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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY ANIT-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.

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NORTH DAKOTA

(North Dakota) Trailer spills load of fertilizer near 281 bypass. An agricultural trailer tipped and spilled 16,000 pounds of fertilizer near Jamestown, North Dakota, May 13, according to the North Dakota Highway Patrol. A sergeant of the patrol said the driver was driving a straight truck with a pup trailer eastbound on Stutsman County Road 40 at 3:50 p.m. May 13. He was taking a load of fertilizer to Streeter, North Dakota, for Allied Agronomy. The driver turned to go south on the bypass and the trailer rolled over when it went over an incline in the road. The trailer spilled dry fertilizer across both lanes of traffic. The sergeant said the fertilizer was a nitrogen-phosphorus mix in granular form that did not pose a health risk. The fertilizer was scooped into a different trailer using front-end and skid-steer loaders, and the scene was cleared. The driver was cited for care required, the sergeant said. He said the first trailer sustained minor damage and was towed from the scene. Source:

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/135911/>

REGIONAL

Troops fight to avoid Manitoba dike breach. Canadian soldiers were laying special fabric weighted by sandbags May 19 on a weak spot in the base of a dike west of Winnipeg, Manitoba, officials said. The trouble spot was near Portage la Prairie in south-central Manitoba where seepage under a dike was eroding the base and threatened to collapse the wall, the Winnipeg Free Press reported. The dike is on the Assiniboine River and was designed to divert floodwater into Lake Winnipeg, which is already 3 feet above normal levels, provincial officials said. An official with Manitoba Water Stewardship told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. conditions meant only manual labor could prevent a breach. “We couldn’t get equipment in there — heavy equipment — because of the seepage zone, so that’s going to be the issue,” he said. Despite seasonal flooding levels not seen in about 300 years, provincial officials said only about 100 homes were flooded. Winnipeg, at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, has not been affected. Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/05/19/Troops-fight-to-avoid-Manitoba-dike-breach/UPI-83161305808296/

(Minnesota) Council gives DNR go-ahead to remove dam on Chippewa River. Following a public hearing that lasted approximately 20 minutes May 16, the Montevideo City Council in Minnesota voted unanimously to proceed with plans to remove the dam on the Chippewa River near Lagoon Park in the summer of 2012. The delay is because a number of studies must be done first. The two main issues addressed by removal are safety and fish passage upstream. “These low-head dams are deathtraps,” said a Montevideo city engineer. The dam will not be completely removed, according to a state department of natural resources official. He told council members the existing concrete abutments would remain in place, primarily to prevent potential damage to the new levee should the river try to revert to its former channel. The dam’s concrete sill would be partially removed, and 4-foot-to-6-foot boulders would be placed over the sill to create a series of about four weirs, or rapids. The resulting structure will be safer, he said. “(The weir) won’t drown people,” he said, adding, “It will look like a river, and will act like a river.” The water level upstream will be 4 to 5 feet lower than at present. He

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indicated there was a good possibility the channel through Lagoon Park would go dry. There will be no change below the weir. Source:

<http://www.montenews.com/news/x956204818/Council-gives-DNR-go-ahead-to-remove-dam-on-Chippewa-River>

NATIONAL

Over 100 baby products loaded with toxic chemicals. Flame retardant chemicals appeared in the majority of baby products that scientists tested in a recent study, including car seats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, and rocking chairs. Of the numerous chemicals identified in the study, some are classified as probable carcinogens. Some are known to disrupt hormonal systems. And some have been linked to brain damage. The researchers were particularly surprised to detect one chemical they thought had been phased out years ago. The study was not able to quantify the health risks of baby products that are treated with these chemicals. Still, the findings are worrisome enough that it is worth seeking out alternatives, said an environmental chemist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Flammability practices around the United States are heavily influenced by California standards, which require that polyurethane foam in upholstered furniture be able to withstand exposure to a small, open flame for 12 seconds. The cheapest and easiest way to meet that standard, the spokeswoman said, is to add chemicals to the foam. The findings raise serious concerns about health risks to infants and small children, who are most vulnerable to the toxic effects of these chemicals and who spend lots of time in contact with products that contain them. Source:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43078607/ns/health-kids_and_parenting/t/over-baby-products-loaded-toxic-chemicals/

INTERNATIONAL

Terrorist attack on U.S. Consulate personnel in Peshawar. A vehicle belonging to the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan, was hit May 20 by an improvised explosive device, the U.S. Department of State said in a news release. It noted that the explosion damaged the vehicle, but no U.S. personnel were seriously injured. The release said that according to media reports, at least one person was killed and bystanders were injured. Pakistani authorities responded immediately and were investigating the incident. The release indicated that the United States is committed to working with Pakistan in a joint effort to combat terrorism and to bring to justice those behind the attack. Source: <http://islamabad.usembassy.gov/pr-media052011.html>

Interpol stands up nuclear counterterrorism unit. Interpol said May 18 it had established a unit to take on terrorism threats involving nuclear, radiological, and other unconventional materials. The Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit “crucially will expand the world police body’s antibiterrorism activities to take in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) threats by using an integrated approach that leverages international partnerships and expertise across all sectors,” according to an Interpol release. The update acknowledges the dangers that weapons of mass destruction pose to the 188

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nations that participate in Interpol, the organization's secretary general said during a conference in Lyon, France, on preventing nuclear and radiological terrorism. The primary goal of the event and of the new unit, he said, is "to build police capacity globally, to prevent the next bioterrorist attack. This objective requires police to have at its side the public, private, and scientific sectors together as one in order to successfully address the whole threat spectrum." One database developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Interpol, and other organizations lists in excess of 2,500 incidents linked to the illicit movement of nuclear and radiological materials, the Interpol release stated. Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110519_4421.php

Oilpatch workers evacuated as fires close in. Suspension of oil and gas production is spreading across northern Alberta, Canada as wildfires rage out of control. Oil and gas producers May 16 evacuated workers and closed heavy oil facilities, pipelines and processing plants as emergency teams battled wind-fueled fires that now cover more than 30,000 hectares. Canadian Natural Resources pulled 1,300 workers from two camps in its Horizon project outside of Fort McMurray as flames burned within 150 meters of one of its lodges. "We have no actual fire on our site per se, it is still a ways away, but we are just taking precautionary measures," the vice-chair said. Operations at Canadian Natural's Horizon oilsands project have been at a virtual standstill since an explosion ripped through its upgrader in January, injuring five workers. Repairs are now delayed following the evacuation May 16, although the vice-chair said the company still intended to commission the first coker units by mid-June. Source: <http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Oilpatch+workers+evacuated+fires+close/4794636/story.html>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

Free trial scams targeted by Feds. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced May 17 it has taken legal action against an online operation that allegedly raked in more than \$450 million from consumers worldwide by luring them into "free" or "risk-free" trials on a variety of different products. The FTC has filed a complaint against a man and the companies he controls, citing his online "free trials" for various products including acai berry weight-loss pills, tooth whiteners and dietary supplements were merely bogus attempts to swindle consumers. "The defendants used the lure of a 'free' offer to open an illegal pipeline to consumers' credit card and bank accounts," the director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection said in a written statement. The companies targeted consumers in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. The FTC said it plans to stop the illegal practices and make the defendants repay defrauded consumers. As part of its complaint, the FTC is also charging the man and his co-defendants with running phony work-at-home schemes, providing access to non-existent government grants, offering but not providing free credit reports, and running penny auctions. The defendants undertook these scams under various company names that include Just Think Media, Credit Report America, eDirect Software, WuLongsource, and Wuyi Source. They have also operated under the names Terra Marketing Group, SwipeBids.com, SwipeAuctions.com, Circle Media Bids Limited, Coastwest Holdings Ltd., Farend Services Ltd,

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JDW Media LLC, Net Soft Media LLC, Sphere Media LLC, and True Net LLC. Source:

<http://www.mainstreet.com/article/smart-spending/technology/free-trial-scams-targeted-feds>

(Alabama) NACHA Spam Gang Starts Using Shortened URLs. The malware distribution gang that sends spam e-mails purporting to come from the Electronic Payments Association (NACHA) has switched to using shortened URLs in its campaigns. Posing as NACHA is not a new technique. It has been used since November 2009, however, a new campaign has been going strong for the past few weeks. The fake e-mails bear many subjects and the same variety is kept for the spoofed addresses. The e-mails tell recipients their ACH (Automated Clearing House) transfers have been canceled or rejected by their financial institution and directs them to an URL for more details. They read: "The ACH transfer (ID: 65388185980), recently sent from your checking account (by you or any other person), was cancelled by the other financial institution. Please click here [link] to view details. If you have any questions or comments, contact us at info@nacha(dot)org. Thank you for using http://www(dot)nacha.org." The links lead to Web sites that prompt users with updates for Java which are actually variants of the notorious Zeus baking trojan. According to the director of research in computer forensics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), the gang behind this campaign was known for registering hundreds of domain names for each spam run. However, it recently switched tactics and is now abusing almost three dozen URL shortening services, many of which are obscure and are unlikely to respond to abuse reports. The 2mb.eu service was the most abused based on the spam e-mails collected and analyzed by the UAB department. More than 1,000 malicious shortened URLs have been observed in this campaign. Using this method, spammers are able to keep a high level of variation in their e-mails, but a low cost for their campaign. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/NACHA-Spam-Gang-Starts-Using-Shortened-URLs-200695.shtml>

Day trader guilty in scam tied to Lehman salesman. A Florida day trader pleaded guilty May 16 to criminal charges over an insider trading scheme based on tips obtained from a wife of a former Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. salesman, prosecutors said. The 35-year-old Miami Beach, Florida man admitted to one count each of securities fraud and conspiracy in a hearing May 16 before a U.S. magistrate judge in Manhattan, New York. Prosecutors said the scheme ran from February 2005 to Sept. 2008, and included a purchase by the man's day trading partner of 2,500 shares in Veritas DGC Inc for their joint account based on material nonpublic data. They said this purchase led to illegal profit when Veritas agreed in September 2006 to a \$3.1 billion takeover by France's Compagnie Generale de Geophysique, creating the world's largest publicly-traded provider of seismic surveys. Prosecutors said the man's partner got tips from a Lehman salesman, who received them from his wife on transactions her employer at the time, Brunswick Group LLC, had been working on. The Lehman salesman pleaded guilty to one count of securities fraud and four counts of conspiracy in December 2008. He has cooperated with prosecutors, and has not been sentenced. In a parallel civil lawsuit, the Securities and Exchange Commission said the scheme resulted in \$4.8 million of illegal profits. Source: <http://newsandinsight.thomsonreuters.com/Legal/News/2011/05 - May/Day trader guilty in scam tied to Lehman salesman/>

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CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

NRC finds many U.S. nuclear plants ill-prepared to handle simultaneous threats. On April 26, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff did a safety “walkdown” of Pacific Gas and Electric’s (PG&E) Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California, part of NRC inspections of all U.S. reactors triggered by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster in Japan. The NRC’s May 13 inspection report listed more than a half-dozen issues that could jeopardize the plant if it were confronted with a chain reaction of unexpected and unplanned-for calamities. The report included the following issues: The plant had a single diesel-driven pump to provide emergency cooling water to a single reactor in case an earthquake cut off normal water flow, but the pump could not have serviced the plant’s two reactors if they lost normal water supply simultaneously; The plant’s six emergency diesel generators were located in the same plant area, and thus vulnerable to a “common mode” failure; PG&E intended to rely on the California National Guard to deliver diesel fuel for emergency generators if roads were impassable, but had no memorandum of understanding in place for the deliveries. A little less than one-third of the 104 U.S. reactors were found to have vulnerabilities to extreme emergencies. Among the findings in other NRC reports: Entergy’s Arkansas Nuclear One plant safety plan is directed against the loss of offsite power to one of its units, and does not anticipate a simultaneous additional threat such as an earthquake; At Duke Energy’s Oconee Nuclear Station in South Carolina, pumps that would be used to remove water from auxiliary buildings in a flood could not be used because the plugs did not fit any outlets in the area; Instrumentation on spent fuel pools would be unavailable if power were lost, which would require workers to visually inspect water levels — “an unacceptable requirement under some scenarios,” the NRC said. The NRC said all issues have been fixed or put on schedule for correction. Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/05/19/19climatewire-nrc-finds-many-us-nuclear-plants-ill-prepare-33046.html?pagewanted=all>

(Texas) Texas House OKs taking in more radioactive waste. Texas house members voted May 17 to let a remote low-level radioactive waste site in West Texas bury material from dozens of states. Under the bill approved 108-36, Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists may also set disposal fees for 36 states that were not part of an original deal between Texas and Vermont for the waste dump in Andrews County, near the New Mexico border. Previously, environmental regulators were to determine the rates. Environmentalists said the bill would bring more radioactive waste to Texas than the state is prepared to handle, and that the liability after the company closes the site will fall to the state. The first low-level radioactive waste could be buried at the site by year’s end, a Waste Control Specialists spokesman said. The senate, which approved the bill in April, must vote on it again because of house amendments. One of those requires the company to get an amendment or a modification to its current disposal license to include acceptance of non-party states’ low-level radioactive waste. The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission had previously approved rules to accept the waste from the 36 states on a case-by-case basis. The low-level waste includes worker clothing, glass, metal, and other materials currently stored at nuclear power plants, hospitals, universities, and research labs. Federal waste will be disposed at the site but in a separate location on the property. The house bill requires that waste from the non-compact

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states take up no more than 30 percent of the dump's capacity. It also bans waste from foreign countries. The remaining capacity will be split between Texas (56 percent), and Vermont (14 percent). Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/05/17/general-tx-xgr-radioactive-waste_8471526.html

Polyurethane foam not a hazmat. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has denied a petition to regulate polyurethane (PU) foam and certain finished products containing PU foam as hazardous materials for purposes of transportation in commerce. The petition was submitted in October 2006 by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). The association stated that regulation of PU foam was essential to the safety of emergency responders and the public, and that responders have the absolute right to information about PU so they may take special precautions at incidents. Specifically, NASFM asked PHMSA to assign a North American Identification Number to PU foam; exempt shippers/carriers from requiring shipping papers, employee training, specific packaging requirements, and placarding; require carriers to display orange panels with the identification number to identify the presence of PU foam for initial responders; require transportation incidents involving PU foam fires to be reported to PHMSA; publish a safety alert identifying measures initial responders can take to protect themselves and the public during the initial response phase of the incident involving PU foam; and incorporate safety measures published in the safety alert into the Emergency Response Guidebook. PHMSA reported that it received 30 comments on NASFM's petition, and all but the comment from NASFM opposed classifying PU foam as a hazardous material. PHMSA generally agreed with those opposed to listing PU as a regulated hazmat. Source: <http://safety.blr.com/workplace-safety-news/transportation-safety/hazardous-materials-transportation/Polyurethane-Foam-Not-a-Hazmat/>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(California) Santa Monica teen arrested after officers find explosives devices. A 16-year-old boy is in custody May 19 on suspicion of possessing two homemade explosive devices similar to a pipe bomb in his Santa Monica, California apartment, with several explosions needed to destroy them, police said. Santa Monica police were conducting a probation search about 7 p.m. May 18 when they discovered a suspicious device inside the apartment in the 1100 block of 12th Street, near Wilshire Boulevard, a sergeant with the Santa Monica Police Department said. A special weapons team and the Los Angeles County Fire Department were called, he said. All of the apartment residents were evacuated and returned after midnight. The explosives were removed, rendered safe and destroyed in the front yard, police said. Investigators searched the apartment, removing illegal fireworks, unknown items in bags, envelopes and boxes May 19. The circumstances surrounding the probation search were unclear. Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_18093849?nclick_check=1

(Michigan) Bomb threat forces evacuation of Midland Mall Monday night. The Midland Mall in Midland, Michigan was evacuated around 6 p.m. May 16 after staff received a written bomb threat. A Midland City Police sergeant said the mall administration made the decision to

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evacuate and Midland police assisted. A thorough investigation of the mall premises followed, but “nothing suspicious was found to indicate a threat to the public,” the sergeant said. The mall reopened at approximately 8:30 p.m. Police said the investigation into who made the threat is ongoing. Source:

http://www.mlive.com/midland/index.ssf/2011/05/bomb_threat_forces_evacuation_of_midland_mall_monday_night.html

(Texas) Arson suspected at Muslim mosque in Houston. A fire was set at a mosque May 14 in Houston, Texas, and the suspected arsonists were caught on surveillance video. An automatic alarm went off May 14 at the Madrasae Islamiah off Bintliff. When firefighters arrived, they saw smoke and quickly worked to put the flames out. The surveillance footage is brief, but it is one of few clues investigators have to go on. An elder at the mosque said the video shows what appears to be two young men going to the back of the building, carrying what may be a can of accelerant. The suspects are seen in the video running to a getaway car. The alarm sounded when glass was broken, but there was also someone staying inside the mosque who called 9-1-1. A member of the mosque said firefighters were able to stop the fire before much structural damage was done. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8132482>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

US official: solar storms expected to peak in 2013 with potentially devastating effect. A senior official at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said solar storms pose a growing threat to critical infrastructure such as satellite communications, navigation systems and electrical transmission equipment. The NOAA Assistant Secretary said the intensity of solar storms is expected to peak in 2013 and countries should prepare for “potentially devastating effects.” Solar storms release particles that can temporarily disable or permanently destroy fragile computer circuits. A former NASA astronaut who in 1984 became the first woman to walk in space, told a United Nations weather conference in Geneva on May 17 that “it is not a question of if, but really a matter of when a major solar event could hit our planet.” Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-official-solar-storms-expected-to-peak-in-2013-with-potentially-devastating-effect/2011/05/17/AF9IHh5G_story.html

SpyEye Trojan attacks Verizon’s online payment page. Trusteer discovered a configuration of the SpyEye Trojan targeting Verizon’s online payment page and attempting to steal payment card information. The attack took place between May 7 and May 13. The chief technology officer of Trusteer explained that, “SpyEye uses a technique called ‘HTML injection’ to modify the pages presented in the victim’s browser, in this particular case the injected HTML is used to capture credit card related data. The attack is invisible to Verizon customers since the malware waits for the user to logon and access their billing page and only then injects an authentic-looking replica Web page that requests this information. Since the user has logged on and has navigated to the familiar billing page, they have no reason to suspect this request for payment information is suspicious,” she added. This practice allows criminals to commit card non present fraud on the Internet, and also makes it more difficult for banks to identify the source

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of fraudulent transactions since they cannot trace it back to a specific computer. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1726

FCC cracks down on rogue broadcasters. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agents have been busy in May, issuing more than \$250,000 in fines as part of an effort to shut down rogue broadcasters. A majority have targeted pirate radio operations. As of May 17, the FCC had issued \$258,000 in fines; \$141,000 for operation of unlicensed radio transmitters. On May 5, alone, the commission fined five pirates a total of \$50,000. Other violations involve failure to maintain functional Emergency Alert System equipment, inadequately maintained transmitter and tower facilities, excessive power levels, and improper record-keeping. Piracy was most prevalent in the eastern portion of the United States. Source: <http://www.televisionbroadcast.com/article/120506>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Nothing Significant to Report

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

Nothing Significant to Report

EMERGENCY SERVICES

56 cops killed in line of duty last year, up nearly 17%, says FBI. The FBI said 56 law enforcement officers were murdered on duty in 2010, up 17 percent from 2009. All but 1 of the 56 officers was slain by someone using a gun. Thirty-eight of them were wearing body armor when killed. The only officer who was not a victim of firearms was killed with a vehicle. Fifteen officers were killed in ambushes, 8 were investigating suspicious persons, 7 were killed in traffic pursuits, or stops, and 6 were responding to disturbance calls. Preliminary FBI figures show the rest were killed during other police work. Separately, 72 officers were killed in accidents, a 50 percent jump over 2009. In 2009, both the number of officers slain feloniously and those accidentally killed was 48. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20063372-504083.html

(Indiana) Capitol police probe threats to Indiana Supreme Court after ruling on illegal police entry. Capitol police in Indianapolis, Indiana, are investigating harassing phone calls and e-mail messages to the Indiana Supreme Court following a recent contentious ruling. Police will not say how many calls and messages have been received or whether they were addressed to a specific justice. A court spokeswoman told The Times of Munster the threats were mostly directed at police officers. The state's highest court ruled May 12 that Indiana residents have no

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right to resist police making an unlawful police entry into their homes. In a 3-2 decision, the court ruled that people confronted with an illegal police entry into their homes should allow entry and sue later for damages. It said resisting entry increases the risk of escalating violence.

Source:

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/ed6e575da9c946f6bfac56a469b47113/IN--Indiana-Supreme-Court-Threats/>

(North Carolina) Police: Woman throws flaming cotton balls at officers. Just after 5 p.m. May 14, police in Brevard, North Carolina, responded to complaints about a 32-year-old male resident at Mountain Glen Apartments. They learned there was an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for the man and went to the apartment where he lives with his 55-year-old aunt. The police chief said when the aunt opened the door, the officers could see the man they were looking for inside. He said the aunt tried to block an officer from entering, but he gently pushed her aside and continued inside. That led to a struggle between the man and officers. As police attempted to bring the man under control with handcuffs, the chief said a 25-year-old woman came in. She retreated to a bedroom and came out a few seconds later with some type of liquid. "She threw it on the officers," he said. The woman then took out a lighter, lit a cotton ball, and threw it toward the officers, who were on the floor trying to handcuff the man. The flaming cotton ball fell short of the officers, but ignited the apparently flammable liquid that had landed on the carpet. The officers then used their feet and a fire extinguisher to put out the flames. Police then saw smoke coming from the bedroom. They ran outside, broke out the bedroom window, and pulled the man and woman out of the burning room, the chief said. While inside the patrol car, he said the woman managed to slip out of the handcuffs and damage equipment in the vehicle. The man and woman were taken to jail after being examined at the hospital. The hazardous materials team spent several hours at the site, the chief said. Investigators determined the liquid was a type of oil-based fuel. Source:

<http://www.wyff4.com/r/27900410/detail.html>

ENERGY

Siemens says it will fix SCADA bugs. Siemens is working on a fix for some serious vulnerabilities recently discovered in its industrial control system products used to manage machines on the factory floor. The company said May 19 it was testing patches for the issues, just one day after a security researcher from NSS Labs was forced to cancel a talk on the issue because of security concerns. NSS Labs had been working with Siemens and the DHS's Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response (ICS CERT) on addressing the issues for the past week-and-a-half. However, the company decided to cancel the talk when it turned out that Siemens' proposed fixes were not completely effective, according to the CEO of NSS Labs. Siemens did not say when it expected to fix the problems. "Our team continues to work diligently on this issue — also together with both NSS Labs and ICS CERT. We are in the process of testing patches and developing mitigation strategies," Siemens said in a statement. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216867/Siemens_says_it_will_fix_SCADA_bugs

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(California) US DOT Chief: new pipeline safety rules due in August. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will issue new safety rules for the nation's oil and gas pipeline operators in August, the agency's top official said May 19. The DOT Secretary visited the site in San Bruno, California, where a Pacific Gas & Electric gas pipeline exploded last September, killing eight people and destroying dozens of homes. The Secretary said the rules would likely include a requirement for pipeline operators to complete a "top-down review" of their pipelines and replace any pipelines that are in "critical condition, immediately." The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which regulates PG&E and other utilities, has proposed new rules requiring pipeline operators to test their older pipelines with high-pressure water infusions, or replace the lines, as part of an overhaul of pipeline safety rules. Pending state legislation, such as a proposal that would increase the maximum penalty for violations of safety regulations, would also be useful, a CPUC commissioner said. Source:

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2011/05/19/dot-chief-new-pipeline-safety-rules-august/>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Horse herpes outbreak in West grows to 33 cases. An equine herpes outbreak has widened to include eight Western U.S. states, with 33 horses confirmed to have the highly contagious disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said May 19. The outbreak comes just as the prime season for riding shows, sales, and rodeos is starting, resulting in the forced cancellation of scores of events. All but one of the 33 confirmed cases involve horses that attended a National Cutting Horse championship competition in Ogden, Utah, from April 29 to May 8, an event health officials have identified as the source of the outbreak. A total of 308 horses were present at the Utah event, and another 689 have been exposed by secondary contact or proximity, the USDA said. Seven of the infected horses have died or were euthanized, the USDA noted. Equine herpes virus (EHV-1) is a highly contagious disease that can be fatal, but cannot infect humans. States with confirmed cases include Colorado, California, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington, the USDA said. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/20/us-horses-herpes-outbreak-idUSTRE74JOLW20110520>

Stink bug spread worries growers across nation. The brown marmorated stink bug, a three-quarter-inch invader native to Asia, is believed to have been brought first to the Allentown, Pennsylvania, area in 1998. The bug began appearing in mid-Atlantic orchards in 2003-04 and exploded in number in 2010. In the spring of 2011, stink bugs have been seen in 33 states, including every one east of the Mississippi River, and as far west as California, Oregon, and Washington. "All that we do know for certain is that a tremendously large population went into overwintering in fall 2010. So, if they survived, there could be a very large population emerging in the spring," a research entomologist at the U.S. Agriculture Department's Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville West Virginia said. Growers in the mid-Atlantic region have reported the worst problems, and the apple industry appears hit hardest, with \$37 million in damage to growers in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, the U.S. Apple

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Association said. That is about 18 percent of the Mid-Atlantic crop. Damaged fruit is safe to eat, but blemishes drastically reduce prices. Source:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/national/article_db838693-52cb-5cde-92eb-dcca8fcf5b56.html

Boss Pet recalls pig ear products because of possible health risk. Boss Pet Products, Inc. announced it is recalling its Diggers Natural Treat Pig Ear pet treats because the products have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Boss Pet has been notified by one of its suppliers, Keys Manufacturing Company, Inc., that a batch of Keys' pig ear treats tested positive for Salmonella. Keys has initiated a voluntary product recall in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and has identified several shipments of potentially affected products which Boss Pet shipped out under its Diggers brand from November 2010 through April 2011. So far, there has been a report of one dog in Missouri having Salmonella. Salmonella can affect animals eating the product and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated products. These products have been distributed via truck to distributors in the following states: Montana, California, Washington, Oklahoma, Tennessee, New York, Kansas, Ohio, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Oregon, Utah, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota. Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm255726.htm>

Virus linked to Utah show found in Arizona horse. Authorities said a horse in Arizona tested positive for the equine herpes virus, a contagious and potentially fatal virus, linked to a horse show in Utah, the Arizona Department of Agriculture said May 18. Officials did not say where the horse was located or identify the owners. Official said the horse's owners are under the direction of an attending veterinarian and have restricted the animal's movement to prevent the spread of disease to other horses. The National Cutting Horse Association's Western National Championship was held April 30-May 8 in Ogden, Utah. Authorities said at least 18 horses in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, California, Washington, and Canada have been infected with the virus and at 3 three have died. Source: <http://ktar.com/category/local-news-articles/20110518/Virus-linked-to-Utah-show-found-in-Arizona-horse/>

Togo's pastrami recalled due to Listeria contamination. Food company Togo's recalled its pastrami, as the products have the potential to be contaminated with Listeria Monocytogenes. According to the company, the affected products, about 15,900 pounds, had been distributed in California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. The recalled deli foods comprised Olympic Gold Beef Pastrami, Rose & Shore N.Y. Style Pastrami, Cooked Angus Roast Beef, and Togo's Pastrami. The products, supplied by Rose & Shore Meat Company were investigated by U.S. Food and Drug Administration officials. Source: <http://chilledanddelifood.food-business-review.com/news/togos-pastrami-recalled-due-to-listeria-contamination-160511>

(Colorado) State officials: Equine herpesvirus may have spread to four Colorado counties. Six additional horses in Weld and three other counties in Colorado are showing signs of equine herpesvirus — EHV-1 — according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). Colorado State University announced May 16 precautions against the disease and canceled events planned at its equine sciences center. The disease was previously confirmed in two horses in Weld County. EHV-1 can be treated if caught early enough, but is fatal in some cases. An official

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from the Countryside Large Animal Clinic of Greeley said he has been going non-stop for the past 3 days, answering questions and treating horses in Weld that have showed signs of the disease. He had to euthanize one infected horse, but he said the other is showing signs of recovery. The two Weld horses confirmed with the disease had attended the National Cutting Horse Association's Western Horse Championships in Ogden, Utah. The CDA is working with the Utah state veterinarian to try to determine the point of the infection. That investigation is ongoing. Source:

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20110516/NEWS/705169957/1002&parentprofile=1002>

(California) Nearly 8 tons of deli meat recalled. Rose & Shore Meat Co. of Vernon, California, recalled approximately 15,900 pounds of ready-to-eat deli pastrami and roast beef that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced May 14. The problem was discovered after the company tested product at the request of a commercial customer who had received a consumer complaint. FSIS said it has not received any confirmed reports of illnesses associated with these meats. The deli meats were produced April 5, 2011, and shipped to distribution centers in California for further distribution to food service establishments in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. There were no retail sales. Source:

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/05/15900-lbs-of-deli-meats-with-listeria-risk-recalled/>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Pennsylvania) Kindergartner caught with 18 bags of heroin at school, cops say he handed it out to classmates. Police were called to a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, kindergarten class after a 7-year-old boy turned up with 18 bags of heroin and began handing them out to classmates. "The kids are calling it 'the magic ticket' because it is a white pack with a stamp of a bunny coming out of a hat," a police spokeswoman told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The boy told police he found the bags at home and did not know what they were. Police were alerted after the boy cut his finger on a razor blade, prompting the principal to look inside his schoolbag and spot the drugs. Cops brought in a drug-sniffing dog, which found even more in the boy's locker. School officials alerted parents, three of whom came forward with bags of heroin they had found in their children's possession. Officials said it does not appear any of the kids had taken the drug, which can be lethal in any amount to children of that age. Source:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/19/2011-05-19-kindergartner-caught-with-18-bags-of-heroin-at-school-cops-say-he-handed-it-out-.html>

Sailor pleads guilty to espionage charges in Norfolk. A U.S. Navy intelligence specialist admitted May 19 he smuggled classified documents out of Fort Bragg in North Carolina in folders and his pants pockets, then sold them for \$11,500 to a man he believed was a Chinese agent. The 22-year-old petty officer 2nd class pleaded guilty to four counts of attempted

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espionage and seven counts of mishandling classified information. He had faced 15 charges and the possibility of life in prison. In exchange for his guilty pleas, the remaining charges will be dropped and he will receive a reduced sentence. A reservist, the man was arrested in December in North Carolina. At the time he was at Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg training to deploy to Afghanistan, although he was assigned to the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach. The man enlisted in the Navy in 2006 and received a top-secret-level security clearance in 2007. Before reporting to Fort Bragg in September 2010, he was stationed at military facilities in Syracuse, New York; Jackson, South Carolina; San Diego, California; and Washington. Navy records list his hometown as Mexico, New York. He is being held at the Norfolk, Virginia, Naval Station brig. Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2011/05/sailor-pleads-guilty-espionage-charges-norfolk>

Data breach affects about 4,000 SEC workers. About 4,000 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) employees, including several in Los Angeles, California, were notified that their Social Security numbers and other payroll data were included in an unencrypted e-mail sent May 4, according to a Department of Interior spokesman. The e-mail was sent by a contractor at the department's National Business Center, which manages payroll, human resources and financial reporting for dozens of federal agencies, the spokesman said. Interior Department policies require that sensitive personnel information be encrypted when e-mailed. But the contractor neglected to encrypt the e-mail, and the software in place to catch such errors did not work properly, the spokesman said. Affected employees were notified earlier the week of May 16, and were offered 60 days of free credit monitoring. "There is no indication the data was intercepted," the spokesman said, adding that personal data was exposed for about 60 seconds "during the time the e-mail was being sent, from the moment when the person hit send to the time the other person gets it in the in box." The agency has launched a probe into the most recent incident. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-sec-security-20110519,0,5665948.story>

Hack targets NASA's Earth observation system. A hacker claims that a security hole in a server at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center has exposed data related to a satellite-based Earth observation system used to aid in disaster relief. The hacker, who uses the handle "Tinkode" has published a screen capture from what he claims is a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server at NASA's Goddard Center. The hack comes exactly a month after the same hacker exposed a similar hole in a server operated by the European Space Agency. The screenshot from the server at the Goddard Space Center was published May 17. It shows a directory tree from the server, [servir\(dot\)gsfc.nasa.gov](http://servir(dot)gsfc.nasa.gov), which appears to be connected with NASA's SERVIR program. It is not clear what the purpose of the server is or the nature of the security hole exploited by Tinkode. SERVIR is a joint program between NASA, USAID, CATHALAC, and other non profit groups that uses data from land based radar and geosynchronous satellites to aid in natural disaster analyses, environmental monitoring, health risk assessments, and issues related to climate change and biodiversity. Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/hack-targets-nasas-earth-observation-system-051711

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(North Carolina) Bomb threat clears courthouses. About 20 people were evacuated May 16 from the Historic Courthouse, while about 150 people were evacuated from the 1995 courthouse in Hendersonville, North Carolina after a bomb threat was called in to the Henderson County Board of Elections office. People were allowed to re-enter the courthouses after an hour and a half. The threat was called in at about 11:30 a.m., according to officials with the board of elections and Henderson County dispatchers. The caller indicated there was a bomb at a courthouse, not specifying which one, and that the sheriff would be killed May 16. Emergency personnel closed off Grove and Main streets and both courthouses were immediately evacuated, causing delays to court cases and inconvenience for county workers. At 6:30 p.m., the sheriff's office said one suspect had been identified, but the office would not release more information. Source:

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20110517/ARTICLES/110519838/1008/sports?Title=Bo mb-threat-clears-courthouses&tc=ar>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Firefox add-on with 7m downloads can invade privacy. A high-rated Firefox extension with more than 7 million downloads secretly collects data about every Web site the open-source browser visits and combines it with uniquely traceable information tied to the user, an independent security researcher said. The undisclosed behavior of the Ant Video Downloader and Player add-on takes place even when the Firefox private browsing mode is turned on or when users are availing themselves of anonymity services such as Tor. The add-on carries a rating of four out of five possible stars and gets an average of almost 7,000 downloads per day, according to official Mozilla statistics. The revelations raise new questions about the safety of extensions offered on Mozilla's Web site. A spokeswoman for the open-source developer said the media player, like all public extensions not designated experimental, was vetted to make sure it meets a list of criteria. Chief among them is add-ons "must make it very clear to users what [privacy and security] risks they might encounter, and what they can do to protect themselves." In the meantime, the add-on is available for download on Mozilla's site with no warning. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/20/firefox_addon_privacy_invasion/

Mac Protector: Fake AV targets Mac OS X users. New rogue AV is targeting Mac users. The name of the rogue AV is Mac Protector, and according to McAfee, the downloaded Trojan contains two additional packages: macprotector(dot)pkg (the application) and macProtectorInstallerProgramPostflight(dot)pkg (bash script that launches Mac Protector once it is installed). As with MAC Defender, an earlier AV targeting Mac users, the application requires root privileges to get installed, so the user is asked to enter the password. "Mac Protector is very sophisticated and uses a lot of resources to appear as a real anti-virus app to the user. There are a lot of images and sounds in the package that simulate system scanning, show the alerts, etc.," McAfee said. "Mac Protector will perform a fake scan on the system, and will show rootkits and spyware detections for real and current processes." Copying MAC Defender again, Mac Protector tries to convince the user his computer is infected by opening browser windows to sites with adult content. Once the fake scan is finished, the rogue AV said

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the user must register the app for it to be able to clean the system. To do that, the user is asked to submit credit card data. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1727

OpenSSL weakness can expose sensitive information. A weakness has been reported in OpenSSL, which can be exploited to disclose potentially sensitive information, according to Secunia. The weakness is caused due to the implementation of the Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA) not properly preventing timing attacks, which can be exploited to, for example, disclose the private key of a TLS server using ECDSA signatures. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=11053>

New vulnerability reporting framework. The Industry Consortium for Advancement of Security on the Internet (ICASI) published its Common Vulnerability Reporting Framework (CVRF) Version 1.0. CVRF is an XML-based framework that enables stakeholders across different organizations to share critical vulnerability-related information in an open and common machine-readable format. This format replaces the myriad of current nonstandard reporting formats, thus speeding up information exchange and processing. "CVRF represents a true milestone in industry efforts to raise and broaden awareness of security vulnerabilities," said the president of ICASI and director of IT Policy and Information Security at IBM. "With the use of CVRF, the producers of vulnerability reports will benefit from faster and more standardized reporting. End users will be able to find, process and act upon relevant information more quickly and easily, with a higher level of confidence that the information is accurate and comprehensive." Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=11041>

99% of Android phones leak secret account credentials. The vast majority of devices running Google's Android operating system are vulnerable to attacks that allow adversaries to steal the digital credentials used to access calendars, contacts, and other sensitive data stored on the search giant's servers, university researchers have warned. The weakness stems from the improper implementation of an authentication protocol known as ClientLogin in Android versions 2.3.3 and earlier, the researchers from Germany's University of Ulm said. After a user submits valid credentials for Google Calendar, Contacts, and possibly other accounts, the programming interface retrieves an authentication token that is sent in cleartext. Because the authToken can be used for up to 14 days in any subsequent requests on the service, attackers can exploit them to gain unauthorized access to accounts. Google patched the security hole earlier in May with the release of Android 2.3.4, although that version, and possibly Android 3, still cause devices synchronizing with Picasa Web albums to transmit sensitive data through unencrypted channels, the researchers said. Based on Google's own statistics, this means more than 99 percent of Android-based handsets are vulnerable to the attacks, which are similar in difficulty and effect to so-called sidejacking exploits that steal authentication cookies. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/16/android_impersonation_attacks/

Researcher: Dropbox misrepresents security features. Cloud data storage and synchronization company Dropbox has been hit with a complaint by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) alleging the company has deceived consumers about the level of encryption security it offers. In a letter sent to the FTC, a University of Indiana PhD and security researcher claimed while

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Dropbox encrypted every file it stored, this could be reversed by employees, undermining the company's security credibility. Not only did this design fall short of "industry best practices", the researcher wrote, it also represented a serious security risk the company was not being upfront about. "Dropbox has and continues to make deceptive statements to consumers regarding the extent to which it protects and encrypts their data," he wrote. "Dropbox's customers face an increased risk of data breach and identity theft because their data is not encrypted." He believes Dropbox deceived its users, infringing Section 5 of the FTC Act. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216790/Researcher_Dropbox_misrepresents_security_features

Geek.com infects visitors with malware. Security researchers from cloud security provider Zscaler warn that technology Web site geek.com was compromised and many of its pages were executing drive-by download attacks against visitors. Geek.com is one of the oldest technology news Web sites. Attackers managed to inject rogue IFrames into different portions of the site, both within articles and the site's main pages such as home, about us, etc. According to a senior security research engineer at Zscaler, there are multiple infections and the iframes take visitors to different malicious Web sites. One example is the rogue code injected into an article, which redirects visitors to an exploit kit. These kits perform various checks to determine what versions of certain program users have installed on their computers and then serve exploits for vulnerabilities in those products. The most commonly used applications such as Java Runtime Environment, Flash Player, Adobe Reader, or the browser itself are usually targeted. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Geek-com-Infects-Visitors-with-Malware-200476.shtml>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

(Florida; Georgia) Most of Honey Prairie Fire contained. With more than 55 percent of the Honey Prairie Fire considered contained, firefighters May 19 mopped up hot spots along control lines and secured line along the Swamp Edge Break, a combination road and fire break that encircles the swamp in Florida and Georgia. After strategically set fires burned out a combined 20,000 acres May 17 and 18 to protect Stephen C. Foster State Park, the fire is now at 146,924 acres, a joint information team said. Even with the containment, a team on the east side of the 430,000-acre refuge was putting in irrigation lines to protect a boardwalk at Suwannee Canal Recreation Area. There are now 330 people assigned to the fire with 8 helicopters, 29 fire engines, and 42 bulldozers. With winds near calm, the fire was not showing much activity late May 19, a spokesman for the joint information team said. Source: <http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2011-05-20/story/most-honey-prairie-fire-contained>

(Arizona) Residents evacuated as firefighting crews begin burnout effort against Horseshoe Two Fire. Residents located near an area scheduled for burnout operations have been evacuated as fire crews continue their efforts to contain the 27,000-acre Horseshoe Two Fire in Arizona. Crews began operations May 16 to clear potential fuels away in the area of the Southwestern Research Station, a field station under the direction of the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History. There are 20 structures in the area and 5 residents were evacuated, according to the most recent updates from the Type One

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Southwest Incident Management Team. Additionally, as of about 11 a.m. May 16, the community of Paradise to the northwest of Portal had been notified of a potential evacuation in the next 24 hours. High winds in the afternoon May 16 saw all air resources grounded, including nine helicopters. Despite the winds, the spread of the fire has occurred mostly to the west and northwest. Several forest roads and trails remain closed to traffic in the area, and heavy smoke at times spread through the town of Portal. Source:

<http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2011/05/16/residents-evacuated-firefighting-crews-begin-burnout-effort-against-horsesho>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Illinois) Live pipe bomb found in Forest Hills USPS mailbox. A live pipe bomb was found in a Western Springs, Illinois U.S. Postal Service (USPS) mailbox May 16, causing a clearing of the area, and disposal of the device by detonation by a Cook County bomb disposal squad at 8:40 p.m. Western Springs emergency personnel responded to reports of smoke coming from the mailbox, but found no smoke. A USPS employee opened the mailbox and found an odd object that was confirmed to be a bomb by the fire Department and the Cook County bomb squad. Several blocks of Forest Hills were cordoned off around the area for more than an hour. The deputy fire chief said there was a partially-burnt wick on the bomb, and that it had failed to detonate, sparing the mailbox. Source: <http://westernsprings.patch.com/articles/live-pipe-bomb-found-in-forest-hills-usps-mailbox>

PUBLIC HEALTH

Anthrax attack threat persists, DHS says. The U.S. government must remain poised to deal with another attack involving anthrax, a senior DHS official warned the week of May 9. "The threat of an attack using a biological agent is real and requires that we remain vigilant. A wide-area attack using aerosolized *Bacillus anthracis*, the bacteria that causes anthrax, is one of the most serious mass casualty biological threats facing the U.S.," the DHS chief medical officer said during a May 12 hearing of the House Homeland Security emergency preparedness subcommittee. The key capacities to dealing with such a threat are the ability to quickly identify the release of a biological agent and then to deliver medical countermeasures to all potential victims before they display "clinical symptoms," he said. Homeland Security's Health Affairs Office manages the Biowatch program, which has deployed sensors in major cities around the nation to detect airborne biological agents. It is pursuing development of more sophisticated technology that would enable confirmation of a bioagent release in 4 to 6 hours, he told the panel. The Health Affairs Office is also involved in various additional "federal interagency efforts to strengthen the nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks," he said. These included preparing a system under which the U.S. Postal Service would distribute medical countermeasures in the event of a major biological incident. Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110518_3088.php

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FDA to pull diabetes drug Avandia from pharmacy shelves. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that the controversial diabetes drug Avandia will no longer be sold at retail pharmacies beginning November 18, due to the cardiovascular risks it poses to patients. According to the new rules, the medication will only be available to patients who have been safely using the drug, those who have had no success in controlling their blood sugar with other diabetes medications, or patients who have been informed of the risks and still choose to take Avandia (rosiglitazone). These patients must be enrolled in a special program to qualify to receive the drug, the FDA said. "Under the Avandia-Rosiglitazone Medicines Access Program, rosiglitazone medicines will only be available to enrolled patients by mail order from certified pharmacies participating in the program," the agency said in a May 18 statement. "The drug manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline, will withdraw rosiglitazone medicines from the current supply chain and will provide pharmacies with instructions on returning the medicines." Rosiglitazone is also sold under the names Avandamet and Avandaryl. The new rules apply to those drugs as well. According to Bloomberg News, GlaxoSmithKline said it plans to inform pharmacists and doctors about the new access program over the next 2 months. The withdrawal of Avandia and related products from drugstore shelves comes 8 months after the FDA severely restricted use of rosiglitazone to patients with type 2 diabetes for whom other medications do not work. More than 23 million Americans are thought to have type 2 diabetes and, according to the FDA, almost a half-million Americans filled a prescription for rosiglitazone in the first 10 months of 2010. Source: <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/diet-fitness/diabetes/articles/2011/05/19/fda-to-pull-diabetes-drug-avandia-from-pharmacy-shelves>

Malaria blocks 'super-infection'. The malaria parasite can ensure it keeps a host body all to itself by preventing further malarial infections, according to international researchers. The parasite initially reproduces in the liver and moves into the blood. A study on mice, published in Nature Medicine, showed the parasite can trigger iron deficiency in the liver and therefore prevent more infections. The researchers were looking at super-infections, when a patient already infected with malaria is infected with another batch of malaria parasites. In experiments on mice, researchers showed that parasites in the blood were able to stimulate the production of the hormone hepcidin, which regulates iron levels. This reduced the level of iron in the liver, preventing other malaria parasites from reproducing in the organ. A doctor from the Weatherall Institute at Oxford University, England, who was part of the Medical Research Council team, said, "Now that we understand how malaria parasites protect their territory in the body from competitor parasites, we may be able to enhance this natural defense mechanism to combat the risk of malaria infections." Malaria is often accompanied by anemia, which is treated with iron supplements. In this study, mice given iron supplements were more susceptible to additional infections. "We may need to look again at the advisability of iron supplementation programs in malaria-endemic regions, as possible increased risk of infection may need to be weighed against benefits," he said. Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13387983>

(Colorado) Boulder researchers: Chemical in wildfire smoke harmful to humans. Smoke from forest fires contains an acid that can be harmful to human health, according to research by

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scientists in Boulder, Colorado. The researchers, led by a researcher with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), first discovered the presence of isocyanic acid while burning brush, tree branches, and other vegetation at the U.S. Forest Service's Missoula Fire Science Laboratory in Montana. The scientists were measuring the components of smoke with a new instrument they had built, which was designed specifically to gauge the acids released into the atmosphere during a burn. The NOAA researcher said the team was not surprised to find acids, but the presence of isocyanic acid, in particular, was unexpected. Isocyanic acid easily dissolves in water, which makes it possible for it to also dissolve into moist tissues in the body, including the lungs. The full health effects of exposure to isocyanic acid in the air are not fully understood, but the chemical has been linked to cataracts, cardiovascular disease, and rheumatoid arthritis. The new research is published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and the NOAA researcher said he hopes it sparks the interest of people who specialize in studying the impacts of such chemicals in the body. Source:

http://www.dailycamera.com/fourmile-canyon-fire/ci_18075751

Security gaps leave patient records exposed. The nation's push to computerize medical records has failed to fully address longstanding security gaps that expose patients' most sensitive information to hackers and snoops, government investigators warned. Two reports released May 17 by the inspector general of the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) found that the drive to connect hospitals and doctors so they can share patient data electronically is being layered on a system that already has glaring privacy problems. Connecting it up could open new pathways for hackers, investigators said. The U.S. President has set a goal for every American to have a secure electronic health record by 2014. Auditors for the inspector general found that the government agency leading the push for electronic records has put in place some requirements for safely transmitting computerized medical data. However, that agency has not issued general security requirements for the computer systems at hospitals and doctors' offices. The second audit examined computer security at seven large hospitals in different states and found 151 security vulnerabilities. The auditors classified 4 out of 5 of the weaknesses as "high impact," meaning they could result in costly losses, even injury and death. In a written response, the coordinator's office said it is trying to balance between encouraging the adoption of electronic records and adding burdensome requirements, but it agreed to "actively explore" requiring stronger safeguards. Responsibility for computer security is divided among several HHS agencies. The main ones include the office of the national coordinator and the office of civil rights. In its response, the civil rights unit questioned whether investigators could draw sweeping conclusions from audits of seven hospitals. The hospitals were located in California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Texas. All of the hospitals had access control vulnerabilities, including inadequate passwords, computers that did not automatically log off inactive users, and unencrypted laptops that contained patient data. Most had problems with wireless access, including inability to detect unauthorized intrusion, lack of continuous monitoring, and in some cases the absence of a firewall separating wireless from other internal networks. At one hospital, the lock on the back door of a room used to store radiology data was taped over. The report said that as the auditors were watching, they saw a maintenance worker walk in. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43054034/ns/health/>

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(Wyoming) WYDOT officials say highway will be closed until mudslide runs its course.

Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) officials said May 18 they are unable to stop a massive mudslide that has closed U.S. Highway 26-89. The volume of mud, rock and water moving across the highway about 24 miles southwest of Jackson, and the speed at which the material is moving means crews will not begin working to reopen the road until the slide stabilizes naturally, a WYDOT media release said. No retaining structure could hold the slide back because of the amount of water involved, and any attempt to drill horizontally into the moving slide to drain water out would result in broken drainage pipe, WYDOT's district engineer said. As of late May 18, the slide was moving at a rate of about 1 foot per minute with an estimated 40,000 cubic yards of material covering the highway to depths of up to 40 feet. WYDOT crews began moving material off the highway May 14, but by 10 p.m. they could no longer keep the road open. Contractors were brought in to assist May 15 but by May 16, it became clear that effort was only further destabilizing the slide. WYDOT geologists have put stakes and control points on the slide to monitor its movement, and as soon as it stabilizes, work will begin to clear the highway. WYDOT's plan calls for contractors to work 24 hours a day to remove material. The agency estimated that once work starts, it will take 5 to 6 days to reopen the road. Source: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_4aead2ca-6b50-5a74-b3b9-bfbe12c84eb1.html

(Pennsylvania) Rain-induced landslides plague PennDOT in W. Pa. Rain-induced landslides are plaguing the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) in western Pennsylvania. PennDOT said it is working to fix 32 landslide areas, several caused or made worse by persistent rains this month. The agency said it could cost at least \$15 million — and perhaps as much as \$25 million — to fix the problems and prevent future landslides long-term. The landslides in question are in Allegheny, Beaver, and Lawrence counties. A District 11 executive said the agency may have to shift money away from future construction projects to fix the problem. Route 65, a major artery near Pittsburgh, has had one lane closed, while the Port Authority of Allegheny County's West Busway was closed due to a landslide. Route 88 near Vestaburg, Washington County, also remains closed. Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/article/Rain-induced-landslides-plague-PennDOT-in-W-Pa-1388232.php>

Amtrak chief says trains more vulnerable to terrorism than planes, wants to step up patrols. Amtrak's president said he wants to step up security patrols of the passenger rail network and explore new technologies able to provide advance warning of track tampering following revelations that the terrorist group al-Qaida considered attacking U.S. trains. He told a U.S. Senate panel May 17 that the agency has expanded its use of explosive-sniffing dogs and is in close contact with U.S. and international security agencies. The Amtrak president said promising ultrasonic and laser technologies may enable detection of track problems far ahead of trains. But he cautioned that trains are more vulnerable to attack than planes because terrorists have more ability to access trains and track. He said more patrols of tracks are needed to identify specific points of vulnerability. Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/amtrak-chief-says-trains-more-vulnerable-to-terrorism-than-planes-wants-to-step-up-patrols/2011/05/17/AFMA6q5G_story.html

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(California) New dogs aim to sniff out explosives at LAX. Dogs trained to detect suicide bombers went to work May 12 at Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California. Unlike luggage-sniffing canines, the new dogs are trained to sniff out concealed explosives on moving targets in crowds, such as suicide bombers at ticket counters, the mayor said. They can even pick up the scent minutes after a person has walked by. "This is another layer of security" for the airport, which already has more bomb-sniffing dogs and security scanners than any other U.S. airport, the mayor said. He declined to say how many dogs were trained for the Pro-Active Canine Team, or PACT. The PACT program, believed to be the first of its kind, was prompted by a Christmas 2009 attempted suicide bombing aboard a Detroit, Michigan-bound jetliner. Each dog-and-handler team had about 6 months of training at a cost of about \$20,000. Source: http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/state-and-regional/article_80fc9c13-2a7c-5930-bd36-4b7e7fa42030.html

(Michigan) Police evacuate downtown Ann Arbor bus terminal due to suspicious package. Police in Ann Arbor, Michigan, evacuated the AATA bus terminal on Fourth Ave. May 13 due to a suspicious package that was found across the street. The terminal was closed for just over an hour May 13. Shortly after 2 p.m., they began removing caution tape but were still blocking Fourth, between Liberty and Williams. The Michigan State Police bomb squad was sent to the scene. The package turned out to be an item promoting the film "Thor." Earlier, pedestrian detour signs were put up around the bus terminal and Ann Arbor police diverted traffic around the area. Source: http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/washtenaw_county/police-evacuate-downtown-ann-arbor-bus-terminal-due-to-suspicious-package,-bomb-squad-responding

WATER AND DAMS

Cresting Mississippi River floods Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana. A near-record crest is forecast in Greenville, Mississippi, May 17 as the bloated Mississippi River makes its relentless march toward the Gulf of Mexico. By the weekend of May 21, flood waters are expected to peak at record levels in Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi, as well as in Red River Landing and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, according to the National Weather Service. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman told CNN's "John King USA" 20,000 to 25,000 homes could be flooded. Officials said the spillway gates are likely to be open for weeks, and it will be weeks before the river falls below flood stage and those who have evacuated can safely return. The diversion will drain water from the Mississippi through the Atchafalaya basin to the Gulf of Mexico at Morgan City. Louisiana's governor told residents May 16, the decision to open the spillways has lowered crest projections in parts of the state. River observations now suggest the Corps may need to divert less water from the spillway than initially thought, he said. But based on historical estimates, damages to agriculture alone in Louisiana could total \$300 million, he said. The Corps of Engineers opened two gates in the Morganza Spillway May 14, the first release from the facility since 1973. As of May 16, 15 of the structure's 125 bays had been opened, diverting about 763,000 gallons of water per second, a Corps spokeswoman said. The plan is eventually to open about a quarter of the spillway, according to the agency. At the Bonne Carre Spillway,

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which feeds into Lake Ponchartrain, 330 of 350 bays are open, with water coursing through it well above its rated capacity, the manager said May 16. The flood is the most significant to hit the lower Mississippi River valley since at least 1937 and has so far affected nine states: Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. As many as 22 cities and communities where river levels are monitored by the U.S. government remain flooded. Across the South and lower Midwest, flood waters have already covered about 3 million acres of farmland. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/05/17/flooding/index.html?hpt=C1>

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center: 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov; Fax: 701-328-8175 State Radio: 800-472-2121; Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI): 701-328-5500; North Dakota Highway Patrol: 701-328-2455; US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400; Bismarck FBI: 701-223-4875; Fargo FBI: 701-232-7241.**

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

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