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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners. If you have any comments to improve this summary or local information you would like to see in the summary please send the information to; kihagel@nd.gov

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QUICK LINKS

North Dakota

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National

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NORTH DAKOTA

Beef cattle need water. Recent snow and ice storms and power outages have been brutal for livestock and livestock producers. Those conditions have kept livestock from getting enough drinking water. Beef cattle, for example, need 8 to 10 gallons per day. Producers might be tempted to think their cattle can survive by eating snow as a water source, but even when a lot of snow is available, beef cattle need water, according to a North Dakota State University Extension Service veterinarian. "By and large, cattle do not adapt to eating snow as a water source very quickly," he says. "To successfully adapt a herd of cattle to consuming snow for their water needs actually takes years." Cattle producers will need to be resourceful because they will need to figure out how to get water to their cattle herds, he says. A generator is one option for restoring power to pumps and heated livestock watering systems. But producers need to keep safety in mind, says an NDSU Extension agricultural engineer. He advises people not to operate generators in an enclosed or partially

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enclosed building because gasoline or diesel engines produce deadly levels of carbon monoxide. “Carbon monoxide gas is tasteless, odorless and colorless but is very toxic to humans and animals,” he says. Source: http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Beef-Cattle-Need-Water/2010-01-29/Article_Latest_News.aspx?oid=980599&fid=CN-LATEST_NEWS_&aid=760

Fire causes damage at DMI in West Fargo. West Fargo firefighters doused a smoldering fire at DMI on Monday night. The fire, reported before 8 p.m., caused an estimated \$5,000 to \$10,000 in damage, West Fargo officials said. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. DMI, owned by Otter Tail Corp., makes steel wind turbine towers. Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/267791/>

Corps plans lowering reservoirs to prepare for flooding. Heavy snow in the Red River basin is forcing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to draw down reservoirs to their lowest levels in preparation for the spring runoff. The corps will draw down Lake Ashtabula, Lake Traverse, Orwell Reservoir, and Homme Reservoir. Snow at Lake Traverse indicates that the snow basin wide is equivalent to more than 3 inches of water, the National Weather Service (NWS) reports. Starting March 1, the corps will draw down Lake Traverse to an elevation of 974.5 feet by March 31. The lake is now at 976.7 feet. Outflows will pass through Mud Lake and into the Bois de Sioux River. Snow at Orwell also indicates a basin wide snow-water equivalent topping 3 inches, the NWS reports. The corps will draw down Orwell to an elevation of 1,050 feet. The lake is now at 1,064.5 feet. Snow above Baldhill Dam indicates a draw down is needed. In October, the corps began drawing down Lake Ashtabula. The target elevation is 1,257.0 feet by mid-March. The lake is now at 1,262.2 feet. Outflows at Baldhill will increase as needed to meet the target. Snow above Homme Dam indicates a draw down to an elevation of 1,064 feet is needed. The drawdown began February 23 and will be completed by March 31. Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/267529/group/News/>

REGIONAL

Winter storms cause power, water outages on Sioux reservation. Parts of a sprawling South Dakota reservation were without water and electricity on Monday after an ice storm and blizzard toppled thousands of power lines, caused water pipes to freeze and burst, and forced more than a dozen residents on kidney dialysis to seek treatment at another reservation. The fierce ice storm hit the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation nearly two weeks ago, coating roads and electrical lines, and forcing shops and schools to close. Before residents could recover from the ice, a blizzard tore through the Dakotas, bringing a few inches of snow and wind gusts between 25 and 50 mph. At the height of the outages, about 14,000 people in the region were without water — most of them on the impoverished reservation in north central South Dakota that includes Dewey and Ziebach counties. Water and power outages struck all of the reservation’s 8,000 residents, a tribal spokeswoman said. Water outages for many lasted about four days, and power outages for some are into their second week. The South Dakota National Guard helped bring in generators supplied by the state during the crisis. The tribe distributed fuels such as propane, delivered donated bottled water, and send bulk water tanks around the reservation. Electricity had been restored to most of the reservation’s population centers, but hundreds of people in rural areas remained without power, a South Dakota Rural Electric Association spokeswoman said. The tribal spokeswoman said it could be weeks before everyone in outlying areas has power restored. The number of water outages had declined Monday, with about 100 people still affected in the town of La Plant and some scattered rural areas, said the

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Tri County Mni Waste Water System general manager. Power failures led to equipment malfunctions in the water system's treatment plant, causing flooding a week ago, that took more than a day to clean and repair. Many pipes on the reservation also froze and burst, adding to the outage problems. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-02-01-sioux-winter_N.htm

Reward offered after fallen soldier's monument is vandalized. A memorial to honor an Army sergeant has not been up even a year and someone already has damaged the bronze monument that was unveiled in May at Memorial Park. A helmet and a rifle were ripped off the memorial recently, leaving only a pair of boots attached to a granite slab. The theft was noticed on January 26. It will cost another \$4,000 to repair the damage, he said. An individual who volunteered to help raise funds to erect the monument said he fears whoever stole it will try to scrap it at an area junkyard for a few bucks for the bronze. This theft follows a similar incident in Ecorse in July when the city's war monument was vandalized. A large nameplate listing those who died during the Vietnam War was pried off the memorial, along with large letters that spelled out "Vietnam." Those portions of the monument also were made of bronze. Source: <http://www.thenewsherald.com/articles/2010/01/31/news/doc4b6465ff59eff290704906.txt>

NATIONAL

Nothing Significant to Report

INTERNATIONAL

Armed men attack Haiti food convoy as U.N. addresses security. Twenty armed men blocked a road and tried to hijack a convoy of food for earthquake victims in Haiti, but were driven off by police gunfire, U.N. officials said Tuesday. The attack on the convoy as it carried supplies from an airport in the southern town of Jeremie underscored what the United Nations calls a "potentially volatile" security situation as frustration has grown at the slow pace of aid since the January 12 earthquake. Most quake victims are still living outside in squalid tents of sheets and sticks and aid officials acknowledge they have not yet gotten food to the majority of those in need. Mobs have stolen food and looted goods from their neighbors in the camps, prompting many to band together or stay awake at night to prevent raids. About 20 armed men blockaded a street Saturday and attacked a convoy carrying food from the airport in Jeremie, according to a U.N. spokesman. U.N. and Haitian officers fired warning gunshots and the men fled the scene, he said. No injuries were reported and no one was hurt. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,584584,00.html>

Explosion at Darwin insurance office injures 15. Fifteen people were admitted to the hospital in the northern Australian city of Darwin Wednesday after an explosion at an insurance office, officials said. A man is in custody and the major crimes unit is probing the blast at the Territory Insurance Office, Northern Territory police said. A "disgruntled claimant" was behind the attack, wheeling a shopping trolley containing three jerry cans and fireworks into the office, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported. "This is not a terrorist incident," the broadcaster cited a commander as saying. Four people were in a serious though stable condition after being treated for burns and respiratory problems caused by smoke inhalation, a spokeswoman for Royal Darwin Hospital said in a telephone interview. The rest were stable and expected to be discharged later today. Six staff members were among those injured, TIO's chief executive said in an e-mailed statement. Police "believe this is an isolated incident

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and there is no ongoing threat to TIO, its staff or its customers,” the chief executive said. Nevertheless, security has been stepped up “at all our offices and branches.” TIO is Australia’s only government-owned commercial and financial services provider. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601081&sid=aYeANXCNo3.o>

Nigerian oil militants say fresh attacks ‘soon’. Nigeria’s main rebel group vowed on February 2 to carry out fresh attacks on oil facilities “in the weeks to come” in the key Niger Delta region. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) said it “re-states its warning to oil companies regarding their staff who they are putting in harm’s way by their continued presence on our soil.” “MEND hereby promises to re-visit the Trans-Ramos pipeline which we attacked in June last year after it has been repaired, as well as other oil facilities around the Niger Delta in the weeks to come,” it said in an e-mailed statement. The group on January 30 called off a truce it declared on October 25 and threatened an “all-out onslaught”. The announcement was a fresh blow for authorities in Africa’s oil and gas giant amid uncertainty over the health of the country’s president, in hospital in Saudi Arabia for more than two months. MEND had declared the unilateral ceasefire to allow “meaningful” dialogue with authorities. But it said at the weekend that it was “clear” the government had no intention of considering its demand that control of the Niger Delta and its resources “be reverted to the rightful owners, the people of the Niger Delta”. Previous MEND attacks on Nigeria’s oil industry have contributed to havoc with oil prices on the world market. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100202/wl_africa_afp/nigeriaoilunrest

Russia Bomb Hurts Rail Worker. A bomb exploded on the tracks beneath a railway technician's engine in St. Petersburg on Tuesday, slightly injuring its operator, authorities said. No carriages were attached to the engine, which was used to check and repair lineside equipment. But the blast will fuel fears of attacks on Russia's railways two months after a bomb killed 26 passengers on a train from Moscow to St. Petersburg. "We consider it a terrorist act, that's the main theory." FULL ARTICLE: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/02/02/world/international-uk-russia-railway-blast.html>

Suicide bomber kills 41 in Baghdad. A female suicide bomber blew herself up among a crowd of Shiite pilgrims on their way by foot to a shrine city in central Iraq on Monday, killing 41 and wounding 106 people. A woman wearing an explosives-filled belt blew herself up in the middle of a crowd of pilgrims at a rest station where pilgrims had stopped on their long journey to Karbala. Apart from today, there have already been 25 other attacks carried out by women suicide bombers coming from the province. Iraqi politicians and US forces have warned of rising violence ahead of a general election on March 7. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jPHQVoUz-IgEKWi9KroEAj5-GBtg>

Gunmen attack oil pipeline in Nigeria. Gunmen ruptured a Royal Dutch Shell PLC pipeline running through Niger Delta, spilling an unknown amount of crude oil in a fractious region where militants have promised to launch new attacks against the oil industry, officials said Sunday. Shell said the sabotage Saturday broke open the Trans-Ramos pipeline run by its Nigerian subsidiary in Bayelsa State, the same pipeline that militants attacked in June. The company said workers shut down three flow stations after the sabotage to stop the spread of oil, though some has already seeped into the surrounding area. The company promised to clean the area, but offered no estimates on the amount of oil released or when the pipeline would be running again. Shell previously has said the pipeline

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could pump through 106,000 barrels of oil a day. Shell said there were no injuries in the rupture of the pipeline, which runs through the rural swamplands and creeks of the oil-rich Niger Delta where oil workers remain at risk of being kidnapped by criminals and militants for ransom. Source: <http://dailymail.com/ap/ApTopStories/201001310345>

Yemen foils attempt to blow up pipeline. Police in Yemen were on Monday searching for a man suspected of trying to blow up an oil pipeline that carries crude to a Red Sea port, the interior ministry said. A police patrol tasked with protecting the pipeline found a man installing a fuse cable “usually used in explosives” near the main road in Jihanah, around 18 miles east of the capital Sanaa, the ministry said on its website, without indicating when the incident took place. The patrol exchanged fire with the man who was wounded but managed to escape, the ministry said, adding that a manhunt was under way. The pipeline carries crude oil from the Safer oilfields in Marib province around 220 miles east of Sanaa to an export terminal at As-Salif on the Red Sea. The same pipeline was the target of bombing in September 2008, with the authorities then arresting 10 tribesmen. Yemen produces less than 300,000 barrels of oil a day, more than half of which is exported. Source: <http://www.france24.com/en/20100201-yemen-foils-attempt-blow-pipeline>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

Thermos leads to highway closure, evacuations. A suspicious package reported Friday at a bank in Mt. Angel, Oregon, led to the three-hour closure of Highway 214 and the evacuation of a city block. A police chief said the employee found a suspicious-looking sack holding a cylinder-shaped object in the lobby underneath a counter. Bank employees were evacuated to the Mt. Angel Fire Station where they were interviewed by police. The evacuation caused the closure of several Mt. Angel businesses, including a restaurant, deli, bar, and gas station. The Oregon Department of Transportation closed Highway 214/Main Street in Mt. Angel, and detours were established. The object in the bag turned out to be a food and beverage thermos. Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20100202/NEWS/2020348/1001>

White House proposes increase in FDIC deposit insurance fund. The U.S. President’s administration wants to increase the size of the insurance fund that repays depositors in failed banks, a step that would require all banks to pay larger fees to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The change, which would require legislation, is part of a broader effort by the administration to raise taxes and fees on banks to discourage risk-taking and to create better shock absorbers for future crises. The FDIC fund is designed to gather money in good times and spend it in bad times. But the fund drained quickly as banks failed over the past two years, forcing the FDIC to increase fees and impose special assessments at the very moment that banks could ill afford the additional expense. The insurance fund also ran out of money during the last banking crisis, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The administration’s budget proposal, released on February 1, suggests that the FDIC needs a larger insurance fund. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/01/AR2010020103528.html>

Bank of America Web site goes down Friday. Bank of America was investigating an outage on January 29 that affected an unknown number of customers but had ruled out a cyberattack, a representative said. “Our online-banking service is available,” a spokeswoman said in a telephone interview on January 29. “We ruled out a cyberattack, but are working with partners to determine

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the root cause.” Checks by CNET found the site down during the morning and afternoon, as late as 2:50 p.m. PST. Several readers reported the outage to CNET, and Business Insider reported that the site was down most of the morning. Several CNET readers reported that they were able to get through to the site, although at least one said it was sluggish. Bank of America’s Twitter account was reporting that “Our Web site is available. However, some customers are having intermittent issues with access. We are working to determine the root cause.” Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-27080_3-10444474-245.html

White powder found in bank. Nassau County police found a suspicious white powdery substance in a West Hempstead Bank of America. Late on January 28, an employee of the bank came into contact with the substance, after which he became ill. The suspicious powder, which was found behind stacks of bills, is not believed to be life-threatening, and it is still being investigated. Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-27388-Long-Island-Crime-Examiner~y2010m1d29-White-powder-found-in-bank>

Police evacuate Kent bank for suspicious package. Kent police responded to a report of a suspicious package left next to a bench in front of a bank on January 29, reported KIRO 7 Eyewitness News. The Home street Bank at 505 West Harrison Street was evacuated and the surrounding area was cordoned off while a bomb squad checked out a box left next to a bench. Using an X-ray device, a bomb squad technician evaluated the package and determined it was empty. No one was hurt. Source: http://www.kirotv.com/news/22379224/detail.html?treets=sea&tmi=sea_break&ts=T&tmi=sea_break_1_02060101292010

Bank failure toll reaches 15 in 2010. Regulators closed banks in Georgia, Florida, Minnesota, California, and Washington on January 29, pushing U.S. bank failures to 15 this year. Assets of nearly \$5.5 billion and deposits of over \$4.5 billion from the six banks were turned over to new lenders at a total cost of more than \$1.5 billion to the FDIC’s DIF, according to agency statements. The banks closed were First National Bank of Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia, Florida Community Bank of Immokalee, Florida, Marshall Bank, National Association of Hallock, Minnesota, Community Bank and Trust of Cornelia, Georgia, First Regional Bank of Los Angeles, California, and American Marine Bank of Bainbridge Island, Washington. Source: <http://wallstreetpit.com/15794-bank-failure-toll-reaches-15-in-2010>

Swiss warn UBS Bank could collapse over talks involving US tax fraud investigation. Switzerland’s justice minister warned in an interview on January 31 that top bank UBS could collapse if sensitive talks with the United States over a high-profile tax fraud investigation fall through. “The actions of UBS in the United States are very problematic. Not just because they are punishable but also because they threaten all of the bank’s activities,” the minister told Le Matin Dimanche newspaper. “The Swiss economy and the job market would suffer on a major scale if UBS fails as a result of its license being revoked in the United States,” she said. Switzerland and the United States have negotiated an agreement under which UBS would hand over information on some 4,500 account holders to US tax police. But a Swiss court ruling earlier in January put the deal in doubt. Source: <http://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/General+News/46689/Swiss+Warn+UBS+Bank+Could+Collapse+Over+Talks+Involving+US+Tax+Fraud+Investigation.html>

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CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

Bomb squad finds no threat from device at chemical plant. The discovery of an electronic device welded to a drum of alcohol prompted Orange County firefighters to summon the sheriff's bomb squad Monday afternoon to a chemical plant, county Fire Rescue said. But after an investigation the authorities "determined it to be non-hazardous," said a Fire Rescue spokesman. The 55-gallon drum of isopropyl alcohol was found about 4:30 p.m. at Brenntag Chemical on Central Florida Parkway, he said. The property was later turned back over to the chemical plant, he said, but he was not sure what the device was late Monday after the joint operation. Source:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-orange-county-fire-device-20100201,0,7930990.story>

2 tons of ammonium nitrate possibly still missing? This story came out two weeks ago. At the time, it appeared the two tons of missing ammonium nitrate was most likely just a clerical error. Apparently that may not be end of the story, according to an article in CTV News. National Terror Alert has been unable to locate any additional information confirming if the ammonium nitrate has been found or is still missing. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) does not intend to adjust its terror threat level prior to the Olympic Games as a result of the incident according to these reports, and states there is no indication that criminal activity is involved. CTV News has learned that RCMP officials have intensified their investigation into two tons of an explosive chemical compound that went missing. In December, pipeline and energy storage company Kinder Morgan contacted the RCMP to say that it could not account for two one-ton bags of ammonium nitrate that had been part of a 6,000-bag shipment. About a week later, the company said that the discrepancy was simply due to a clerical error, and RCMP officials said they were "satisfied that no product is missing." However, in mid-January, RCMP officials said they could not confirm if a clerical error had, in fact, occurred and were still investigating. CTV News has learned that the 6,000 tons of ammonium nitrate was manufactured in Alberta by Agrium Inc. It was shipped to Dyno Nobel, an explosives company, which prepared it and bagged it. Dyno Nobel hired one or more trucking companies to carry the explosive material across the Rockies to Kinder Morgan's North Vancouver yard. From there, it was shipped to a storage facility in Surrey. That is when the two bags were discovered missing. On January 15, police asked for records from Calgary-based Agrium and Dyno Nobel, whose headquarters are in Utah. Source:

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2010/02/03/canada-2-tons-of-ammonium-nitrate-possibly-still-missing/>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Bomb taken to shop, police get the shell out of there. A quick-thinking Orangeburg businessman took an artillery shell off the streets that he says had enough explosives to destroy a house. The manager of Broughton Pawn Shop notified police after a patron brought an artillery shell into the shop for identification. "He (the patron) said he had an artillery shell he'd found," the manager said. "He said he was at a construction site about two years ago and found it." The projectile was collected Friday by the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety and State Law Enforcement Division. It was taken to a police practice ground in the county and detonated. The manager, a former Marine artilleryman, said when the patron called him about the shell, he told the man to bring it in for identification because he wanted to get it off the street. The shell turned out to be a 105 mm howitzer projectile bearing a proximity fuse, a device that detonates a projectile when built-in

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sensors have determined the intended target is near. Described as about 1.5 feet tall and as big around as a grapefruit, the shell had the ability to destroy a house, the manager said. Source: <http://www.timesanddemocrat.com/articles/2010/02/02/news/doc4b67726fea620661906403.txt> 64.

Suspicious odor prompts mall closure. Fire and HAZMAT authorities temporarily closed the Cache Valley Mall early Monday morning after an employee reported a suspicious odor in the building. A Logan, Utah, fire marshal says the source of the odor came from an overcharged battery inside a portable device used to pump water for watering plants. The general manager said the safety of the people inside the shopping center was the first consideration in resolving the matter. "The safety precautions that the city mandated to us we backed up 100 percent," he said. The mall was open by 11:30. The odor was first detected by an employee at about 7:45 a.m. An emergency call was received at 7:51. HAZMAT crews responded and Logan police assisted with security. He added that those inside the building were evacuated and that no injuries were reported. One maintenance employee was checked out by paramedics but the man was released shortly thereafter with no signs of any reaction to the odor. Source: <http://hjnews.townnews.com/articles/2010/02/02/news/news05-02-02-10.txt> 65.

Hazmat team probes suspicious package in Oxnard; marijuana found. A suspicious package found Monday at an Oxnard, California, office building sparked an investigation by a hazardous materials team but later was determined to contain marijuana, authorities said. Police and firefighters responded about 9:25 a.m. to a report of a package leaking brown fluid at the offices of Manpower Inc., an employment services business at 2340 N. Vineyard Ave., authorities said. An Oxnard Fire Department hazardous materials team responded and determined the package was not hazardous, said a department spokeswoman. Oxnard police said they later determined the package contained marijuana. Source: http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/man_brief-hazmat-team-probes-suspicious-package-in-oxnard-marijuana-found-744079.html

Bomb threat causes evacuations in Prospector. A bomb threat was reported by the Silver Mountain Spa's front desk at noon on Monday. According to Park City Hall spokeswoman, the caller indicated that the bomb would go off at 2 p.m. As a precaution the spa, the Prospector Lodging and Conference Center and the Grub Steak Restaurant were evacuated. She said that a preliminary sweep of the scene did not turn up any suspicious devices. During the search parts of Sidewinder Drive and Prospector Drive were closed off. No bomb was found. Source: http://www.parkrecord.com/ci_14311189?source=most_email

Hudson teens arrested in soda bottle explosion. Police arrested two Hudson teens after a soda bottle filled with chemicals exploded inside the High Street Parking Garage in Nashua. The two 17-year-old males have been charged with possession of an infernal machine, a class A felony. An infernal machine is a combination of chemicals designed to cause a chemical reaction and expand when mixed together, police explained in a press release. The teens were arrested after a chemical-filled soda bottle exploded Saturday night on the third level of the parking garage. No one was hurt and the explosion caused no damage. A police official would not say what combination of chemicals were placed inside the bottle to cause the explosion. He said an officer, working a detail about 11:15 p.m. at the nearby Amber Room, 53 High St., heard what he thought was a gunshot. The officer saw a car leaving the garage and stopped it. The two males, who were inside it, told the officer they heard

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the noise but did not see anyone in the area. The officer obtained their names and then allowed them to leave. Police then found what few remnants were left of the soda bottle and, on further investigation, arrested the teens on the felony charge. Both are free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bail with a February 18 arraignment date in Nashua District Court. Source: <http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Hudson+teens+arrested+in+soda+bottle+explosion&articleId=f67ac84c-b010-448c-8281-d72f4c00e46b>

Church fire in Wills Point. The seventh church fire this year in east Texas destroyed the sanctuary of Russell Memorial United Methodist Church in Wills Point. The Van Zandt County fire marshal told The Associated Press that no injuries were reported in Thursday morning's blaze. He says the cause of the fire is sought. He says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has been summoned to Wills Point, about 50 miles east of Dallas. ATF has said six church fires since January 1 in east Texas are blamed on arson. The fire continued burning nearly three hours after it was reported and was called a total loss by the fire marshal. A Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office dispatcher told AP that the fire was reported at 5:23 a.m. Thursday. Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9DLDG501.html>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Deputies: Copper thieves pose as workers repairing phone lines. Two men were arrested in Floyd County after deputies said they were cutting down telephone lines to steal copper. The sheriff says deputies saw two men with bolt cutters on top of a van cutting down lines in the middle of the night. The sheriff said the 44-year-old and 28-year-old suspects were pretending to be workers repairing the lines. The sheriff said the theft endangered residents who might need help after the winter storm. Investigators think the suspects might also be responsible for other cases where telephone lines were cut down. The two suspects face several theft and drug charges. They are being held on a \$10,000 bond at the Floyd County Detention Center. Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/83214372.html>

US branded dirtiest web hosting nation. Experts at security firm Sophos have branded the US as the "dirty man of the web world" after new research from the vendor identified the country as the top host of infected sites. Over a third of the world's infected sites are hosted in the US, ahead of Russia with 12.8 percent and China with 11.2 percent, according to the Sophos Security Threat Report 2010. The UK came tenth with 1.6 percent. The report covers malicious sites deliberately set up to lure victims with "promises of desirable or salacious content", and the more recent trend of infecting legitimate sites with malware via SQL injection or other attacks, Sophos' senior technology consultant said. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2257257/branded-dirtiest-web-hosting>

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

Radar problems foil missile defense test. A U.S. missile defense test failed Sunday when a long-range missile missed its target because of radar problems. The Defense Department said a target missile was launched from an Army test site at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands at 7:40 p.m. Six minutes later, a second missile was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, to find the first one and destroy it. Both missiles flew successfully, but missed each other because of a problem in the sea-based X-band radar, the department's Missile Defense Agency said. The X-band

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radar sits atop a modified floating oil platform and provides information about incoming missiles so military officials can launch a response. "Both the target missile and ground-based interceptor performed nominally after launch. However, the sea-based X-band radar did not perform as expected," the agency said. Officials intend to investigate the cause of the interception failure.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/02/01/missile.defense.test/?hpt=T2>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Honda declines after biggest recall in seven years. Honda stock declined 2.5 percent after recalling 646,000 City, Fit and Jazz cars, mostly in North America and the U.K., to fix faulty power window switches. The recall may further damage Japanese automakers' reputation for safety and reliability after Toyota last week suspended production and sales of eight models in the U.S., following a recall of 2.3 million vehicles over a pedal defect linked to sudden acceleration. Two fires caused by short-circuited power window switches have been reported in the U.S., a Honda spokeswoman said. Honda started an investigation after a fire-related death in September in South Africa, according to a company statement. Honda is recalling Fits in the U.S. for the 2007 and 2008 model years and 2002-2008 models of the European version, known as Jazz. Unlike Toyota, Honda will not need to suspend sales and production of affected models, because the ones now being built and sold already have an improved power window switch design that prevents short-circuiting, a spokesman said. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-01/honda-declines-after-biggest-recall-in-seven-years-update1-.html>

Chevy Cobalt power steering scrutinized. The Chevrolet Cobalt could be the next car in trouble because of mechanical problems. General Motors said Tuesday that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened an investigation into complaints of failing power steering systems in the Cobalt, making it tougher to control at low speeds. GM and the federal agency have received a total of 1,132 complaints about the car's power steering system, including reports of 11 accidents, said a GM spokesman. One of the accidents resulted in an injury, but the spokesman said he had no further information on the incident. There is no recall of the car at this point, and he said the company was cooperating with NHTSA in the investigation. "This is a preliminary evaluation, just the first step taken when the NHTSA thinks there may be a problem," he said. "The investigation could find nothing significant, or it could lead to a repair campaign or a recall, but at this point they're just trying to see if there is a common problem in these complaints outside of normal wear and tear." About 905,000 Cobalts have been sold since 2005, the spokesman said. Some of the problems have occurred while the driver was parking the car, others while in traffic. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-cobalt-probe3-2010feb03,0,2544439.story>

Toyota Prius brake complaints climb to about 180. Complaints in the U.S. and Japan about brake problems in Toyota's popular Prius hybrid have swelled to about 180, adding to the string of quality troubles for the world's biggest automaker. The news Thursday of a significant number of new brake complaints comes as Toyota grapples with massive global recalls - linked to faulty gas pedals and floor mats that can jam accelerators - that are battering its image. The latest 77 complaints in Japan involve the new Prius model, which went on sale in Japan and the United States in May 2009, a Toyota spokeswoman said. The Prius was Japan's top-selling car last year. Japan's transport ministry said Wednesday it had received 14 complaints from Prius drivers, including one involving an accident in July 2009 in which a Prius crashed head on into another car, slightly injuring two people. It was not

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clear whether there was any overlap between those 14 complaints and the 77 announced Thursday. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it has received about 100 complaints involving the brakes of the new Prius. Two involved crashes resulting in injuries. Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/03/ap/business/main6172062.shtml>

Toyota electronics said to be a focus of U.S. probe. Electronic throttle systems are under review by U.S. safety officials as a possible cause of sudden acceleration in Toyota Motor Corp. vehicles, as alleged in at least seven lawsuits. The government is also considering civil penalties against Toyota, the world's largest automaker, for its handling of recalls affecting millions of its cars and trucks, according to an official at the Transportation Department, who asked not to be identified while a review of Toyota's actions continues. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is trying to determine if electromagnetic interference may be causing the throttle system to malfunction, said the official at the Transportation Department, which oversees NHTSA. Toyota said it has ruled out electronics as a cause. The company's credibility would be further damaged if it is proved wrong, said an analyst at IHS Global Insight. The ministry said it has received 14 complaints related to Prius brakes. It has also asked other carmakers to look into similar reports and such requests are "routine," said an official in the ministry's recall division. Toyota began shipping steel plates to U.S. dealers on Feb. 1 as a fix for sticky gas pedals that have caused the carmaker to recall about 2.57 million vehicles in the U.S. and Canada. The investigation of the Prius in Japan could undermine sales in Toyota's home market, where it hasn't recalled any vehicles due to the sudden-acceleration issue. In cars with the ETCS-i system, the engine's throttle is controlled by electronic signals, which are sent from a sensor that detects how far the gas pedal is depressed. The signals are transmitted to a computer module that controls how much the throttle opens. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=agrz8Ge80u1g>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Washington D.C. Police confront homeland security challenges. The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, District of Columbia, is accelerating its implementation and use of information technology to meet the terrorist threat that looms over the U.S. capital. This includes adapting everyday police technologies for homeland security and counterterrorism operations, and it also involves bringing in new capabilities from the civil and private sectors. Protecting the capital on a local level poses unique challenges, but it also offers advantages. The police department must accommodate both traditional local concerns and diverse needs related to the presence of multiple federal government and military organizations. Yet, the department also can tap those myriad government agencies for vital resources and information that help it counter or respond to terrorist threats. Source:

http://www.afcea.org/signal/articles/templates/Signal_Article_Template.asp?articleid=2199&zoneid=285

Deputies arrest man for impersonating policeman. St. Tammany Sheriff's deputies arrested a Mandeville man last Tuesday evening on a charge of impersonating a police officer. Deputies got a call of a suspicious vehicle on Interstate 12 Tuesday night, and spotted a black SUV going west on I-12 near the Lacombe exit with emergency lights flashing and the siren had been turned on. The man allegedly told deputies that he was an off-duty New Orleans policeman. Deputies did some checking and found out his claims were false. The deputies then searched the car and found a collection of

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police-related items, which included handcuffs, various police badges and a handgun. Source: <http://www.slidellsentry.com/articles/2010/01/31/news/doc4b6467380267f033077946.txt>

11 injured in Arizona prison riot. Eleven inmates at an Arizona prison were injured after a fight broke out at a complex west of Phoenix Saturday afternoon, a state Department of Corrections spokesman said. One inmate was airlifted to an area hospital, four were taken by ambulance and another six were taken offsite by corrections department staff, he said. The fight occurred in a unit that houses about 800 inmates who represent a high risk to public safety, according to a corrections department Web site. The unit was placed on lockdown. Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100130/NEWS02/701309861>

ENERGY

Nothing Significant to Report

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Vietnam's black pepper is outbreak source. Somewhere in the 135,000 tons of fresh black pepper Vietnam shipped around the world last year is the end of a supply chain that is making people sick in the United States. Brooklyn's Wholesome Spice, which until recently had Rhode Island's Daniele Inc. as a client, got its black pepper from a supplier in Vietnam. An outbreak of Salmonella Montevideo associated with brands of salami made by Daniele has now spread to 42 states and sickened 203. No deaths have been reported. Daniele has recalled almost 1.26 million pounds of its ready-to-eat meat products, including some not containing pepper that might have been cross-contaminated during processing. Rhode Island's Department of Health last week found an opened container of black pepper used in the manufacturing of at least some of the recalled products that tested positive for the Salmonella Montevideo strain with a DNA "fingerprint" that matched the outbreak strain. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which regulates pepper, is investigating the supply chain. FDA has been collecting samples of black pepper, but so far all have come up negative. FDA, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which regulate the meat in the Italian sausage products involved, are working with state public health departments on the epidemiologic investigation. The FDA blocked shipments of pepper from Vietnam several times last year. Importers that had shipments blocked include: Olam Vietnam Ltd. VKL Vietnam Ltd., Phuc Hung Food Co. Ltd., Vinh Hiep Co., and Ltd Sonaco. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/02/vietnams-black-pepper-is-outbreak-source/>

China begins emergency check of dairy products. China has begun a 10-day emergency inspection of dairy products because of reports that tainted items the government ordered destroyed during a food safety scandal in 2008 were still on the market, the official newspaper China Daily reported Tuesday. The suspect dairy products contain melamine, an industrial chemical added to the products to give them the appearance of having greater nutritional value. The chemical, which can cause kidney stones in infants, led to the deaths of at least six children and sickened 300,000 people in 2008, according to the Chinese government. Melamine was discovered in a wide range of dairy products after the scandal erupted in September 2008. The government ordered all suspect products to be recalled and destroyed, but some "unscrupulous" companies have taken the recalled products

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and repackaged them for sale, China's Health Minister said during a teleconference call over the weekend, according to China Daily. Melamine-laced milk powder has resurfaced mostly as an ingredient in processed food like ice cream and condensed milk, the newspaper said. As recently as late January, three Chinese companies were found selling melamine-tainted dairy products that the authorities said were leftovers from the contaminated products that were discovered in 2008, China Daily reported. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/03/world/asia/03china.html?ref=asia>

Missouri firm recalls fresh boneless beef products due to possible E. coli O157:H7 contamination.

West Missouri Beef, LLC, a Rockville, Missouri establishment, is recalling approximately 14,000 pounds of fresh boneless beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. Each container is marked with the establishment number "EST. 5821" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The fresh boneless beef products were distributed to wholesalers in the Chicago, Illinois area. The problem was discovered by FSIS during a verification review performed at the establishment. Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall_008_2010_Release/index.asp

Recall of Instant Noodle Products. Well Luck Co is recalling approximately 50,000 pounds of instant noodle products that were ineligible for import to the U.S. The instant noodle products are being recalled because they do not meet product inspection or exemption requirements for poultry, beef, and pork. **The instant noodle products were distributed to retail establishments nationwide.** There have been no reports of illness as a result of consuming these products.

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall_007_2010_Release/index.asp

Daniele Expands salami recall by 17,235 pounds due to Salmonella risk. A recall is being expanded as a result of a confirmed finding of Salmonella in an unopened salami product reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Daniele International Inc., an establishment with operations in Pascoag and Mapleville, Rhode Island, is expanding its January 23 recall of 1,240,000 pounds of salami/salame to include approximately 17,235 pounds of ready-to-eat (RTE) varieties of Italian sausage products, including salami/salame, that may be contaminated with Salmonella, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today. The recall is being expanded as a result of a confirmed finding of Salmonella in an unopened salami product reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The product was sampled during the course of an ongoing investigation of a multi-state outbreak of Salmonella serotype Montevideo illnesses. The product tested was not included in the previous recall issued January 23, but is similar to products bought by customers who later became sick in the Montevideo investigation. Product subject to the expanded recall may have been cross-contaminated with black pepper before it was packed. The company believes that black pepper is a possible source of Salmonella contamination. The Salmonella recovered from Daniele's black pepper from Wholesome Spice matches the outbreak strain of Salmonella Montevideo. As of last Friday, the CDC reports that a total of 202 individuals infected with a matching strain of Salmonella Montevideo have been reported from 42 states and District of Columbia since July 1, 2009. Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/01/articles/foodborne-illness-outbreaks/daniele-expands-salami-recall-by-17235-pounds-due-to-salmonella-risk/>

Contaminated milk. New York's State Health Department is warning consumers about milk sold from a farm in Ballston Spa. Officials say unpasteurized milk from the willow marsh farm is likely contaminated with a bacteria that made five people sick. Symptoms include nausea, muscle cramps,

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diarrhea, and fever and could last up to ten days. The Health Department says milk purchased from Ballston Spa should be thrown out as a precaution. The farm released this statement reading: “We apologize to our customers for any inconvenience this situation may have incurred. We are working with the department of agriculture and markets to get this resolved and hope to be back to business as usual soon.” Source: <http://www.wten.com/Global/story.asp?S=11907597>

Wet summer, more demand could create seed shortage. A poor growing season last year and increased orders from Europe could make it difficult for home gardeners to get seeds for the most popular cucumber variety and some vegetables this spring. Farmers, who usually grow different varieties than home gardeners, are not likely to be affected. Seeds for what is known as open-pollinated cucumbers seem to be most scarce, but carrots, snap peas and onions also could be in short supply. “I suspect there will be some seeds you just won’t be able to buy if you wait too long on it,” said the wholesale manager in charge of seed purchasing at Chas. C. Hart Seed Company in Wethersfield, Connecticut. “The sugar snap peas we’re not able to get at all, and other companies that have it will sell out pretty quickly.” The problem is primarily due to soggy weather last year that resulted in a disappointing seed crop. European seed growers also had a bad year, leading to a big increase in orders for American seeds. Demand for seeds in the U.S. soared last year, as the poor economy and worries about chemical use and bacteria contamination prompted many people to establish gardens. Homegrown food seemed safer and more affordable. But some wonder if the wet weather that ruined gardens in many areas last summer will discourage first-time gardeners from planting again. Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/business/nation/story/1456766.html>

Canada takes horse meat safety step. As of Sunday, owners of horses that may be sold to Canadian meat processors face some new requirements in Canada. After January 31st, all equine owners intending to sell animals directly or indirectly to Canadian meat processors must record certain information. Horse owners who wish to keep their sale options open should record all vaccines, medications given (administered or fed) to their animals and record any occurrence of illness in their animals, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The collection of this information will better prepare the equine industry for July 31, 2010 when it will be mandatory for all federally-inspected equine facilities to have complete records dating back six months for all domestic and imported animals presented for slaughter. These requirements apply to owners of horses and their crosses, referred to as equine. In order to help owners collect all of the necessary information, the CFIA is launching a new Equine Information Document (EID) that can be found in the Meat Hygiene Directive no. 2009-49. The EID is the first step in the development of a comprehensive food safety and traceability program for the Canadian equine industry — for both domestic and international markets. Anyone selling equine may have to provide an EID at ownership transfer. The document will require an owner-signed declaration to verify the accuracy of the information. There are a number of medications and substances that are prohibited from being given (administered or fed) to horses that are going to be slaughtered for human consumption. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/02/canada-takes-horse-meat-safety-step/>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

College student in custody after barricading himself. A Soka University student who barricaded himself in a dorm room late this afternoon after throwing furniture and other items out of the

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window was taken into custody nearly four hours later. The dormitory's fourth floor was evacuated as deputies worked to make contact with the student, who started acting bizarrely and hurling the furniture out the window about 4:15 p.m., an Orange County Sheriff's Department spokesman said. A SWAT team was called to the 300 building off Wood Canyon Road in Aliso Viejo, according to the spokesman, who said it was unclear if the unidentified student was alone in the dorm room. As of early tonight, "probably the only crime he has committed is vandalism," the spokesman said. It all began when the 18-year-old student's roommate told deputies his roommate "was acting strangely and had locked himself in his room and wouldn't talk. He was throwing things from the fourth floor dormitory window. He would not talk to us, and was putting stuff behind the door," the spokesman said. When he was taken into custody, it was expected he would be held on a 72-hour mental evaluation hold, the spokesman said. Source:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14316859?nclink_check=1

Student charged after bringing fake grenade to Pembroke Pines school. A 14-year-old high school student has been charged with possession of a hoax bomb after bringing a fake hand grenade to a Pembroke Pines charter school Monday, Pembroke Pines police said. The student's classmates at Somerset Academy, a kindergarten through 12th-grade school, told a teacher they had seen a suspicious device, said a spokeswoman for the Florida Consortium for Public Charter Schools. The principal called the boy into his office and found the fake grenade in the student's backpack, said a Pines police spokesman. The boy also had a 3.5 inch knife. The Broward Sheriff's Office bomb squad was called in to make sure the grenade was not real, and the school was placed on lockdown for about 90 minutes. Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/southflorida/story/1458082.html>

Bomb squad called out. Alarmed over a taped-up box sitting on the sidewalk in the middle of the night, Honesdale Borough Police called in assistance from a regional bomb squad unit. The box turned out to contain nothing hazardous, said the Pike County sheriff, who has charge of the Pike County sheriff's office bomb squad. He added that the precautionary response was the appropriate thing to do. Assistance was also provided by the Scranton Police Department Hazardous Devices Unit. At 12:45 midnight, Wednesday morning, Honesdale Police were notified by a citizen about a suspicious package located on the sidewalk by 112-10th Street next to the tax collector's office. The Pike County sheriff described the box as brown paper, sealed with tape. There were no outside markings. It was near a gas line. The Honesdale police chief said that the added response was requested due to the proximity of the package and the suspicious nature of its placement. Source:

<http://www.wayneindependent.com/news/x1103045876/Bomb-squad-called-out>

Pentagon focuses on Special Ops, cyber warfare: In unveiling the Pentagon's proposed \$708 billion budget for the 2011 fiscal year that begins in October,...[t]he Defense Department said it was...putting cyberspace on a par with land, sea, air and space as a potential conflict zone, and developing new ways to operate there, according to a top-level Pentagon strategy review. It said the Defense Department was building a cadre of cyber experts to defend more than 15,000 different computer networks it operates across 4,000 military installations worldwide. [Date: 1 February 2010; Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0120151720100201>]

Altus Air Force Base without power. Officials with Altus Air Force Base say they have been without power since the massive winter storm hit Thursday and are not sure when power will be restored. The base is receiving relief personnel and equipment like diesel generators, bucket lifts and line

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trucks from Lackland AFB and Dyess AFB in Texas, and Vance AFB in Oklahoma. The base housing area lost power at 4:35 p.m. Thursday, and the industrial portion blacked out at 9:35 p.m., according to a news release. Altus AFB personnel continue to repair infrastructure in anticipation of the return of commercial power and are taking actions to protect essential facilities against continued adverse weather until power is restored, according to the 975h Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs unit. The ice storm damaged power lines, facilities, communications and trees throughout the base. About 200 family members took shelter at designated locations on base. Source: <http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=11908840>

Prosecutor: suspect arrested in yesterday's bomb scare made sniper's nest. A Caldwell man is in custody after the Nampa Police Bomb Squad destroyed an explosive device Thursday afternoon in his residence near the Canyon County Courthouse. The man, 25, is charged with unlawful possession of bombs or destructive devices. The Nampa Bomb Squad arrived and safely detonated what officials say was a functional explosive device. The man had been renting the property but had been evicted by the homeowner. The homeowner was at the residence removing items that had been left behind when he found the suspicious object and called police. The street was cordoned off and about 10 nearby residences were evacuated while a bomb robot tore apart the device with a water cannon. The man's actions appear to be retaliatory toward the property owner, the Canyon County prosecutor's chief of staff said. Investigators also discovered a sniper's nest set up in the home with a clear view of the courthouse exit used by judges and prosecutors, a Canyon County prosecutor told the Idaho Press-Tribune. "There is no indication he intended to shoot anybody from the sniper's nest, but he had it set up so he could see the exit door of judges and prosecutors," he said. The investigation is ongoing under the direction of the Caldwell Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/news/?id=29615>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Fake Firefox update spreads unwanted app. The successor program to the notorious Zango spyware Toolbar is being used to target users of Mozilla's Firefox with fake browser updates, a security company has alleged. According to a warning put out by eSoft, the reprised Hotbar app, run as of May last year by a new entity called Pinball Corp, is being fed to users via a fake but convincing Firefox update page. The update page - which users would come to through a search engine for the latest updates - looks identical to the genuine page in everything bar the version it is claiming to offer (3.5 where the most recent is 3.6) and some misspelling. Windows users fooled into downloading and installing from the fake page will actually be getting a toolbar app that also hits the user with pop-up ads and a weather application in the system tray. According to eSoft, the software is actually being fed without the direct knowledge of its creators, Pinball, which will likely be paying a third party affiliate for every install. As with the distribution of the original Zango Toolbar, how that install gets on to a user's PC is not their business. Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/020410-fake-firefox-update-spreads-unwanted.html?hpg1=bn>

Adobe warns of PDF phishing scam. A new phishing scam is trying to fool people into thinking it comes from Adobe, announcing a new version of PDF Reader/Writer. The message is making its way into e-mail boxes now, and the real Adobe urged any recipients to simply delete it. The phishing scam has a subject line "download and upgrade Adobe PDF Reader — Writer for Windows," includes a fake

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version of Adobe's logo and provides links that would lead to malicious code or other trouble if a victim clicked on them. The e-mail appears to come from Adobe newsletter@pdf-adobe.org, which is part of the scam. "It has come to Adobe's attention that e-mail messages purporting to offer a download of the Adobe Reader have been sent by entities claiming to be Adobe," the company said in a statement warning about it. "Many of these e-mails are signed as 'Adobe PDF' (or similar), and in some instances require recipients to register and/or provide personal information. Please be aware that these e-mails are phishing scams and have not been sent by Adobe or on Adobe's behalf."

Source: http://www.pcworld.com/article/188202/adobe_warns_of_pdf_phishing_scam.html

The last 12 months saw a significant rise in social networking spam and malware, as Facebook is identified as the riskiest website. Over half of social networking users have received spam via a site while over a third has been sent malware. There has been a rise of 70.6 percent in social networking spam over the last year, with a rise 69.8 percent in malware being sent. The senior technology consultant for Sophos, whose 'social security' investigation revealed the figures, said: "Computer users are spending more time on social networks, sharing sensitive and valuable personal information, and hackers have sniffed out where the money is to be made. "The dramatic rise in attacks in the last year tells us that social networks and their millions of users have to do more to protect themselves from organized cybercrime, or risk falling prey to identity theft schemes, scams and malware attacks." Facebook was also revealed to be the social network respondents believed posed the biggest security risk, with 60 percent naming it. MySpace gained 18 percent of the vote, Twitter 17 percent, and LinkedIn four percent. Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/the-last-12-months-saw-a-significant-rise-in-social-networking-spam-and-malware-as-facebook-is-identified-as-the-riskiest-website/article/162773/>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

Hundreds of quakes are rattling Yellowstone. In the last two weeks, more than 100 mostly tiny earthquakes a day, on average, have rattled a remote area of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, putting scientists who monitor the park's strange and volatile geology on alert. Researchers say that for now, the earthquake cluster, or swarm — the second-largest ever recorded in the park — is more a cause for curiosity than alarm. The quake zone, about 10 miles northwest of the Old Faithful geyser, has shown little indication, they said, of building toward a larger event, like a volcanic eruption of the type that last ravaged the Yellowstone region tens of thousands of years ago. The area is far from any road or community, and the park is relatively empty in winter. Swarms of small quakes, including a significant swarm last year, are relatively common. But at a time when the disastrous earthquake in Haiti on January 12 has re-focused global attention on the earth's immense store of tectonic energy, scientists say that the Yellowstone swarm, if only because of its volume, bears close observation: as of January 31, there had been 1,608 quakes since January 17. Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/01/science/01yellowstone.html>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

Salt Lake Bomb Squad demonstrates danger of homemade explosions. In January, five teens were arrested for blowing up homemade bombs on west high's football field. These types of bombs are used as pranks, often used to blow up mail boxes, but police say the explosions can spread as far as 50 feet, and burn eyes and skin. The Salt Lake Bomb Squad demonstrated at the Salt Lake Airport

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facility, just how dangerous dry ice and chemical bombs can be. “What we’re really trying to with this is protect kids,” said a sergeant with the Salt Lake Police Bomb Squad. “We’ve had a lot of kids that have gotten hurt with these devices, and we want to show that it really is a hazard.” Police also say it can be a felony to have these types of bombs in one’s possession. Source:

<http://www.abc4.com/content/news/slc/story/Salt-Lake-Bomb-Squad-demonstrates-danger-of/EXT2e7U-0CIKebyRg9UBg.csp>

Seven exposed to white powder NY federal building. Seven people were exposed to a suspicious white powder in a U.S federal building in downtown Manhattan on Wednesday, authorities said. The offices of the Social Security Administration (SSA) on the 40th floor of the building — which houses several agencies including the Federal Bureau of Intelligence and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services — were evacuated. “There was a mailing that was opened at 2:15 p.m. in the offices of the SSA,” said an FBI spokesman. “It contained a white powder that was contained and isolated and will be analyzed.” He said the results of the analysis would not be immediately known. The New York Fire Department spokesman said seven people were exposed to the white powder. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0316329420100203>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Threat closes hospital to visitors. A bomb threat Monday at Jennie Edmundson Hospital kept people from entering the Council Bluffs, Iowa, hospital for an hour or two, but no bomb was found, a hospital spokesman said. The hospital received the threat just before 7 p.m., a spokesman said. Authorities kept anyone from entering while they investigated. No patients had to be moved. Some at the hospital may have noticed the police dogs used in the search, he said, but many patients were unaware of the threat investigation. Source:

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20100202/NEWS01/100209954>

USFA Releases Residential Building Heating Fires and Portable Heater Fires Topical Reports— The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports regarding heating fires and portable heater fires in residential buildings. An estimated average of 54,500 heating fires in residential buildings occurs each year in the United States. Annually, these fires are responsible for an estimated 190 civilian fire deaths, 625 civilian fire injuries, and \$286 million in property loss. Heating is the second leading cause of all residential building fires, following cooking, and is most prevalent during the winter when the use of central heating systems, portable heaters, and fireplaces is most common. Portable heaters account for an estimated average of 3,800 fires in residential buildings and result in 115 deaths, 250 injuries, and \$98 million in property damage each year. Fifty percent of portable heater fires occur because the heat source is too close to combustibles. The reports, *Heating Fires in Residential Buildings* and *Portable Heater Fires in Residential Buildings*, were developed by the USFA’s National Fire Data Center as part of its Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2005 to 2007. The reports examine the causes and characteristics of all heating fires and portable heater fires that occur in residential buildings.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2010releases/012810.shtm>

Florida hospitals fill up. The U.S. military has halted flights carrying Haitian earthquake victims to the United States because of an apparent cost dispute, though a doctor warned that some injured patients faced imminent death if the flights do not resume. The evacuations were temporarily

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suspended Wednesday, said a spokesman for U.S. Transportation Command. The flights were halted a day after Florida's governor asked the federal government to help pay for care. Florida officials said Saturday that they were not aware of any hospital in the state refusing to take in the patients. However, in a letter Tuesday to the Health and Human Services Secretary, the governor said "Florida's health care system is quickly reaching saturation, especially in the area of high-level trauma care." He asked the Secretary to activate the National Disaster Medical System, which is typically used in domestic disasters and pays for victims' care. Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/nationworld/story/1051176.html>

TRANSPORTATION

Suspicious suitcase destroyed in Burien. A suitcase left at the Burien Transit Center in Washington looked suspicious because it was chained to a bus schedule sign. It was reported by a Metro Transit driver around midnight Sunday and a King County bomb squad responded. Officers sent a robot to blast apart the suitcase. It held only some clothes. The transit center was closed for about three hours but reopened in time for the Monday morning commute. Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_burien_bomb_scare.html

Bomb threat reported aboard Southwest flight. A bomb scare phoned in to Southwest Airlines' Dallas headquarters turned out to be unfounded. An unidentified person called Southwest Airlines' corporate office Monday to say there was a device onboard a plane. Southwest officials said a specific flight number was never given during the threat call, but that the TSA decided to search Flight 466 bound for Raleigh, N.C., as a precaution. Flight 466 was sitting at gate D3 at Philadelphia International Airport on Monday afternoon when the call came in, TSA officials said. All 59 passengers and crew were evacuated, and the plane was moved away from the terminal, officials said. The Boeing 737 was eventually moved to a remote portion of the airport and searched by Philadelphia police K-9 units, officials said. About 50 pieces of luggage were also searched. Investigators said no device was found. They quickly gave the all-clear to let the plane fly. The flight was delayed about an hour. The FBI and TSA are continuing to investigate the incident. Source: <http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local-beat/Bomb-Threat-Reported-Aboard-Southwest-Flight-83289607.html>

Heists targeting truckers on rise. Thieves are swiping tractor-trailers filled with goods, triggering a spike in cargo theft on the nation's highways. Over five days last month, an 18-wheeler carrying 710 cartons of consumer electronics was stolen from a Pennsylvania rest stop, a 53-foot-long rig packed with 43,000 pounds of paper was ripped off in Ottawa, Illinois, and a 40-foot-long truck filled with reclining armchairs went missing in Atlanta. Truckloads containing \$487 million of goods were stolen in the U.S. in 2009, a 67 percent increase over the \$290 million worth of products swiped a year earlier. Thieves stole 859 truckloads in 2009, up from 767 loads in 2008 and 672 in 2007, according to FreightWatch International, an Austin, Texas-based supply-chain security firm that maintains a database of thefts that several government agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, look to for trends. Law-enforcement authorities in Illinois, California and Pennsylvania are among several agencies and industry groups also reporting a spike. The latest wave of thefts is different from a run of tractor-trailer hijackings that occurred in the 1960s, when organized-crime rings forced drivers out at gunpoint and took their trucks. According to industry officials and police, the current thefts are generally nonviolent and typically happen at rest stops when the driver is away from the truck and eating or showering. While organized-crime rings may be involved, "we are seeing a lot

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more amateurs get into this,” said a sergeant of the California Highway Patrol. Cargo bandits made off with \$29 million of goods in 2009 in Southern California, up 67 percent from \$17.4 million in 2008, according to the highway patrol. The thefts can also threaten consumer safety. In February 2009, an unattended refrigerated truck loaded with \$11 million of insulin made by Danish drug concern Novo Nordisk A/S was ripped off in Conover, North Carolina, while the driver was in a truck stop. After the theft, the Food and Drug Administration and Novo Nordisk put out a news release, alerted the health-care industry, and advised pharmacies to inspect inventories, according to a company spokesman. Still, some of the stolen vials wound up in the hands of diabetics, several of whom showed up at medical centers in Kentucky and Texas over the summer sickened because the insulin was inactive, said an FDA spokeswoman. Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704722304575037241392821742.html?mod=rss_Today's_Most_Popular

Will Rogers world airport evacuated. An unscreened bag is to blame for an evacuation of Will Rogers World Airport on Monday, airport officials said. The breach forced the evacuation of the airport's main terminal, TSA security personnel said. Security personnel rescreened people as they come back into the airport. The TSA said the breach happened when a passenger walked away with an unscreened bag. TSA personnel retrieved the bag and screened it and found nothing. However, personnel said the terminal had to be evacuated as a precaution. Source:

<http://www.koco.com/news/22402612/detail.html>

Bomb scare briefly closes Highway 20 Sunday morning. Highway 20 near Hyak Park was closed for about 20 minutes Sunday morning while a bomb squad inspected a suspicious device. Volunteers were picking up trash along the highway as part of their quarterly clean-up about 10:15 a.m. when one of them found what looked like a pipe bomb. The object was described as a piece of PVC pipe about 12 inches long, capped on both ends. They flagged down a passing sheriff's deputy, who took a look at the object and agreed it warranted caution. Oregon State Police troopers from the Albany command office were contacted; that office in turn called the bomb squad, which arrived about 11:20 a.m. Oregon State Police Hazardous Device technicians defused the object and then inspected it, determining the device was not explosive. "It wasn't a bomb, but it looked like what somebody would make when they were making a bomb," said a Benton County sergeant. Highway 20 was closed in both directions for about 20 minutes while the bomb squad was working. Oregon State Police troopers and Benton County Sheriff's Office personnel assisted at the scene. Source:

http://www.democratherald.com/news/local/article_8193020e-0f4a-11df-9136-001cc4c002e0.html

Airport runway briefly closed after bomb threat. The reef runway at Honolulu international airport was briefly closed after an interisland air carrier received a bomb threat. Airport officials say the threat was called into Island Air around 12:45 p.m. Tuesday. The flight from Kahului to Honolulu landed safely about 45 minutes later. Security personnel and bomb-sniffing dogs searched the aircraft and baggage but nothing suspicious was found. Airport officials say the incident did not affect other outgoing or incoming flights. Source: <http://www.kpua.net/news.php?id=19572>

14YO suspect had pipe bomb in room. One of two juveniles arrested in connection with the shooting of up to 20 vehicles on State Highway 8 last week was retaken into custody after investigators found a pipe bomb during a search of his room Thursday, according to the Latah County Sheriff's Office. The Latah County Prosecutor said authorities rearrested the teen Thursday after a PVC pipe stuffed with

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fireworks powder and primed with a fuse was found in the room he uses at his grandfather's residence. The prosecutor said the bomb was likely made before the January 22 shooting incident that lasted for more than three hours and temporarily closed a highway. Authorities allege the teen and his friend used two .22-caliber rifles and a crossbow to shoot at vehicles from a three-story fort on the grandfather's property, where the boy sometimes stays. Most of the bullets hit tractor-trailers, but at least two passenger vehicles were struck. No one was injured, but one round passed through the passenger compartment of one car, narrowly missing two girls. Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/hbo/2010/jan/30/14yo-suspect-had-pipe-bomb-room/>

MIA returns to normal after suspicious bag scare. The Miami-Dade Police Bomb Squad breathed a sigh of relief Saturday night as the suspicious bag they checked at Miami International Airport turned out to be nothing dangerous, according to a Miami-Dade Police spokesman. Miami International Airport officials had evacuated Concourse F check point and its lower level baggage area after discovering a suspicious package, the spokesman said. Members of the bomb squad were investigating the suspicious bag. Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/hollywood.tps.immigration.2.1459812.html>

Department of Transportation calls texting/phoning while driving study "irresponsible". Laws banning cell phone use, including texting, while driving apparently do not result in actually reducing vehicle crashes, according to a new study that was immediately criticized by the U.S. Department of Transportation as "irresponsible." The study by the Highway Loss Data Institute, released last week, compared insurance claims for crash damage in 4 jurisdictions before and after cell phone bans. There were "no reductions in crashes" after the bans took effect compared with nearby jurisdictions that had no such restrictions. The U.S. Transportation Secretary just recently proclaimed rules forbidding commercial truck and bus drivers from texting while driving, with fines, if caught, of up to \$2,750 and jail time if there's an accident caused by a texting driver. The secretary has said he would ban all texting while driving if he could, according to the Wall Street Journal. The basis of the ban lies in a number of studies that show text messaging with cell phones is an especially distracting activity, endangering drivers, passengers and those around them. But the HLDI report concludes that cell phone and phone texting bans are not reducing crashes. "The laws aren't reducing crashes, even though we know that such laws have reduced hand-held phone use, and several studies have established that phoning while driving increases crash risk," said the president of both the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and HLDI. So cell phones bans cut highly risky behavior by reducing the incidence of phoning while driving, but they do not seem to result in fewer crashes. Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/013110-texting-driving.html>

WATER AND DAMS

Nothing Significant to Report

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295; email: ndslic@nd.gov ; FAX: 701-328-8175
State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455
US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

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To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Fusion Center:

Sgt Brad Smith, Highway Patrol, btsmith@nd.gov, 701-328-8169

Kirk Hagel, ND Division of Homeland Security kihagel@nd.gov, 701-328-8168

1st Lt. Kristopher Elijah, ND National Guard kristopher.elijah@us.army.mil, 701-333-2138

Patti Clemo, ND Fusion Center Intelligence Analyst, prcleo@nd.gov, 701-328-8165



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