



## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 10 May 2012

### Top Stories

- A report found criminals who steal identities and file fake tax returns could make \$26 billion in 5 years because the IRS cannot keep up with the fraud. – *CNN* (See item [17](#))
- Tree fruit and other crop losses caused by mid-April hailstorms are in the tens of millions of dollars and counting for California farmers, according to Kings County agricultural officials. – *California Farm Bureau Federation* (See item [25](#))
- Authorities arrested 10 alleged members of a white supremacist group training near Orlando, Florida. Officials said the group was experimenting with the biological toxin ricin and had plotted a disturbance at Orlando City Hall. – *Reuters* (See item [36](#))
- Beginning in mid-2011, a widespread series of cyberattacks targeted technology firms, transportation and agriculture groups, and government organizations with links to policies of interest to China. – *Dark Reading* (See item )
- The mayor of Star, Idaho, declared a state of emergency May 8 in response to two levee breaches along the Boise River. – *KBOI 2 Boise* (See item [60](#))

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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. *May 9, Beckley Register-Herald* – (West Virginia; National) **Mine emergency training exercises held at MSHA.** In simulated mining emergencies, 56 teams from West Virginia and other coal mining States gathered May 8 at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, West Virginia, to compete in crisis preparedness, including firefighting, smoke training and mine rescue. Training exercises were conducted concurrently: an outdoor firefighting competition, smoke training in the mine simulation laboratory, and a mine rescue contest. The teams demonstrated their preparation by assembling the critical breathing apparatus mine rescue workers depend on for survival, performing hands-on exercises in fighting fire and handling fire hoses, exploring a simulated mine in smoke, and applying first aid to a victim. Meanwhile, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, emergency operations personnel, State mining officials, and coal company representatives met to discuss the latest improvements in mine emergency training and mine rescue technology.  
Source: <http://www.register-herald.com/local/x1856220713/Mine-emergency-training-exercises-held-at-MSHA>
2. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **3 critically injured in Wyoming refinery fire.** Three workers injured in a fire at the Sinclair refinery near Rawlins, Wyoming, were taken to a burn center in Colorado in critical condition. Sinclair Oil Corp. said the flash fire happened May 8 inside a gas recovery unit at its refinery, about 5 miles east of Rawlins. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration sent two investigators to the facility to look into the incident. Sinclair said there appeared to be little or no damage to the facility.  
Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501363\\_162-57430732/3-critically-injured-in-wyoming-refinery-fire/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501363_162-57430732/3-critically-injured-in-wyoming-refinery-fire/)
3. *May 9, Bloomberg* – (California) **California to propose new fracking rules, review agency oversight of injection wells.** California oil and gas regulators plan to propose new regulations for hydraulic fracturing activities and re-examine existing rules for underground injection wells, Bloomberg reported May 9. The Department of Conservation’s Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) released a “road map” May 3 outlining its plan to revisit the State’s oversight of underground injection wells to better protect drinking water supplies and workers. As part of the process, the division said it would look at the use of carbon dioxide as an enhanced oil recovery tool, the storing of carbon dioxide in injection wells, and the reinjection of waste gas. DOGGR said it will hold a series of public workshops to gather input for new fracking rules, which it plans to propose by the end of the summer. Also, DOGGR said it will commission an independent study of the impact of fracking in California. Existing regulations protect well casings, hydrocarbon-bearing geologic formation, and groundwater, DOGGR said. Through the workshops, the agency said it will try to

identify steps needed to ensure well integrity, proper testing procedures, ways to protect resources, and suitable reporting requirements.

Source: <http://www.bna.com/california-propose-new-n12884909259/>

4. *May 8, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Settlement reached in 2009 San Francisco Bay oil spill.** The owner and operator of the Dubai Star, an oil tanker that spilled 422 gallons of thick, black bunker fuel into San Francisco Bay in 2009, will pay \$1.96 million to settle the case with State and local authorities, the San Jose Mercury News reported May 8. Although the spill was relatively small, State officials said it harmed the bay, wildlife, and public recreation. The settlement was filed in San Francisco County Superior Court. Under the agreement, the owner of the Dubai Star, South Harmony Shipping, of Panama, and its operator, Pioneer Ship Management, based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, will pay to settle violations of State clean water laws. Most of the money will be used to restore wildlife habitat and enhance public recreation in the East Bay, although \$550,000 is in civil penalties. The spill occurred October 30, 2009, while the Dubai Star's crew was refueling the ship with bunker fuel pumped from a barge owned by Foss Maritime. During the refueling, a tank on the ship's port side filled to capacity and began overflowing, sending 2,000 gallons of black fuel onto the deck and 422 gallons into the water. An investigation showed nobody noticed the overflow until it was too late, alarms did not sound, and the crew of the Dubai Star waited hours before notifying cleanup companies.

Source: [http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci\\_20578515/settlement-reached-2009-san-francisco-bay-oil-spill](http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_20578515/settlement-reached-2009-san-francisco-bay-oil-spill)

5. *May 7, WECT 6 Wilmington* – (North Carolina) **Asbestos found during construction of new Sutton Plant.** Construction on the new natural gas Sutton Energy Complex in Wilmington, North Carolina, stopped after asbestos was found on site, WECT 6 Wilmington reported May 7. The week of April 30, workers were digging in the area where the new power plant will be when they uncovered a structure underground that was more than 50 years old. Tests on the materials showed traces of asbestos. Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials were on site May 4 to assess the situation. Officials with Progress Energy decided to stop all construction until the issue can be fixed. The move affects roughly 350 workers currently on the project. According to a Progress Energy spokesman, no workers have complained of health issues related to the exposure to asbestos. There was a team from the state on site May 7 to determine when the hundreds of workers could go back to work. The existing Sutton Power plant is fully operational, and no one at that site is in danger.

Source: <http://www.wect.com/story/18163622/asbestos-found-during-construction-of-new-sutton-plant>

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## Chemical Industry Sector

6. *May 8, Lincoln Journal Star* – (Nebraska; Missouri; Virginia) **Syngenta penalized for mislabeling fungicide.** Syngenta Crop Protection LLC of Greensboro, North Carolina, agreed to pay a \$102,000 civil penalty to the United States to settle violations of selling or distributing misbranded pesticides through its manufacturing plant in Omaha, Nebraska, and through a farm supply retailer, the Lincoln Journal Star reported May 8. An administrative consent agreement filed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said inspections of Syngenta's Omaha facility and a business in Chesapeake, Virginia, in March and April 2011 found Syngenta received 16 imported shipments of Azoxystrobin Technical, a fungicide, whose bags were not labeled with an accepted EPA label. During a separate inspection in August 2011 at Duncan Agri-Service Inc. in Savannah, Missouri, the EPA found a bulk tank of Lumax Selective Herbicide, whose label was missing a required warning statement. The labeling deficiencies violated the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, the settlement said. As a result of the enforcement action, Syngenta had to relabel all shipments in question. The firm also instituted changes in its practices to prevent similar violations, the EPA said.  
Source: [http://journalstar.com/business/agriculture/syngenta-penalized-for-mislabeling-fungicide/article\\_5a3fcbdb-e3c1-5938-ae41-080d1c4991f8.html](http://journalstar.com/business/agriculture/syngenta-penalized-for-mislabeling-fungicide/article_5a3fcbdb-e3c1-5938-ae41-080d1c4991f8.html)

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## Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *May 9, Nuclear Street* – (Ohio) **NRC gives Davis-Besse shield building clean bill of health.** In a report issued May 7, federal regulators formally closed their inspection of shield building cracking discovered at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant in Oak Harbor, Ohio, during a reactor pressure vessel head replacement in October 2011. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it was satisfied with FirstEnergy's plan to deal with the cracks, and no violations or adverse findings were identified in the inspection. October 10, 2011 a contractor noticed subsurface cracks in the concrete while performing hydro-cutting to create the hole needed to swap out the RPV head. Following a subsequent investigation, FirstEnergy blamed the cracking on a blizzard in 1978, not long after the plant began operating, and indicated it would add weather-proofing material to the concrete.  
Source:  
[http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear\\_power\\_industry\\_news/b/nuclear\\_power\\_news/archive/2012/05/09/nrc-gives-davis\\_2d00\\_besse-shield-building-clean-bill-of-health-050902.aspx](http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear_power_industry_news/b/nuclear_power_news/archive/2012/05/09/nrc-gives-davis_2d00_besse-shield-building-clean-bill-of-health-050902.aspx)
8. *May 9, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif utility says 1,300 tubes in troubled nuke plant will be retired, as probe continues.** More than 1,300 tubes that carry radioactive water inside the San Onofre nuclear plant in San Diego County, California, are so damaged that they will be taken out of service, the utility that runs the plant said May 8.

The figures released by Southern California Edison are the latest disclosure in a probe of equipment problems that have kept the coastal plant sidelined for more than 3 months. A company statement said that as of May 7, 510 tubes were plugged, or retired from use, in the Unit 2 reactor, and 807 tubes in its sister, Unit 3. Each of the generators has nearly 10,000 tubes, and the number retired is well within the limit allowed to continue operation. An Edison executive said the company hopes to restart the plant in June, though federal regulators said there was no timetable for a restart. Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/calif-utility-says-1300-tubes-in-troubled-nuke-plant-will-be-retired-as-probe-continues/2012/05/08/gIQAYpo9AU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/calif-utility-says-1300-tubes-in-troubled-nuke-plant-will-be-retired-as-probe-continues/2012/05/08/gIQAYpo9AU_story.html)

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *May 9, Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Explosions, fire damage Delray Beach welding shop.** An oxygen tank that caught fire in a welding shop May 9 was blamed for multiple explosions that damaged the shop and two neighboring units at an industrial complex in Delray Beach, Florida. Firefighters said they saw multiple explosions that ripped a bay door off the back of the building. They cut through another door to get inside the rooms, which were black with smoke and cluttered with equipment. It took about an hour for firefighters to get the blaze under control. The Skill-metric shop suffered extensive damage and two neighboring units had visible smoke damage.  
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/palm-beach/delray-beach/fl-welding-shop-fire-delray-20120509,0,2224531.story>
10. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Ford adds Virginia to Windstar minivan recall.** Ford Motor Co. added 27,000 Windstar minivans from Virginia to a larger recall because the rear axles can crack and fail, the Associated Press reported May 9. The vans are now part of an August 2010 recall of more than 600,000 Windstars in the United States and Canada from the 1998 through 2003 model years. Ford said at the time the vans were sold in states where salt is used to clear the roads. Over time, the salt can cause the axles to rust, crack, and even break, causing a driver to lose control. Virginia was not included in the original recall. However, Ford said a recent analysis showed vans there can have similar problems. There were 11 reports of axle cracks from Virginia between October 2011 and March.  
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/05/09/financial/f061203D68.DTL>

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## Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *May 8, Defense News* – (National) **Fixes for F-35 helmet in the works.** The head of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program touted a fix for the jet's troubled, high-tech helmet, which officials hope will solve jitter picture and lag time issues. A "micro-inertial measurement unit" is expected to fix the jitter, while "signal processing changes in the software and the architecture" could fix the lag, the F-35 program manager said after testifying at a May 8 U.S. Senate hearing. "What I am focused on is seeing the demonstration of those fixes working and being effective," he said. "That will be paced out through the remainder of this year and into 2013." Program officials also plan to improve a camera installed on the helmet which they believe will fix "the acuity and night vision," he said. The fixes will be eventually demonstrated through a flight test or in a laboratory environment. The program has funding to work on the fixes to the primary helmet, made by Vision Systems International, as well as a back-up helmet system.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120508/DEFREG02/305080005>

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## Banking and Finance Sector

12. *May 9, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **5 people arrested at Bank of America demonstration.** Five people were arrested May 9 as they tried to force their way into the annual Bank of America shareholders' meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, and police used a new ordinance to declare the gathering an extraordinary event subject to special restrictions. Hundreds gathered on the streets as dozens of police officers worked to contain the protest. If a gathering is deemed an extraordinary event, authorities can designate areas where people are not allowed to carry backpacks, magic markers, and other items. The measures were adopted in advance of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte.  
Source: <http://www.wset.com/story/18241952/5-people-arrested-at-bank-of-america-demonstration>
13. *May 9, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Two Arlington companies indicted.** Two Arlington, Texas companies accused of being part of a \$13 million mortgage fraud scheme in north Texas were indicted on criminal charges, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported May 9. The companies, Sierra Developers and homebuilder Genesis Homes of Texas, are accused of generating more than \$400,000 from fraudulent loans in December 2004. The loans were handled by a lending company run by a mortgage broker who has since pleaded guilty to engaging in organized criminal activity and money laundering. Seventeen defendants were convicted in the scheme, including two who were alleged to be "straw buyers" of homes built by Genesis, the prosecutor said. The corporate indictments, handed down quietly in December 2011, accuse Sierra and Genesis of providing false payoff information to the lending company for monetary gain. Sierra is accused of providing false information on a federal Department of Housing and Urban Development settlement statement. Sierra and Genesis homes were

the sellers in the transaction, according to officials.

Source: [http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/05/08/3946443/two-arlington-companies-indicted.html#storylink=omni\\_popular](http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/05/08/3946443/two-arlington-companies-indicted.html#storylink=omni_popular)

14. *May 9, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (Michigan) **SEC charges former Detroit officials and investment adviser to city pension funds in influence peddling scheme.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) May 9 charged a former Detroit mayor, city treasurer, and the investment adviser to the city’s public pension funds involved in a secret exchange of gifts to peddle influence over the funds’ investment process. The SEC alleged the former mayor and treasurer, who were trustees to the pension funds, solicited and received \$125,000 in perks paid for by MayfieldGentry Realty Advisors LLC, an investment adviser whose chief executive officer (CEO) was recommending to the trustees the pension funds invest approximately \$117 million in a real estate investment trust (REIT) controlled by the firm. Neither the officials nor the CEO and his firm informed the boards of trustees about the perks and the conflicts of interest they presented. The funds ultimately voted to approve the REIT investment, and MayfieldGentry received millions of dollars in management fees. According to the SEC’s complaint, members of the mayor’s administration began to exert pressure on the CEO in early 2006. The former treasurer met with the CEO in February 2006 and the CEO appeared before the boards of trustees for the pension funds throughout 2007, recommending the REIT investment. Meanwhile, MayfieldGentry began footing the bills for trips taken by city officials that extended beyond city business.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-88.htm>

15. *May 8, Orange County Register* – (California) **‘Snowboarder Bandit’ charged in 10 bank robberies.** A Riverside, California man who authorities suspect of being the “Snowboarder Bandit” was charged May 8 with 10 bank robberies in which he is alleged to have stolen about \$30,000. He is facing 10 felony counts of second-degree robbery, as well as 2 felony counts of attempted robbery, according to a statement from the Orange County district attorney’s office. Authorities have tied him to 10 holdups at 9 Orange County banks. Authorities also believe he attempted to rob two other banks in Irvine, but left without receiving money.

Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/bandit-353272-bank-franks.html>

16. *May 8, Reuters* – (New York; National) **Trader in free-riding fraud case admits guilt.** A Florida man accused of operating a “free-riding” fraud, in which he bought and sold \$64 million of stock with money he did not have, pleaded guilty May 7 in New York to 10 criminal counts. He admitted to grand larceny, securities fraud, and scheming to defraud. According to his prepared allocution, the defendant conducted “paired trades” more than 200 times at more than 36 brokers using accounts that named bogus shell companies and hedge funds. He said this let him buy publicly traded securities between July 2009 and September 2010 despite lacking sufficient funds. Among the brokerages that he stole from were Barclays Capital, Lazard Capital Markets, and Morgan Keegan & Co., according to the prepared allocution. A U.S. attorney said the defendant induced brokerages to open accounts by misrepresenting his net worth and his alleged control of a \$20 million hedge fund. He also said the

defendant raised money by falsely telling investors to expect high returns, only to use the bulk of the funds to repay earlier investors or on personal expenses. Among the companies in which he traded were Baidu Inc, CME Group Inc., Netflix Inc., and Priceline.com Inc., according to the SEC.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/08/us-kupersmith-fraud-plea-idUSBRE8471EH20120508>

17. *May 8, CNN* – (National) **Identity thieves could rake in \$26 billion in tax refunds.** Criminals who file fraudulent tax returns by stealing people’s identities could rake in an estimated \$26 billion over the next 5 years because the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) cannot keep up with the amount of the fraud, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) said May 8. “Our analysis found that, although the IRS detects and prevents a large number of fraudulent refunds based on false income documents, there is much fraud that it does not detect,” the inspector general said in prepared testimony before a joint hearing of two House subcommittees. The TIGTA report is the first detailed analysis of the tax refund fraud problem, which could affect any taxpayer. His projection of \$26 billion was larger than any other estimate of identity theft tax fraud. In 2011, according to TIGTA, the IRS reported that of the 2.2 million tax returns it found to be fraudulent, about 940,000 returns totaling \$6.5 billion were related to identity theft. In the investigation, the inspector general said auditors found another 1.5 million undetected tax returns with more than \$5.2 billion in fraud. As of April, the IRS reported it had stopped the issuance of \$1.3 billion in potentially fraudulent tax returns.

Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/08/us/tax-refund-fraud/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t3](http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/08/us/tax-refund-fraud/index.html?hpt=hp_t3)

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *May 9, CNN* – (Arizona; California) **Threats halt 2 Southwest flights.** Two Southwest Airlines flights from Orange County, California, to Phoenix were the subject of security scares May 8, and authorities were investigating whether the incidents were linked. Both planes were eventually cleared after officials determined a threat did not exist. Southwest Airlines flight 811 was headed to Phoenix’s Sky Harbor International Airport from John Wayne Airport when officials removed passengers and brought in a bomb squad and canine units to search the plane, said an FBI spokeswoman. “No threats of any kind” were found, said an Orange County Sheriff’s Office lieutenant. In the second incident, Southwest flight 1184 was taken to an isolated area at Sky Harbor after it flew in from John Wayne Airport after authorities received a “non-specific threat,” said an airline spokeswoman. Passengers and their bags were re-screened.

Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/09/us/california-planes-threats/index.html?hpt=us\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/09/us/california-planes-threats/index.html?hpt=us_c2)

19. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Louisiana; National) **Coast Guard steps up inspections of towboats.** A new round of inspections of towboats and tugs is starting in July as part of

a nationwide push by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to improve the safety of the nation's rivers and harbors, the Associated Press reported May 9. Since a 2008 collision and oil spill near New Orleans involving an improperly licensed towboat captain, the USCG began inspecting work boats across the nation. So far, the USCG said it has inspected 2,887 towing vessels that volunteered to be inspected in the 26 States that fall under the Guard's Eighth District, which is headquartered in New Orleans. Starting July 1, the agency said it will begin inspecting the rest of the towing fleet in the district. "Our goal is 100 percent participation," said a USCG towing vessel specialist.  
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/coast-guard-steps-inspections-towboats-16309041#.T6pyZ1K1WZd>

20. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Fiery crash shuts down I-95 north in New Haven.** Interstate 95 northbound in New Haven, Connecticut, closed after a tractor-trailer went off the highway and burst into flames. State police said the driver died in the May 9 crash near exit 48, and the medical examiner was called to the scene. Authorities said the tractor-trailer went off the highway, rolled down a steep embankment, and caught fire. Officials hoped to have the lanes reopened 4 hours later.  
Source: <http://www2.wjtv.com/news/2012/may/09/fiery-crash-shuts-down-i-95-north-in-new-haven-ar-3757344/>
21. *May 8, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Two unrelated fuel spills lead to closures on road near Santa Paula.** Six hours after a big-rig crash and fuel spill May 8 led authorities to close part of South Mountain Road near Santa Paula, California, firefighters responded to an unrelated fertilizer spill about half a mile away, officials said. A fertilizer company was transferring liquid fertilizer from a transport to a tank on a ranch on South Mountain Road when a pipe leaked, a spokesman for the Ventura County Fire Department said. The company estimated about 300 gallons of fertilizer spilled. The fertilizer was flowing downhill toward the Santa Clara River but whether any got into the waterway was unclear, officials said. Some fertilizer spilled into a stream in the area, a battalion chief said. A HAZMAT team from the Ventura City Fire Department responded to help clean up the fertilizer spill.  
Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/may/08/big-rig-overturms-near-santa-paula-hazmat-called/>
22. *May 8, Lafayette Advertiser* – (Louisiana) **Highway reopened after I-10 cleanup in Acadia Parish.** Louisiana State troopers reopened a stretch of Interstate 10 near Jennings after the cleanup from a crash that left the driver of a benzene-laden tanker truck severely injured and closed the highway for more than 12 hours May 8. The preliminary investigation revealed that an 18-wheeler tanker was traveling east on I-10 when it entered the median and overturned. As a result, Interstate 10 was closed near mile post 65 to facilitate the safe off-loading of the truck. Louisiana State Police Emergency Services troopers helped assure the safe transfer of the benzene and expedite the process in an effort to minimize inconvenience to the motoring public.  
Source: <http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20120508/NEWS01/120508012/I-10-cleanup-extended-into-night-Acadia-Parish?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

23. *May 9, Food Safety News* – (Louisiana) **Oysters at New Orleans restaurant cause norovirus.** Fourteen people became ill with norovirus after eating Gulf oysters at a New Orleans area restaurant April 28 and 29, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) announced May 8. As a result, the DHH closed a key harvesting area on the Gulf coast east of the Mississippi River and recalled oysters harvested from those areas since April 26. The recall includes all shucked, frozen, breaded, post-harvest processed oysters, and oysters for the half shell market. Epidemiologists and sanitarians from the DHH traced the outbreak to Louisiana oysters from harvest area 23 consumed at the same restaurant. A Louisiana State health officer and the DHH secretary signed the closure order, which took effect at sundown May 8. Area 23 harvesting area was expected to be closed for at least 21 days. The DHH notified local oyster harvesters who work the area, as well as the Louisiana Oyster Task Force. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/05/oysters-at-new-orleans-restaurant-cause-norovirus/>
24. *May 9, Canadian Press* – (International) **Ontario crops have suffered millions in damage, say growers.** The early warm weather in March, followed by sudden flash freezes, caused losses to tender fruit and apple growers in a large part of southern Ontario, Canada, the Canadian Press reported May 9. An agriculture specialist at the University of Guelph said the apple industry alone in Ontario is worth up to \$400 million. An official with the Ontario Tender Fruit Producers Marketing Board in Niagara said about 30 percent of peaches and nectarines were affected, with damage totaling about \$24 million to those 2 crops alone. Growers will not know the impact on the grape crop until early June. Source: <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/1175392--ontario-crops-have-suffered-millions-in-damage-say-growers>
25. *May 9, California Farm Bureau Federation* – (California) **Tree fruit harvest to be cut as result of April hailstorms.** Four weeks after their orchards and fields were pounded by intense mid-April hailstorms, San Joaquin Valle, California farmers continued to tally losses but said tree fruit and other harvests will be reduced, the California Farm Bureau Federation reported May 9. Agricultural commissioners' in affected counties such as Kings and Tulare said crop losses to agriculture were in the tens of millions of dollars and counting. The Kings County Agricultural Commissioner requested a U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster declaration for damaged crops due to what is being

called a “once in 100 years” hailstorm and other storms that occurred April 11-13. To qualify for the declaration, farmers must have experienced a 30 percent loss of a particular crop, countywide. He reported \$20.5 million worth of crop losses in Kings County, with the hardest-hit crop, plums, suffering \$5.7 million in damage. Losses to nectarines were nearly as high, at \$5.3 million. Additional crops that took a hit include peaches, apricots, and cherries, as well as almonds, cotton, and kiwifruit. Tulare County continued to work with farmers to analyze crops damaged in the mid-April storms, according to the county’s deputy agricultural commissioner. So far for Tulare, impacted crops include stone fruit, nuts, grapes, forage crops, and some citrus.  
Source: <http://agalert.com/story/?id=4191>

26. *May 8, Food Safety News* – (Ohio) **Alfalfa sprouts recalled in Ohio due to Listeria risk.** Cleveland Beansprouts Co. of Cleveland recalled all alfalfa sprouts it produces because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, Food Safety News reported May 8. The contamination was discovered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture while collecting and testing samples under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Microbiological Data Program. The alfalfa sprouts were distributed only in Ohio.  
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/05/alfalfa-sprouts-recalled-due-to-listeria-risk-1/>
27. *May 8, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National; International) **Solid Gold Health Products for Pets, Inc. recalls dog food because of possible Salmonella health risk.** Solid Gold Health Products for Pets, Inc. of El Cajon, California, announced a voluntary recall of one batch of WolfCub Large Breed Puppy Food and one batch of Solid Gold WolfKing Large Breed Adult Dog, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported May 8. Solid Gold voluntarily recalled the products that were distributed in the United States and Canada. This voluntary recall was being done as these products were produced at the facility that was linked to recent recalls of Diamond brand pet foods due to potential Salmonella contamination.  
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm303371.htm>
28. *May 8, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Pennsylvania) **US Labor Department’s OSHA cites Bazzini Holdings for safety and health violations at Allentown, Pa., facility after worker’s arm amputated.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Bazzini Holdings LLC with 15 workplace safety and health violations following an incident in which a worker’s arm was amputated at the company’s Allentown, Pennsylvania facility. Bazzini Holdings, which employs about 250 workers at the Allentown site, manufactures fine chocolates and nut products, the U.S. Department of Labor reported May 8. OSHA’s inspection, initiated in November 2011 after the agency was notified of the amputation, found three repeat, eight serious, and four other-than-serious violations. The repeat violations involved electrical hazards and uncovered projecting shafts. The serious violations included additional electrical hazards as well as the company’s failure to: use specific procedures for controlling hazardous energy; provide general machine and power transmission guarding; develop and implement a hazard communication program; and implement a hearing conservation program that includes noise engineering controls,

noise monitoring, audiometric testing, and hearing conservation training. The other-than-serious violations involved missing electrical covers, unsecured machinery and personal protective equipment deficiencies. Proposed penalties total \$56,400.

Source:

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=22362](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22362)

29. *May 8, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania; Ohio; New York) **W. Pa. fruit farmers: major frost damage.** Western Pennsylvania fruit farmers said a combination of early warm weather and frosts caused major damage. The Erie Times-News reported May 8 some farmers lost 80 to 90 percent of their fruit crops. The member services director for the National Grape Cooperative, which owns Welch's, told the paper there was significant damage to grapes from Ohio to Pennsylvania and New York. He said it may be the worst frost damage to grapes in 35 years, though final estimates were not in yet. The paper reported some vineyards were undamaged in warmer areas close to Lake Erie.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP6f777ec5abc24ed5a83620bc7ef215da.html>

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## Water Sector

30. *May 8, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Washington) **Bremerton Gasworks added to Superfund national hazardous cleanup list.** Bremerton Gasworks, a former coal gasification plant that operated in Bremerton, Washington, from 1930 to 1963, will be listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national list of highly contaminated sites, the EPA reported May 8. EPA will manage the site under the Superfund cleanup program. "Cleaning up Bremerton Gasworks will help us shut off one more source of industrial contamination that threatens Puget Sound," said the EPA Region 10 Superfund Director in Seattle. Sediments in the Port of Washington Narrows and soils and groundwater at Bremerton Gasworks are contaminated with polyaromatic hydrocarbons from tars associated with the gasification process, plus toxic metals and benzene. EPA, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Cascade Natural Gas, and the U.S. Coast Guard have been involved in assessments of the site and an earlier beach cleanup. Contamination left on the site could still pollute the Washington Narrows and Puget Sound. Another concern is that the Suquamish Tribe uses the area as a subsistence fishery.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/1096A21B78BCD374852579F80075705B>

31. *May 8, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Sewage pumped into river during storm.** An estimated 16,250 gallons of sewage was pumped into the Kinnickinnic River May 6 in a brief sanitary sewer overflow, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) reported May 8. Wastewater flows in the regional sewer rose high enough in an evening rainstorm to trigger a relief pump, the MMSD water quality

protection manager said. The pump directed some of the flow to an overflow pipe that drains to the river. After 3 minutes, flows in the regional sewer dropped low enough to shut off the relief pump. The district was investigating why wastewater levels in the sewer spiked for such a short duration in the storm.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/regbrfs09-as5b0gk-150708985.html>

32. *May 8, Hawthorne Gazette* – (New Jersey) **Tests show wells contaminated in North Haledon.** More than a dozen wells in North Haledon, New Jersey, are contaminated with a carcinogenic chemical, but the source of the contamination remains a mystery, according to the Passaic County Department of Health May 8. A spokesman for the health department said 14 homes on Wayne Court, Wayne, and Passaic Avenues, Gemeinhardt Place, and Manchester Avenue tested positive for carbon tetrachloride in April, with results averaging between 0 and 34 parts per billion. He said the county health department has no records on any reported chemical spill in the area, which is predominantly residential. Residents within 1,000 feet of the property were subsequently notified and advised to test their well water at their own cost. A spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) said homeowners conducted the initial round of testing, and NJDEP is planning to determine the extent of the contamination by sampling 30 homes in the adjacent area. He said the affected wells were found to contain levels of carbon tetrachloride above the 1 part per billion groundwater remediation standard, necessitating action by the NJDEP. He noted the agency would handle the cost of any cleanup efforts and investigate the source of the water pollution.

Source:

[http://www.northjersey.com/community/150648625\\_Tests\\_show\\_wells\\_contaminated.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/community/150648625_Tests_show_wells_contaminated.html?page=all)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *May 9, Bergen County Record* – (National) **Wayne firm, RAM Medical, fined for selling tainted surgical supplies.** RAM Medical Inc., a Wayne, New Jersey-based distributor of medical products, was ordered May 8 to pay almost \$173,000 in fines and restitution for selling counterfeit and contaminated surgical mesh used to repair hernias, according to a U.S. attorney. The company also was sentenced to 3 years of probation. RAM entered a guilty plea to charges of selling adulterated and misbranded mesh in December 2011, through its founder and owner. From 2008 through 2009, RAM bought about 520 boxes of surgical hernia mesh either directly or indirectly from a business called Medserve in India. RAM sold the mesh to seven customers. It admitted that boxes sold between December 2008 and June 2009 included mesh that was tainted with microorganisms. RAM further admitted that boxes distributed between October 2008 and January 2010 contained counterfeit mesh that was falsely branded with the name of Davol Inc., a subsidiary of Murray Hill-based medical equipment maker C.R. Bard.

Source:

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/NJ\\_firm\\_sentenced\\_for\\_reselling\\_contaminated\\_msh.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/NJ_firm_sentenced_for_reselling_contaminated_msh.html)

34. *May 9, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (National) **U.S. Senate panel launches investigation of painkillers, drug companies.** The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported May 9 the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance opened a bipartisan investigation into financial relationships between companies that make narcotic painkillers and various non-profit organizations that have advocated their use for the treatment of pain. Citing investigative reports by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, MedPage Today, and others, the committee is seeking financial and marketing records from three companies that make opioid drugs, including Oxycontin and Vicodin, and seven national organizations. “It is clear that the United States is suffering from an epidemic of accidental deaths and addiction resulting from increased use of powerful narcotic painkillers,” said a joint statement from committee members. The Senators said there was growing evidence that drug companies have promoted misleading information about the safety and effectiveness of the drugs with help from nonprofits they have donated to.  
Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/us-senate-panel-launches-investigation-of-painkillers-drug-companies-4u5arr1-150767225.html>
35. *May 8, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **19-year-old girl charged in bomb threat at Berkeley nursing home.** A former employee at Holiday Care Center in Berkeley, New Jersey, was arrested in connection with a bomb scare at the care center, the Asbury Park Press reported May 8. Township police said the arrest was made for the April 17 incident where the female worker left a note in an employee bathroom stating the threat. That threat forced the evacuation of 162 patients and 70 employees at the center. She was charged with causing false public alarm and making terroristic threats.  
Source: <http://www.app.com/article/20120508/NJNEWS/305080074/19-year-old-girl-charged-in-bomb-threat-at-Berkeley-nursing-home>

For another story, see item [40](#)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

36. *May 9, Reuters* – (Florida) **Florida nabs white supremacists planning ‘race war’.** Ten alleged members of a white supremacist group training near Orlando for a “race war” were rounded up in a series of arrests in central Florida, authorities said May 8. The arrests were based on evidence from a confidential informant who infiltrated the neo-Nazi organization known as the American Front (AF) 17 months ago, according to an arrest affidavit. It said the group’s alleged local ringleader operated a heavily fortified paramilitary training center for the AF on his isolated property in St. Cloud, Florida. It said he recently plotted a disturbance at Orlando City Hall and a confrontation against a rival skinhead group in coastal Melbourne in a bid to garner media attention, but was also experimenting with the potential manufacture of

the biological toxin ricin. The investigation into the AF was conducted by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and local law enforcement agencies.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/09/us-usa-florida-skinheads-idUSBRE84804Q20120509>

37. *May 8, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Material carried out that caused evacuation of 2 IIT buildings.** The Chicago Police Bomb and Arson Unit carried out a potential explosive chemical May 8 that caused officials to call a Level 2 HAZMAT and evacuate two buildings on the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) campus. Fire media information initially stated an acid spill was in a basement of a building. As a precaution, officials evacuated that building and another located nearby. In an IIT news release, the material was identified as a potential explosive chemical in the basement of the Engineering 1 building. The Life Science Building also was evacuated. The hazardous material was discovered during a routine inspection, according to the release. Source: [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-05-08/news/chi-firefighters-evacuating-2-buildings-on-iit-campus-for-acid-spill--20120508\\_1\\_iit-buildings-evacuation-acid-spill](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-05-08/news/chi-firefighters-evacuating-2-buildings-on-iit-campus-for-acid-spill--20120508_1_iit-buildings-evacuation-acid-spill)
38. *May 8, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Maui County included in Hawaii disaster declaration.** Maui County, Hawaii, was added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration to assist with damage from the severe storms, flooding, and landslides that occurred March 3 through March 11, according to State Civil Defense. This amendment to the Disaster Declaration allows for assistance for emergency work and repair or replacement of public facilities in Maui County that received flood damage. It also allows for a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to assist all counties. Preliminary damage assessments identified approximately \$3.2 million in damage to public infrastructure in Maui County. Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/hawaii/Maui-County-included-in-Hawaii-disaster-declaration/-/8905354/12852356/-/13m41fy/-/>
39. *May 8, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **3 facing charges in threats to Eau Claire High School.** Three people were charged in connection with a string of bomb threats at a high school in Columbia, South Carolina, a U.S. attorney said May 8. A man is charged with calling in a bomb threat at Eau Claire High School in November 2011. One juvenile is charged with calling in bomb threats and making fake explosives. Another is facing a charge of lying to police. School officials called authorities and cancelled classes twice after bomb threats and fake bombs were found at the school in the fall of 2011 and earlier in 2012. Source: <http://www.midlandsconnect.com/news/story.aspx?id=751357#.T6qSRFKtr0Q>
40. *May 8, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Whooping cough forces emergency closure of Blanchet.** After more than 150 students called in sick May 8, Bishop Blanchet High School in Seattle declared an emergency closure for at least May 9 and May 10 due to whooping cough. According to a May 8 letter sent to parents, the principal consulted with the Seattle/King County Health Department and the Catholic Schools Department before making the decision to close. The principal asked parents to report sick children even during the closure so the school can track the illness. Washington State is

currently experiencing a whooping cough epidemic, with more than 1,100 cases reported in 2012.

Source: <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/komo/article/Whooping-cough-forces-emergency-closure-of-3543712.php>

41. *May 8, WFAA 8 Dallas* – (Texas) **Threatening letters found at six North Texas schools.** Letters containing threats and a white powder were found at six north Texas schools in four cities May 8. A seventh letter was delivered to Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie. The powder was determined to be a non-threatening substance. The suspicious letters were reported at the following schools: Pierce Early Childhood Development Center, Clifton Early Childhood Center, and West Irving Head Start in Irving; West Garland Head Start Center in Garland; Mesquite Head Start in Mesquite; and Head Start/Early Head Start in Dallas. At least one of the letters, delivered to Pierce Early Childhood Development Center in Irving, was reported to be accompanied by a threat from “al-Qaida.” All of the buildings were evacuated, and hazardous materials experts were called to handle the suspicious materials. Federal postal inspectors were called in to supervise the investigation.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Threatening-letters-found-at-three-North-Texas-schools-150677375.html>

42. *May 7, Times of Northwest Indiana* – (Indiana) **Suspected pipe bomb found near Schererville school.** Federal officials now have what could be a pipe bomb after an elementary school student found it May 4 and carried it home, said police in Schererville, Indiana. The sealed plastic plumbing pipe was found near a fence on the west side of Watson Elementary School and Grimmer Middle School. An adult called police when he saw the boy carried the pipe back to his home. The 6-inch-long pipe contained a black powder and was sealed with duct tape. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) officials took possession of the device for analysis, an ATF special agent said. The child told police a fuse was found with the device, but by the time ATF went to the home no fuse was connected. Schererville police are handling a follow-up investigation into how the pipe ended up near the school.

Source: [http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/schererville/suspected-pipe-bomb-found-near-schererville-school/article\\_1bb60c67-3a69-5165-b941-32a1a1ca9ff8.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/schererville/suspected-pipe-bomb-found-near-schererville-school/article_1bb60c67-3a69-5165-b941-32a1a1ca9ff8.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

43. *May 8, Firehouse.com* – (New Mexico) **New Mexico Forestry unveils email alert system.** New Mexico State Forestry Division officials unveiled a new e-mail alert system May 7 aimed at reaching a broad audience. A forestry spokesman told KUNM 89.9 FM Albuquerque that the e-mails will contain information including when the fire started, the cause, and a description of threatened homes and communities. In its infancy, the system will send users information on fires from the entire state, but as it grows, it will be targeted at the area each user lives in.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10711289/new-mexico-forestry-unveils-email-alert-system>

44. *May 8, Associated Press* – (Arizona; Colorado) **Sanctions sought in AZ chopper crash.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is seeking sanctions against a Colorado company stemming from a 2010 medical-helicopter crash in Arizona that killed the aircraft's three-member crew, the Associated Press reported May 8. An FAA spokesman said the agency wants to lodge a \$50,625 fine against Colorado-based Air Methods, the parent company of LifeNet Arizona and the helicopter's operator. The development comes on the heels of a report by the National Transportation Safety Board that said the July 28, 2010, crash likely was caused by a contract mechanic's mistake and a lack of proper inspection and testing of his work. The helicopter left Marana, Arizona, and was en route to its home base in Douglas when it fell 600 feet, crashed into a backyard fence in Tucson, and burst into flames.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/05/08/2789763/apnewsbreak-sanctions-sought-in.html>

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## **Information Technology Sector**

45. *May 9, Help Net Security* – (International) **Phishing impersonating email service providers spikes.** Phishing attacks impersonating e-mail service providers increased 333 percent from Q4 2011 to Q1 2012. IT security firm Internet Identity (IID) attributes this spike to spammers needing unsullied e-mail addresses since many major spamming botnets have been shut down, and Internet service providers have become more successful at identifying and blocking e-mail from botnets and other known spam sources. During the first quarter of 2012, spammers increasingly tried to hijack "good" e-mail addresses at large Web mail services by impersonating those e-mail service providers and phishing for e-mail account log-in credentials. Despite the dramatic jump in e-mail service provider phishing, other industries on average witnessed a decrease in phishing attacks. IID found phishing attacks dropped 2 percent when comparing statistics from Q1 2011 to Q1 2012.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=12896&utm>

46. *May 9, Help Net Security* – (International) **Java drive-by generator used in recent attack.** A malware delivery campaign that doubles infection efforts to ensure users are compromised was recently spotted by F-Secure researchers. One discovered a Web site that poses as a "Gmail Attachment Viewer," which attempts to make the visitor run the offered application. The pop-up warning from Windows identifies it as a "Microsoft" application, but says the app's digital signature cannot be verified and that the app's publisher is "Unknown." If the user does choose to run the app, he/she is faced with a Cisco Foundation invitation to attend a conference, while the download and the quiet installation of a malicious binary is performed in the background. The message contains an embedded link that, if clicked, again tries to download the same malware. The researcher does not mention how she ended up on the site in question in the first place, and what type of malware is actually pushed onto the user, but points out that the

infection is generated using iJava Drive-by Generator. “The generator allows the attacker to use random names or specify their own preference for both the Java file and the dropped Windows binary,” the researcher explains, and notes the tool also indicates to the attackers how many infections the delivered malware effected.

Source: [http://www.net-security.org/malware\\_news.php?id=2101&utm](http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2101&utm)

47. *May 9, H Security* – (International) **Thousands of Twitter passwords allegedly exposed.** About 55,000 Twitter account names and passwords, it was claimed May 8, were published on Pastebin May 7. Twitter confirmed it was investigating the situation and said it was resetting the passwords of affected accounts. Later examination of the list by Twitter revealed it contained 20,000 duplicates, suspended spam accounts, and incorrect log-in credentials. It is unclear where the data came from — Mashable said hackers affiliated with Anonymous were involved, but no apparent announcement from the hackers was made. It does not appear Twitter’s systems were compromised. A random sampling of a number of the accounts by a Hacker News reader found them to typically have several followers and to be following thousands of other Twitter users — a common footprint of a Twitter spam account. An analysis by an Eset blogger found that even after deduplicating the list, 25,000 entries in the remaining list were e-mail addresses. This leaves around 9,000 apparent Twitter spam accounts. Eset compared the accounts with previous leaks and found the e-mail ones apparently matched a June 2011 LulzSec leak and also found some of the spam accounts posted in an April 2012 forum post.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Thousands-of-Twitter-passwords-allegedly-exposed-1571195.html>

48. *May 9, H Security* – (International) **Microsoft Patch Tuesday more extensive than anticipated.** Microsoft released 7 bulletins to close 23 vulnerabilities on its May Patch Tuesday. The total number of bulletins belies the scope of the patches, however, as the combined update MS12-034 closes holes in numerous products. The reason for this is a critical hole in the code for processing TrueType fonts exploited by the Duqu spyware in 2011. The hole was closed in the Windows kernel on the December Patch Tuesday; however, Microsoft has since used a code scanner to track the vulnerable code in many other components; among them is the gdiplus.dll library, which is used by various browsers to render Web fonts. Some of the vulnerable files contained further holes Microsoft also patched within the same bulletin — meaning this update fixes many other flaws as well as the original vulnerability. It closes holes in all currently supported versions of Windows (from XP SP3 onwards, including Server), Office, the .NET framework, and Silverlight. These “bonus” holes include three privilege escalation problems in the Windows kernel, including flaws in the code for processing keyboard layouts. Bulletin MS12-029 closes a critical hole in the code for processing RTL documents. It affects Office 2003, 2007, as well as Office Compatibility Packs SP2 and 3. The vulnerability was also closed in Office for Mac 2008 and 2011. Bulletin MS12-035 addresses two critical holes in the .NET framework. The remaining four bulletins fix holes that have the second highest threat rating by Microsoft, “important.” These vulnerabilities affect Office, Visio Viewer 2010, the Windows partition manager, and the Windows firewall and TCP stack.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Microsoft-Patch-Tuesday-more-extensive-than-anticipated-1571078.html>

49. *May 9, H Security* – (International) **PHP team makes another attempt to close critical CGI hole.** The PHP development team made another attempt to fix the critical vulnerability in the interaction with CGI. In CGI mode, PHP interprets certain URL parameters as command line parameters. This can cause affected servers to return the source code of a page if the ?-s character string is attached to the end of a URL. The details of the vulnerability were made public when developers accidentally marked the relevant entry in the bug tracking system as “public.” The vulnerability is being actively exploited for attacks. Originally, the problem was supposed to be fixed in versions 5.3.12 and 5.4.2, released the week of April 30. However, it was soon found the updates provided an incomplete solution and further ways of exploiting the hole appeared to exist. Security experts also say the rewrite rule initially published as a workaround could easily be bypassed. With the release of versions 5.3.13 and 5.4.3, the developers renewed their promise that the hole is fixed. A buffer overflow in the `apache_request_headers` function was also fixed in the 5.4 branch. A security expert said the vulnerability involves a stack buffer overflow that can only be exploited on systems that run PHP in CGI mode. Reportedly, the vulnerability can be exploited in combination with components such as the `lighttpd` Web server.

Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/PHP-team-makes-another-attempt-to-close-critical-CGI-hole-1570916.html>

50. *May 9, IDG News Service* – (International) **Police-themed ransomware targets U.S., Canadian users.** A ransomware application that locks computers and asks their owners to pay fines for allegedly violating several laws through their online activity is targeting U.S. and Canadian users, malware experts from security firm Trend Micro said May 9. The Trend Micro researchers refer to this particular ransomware — malware that disables system functionality and asks for money to restore it — as the “Police Trojan,” because it displays rogue messages claiming to originate from law enforcement agencies. The “Police Trojan” appeared in 2011 and originally targeted users from several countries in Western Europe, including Germany, Spain, France, Austria, Belgium, Italy, and the United Kingdom. The rogue message displayed after locking down a victim’s computer is localized in the victim’s language and claims to be from a national law enforcement agency from the victim’s country. The owners of the locked-down computers are told their IP addresses were involved in illegal activities and are asked to pay a fine using prepaid cards like Ukash or Paysafecard. The malware’s authors prefer these payment services because transactions cannot be reversed and are hard to trace. When investigating new command and control servers recently used by this malware, Trend Micro researchers found message templates designed for U.S. and Canadian users. This suggests the malware’s scope was extended to these two countries.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9227015/Police\\_themed\\_ransomware\\_targets\\_U.S.\\_Canadian\\_users](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9227015/Police_themed_ransomware_targets_U.S._Canadian_users)

51. *May 8, CNET* – (International) **Plaxo shuts back door spammers used to access Google accounts.** Contact list management application maker Plaxo told CNET May 8 that it shut a back door spammers were using to stealthily access Google accounts. “A malicious party has obtained on their own, not through Plaxo, a set of Google account credentials,” said a general manager at Plaxo. “They’ve used our server, which is meant to allow customers to access their own Google accounts, to gain access to those accounts they already had. That made it difficult for Google to detect that (unauthorized) activity because they came through our IP address as a proxy.” Google has been fighting off an attack from this source for some time, the general manager said.  
Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009\\_3-57430158-83/plaxo-shuts-back-door-spammers-used-to-access-google-accounts/](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57430158-83/plaxo-shuts-back-door-spammers-used-to-access-google-accounts/)
52. *May 8, Threatpost* – (International) **Adobe patches 13 flaws in Photoshop, Flash Professional and other apps.** Adobe released patches for a series of vulnerabilities in its product line, including Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash Professional, and Shockwave. Several of the vulnerabilities can be used to take complete control of affected machines. The highest-priority vulnerabilities among those patched May 8 is a group of five flaws in Shockwave that can be used to run malicious code on vulnerable machines. The update applies to both Windows and Mac machines and Adobe is recommending that users upgrade to version 11.6.5.635. The bug patched in Flash Professional May 8 is separate from the one that Adobe patched in Flash the week of April 30, which is currently being used in targeted attacks.  
Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/adobe-patches-13-flaws-photoshop-flash-professional-and-other-apps-050812](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/adobe-patches-13-flaws-photoshop-flash-professional-and-other-apps-050812)
53. *May 8, Dark Reading* – (International) **Targeted attack infiltrates at least 20 companies.** Beginning in mid-2011, a widespread series of cyberattacks targeted a number of private firms, think tanks, and government organizations with links to policies of interest to China. While attributing attacks to a specific actor is difficult, the attackers used a common command-and-control server to manage the exploitation and control of computers within each victim’s network. In its research into the attacks — dubbed Project Enlightenment — security intelligence firm Cyber Squared managed to infiltrate the attackers’ communications channel and gather information on the attacks. The targets of the attacks were diverse: a mining corporation with interests in the automotive industry; Canadian judicial offices handling the extradition of a Chinese national; a major law firm with clients all over the globe; and an international maritime group with connections to the United Nations.  
Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/vulnerabilities/232901676/>

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## Internet Alert Dashboard

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

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

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### Communications Sector

54. *May 9, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Service cut to thousands of cell phone users.** A cracked sewer line led to cell phone coverage being cut for thousands around the Hawaii islands. Work began May 8 to repair a cracked 6-inch sewer line in Aiea. But when city crews dug up the damaged pipe, they also cut a critical fiber-optic line underneath. The fiber-optic cable was used for a many businesses, from banks to cell phone companies. The line was connected to Hawaiian Telecom’s Aiea central office and allowed cell phone towers from many companies to connect to their networks. But after the cut, many could not get through. “For us, a large chunk of our north shore coverage and Mililani were impacted, along with partial impacts up the Waianae Coast,” the chief technical officer for Mobi PCS said. The connection troubles not only affected Oahu. Some on the Big Island, Maui, and Kauai were without service. Hawaiian Telecom said crews were able to reroute some connections after the break, but thousands still felt the effects of the cut cable. By the early evening May 8, Hawaiian Telecom crews were able to cut out the damaged part of the cable and began splicing in a new section. Customers were gradually connected, but the repair work continued throughout the night.  
Source: <http://www.kitv.com/Cut-cable-quiets-cell-phones/-/8906042/12924432/-/12ilof9z/-/index.html>
55. *May 8, LaSalle News Tribune* – (Illinois) **Phone service restored to Granville area.** Residents of Granville, DePue, and McNabb, Illinois, experienced some disruption of telephone service May 8, but service has been restored, according to a Frontier Communications general manager. He said the outage was due to a power surge at the Granville office, which damaged some rectifiers. The surge occurred early May 8, he said, and the company had to first locate the source of the problem and then acquire replacement parts. The dial tone was restored in about 10 hours, he said. Communication between villages was limited, however, due to additional damage to fiber optics termination cards. The cards were diagnosed, identified and delivered to the site. The new cards were installed and tested around about 6 hours later. “Those inter-office links were then brought back up,” he said.  
Source:  
<http://newstrib.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=29&ArticleID=19211>

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

56. *May 9, Phoenix Business Journal* – (Arizona) **Prescott fire destroys three downtown buildings.** Three businesses on Prescott, Arizona’s historic Whiskey Row were damaged by a fire May 8. The Bird Cage Saloon and Pearl’s Place Cafe were completely destroyed, while Prescott Food Stores was 80 percent damaged, the Arizona Republic reported. Damage was expected to be in the millions of dollars. Investigators were still working to determine what caused the fire. KNXV 15 Phoenix reported that fire officials believe the fire began in the attic of one of the buildings.  
Source: [http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/morning\\_call/2012/05/prescott-fire-destroys-three-downtown.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/morning_call/2012/05/prescott-fire-destroys-three-downtown.html)
57. *May 8, Internet Crime Complaint Center* – (International) **Malware installed on travelers’ laptops through software updates on hotel Internet connections.** Recent analysis from the FBI and other government agencies demonstrates that malicious actors are targeting travelers abroad through pop-up windows while establishing an Internet connection in their hotel rooms, the Internet Crime Complaint Center reported May 8. Recently, there have been instances of travelers’ laptops being infected with malicious software while using hotel Internet connections. In these instances, the traveler was attempting to setup the hotel room Internet connection and was presented with a pop-up window notifying the user to update a widely-used software product. If the user clicked to accept and install the update, malicious software was installed on the laptop. The pop-up window appeared to be offering a routine update to a legitimate software product for which updates are frequently available. The FBI recommended that all government, private industry, and academic personnel who travel abroad use extra caution before updating software while connected to hotel Internet connections.  
Source: <http://www.ic3.gov/media/2012/120508.aspx>
58. *May 7, Evansville Courier-Press* – (Indiana) **Kunkel Square building closed over fire safety issues.** The Indiana Department of Homeland Security closed an Evansville, Indiana apartment building May 7 for improper alert equipment and having only one flight of stairs to its top attic floor, officials from the building’s owner, the Kunkel Group, said. The firm’s vice president said State inspectors required an audible fire alarm system with a voice that leads evacuees to stairwells. Inspectors also required that Kunkel install a second stairwell to an attic area. The company’s vice president said the closure would leave up to 15 tenants homeless, but Kunkel was working to find them alternative arrangements.  
Source: [http://www.courierpress.com/news/2012/may/07/no-headline---ev\\_kunkelsquare/](http://www.courierpress.com/news/2012/may/07/no-headline---ev_kunkelsquare/)

For more stories, see items [4](#), [53](#), and [54](#)

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## National Monuments and Icons Sector

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## **Dams Sector**

59. *May 9, Your News Now Albany* – (New York) **Gilboa Dam testing sirens today.** The sirens at Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County, New York, were tested May 9 for the first time since they were knocked offline during Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011. Officials said it cost more than \$200,000 to get the 19 sirens back in working order. The sirens were not designed for a high water event, but rather impending failure of the dam. Officials are reconsidering changing the plans after the alarms saved lives during Irene.  
Source: [http://hudsonvalley.ynn.com/content/top\\_stories/583554/gilboa-dam-testing-sirens-today/](http://hudsonvalley.ynn.com/content/top_stories/583554/gilboa-dam-testing-sirens-today/)
60. *May 9, KBOI 2 Boise* – (Idaho) **Star mayor declares state of emergency due to flooding.** The mayor of Star, Idaho, declared a state of emergency May 8 in response to two levee breaches along the Boise River. The water flooded over some canals into some nearby fields and ditches in the area. The declaration allows the city to be eligible for more funding and aid, but the mayor said flood crews in Ada County repaired the breaches without additional help. Some flooding remained in the fields and ditches but no buildings were damaged as of May 9. The Boise River was flowing at 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and expected to remain at that level as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to release water from the upstream reservoirs. Flood stage is considered 7,000 cfs.  
Source: <http://www.kboi2.com/news/local/Star-mayor-declares-state-of-emergency-due-to-flooding-150711245.html>

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