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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.

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NORTH DAKOTA

Fargo divided on who makes evacuation call. Fargo, North Dakota is still sorting out who should make the call to evacuate during a flood. The city commission voted 3-2, March 21, to hold off 2 more weeks on an overhaul of the emergency powers ordinance. The existing ordinance gives evacuation powers to the police chief. A new version of the policy presented March 21 makes the city administrator the decision-making “incident commander”, but requires consultation with the mayor and chief of police for an evacuation of areas smaller than 2 square miles. Larger areas require a vote of the full commission. The commissioner said he does not want to rush the changes. The mayor and commissioner voted against delaying the ordinance, which the commission has reviewed during the past three commission meetings. The city administrator said the changes would help give staff a clear line of authority in emergency decisions, such as the small-scale evacuations that occurred in Belmont Park and River Villi in 2009. The policy also gives the city administrator power to force closures or limit hours for businesses, but requires ultimate approval by the commission. Commissioners will submit changes to the policy for discussion at the April 4 meeting. In the meantime, Fargo will continue flood protection measures. City-constructed clay levees are almost finished, but overland flooding in the Timberline neighborhood had the city fighting water earlier than expected. Melt water in a nearby field broke through a snowbank and flooded the dry side of a newly constructed clay dike. Crews worked until almost midnight to shore up the water with a temporary dam, and no damage was reported, the public works director said. Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/313211/>

Snow melt causing major flooding in Midwest. Excessive snow in the northern Great Plains and Midwest may spur floods that rival the record-setting deluge of 2009, threatening U.S. wheat crops and livestock as cities in the region stockpile sandbags. Since October, North Dakota, the largest wheat-growing state, South Dakota, and Minnesota got almost 3 feet more snow than usual, National Weather Service data show. According to Bloomberg News, more than 20 inches remain in some areas, about the same amount that was on the ground at this time in 2009, before floods along the Red River of the North caused about \$223.7 million in damage and killed more than 91,000 cattle. Planting delays may curb wheat output for a third year in the United States, the world’s largest exporter. Global inventories of the grain already were eroded by floods last year in Australia and Canada, and a drought in Russia that sent wheat prices to a 2-year high in February. Almost half the United States has an above-average risk of flooding through April, with areas of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota among the regions with the highest threat, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said March 22. Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=604&yr=2011>

ND wind farm resumes operation after accident. A wind energy project in Bismarck, North Dakota, has resumed generating power, a spokeswoman said March 21, a week after the rotor and three giant blades on one of its towers plummeted to the ground. The wind farm has 71 turbines perched atop steel towers just north of Rugby, about 150 miles northeast of Bismarck, and is capable of

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generating up to 149 megawatts of electricity. It was inspected after the March 14 accident and judged to be safe to resume operation, said a spokeswoman for Iberdrola the energy company that operates the wind farm. The spokesman said an investigation into the cause of the accident has not been completed. In a letter to North Dakota's Public Service Commission, an Iberdrola senior permitting manager, said the tower suffered a "rotor assembly failure." No one was injured. The wind turbine's manufacturer, Suzlon Wind Energy Corp., described the mishap as "an isolated incident."

Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/22/business-us-nd-wind-blades-fall_8368370.html

Increase in number of coal cars derailed. Bismarck, North Dakota police said 10 to 15 BNSF Railway coal cars derailed March 18 in the east part of the city, but no injuries have been reported. A police sergeant said officers responded to the derailment report just before 5 a.m., according to the Associated Press. The conductor told an officer that the eastbound engine, which had been pulling 20 to 30 cars full of coal, lost air supply and several of the cars flipped over, spilling their contents. The sergeant said some coal from a rail car fell on a white 2000 GMC van that belongs to Guardian Lock and Safe, causing \$500 in damage. Source:

<http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/46072/group/homepage/>

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) Flooding causes highway to collapse near Mankato. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) reported March 23 that Highway 22 between St. Peter and Mankato was closed due to flooding concerns. A portion of the highway collapsed March 23. MnDOT officials said a levee broke, causing water to spill out and erode the area. Dirt under the road eroded, causing the road to collapse. The highway is expected to be closed for several weeks and could take months to repair. Highway 22 is a popular route for motorists who travel from St. Peter to the western side of Mankato. It also connects with Highway 14, which takes motorists to southeastern Minnesota. Nobody was on the road when it collapsed. Source:

<http://www.kare11.com/news/article/915765/14/Flooding-causes-highway-to-collapse-near-Mankato>

(Minnesota) River roads in St. Paul closing. Two sections of road are being closed along the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minnesota March 21. A levee is going up by the river in St. Paul while Warner and Shepard roads are being shut down. The Mississippi is due to reach flood stage late the week of March 21. Flood warnings are taking hold throughout much of Minnesota, just as more wet weather is set to enter the state. Several inches of snow could fall across the upper half of Minnesota, starting late March 22. Mostly rain will fall over the southern third of the state, impacting river flows that are already at high levels. The National Weather Service also reported minor flooding along other rivers and streams across southwestern and southeastern Minnesota. Source:

<http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/34265/>

(Minnesota) Fire in Iron Range mine nearly out. Officials said a fire that started March 17 in an underground mine on Minnesota's Iron Range was nearly out. A Minnesota Interagency Fire Center spokesman said March 20 that cameras sent into the mine showed very little smoke. The cameras also showed minimal damage, and the temperature of the mine was back to normal. Minnesota Public Radio News reported firefighters would enter the mine once it is considered safe. The fire in

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the Soudan Underground Mine State Park began when timbers in the elevator shaft caught fire. Crews capped it off to starve the fire of oxygen, and sprayed foam and 50,000 gallons of water into the shaft. The Soudan mine closed in 1962. It is now an Iron Range tourist site and home to a University of Minnesota physics lab. Source: <http://www.wgow.com/Global/story.asp?S=14286572>

(Minnesota) Doctors: More measles ahead in Minnesota. Minnesota health officials confirmed a total of 5 new cases of measles in Minneapolis, 3 among Somali children who had not been vaccinated because of fears about the vaccine's safety, according to information released March 18. Health officials are trying to contain the outbreak that has already sickened 6 children and appears to be spreading, especially in the Somali community. Four of the children were hospitalized, and all are now recovering, the state epidemiologist said. She predicted more cases would surface. Until 2011, only 6 cases of measles had been reported in Minnesota since 2005. Now, health officials are working with families in the Somali community to try to head off any wider spread. "Measles vaccine is extremely effective," she said. "I think we need to remember that we have these very effective tools for a reason, because the diseases can be really severe." Fifty years ago, more than 441,000 cases of measles were reported in the United States, compared with 140 cases in 2008, according to government statistics. Source: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/118247269.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUHPYDiaK7DUiacyKUzyaP37D MDua eyD5PcOiUr>

(Iowa; South Dakota) High water forces Iowa-South Dakota bridge closure. Floodwater fed by rain and heavy snowmelt in the Big Sioux River forced officials to close the state Highway 48 bridge into South Dakota, near Akron in northwest Iowa. Akron emergency services director told Sioux City television station KTIV that the bridge was closed March 20. He said the ground is very saturated, so there is nowhere for rain and snowmelt to go. It ends up in drainage ditches and streams that eventually empty into the Big Sioux. The Akron emergency services director said the river was expected to pass flood stage, but that it would not pose a risk to homes or businesses in town. He said the bridge likely will remain closed through the end of the week. Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-iowa-bridgeclosed,0,6514723.story>

(South Dakota) Flooding closes South Dakota roads. More roads are being closed in eastern South Dakota because of flooding, the Argus Leader reported March 25. Officials have closed a 19-mile stretch of state Highway 28 in Hamlin County between Highway 25 and Lake Norden because of a pipe washout. State Highway 21 in Hamlin County also is closed south of Hayti. State Highway 38 east of Mitchell is closed at the Davison-Hanson county line because of James River flooding. Workers have contained the overflowing James on U.S. Highway 14 at Huron. A segment of South Dakota 44 at the James River was closed March 24 after water overtopped the highway east of Parkston between mile markers 363 and 364. The Renner fire chief said all roads going east and west between Dell Rapids and Interstate 90 are closed. He said officials will be taking shifts manning the fire station and keeping an eye on the waters until the flood is over. Source: <http://www.argusleader.com/article/20110325/NEWS/103250324/1001/Flooding-closes-South-Dakota-roads>

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NATIONAL

Northern border security goes high tech. DHS unveiled its newest high-tech tool to fight terrorism and secure America's northern border March 24. The Operational Integration Center (OIC) allows security analysts to monitor a critical part of the Northern border 24/7, relying on cameras and radars along the St. Clair River separating Michigan from Canada. The \$12 million OIC facility features a 30-foot video panel to watch various sections of the border. Real time video feeds into the situational awareness room from 11 towers equipped with high-tech cameras and radars built along 35 miles of the St. Clair River. The towers are the result of a \$20 million investment in technology as part of DHS's Secure Border Initiative. The Northern border accounts for nearly 4,000 miles of land and water between the United States and Canada. A recent report from the Government Accountability Office revealed only 32 miles of the border, just 1 percent, had an "acceptable level of control." Border protection officials admit there is room for improvement, but this latest technology is a major step forward. In 2010, U.S. Border Patrol made more than 7,400 arrests along the Northern border. Nearly 1,700 arrests took place along the 863 miles that make up the Detroit Sector, which is the largest of the border's 8 sectors. Source: <http://liveshots.blogs.foxnews.com/2011/03/24/northern-border-security-goes-high-tech/?test=latestnews?test=latestnews?test=latestnews>

(California) Glitches hamper radiation warning system in California. The federal government's radiation alert network in California is not fully functional, leaving the stretch of coast between Los Angeles and San Francisco without the crucial real-time warning system in the event of a nuclear emergency. Six of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 12 California sensors — including the 3 closest to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant near San Luis Obispo — are sending data with "anomalies" to the agency's laboratory in Montgomery, Alabama, said the EPA's radiation program manager. The problem delays from 30 minutes to several hours the updating of a database critical for warning the public in case of a sudden radiation danger. The troubled transmissions are part of the federal RadNet system "designed to protect the public by notifying scientists, in near real time, of elevated levels of radiation so they can determine whether protective action is required," EPA said. Without immediate information from RadNet, state and local emergency managers would be dependent on the private owners of nuclear power facilities to alert them in the first hours of a dangerous radiation leak from a domestic source. At the outset of the Japanese crisis, environmentalists noticed a map on EPA's Web site showing the locations of the monitors nationwide indicated that only about half were "running." Most of the others were producing data "undergoing quality review." The Web site has since been updated to say data from the problematic monitors "is being reviewed at EPA's National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory" and that sensors are still collecting data. A spokesman said the data, transmitted via satellite to the Alabama lab every hour, arrive with problems that mean it cannot be added to the database automatically. Instead, a staff member has to manually review the information, a process that can take up to several hours. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-me-radiation-california-20110325,0,7916094.story?track=rss&dlvrit=142902>

Illegals wearing USMC uniforms caught in allegedly stolen gov't van. About a week before the authors of a Center for a New American Security report warned the most dangerous threat to the

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United States and its allies in the Western Hemisphere is the growth of powerful transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), the U.S. Marine Corps Operations Center received a disturbing OPREP-3 report from the Marine Corps Air Station at Yuma, Arizona. It was a situation report that counter-cartel authorities told Homeland Security Today could represent a troublesome new development in the smuggling of illegals into the United States. It alerted that on March 11, 11 undocumented aliens who had managed to enter the U.S. from Mexico had been caught wearing U.S. Marine Corps Marine Pattern (MARPAT) desert digital Battle Dress Uniforms (BDUs). When they were stopped by alert Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents near Campo, California, the 11 illegals and the 3 U.S. citizens (who were wearing Marine woodland digital BDUs) traveling with them were driving an allegedly stolen official government vehicle with altered U.S. Government license plates. The three U.S. citizens apprehended with the illegals were processed on "alien smuggling charges," an official said. In Mexico, it is not uncommon for legitimate law enforcement to encounter members of TCOs either wearing or having in their possession Mexican military and law enforcement uniforms and other official gear and equipment, including military munitions. Source:

<http://www.hstoday.us/blogs/the-kimery-report/blog/illegals-wearing-usmc-uniforms-caught-in-allegedly-stolen-gov-t-van/e852532c1109bd86f30cc0ec1b7ff164.html>

(California) Tracking radiation levels on the West Coast. There are already a dozen radiation monitors spread throughout California. One is in Fresno. There are radiation monitors throughout California to filter the air and provide real-time data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the results are available online. On March 18, the EPA detected minuscule amounts of radiation from Japan at a sensor in Sacramento. The levels are extremely low. A spokesman said some particles are expected, but not at levels to cause concern. Radiation from Japan is not likely to register anything beyond the normal background range. "The California Department of Public Health and our Emergency Management Agency are in constant contact with the federal agencies responsible for monitoring radiation levels in California, and we will tell the public if any precautions become necessary. However, there is no cause for alarm," the governor of California said. Source:

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=8019785>

INTERNATIONAL

Nearly 8,000 military family members signed up to evacuate Japan. No flights were scheduled March 20 to carry U.S. military family members out of Japan, although thousands were still hoping to flee the country's ongoing nuclear crisis. According to estimates provided by the military and compiled by Stars and Stripes, more than 7,900 residents at bases in central and northern Japan want to flee on flights sponsored by the U.S. military. There were 233 family members on the first voluntary evacuation flight from Yokota to Seattle, Washington, March 19 as Japan continued spraying water on reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant about 130 miles north of Tokyo. So far, only Yokota has ferried residents out of Japan, but more flights are expected in the next 2 days. A flight was scheduled to leave Naval Air Facility Atsugi at 12:20 p.m. March 21, according to a statement from the base commander. U.S. Forces Japan said there is another flight planned March 22 from Yokota. The military is working to schedule flights through contractors because no military aircraft will be used for the voluntary departures, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman said. Atsugi plans to move out 2,000 residents, who were prioritized into 4 categories, with top priority given to pregnant

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women. Source: <http://www.stripes.com/news/nearly-8-000-military-family-members-signed-up-to-evacuate-japan-1.138362>

Chile: Bomb causes minor damage at U.S. cultural institute. Police in Chile said a small bomb exploded and broke some windows at a U.S. cultural institute hours ahead of the U.S. President's arrival. No one was injured in the attack, which happened in Vina del Mar, a seaside city far from the U.S. President's activities in the capital of Santiago. The police captain said the bomb caused only minor damage. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack at the Chilean-North American Institute, where people can read books in English and receive language lessons. The Presidential family's visit comes under tight security, with sharpshooters and more than 2,000 police deployed in the capital. Source: <http://www.goalert24.com/readNews.aspx?ID=1482791>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

PH named among major drug money-laundering countries. The Philippines has been identified by the U.S. Department of State as one of the 63 "major drug money-laundering countries" in the world. In its 2011 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs said financial institutions in these countries "engage in currency transactions involving significant amounts of proceeds from international narcotics trafficking." Aside from the Philippines, other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the list are Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, and Myanmar (formerly Burma). Also on the list are: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, India, Macau, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Russia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States, among others. According to the report, the Philippines "continues to face challenges in the areas of drug production, drug trafficking and internal drug consumption." It said the Manila government "takes drug trafficking and drug abuse seriously, and has made substantial efforts to address these problems." However, it pointed out that "lack of law enforcement resources, the slow pace of judicial and investigative reforms and lack of law enforcement inter-agency cooperation continue to hamper government efforts to investigate and prosecute higher echelons of drug trafficking organizations operating in the Philippines." Source: <http://www.asianjournal.com/datetime-philippines/headlines/9455-ph-named-among-major-drug-money-laundering-countries.html>

Federal Reserve opponent convicted for circulating fake money. A North Carolina man who led a group opposed to federal monetary institutions was convicted for creating and distributing a counterfeit currency that was very similar to the real dollar, a U.S. Attorney said March 21. The man accused in the case minted Liberty Dollar coins and bills in the value of \$7 million with the goal of competing with the official currency. He claimed the Liberty Dollar was inflation proof and that it was redeemable for gold and silver. The conviction concludes an investigation started in 2005. The coins looked similar to official American currency, carrying the dollar sign and the words dollar, USA, Liberty, and Trust in God. Liberty Dollars were so widespread the U.S. Mint and the Department of Justice issued a release in September 2006, warning consumers the money was fake. Under a 2009 indictment, the man and others were charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, and under provisions of the federal code that address currency swindles. The suspect has been associated with organizations that question the legitimacy of the Federal Reserve and the U.S. system of currency. The statement said he founded the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal

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Reserve and Internal Revenue Code in 1998, and remained its president and executive director until 2008. According to the indictment, the organization had tiers of executives and employees who marketed and distributed the currency. He also promoted the currency at conferences. He faces a sentence up to 25 years in prison and must forfeit 16,000 pounds of the minted money. Source: [http://westlawnews.thomson.com/National Litigation/News/2011/03 - March/Federal Reserve opponent convicted for circulating fake money/](http://westlawnews.thomson.com/National%20Litigation/News/2011/03%20-%20March/Federal%20Reserve%20opponent%20convicted%20for%20circulating%20fake%20money/)

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

U.S. spent-fuel storage sites are packed. The United States has 71,862 tons of the waste in more than 30 states, according to state-by-state numbers obtained by the Associated Press. But the nation has no place to permanently store the material, which stays dangerous for tens of thousands of years. Plans to store nuclear waste at Nevada's Yucca Mountain have been abandoned, but even if a facility had been built there, the United States already has more waste than it could have handled. Three-quarters of the waste sits in water-filled cooling pools like those at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex in Japan, outside the thick concrete-and-steel barriers meant to guard against a radioactive release. The rest of the spent fuel from commercial U.S. reactors has been put into dry cask storage, but regulators only envision those as a solution for about a century, and the waste would eventually have to be deposited into a Yucca-like facility. The U.S. nuclear industry said the waste is being stored safely at power-plant sites, though it has long pushed for a long-term storage facility. Meanwhile, the industry's collective pile of waste is growing by about 2,200 tons per year; experts said some of the pools in the United States contain 4 times the amount of spent fuel they were designed to handle. While the U.S. Department of Energy previously reported figures on overall spent fuel storage, it no longer has updated information available. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman said the capacities of fuel pools are public record, but exact inventories of spent fuel are tracked in a government database kept confidential for security reasons. The United States has 104 operating nuclear reactors, situated on 65 sites in 31 states. There are another 15 permanently shut reactors that also house spent fuel. Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/22/us-japan-quake-us-spent-fuel/>

NRC Inspector: U.S. nuclear plants not reporting equipment defects. Nearly 30 percent of U.S. nuclear power plants fail to report equipment defects that present "substantial" safety risks because of contradictions in the federal law, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) inspector general (IG). If the issue is not resolved, "the margin of safety for operating reactors could be reduced," the IG said. In a new report, the IG said U.S. nuclear plants are confused about what they are required to report to federal regulators. That is because one section of the law, known as Part 21, requires them to report defects that can cause a loss of safety functions while another section of the law requires them to report only actual losses of safety functions. "Licensees representing at least 28 percent of the operating reactor fleet do not, as standard practice, notify NRC of defects under Part 21 unless they are reportable under event reporting regulations," the report said. NRC has been aware of the reporting lapses since at least 2009. In that time, the commission identified 24 instances, between December 2009 and September 2010, where nuclear plants did not report defects under Part 21. These instances pose "a substantial safety hazard" and prevent federal regulators from spotting manufacturer defects that could surface at other plants around the country, the IG said. Because U.S. plants are failing to report defects as a result of confusion over the law, the NRC has not imposed violations or civil penalties. It has not imposed any

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civil penalties or significant enforcement actions for the reporting failures in at least 8 years, the IG said. Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201103241018dowjonesdjonline000372&title=nrc-inspector-us-nuclear-plants-not-reporting-equipment-defects>

U.S. looks to safeguard medical isotopes from terrorists. The United States is spending millions of dollars to help hospitals reduce the potential for terrorists to acquire sufficient amounts of medical isotopes to build a radiological “dirty bomb,” New York Newsday reported March 21. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is funding the effort as part of its initiative to assess and improve radioactive substance safeguards at almost 2,700 sites no later than 2020, according to the NNSA deputy director. In excess of 120 of the sites covered by the program are in New York state, including 50 facilities in New York City. Thirty facilities have already been examined in the city, including 18 hospitals. Before the end of 2011, officials want to see safeguard studies completed for all New York City hospitals. U.S. counterterrorism experts fear widely used and inadequately secured devices that house radioactive materials could create an opening for terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda to produce a dirty bomb, which would use conventional explosives to disperse radiological substance over a wide area. The Presidential administration requested \$25 million in fiscal year 2011 for a program to secure radioactive materials. Congress has not passed a final budget for the current budget year, which ends September 30, instead approving a series of continuing funding resolutions. The White House is seeking to increase funding for the program to \$51 million in fiscal year 2012. Washington is also training state and local law enforcement officials and hospital security guards, among others, at a specialized security facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The training includes countering a terrorist attempt to invade a hospital in order to obtain radioactive substances. Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20110322_7770.php

Stricken Japan nuke plant skipped inspections. The operator of Japan’s tsunami-damaged nuclear power plant told safety regulators less than 2 weeks before disaster struck that it had failed to carry out some scheduled inspections at the facility. In a report submitted to Japan’s nuclear safety agency February 28, Japan’s largest power utility, Tokyo Electric Power Co, said it had failed to inspect 33 pieces of equipment in the 6 reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex. The equipment missed in scheduled inspections included a motor and a backup power generator for the number 1 reactor, the firm said in a report available on a company Web site. The exchange between the utility and safety regulators regarding safety misses at the plant has attracted attention because of its timing, and the equipment involved. The failure of backup power systems is a key element of the current crisis. In its response to the Tokyo Electric report, Japan’s Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency gave Tokyo Electric until June 2 to draw up a corrective plan for the plant. The nuclear safety agency said in its March 2 response that it did not believe there was an immediate risk to safety as a result of the missed inspections. The agency said it had been assured the equipment that had gone without inspection would be tested in the near term by Tokyo Electric. The agency’s deputy director general told a briefing March 21 he was not aware of the correspondence between regulators and the utility. He said he could not say whether the safety lapses played any role in worsening the crisis, which began March 11. The filings by Tokyo Electric and Japan’s safety regulators were archived on their Web sites and first reported by Jiji Press. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42188550/ns/world_news-asiapacific/?GT1=43001

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COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(Hawaii) Statewide tsunami damage totals \$30.6 million. The governor of Hawaii March 24 formally requested an Administrative Disaster Declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help Hawaii Island homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits affected by the tsunami that swept across the state March 11. Work is also underway on a request to the U.S. President for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This declaration would enable counties (Hawaii County, Maui County, and the City and County of Honolulu) damaged by the Honshu (Tohoku) Tsunami to recoup some of the costs of rebuilding and repairing damaged public infrastructure, such as buildings and harbors. The governor asked SBA to provide low-interest disaster loans to private individuals, businesses and nonprofits on Hawaii Island to repair or replace materials damaged from the tsunami. Damages sustained on the other islands did not qualify for disaster loans under SBA guidelines. According to estimates reported to the state civil defense, the preliminary damage estimates from the tsunami that hit Hawaii after the Honshu earthquake in Japan totals \$30.6 million. Source: <http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Statewide-tsunami-damage-totals-30-6-million/7GucjQUUmk-kt4NccfKcWw.csp>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Sensitive data easily swiped from eBayed mobiles. Second-hand mobile phones sold on by their owners often contain extensive personal and sensitive data that leave sellers open to identity theft and other privacy risks. Pre-owned mobile phones and SIM cards purchased on eBay or from shops were checked using readily available equipment to see what personal information was left on the handsets. Around half the handsets and chips examined by an ethical hacker still held sensitive information. The hacker was able to recover information using a mobile phone SIM Reader, SIM recovery software, and forensic examination software. A total of 247 pieces of data were recovered from a total 19 of the 35 mobile phones and 27 of the 50 SIM cards. Data left on these handsets and communication devices included many photos, bank details, log-in details for social networking sites, and PIN numbers as well as private texts and e-mails. In a separate poll, most sellers (80 percent) claimed they had wiped their mobiles before selling them, with 6 in 10 stating they were confident that no personal data was left on devices subsequently offered up for sale. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/22/sensitive_data_ebayed_mobiles/

How to slay a cellphone with a single text. Attacks that crash most older cellphones are frequently compounded by carrier networks that send text messages to the target handset over and over. In other cases, they are aided by a “watchdog” feature embedded in the phone, which takes it offline after receiving just three of the malformed messages. The so-called SMS of death attacks were unveiled late in 2010 at a hacker conference in Germany. They use special binary characters and overflowed headers to temporarily crash most older models made by manufacturers including Nokia, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, LG, Motorola, and Micromax. Carrier networks often aggravate the attacks by bombarding the target with the same malicious message, making them an inexpensive way to take a phone completely offline. Feature phones may have lost much of their cachet to smartphones over the past few years, but they are still relied upon by almost 80 percent of the world’s mobile phone users, the researchers said. The attacks could be used in targeted attacks against social enemies and business rivals, but the researchers said there is also the potential for the vulnerabilities to be exploited in a more widespread fashion by using bulk SMS services, smartphone-based botnets, or

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SS7, a series of telephony signaling protocols the researchers said are becoming increasingly accessible to companies and individuals. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/21/sms_of_death_explained/

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Lasko recalls box fans due to fire hazard. Lasko Products Inc., of West Chester, Pennsylvania, has issued a recall March 24 for about 4.8 million box fans. An electrical failure in the fan's motor poses a fire hazard to consumers. Lasko has received seven reports of fires associated with motor failures, including two house fires and one barn fire, resulting in extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported. The box fans were sold at mass merchandisers nationwide from July 2002 through December 2005. Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml11/11183.html>

Japanese auto plants still in limbo. After being hit by a massive earthquake March 11, Japan's seven big automakers started to resume partial automotive production following short-term parts shortages, power outages, and concerns about damaged export facilities. The long-term effects caused by the disruption in the Japanese parts supply chain have yet to be determined. As of March 18, Toyota had halted auto production in Japan until March 22. Replacement part production had restarted, however, and production for overseas parts was expected to resume March 21. Including its two Canadian plants, Toyota is suspending overtime and Saturday production at its North American facilities. Japan's second-biggest carmaker, Nissan, has reopened two Japanese plants using inventory parts. Three other Nissan plants suspended operation until March 20. Depending on the parts supply, the automaker said all of its North American facilities would continue to operate. As long as there are parts in inventory, Mitsubishi will operate three plants shut after the quake. Mazda's Japanese plants were also to be closed until March 20, but its Michigan plant remained open as of March 18. Parts shortages were blamed for Honda suspending operations at its six Japanese plants. Honda's two Canadian plants continue to operate. Subaru said its Japanese operations would remain closed until March 20, and that it would stop overtime and weekend shifts at its Indiana plant. Suzuki planned to keep all factories in Japan closed until March 21. Source: <http://www.wheels.ca/article/794536>

DEFENSE/INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

Undercover agent thwarts conspiracy to export jet engines from Miami to Iran. Four Colombian men were indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami, Florida, for illegally trying to export 22 F-5 jet fighter engines to Iran, WINK-TV reported March 23. It was an online ad that caught the attention of Homeland Security Investigations. For sale: J-85-CAN-15 aircraft engines used primarily in F-5 fighter jets. F-5s are currently only used in two countries — Venezuela and Iran. An undercover agent responded to the ad, posing as a broker January 20. The undercover agent said Iranian buyers were willing to purchase the 22 engines for \$320,000. Arrangements were made to ship them from Miami to Panama to Iran, a violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act banning exports to Iran. The four men were charged in the conspiracy March 8, and the 22 engines were seized. Source: <http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2011-03-23/Undercover-agent-thwarts-conspiracy-to-export-jet-engines-from-Miami-to-Iran>

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Arizona) Smart traffic system to reduce first responder deaths. Nearly 13 percent of the firefighters and police officers who die in the line of duty are killed in vehicle-related incidents, and fire trucks are involved in 10 times as many collisions as other heavy trucks. University of Arizona (UA) researchers have teamed up with the Arizona's Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to create a system to make intersections safer for emergency responders and the general public. Their efforts are part of a national push to create smart vehicles that communicate with one another and with traffic control systems. The MCDOT intersections at Anthem will be equipped with dedicated short-range communications radios. Daisy Mountain Fire District trucks, Maricopa County REACT vehicles, and some transit vehicles also will carry the short-range radios. All the vehicles will be tracked by GPS. The vehicles also will communicate with the Arizona 511 network to alert motorists to the traffic problems, allowing them to select alternate routes. This will help cut down on congestion and prevent secondary accidents that often occur when distracted motorists are faced with traffic disruptions. The UA researchers and Maricopa County also plan to adapt the system to freeway entrance ramps that are controlled by traffic signals. Source:

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/smart-traffic-system-reduce-first-responder-deaths>

Holder announces safety initiative after rise in officer deaths. The U.S. Attorney General announced a Law Enforcement Safety Initiative March 22, calling the number of law enforcement officers killed in the United States so far this year "simply unacceptable." His comments came as he met with a group of police chiefs and the heads of several federal law enforcement agencies to talk about the problem. He said the initiative will involve all U.S. attorneys around the country meeting with local police and others to discuss the issue and to try to find solutions. According to data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 49 officers have been killed this year through March 21, compared with 41 for the same period last year, an increase of 20 percent. The Attorney General said 23 of those officers lost their lives due to gunshot wounds, including 5 who worked in federal law enforcement. He noted that after a 2-year decline, officer deaths "spiked by nearly 40 percent" with the loss of 162 officers in 2010. In 2009, 117 officers were killed. The U.S. Justice Department already has some programs in place to combat violence against police officers, the Attorney General said, including a program where the federal government provides bulletproof vests to officers around the country. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/03/22/law.enforcement.safety/index.html>

First-ever National EAS test will come from the White House. For the first time, the White House will take over the nation's airwaves to speak to the American public through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently ordered all participants in the EAS to take part in a national test later this year. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), in partnership with the FCC, is responsible for the EAS. Exact timing of the test currently is unknown. Date, time of day, and length of the test are White House decisions, a spokesman told the broadcasters' town hall meeting. Officials will, however, be sensitive to timing, he said, adding that they would like to avoid hurricane season, Thanksgiving, elections, and the Christmas advertising season. Timing ultimately will be critical, particularly considering that most radio stations, TV stations, cable outlets, and certain satellite programming in the nation will be broadcasting the same message at the same time, including attention-getting tones. Considering the magnitude, public overreaction is a concern. Outreach will

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be an important part of the test, broadcasters and federal officials said. A FEMA assistant administrator said several levels of outreach are needed. The first is public outreach, “so when people see the message, they won’t think it’s an emergency.” In addition to broadcasters, local emergency management, and other public safety officials will also be encouraged to spread the word to the public to help avoid over-reaction. Officials said 911 organizations will need to know about the test to prepare for calls from concerned citizens. Source:

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/National-Test-EAS-032111.html>

ENERGY

Dozens of exploits released for popular SCADA programs. The security of software used to control hardware at nuclear plants, gas refineries, and other industrial settings is coming under renewed scrutiny as researchers released attack code exploiting dozens of serious vulnerabilities in widely used programs. The flaws, which reside in programs sold by Siemens, Iconics, 7-Technologies, Datac, and Control Microsystems, in many cases make it possible for attackers to remotely execute code when the so-called supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) software is installed on machines connected to the Internet. Attack code was released by researchers from two separate security camps over the past week, The Register reported March 22. The vulnerability release includes proof-of-concept code for at least 34 vulnerabilities in widely used SCADA programs sold by 4 different vendors. A researcher from the first group said the majority of the bugs allow code execution, while others allow attackers to access sensitive data stored in configuration files, and one makes it possible to disrupt equipment that uses the software. And a Moscow-based security firm called Gleg announced the availability of Agora SCADA+, which attempts to collect virtually all known SCADA vulnerabilities into a single exploit pack. The 22 modules include exploits for 11 zero-day vulnerabilities, a researcher said. SCADA software often runs on extremely old systems that are difficult to replace without causing disruptions to critical equipment. As a result, installing patches and upgrades is frequently avoided despite any security benefits. Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/22/scada_exploits_released/

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(Texas) Worst Texas drought in 44 years eroding U.S. wheat, beef supply. The worst Texas drought in 44 years is damaging the state’s wheat crop and forcing ranchers to reduce cattle herds, as rising demand for U.S. food sends grain and meat prices higher. Texas, the biggest U.S. cattle producer and second-largest winter-wheat grower, got just 4.7 inches of rain on average in the 5 months through February, the least for the period since 1967, a state climatologist said. More than half the wheat fields and pastures were rated in poor or very poor condition March 20. Dry conditions extending to Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado may cut crop yields in the United States, the world’s largest exporter, as too much moisture threatens fields in North Dakota and in Canada. Wheat futures in Chicago are up 50 percent in the past year, after drought in Russia and floods in Australia hurt output and sent global food prices surging. Wholesale beef reached a record the week of March 21, and the U.S. cattle herd in January was the smallest since 1958. Crop yields in the United States this year may be comparable to 2007, when dry weather trimmed winter-wheat output to 41.7 bushels an acre, said an agricultural economist at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Since 2000, national yields have averaged 43.8 bushels, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data. Source:

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<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2011/03/24/bloomberg1376-LIIXQQ07SXXK01-3U0L81RMKSADCSNUFLVG872AIM.DTL>

Fresh Del Monte Produce recalls cantaloupe. Food company Fresh Del Monte Produce said March 22 it recalled almost 5,000 cartons of cantaloupes that may be contaminated with a form of salmonella. The cantaloupes were distributed through warehouse clubs in Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, the company said. They also stated the cantaloupe recall followed notification from U.S. health regulators, there was a link between the cantaloupes and about 12 reported cases of salmonella panama, which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, the elderly, and others with weakened immune systems. The company said it put on hold the production and distribution of the product from the affected farm. It said it and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would continue investigating where in the supply chain the contamination occurred. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/23/freshdelmonteproduce-idUSLDE72M00020110323>

(Pennsylvania) 23,000 pounds of bologna recalled. Palmyra Bologna Company, Inc., of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, recalled approximately 23,000 pounds of Lebanon bologna products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced March 23. Lebanon bologna is a fermented, semi-dry sausage. This beef product has an appearance similar to salami. The products subject to recall in packaging for consumers include: 6-, 12-, and 16-ounce packages of "Seltzer's Beef Lebanon Bologna" with lot code "01351." The products subject to recall were produced in December 2010 and were sent to distribution centers in California, Colorado, Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania for further distribution to retail stores. Source:

<http://www.foodmanufacturing.com/scripts/ShowPR~RID~19904.asp>

FDA to temporarily ban foods imported from Japan amidst radiation fears. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said March 22 it will temporarily halt the import of all milk, vegetable, and fruit products coming from the four prefectures of Japan thought to be affected by radiation. The move, called an "import alert" amounts to a 180-day ban on imports and was authorized in "response to public fears about radiation from Japan's crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant," an FDA spokesperson said. "In order to complement the measures that Japan has taken and to strengthen the global food safety net regarding certain products, FDA has issued an Import Alert regarding the importation of all milk and milk products and fresh vegetables and fruits produced or manufactured from the four Japanese prefectures of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma," the spokesperson added. "In addition, FDA will continue to flag all entries from Japan in order to determine whether they originated from the affected area. FDA will test all food and feed shipments from the affected area." Source:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/international/radioactive_materials_detected_nuclear_pHw1UZ8jCo4bvLeto28dPO

Food contamination fears spread beyond Japan's borders. Concern over food contaminated by radiation from areas surrounding the troubled nuclear plant in Fukushima, Japan, spread beyond the country's borders March 21 with world health officials warning of the potential dangers posed by the tainted food and one Japanese restaurant in Taiwan serving up radiation gauges alongside its meals. World Health Organization (WHO) officials told reporters March 21 Japan should act quickly to ban

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food sales from areas around the damaged nuclear plant, saying radiation in food is more dangerous than radioactive particles in the air because of accumulation in the human body. In a question and answer page on its Web site, the organization said that consuming food tainted with radioactive material, while indistinguishable to the naked eye, could lead to an increased likelihood of certain cancers. People living near the plant who may have consumed produce or animal products with radiation should seek medical attention, the organization said. Japanese officials said the weekend of March 19 and 20 that higher-than-normal levels of radiation had been detected in milk, spinach, and some water supplies from regions surrounding the plant damaged by the earthquake and tsunami. Officials have banned the sale of some food items at risk of contamination and advised residents of a village northeast of the plant not to drink tap water. Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-fgw-japan-quake-food-20110322,0,100029.story>

Whey protein recall now nationwide. Ten days after whey protein was recalled by Vitalabs of Jonesboro, Georgia, a New Jersey company has announced a nationwide recall of its whey protein products because of the possibility they may be contaminated with Salmonella. Universal Nutrition of New Brunswick March 21 recalled specific lot numbers for Gain Fast, LAVA, Real Gains, Super Whey Pro, Torrent, Ultra Mass 4500, Ultra Whey Pro, and Uni-Syn because one ingredient, whey protein, has the potential to be contaminated. The products were offered in all 50 states through health food stores, gyms, and Internet-based, e-commerce sites. There have been no reports of illnesses associated with the whey protein. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/whey-protein-recall-now-extends-nationwide/>

(Wisconsin) Canned pickled sliced beets recalled. Lakeside Foods Inc. of Manitowoc, Wisconsin recalled 3,000 cases of canned pickled sliced beets because some cans may have been under-processed and thus have the potential to be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum. There have been no reports of illness linked to the product. The 105-ounce canned pickled sliced beets were sold to food service distributors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin from December 2009 to January 2011. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/pickled-sliced-beets-recalled/>

(Arizona) Arizona citrus may face quarantine. Arizona citrus and citrus trees are expected to be put under a federal quarantine the week of March 21 because a fungal disease known as sweet orange scab has been found at several orchards in Maricopa and Yuma counties, the Arizona Department of Agriculture said March 18. Fruit can still be exported but will require extra cleaning and disinfecting to remove fungal spores. Arizona citrus trees themselves probably will not be exportable. Sweet orange scab does not affect the quality of fruit, but because it leaves ugly lesions that make it unsellable, federal, and state agriculture officials have been imposing quarantines to prevent it from spreading to other states and countries, the quarantine-program coordinator with the Arizona Department of Agriculture said. Arizona citrus growers in Yuma County, where most of the state's crop is produced, are already under quarantine and subject to strict preparation procedures because of citrus-greening disease. Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2011/03/18/20110318arizona-citrus-may-face-quarantine-orange-scab.html>

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Japan finds tainted food up to 75 miles from nuclear site. Officials said March 19 that radiation levels in spinach and milk from farms near the tsunami-crippled nuclear complex in Japan exceeded government safety limits. Minuscule amounts of radioactive iodine were found in tap water March 18 in Tokyo and elsewhere in Japan — although experts said none of those water tests showed any health risks. Japan’s chief cabinet secretary insisted the contaminated foods “pose no immediate health risk.” An expert in the United States also said the risk appeared limited and urged calm. Tainted milk was found 20 miles from the plant, a local official said. The spinach was collected from 6 farms between 60 miles and 75 miles south of the reactors. Those areas are rich farm country known for melons, rice, and peaches, so the contamination could affect food supplies for large parts of Japan. More tests were being done on other foods, and if they show further contamination, food shipments from the area would be halted. Iodine levels in the spinach exceeded safety limits by three to seven times, a food safety official said. Tests on the milk detected small amounts of iodine-131 and cesium-137. Source: <http://www.statesman.com/news/world/japan-finds-tainted-food-up-to-75-miles-1333751.html>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(Indiana) Indiana school shooting: Martinsville schools on lockdown. A 15-year-old is in custody following a shooting about 7 a.m. March 25 at Martinsville West Middle School in Martinsville, Indiana, according to police. Indiana State Police said the suspect, a suspended student, opened fire with a handgun. Police told CBS affiliate WISH that one person, also a student, was shot twice in the stomach. He was flown from the scene to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. There is no word as to the extent of his injuries. All Martinsville schools were on lockdown as police investigated. Police said there was no longer any danger. Parents were told the school was on lockdown via text message. Martinsville Police, Morgan County Sheriff’s Deputies, and Indiana State Police are investigating. WISH found the suspected gunman’s Facebook page where the most recent post was from the morning of March 25. It reads: “Today is the day.” Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20047124-504083.html

Cyberattacks against federal networks were up 40 percent in 2010. The number of attacks against federal networks increased nearly 40 percent in 2010, while the number of incidents targeting U.S. computers overall was down roughly 1 percent for the same period, according to a new White House report to Congress on federal computer security. “Malicious code through multiple means,” such as phishing and viruses, “continues to be the most widely used attack approach,” Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials wrote. Phishing scams lure victims with fake e-mails apparently from legitimate organizations, such as banks, that instruct them to submit sensitive information, including passwords, on phony Web sites. In fiscal 2010, federal agencies reported 41,776 cyber incidents vs. 30,000 attacks in 2009, the year the Conficker worm installed malicious software on millions of home, business, and government computers. To deal with the growing cyber threat, information technology managers gradually are changing the way they monitor security by installing scanners that automatically detect abnormalities in real time, noted the latest report on agencies’ compliance with safeguards codified under the 2002 Federal Information Security Management Act. OMB submitted the annual report to Congress February 28 and published it online in March. Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110318_4179.php

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RSA security breach compromised federal network ID tool. A product many federal employees use to log on to computers and networks should be regarded as compromised due to the infiltration of key information about the application during a cyberattack against manufacturer RSA, some security experts said. DHS has relayed mitigation procedures to federal agencies that have installed RSA's SecurID tools, the department announced March 18. A DHS official March 21 said the government is not recommending that agencies replace their SecurID products. The department is helping RSA and clients who control critical infrastructure deal with the threat to the devices, which are a single point of failure in the computer security ecosystem, according to some industry observers. Agencies "should consider [the ID tools] breached," said a former World Bank computer specialist and now an executive at Core Security Technologies, a firm that lawfully penetrates its clients' systems to identify network weaknesses. SecurID, which verifies the identities of authorized users, consists of a token — a portable physical object such as a smart card or USB drive that controls access to a system. The device displays a continuously changing code that the user enters, in conjunction with a personal identification number, or PIN, to log into a network through a process known as two-factor authentication. Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110321_6511.php?oref=topstory

(Michigan) FBI investigating suspicious package. The FBI said it is trying to determine if a suspicious package left March 18 near the McNamara Federal Building — home of the FBI — in Detroit, Michigan, was a bomb. The Detroit Bomb Squad detonated the package March 18 on Belle Isle and FBI agents were trying to determine its contents, The Detroit News reported March 19. An FBI special agent stopped short of saying the package was a bomb, but said "explosive components" were found — the investigation is ongoing." The device was discovered in a dumpster near the federal building, prompting police to close the area. A bomb squad officer wearing protective clothing removed the metal box. It was the second suspicious package found in Detroit in a week. The high rise in downtown Detroit also houses offices of the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Social Security Administration, and other government agencies. Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/03/19/FBI-investigating-suspicious-package/UPI-28191300554979/

(Virginia) Norfolk courts evacuated over suspicious powder. Norfolk Circuit Court in Norfolk, Virginia was evacuated March 19 for about an hour after a clerk found a suspicious white powder in an envelope sent to the court. Emergency officials arrived and evacuated the courthouse around 3:15 p.m. after a clerk opened a letter from a prisoner at Hampton Roads regional jail and discovered white powder, a circuit court clerk said. The clerk's office re-opened around 4:30 p.m. A hazardous materials team shut down the building's air conditioning system and investigated the powder but found nothing dangerous, a chief deputy clerk said. The material was cleaned up and a sample will be sent to Richmond for analysis, he said. No one was reported ill, he said. The chief judge canceled afternoon court hearings. Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2011/03/norfolk-courts-evacuated-over-suspicious-powder>

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Google, Yahoo, Skype targeted in attack linked to Iran. A malicious attacker that appears to be the Iranian government managed to obtain supposedly secure digital certificates that can be used to impersonate Google, Yahoo, Skype, and other major Web sites, the security company affected by the breach said March 23. Comodo, a Jersey City, New Jersey-based firm that issues digital certificates, said the nine certificates that were fraudulently obtained, including one for Microsoft's Live.com, have already been revoked. A fraudulent certificate allows someone to impersonate the secure versions of those Web sites — the ones that are used when encrypted connections are enabled — in some circumstances. The Internet Protocol addresses used in the attack are in Tehran, Iran, said Comodo, which believes that because of the focus and speed of the attack, it was "state-driven." Spoofing those Web sites would allow the Iranian government to use what is known as a man-in-the-middle attack to impersonate the legitimate sites and grab passwords, read e-mail messages, and monitor any other activities its citizens performed, even if the connections were protected with SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) encryption. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-31921_3-20046340-281.html?tag=mncol;txt

Malicious app found in Android Market. To infect a mobile device, the Rootcager/DroidDream Trojan used two known exploits: exploit and rageagainstthecage. If the first one failed to root the device, the malware would attempt to use the second one. According to researchers from Lookout, a malicious application that uses the exploit exploit has turned up masked as a legitimate calling plan management application on unofficial Chinese app markets. Now, a version of the app has also been spotted on the Android Market. But, while the first one contains a binary called zHash that attempts to root a device using the aforementioned exploit, the one found on the official market has the same binary, but lacks the code required to invoke the exploit. Lookout warned the mere existence of the zHash binary on the device leaves it vulnerable to future exploits. "The app's use of the backdoor shell is extremely limited and not clearly malicious, however, zHash creates a hole in the security layer of the phone, leaving it vulnerable to other applications wanting to take advantage of the device. If the device was successfully rooted by this app, any other app on the device could gain root access without the user's knowledge." Lookout said Google has removed the application from the Android Market, and used the kill switch again, but the problem for users who downloaded the app from an unofficial market is the app is still there and working. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1672

Microsoft urges Office users to block Flash Player attacks. Microsoft March 17 urged users of older Office suites to install and run a complicated tool to protect themselves against ongoing attacks exploiting an unpatched bug in Adobe's Flash Player. "For users of Office prior to 2010, the Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit (EMET) can help," said a manager and security engineer with the Microsoft Security Response Center. "Turning on EMET for the core Office applications will enable a number of security protections called 'security mitigations'," the pair wrote in a March 17 post to the company's Security Research & Defense blog. EMET is a tool that manually enables ASLR (address space layout randomization) and DEP (data execution prevention) for specific applications. ASLR and DEP are two anti-exploit technologies included with Windows. Adobe confirmed March 15 that

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attackers were exploiting an unpatched bug in Flash Player by sending potential victims malicious Microsoft Excel documents. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214795/Microsoft_urges_Office_users_to_bock_Flash_Pl_ayer_attacks

Google says China blocking Gmail access. China is blocking Gmail in the country with methods that make it look as if the access problems lie with Google, the search engine company said March 21. In the last several weeks, Internet users in China reported greater difficulty with visiting the Gmail site, posting on microblogs the e-mail service is either slow or inaccessible. Google said the Chinese government is responsible for the access problems. "There is no technical issue on our side. We have checked extensively," a Google spokesperson said. "This is a government blockage carefully designed to look like the problem is with Gmail." The recent access problems have not qualified as significant interruptions, according to Google's online traffic report. The blocking of Gmail coincides with China's recent efforts to suppress any mention relating to the "Jasmine Revolution," which began as an online call urging the Chinese people to protest the government. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214845/Google_says_China_blocking_Gmail_access

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

(Hawaii) Firefighters continue to battle blaze in Hawaii Volcanoes Natl. Park. Firefighters in Hawaii were still trying to put out a brushfire March 20 at the Volcanoes National Park. The fire has been burning since March 15. "The ground is very uneven, it's not flat," the fire information officer said. "There's other obscure things we can't see, so it's pretty treacherous footing to hike in." The fire was ignited by lava from the Kamoamo eruption. So far, more than 1,800 acres have burned ... and it is expected to grow. Firefighters from California were scheduled to arrive March 21 to help contain the blaze. Source: <http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Firefighters-continue-to-battle-blaze-in-Hawaii/4nzjNHplMUig9BXvEuEY2Q.csp>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

Report faults Army in 2001 anthrax mailings. The U.S. Army scientist believed responsible for the 2001 anthrax letter attacks that killed five people and crippled mail delivery in parts of the country had exhibited alarming mental problems that military officials should have noticed and acted on long before he had a chance to strike, a panel of behavioral analysts has found, according to information released March 22. The anthrax attacks, the nation's worst bioterrorism event, "could have been anticipated — and prevented," the panel said. The analysts also concluded confidential records documenting the scientist's psychiatric history offered "considerable additional circumstantial evidence" that he was indeed the anthrax killer. A copy of the panel's 285-page report was obtained by the Los Angeles Times. The anonymous, anthrax-laced letters, were sent to news organizations and two U.S. senators in October and November 2001. Anthrax that leaked from one of the letters forced the closure of a Senate office building for 3 months. Fear of further contamination prompted a 6-day shutdown of the House of Representatives, and disrupted operations of the Supreme Court. The scientist, a microbiologist with expertise in cultivating anthrax, died July 29, 2008. He had taken an overdose of Tylenol PM as federal prosecutors prepared to seek his indictment for murder.

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Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-anthrax-ivins-20110323,0,220890.story>

Coast Guard to screen some ships coming from Japan. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) plans to screen any vessels in Guam that have sailed near a damaged Japanese nuclear power plant that is leaking radiation, Associated Press reported March 22. USCG said vessels that traveled in a 50-mile “precautionary area” surrounding the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant will be subject to additional screenings at ports in Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Officials have put a protocol in place that includes checking vessels at sea. They also will check all cargo offloaded from Japan in ports of Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The plan calls for emergency response teams to be available if dangerous levels of radiation are discovered. It was not clear if other ports outside of Guam had the same three-part plan in place. A USCG spokesman said he could only confirm personnel already employ radiological detectors every day when they conduct routine boardings. “We’ve been doing that for a long time. These are nothing new. These are not new procedures or protocol that we would employ,” he said. USCG said so far, no vessels that traveled in the 50-mile zone have arrived at U.S. ports. They said the probability of contamination of hazardous radiation is low. The 50-mile zone was established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. State Department to ensure the safety of the global supply chain, the spokesman said. Source: <http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/mar/22/bc-hi-radiation-monitors-coast-guard/?news&nation-world>

(New Jersey) New York man convicted in connection with terrorism hoax. A 54-year-old from Chester, New York, was convicted March 19 by a federal jury in Newark, New Jersey of committing a terrorism hoax. According to evidence presented at trial, in February 2010, the man mailed an envelope containing a white powdery substance to the offices of the Star Ledger newspaper in Newark, New Jersey. At the time of the incident, he had been employed as a commercial driver for the Star Ledger for more than 15 years. Officials said he sent his supervisor a letter containing powder, after he was asked to submit his U.S. Department of Transportation time logs. Subsequent testing confirmed that the powder did not contain biological agents or toxins. During a post-arrest interview, the man said he wanted to scare his boss by sending him the envelope with powder in it. Source: http://7thspace.com/headlines/376170/new_york_man_convicted_in_connection_with_terrorism_hoax.html

PUBLIC HEALTH

(California) Drug-resistant ‘Super Bug’ hits LA County hospitals, nursing homes. A deadly drug-resistant bacteria is spreading to more patients in nursing and long-term care facilities in Los Angeles County, California, according to local health officials. KNX 1070 reports a study conducted by the department of public health has found over 350 cases throughout the county, primarily in elderly patients. An infectious disease expert at Harbor UCLA Medical Center said there is no current treatment for CRKP bacteria — and there might not be any in the future either. “There’s been a complete collapse in the development of new antibiotics over the last decade — and in the next decade there isn’t going to be anything that becomes available that’s going to be able to treat these bacteria,” he said. A medical expert of Primary Caring in Malibu cautions hospital visitors that there is no need to panic, but advises people visiting their loved ones to examine the standards of the

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intensive care units. Officials said so far only 6 percent of the so-called “super bug” cases in the county were found in hospitals. Source: <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2011/03/24/drug-resistant-super-bug-hits-la-county-hospitals-nursing-homes/>

World not prepared for devastating pandemic, infectious disease outbreak. The new report of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Review Committee on the functioning of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and on the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza, concluded that “WHO performed well in many ways during the pandemic” and “confronted systemic difficulties,” the world nevertheless “is ill-prepared to respond to a severe influenza pandemic or to any similarly global, sustained and threatening public health emergency.” The report concluded, “Beyond implementation of core public health capacities called for in the International Health Regulations (IHR), global preparedness can be advanced through research, strengthened health-care delivery systems, economic development in low- and middle-income countries and improved health status.” The review committee report further found that while “the IHR helped make the world better prepared to cope with public health emergencies, the core national and local capacities called for in the IHR are not yet fully operational and are not now on a path to timely implementation worldwide.” Source:

<http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/world-not-prepared-for-devastating-pandemic-infectious-disease-outbreak/aae6cd61d5079b930811b2cf873971b3.html>

Beware of ‘fake’ potassium iodide: FDA. In the wake of the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised consumers to beware of inadvertently buying fake iodide products that are supposed to help protect against radiation, according to information released March 18. “We’re alerting consumers to be wary of products that falsely claim to prevent radiation and protect consumers, or are not FDA-approved,” an FDA spokeswoman said. The demand for potassium iodide in the U.S. has spiked as the situation in Japan has worsened, she said. But health experts said there is no need for U.S. consumers to stock up on potassium iodide. Products to watch out for include fake tablets and liquids purporting to be iodide, as well as dietary supplements and other products that say they protect against radiation, the spokeswoman said. The agency added information about radiation safety on its Web site that includes more details about what to beware of before buying iodide products. There are only three FDA-approved potassium iodide products that protect against radiation. The agency’s Web site identifies them as Iosat, made by Anbex; ThyroSafe from Recipharm AB; and ThyroShield from Fleming & Co. At all three companies, the products are currently out of stock, according to their Web sites. Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2011/03/18/news/economy/CDC_iodide_radiation_advisory/

TRANSPORTATION

Sleeping air traffic controller sparks investigation. Federal aviation officials are reviewing air traffic controller staffing at airports around the country after two airliners landed at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Arlington, Virginia without clearance from the airport tower because they were unable to reach anyone there. An aviation official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the incident, said an air traffic supervisor, the lone controller on duty around midnight March 23 when the incident occurred, had fallen asleep. The pilots of the two planes were in contact with controllers at a regional Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) facility about 40 miles away in Warrenton, Virginia, a National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) spokesman said March 23. After pilots were unable to reach the airport tower by radio, they asked the Warrenton

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controllers to call the tower, the spokesman said. Repeated calls from the regional facility to the tower went unanswered, he said. The Transportation Secretary responding to the incident, said in a statement he has directed FAA to put two air traffic controllers on the midnight shift at DCA. NTSB is gathering information on the incident to decide whether to open a formal investigation, an NTSB spokesman said. Regional air traffic facilities handle aircraft within roughly a 50-mile radius of an airport, but landings, takeoffs, and planes within about 3 miles of an airport are handled by controllers in the airport tower. The planes involved were American Airlines flight 1012, a Boeing 737 with 91 passengers and 6 crew members on board, and United Airlines flight 628T, an Airbus A320 with 63 passengers and five crew members. "The NTSB is conducting an investigation and we are doing our own review," an United spokesman said in an e-mail. An FAA spokeswoman said the agency "is looking into staffing issues and whether existing procedures were followed appropriately." But the incident raises serious questions about controller fatigue, a longstanding safety concern, a former NTSB board member said. Source:

http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/national_world&id=8030586

U.S. ports watch for radiation in Japanese cargo. With Japan as one of the United States' top trading partners, consumers and importers are starting to wonder what effect radiation from the damaged nuclear reactors might have on Japanese products exported to America. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and port officials along the West Coast from San Diego to Seattle said consumers should not view the cargo that is arriving now as tainted. It takes about 10 days for a cargo ship to get from Japan to the United States. So, the ships that arrive the week of March 20 left Japan as radiation first began to leak from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. "We have a steady-state system, where every container is examined," the Port of Los Angeles' director of security said of efforts to monitor for radiation at the port. There is little risk that those ships are contaminated. The ports nearest the damaged reactors are closed; that means anything arriving on U.S. shores is coming from farther away. USCG also monitors for maritime radiation. So far, the agency has seen no cause for worry, a lieutenant commander said. Source: <http://www.wbur.org/npr/134631534/u-s-ports-watch-for-radiation-in-japanese-cargo>

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 (IN ND ONLY);** 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

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

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

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