

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

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Monday, 12 May 2026

⚠️ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 - ELEVATED ⚠️

Multiple stressors converging this week: Lebanon ceasefire deteriorating with Hezbollah SAM at IDF drone TODAY plus explosive drones at IDF troops in south Lebanon, Trump rejected the Iran counter-proposal Sunday-Monday as totally unacceptable, the RU-UA short ceasefire expired with Russia firing over 200 drones at Ukraine overnight and Kyiv under attack this morning, and a critical Palo Alto firewall vulnerability has federal agencies preparing for tomorrow's Wave 1 patch. Take normal preparedness steps a notch sharper than usual.

COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION 4 - PARTIALLY DEGRADED (CONUS)

19 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters affected across 13 states (15 out of service / 4 degraded). TN/FL/GA gaps overlap today's Marginal Risk severe-weather corridor across the Southeast. Space weather quiet/unsettled (Kp 2-3) - HF radio favorable for emergency comms.


The short version






Multiple converging stressors keep PREP-CON 3 ELEVATED with the trend deteriorating. The Hormuz blockade is now in Day 30; Trump REJECTED Iran counter-proposal 10-11 MAY as totally unacceptable; Ghalibaf insists 14-pt only path forward; ceasefire on life support per Gulf News 12-MAY, and President Pezeshkian held his first reported in-person meeting with the new Iranian Supreme Leader (Mojtaba Khamenei) this past week. Brent intraday ~\$103-105 / WTI ~\$97-101 (+2-3% on Trump rejection 10-11 MAY); IEA: largest supply shock on record.

A Marginal Risk severe-weather day is in effect across the Southeast (TN/AL/MS/GA/FL panhandle) and the Central Gulf Coast (with localized excessive-rainfall risk). Sunday overnight produced an HP supercell across Central Texas with 4-inch hail in Coryell County and 75 mph winds in McCulloch/San Saba/Mason counties. NOAA Weather Radio has three transmitters out of service inside today's SE risk corridor (TN Shelbyville, FL Pensacola, GA Baxley).

In international news: an Iranian cruise missile struck the container ship CMA CGM San Antonio in the Persian Gulf last Monday (5 May), injuring 8 crew. The US Navy escort mission (Project Freedom) was paused two days later. The UK Royal Navy deployed HMS Dragon to the Gulf on Friday. About 20,000 seafarers are stranded on roughly 2,000 vessels in the area. Separately, a CDC Health Alert Network notice was issued 7 May for a hantavirus outbreak aboard a cruise ship in the Antarctic; three passengers died and 9+ US returnees are being monitored across six states.

Today's Impacts at a Glance

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
 Severe weather	Marginal Risk severe storms across the Southeast (TN/AL/MS/GA/FL panhandle) and Marginal excessive rainfall along the Central Gulf Coast today. Three NOAA Weather Radio transmitters in the corridor are out of service (TN Shelbyville, FL Pensacola, GA Baxley).	Have a shelter plan ready before evening. If local NWR is down, use WEA + the FEMA App as your primary alerting. Check that your phone WEA settings are on.

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
 Public health	CDC Health Alert 7 May for a hantavirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship M/V Hondius in Antarctica. Three dead. CDC Level 3 response. 9+ US returnees being monitored across six states. Incubation can be up to 8 weeks.	If you (or someone you know) was on a recent Antarctic cruise: watch for flu-like symptoms for 8 weeks after return. Seek medical care urgently if symptoms develop. Tell your provider about the travel history.
 Fuel & groceries	Oil swung wildly last week (\$96 to \$114 intraweek; Friday close \$101.29). The big Iranian-missile-on-container-ship strike Monday and the paused US escort mission keep upside risk live. AAA gas \$4.536/gal as of last week; pump lags crude by 10-14 days.	Top off your tank this week if you are running low. No fuel shortage at the pump - expect prices to climb a little through mid-May as last week's spike feeds through.
 Cyber & comms	Federal agencies are racing tomorrow's first patch for a critical Palo Alto firewall vulnerability under active exploitation. A separate AI-tool vulnerability has a federal deadline tonight at midnight. NOAA Weather Radio has 19 transmitters degraded or out across 13 states.	Run pending updates on your phone, computer, router. Confirm WEA is on; install the FEMA App. Ham operators: HF conditions are favorable today for SKYWARN nets.
 Travel	European aviation advisories continue to cover an 11-country Middle East corridor through tomorrow (12 May) at all altitudes. KLM has extended Gulf suspensions through 28 June. British Airways has Dubai service suspended through 31 May.	Confirm Middle East itineraries with your airline before departure. Domestic travelers in the Southeast risk corridor: build delay buffers today.
 COMCON	COMCON 4 - partially degraded (CONUS). 19 NWR transmitters affected across 13 states. Space weather quiet/unsettled (Kp 2-3); HF favorable for emergency comms; mid-week active spike possible as two solar regions rotate into view.	In NWR-gap counties: enable WEA, install FEMA App. Ham operators: today and tomorrow remain good for HF SKYWARN net activity.

Weather - Active Hazards by Region

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
Southeast (TN/AL/MS/GA/FL panhandle)	Marginal Risk for severe storms today. Possible damaging winds, hail, isolated tornado risk. Three NOAA Weather Radio transmitters out of service inside the risk area (TN Shelbyville, FL Pensacola, GA Baxley).	Identify your shelter location now. Stay alert to NWS warnings via WEA + local broadcast. If your local NWR is down, the FEMA App is your backup.
Central Gulf Coast	Marginal Excessive Rainfall risk today (rain rates up to 2 inches/hour possible). Compound risk for low-lying and flood-prone areas.	Avoid driving through standing water - Turn Around, Don't Drown. Charge phones + power banks in case of localized outages.
Central Texas (post-event)	Sunday overnight HP supercell produced 4-inch hail in Coryell County and 75 mph winds in McCulloch/San Saba/Mason counties. Cleanup ongoing today.	In the damage path: check on neighbors, especially older adults. Document hail damage before cleanup for any insurance claim.

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
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 SKYWARN nets in the Southeast corridor today. Two new solar regions are rotating into view from the eastern edge of the sun this week and could produce a mid-week active period (a normal-cycle event, not an emergency). GPS is nominal across the U.S.

EMCOMM band notes (for hams)

- **80m / 40m:** GOOD - favorable for regional SKYWARN nets across the SE corridor.
- **20m / 17m:** GOOD - favorable for regional + interstate traffic during daylight.
- **15m / 10m:** GOOD - solar flux 126 sfu; high-band DX viable; check PSKReporter.
- **GPS / PNT:** Nominal across CONUS. No reported jamming or spoofing today.

Live monitoring: swpc.noaa.gov | navcen.uscg.gov (GPS status)

Supply Chain - Fuel, Food & Shipping

Fuel & energy

The Hormuz blockade is in Day 30. Brent crude intraday ~\$103-105 / WTI ~\$97-101 (+2-3% on Trump rejection 10-11 MAY). Trump rejected the Iran counter-proposal Sunday-Monday as totally unacceptable; Ghalibaf insists the 14-point framework is the only path forward; ceasefire on life support per Gulf News 12-MAY. 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 was \$4.536/gal at last reading. Last Monday's \$114 Brent spike has not yet flowed through to pump prices - expect that over the next 1-2 weeks.

What to do

- Top off your tank this week if you are below half.
- Don't panic-buy - there's no fuel shortage at the pump.
- Expect modest climb at the pump over the next 1-2 weeks as last week's spike works through.

Food & groceries

Fertilizer markets remain tight. The USDA WASDE report (the first 2026-27 balance sheets of the year) lands tomorrow Tuesday 12 May - the most important grain report of the year. The House votes Wednesday on permanent year-round E15 ethanol blending. Trump and Xi meet in Beijing Thursday-Friday this week with agricultural commitments on the table.

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 remains disrupted. An Iranian cruise missile struck the container ship CMA CGM San Antonio in the Persian Gulf last Monday (8 crew injured). The US Navy escort mission (Project Freedom) was paused two days later. The UK Royal Navy deployed HMS Dragon (a Type 45 destroyer) on Friday for mine-clearance and escort duty. About 20,000 seafarers remain stranded on roughly 2,000 vessels in the area per IMO.

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

Cyber - what households should actually do

Two big federal cyber stories this cycle: a critical Palo Alto firewall vulnerability under active exploitation gets its first patch tomorrow (Tuesday 13 May), and a separate AI-tool vulnerability (BerriAI LiteLLM) has a federal remediation deadline tonight at midnight Eastern. An ongoing Iranian-affiliated threat actor continues targeting industrial control systems at water, energy, and municipal facilities. None of these directly affects households yet, but household cyber hygiene matters more than usual right now.

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 CDC issued a Health Alert Network notice on 7 May for a hantavirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship M/V Hondius (Antarctic Peninsula). Three passengers died; the response is at CDC Level 3. Nine or more US returnees across six states are being monitored. The incubation window can be up to 8 weeks. If you (or anyone you know) was on a recent Antarctic cruise: watch for flu-like symptoms and tell your doctor about the travel history. Separately, the American Red Cross continues to report a severe blood shortage - if you are an eligible donor, your donation matters more than usual right now.

What To Do This Week

CATEGORY	ACTION
Severe weather (SE corridor)	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.

CATEGORY	ACTION
Travelers (Antarctic cruise)	If you or a household member was on a recent Antarctic cruise: watch for flu-like symptoms for 8 weeks after return. See a doctor urgently if symptoms appear and mention the travel history.
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 are below half. Expect a modest climb at the pump over the next 1-2 weeks.
Health	Verify household vaccinations are current. If you are an eligible blood donor, schedule a donation - ARC blood shortage continues.

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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