized water from the reactors. The Unit 3 reactor was shut down as a precaution in January after a tube break, and extensive wear was found on similar tubing in its twin, Unit 2, which has been shut down for maintenance.

Source: http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=231350&title=Feds: State nuke plant to remain shut for probe

7. *March 27, Associated Press* – (International) **Very high radiation, little water in Japan reactor.** One of the crippled nuclear reactors at Japan’s Fukushima nuclear power plant still has fatally high radiation levels and much less water to cool it than officials had estimated, according to an internal examination conducted March 27. An industrial endoscope equipped with a tiny video camera, a thermometer, a dosimeter, and a water gauge was used to assess damage inside the No. 2 reactor’s containment chamber. The No. 2 reactor is the only one that officials have been able to closely examine so far. Radiation levels of to up to 70 sieverts per hour inside the container were found, according to a spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co. The probe also found that the containment vessel had cooling water up to only 60 centimeters (2 feet) from the bottom, far below the 10 meters estimated when the government declared the plant stable in December.

Source: http://santamariatimes.com/news/world/very-high-radiation-little-water-in-japan-reactor/article_62088f25-1aeb-5167-8664-2760ffe9104f.html

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 27, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Ohio) **U.S. Labor Department’s OSHA proposes more than \$88,000 in fines to Heritage Industrial Finishing for health and safety violations at Akron, Ohio, facilities.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) March 27 cited Heritage Industrial Finishing for 26 safety and health violations. OSHA initiated inspections at the company’s two Akron, Ohio facilities, which specialize in commercial/industrial and powdered coating applications, after receiving complaints about workplace hazards. Eight serious safety violations and four serious health violations were cited at

the company's Englewood Avenue facility. Thirteen serious health violations were found at the Kelly Avenue facility.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22068

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 27, Bloomberg* – (California; National) **SEC sues former United Commercial Bank executive.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) sued a former United Commercial Bank vice president (VP) March 27, accusing him of creating false records tied to the defunct San Francisco-based bank's evaluation of loan risks. United Commercial, a unit of UCBH Holdings Inc., was seized by regulators in November 2009. It failed following the 2008 credit crisis and caused a \$2.5 billion loss to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's insurance fund, according to the SEC. The VP was in charge of the bank's commercial banking division, the SEC said. The VP, taking orders from his superiors during the financial crisis, "misstated and omitted material information in documents provided to the bank's independent auditors," the SEC said in its complaint. He "altered memoranda addressing the risks associated with certain large loans and the potential losses the bank faced from the loans," which auditors relied on, according to the complaint. Three former executives at the bank were sued by the SEC in 2011 over claims they misled investors by concealing at least \$65 million in loan losses before the lender collapsed.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-03-27/sec-sues-former-united-commercial-bank-executive-cinderay-1-.html>

10. *March 27, Burlington Free Press* – (Connecticut; Vermont) **Chiropractor pleads not guilty to \$28 million investment fraud scheme.** A Connecticut chiropractor was accused of being a silent partner, but prime beneficiary, in an alleged \$28 million investment fraud scheme, the Burlington Free Press reported March 27. A renowned Vermont storyteller was a central fundraiser in the case. According to a federal indictment, the chiropractor induced the Vermont man to raise \$28 million for for a still-unreleased film. The chiropractor, who was arrested in Connecticut the week of March 19, pleaded not guilty to an 18-count indictment March 27 in a U.S. district court in Burlington, Vermont. He is facing nine wire fraud counts, five mail fraud counts, three money laundering counts, and a single conspiracy count. Court documents allege that most of the investor money the Vermonter raised for the film went to pay off earlier investors. Some of the remainder went into the film project, but an estimated \$3.8 million was diverted to the chiropractor. The Vermont man pleaded guilty the week of March 19 to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and one count of filing a fraudulent tax document. He has agreed to cooperate with the government's case.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20120327/NEWS02/120327019/Chiropractor-pleads-not-guilty-28-million-investment-fraud-scheme>

11. *March 27, Manchester Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Prosecutors: NH mortgage scam stiffed homeowners.** A man accused of running a mortgage scam that duped dozens of people into believing they were saving their homes while he pocketed loan proceeds that he never repaid was on trial March 27 in a U.S. district court in New Hampshire. According to an indictment, the man approached people who were struggling to make mortgage payments from 2005 to 2008. He would offer to take the deed to their property while allowing them to stay in the home. According to prosecutors, part of his scheme would have them pay rent while offering them an option to buy their homes back in 2 years. Instead, he leveraged the properties to take out more loans and would also use agents, or “straws,” who would pose as purchasers and take out mortgages to buy homes from the man’s companies. The loans, which totaled more than \$13 million, were never repaid, prosecutors allege. The defendant paid associates and straws with the money, and pocketed much of it, spending it for personal expenses. “When [he] later defaulted on the mortgages and the homes went to foreclosure, the distressed homeowners were not notified because the straws were the owners of record,” the indictment alleged. Meanwhile, the defendant continued collecting rent payments from the homes’ former owners, the indictment said. Source: <http://www.unionleader.com/article/20120327/NEWS03/703289979>

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 28, CNN; KOVR 13 Sacramento* – (California) **Greyhound bus catches fire.** March 28, a Greyhound bus caught fire traveling from Sacramento, California. The bus driver was unsure how the bus caught on fire but said another driver saw the fire when they were at a light and pounded on the window to tell him. Some of the passengers said they smelled something odd and asked the driver to pull over. He did about a block away from the Stockton, California station. The driver said it looks like a mechanical failure caused the fire. Source: <http://www.kplctv.com/story/17272364/greyhound-bus-catches-fire>
13. *March 28, Chicago Tribune* – (New York; Texas) **New details emerge about Jet Blue pilot’s midair meltdown.** Jet Blue identified the pilot who began ranting and acting erratically as his flight headed from New York to Las Vegas, forcing the co-pilot to lock him out of the cockpit and make an emergency landing. Jet Blue said in a statement March 27 the captain of Flight 191 was receiving medical treatment. The flight landed in Las Vegas March 27 after initially making an emergency landing in Amarillo, Texas, where the captain was removed from the flight after having been tackled by passengers and strapped down with their belts. The co-pilot managed to persuade the pilot to leave the cockpit, then quickly locked him out of the cockpit and changed the security code to prevent the captain from re-entering. As the co-pilot declared an emergency and made plans to land in Amarillo, chaos erupted in the jet’s cabin, according to passengers’ accounts and video taken by several people on board. Passengers leaped on top of the pilot after a flight attendant called for help; according

to WABC 7 New York City, many of those on board were security professionals headed to Las Vegas for a convention, which enabled them to effectively use a chokehold to subdue the captain and restrain him for more than 20 minutes.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/la-na-nn-jet-blue-pilot-20120328,0,478370.story>

14. *March 28, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* – (Indiana) **Derailment, fire prompt evacuation near Ligonier.** Officials said a heavily traveled stretch of railroad in northeastern Indiana would likely be closed through March 28, a day after a freight train derailed and spewed molten sulfur that caught fire. Firefighters were still at the site near Ligonier March 28 monitoring the fire caused after 21 cars of the eastbound 59-car Norfolk Southern train derailed. The Noble County sheriff said firefighters decided to let the cars burn because water could wash the chemical into the Little Elkhart River. He said the fire was expected to burn until at least noon March 28. Up to 100 trains, including two Amtrak passenger trains, use the route daily, Norfolk Southern said. It said that trains that normally use the route have been rerouted with other carriers and alternate routes. The train that derailed had 3 locomotives, 43 cars loaded with freight, including 11 with hazardous materials such as molten sulfur and toluene, and 16 empty freight cars. The derailment forced detours of two Amtrak trains carrying about 400 passengers combined. It also forced the evacuation of about six homes in the rural area.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20120328/LOCAL07/303289978/1043/LOCAL07>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *March 28, Occupational Health & Safety* – (Georgia) **Poultry processing plant penalized for 11 safety violations.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited poultry processor KD Acquisition I LLC, doing business as Coleman Natural Foods, with 11 safety violations, Occupational Health & Safety reported March 28. The OSHA opened an inspection at the KD4 processing plant in Gainesville, Georgia, after receiving a complaint in September 2011 about safety hazards. Proposed penalties total \$187,100. Two repeat violations, each carrying a \$70,000 fine, include allowing untrained workers to assist with and perform conveyor belt adjustments and operate the conveyor belt system without machine guards that would protect workers from rotating parts, flying chips, and sparks. Similar violations

were cited at the company's KD5 plant in Braselton, Georgia, in 2007. Eight serious violations, with penalties of \$47,100 were also issued. In January, the OSHA again cited the Braselton plant for eight violations with \$142,150 in proposed fines. "KD Acquisitions has a history of endangering its workers by exposing them to serious safety and health hazards that must be corrected before a worker is seriously injured," said the director of the OSHA Atlanta-East Area Office.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2012/03/28/poultry-processing-plant-penalized-for-11-safety-violations.aspx?admarea=news>

16. *March 28, Food Safety News* – (New York; Massachusetts; Pennsylvania) **Allergen alert: Dried potato with sulfites.** Strong America Ltd. is recalling a dried potato product imported from China that may contain sulfites, which are not listed on the label, Food Safety News reported March 28. According to the notice, the recall was initiated after routine sampling by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Inspectors, and subsequent analysis by food laboratory personnel revealed the presence of sulfites in the product which were not declared on the label. The consumption of 10 milligrams of sulfites per serving has been reported to elicit severe reactions in some asthmatics. Anaphylactic shock could occur in certain sulfite-sensitive individuals upon ingesting 10 milligrams or more of sulfites. Analysis of the "Dried Potato" revealed it contained 36 milligrams per serving. The recalled dried potato is packed in 6-ounce packages under the brand name Golden Smell and was sold in New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/allergen-alert-dried-potato-with-sulfites/>

17. *March 27, Ottawa Citizen* – (International) **Caterer fires staffer for 'breach of protocol' leading to salmonella outbreak.** The school-lunch caterer implicated in a salmonella outbreak in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, that sickened dozens of children fired a staffer for a "breach of protocol" in the kitchen where contaminated beef was prepared, the company's owner wrote to parents March 26. "The Lunch Lady Group guidelines on handling raw meat and poultry were not properly followed by one individual," wrote the owner. "This person had the responsibility for ensuring that safe food handling guidelines were followed to the letter. This person is no longer working in my kitchens." One Lunch Lady kitchen is believed to be the source of an outbreak that sickened 49 children and 5 adults in Ottawa, and 1 person in Kanata. That location is staying closed the week of March 26 for a top-to-bottom sterilization. The department found salmonella in beef and chicken stored in the kitchen. The health department's investigation found meat lasagna and beef tacos to be the common threads in the salmonella cases confirmed by labs as being connected to the outbreak, which came to the department's attention about 2 weeks ago.

Source:

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Caterer+fires+staffer+centre+salmonella+outbreak/6365648/story.html>

18. *March 27, Muscatine Journal* – (Iowa) **GPC gets violation notice from EPA.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent a notice of violation to Grain Processing Corp. (GPC) in Muscatine, Iowa, March 27, alleging the company violated

air emission limits as well as reporting and certification requirements under the federal Clean Air Act. The notice of violation outlines specific violations at the GPC facility from 2007 to 2011. The second portion of the EPA action, issued by the director of EPA's Kansas City-based Air and Waste Management Division, requires the company to provide the agency with information about GPC's compliance with the Clean Water Act. In May 2011, GPC announced it would spend \$100 million to substantially clear Muscatine's air of sulfur dioxide and small particle emissions. The company has begun construction of a \$75 million, state-of-the-art dryer at the plant site along the Mississippi River and will spend \$20 million to upgrade environmental control systems for its boilers. The remaining \$5 million will be spent on programs that further reduce the company's carbon footprint in Muscatine.

Source: http://muscatinejournal.com/news/local/gpc-gets-violation-notice-from-epa/article_15b560a4-7843-11e1-a302-0019bb2963f4.html

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Water Sector

19. *March 28, Culpeper Star Exponent* – (Virginia) **Town to pay \$27K fine for 2008 chlorine gas leak.** The town of Culpeper, Virginia, must pay a \$27,420 civil penalty to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for violations related to a 2008 accidental chlorine gas leak at the sewer treatment plant, the Culpeper Star Exponent reported March 28. In a November 15, 2011 letter, the EPA said the town failed to immediately notify the National Response Center and state emergency response commission of the chlorine leak and did not provide written follow-up reports to state and local emergency officials “as soon as practicable.” The town also failed to have written safety procedures in place in dealing with the potentially lethal gas. As part of the recently reached settlement agreement, the town is required to install a Sodium Hypochlorite system to replace the chlorine disinfectant system at the water plant. The town originally faced a fine from the EPA of more than \$160,000 related to the chlorine gas leak.

Source: <http://www2.starexponent.com/news/2012/mar/28/town-pay-27k-fine-2008-chlorine-gas-leak-ar-1799648/>

20. *March 27, KCAU 9 Sioux City* – (Iowa) **Peracetic acid mistakenly flows into Storm Lake.** A large amount of peracetic acid was released into Storm Lake in Iowa March 26. An Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) press release showed 5,000 to 10,000 gallons of chiller water containing MicroTox, a peracetic acid, was mistakenly released from Sara Lee Foods. The water flowed across the parking lot and some entered several storm sewer intakes, storm water ponds in Radio Park, and eventually discharged into Storm Lake. The release of chiller water was diverted to the pretreatment wastewater plant as soon as the release was discovered. Testing of the chiller water in the parking lot at Sara Lee revealed a 2 parts per million level of MicroTox, and a pH of 7.08. The DNR was monitoring the situation.

Source: <http://www.kcautv.com/story/17265649/parasitic-acid-mistakenly>

21. *March 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Officials set LA waterway pollution reduction plan.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board agreed March 27 to a strict new pollution reduction plan to eliminate beach closures and reduce trash and toxic chemicals in 175 Los Angeles area waterways. The plan intends to restore ecosystems and protect the public, said an EPA spokeswoman. The pollution plans call for reductions of bacteria, nitrogen, phosphorus, mercury, pesticides, and other toxic chemicals in a wide-ranging array of creeks, streams, and beaches in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/03/27/4371397/officials-set-la-waterway-pollution.html>
22. *March 26, Basehor Sentinel* – (Kansas) **Work on failed wastewater pipes will continue this week in Bonner.** A force main carrying wastewater under Kansas Highway 32 to Bonner, Kansas' wastewater plant burst March 20. The work to replace the 100-foot steel wrapped pipe required two lanes of the street to be closed and uncovered a clog inside another force main in the same area. The utilities director said the force main caused a manhole cover to fly several feet in the air. Attempts to replace the pipe with plastic on March 20 and 21 were delayed because they required larger equipment and more manpower, so the city called in a contractor. The week of March 26, contractors planned to bore a new wastewater line. During the closure, wastewater from the pump station at Front Street and Scheidt has been bypassed into Spring Creek, which feeds into the Kansas River. Officials said the plastic pipe is expected to last 60 to 80 years.
Source: <http://www.basehorinfo.com/news/2012/mar/26/work-failed-wastewater-pipes-will-continue-week-bo/>
23. *March 26, WBIR 10 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **New River remains under advisory after sewage spill.** After more E. coli testing, an advisory remained in effect on the New River March 26 from the Huntsville Wastewater Facility to Big South Fork in Tennessee. The advisory began March 21 when Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) said untreated sewage flowed into the river after a pump failure. Testing March 26 showed E. coli levels still higher than normal, but officials said they would continue checking throughout the remainder of the week. State officials warned people not to boat, swim or fish in New River downstream from mile 14.8 near Huntsville.
Source: <http://www.wbir.com/news/article/212648/2/New-River-remains-under-advisory-after-sewage-spill>
24. *March 26, Twin Falls Times-News* – (Idaho) **Operator error caused wastewater discharge.** Wastewater discharges into the J Canal in December 2010 and January 2011 resulted from city operator error rather than transgressions by private industry, Jerome, Idaho officials said in a news release March 23. The mayor and the city council determined no actions by Jerome Cheese Co., Darigold, or Idaho Milk Products contributed to the discharge. The overflow issues occurred when the wastewater plant's membrane filtration system was clogged by a foreign substance. Officials initially said the overflow was caused by calcium discharge by an industrial source, but later

recanted. The news release said safeguards “have been and are being devised” to ensure another discharge does not occur. The news released added the city is currently conducting an analysis by professional engineers to implement a wastewater master plan. The goal is to identify and implement all needed improvements to all wastewater facilities.

Source: http://magicvalley.com/news/local/northside/operator-error-caused-wastewater-discharge/article_b15a76e3-3be9-51d4-862c-40c2cf9774bb.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Washington, D.C.) **Howard University Hospital says laptop containing patient information was stolen in January.** Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., said a former contractor’s personal laptop containing patient information was stolen in January, the Associated Press reported March 28. The week of March 26, the hospital sent letters to more than 34,000 patients affected by the breach. The records held personal information, including Social Security numbers. The former contractor downloaded the files to a personal laptop in violation of hospital policy and federal health care rules. The laptop was password protected, and there is no evidence the patients’ files were violated.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/howard-university-hospital-says-laptop-containing-patient-information-was-stolen-in-january/2012/03/28/gIQANoRyfS_story.html
26. *March 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Mental facility in eighth day of lockdown.** Atascadero State Hospital in Atascadero, California, remained locked down 8 days after an outbreak of violence at the central coast mental facility. March 27, a spokesman said the lockdown was in place as a precautionary measure since March 20, with the exception of a few hours March 21. A lockdown means patients are kept inside their sleeping and living units, and visitors are not allowed. The lockdown is designed to protect patients and state hospital employees. The multiple March 20 violent incidents involved patients and employees. Officials did not provide any further details.
Source: <http://www.kget.com/news/state/story/Mental-facility-in-eighth-day-of-lockdown/EVrurNb4ZkCxZ3M9G3aGZg.csp>
27. *March 27, WAVE 3 Louisville* – (Indiana) **Hospital employee charged with identity theft.** A nurse’s aide at Floyd Memorial Hospital in New Albany, Indiana, was arrested after being accused of using patient information to apply for credit cards, WAVE 3 Louisville reported March 27. Clarksville police said the nurse worked at the hospital when she took several patients’ information and applied for several credit cards in their names.
Source: <http://www.wave3.com/story/17265260/hospital-employee-charged-with-identity-theft>

28. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Head of Minnesota security hospital forced out.** The Minnesota Department of Human Services forced out the head of Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter, the state's largest hospital for the mentally ill and dangerous, the Associated Press reported March 27. He was hired in August 2011 but came under criticism in recent months for allegedly creating a hostile work environment. The human services department opened an investigation into the allegations December 2011. The report finds claims that he created a hostile work environment or harassed any employees were unsubstantiated, although he was loud and intense during staff meetings.
Source: <http://www.news8000.com/news/Head-of-Minnesota-security-hospital-forced-out/-/326/9722752/-/qjybbc/-/index.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *March 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. Democratic treasurer perpetrated \$7M fraud.** A Democratic campaign treasurer in California defrauded at least 50 candidates, officeholders, and political organizations out of \$7 million in a scheme that dates back more than a decade, according to a court filing made March 27 by federal prosecutors in Sacramento, California. The U.S. attorney's office in Sacramento filed the additional charges in federal court, providing the most detailed account in a case that has left some Democratic candidates scrambling for campaign cash in an election year. The head of Durkee & Associates in Burbank, was arrested in September 2011 and charged with suspicion of mail fraud after millions of dollars disappeared from campaign accounts of a U.S. Senator, other Democratic members of Congress, and several Democratic state lawmakers. The filing details a complex shell game in which the treasurer allegedly shifted campaign money to cover personal and business expenses.
Source: http://www.sacbee.com/2012/03/27/4371582/prosecutors-filing-hints-at-plea.html#storylink=omni_popular
30. *March 27, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Carbon monoxide scare at Heber City elementary school.** Seventeen students and a teacher were treated at a local hospital March 27 after a carbon monoxide scare at Heber Valley Elementary School in Heber City, Utah. All 18 have been released, said a hospital spokeswoman. The incident was apparently caused by construction equipment being used to build additional classrooms, said a Wasatch County Fire Department lieutenant. Carbon monoxide exhaust entered through a side door, setting off smoke alarms. At that time, the school was evacuated and the fire marshal checked carbon monoxide levels throughout the building, where it was found only between the two sets of double doors at the side entrance, she said. However, several hours later, children began complaining of stomach aches and headaches and Wasatch County fire, EMS, and health department officials responded to the school to check students and staff with monitors. The monitors are similar to oximeters used to test for blood oxygen levels and take around 30 seconds to a minute

per test. Construction was halted at the school until the safety of students and staff can be assured.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865553004/Carbon-monoxide-scare-at-Heber-City-elementary-school.html>

31. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Georgia man pleads guilty to making bomb threat at Colquitt County building.** A man has pleaded guilty to making a bomb threat at a Colquitt County, Georgia school. The U.S. attorney's office said March 27, the man pleaded guilty to calling Colquitt County authorities and claiming he put a bomb in an unnamed county building. All Colquitt County schools were evacuated for the day for safety reasons as the result of the call. The man could face 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced in July.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/7e4d7d2e817b43128d83fcdd15c04c02/GA--Bomb-Threat/>

For another story, see item [42](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *March 28, Sunbury Daily Item* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania firefighters charged with arson.** March 26, two members of the Potts Grove Fire Department were charged with arson and related counts involving a January 12 fire in an abandoned home in the Liberty Township section of Montour County, Pennsylvania. State police also told the district judge the two would be charged with setting three other fires in Montour County, two arsons, and an attempted arson in Northumberland County, and with making five false reports in Union County.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10683983/pennsylvania-firefighters-charged-with-arson>

33. *March 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Safety expert praises 2010 burning of bomb house.** A safety expert said the burning of a house packed with bomb-making chemicals in San Diego County went so well that safety professionals nationwide use it as a model, the Associated Press reported March 27. The North County Times said a spokesman praised the operation March 26 at an American Chemical Society convention in San Diego. Authorities burned the Escondido-area home in 2010 after deciding it was too dangerous to remove bomb components, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and stockpiles of unstable chemicals that could go off with a tap. Sixty agencies were involved and the unprecedented operation went off without injury or contamination.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_20264500/safety-expert-praises-2010-burning-bomb-house

34. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Oregon) **GE engine faulted for crash that killed 9.** A Portland, Oregon jury ruled March 27 a problem with an engine was responsible for the

2008 crash of a helicopter that killed nine firefighters and injured four people during a wildfire in Northern California. The jury reached its verdict after a pilot who survived and the widow of one who was killed sued General Electric (GE) for \$177 million. The plaintiffs argued the company knew the engines it made for the Sikorsky S-61N helicopter had a design flaw making them unsafe. GE argued the helicopter crashed because it was carrying too much weight when it took off after picking up a firefighting crew on the Iron 44 wildfire on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Weaverville, California. The chopper was airborne less than a minute when it clipped a tree and fell from the sky, bursting into flames. After a 2-year investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded in 2010 that too much weight and a lack of oversight caused the crash. The jury March 27 awarded a combined \$69.7 million to the estate of a pilot and two of the survivors. The jury put most of the blame — 57 percent — on GE, but also found the helicopter’s owner and its manufacturer partially at fault.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/03/27/national/a121021D72.DTL>

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Information Technology Sector

35. *March 28, Threatpost* – (International) **Adobe patches Flash Player, unveils new silent updater.** Adobe released a security update for its Flash Player March 28, patching two critical holes and introducing a new silent update option. The update, Adobe Flash Player 11.2, addresses two memory corruption vulnerabilities in Windows, Mac, Linux, and early Android builds that could lead to remote code execution according to a bulletin (APSB12-07). Users updating to 11.2 on Windows machines will notice a new background updater for Flash that has been shipped with the patch. After users update Flash, they will be asked how they want to receive Adobe updates going forward. The updater gives three options, including one that will automatically install updates in the background. If selected, the updater will check with Adobe every hour until it receives a response. If there is no available update, the updater will check back 24 hours later.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/adobe-patches-flash-player-unveils-new-silent-updater-032812

36. *March 28, Threatpost* – (International) **Kaspersky knocks down Kelihos botnet again, but experts return.** For the second time in 6 months, researchers from Kaspersky Lab carried out an operation to take down the newest iteration of the Kelihos botnet, also known as “Hlux.” Microsoft and Kaspersky worked together in September, 2011, on the first Kelihos take-down. The bot then resurfaced in January only to be shut-down again in March by a combination of private firms including Kaspersky, Dell Secure Works, and Crowd Strike Inc. Kelihos is used to send spam, carry out distributed denial-of-service attacks, and steal online currency such as bitcoin wallets. It operates as a “peer-to-peer” bot network, which are more difficult to take down than those with centralized command and control (C&C) servers, according to a senior researcher at CrowdStrike. Peer-to-peer botnets are distributed, self-organizing,

and may have multiple command and control servers that disguise themselves as peers. In Kelihos's case, there were three C&C servers and each had two unique IP addresses, he said.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/kaspersky-sinkholes-kelihos-botnet-again-expects-resurrection-032812

37. *March 28, H Security* – (International) **Opera 11.62 closes security holes.** Opera released version 11.62 of its Web browser. This maintenance update fixes a number of bugs, improves overall stability, and closes seven security holes, five of which affect all supported platforms. Two of the vulnerabilities are rated as “high” severity and could be exploited by an attacker to download and execute a possibly malicious file. This is done by tricking a victim into clicking a hidden dialogue box or by entering a specific keyboard sequence. Three other problems rated as “low” severity, including an address-spoofing bug, an address-bar problem and a cross-domain information disclosure bug, were also fixed. A moderate vulnerability affecting Opera for Mac and a low risk bug on Linux/Unix were also corrected.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Opera-11-62-closes-security-holes-1485067.html>

38. *March 28, H Security* – (International) **Critical Java hole being exploited on a large scale.** Criminals are increasingly exploiting a critical hole in the Java Runtime Environment to infect computers with malicious code when users visit a specially crafted Web page. According to a security blogger, the reason for this increased activity is that the arsenal of the BlackHole exploit kit has been extended to include a suitable exploit. The hole patched by Oracle in mid-February allows malicious code to breach the Java sandbox and permanently anchor itself in a system. Varying types of malware are injected; for example, it is believed the hole is exploited to deploy the Zeus trojan. According to an analysis by Microsoft, the dropper is distributed across two Java classes. The first class exploits the vulnerability to elevate its privileges when processing arrays, and then executes a loader class that will download and install the payload. Users can protect themselves by installing or updating to one of the current Java releases: Java SE 6 Update 31 or version 7 Update 3.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Critical-Java-hole-being-exploited-on-a-large-scale-1485681.html>

39. *March 27, Threatpost* – (International) **Carberp: It's not over yet.** March 20, Russian law enforcement agencies announced the arrest of a cybercriminal gang involved in stealing money using the Carberp trojan. Evidently, those arrested were just one of the criminal gangs using the trojan. At the same time, those who developed Carberp are still at large, openly selling the trojan on cybercriminal forums. There are still numerous “affiliate programs” involved in the distribution of Carberp, particularly “traffbiz(dot)ru.” In short, those responsible for developing Carberp remain at large and the cybercriminal gangs using the trojan remain active.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/carberp-it-s-not-over-yet-032712

40. *March 27, Dark Reading* – (International) **Malware to increasingly abuse DNS.** Security researchers have looked at ways to abuse the domain-name service

(DNS) for years. Now, some researchers are warning the protocol may increasingly be used to help criminals communicate with compromised systems. At the RSA Conference in February, a senior security consultant with InGuardians predicted more malware would hide its commands and exfiltrated data in DNS packets. The advantage for malware writers is that, even if a company bars a potentially infected computer from contacting the Internet, malware could send DNS requests to a local server, which would then act as a proxy, bypassing defenses. To date, the tactic has been relatively rare: Perhaps a dozen malware variants have used the domain-name system to send commands and updates to botnets.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/vulnerabilities/232700369/malware-to-increasingly-abuse-dns.html>

41. *March 27, CNET News* – (International) **New exploit uses old Office vulnerability for OS X malware delivery.** Some malware groups have recently been found to be taking advantage of an old, patched vulnerability in Microsoft Office for OS X in an attempt to spread command-and-control malware to OS X systems. The vulnerability used in the attack was outlined in a Microsoft security bulletin in June 2009, which applied to all versions of Office 2004 version 11.5.4 or earlier, Office 2008 version 12.1.8 or earlier, and OpenXML Converter 1.0.2 or earlier. The vulnerability was patched soon after it was found and currently all supported Office programs are well beyond these versions. However, malware developers are attempting to exploit unpatched systems. These efforts mark the first time Office documents have been used as a vehicle for attacks in OS X. For this attack to work, a person would need to open a maliciously crafted Word file that has likely been distributed via spam and other suspicious means that could easily be avoided. When a maliciously crafted Word file is opened in an unpatched version of Word for Mac, it runs a script that writes the document's malware payload to the disk and executes a shell script that runs the malware. In addition, it displays a Word document containing a poorly formatted political statement about Tibetan freedoms and grievances.

Source: http://reviews.cnet.com/8301-13727_7-57405503-263/new-exploit-uses-old-office-vulnerability-for-os-x-malware-delivery/?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20

For more stories, see items [25](#) and [42](#)

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

42. *March 28, Taos News* – (New Mexico) **Gunshot blamed for Taos cell phone, Internet outage.** A gunshot was identified as the cause of a cell phone and Internet outage that affected an estimated 7,800 residents in Taos, Questa, Penasco, Red River, Eagle Nest, Angel Fire, Cimarron, and Raton, New Mexico. The outage began just before 7 p.m. March 24. Service was restored by midday March 25. The loss of service was the result of a bullet that apparently cut an overhead fiber optic cable owned by CenturyLink. Several Internet providers and cell phone companies that serve Taos lease space on the same cable. E-mailed outage updates provided by the Public Regulation Commission showed CenturyLink reported that 7,774 residential, business, and government customers were impacted by the cut line. Outage updates from CenturyLink stated that mobile phone customers with Verizon, AT&T, and Sprint all went without service because of the break.
Source: http://www.taosnews.com/article_5d792538-783e-11e1-b684-0019bb2963f4.html

For another story, see item [35](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

43. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Pa. apartment fire that left 9 homeless was arson.** A state police fire marshal said an apartment building fire that left nine people homeless in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, was intentionally set, making it the 12th arson or suspicious fire in the city since October 2011. The fire in Jeannette was reported March 27. The residents got out of the building, though one woman fell and broke her arm running down the front porch steps to get out. A Jeannette fire captain said the building appeared to be a total loss. The building contained four apartment units.
Source: http://www.timesonline.com/news/state/pa-apartment-fire-that-left-homeless-was-arson/article_1175ead0-52b0-5756-bccc-7f71eab9eeaf.html
44. *March 28, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Fayetteville condo fire displaces dozens.** At least 29 people were displaced from a Fayetteville, North Carolina condominium building March 28 after fire ripped through a dozen units, authorities said. Six of those units were heavily damaged, and it appeared that all 12 were no longer inhabitable. Investigators said it appeared the fire started accidentally on a balcony, but the exact cause was unknown. It took fire officials about 2 hours to put out the fire. No one was killed or seriously hurt in the blaze. Red Cross officials were assisting the displaced families.
Source: http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/10914731/
45. *March 28, WAGA 5 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **SWAT standoff at Norcross apartment ends with man in custody.** A SWAT standoff at a Norcross, Georgia apartment complex where a man barricaded himself ended peacefully March 28. Police received a call

from a frightened woman and arrived to find her running out of the apartment, covered in blood. Inside, police said they found a man who refused to give himself up. They tried to negotiate with him for some time, and the SWAT team was then called to the scene. After a fewl hours, negotiators threw tear gas into the apartment. Authorities said the man then surrendered peacefully. The man and the woman who called police were taken to a hospital to be checked out.

Source: http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/local_news/SWAT-Situation-at-Norcross-Apartment-Complex-20120328-am-sd

For more stories, see items [21](#), [23](#), [33](#), [42](#), and [46](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

46. *March 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Colo. gov to stop prescribed burns after wildfire.** The Colorado governor said March 28 he was preparing to order a stop to government-prescribed burns like the one that may have caused a deadly wildfire that destroyed dozens of homes near Denver. Investigators were trying to determine whether the fire reignited from a controlled burn that was meant to reduce vegetation that could fuel a devastating blaze around homes and watersheds. Meanwhile, some 400 firefighters from several states were focusing on building containment lines around the 6-square-mile wildfire, which broke out March 26. Until now, the fire’s erratic pattern has forced firefighters to focus on protecting homes, not stopping the burn. As crews dig lines around the fire’s perimeter, a search team is using dogs to look for a woman missing in the fire zone. Her home was among 27 destroyed or damaged in the blaze. The Jefferson County sheriff’s office will determine the cause of the blaze, while the Colorado State Forest Service was conducting its own review.

Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Colo-gov-to-stop-prescribed-burns-after-wildfire-3436197.php>

47. *March 27, Reuters* – (Arizona) **Two cousins plead guilty over Arizona’s largest fire.** Two cousins accused of starting the largest wildfire ever recorded in Arizona by leaving a campfire unattended pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges March 27 in a deal with federal prosecutors. The massive summer blaze, which raged from late May 2011 to early July 2011, destroyed three dozen homes and businesses, forced as many as 10,000 people to flee, and ravaged pristine property in the picturesque White Mountains. More than \$83 million was spent fighting the fire before it was finally contained July 8, 2011. March 27, the pair entered guilty pleas before a federal magistrate in Flagstaff to two misdemeanor counts each of leaving an unattended fire, and failing to remove all flammable material around the campfire.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/28/us-usa-arizona-fire-plea-idUSBRE82R03U20120328>

For another story, see item [34](#)

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Dams Sector

48. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Corps monitors levees as waters rise on river.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began monitoring the levees along the Mississippi river in Louisiana, the Associated Press reported March 28. The Corps said patrolling began between Baton Rouge and the mouth of the Mississippi because water levels had risen to 11.7 feet at the gauge at Carrollton. The agency said inspections would continue twice weekly until the water level drops. The National Weather Service predicted a crest of 12 feet there April 5.
Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/2012/03/28/3847135/corps-monitors-levees-as-waters.html>

49. *March 27, KOLR 10 Springfield* – (Arkansas) **Corps releasing water through spillway at Norfolk Dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began releasing water March 27 from the spillway of Norfolk Dam, southeast of Mountain Home, Arkansas, while a powerhouse turbine was out of service for maintenance. About 6,000 cubic feet per second will be released, half through spillway releases and the other half through turbine releases. One turbine was currently out of operation for maintenance and was expected to be back in service by mid-April 2012. The release was not related to ongoing construction to implement White River Minimum Flows.
Source: http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=622482

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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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