

# DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

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Wednesday, 06 May 2026

## ⚠️ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 — ELEVATED ⚠️

Multiple stressors converging this week: active tornado outbreak across IL/MO/IN/KY, GA/FL wildfires with statewide burn ban, Hormuz blockade in Day 24 driving oil spike, Lebanon ceasefire under stress. Take normal preparedness steps a notch sharper than usual.

## COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION 4 — PARTIALLY DEGRADED (CONUS)

18 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters affected across 16 states (15 OOS / 3 degraded). IL/IN/TN gaps overlap today's severe-weather corridor. Space weather quiet (Kp 2-3) — HF radio favorable for SKYWARN.

### The short version

Multiple converging stressors keep PREP-CON 3 ELEVATED. Hormuz blockade is in Day 24; Iran's foreign minister met with Putin in St Petersburg today. Oil hit \$111 intraday — the highest since March — which will start showing at the pump in 10–14 days.

A multi-state severe-weather outbreak is active across IL/MO/IN/KY (high-end signal in central/northern IL) with very large hail and a few tornadoes possible into the evening. Day 2-3 corridor shifts south into TN/AL/MS.

In Georgia and northern Florida, a major wildfire emergency is underway. Brantley County's Highway 82 Fire is over 22,615 acres / 87 homes destroyed / 6% contained. Kemp has declared SOE in 91 counties + the first-ever statewide mandatory burn ban. Smoke reaching Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville.

## Today's Impacts at a Glance

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
⚠️ Severe weather	Tornado outbreak active across IL/MO/IN/KY into the evening. Day 2-3 shifts south to TN/AL/MS. Some NWR transmitters out of service inside the corridor.	Have a shelter plan ready before sunset. If local NWR is down, use WEA + the FEMA App as your primary alerting.
⚠️ Wildfires (GA/FL)	Brantley Co Highway 82 Fire 22,615+ acres / 87 homes destroyed / 6% contained. Statewide GA burn ban. Smoke reaching Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville.	In/near the smoke corridor: limit outdoor activity for kids, older adults, anyone with heart or lung conditions. Have go-bags ready in evacuation-warned counties.
▶ Fuel & groceries	Oil up sharply on continued Hormuz blockade. AAA gas \$4.031/gal; pump lags crude by 10-14 days.	Top off your tank this week if you're running low. No fuel shortage at the pump — expect prices to climb a bit through May.

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
■ Cyber & comms	Federal agencies racing a 1 May Cisco firewall deadline. Space weather quiet — HF favorable. 18 NWR transmitters degraded across 16 states.	Run pending updates on phone, computer, router. Confirm WEA is on; install the FEMA App. Hams: today is a good day for SKYWARN.
▶ Travel	Aviation advisories cover an 11-state Middle East corridor through 1 May. No major CONUS aviation impacts beyond severe-weather delays.	Confirm Middle East itineraries before departure. Domestic travelers in the outbreak corridor: build delay buffers today and tomorrow.
■ COMCON	COMCON 4 — partially degraded (CONUS). 18 NWR transmitters affected across 16 states. Space weather quiet: Kp 2-3, HF favorable.	In NWR-gap counties: enable WEA, install FEMA App. Ham operators: today is a good day for SKYWARN net activity.

## Weather — Active Hazards by Region

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
Central / N IL	SPC high-end signal today. Very large hail (3–4"), few tornadoes, MCS evolution moving east through evening. First IL warning ~13:58 CDT.	Identify shelter location now. Stay alert to NWS warnings via WEA + local broadcast.
MO / IN / KY / WI / MI	Multi-state outbreak corridor. 06-MAY damage so far: 2 tornadoes (Germantown IL + Hanover AR), 260,000+ no power, 1 fatality MI.	Charge phones + power banks. Fill bathtubs/water containers if power flickers. Move vehicles away from trees.
TN / AL / MS (Day 2–3)	Dixie Alley shift forecast for tomorrow + day after. Same hail/tornado/MCS hazard pattern.	TN/AL/MS households: today is the day to verify your plan. NWR-gap counties: set up WEA + FEMA App backup.
GA / N FL (smoke)	Brantley County Highway 82 Fire 22,615+ acres / 6% containment. AQI unhealthy across South GA + parts of Atlanta, Savannah, Jacksonville. 18-month FL drought.	Limit outdoor activity — especially kids, older adults, anyone with heart/lung conditions. Evacuation-warned counties: pack go-bags now.
NM (NWR triple-gap)	Roswell + Carlsbad + Artesia all OOS. Chaves and Eddy counties effectively zero primary NWR coverage — drought + wildfire-readiness baseline gap.	Enable WEA, install FEMA App, keep a battery-powered AM/FM radio nearby.

## Space Weather & GPS Status

Geomagnetic conditions are quiet to unsettled today (Kp 2-3). HF radio propagation is favorable, which is good news for ham operators supporting today's SKYWARN nets. There's a G1 (minor) geomagnetic storm watch for late 29-30 April that could degrade HF in the next 24-48 hours — a normal-cycle event, not an emergency.

## EMCOMM band notes (for hams)

- **80m / 40m:** GOOD — favorable for regional SKYWARN nets across the outbreak corridor.
- **20m / 17m:** GOOD — favorable for regional + interstate traffic during daylight.
- **15m / 10m:** FAIR-GOOD — sporadic-E season starting; check live MUF maps.
- **GPS / PNT:** Nominal across CONUS. No reported jamming or spoofing today.

**Live monitoring:** [swpc.noaa.gov](http://swpc.noaa.gov) | [navcen.uscg.gov](http://navcen.uscg.gov) (GPS status)

## Supply Chain — Fuel, Food & Shipping

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### Fuel & energy

The Hormuz blockade is in Day 24 with no near-term resolution in sight, despite an Iran-Russia diplomatic meeting today in St Petersburg. Brent crude hit \$111.16 intraday — the highest since March — and finished last week up 13%. The IEA characterizes the disruption as the largest energy supply shock on record.

Pump prices in the U.S. lag the underlying crude market by 10–14 days. AAA national average is \$4.031/gal today (slightly down week-over-week, reflecting refinery cycles). The 06-MAY oil spike won't hit the pump until early-to-mid May.

#### What to do

- Top off your tank this week if you're below half.
- Don't panic-buy — there's no fuel shortage at the pump.
- Expect a 30–60 cent climb at the pump over the next 30 days if the blockade holds.

### Food & groceries

Fertilizer markets remain tight — urea is up 78% from pre-war baseline; anhydrous ammonia in Illinois is up 37%. Winter wheat condition is 30% Good/Excellent (down from 45% a year ago). Corn, soybeans, and spring wheat planting is on or ahead of schedule.

For households: this won't hit the grocery store this month. The pass-through to food prices is a 2026 Q3-Q4 story.

#### What to do

- Continue normal pantry rotation. Buy what you'll actually eat.
- Skip the bulk-rice-and-beans panic phase — it's expensive and most goes bad before you eat it.
- Stay 1–2 weeks ahead on what your household actually consumes.

### Shipping & online orders

Ocean freight rates are up about 46% from pre-war baseline due to the Hormuz disruption — about 20,000 seafarers stranded in the Gulf, war-risk insurance pulled. The 5-nation transit-only regime (China, Russia, India, Iraq, Pakistan) preserves partial flow.

For households: most U.S. consumer goods don't move through Hormuz. The bigger Asia/Pacific shipping lanes (Suez, Panama, trans-Pacific) are functioning normally.

#### What to do

- No special action for normal U.S. online ordering.
- If you're placing a large or time-sensitive Middle East order, confirm shipping route and timing with the seller.

## Cyber, Communications & Local Impacts

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### Cyber — what households should actually do

Two big federal cyber stories this cycle: a CISA Emergency Directive racing a 1 May deadline (federal Cisco firewall inventory), and an ongoing Iranian-affiliated threat actor targeting industrial control systems at water, energy, and municipal facilities. Neither directly affects households yet.

**Step-by-step household cyber check (5 minutes):**

1. Open phone Settings → General → Software Update. Install if pending.
2. On your computer: open browser Settings → About → confirm latest version.
3. Confirm 2FA / MFA is on for email + banking. If not, enable it now.
4. Restart your home router (powered off 30 seconds, back on). This applies pending firmware updates.

**Backup communications — four primary channels**

1. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your phone — already on by default; check Settings → Notifications → Government Alerts.
2. FEMA App — free; push notifications for active alerts; in app stores under "FEMA."
3. Local broadcast TV/radio — still the most reliable when cell networks are saturated.
4. Battery-powered AM/FM radio — keep one in the kit you already have for power outages.

**Health & community**

The South Carolina measles outbreak is now closed at 997 cases (the largest U.S. outbreak in years). A smaller cluster in Florida (Ave Maria area) is at 21+ cases. The American Red Cross is in Day 99 of a severe blood shortage — if you're an eligible donor, your donation matters more than usual right now.

**What To Do This Week**

CATEGORY	ACTION
Severe weather (active)	Identify your shelter location now (interior room, lowest floor, away from windows). Tell every household member where to go and what to bring.
NWR-gap counties	Set up Wireless Emergency Alerts on every phone and install the FEMA App. Test that you receive alerts.
Wildfire-warned counties	Pack a go-bag (medications, IDs, documents, chargers, change of clothes, water). Keep cars fueled and pointed out of the driveway.
Cyber hygiene	Run pending software updates on phone, computer, and router. Confirm 2FA/MFA is on for email + banking.
Fuel	Top off your tank this week if you're below half. Expect a 30–60 cent climb at the pump over the next 30 days.
Communications backup	Verify WEA is enabled on every phone. Install the FEMA App. Test your battery-powered AM/FM radio.
Pantry & supplies	Continue normal pantry rotation. Stay 1–2 weeks ahead on what your household actually eats.
Health	Verify household vaccinations are current. If you're an eligible blood donor, schedule a donation — ARC blood Day 99 of severe shortage.
Travel	Confirm Middle East itineraries before departure. Build delay buffers for domestic travel through the outbreak corridor today and tomorrow.

### Signals that conditions are getting worse

- ▶ NWS issues a Tornado Warning for your county — go to your shelter NOW. Don't wait, don't debate, don't look out the window.
- ▶ You smell smoke and you're in a wildfire-warned area — leave. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you can already smell it.
- ▶ Your phone shows GPS errors or jumps to a different time zone unprompted — possible space-weather event or local jamming. Use a battery-powered AM/FM radio for alerts.
- ▶ Cell service drops across all carriers in your area for more than 30 minutes — fall back to broadcast radio and texts (which sometimes go through when calls don't).
- ▶ Power flickers repeatedly during a severe storm — fill bathtubs and water containers now while you still have pressure.
- ▶ You receive a robocall or text claiming to be from FEMA, Red Cross, or your utility asking for personal information — it's a scam. Verify through official channels only.

### Resources for Your Household

- **Family Emergency Plan Workbook** — fortunefavorstheprepared.com (start here if you don't have a plan)
- **Personal Preparedness Assessment** — fortunefavorstheprepared.com (10-minute self-check)
- **Daily Threat Report** — fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/ (the full analytical product behind this brief)
- **NWS / NOAA Weather Radio** — weather.gov; if your local NWR transmitter is down, use WEA on your phone + the FEMA App
- **CISA Stop Ransomware** — cisa.gov/stopransomware (household + small-business cyber basics)

*Stay informed. Stay ready. Trust your training, your plan, and your neighbors.*

**Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.**

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