

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Fortune Favors the Prepared — 13 April 2026

⚠️ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 — ELEVATED ⚠️

Day 44 of an active US–Iran conflict. Islamabad peace talks FAILED 12-APR after 21 hours — no deal. President Trump activated a US Naval Blockade of all Iranian port traffic, effective 10:00 AM Eastern today. Oil: WTI \$104.89 (+8.6%), Brent \$102.15 (+7.3%). Gas \$3.99+ nationally, diesel \$5.40. Ship traffic halted at Hormuz. This brief tells you what it means and what to do.

COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION: COMCON 4 — PARTIALLY DEGRADED

A cyberattack hit an emergency communications center in Massachusetts (Patriot RECC, 03-APR). HF radio is recovering — geomagnetic storm effects are WANING today (Kp declining). Space weather is IMPROVING. Iranian APT OT/ICS campaign (AA26-097A) ongoing.

What's Happening This Morning






The highest-level US–Iran direct talks since 1979 have just failed. VP Vance met with Iranian FM Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Qalibaf in Islamabad for 21 hours — and left Sunday without a deal. This morning, President Trump activated a US Naval Blockade of all Iranian port traffic effective 10:00 AM Eastern. Iran is calling it piracy and warns of response. Oil surged 8% at the open.

The ceasefire is now six days old but structurally fragile. The Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed — ship traffic halted at Hormuz when the blockade was announced this morning. The UN reports 2,000 ships stranded. The IRGC had been charging \$2 million per ship to transit; that toll system is now superseded by the US blockade of Iranian port traffic. Non-Iranian-port transit through Hormuz is not blocked by the US, but the IRGC still controls the strait.

Bottom line for today: Fill your fuel tank. Severe weather is active tonight across TX–OK–KS–NE–IA–MO–IL. Space weather is IMPROVING — Kp is declining, not active. Patch Fortinet and TrueConf if you have not. Monitor IRGC response to the blockade in the next 6 hours.

Source: [NPR — Islamabad Talks Failed \(12-APR\)](#) | [CENTCOM — Blockade Statement \(13-APR\)](#) | [CNN — Blockade/Oil Prices \(13-APR\)](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → Daily Threat Report — GEO-001 / GEO-002 / PWR-001](#)

AT A GLANCE — WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU TODAY

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
 Fuel & Energy	WTI \$104.89 (+8.6%), Brent \$102.15 (+7.3%) on blockade announcement. Gas ~\$3.99 nationally, diesel \$5.40. Prices rising. No relief while Hormuz blocked.	Fill tank today. No price relief on near-term horizon. Diesel drivers: \$5.40+ is your planning baseline. Stock generator fuel.
 Groceries	Fertilizer +115% since Feb 28. Spring planting at peak input cost NOW. Grocery price increases expected late April through summer.	Build a 2-week pantry buffer now before prices rise further. Shelf-stable proteins and grains stretch furthest per dollar.
 Shipping	Hormuz traffic halted on blockade announcement. ~800 vessels staged. Cape of Good Hope rerouting adds 2–3 weeks. Medication supply chain under stress.	Order critical medications (90-day fill). Order important items now rather than waiting. Businesses: audit supply chain exposure.
 Air Travel	Middle East airspace closed 8+ countries. EASA CZIB expired 10-APR — renewal status pending. Jet fuel \$195/bbl. Carrier suspensions through May–year-end.	Check airline before any Middle East travel. Expect surcharges. Avoid non-essential regional travel.
 Cyber	CISA AA26-097A Day 6: Iranian APT confirmed disruptions at US	OT/IT admins: disconnect internet-exposed PLCs, patch Fortinet FortiClient EMS and

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
	energy/water/government CI. Fortinet EMS RCE Day 6. TrueConf KEV Day 6. Patch NOW.	TrueConf immediately. Individuals: update software, enable 2FA.
Communications	Patriot RECC MA cyberattack 03-APR (Day 9). HF radio IMPROVING — Kp declining to unsettled. No active G1 storm today. 40m/60m propagation FAIR-GOOD.	Ham operators: 40m/60m for EMCOMM. Verify with PSKReporter before committing. VHF/UHF backup for severe weather operations tonight.
Weather	TX-OK-KS-NE-IA-MO-IL: SPC Enhanced Risk ACTIVE TONIGHT. All hazards: tornadoes, large hail 2"+, destructive winds. Upper Midwest marginal risk Day 2.	Identify shelter NOW if in TX-Plains corridor. Charge devices. Monitor SPC mesoscale discussions. Know your warning system.
Blockade	US Naval Blockade of Iranian ports active 1000 ET 13-APR (CENTCOM). Islamabad FAILED 12-APR. Iran: piracy. IRGC warns response. WTI \$104.89, Brent \$102.15.	Monitor IRGC response in first 6 hours. Watch Hormuz vessel movement. Have fuel filled and pantry stocked regardless of outcome.

► For detailed commodity pricing and industrial supply chain analysis, see the [Construction & Manufacturing Sector Report](https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/) at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/

WEATHER & SPACE WEATHER


Active Weather Hazards by Region — 13 April 2026


REGION	ACTIVE HAZARD	WHAT IT MEANS	YOUR ACTION
Southern/Central Plains (TX-OK-KS-NE-IA-MO-IL) TONIGHT	ENHANCED RISK Active	SPC Day 1 Enhanced Risk: all hazards tonight. Supercells, large hail 2"+, tornadoes, destructive winds. Storm initiation mid-afternoon into overnight. System expands NE into Midwest.	Identify shelter NOW. Charge all devices. Know your warning system. Monitor SPC mesoscale discussions for tornado watch timing.
Upper Midwest / Great Lakes (WI-MI-MN-OH) 14-APR	Marginal Excessive Rainfall	WPC Day 2: Marginal risk excessive rainfall. Rapid snowmelt compounding hydrologic risk. Minor flooding possible WI/MI/MN.	Monitor NWS local forecasts. Be aware of flood risk from snow melt + rain overnight into Tuesday.
Southeast & Texas Gulf Coast	Slight Risk (Excessive Rainfall TX)	WPC: Slight risk excessive rainfall central/SE Texas. Shortwave ejecting overnight into TX. Boundary remnants shifting north.	Monitor local NWS alerts. Have shelter plan ready.
Pacific Northwest / Cascades	Tapering Rain/Snow	Upper-level low moving SE. Snow levels falling in Cascades to 1500–2000 ft. Significant mountain snow possible higher passes.	Mountain travel: check road conditions. WSDOT Snoqualmie/Washington Pass advisories.
All Regions	No Tropical Activity	Atlantic hurricane season begins 01-JUN. No tropical development. Gulf of Mexico quiet.	No action required.


Source: [NOAA NWS WPC \(12-APR\)](https://www.noaa.gov/wpc/) | [Storm Prediction Center](https://www.spc.ncep.noaa.gov/) | [NWS Local](https://www.local.noaa.gov/) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 7 — Weather / WX-003](#)


Space Weather — Kp DECLINING / UNSETTLED (13-APR) — HF Propagation IMPROVING

The G1 geomagnetic storm watch period (10–11 APR) has concluded. Kp peaked at 4 (active, below G1 storm threshold) and is now declining to 2–3 (unsettled). A CIR (co-rotating interaction region) combined with a coronal hole high-speed stream caused the elevated activity, and those effects are waning. Space weather is IMPROVING today. HF propagation is recovering across all bands.

 **GPS:** Normal operation. No active geomagnetic storm affecting GPS accuracy. Iranian military GPS jamming continues in the Middle East region but does not affect US civilian navigation.

 **Power grid:** No concerns. Kp declining to unsettled. No grid impact from current space weather.

 **HF Radio (ham/EMCOMM):** HF propagation IMPROVING today (13-APR). Kp declining — no active G1 storm. 40m and 60m are FAIR to GOOD and are your primary EMMCOMM bands. 20m and higher bands are recovering — verify via PSKReporter before committing to emergency traffic. Deploy VHF/UHF backup for tonight's severe weather operations as standard protocol, regardless of space weather.

 **TODAY 13-APR:** Space weather improving. No active G1. HF usable on 40m/60m FAIR-GOOD. Verify with PSKReporter before EMMCOMM commitment. Priority action tonight: VHF/UHF backup for TX-Plains severe weather, not driven by space weather but by operational best practice for storm operations.


Real-time space weather: swpc.noaa.gov | Propagation: pskreporter.info | reversebeacon.net

Source: [NOAA SWPC 3-Day Forecast](#) | [NOAA SWPC Planetary K-index](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 6.6.3 — Space Weather & HF Propagation / SWX-001](#)


Ham Radio & EMMCOMM — Kp Declining + Severe Weather Tonight — Operational Guidance


If you're an amateur radio operator or part of an EMMCOMM net, here's your operational picture for today:

 **40 meters (7 MHz) and 60 meters (5 MHz):** FAIR to GOOD and improving. PRIMARY EMMCOMM BANDS TODAY. Use for regional communications and served-agency operations. Propagation recovering from prior watch period.

 **20 meters (14 MHz):** Recovering. Verify via PSKReporter before committing to emergency traffic. DX paths improving but variable. Do not assume degraded conditions from the prior G1 watch period — conditions are better today.

 **15m / 12m / 10m:** Recovering as Kp declines. Solar flux SFI≈98 (moderate). Check PSKReporter for real-time path conditions. High bands usable for DX — verify before EMMCOMM commitment.

 **Polar / Trans-Polar:** No active polar absorption today. Kp declining. Monitor for residual effects but paths available.

 **SEVERE WEATHER TONIGHT:** Enhanced Risk active TX–OK–KS–NE–IA–MO–IL. Space weather is NOT degrading HF today — but deploy VHF/UHF backup NOW for served-agency storm operations as standard severe-weather protocol. Pre-position before storm initiation this afternoon. Do not wait for a tornado watch to set up backup communications.

Verify with PSKReporter (pskreporter.info) or Reverse Beacon Network (reversebeacon.net) before committing any band to emergency traffic. Always verify — never assume.

Source: [NOAA SWPC Alerts](#) | [PSKReporter](#) | [Reverse Beacon Network](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 6.6.3 — Space Weather & COMMS Watch](#)

FUEL, FOOD & SUPPLY CHAIN

Fuel & Energy — Blockade Adds Pressure on Top of Closed Strait

Gas is now \$3.99+ nationally (up from \$3.10 pre-war), with California above \$5.50. Diesel is \$5.40 nationally (+44% since February 28). Jet fuel has more than doubled to \$195 per barrel, driving airline route suspensions and surcharges globally.

The US Naval Blockade activated this morning adds new pressure on oil markets. WTI surged 8.6% to \$104.89, Brent 7.3% to \$102.15 on the announcement. The EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook (07-APR) projects Brent peaking at

\$115/barrel in Q2 2026. The IEA says April is “much worse than March” — pre-war pipeline cargoes are exhausted, with nothing new in the pipeline.

Even if diplomatic talks resume and a deal is reached quickly, prices will not drop immediately. Insurance companies need 72+ hours after a credible framework before reinstating war-risk coverage. IRGC-planted mines in the main shipping channel require 6–10 weeks to clear. Then empty tankers have to return before laden vessels can depart. Realistic price relief timeline: 4–6 weeks at absolute minimum.

What to do:

- Fill vehicle and generator fuel tanks today. Blockade adds upward pressure — no near-term price relief.
- If you run a diesel vehicle, truck, farm equipment, or generator: \$5.40+ is your planning baseline.
- If you have portable fuel containers, fill and rotate them now (use fuel stabilizer for storage beyond 30 days).
- Plan all travel and freight budgets at 40–60% higher fuel costs than pre-war.

Source: [EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook \(07-APR\)](#) | [CENTCOM Blockade Statement \(13-APR\)](#) | [EIA Petroleum Prices](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 5 — Energy / FIN-001 / PWR-001](#)

 **Groceries & Food — Input Costs Locked In for 2026**

Fertilizer prices are up 100%+ since the war began. The Middle East normally supplies roughly half of the world’s traded nitrogen fertilizer. Farmers are making spring planting decisions this week at \$999/ton for urea and \$1,099/ton for anhydrous ammonia. Spring planting is underway NOW — there is no do-over on this season’s inputs.

The typical lag between farm input costs and grocery shelf prices is 4–8 weeks for fresh produce and 8–16 weeks for processed foods. We are 44 days into this disruption. Meaningful price increases at the grocery store begin in late April and continue through summer and fall. The 2026 crop year input costs are locked in regardless of Hormuz outcome.

What to do:

- Build a 2-week buffer of pantry staples now before prices rise further.
- Prioritize shelf-stable proteins (canned beans, tuna, chicken, lentils) and grains (rice, pasta, oats).
- A 2-week supply for a family of four costs roughly \$150–\$250 in bulk staples at current prices.
- If you are on a tight budget: rice, dried beans, peanut butter, and oats provide the most calories per dollar.

Source: [USDA AMS Fertilizer Report \(03-APR\)](#) | [Capital Press — Fertilizer \(06-APR\)](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 7 — Agriculture / AGR-001](#)

 **Shipping, Orders & Supply Chain**

Ship traffic halted at Hormuz on the blockade announcement this morning. Major carriers — Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd, MSC — have suspended Gulf transits and will not resume without “full maritime certainty” (mines cleared, insurance reinstated, IRGC posture confirmed safe). Ships are rerouting around Africa’s Cape of Good Hope, adding 2–3 weeks to most journeys.

Medications that use active pharmaceutical ingredients manufactured in Asia are entering a supply stress window as April inventories begin to draw down. This is not a crisis yet but is a developing constraint, particularly for specialty drugs.

What to do:

- Request 90-day prescription fills now if your insurance allows.
- Order any important household items, parts, or equipment sooner rather than later.
- Businesses: audit supply chain exposure for components transiting Hormuz or Suez. Identify backup suppliers.
- Order any large household items you need (appliances, electronics) before further supply constraints develop.

Source: [Lloyd’s List — Hormuz Traffic](#) | [IEA Supply Warning \(01-APR\)](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 5 — SC-001 Supply Chain / SEC 6 Aviation](#)

CYBER, COMMUNICATIONS & HEALTHCARE

 **Cyber — Iranian Hackers Active | Three Emergency Vulnerabilities**

Three critical cybersecurity items require immediate action. The US government issued a [six-agency emergency advisory \(AA26-097A\)](#) on April 7 (Day 6 today) confirming Iranian hackers have caused confirmed operational disruptions at US energy, water, and government sites. The blockade does not de-escalate this campaign — it was pre-positioned independently.

Fortinet FortiClient EMS (CVE-2026-35616): Network management software used by thousands of businesses, hospitals, and government agencies. Emergency security advisory issued 06-APR: unauthenticated remote code execution. If your organization uses Fortinet software, this is an emergency — not a routine update. Treat exposed servers as potentially compromised pending forensic review.

TrueConf video conferencing: Added to CISA Known Exploited Vulnerabilities catalog 06-APR. Active attacks against government targets confirmed. Patch immediately if deployed.

Iranian-linked groups have conducted organized cyberattacks against US businesses and institutions throughout this conflict. The MOIS-linked Handala group hit Stryker medical devices (wiper attack, 11-MAR). The DOJ seized four MOIS-controlled hacker domains in March. The IRGC has named 18 major US technology companies as targets. FBI JTTF remains at elevated alert.

What to do — individuals and families:

- Update all software and apps today: phone, computer, browser, everything.
- Enable two-factor authentication on email, banking, and social media. This stops most credential theft.
- Do not click links in unexpected emails, even from apparent known senders.
- Back up important files to external drive or cloud storage this week.

What to do — small businesses and organizations:

- Fortinet FortiClient EMS: emergency patch priority. Contact IT vendor today — do not wait for maintenance window.
- TrueConf: same urgency — patch or disable until patched.
- Verify backup systems are functional and you could operate without electronic access for 24 hours.

Source: [CISA AA26-097A \(07-APR\)](#) | [Fortinet PSIRT Advisory](#) | [CISA KEV Catalog](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 4A — CYB-005 / CYB-002 / CYB-003](#)

📡 Communications — GPS, Radio & Tonight’s Watch

📡 GPS: Normal US operation. No active geomagnetic storm. Iranian military GPS jamming continues in the Middle East — does not affect US civilian navigation.

🌐 Internet: Undersea cable cuts under the Red Sea remain unrepaired. Traffic rerouted — you likely won’t notice. System has reduced redundancy; a second break in the region would cause real disruptions.

📡 HF Radio: Kp DECLINING / UNSETTLED today. HF propagation IMPROVING. 40m/60m FAIR-GOOD. 20m and higher recovering — verify PSKReporter before EMCOMM commitment. No active G1 storm. Deploy VHF/UHF backup for tonight’s severe weather operations as standard protocol.

🚨 Emergency Communications Center Attack: The Patriot Regional EMCOMM Center in Massachusetts (cyberattack 03-APR, Day 9) continues to be monitored. Non-emergency lines were disrupted; 911 maintained via backup. No new development this cycle. Source: single T3 aggregator only — no T1 corroboration confirmed; carry as watch item only.

What to do:

- Have a backup communication plan not dependent on internet: weather radio, NOAA, local AM broadcast.
- Verify Wireless Emergency Alerts are enabled on your phone (Settings → Notifications → Emergency Alerts).
- Know your local emergency alert system. Know how to reach your local emergency management office.
- Ham operators: check in with local EMCOMM net. Deploy VHF/UHF backup before severe weather initiation this afternoon.

Source: [NOAA SWPC Planetary K-index](#) | [DHS CISA Shields Up](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 6.6.3 — COMMS Watch / COMCON Detail](#)

PRIORITY ACTIONS & RESOURCES

Your Priority Action List — 13 April 2026

TIMEFRAME	WHAT TO DO	WHY IT MATTERS
TODAY April 13	Fill fuel tank NOW. Identify storm shelter if in TX-OK-KS-NE-IA-MO-IL. Deploy VHF/UHF backup for EMCOMM before severe weather initiation. Monitor IRGC response to blockade. Patch Fortinet and TrueConf.	Blockade active: WTI \$104.89. Enhanced severe weather active tonight. Iranian APT OT/ICS/PLC campaign Day 6. HF improving but VHF/UHF backup is right practice for storm ops.
THIS WEEK April 13–17	Request 90-day medication fills. Build 2-week pantry buffer. Monitor blockade enforcement news and Iranian response. Watch for European diplomatic track (Araghchi in Berlin/Paris/London).	Pharmaceutical supply chain stress window. Food prices rising (4-6 wk lag). Blockade enforcement/response critical variable. European track may produce new framework within 72-96h.
WATCH SIGNALS Next 72h	Monitor IRGC official response to blockade (IRIB state broadcaster). Watch Hormuz vessel movement data (Kpler). Watch for Araghchi European meeting outcomes. Monitor WTI/Brent daily open.	IRGC kinetic response to blockade would collapse ceasefire and trigger PREP-CON escalation. European track producing framework = diplomacy back on track. Oil price = real-time conflict indicator.
THIS MONTH April	Review 72-hour emergency kit. Verify emergency communications backup. Check evacuation plan. Enable two-factor authentication everywhere.	War context elevates all-hazards preparedness baseline. Cyber campaign active. Late spring severe weather season underway.
ONGOING	Enable two-factor authentication. Avoid unsolicited email links. Know your local emergency alerts. Maintain 30-day medication supply.	Iranian cyber campaign targeting US civilians through phishing and credential theft. Emergency communication systems are targets.

Watch for These Signals — If You See Them, Act Immediately

🚨 IRGC KINETIC RESPONSE TO BLOCKADE: If IRGC attacks a US naval vessel or allied target in the Gulf, the ceasefire collapses and PREP-CON escalates to 2. Fill tank immediately if not already done. Activate household emergency plan.

🌍 EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH: Araghchi meetings in Berlin/Paris/London could produce a new framework within 72-96 hours. If a credible joint statement emerges, oil prices will ease and diplomatic track resumes. Watch for any joint statement language on Hormuz and nuclear enrichment.

🚨 SEVERE WEATHER TONIGHT — TX-OK-KS-NE-IA-MO-IL: Enhanced Risk active. All hazards. Storm initiation mid-afternoon into overnight. Identify shelter NOW. System expands NE into Upper Midwest overnight. If you are in a mobile home or manufactured housing: know the nearest sturdy shelter and go there before storms initiate.

🚨 MAJOR CYBER INCIDENT: If a widespread hospital system outage, power grid disruption, or major bank IT failure occurs in the US, treat it as potentially connected to the Iranian cyber campaign. Follow your organization’s incident response plan immediately.

🚨 LOCAL FUEL SHORTAGE: If gas stations in your area run out of fuel, have 72 hours of supplies at home and avoid unnecessary travel until supply normalizes. Do not wait in long lines if your tank is already full.

Source: — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report](#) → [Full DTR](#) — [SEC 8 72-Hour Outlook](#) • [SEC 9 Watch List](#) • fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/

⚠️ NTAS ADVISORY NOTE

The Department of Homeland Security issued an NTAS Bulletin on 05-MAR-2026. As of April 13 — Day 44 of active conflict — it has not been upgraded to an Elevated Alert. This despite: confirmed IRGC wartime threats against US targets, confirmed MOIS cyberattacks on US corporate infrastructure (Stryker wiper 11-MAR, DOJ-confirmed death threats), a six-agency federal advisory (AA26-097A) reporting operational disruptions at US critical infrastructure, and JTTF at elevated alert since 28-FEB.

This does not mean the threat is low — it means you should maintain your own situational awareness. Sign up for local emergency alerts. Know your surroundings. Trust your instincts. The FBI JTTF is on elevated alert even if the public advisory level does not reflect it.

Source: [DHS NTAS Official](#) | [CISA Infrastructure Advisories](#) — Full analysis: [Daily Threat Report → SEC 4B — TER-001 / INS-001](#)

Key Resources

Emergency alerts: [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEA\) — enabled by default on most phones](#)
National Weather Service: [weather.gov](#)
Storm Prediction Center: [spc.noaa.gov](#)
NOAA Space Weather: [swpc.noaa.gov](#)
CISA Cybersecurity: [cisa.gov/shields-up](#)
EIA Fuel Prices: [eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel](#)
DHS NTAS: [dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system](#)
HF Propagation (real-time): [pskreporter.info](#) | [reversebeacon.net](#)
Full PREP-CON framework: [fortunefavorstheprepared.com → Preparedness Conditions](#)

FORTUNE FAVORS THE PREPARED

This Daily Preparedness Brief is produced by Nick Meacher (AA0NM) — FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP), Master Continuity Practitioner (MCP), Six Sigma Green Belt, C.M. (AAAE), and Amateur Extra Class licensee with over 30 years of field experience in law enforcement, EMS, wilderness search and rescue, airport emergency management, and federal alerting infrastructure (including FEMA IPAWS).

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Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.