



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 13 July 2012

Top Stories

- Los Alamos National Laboratory significantly underestimated how much radiation could leak from the nation's premier plutonium lab after a major earthquake and fire, a federal oversight panel concluded. – *Associated Press* (See item [12](#))
- Delta Air Lines faced nearly \$1 million in fines from the Federal Aviation Administration after the agency said the airline flew planes with flaws in a nose cone and a cockpit light. – *USA Today* (See item [21](#))
- Yahoo Inc. said it was reviewing reports of a security breach that may have exposed nearly half a million users' e-mail addresses and passwords. – *Associated Press* (See item [40](#))
- A Utah wildfire that destroyed 52 homes and left a man dead was caused by arcing between power transmission lines that were built too closely together and sent a surge to the ground that ignited dry grass, a fire investigator said July 11. – *Associated Press* (See item [55](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *July 12, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **BP settles most remaining Texas City OSHA violations for \$13 million.** BP agreed to pay \$13 million to resolve most of its outstanding safety citations stemming from a post-explosion inspection at its Texas City, Texas plant in 2009, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced July 12. The announcement, which means that BP has agreed to \$84 million in fines to the federal agency since the 2005 explosion which killed 15 workers and injured 170 more, had been anticipated for more than a year. BP has been trying to sell the refinery and has been eager to resolve the lingering issue of the outstanding citations. The agreement settles 409 of the 439 citations the agency leveled against BP following the 2009 follow-up inspection. At that time, BP agreed to pay \$50.6 million in fines to resolve other citations. BP, however, was facing more than \$30 million in fines for the 439 citations. In the July 12 agreement, most citations were either withdrawn, or re-classified as serious, repeat and unclassified. Only 57 remained classified as willful citations, according to the OSHA announcement.
Source: <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/07/12/osha-to-announce-settlement-with-bp-over-texas-city/>
2. *July 12, Homeland Security News Wire* – (National) **Small, local energy technologies to help sustain vital services during blackouts.** Researchers suggest that rethinking the solution to sustaining electric power could keep critical services going, even when the high-voltage grid is crippled, Homeland Security News Wire reported July 12. The U.S. military is already taking steps to protect its power supplies in the event of a massive grid failure by adopting small, local energy technologies, and the California governor recently announced he wants 12,000 megawatts of such power supplies in his State. To combat future widespread and extended power outages, Carnegie Mellon University researchers have devised a strategy to use local distributed electricity generation, distribution automation, and smart meters to form small electricity “islands” that would support critical social services in the event of a substantial disruption resulting from extreme weather, terrorism, or other causes.
Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120712-small-local-energy-technologies-to-help-sustain-vital-services-during-blackouts>
3. *July 11, WTVW 7 Evansville* – (Indiana) **Train dumps coal on Princeton Road.** Emergency crews in Princeton, Indiana, said a North Folk Southern Railroad train car dumped coal on the track crossing West Monroe Street, July 10. Other cars from the train plowed through the coal as the train continued on. The coal caused one car to come off the tracks. Crews on the scene were able to get the car back on the track and the train moved, but said the coal will take longer to clean up.
Source: http://tristatehomepage.com/fulltext-news?nxd_id=527082
4. *July 11, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Man suspected of gas main bombing indicted.** A federal grand jury indicted a man accused of trying to blow up a natural gas pipeline in suburban Dallas, the Associated Press reported July 11. A grand jury indicted the man on a weapons charge after a homemade bomb exploded on natural gas regulator in Plano, Texas, June 18. If convicted, he could receive a 10-year prison sentence. The

man remained in federal custody without bond pending trial on the count of possession of an unregistered firearm or explosive device. An FBI agent testified that a search found significant amounts of chemicals and lab equipment, along with written bomb instructions in the Plano home the suspect shared with his parents. Federal prosecutors said the man made the bomb, but it exploded prematurely. The blast caused little damage but critically injured the man.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Man-suspected-of-gas-main-bombing-indicted-3700398.php>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *July 12, Columbia Basin Herald* – (Washington) **REC Silicon looks into Monday fire.** REC Silicon officials investigated a fire that broke out at their facilities in Moses Lake, Washington, July 9 — the company’s second hazard in a month. REC Silicon’s head of community affairs said the fire was contained to the firm’s Silane IV unit. However, a chemical cloud was released in the July 9 incident, and consisted of particulate aluminum oxide, steam, and trace quantities of other impurities, she said. REC monitored levels of off-site hydrochloric acid and found none in the area as of July 11. This fire and cloud release comes less than 1 month after the REC facility accidentally leaked chemicals into the atmosphere which, combined with moisture, forms silicon dioxide and hydrochloric acid.

Source: http://www.columbiabasinherald.com/news/article_582bfad6-cbab-11e1-a227-001a4bcf887a.html

6. *July 11, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Texas) **U.S. Labor Department’s OSHA cites Pennsylvania-based Arkema for safety violations at Houston facility.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited King of Prussia, Pennsylvania-based Arkema Inc. with 12 serious violations, and 1 repeat, and 1 other-than-serious violation for exposing workers to multiple safety hazards while producing organic chemicals at its Houston plant. The agency initiated an inspection in January after receiving an employee complaint, and expanded it under the agency’s process safety management national emphasis program for preventing or minimizing the catastrophic release of toxic, reactive, flammable, or explosive chemicals. Proposed penalties total \$117,100. The serious violations include failing to compile process safety information on instruments used as safeguards and on relief system design, ensure that recognized and good engineering practices are used, follow recommended process hazard analysis procedures, and inspect and test equipment identified as safeguards. A serious violation occurs when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=22677

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

7. *July 12, Nuclear Street* – (Michigan) **Palisades nuclear plant back online after refueling tank leak.** The Palisades nuclear plant in Covert Township, Michigan, returned to service following an unplanned outage to fix a water leak, Nuclear Street reported July 12. The 778 megawatt pressurized water reactor was operating at 22 percent power July 11, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Operators had shut the plant down June 12 when leakage at 31.4 gallons per day from the safety injection refueling water tank exceeded a regulatory limit. The collected water, with minor tritium contamination, was pumped into a holding tank and did not pose a risk to the plant or the public, according to a report.
Source: http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear_power_industry_news/b/nuclear_power_news/archive/2012/07/12/palisades-nuclear-plant-back-online-after-refueling-tank-leak-071201.aspx
8. *July 11, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Honeywell to upgrade nuclear plant to improve safety.** Honeywell International Inc said it was evaluating upgrades to its Metropolis Works nuclear conversion plant in Metropolis, Illinois, following a regulatory inspection that looked at preparedness for natural disasters such as strong earthquakes and tornadoes, Reuters reported July 11. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspected the facility as part of a comprehensive assessment of all U.S. nuclear-related facilities in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan. The company said it will not restart production at the facility, which has been under maintenance since May, until an agreement is reached with the NRC. The company said it could take 12 to 15 months to complete the upgrades.
Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/48154102>
9. *July 11, Wyoming Business Report* – (Wyoming; International) **Cameco and Uranium One investigate yellowcake mishap.** Uranium One was investigating the buildup of pressure in 55-gallon drums of uranium oxide shipped from its Willow Creek, Wyoming facility after a drum became pressurized, blowing off the lid while workers loosened a ring clamp at a Cameco uranium conversion plant in Ontario, Canada, according to Wyoming Business Report July 11. Three workers, who were not wearing respirators, were exposed to airborne uranium. “Any adverse health effects to the workers would likely be caused by chemical, rather than radiological effects,” the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in a letter to Uranium One. Uranium One said that the cause of the pressure in the drum was still being analyzed on a priority basis. A letter to the NRC explained that Uranium One had found nine other drums that needed to have holes drilled in them to release excess pressure. Cameco has stopped opening containers from Willow Creek until officials determine they are safe. And the NRC reported that Uranium One has suspended all shipping from Willow Creek until it determines why the drums became pressurized.
Source: <http://www.wyomingbusinessreport.com/article.asp?id=63569>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

10. *July 12, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission* – (National) **Family Dollar stores recalls decorative light sets due to fire and electrical shock hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Family Dollar Services Inc., July 12 announced a voluntary recall of about 280,000 mini lights. The light sets do not meet standards for this product and pose a fire and shock risk. There were three reports of overheating. The lights were sold at Family Dollar stores from September 2011 through December 2011. Consumers should immediately stop using the light sets and return the products to Family Dollar stores for full refunds.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml12/12222.html>
11. *July 11, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Health Canada* – (International) **Nikon recalls rechargeable battery packs sold with digital SLR cameras due to burn hazard.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Health Canada, in cooperation with Nikon Inc., July 11 announced a voluntary recall of the about 201,100 EN-EL 15 digital SLR camera battery packs. The battery packs can short circuit, causing them to overheat and melt, posing a burn hazard to consumers. Nikon has received seven reports of incidents of the recalled battery packs overheating. The battery packs were sold at camera, office supply, and mass merchandise stores, in catalogs and on various Web sites nationwide, and with the Nikon digital SLR D800 and D7000 model cameras. Consumers should stop using the recalled battery packs immediately, remove them from the camera, and contact Nikon for a free replacement battery pack.
Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml12/12219.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *July 11, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Oversight board: Los Alamos lab underestimated risk from possible radiation leak in disaster.** Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico significantly underestimated how much radiation could leak from the nation's premier plutonium lab after a major earthquake and fire, a federal oversight panel concluded, according to a July 11 report by the Associated Press. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board recently sent lab officials a report and letter saying board staff identified a number of deficiencies in calculations that concluded any release would be below the threshold deemed safe to the public. Board staff said its calculations indicate the potential for a radiation release from an earthquake-induced fire could instead be more than four times higher than levels considered safe for public exposure.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/oversight-board-los-alamos-lab-underestimated-risk-from-possible-radiation-leak-in-disaster/2012/07/11/gJQASq1mdW_story.html

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *July 12, Tyler Morning Telegraph* – (Texas; Arkansas) **‘Loan Ranger Bandit’ strikes again in Salado.** The man accused of robbing two Texas banks is believed to be responsible for at least three more in Texas and one in Arkansas, the Tyler Morning Telegraph reported July 12. The First State Bank in Salado, Texas, was hit by a man matching the description of a robber who struck two Tyler banks: BBV Compass Bank in May and the Altra Federal Credit Union in August 2011. The man, dubbed the “Loan Ranger Bandit” used a handgun and did not wear a mask in the robbery. The robber’s brand comes because he targets institutions that issue loans, and he wore a Texas Rangers cap in at least one robbery. A Tyler Police Department spokesman said the department was working with the FBI.
Source: <http://www.cbs19.tv/story/19008612/loan-ranger-bandit-strikes-again-in-salado>
14. *July 12, International Business Times* – (International) **HSBC faces \$1 billion ‘money laundering’ fine.** HSBC became the latest banking giant mired in scandal after it emerged July 12 that the British lender will be fined \$1 billion by U.S. regulators for failing to implement sufficient money laundering controls. According to an internal memo, HSBC will “acknowledge and apologize” to a U.S. Senate committee the week of July 16 for failing to spot money laundering activity in its banks that could have been used to finance terrorism and organized crime from 2004 to 2010. In a bid to eradicate money laundering in the future, HSBC’s CEO told Agence-France Presse the bank will continue to increase its compliance budget. The bank increased its spending on anti-money laundering efforts to \$400 million from \$200 million in 2010.
Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/362276/20120712/hsbc-banking-scandal-billion-dollar-fine-laundering.htm>
15. *July 11, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **Oakland: ‘Fedora bandit’ arrested in bank, store robberies.** A convicted Washington bank robber was arrested in Oakland, California, July 10, less than 5 hours after police said he robbed the same downtown bank he held up in June. Besides the two heists at the Citibank branch, the man who police dubbed the “fedora bandit” because he wore a hat in some of the holdups, was also suspected of robbing a CVS drugstore, and a Safeway supermarket. Authorities said the man was armed with a gun when he robbed the Citibank location July 10. Police investigators said police recovered the hats worn in the robberies and some of the cash. Police also found evidence indicating he was involved in identity theft, check fraud, and counterfeiting. Losses in the robberies ranged from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/portal/breaking-news/ci_21052182/oakland-fedora-bandit-arrested-bank-store-robberies?_loopback=1
16. *July 11, KAAL 6 Austin* – (National) **2 arrested in West Metro skimming scheme.** Two people from California were arrested in Plymouth, Minnesota, for setting up credit card skimming devices in the pumps at a local gas station, KAAL 6 Austin reported July 11. The two were arrested late the week of July 2. Inside their car, police

found a list of nearly 100 metro gas stations, a cordless drill, and items to make fake credit cards. Officers went to a gas station in New Hope, where they found skimming devices on six of the eight pumps. The suspects had the credit card information of several area people.

Source: <http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S2686441.shtml?cat=10728>

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Transportation Sector

17. *July 12, Springfield Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Chemical spill closes Lee Service Plaza on Massachusetts Turnpike.** Lee Service Plaza, in Lee, Massachusetts, east of the Massachusetts Turnpike in the Berkshires, was closed for 7 hours so crews could clean up a toxic chemical spill, according to Massachusetts State Police (MSP), the Springfield Republican reported July 12. A delivery truck spilled a flammable adhesive substance, prompting a HAZMAT response, according to a MSP sergeant. The westbound Lee Service Plaza area remained open, but the eastbound plaza was closed for 7 hours.

Source:

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/chemical_spill_closes_lee_serv.html

18. *July 12, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Flaw at L.A. light-rail junction poses derailment risk, experts say.** Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) officials ran into complications trying to fix a junction on the recently opened Expo light-rail line, where experts said a serious track flaw presented a higher risk of train derailments, the Los Angeles Times reported July 12. Metro officials believed they found a permanent solution to a rail alignment problem where the Expo Line and Blue Line merge south of downtown Los Angeles, but regulators with the California Public Utilities Commission, which oversees certain rail operations, contradicted Metro's assertion that wear was the problem July 11. State officials said a small part of the outer layer of the weld broke before July 6 and that the same weld also had broken in May. First noticed in June 2010, the alignment flaw affects a portion of the junction used by southbound trains on the Blue Line that runs between Long Beach and Los Angeles. With 140 trips a day and 26 million annual riders, it is one of the busiest light-rail lines in the nation.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-expo-problem-20120712,0,212676.story>

19. *July 12, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan; International) **Detroit-Windsor tunnel traffic reopens in wake of bomb scare.** The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel that connects Detroit with Windsor, Ontario, Canada, reopened the afternoon of July 12 in the wake of a bomb scare that shut the passage for several hours. The tunnel closed before 2 p.m. as authorities investigated a bomb threat. "Nothing was found," said the tunnel president and CEO.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20120712/NEWS01/120712036/Detroit-Windsor-tunnel-bomb-threat-shutdown?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

20. *July 12, WCMH 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Train crew was not speeding before derailment, investigators say.** Officials said July 12 that a train that derailed and exploded July 11 was not speeding, and that crew members saw nothing unusual on the track before the crash in Columbus, Ohio. According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Norfolk Southern train was traveling southbound from Chicago to Linwood, North Carolina, at 23 mph, and approaching a “fairly aggressive” curve in the track, and had a clear signal. Seventeen train cars derailed, there was an explosion, and four train cars carrying ethanol caught fire. The train, a little more than 1 mile long and with 2 locomotives and 98 freight cars was carrying 12,319 tons of material, including ethanol, styrene monomer, grain and corn syrup. At the time of the explosion, there were 90,000 gallons of ethanol on the train. Three ethanol cars and one car hauling wheat caught fire. Two people who were in the vicinity of the train when it derailed were injured. The victims drove themselves to the hospital. Residents in the area were evacuated after the crash. As of late afternoon July 12, officials said the four train cars that burned after the derailment remained at the site but clear of the tracks. Norfolk Southern employees were working to repair the two lines of track, and there was no estimated time for when full train traffic would be restored.

Source: <http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2012/jul/12/4/train-crew-was-not-speeding-derailment-investigato-ar-1100790/>

21. *July 11, USA Today* – (National) **FAA proposes nearly \$1 million fine against Delta Air Lines.** Delta Air Lines faced nearly \$1 million in fines from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after the agency said the airline flew planes with flaws in a nose cone and a cockpit light, USA Today reported July 11. The latest case for Delta involved a February 2010 inspection that found a chip in the Boeing 737-800 nose cone that was supposed to be fixed immediately. But the FAA proposed a \$687,500 fine because the plane allegedly flew 20 additional flights before it was repaired. The FAA also claimed Delta had a problem with an Airbus A320 that had a broken cockpit floodlight socket that was to be repaired within 10 days. The FAA proposed a \$300,000 fine because it said the plane flew 884 times from May 2010 to January 2011 without a fix.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/story/2012-07-11/FAA-proposes-nearly-1-million-fine-against-Delta-Air-Lines/56156006/1>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *July 12, Washington Post* – (National) **Postal workers participate in bioterrorism response drill.** Escorted by a police officer, a total of 2 million households in 5 cities will have a surprise visit from their letter carrier the summer of 2012, and they will deposit up to 2 bottles of emergency doxycyclene in each mailbox, first responders to a

fictional anthrax, or other bioterrorist attack, the Washington Post reported July 12. Although the pill bottles will not actually contain real drugs, it is a scenario designed to prepare local officials for a biological terror attack with a quick strike delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. The mail carriers, all volunteers, are the lynchpin of a pilot program launched with a dry run May 6 in Minneapolis-St. Paul and will continue until the end of September in Louisville, Kentucky, San Diego, Boston, and Philadelphia. With a \$10 million budget, the postal service is teaming up with the Department of Health and Human Services, State, and local health officials and law enforcement agencies to devise a program that would deliver antibiotics to thousands of households in each city within hours of an attack. Officials said the mail carriers could be deployed as soon as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gave the order to local health officials to release medicine.

Source: <http://www.salemnews.com/nationworld/x1447682109/Postal-workers-participate-in-bioterrorism-response-drill>

23. *July 11, Lorain Morning Journal* – (Ohio) **35-year-old woman says mailbox was blown up.** A woman told police someone blew up her mailbox July 10 in Lorain, Ohio, according to a police report. Officers were called when the woman reported hearing a loud bang. She and police found the mailbox, which was enclosed in a brick structure, had its top blown off and a metal part of the box “was fanned out” toward the street “as though a significant explosion had occurred inside of it,” the report said.

Source:

http://morningjournal.com/articles/2012/07/11/news/cops_and_courts/doc4ffcf1b68e1f0327250566.txt

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *July 12, Homeland Security News Wire* – (National) **Environmental changes lead stressed cows in southern U.S. to produce less milk.** “Cows are happy in parts of Northern California and not in Florida” is a good way to sum up the findings of new research from the University of Washington, said one of the report’s authors, Homeland Security News Wire reported July 12. A University of Washington release reports the study combined high-resolution climate data and county-level dairy industry data with a method for figuring out how weather affects milk production. The result is a more detailed report than previous studies and includes a county-by-county assessment — that will be available to farmers — of the impact climate change will have on Holstein milk production in the United States through 2080. Previous research into how climate affects cow milk production in the United States was either limited in geographic scope or was too simplistic, ignoring the impact of humidity, for instance. By using detailed climate data covering night and day across the entire country, however, the researchers made some new discoveries. For instance, in Tillamook, Oregon, where the climate is humid and the nighttime temperature does not change much, milk production begins to drop at a much lower temperature than in the dry

Arizona climate.

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120712-environmental-changes-lead-stressed-cows-in-southern-u-s-to-produce-less-milk>

25. *July 11, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. corn-crop forecast cut as drought dims supply outlook.** The United States cut its corn-harvest estimate 12 percent and said inventories in 2013 will be smaller than forecast in June as the worst Midwest drought since 1988 erodes prospects for a record crop. Farmers will harvest 12.97 billion bushels, down from a June prediction of 14.79 billion, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said July 11 in a report. Analysts expected 13.534 billion, based on the average of 14 estimates in a Bloomberg survey. Inventories before the 2013 harvest may be 1.183 billion bushels, down 37 percent from 1.881 billion forecast in June, the USDA said. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-11/u-dot-s-dot-corn-crop-forecast-cut-as-drought-dims-supply-outlook>
26. *July 11, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Mexico kills 2.5 mn poultry to contain bird flu.** Officials have slain 2.5 million birds at poultry farms in western Mexico over the past 3 weeks to contain a bird flu outbreak, the agriculture ministry said, Agence France-Presse reported July 11. The virus responsible for Mexico's current bird flu outbreak, H7N3, has occasionally caused human disease in various parts of the world, according to the United Nations but has not shown itself to be easily transmittable between humans. Officials said they have visited 148 poultry farms. Of those, bird flu was found in 31 farms, while 34 came up negative, and results for the remainder were pending. Of the 3.4 million affected poultry, "the number of birds that have been sacrificed as a control and eradication measure as of (July 9) is 2.5 million," the ministry said in a statement. The outbreak was first detected June 20 in Jalisco state, and the Mexican government declared a national animal health emergency July 2. After importing 1 million vaccines from Pakistan, farming officials said they have developed a seed-based vaccine that they will deliver to 4 laboratories to produce more than 80 million doses initially. Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hOw9R4VYbA_zOTbfr3uKSNNrmxUw?docId=CNG.e3bb940ba7cd96953abc2a7998969c09.261
27. *July 11, KUCB 8 Unalaska* – (Alaska) **Processing ship no longer leaking ammonia.** An ammonia leak on board the processing vessel Excellence in Alaska was stopped, KUCB 8 Unalaska reported July 11. The leak started July 6 while the ship was tied up at the Kloosterboer cold storage dock in Dutch Harbor. The Excellence was towed to Wide Bay the weekend of July 7, and a HAZMAT team had been monitoring the spill and venting the ammonia fumes. A U.S. Coast Guard official said the ship could be free of ammonia by July 13. At that point, a tug will tow the Excellence back to the Kloosterboer dock for repairs. Source: <http://kucb.org/news/article/processing-ship-no-longer-leaking-ammonia/>
28. *July 11, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Two more Idaho fields test positive for spud disease.** Two more fields in southern Idaho's Twin Falls County tested positive for a bacterium that can cause a crop-destroying potato disease, the Associated Press

reported July 11. An official with the University of Idaho's Kimberly Research and Extension Center told the Twin Falls Times-News potato growers should not panic, but they should keep a close eye on their fields. The bacterium that causes zebra chip was found on insects called psyllids that feed on potato plants. Zebra chip disease damages potatoes by causing discolored flesh that darkens when the potatoes are cooked, rendering them unsuitable for french fries and other packaged potato products. Farmers can battle zebra chip with regular applications of pesticide. If untreated or uncontrolled, the disease can cause millions of dollars of crop loss.

Source: http://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/article_9f3bccb0-cbe4-11e1-be8c-0019bb2963f4.html

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Water Sector

29. *July 12, Associated Press* – (California) **EPA reaches cleanup deal at 2 California Superfund sites.** Federal environmental regulators reached a deal with four companies to build a groundwater treatment system at two Superfund sites in southern Los Angeles County, California, the Associated Press reported July 10. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said the \$14 million settlement is the first step in cleaning up contaminated groundwater at the Montrose and Del Amo Superfund sites in Torrance. For three decades, the Montrose site made the chemical DDT. The nearby Del Amo site made synthetic rubber. The EPA said groundwater contamination from both sites has mixed and will be treated by the proposed plant. The settlement is subject to a final court approval. Construction is expected to take 18 months. Once built, it will treat about 1 million gallons of contaminated water a day.

Source:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20120710/NEWS05/307100028/EPA-reaches-cleanup-deal-2-California-Superfund-sites?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Frontpage|s>

30. *July 12, KMOV 4 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **South St. Louis water main break goes unreported for 2 hours.** A representative from the St. Louis City Water Department said another break occurred near the intersection of Walsh Street and Louisiana Avenue July 12. According to reports, the break went unreported for 2 hours before repair crews discovered a large hole in the middle of the street and water gushing out of it. It was unknown if area residents were without water or how long it would take crews to repair the break and roadway.

Source: <http://www.kmov.com/news/editors-pick/South-St-Louis-water-main-break-goes-unnoticed-for-2-hours-162186555.html>

31. *July 11, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Galveston boil water notice is lifted.** Galveston, Texas officials lifted a boil water notice for residents and business owners in the city, Pelican Island, and Jamaica Beach after further test results July 11 proved negative for E. coli bacteria. The emergency notice was issued July 10 after routine water sampling

tested positive for E. coli bacteria. Residents and business owners were asked to flush their water lines.

Source: <http://blog.chron.com/newswatch/2012/07/galveston-boil-water-notice-is-lifted/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *July 12, Minnesota Public Radio* – (Minnesota) **U building evacuated after chemical spill.** A University of Minnesota chemistry building in Minneapolis was expected to reopen July 12 after a spill prompted an evacuation. The university said that about 3 gallons of hazardous chemicals were spilled July 11 as they were being moved through the building. The chemicals included acetone, mineral oil, methanol, and carbon disulfide. Officials evacuated a class that was in the building at the time and closed Smith Hall for the remainder of the day. Fire, safety officials, and police responded. Source: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2012/07/12/news/university-of-minnesota-building-evacuated-after-chemical-spill/>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *July 12, Homeland Security News Wire* – (New York; National) **FDNY conducts live fire tests to test improvements in fire department tactics.** Members of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) spent much of the first 2 weeks in July setting fire to 20 abandoned townhouses on Governors Island, about 0.62 miles from the southern tip of Manhattan, New York. In a series of “live burn” experiments, conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Underwriters Laboratories, New York firefighters challenged the conventional wisdom on, and tested new tactics for, controlling fires and rescuing occupants inside burning homes. The experiments evaluated individual and combinations of methods for strategically ventilating and isolating fires to prevent flashover — or at least delay it. In contrast, kicking a door open or breaking a window without knowledge of conditions inside could create a portal for air that can literally fan the flames. Information gathered and lessons learned during Governors Island tests will be shared with fire departments throughout the nation. In addition, the NIST will use the data to improve the accuracy and improve the capabilities of its widely used fire modeling software.

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120712-fdny-conducts-live-fire-tests-to-test-improvements-in-fire-department-tactics>

34. *July 12, Associated Press* – (Washington D.C.) **DC mayor to introduce new 911 emergency system; allows users to build online profiles.** Washington, D.C. officials were unveiling a new 9-1-1 system for people calling in emergencies, the Associated Press reported July 12. The Smart911 option, already in place elsewhere in many parts of the country, allows residents to create online profiles about themselves to help emergency officials in their response. The profiles can include personal information, such as existing medical conditions, allergies, or the number of pets in the home, that are automatically displayed to 9-1-1 operators only during emergency calls. That way, emergency responders can be better prepared in arriving at a scene.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-mayor-to-introduce-new-911-emergency-system-allows-users-to-build-online-profiles/2012/07/12/gJQABlkeW_story.html
35. *July 12, Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **FBI: probe continues into May 20 Adams County Correctional Center riot.** Officials at the Adams County Correctional Center in Natchez, Mississippi said cleanup was complete but the facility remained lockdown following the May 20 prison riot in which one guard died and 16 other prison employees were injured, the Associated Press reported July 12. An FBI spokeswoman said the federal investigation into the riot continues. A correctional center spokeswoman told the Natchez Democrat that FBI officials are no longer on-site. She said prison management was cooperating with the investigation. During the riot, an inmate called a news station and said the violence was in retaliation for poor treatment. Later, the Adams County sheriff said it was caused by gang violence that spread as mass hysteria took over the prison. Since the riot, 10 employees have left the employ of the center.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/29f880cefdcf4381b2eda485ee808c32/MS--Prison-Riot-Investigation>
36. *July 12, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Audit finds problems with Wilson Co. task forces.** A recent audit found that improper safeguards led to missing money and drugs seized by two anti-crime task forces run by law enforcement officers in Wilson County, Tennessee, the Associated Press reported July 12. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the FBI asked the comptroller's office to assist in an investigation related to cash, vehicles, and other assets seized by the Joint Violent Crimes Task Force and the Safe Streets Task Force. Among the findings was that some case files were incomplete or missing, including one involving bags of cocaine that were seized but could not be found. The deputy assigned to head Wilson County's participation in the task forces pleaded guilty to obstruction of official proceeding and was sentenced to 18 years.
Source: <http://www.wdef.com/news/state/story/Audit-finds-problems-with-Wilson-Co-task-forces/mYQq7EcW6UeoCWsVQozvqA.csp>

For another story, see item [22](#)

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Information Technology Sector

37. *July 12, The Register* – (International) **Indian software pirating suspect faces US extradition.** An alleged software counterfeiter from India faces possible U.S. extradition. The man, a resident in the Mumbai suburb of Andheri, was arrested by Indian police July 11 over alleged hacking and copyright violations. Computers, CDs, USB sticks, and other evidence was seized from his home by Mumbai police — who were acting on a request from the U.S. Southern District Court, New York. It is unclear if U.S. authorities will seek the man’s extradition or whether an FBI team will travel to Mumbai to question him. The man allegedly used hacking techniques to defeat copyright protection measures before creating counterfeit CDs, which he then re-sold. The case prompted an FBI investigation that led to a March 2010 indictment.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/12/indian_software_counterfeit_suspect_us_extradition_threat/
38. *July 12, The Register* – (International) **Instagram bug ‘exposed’ hipsters’ private photos to strangers.** A recently patched vulnerability in Instagram potentially exposed users’ private photos and more to strangers. A bug in the popular photo touch-up utility, acquired by Facebook in April, allowed malicious users to add themselves as “friends” to individual accounts without permission and view pictures marked as private. In a security advisory, Instagram said the “Following Bug” was fixed. It denied private photos were even exposed, an assurance that conflicts with claims in a blog post by the Spanish security researcher who discovered the flaw. He warned that photos and private data were exposed by the bug, which stems from the ability to guess and forge approved requests to follow, or befriend a user, using a brute-force attack. Both Android and iPhone versions of Instagram were affected by the vulnerability.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/12/instagram_privacy_flaw/
39. *July 12, H Security* – (International) **Chrome 20 update fixes high-risk security vulnerabilities.** Google published a new update to the stable 20.x branch of Chrome to close security holes in the WebKit-based Web browser. Version 20.0.1132.57 of Chrome addresses three vulnerabilities, all of which are rated as “high severity” by the company. These include two use-after-free errors in counter handling and in layout height tracking. A third high-risk problem related to object access with JavaScript in PDFs was also corrected. Further details about the vulnerabilities were being withheld until “a majority of users are up-to-date with the fix.” Other changes include stability improvements, and updates to the V8 JavaScript engine and the built-in Flash player plug-in.
Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Chrome-20-update-fixes-high-risk-security-vulnerabilities-1637304.html>
40. *July 12, Associated Press* – (International) **Yahoo says it’s investigating a report of a breach involving 450,000 passwords.** July 12, Yahoo Inc. said it was investigating

reports of a security breach that may have exposed nearly half a million users' e-mail addresses and passwords. The company said it was looking into "claims of a compromise of Yahoo! user IDs" but did not disclose the size of the reported breach or how it may have happened. Yahoo's head of U.K. Consumer Public Relations said she could not immediately provide any more detail on the breach "as we are still investigating it." Technology news Web sites including CNET, Ars Technica, and Mashable said hackers calling themselves the D33D Company claimed responsibility for the attack, adding that data posted to the group's Web site carried more than 453,000 log-in credentials from an unidentified Yahoo subdomain. The little-known group was quoted as saying that they stole the passwords using an SQL injection — the name given to a commonly used attack in which hackers use rogue commands to extract data from vulnerable Web sites.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/yahoo-says-its-investigating-a-reports-of-a-breach-involving-450000-passwords/2012/07/12/gJQADtx8eW_story.html

41. *July 12, Softpedia* – (International) **DarkComet RAT used to target gamers, military and governments, experts find.** Researchers from Arbor Networks analyzed a number of campaigns that relied on the DarkComet Remote Access Trojan (RAT). "Dark Comet is very popular RAT and is actively developed and widely used. It can be difficult to determine the motive of the attacker, however sometimes there are enough traces left over that can help us piece together the potential goals of a campaign," a researcher from Arbor Networks explained. The security firm has over 4,000 samples of the RAT. They managed to identify some campaigns by analyzing the command and control (C&C) servers, passwords, and server IDs used by them. The C&C server's IP address for one campaign pointed to an area in South Africa where two air force bases are located. While they could not determine the motives, the researchers believe the bases may have something to do with the attack. In another campaign, the RAT was possibly used by someone to redirect .gov sites. The domains are bogus, but the scenario shows the cyber criminals were simulating man-in-the-middle attacks and redirects. Runescape and other gaming communities were also targeted in operations that leveraged this particular tool.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/DarkComet-RAT-Used-to-Target-Gamers-Military-and-Governments-Experts-Find-281011.shtml>

42. *July 11, Dark Reading* – (International) **Series of convincing spam runs part of one massive advanced attack campaign.** Recent widespread spam runs posing as convincing-looking e-mail messages from LinkedIn, Facebook, ADP, American Express, US Airways, the U.S. Postal Service, UPS, and several other high-profile organizations are all part of a single, orchestrated attack campaign using the Blackhole exploit kit and aimed at stealing victims' online financial credentials, Dark Reading learned. Researchers at Trend Micro said they found multiple common threads that tie the spam messages together as one effort by one cybercriminal group, or multiple groups working together. "It's one operation probably run by two to three individuals very focused on the theft of financial credentials," and likely out of Eastern Europe, said the vice president of cybersecurity at Trend Micro. The attackers are using mostly Zeus and Cridex malware variants in the attacks via the Blackhole Exploit Kit, he said.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/advanced-threats/167901091/security/attacks-breaches/240003573/>

43. *July 11, IDG News Service* – (International) **Facebook launches malware checkpoints for users with infected computers.** July 10, Facebook launched a feature that allows users to lock down their Facebook accounts and perform malware scans if they suspect their computers might be infected. Facebook already uses internal scanners to detect spam and malicious messages that might have been sent from user accounts hijacked by malware. When found, such accounts are temporarily locked down and their owners are asked to go through a multi-step account recovery process that involves downloading and running a malware scanner called McAfee Scan and Repair. The new “malware checkpoints” feature will allow users who believe their computers might be infected to initiate the account lockdown procedure themselves and perform an antivirus scan for free. Users will be able to choose to scan their computers with McAfee Scan and Repair, a run-once anti-malware scanner, or with Microsoft Security Essentials, a full-featured antivirus product that must be downloaded and installed.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9229005/Facebook_launches_malware_check_points_for_users_with_infected_computers

44. *July 11, ZDNet* – (International) **Tumblr haunted by stored (persistent) XSS flaw.** A security researcher posted evidence of a serious cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability on Tumblr, the popular micro-blogging site used by millions, ZDNet reported July 11. Technical details on the flaw, described as a stored (persistent) XSS issue, were being withheld by the researcher who found the issue. The researcher said he disclosed the issue to Tumblr June 25, but the vulnerability still exists, putting millions of Web users at risk of malicious hacker attacks.

Source: <http://www.zdnet.com/tumblr-haunted-by-stored-persistent-xss-flaw-7000000730/>

45. *July 10, Network World* – (International) **Warp Trojan from China said to fool routers into spreading Windows malware.** A security firm said it spotted malware from China dubbed the Warp trojan that takes a totally new approach; after infecting a vulnerable Windows computer, it pretends to be a router and tells the real local subnet router to send traffic for other networked computers to the infected machine, so the malware can then try to compromise the other computers through a man-in-the-middle attack. Kindsight Security Labs believes Warp trojan hails from China and may be used as some kind of adware to drive traffic to Web sites there.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2012/071012-warp-trojan-260803.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [46](#)

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

46. *July 12, ZDNet* – (International) **BBC website crash leaves millions without on-demand, news.** The BBC’s Web site crashed late July 11, but the broadcaster had yet to work out exactly what happened and why. During television prime-time, the entire BBC Web site crashed with an “internal error,” leaving hundreds of millions without access to BBC News, or its on-demand television service, BBC iPlayer. The Web site failed to load late July 11 and the entire online network was inaccessible 15 minutes later. Many sections of the site were restored around an hour later, but its front page remained problematic over the following hour. The publicly funded broadcaster said there was a “major technical issue” caused by a failure of traffic managers in both BBC data centers. A BBC spokesman explained in a blog post its traffic managers are “critical” to its infrastructure and handle all site requests.

Source: <http://www.zdnet.com/bbc-website-crash-leaves-millions-without-on-demand-news-7000000773/>

For more stories, see items [38](#), [40](#), and [44](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

47. *July 12, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Britain’s home secretary defends deployment of extra 3,500 Olympic troops.** Britain’s home secretary defended the handling of Olympic security July 12 after the government said it would deploy another 3,500 troops after a private security firm failed to provide enough guards. The development added to concerns about Britain’s preparations for the London Games, which officially open July 27, as fresh problems also emerged with transport and border security. The home secretary made an urgent statement to lawmakers confirming private contractor G4S could not supply all the security staff it promised due to recruitment and training problems. She said the government built in contingency plans to what is Britain’s largest security operation since World War II but that “concerns have arisen about the ability of G4S to deliver the required number of guards.” The home secretary said she was confident the government would be able to stick to its security budget for the Games. A total of 17,000 troops will now be involved in the Olympics.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hnCAH9eIDTf9E_EdVB6NgI8Ke2cw?docId=CNG.aa32dcd4159bdbe202be042888a766ee.511

48. *July 12, Santa Ynez Valley News* – (California) **Norovirus confirmed at Alisal Guest Ranch.** The highly contagious stomach virus that sickened more than a dozen guests, visitors, and employees of the Alisal Guest Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley in California was confirmed as norovirus by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Santa Ynez Valley News reported July 12. Health officials earlier predicted the ailment was norovirus, which causes inflammation of the stomach, intestines, or both. County health officials investigated the outbreak since it was reported by visitors, who developed food poison-like symptoms after an event at the ranch June 23. Investigators would not say exactly how many people were affected, but officials said earlier that more than a dozen cases were reported. Officials said the health department does not know of anyone who became ill with norovirus after July 1, although many people were still reporting cases after July 6.
Source: http://syvnews.com/news/local/norovirus-confirmed-at-alisal-guest-ranch/article_398f8d5a-cb0f-11e1-a3af-0019bb2963f4.html
49. *July 12, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **4-alarm fire destroys Auburn storage facility.** A four-alarm fire destroyed 14 units at a storage facility in Auburn, Washington, July 11. Firefighters arrived at the scene and saw smoke. They quickly discovered more than one unit was on fire. Firefighters took a defensive approach, attacking the fire in each unit separately, said an official with the Valley Regional Fire Authority. Since it was warm outside, firefighters were rotated in to fight the flames.
Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/4-alarm-fire-destroys-auburn-storage-facility/nPrkg/>
50. *July 12, WKBN 27 Youngstown* – (Ohio) **Woman rescued in Huntington bank fire.** A cleaning woman was rescued from the 11th floor of the Huntington Bank building on West Federal Street in Youngstown, Ohio, during a 2-alarm fire July 11. Fire crews were unable to reach her with their ladder trucks and eventually brought her down the stairs. She was taken to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation but was expected to be released, said the Youngstown fire chief. Smoke poured from the building's 2nd floor within minutes of the initial fire call, which was made by the rescued woman. There were three other people inside at the time, two information technology workers and a security guard, but they evacuated. The chief said the fire started in the main bank area of the first floor and caught some ornate wood columns on fire. A pillar in the lobby was charred all the way to the ceiling. He said the flames spread up the pipe chase and so all of the floors have significant smoke damage.
Source: <http://www.wkbn.com/mostpopular/story/Woman-Rescued-in-Huntington-Bank-Fire/e0o5Y3ZUhUW7CvkjNf06Cg.csp>
51. *July 11, Lexington Dispatch* – (North Carolina) **Portion of roof collapses at Thomasville skate center.** The Skate Center in Thomasville, North Carolina, closed indefinitely after a portion of its roof collapsed over a bathroom July 11. The business owner said he heard the roof collapse as he arrived at work. The business was already closed, and no one was inside the structure. A 12 by 12-foot portion of the roof

collapsed on the second floor at the rear of the building. The roller skating rink and other portions of the building were not impacted. The business owner attributed the collapse to water that was standing on the roof. Officials with the Thomasville Fire Department told the business owner he would not be opening July 11, and that the center would be closed until further notice.

Source: <http://www.the-dispatch.com/article/20120711/News/307119982?tc=ar>

52. *July 11, KPTV 12 Beaverton* – (Oregon) **Too much chlorine led to breathing problems at Tualatin pool.** Tualatin, Oregon Valley Fire & Rescue officials determined that a higher than normal concentration of chlorine in a cleaning chemical mixture led to breathing problems in 10 children who visited a local pool. July 7, a group of children breathed in the toxic chemicals in the air around the kiddie pool at Club Sport in Tualatin. Witnesses said the children were throwing up when managers evacuated the pool and called 9-1-1. Paramedics said all of the affected children were struggling to breathe when ambulances arrived. July 11, managers at Club Sport said that since the incident, they installed new sensors at the pool to better detect unhealthy chlorine levels. They also had a pool chemicals expert inspect and sign off on the new equipment. The pool reopened to members July 10.
Source: <http://www.kptv.com/story/19003086/too-much-chlorine-led-to-breathing-problems-at-local-pool>
53. *July 11, WBZ 4 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **More dangerous unexploded fireworks turning up after ‘bad batch’.** July 11, more potentially deadly undetonated fireworks appeared in communities across Massachusetts. State police and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents blew up the unexploded shells left over from community fireworks celebrations. At least 16 live fireworks shells were found in Waltham, Worcester, Ware, Wilmington, and Stoughton. Two exploded on a park worker mowing the grass in Ware. Pyrotechnico, the company responsible for the State fireworks displays, blamed the unexploded shells on a bad batch of fireworks from China. A State police bomb tech who detonated some of these fireworks, said something as simple as static electricity could set them off, which could be deadly. The State fire marshal banned Pyrotechnico, the company behind those fireworks shows, from business in Massachusetts.
Source: <http://boston.cbslocal.com/2012/07/11/more-dangerous-unexploded-fireworks-turning-up-after-bad-batch/>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

54. *July 12, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **Operations at helium plant, oil and gas wells resume near western Wyoming wildfire.** The Fontenelle Fire in Wyoming’s Bridger-Teton National Forest was 80 percent contained July 12. Fire managers said operations resumed at a nearby helium plant, and oil and gas wells. Ranchers have also been allowed to move cattle back into pastures that border the fire’s perimeter. The 153-square-mile Arapaho fire in the Medicine Bow National Forest northwest of Wheatland was 88 percent contained.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/6b1a241dd33e4fbaa126bf82bcc5ac8d/WY--Wyoming-Wildfires>

55. *July 11, Associated Press* – (Utah; National) **Arcing power lines caused Utah wildfire.** A Utah wildfire that destroyed 52 homes and left a man dead was caused by arcing between power transmission lines that were built too closely together and sent a surge to the ground that ignited dry grass, a fire investigator said July 11. The central Utah Wood Hollow Fire began June 23 and was not fully contained for 10 days, costing nearly \$4 million to fight, according to State officials. They said 160 structures were destroyed. The 75-square-mile blaze began when winds caused two sets of high-voltage power lines to touch or swing close enough to each other to create a surge that swept down the poles into dry brush, said a State deputy fire marshal. Elsewhere in Utah, five major wildfires continued to burn July 11, but fire crews largely had them contained. Meanwhile, fires burned across the West. An eastern Oregon wildfire had grown to about 450 square miles July 11, and authorities put some residents on notice that they might have to evacuate. A nearby fire had grown to about 70 square miles. Firefighters had little containment on both blazes. A wildfire in the Boise National Forest east of Idaho's capital city was threatening about 100 homes July 11 as lightning sparked several new fires across the State. The blaze on about 300 acres was a concern for a nearby subdivision about 25 miles from Boise, authorities said. The State's largest wildfire had burned through about 340 square miles but was expected to be contained by July 11. Lightning sparked several new fires in Montana, including one that forced the evacuations of 30 homes near Livingston 30 miles east of Bozeman. The fire was mostly contained July 11 after burning more than 1,500 acres. In southeastern Montana, officials reported the 389-square-mile Ash Creek fire was completely contained by July 11, but red-flag weather conditions persisted.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Report-Arcing-power-lines-caused-Utah-wildfire-3699607.php>

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Dams Sector

56. *July 12, Natchez Democrat* – (Mississippi) **Lake Mary spillway work under way.** Work began to replace the Sam Field Spillway water control structure on the north end of Lake Mary between Wilkinson and Adams counties in Mississippi, the Natchez Democrat reported July 12. The project is expected to cost \$1,643,807.55. Annual flooding of the Mississippi River placed strain on the spillway for years, damaging it beyond repair.
Source: <http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/2012/07/12/lake-mary-spillway-work-under-way/>
57. *July 11, WVUE 8 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Despite debris, report finds West Bank levees are generally sound.** A report on the impact of debris discovered in West Bank levees in New Orleans found that the levee system will meet its functional design, “excepting that part in the vicinity of the Central Avenue dump site where a buried

debris field exists,” according to the report’s executive summary. WVUE 8 New Orleans reported the full study would be released July 12. In 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed to the formation of an independent team to investigate the debris, including pieces of a shopping cart, chunks of concrete, and bricks. State and levee district engineers worried the debris would cause the levee to settle over time, exposing a potential weakness. They charged the Corps had not done enough to ensure the levees would perform as designed. The executive summary noted disagreement remains, though it provided no specifics. The Corps spent \$2 billion to bring the West Bank its first true hurricane protection system, however, some officials have “concerns that the integrity of the levees has been compromised.” In a 2011 report, the New Orleans Corps district commander, found that unsuitable material “may cause a levee to settle minimally” but does not affect the structure integrity and the debris problems were confined to 3 out of 54 contracts.

Source: <http://www.fox8live.com/story/19002522/despite-debris-report-finds-west-bank-levees-are-generally-sound>

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