

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition | Fortune Favors the Prepared

A plain-language readiness brief for families

⚠️ WEEKLY READINESS LEVEL: ELEVATED ⚠️

Friday, 15 May 2026 — Pay attention. Take small actions now.

 **WEATHER RADIO ALERT: 26 [NOAA Weather Radio](#) stations OUT or DEGRADED across 14 states (worsened today)**

Have a backup alert plan: phone Wireless Emergency Alerts + FEMA App

 **SPACE WEATHER: G2 GEOMAGNETIC STORM WATCH TODAY (15 MAY) — HF radio fades likely**

Could cause brief GPS accuracy dips and HF radio fades at higher latitudes. Aurora visible as far south as NY/WI/WA.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

Five small actions you can take in under an hour each

- 1. Confirm severe-weather alerting on every phone in the household.** Iowa is under an Enhanced Risk for severe storms today; central Plains tornado risk Sunday. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are ON in your phone settings. Download the [FEMA App](#) if you don't have it.
- 2. Walk your shelter plan before Sunday.** If you live in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, or Iowa: identify your interior room or basement now. Practice walking the route with everyone in the household. Sunday's tornado outlook is the strongest of the week.
- 3. Top off the gas tank this weekend.** Gas prices are stable for now but Hormuz tensions and the Lebanon situation could move them quickly. The national average is around \$4.51 per gallon.
- 4. Refresh your phone's offline maps today.** A G2 geomagnetic storm is in effect today and could cause brief GPS positional dips. If you lose cell service in a storm this weekend, you want maps cached. [Google Maps](#) lets you download a region for offline use; do this from a wifi connection.
- 5. Stock 3 days of bread and pasta basics.** Wheat prices remain elevated on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's smallest crop forecast in 54 years. Retail bread and pasta prices likely to rise 3-5% this fall.

THIS WEEK'S ONE THING

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING THIS WEEKEND:

Confirm your household severe-weather shelter plan before Saturday afternoon.

[SPC Day 2 \(Sat 16-MAY\)](#): Slight Risk severe storms central Plains and lower Missouri Valley with potential for a strong tornado. [SPC Day 3 \(Sun 17-MAY\)](#): the threat expands and intensifies across the same corridor.

THE SHORT VERSION

What's happening this week, in six sentences:

1. A truce in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah is fraying. Strikes and rocket fire have continued; international news flow may spike this weekend if the ceasefire formally collapses.
2. Severe weather: Enhanced Risk for severe storms across much of Iowa today. Saturday and Sunday bring expanding storm risk including potential for a strong tornado across Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa.
3. Communications: 26 [NOAA Weather Radio](#) transmitters are down or degraded across 14 states. Where you used to depend on a weather radio for tornado alerts, depend on your phone now.
4. Space weather: a G2 (moderate) geomagnetic storm watch is in effect TODAY. Most people will not notice. GPS may briefly dip a few yards. Aurora may be visible across the northern U.S. tonight. Ham radio operators should expect HF fades at higher latitudes.
5. Hormuz shipping is partially reopening. President Trump paused Project Freedom 6 May; Iran is allowing some transits with new procedures. Oil prices have stabilized but remain elevated; expect modest pump-price drift over 7-14 days.
6. No public health emergency at the household level. The Andes hantavirus cluster from the M/V Hondius cruise remains under federal quarantine in Nebraska; sustained community spread is **very unlikely** through late June.

TODAY'S IMPACTS AT A GLANCE

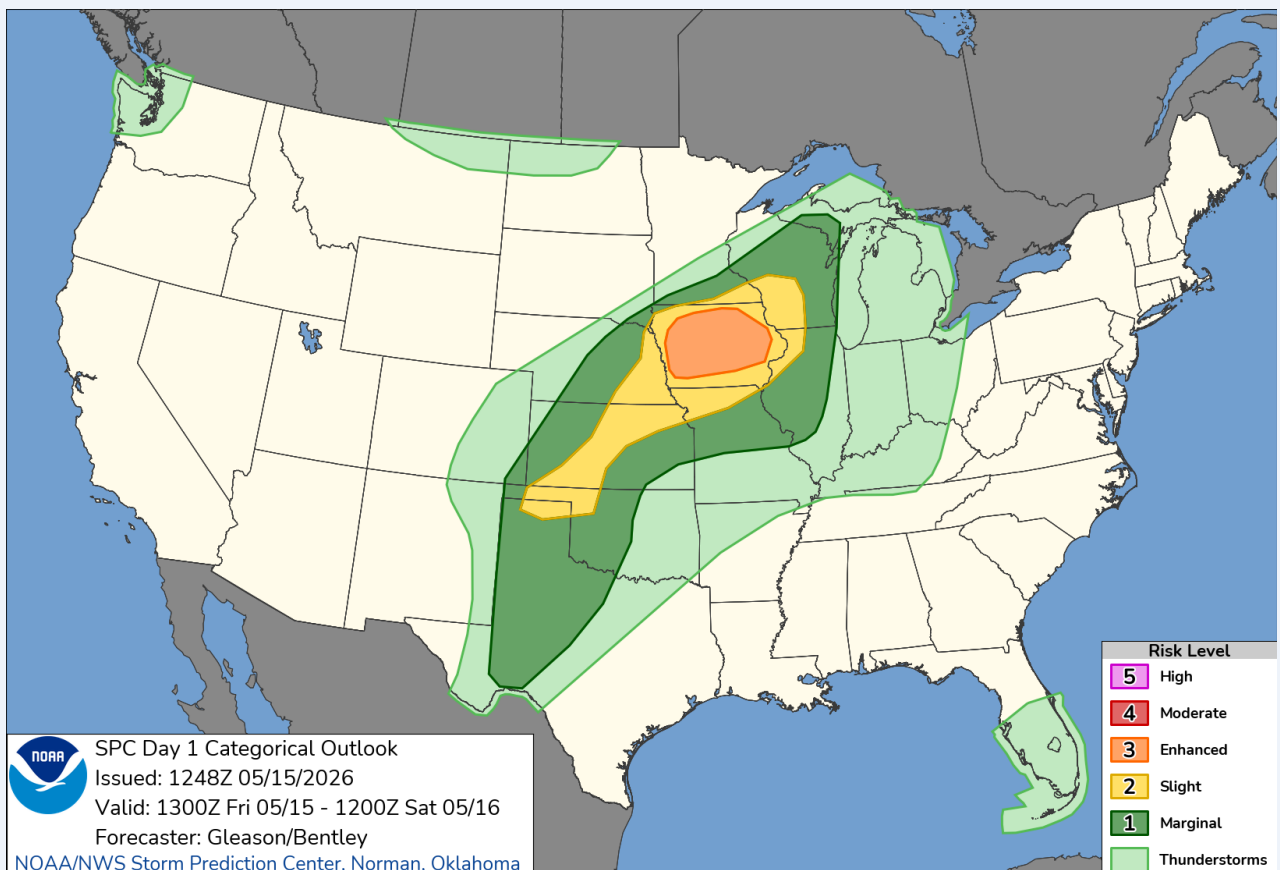
What's happening today + what to do, by category.

CATEGORY	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
Weather	Enhanced Risk severe storms across much of Iowa today. Slight Risk extending into OK/TX panhandles. Weekend setup brings tornado risk to central Plains.	Confirm shelter plan; phone alerts ON.
Gas / Pump	National average around \$4.51/gal. Hormuz partial reopening should ease pressure; Lebanon situation could push it back up.	Fill tank this weekend.
Food / Groceries	Smallest U.S. wheat crop in 54 years; modest bread/pasta price increases coming this fall.	Stock 3 days of basics.
Communications	26 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters down or degraded across 14 states (worsened today). Affected zones include SW Kansas, Florida Keys/Panhandle, NM (3 sites), MI/MN/ME/TN.	Use phone Wireless Emergency Alerts + FEMA App.
Public Health	Andes hantavirus cluster (M/V Hondius cruise) under federal quarantine; very unlikely to affect general public through 21 June surveillance window.	No household action.
GPS / Internet	G2 (moderate) geomagnetic storm watch TODAY (15 May) and G1 (minor) watches 16-17 May. Aurora possible as far south as NY/WI/WA.	Download offline maps via wifi.

WEATHER — WHERE IT MATTERS THIS WEEK

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
Iowa + Upper Mississippi Valley	ENHANCED RISK today (Day 1): supercells, large hail, damaging winds, tornado potential late afternoon into evening.	Stay weather-aware through tonight; have shelter plan; phone alerts ON.
OK/TX Panhandles	Slight Risk today: hail, isolated severe storms.	Secure outdoor furniture; stay phone-alert aware.
Southwest Kansas	NOAA Weather Radio out at Ulysses (WXN81). Marginal storm risk now, escalating Saturday-Sunday.	Use phone alerts as primary.
Central Plains (KS/OK/NE/MO)	Saturday-Sunday: severe storms with potential for a strong tornado, 3-inch hail, damaging wind.	Plan now: shelter location, charged phones, supplies for 24-48h.
Florida + Southeast	No active severe-weather signals this week. Pensacola NWR (KEC86) and FL Keys (Tea Table Key WWG60) transmitters OUT.	No severe-weather action; check phone alert settings.

Source: [NOAA Storm Prediction Center](#) Day 1 and Day 2 outlooks; [NWS Weather Prediction Center](#) Short-Range Forecast Discussion 15 MAY 0400 EDT.



SPACE WEATHER & GPS — Quick Status

Today (Fri 15 May): G2 (moderate) geomagnetic storm watch IN EFFECT. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Space Weather Prediction Center](#) is tracking a coronal hole high-speed stream (CH HSS) and a co-rotating interaction region (CIR) sending charged particles toward Earth.

Saturday-Sunday (16-17 May): G1 (minor) geomagnetic storm watches continue. Activity should subside through early next week.

Household impact: Most household uses of GPS and internet will work normally. Brief GPS positional dips of a few yards are possible. Cellular service: no expected impact. Aurora may be visible as far south as New York, Wisconsin, and Washington state tonight.

Ham radio + emergency communications operators: HF radio propagation can fade at higher latitudes. Power grid fluctuations are possible (high-latitude systems may see voltage alarms). An M5 (R2 Moderate) radio blackout already occurred 10 MAY — assume continued elevated potential through the weekend. Low band (80m/40m) more reliable for regional traffic; high bands variable.

SUPPLY CHAIN — What It Means at the Store

Gas pump: National average is around \$4.51 per gallon. President Trump paused the Project Freedom military escort operation on 6 May, and Iran is allowing some Hormuz transits with new procedures. This should ease pump pressure modestly over the next 7-14 days. The Lebanon situation is the wildcard.

Bread + pasta: U.S. Department of Agriculture's May report shows the smallest U.S. wheat crop in 54 years (1.561 billion bushels). Retail pass-through to bread, baked goods, and pasta is likely a Q3-Q4 story; expect 3-5% retail price increases this fall.

Shipping containers: Hormuz Strait traffic has been running around 5% of pre-war levels. Partial reopening underway as US-Iran negotiations continue via Pakistan. Holiday-season shipping may still see longer transit times for goods routed through the Persian Gulf; recovery will take weeks.

Travel: Major European airlines have suspended Gulf routes through late June. If you have travel booked to Dubai, Riyadh, or Beirut, check with your airline.

CYBER, COMMS & LOCAL IMPACTS

Government computer systems: The U.S. [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#) is now tracking active exploitation of multiple [Cisco SD-WAN vulnerabilities](#) (Emergency Directive 26-03 updated 14 May). Federal agencies face a 3-day patch deadline. A new Linux kernel vulnerability dubbed "Fragnesia" (CVE-2026-46300) was also disclosed yesterday with patches available from major distributions. The Palo Alto firewall fix from earlier this week (CVE-2026-0300) requires action through 27 May.

Household impact: Low. These are enterprise systems, not consumer devices. Keep your home devices updated (phones, laptops, router firmware). If you use a Palo Alto firewall in a home office, update it. If you administer any Linux systems at home, watch for distribution patches this weekend.

NOAA Weather Radio: 26 transmitters affected across 14 states today (15 fully out, 11 degraded). Most operationally significant: SW Kansas (Ulysses WXN81 OUT) sitting near this weekend's storm corridor; Pensacola FL (KEC86 OUT); Florida Keys (Tea Table Key WWG60 OUT). Three NM sites OUT (Roswell, Carlsbad, Artesia). Multiple Kodiak-archipelago AK sites degraded. Detroit-area Adrian/Petersburg WNG647 OUT.

Workaround: In affected areas, rely on phone Wireless Emergency Alerts (built into iPhone and Android), the [FEMA App](#), and local broadcast Emergency Alert System (television and AM/FM radio). For ham radio operators with HF capability, monitor regional SKYWARN nets during severe-weather events this weekend.

SIGNALS THAT CONDITIONS ARE GETTING WORSE

Watch for these in the news this week. If you see them, raise your readiness one notch.

- A second strike on a commercial ship in the Persian Gulf or Strait of Hormuz.
- Iran formally rejects the U.S. 14-point framework (currently in stalemate).
- Israel strikes Beirut neighborhoods again (Dahieh district is the bellwether).
- The Storm Prediction Center upgrades Sunday's outlook to MODERATE or HIGH risk.
- A second case of Andes hantavirus emerges outside the federal quarantine facility.
- A second U.S. cyber emergency directive issued in the same week.

RESOURCES

Sources for this brief + tools you can use at home

Weather: [NOAA Storm Prediction Center](#) | [NWS](#) | [NOAA Weather Radio outage status](#)

Emergency alerts: [FEMA App](#) (download to phone) | Wireless Emergency Alerts (turn ON in phone settings).

Space weather: [SWPC 3-Day Forecast](#) | [Geophysical Institute Aurora Forecast](#)

Gas prices: [AAA Daily National Average](#)

Food + Agriculture: [USDA WASDE Report](#)

Public health: [CDC Health Alert Network](#) | [WHO Disease Outbreak News](#)

Cybersecurity: [CISA Known Exploited Vulnerabilities catalog](#)

Preparedness reference: [Fortune Favors the Prepared](#) / [Preparedness Book of Knowledge](#)

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