

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

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Wednesday, 13 May 2026

⚠️ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 - ELEVATED ⚠️

Multiple stressors converging this week: Lebanon ceasefire deteriorating with Hezbollah SAM at IDF drone yesterday 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)

24 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters affected across 14 states (15 out of service / 9 degraded). IL Hillsboro is newly out of service inside today's Illinois and Midwest severe-weather risk corridor. Alaska has an 8-transmitter Kodiak/Anchorage cluster degraded all at once. 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 31; 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 ~\$107 / WTI ~\$102 (Wed; trimmed losses from earlier session; 3-session rally +7.6% prior); IEA: largest supply shock on record.

A Slight Risk severe-weather day is in effect today across north-central Montana (northern Rockies/High Plains), with a secondary Marginal Risk across the Ohio Valley and Central Appalachians, plus isolated risk in the Texas Panhandle. Severe wind gusts of 60-80 mph are the primary hazard, not tornado or hail. The corridor has fully shifted from yesterday's Florida Peninsula + Midwest/Great Lakes + south-central Plains framing. NOAA Weather Radio: the MT slight-risk area is clear of transmitter outages today, in contrast to yesterday. Persistent gaps elsewhere: 8 Alaska transmitters across the Kodiak archipelago and Northwest Arctic remain degraded all at once; the New Mexico triple-gap (Roswell + Carlsbad + Artesia) continues into cycle 7.

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. Houthi rebels in Yemen fired a drone at Eilat (southern Israel) yesterday 12 May; it was intercepted, no damage, but it was the first attack on Eilat since the Iran and Lebanon ceasefires took effect last month. No new Houthi attack overnight. Separately, a CDC Health Alert was issued for an Andes-virus hantavirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship M/V Hondius (an Antarctic-expedition cruise that departed Argentina 1 April). Three passengers died. Eleven cases total per WHO/ECDC as of 12 May. The US repatriated 18 Americans on a federal medical flight to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska yesterday (11 May); they are now in federal quarantine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (16 of them) and at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta (2 of them). Person-to-person transmission was confirmed onboard the ship, which is the operationally significant finding (Andes is normally a rodent-borne virus and only rarely passes between people). CDC and WHO assess the risk to the general public as extremely low.

Today's Impacts at a Glance

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
<p> Severe weather</p>	<p>Slight Risk severe storms today across north-central Montana (severe wind 60-80 mph is the primary hazard), with secondary Marginal Risk in the Ohio Valley/Central Appalachians and isolated risk in the TX Panhandle. NOAA Weather Radio: the MT slight-risk area is clear of transmitter outages today; carryover gaps persist in AK (8-transmitter Kodiak/Anchorage cluster) and NM (triple-gap Roswell/Carlsbad/Artesia cycle 7).</p>	<p>Have a shelter plan ready before evening if you live in the MT corridor. If your local NWR is down, use Wireless Emergency Alerts on your phone + the FEMA App as your primary alerting. Check your phone WEA settings are on. In eastern MT and western ND: no open burning today and watch for Red Flag warnings.</p>
<p> Public health</p>	<p>CDC Health Alert (08 May) for an Andesvirus hantavirus outbreak aboard the Antarctic-expedition cruise ship M/V Hondius. Three dead. Eleven cases total per WHO/ECDC. The US repatriated 18 Americans Monday (11 May) to federal quarantine: 16 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2 at Emory in Atlanta. The first US-side confirmed case was reported today: Dr Stephen Kornfeld (an oncologist who served as a medical responder on the ship) tested positive at UNMC and moved into the biocontainment unit; he is asymptomatic. 15 additional Americans are being monitored in 9 states. Person-to-person transmission was confirmed onboard the ship. The risk to the general public is assessed extremely low; the actual risk population is the 18 returnees and people who had close contact with them before quarantine started.</p>	<p>If you (or someone in your household) was on a recent Antarctic-expedition cruise: watch for flu-like symptoms for up to 6 weeks after return. Seek medical care urgently if fever, body aches, shortness of breath, or chest tightness develop. Tell your provider about the cruise before specimen submission.</p>
<p> Fuel & groceries</p>	<p>Oil up again today - Brent ~\$107/bbl, WTI ~\$102/bbl after three sessions of gains. The IEA says global oil stockpiles dropped about 4 million barrels per day in March and April; Saudi production is at the lowest since 1990. US crude inventories fell 4.3 million barrels last week, nearly double expectations. Yesterday's WASDE report was bullish wheat (smallest US crop in 54 years), neutral-bearish corn, neutral soybeans - the wheat surprise drove a daily limit gain of +45 cents in Kansas City and Chicago futures.</p>	<p>Top off your tank this week if you are running low. No fuel shortage at the pump - expect prices to climb a little through this week as last week's spike and this week's rally feed through to retail.</p>
<p> Cyber & comms</p>	<p>Federal agencies are deploying today's first patch for a critical Palo Alto firewall vulnerability under active exploitation (Palo Alto Unit 42 attributes the observed attacks to a likely state-sponsored cluster). The FCEB remediation deadline is 27 May. A separate AI-tool vulnerability had its federal deadline Sunday night. NOAA Weather Radio has 24 transmitters degraded or out across 14 states.</p>	<p>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.</p>

AREA	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
▶ Travel	European aviation advisories covering an 11-country Middle East corridor (EASA CZIB 2026-03-R9) expired yesterday (12 May); the R10 successor notice is expected imminently and is widely anticipated to extend the advisory. KLM has extended Gulf suspensions through 28 June. British Airways has Dubai service suspended through 31 May. Houthi rebels in Yemen launched a drone at Eilat (southern Israel) yesterday; it was intercepted with no damage, but it was the first attack on Eilat since the Iran/Lebanon ceasefires took effect. No new Houthi attack overnight.	Confirm Middle East itineraries with your airline before departure. If your trip routes through Eilat or southern Israel, build flexibility in. Domestic travelers in north-central MT and Ohio Valley today: build delay buffers for late-afternoon storms.
■ COMCON	COMCON 4 - partially degraded (CONUS). 24 NWR transmitters affected across 14 states (15 out of service / 9 degraded). Notable gaps: today's primary risk corridor in north-central Montana has no transmitter outages (good news); Alaska 8-transmitter Kodiak/Anchorage cluster (early-season Bering/Gulf of Alaska maritime alerting compounded); New Mexico triple-gap continues in Chaves and Eddy counties; carryover IL Hillsboro KXI79 in Illinois (was inside yesterday's severe-weather corridor; corridor has now shifted away). 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, keep a battery-powered AM/FM radio nearby. Ham operators: today and tomorrow remain good for HF SKYWARN net activity.

Weather - Active Hazards by Region

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
Northern Rockies / North-Central Montana (PRIMARY)	SLIGHT RISK (level 2/5) for severe storms today across north-central Montana. Severe wind gusts of 60-80 mph are the primary hazard, with isolated hail. Linear cluster evolution central MT through late afternoon into early evening as an 80-90kt 500mb speed max overspreads ID/MT during peak heating.	In the MT corridor (Great Falls / Lewistown / Glasgow): secure loose outdoor items (patio furniture, trailers, livestock equipment) before late afternoon. Have shelter plan ready for severe wind gusts even if no tornado is forecast - 60-80 mph wind can down trees, roll trailers, and bring down power lines.
Eastern Montana / Western North Dakota (Fire Weather)	Critical Fire Weather Risk (level 2/3). Sustained winds 20-25 mph with gusts to 35 mph, relative humidity dropping to 20-25%, dry vegetation. Any ignition source today can grow rapidly.	No open burning today in the fire-weather area. Stay alert to local Red Flag warnings. Have a go-bag and an evacuation route ready if you live in the wildland-urban interface.

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
Ohio Valley / Central Appalachians / Mid-Atlantic (SECONDARY)	Marginal Risk (level 1/5) for severe storms today as the front passes east from the Great Lakes. Isolated wind damage and localized severe gusts possible.	Standard severe-weather posture: know your shelter location and your two warning channels (phone + local broadcast).
Texas Panhandle	Isolated hail and wind possible 22-00 UTC near the Caprock as the boundary layer mixes deeply before evening.	Standard severe-weather posture. The threat tonight is small in coverage but locally significant if a cell anchors over your area.
Florida (residual)	WPC Excessive Rainfall Marginal Risk along the Atlantic coast of FL as a slow-moving boundary lingers. Urban flooding the main concern in Jacksonville and east-coast urban centers.	Avoid driving into standing water. Allow extra time for commutes in coastal FL urban areas.
Central Texas (post-event, Sunday 10-MAY)	Cleanup ongoing from Sunday-overnight HP supercell that produced 4-inch hail in Coryell County and 75 mph winds in McCulloch/San Saba/Mason counties.	In the damage path: check on neighbors, especially older adults. Document hail damage before cleanup for any insurance claim.
Alaska (Kodiak archipelago / NW Arctic / Aleutians East)	Eight NWR transmitters degraded simultaneously across Kodiak, Sitkinak Dome, Middle Cape, Kotzebue, Raspberry Island, Sand Point, Cape Gull, and Marmot Island. Early-season maritime advisories, volcanic, and seismic alerting are all compounded.	Coastal Alaska households: do not rely on NWR as your primary alerting this week. Enable WEA, install the FEMA App, and keep a battery-powered AM/FM radio handy. Mariners: monitor USCG VHF and check NWS Marine forecasts directly online before departure.
New Mexico (NWR triple-gap)	Roswell + Carlsbad + Artesia all out of service. Chaves and Eddy counties have effectively zero primary NWR coverage - drought and wildfire-readiness baseline gap, cycle 7.	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 today's Montana severe-weather corridor and the Ohio Valley/Mid-Atlantic secondary corridor. 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 MT and Ohio Valley corridors today.
- **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 31. Brent ~\$107 (-0.67% today) / WTI ~\$102 (Wed; trimmed losses from earlier session; 3-session rally +7.6% prior). 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 (first 2026-27 balance sheets of the year) was published yesterday Tuesday 12 May - the headline was bullish wheat: smallest US wheat crop in 54 years at 1.561 billion bushels, drove KC and Chicago July wheat to a daily limit gain of +45 cents. Corn was neutral-bearish (15.995 bb 2026-27 production, ending stocks 1.957 bb, down 9% year over year). Soybeans neutral and rallied on Trump-Xi summit hopes (+13.75 cents July). The House is expected to vote today on permanent year-round E15 ethanol blending. President Trump landed in Beijing this afternoon for a two-day summit with President Xi, with bilateral talks beginning Thursday and a state banquet that evening; trade, Iran, and Taiwan all on the agenda.

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 (CVE-2026-0300, CVSS 9.3, under active exploitation by a likely state-sponsored cluster) gets its first patch released TODAY 13 May; federal agencies have until 27 May to remediate. A separate AI-tool vulnerability (BerriAI LiteLLM SQL injection) had a federal remediation deadline that passed Monday 11 May (two days ago; compliance assessment is pending). 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 (08 May) for an Andes-virus hantavirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship M/V Hondius (a Dutch-flagged Antarctic-expedition cruise that departed Argentina 1 April). Three passengers died. Eleven cases total per WHO/ECDC as of 12 May. The US repatriated 18 Americans yesterday (11 May) on a federal medical flight to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska; they are now in federal quarantine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (16 of them) and at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta (2 of them). Person-to-person transmission was confirmed onboard the ship. That is the operationally significant finding: Andes is normally a rodent-borne virus, and only about 2-5% of historical cases involve person-to-person spread (it usually takes prolonged household-style contact). CDC and WHO assess the risk to the general public as extremely low. The risk population is the 18 returnees and their close contacts before quarantine. The incubation window is 4 to 42 days, so US surveillance continues into mid-June.

What this means for you: if you (or anyone in your household) was on a recent Antarctic-expedition cruise, or in close contact with someone who was, watch for flu-like symptoms (fever, body aches, headache, nausea, then shortness of breath or chest tightness) for the next 4-6 weeks. Seek medical care urgently if symptoms develop, and tell your provider about the travel link before any specimen is collected. There is no specific antiviral and the case-fatality rate on severe presentation is high (~38%), but early supportive care substantially improves survival. If you have no connection to the ship or its passengers, no specific action is required.

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 (FL Peninsula / Midwest / Plains)	Identify your shelter location now (interior room, lowest floor, away from windows). Tell every household member where to go and what to bring. Central/north FL: watch for late-day upgrades.
NWR-gap counties (IL, AK, NM)	Set up Wireless Emergency Alerts on every phone and install the FEMA App. Test that you receive alerts. Coastal Alaska households: keep a battery-powered AM/FM radio handy.
Antarctic-expedition cruise contacts	If you or a household member was on a recent Antarctic-expedition cruise (especially MV Hondius), or had close contact with a returnee, watch for flu-like symptoms for 4-6 weeks after the last contact. See a doctor urgently if symptoms appear and mention the cruise link.
Cyber hygiene	Run pending software updates on phone, computer, and router. Confirm 2FA/MFA is on for email + banking.

CATEGORY	ACTION
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.
Middle East travel	European airspace advisories still in effect for 11 ME countries today; renewal expected this week. Reconfirm any Gulf or southern Israel itinerary with your carrier before departure.
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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