

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition | Fortune Favors the Prepared

A plain-language readiness brief for families

⚠️ **PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 — INCIDENT PROBABLE — Brown Sky** ⚠️

Tuesday, 19 May 2026 | Op Epic Fury Day 81 | Hormuz Blockade Day 37 | LBN CF Day 34 | Trend: STABLE

COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION: COMCON 4 — INCIDENT POSSIBLE — Orange Sky

WEATHER: WX-CON 4 — MDT — Severe storms central Plains tonight

SPACE WEATHER: SWX-CON 1 — G1 (Minor) — Minor solar storm watch

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WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

Five small actions you can take in under an hour each

- 1. Test your home weather alerting tonight.** If you live in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, or Kansas, the National Weather Service is forecasting severe flash-flood conditions overnight. Confirm Wireless Emergency Alerts are ON in your phone settings. Download the [FEMA App](#) if you don't have it. If you have a [NOAA Weather Radio](#) receiver, test it now.
- 2. Check your shelter plan.** If you live in the central Plains, lower Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, or Texas Hill Country: identify your interior room or basement now. Severe weather corridor is active through Wednesday across these regions.
- 3. Top off the gas tank by Friday.** Gas prices are stable today but the next 2-3 days carry tail risk from the US-Iran situation. National average is \$4.36 per gallon; if the situation escalates, prices could rise 8-15 cents in 3-5 days.
- 4. Refresh your phone's offline maps.** If a storm cuts cell service or GPS gets briefly fuzzy from solar weather tonight, you want maps cached. [Google Maps](#) lets you download a region for offline use; do this from a wifi connection.
- 5. Check your software updates this week.** Several major cybersecurity issues are on federal patch deadlines this week. If you run Microsoft Exchange at your business or any [Cisco](#) SD-WAN equipment, make sure you're on the latest patches.

THIS WEEK'S ONE THING

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING THIS WEEK:

Verify your phone Wireless Emergency Alerts are turned ON tonight.

Severe flash flooding is forecast overnight across Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. [NOAA Weather Radio](#) is offline in 14 states and parts of the corridor.

THE SHORT VERSION

What's happening this week, in five sentences:

1. US strike on Iran was called off Monday night at the request of Gulf-region allies. A diplomatic window is open for 2-3 days; possible deal announcement or possible strike resumption by end of week.
2. Severe weather is unfolding tonight across the central Plains: heavy flash-flood risk overnight in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. Severe storms continue across the lower Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and southern Plains Tuesday into Wednesday.
3. Gas prices are stable today but the next 2-3 days carry tail risk. National average is \$4.36 per gallon; if the Iran situation escalates, expect 8-15 cents in 3-5 days.
4. Important cyber-security patches are on federal deadlines this week. If you run any business systems, ask your IT vendor about Palo Alto firewalls (deadline Wednesday) and Microsoft Exchange (deadline May 29).
5. No public health emergency at the household level. The Andes hantavirus case from earlier this month 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	MODERATE flash-flood risk overnight in MO/IA/NE/KS. Severe storms Tue across Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, southern Plains. Day 3 risk shifts to TX Hill Country.	Confirm shelter plan; phone alerts ON; pre-position drainage + power-out plans.
Gas / Pump	National average \$4.36/gal today; stable but tail risk from US-Iran situation over next 2-3 days.	Fill tank this week if low.
Food / Groceries	Stable. USDA next crop report June 11. Wheat oversupply baseline holds; some bread/pasta moderation possible.	No urgent action.
Communications	NOAA Weather Radio : 33 transmitters affected (14 states). 7 critical-CONUS gaps in active storm corridor including KS Ulysses, IL Hillsboro, MN Gunflint Lake, MI Petoskey, MI Adrian/Petersburg, IN Angola, TN Shelbyville.	Use phone Wireless Emergency Alerts + FEMA App.
Public Health	Andes hantavirus case Day 6 in Nebraska biocontainment; zero second-generation cases; very unlikely to affect general public.	No household action.
GPS / Internet	Minor solar storm watch (G1) through end of today; expires 06z Wednesday. Brief HF radio effects possible.	Download offline maps via wifi.

WEATHER — WHERE IT MATTERS THIS WEEK

REGION

HAZARD

WHAT TO DO

Central Plains (MO/IA/NE/KS)	MODERATE flash-flood risk overnight. Backbuilding storms with 4-6 inch rainfall totals possible over 4-hour windows.	Stay weather-aware overnight; have shelter plan and elevated route to higher ground for vehicles.
Lower Great Lakes (MI/OH/IN/IL/WI)	Slight Risk severe storms Tuesday: damaging wind primary mode. NWR offline at MI Petoskey, MI Adrian/Petersburg, IN Angola.	Use phone alerts as primary. Secure outdoor furniture.
Ohio Valley + Mid-Mississippi	Slight Risk severe storms Tuesday. NWR offline at IL Hillsboro and TN Shelbyville (in active corridor).	Phone alerts as primary; check on neighbors without smartphones.
Texas Permian Basin / Big Bend	Large hail (>2 inch possible) Tuesday on enhanced wind shear.	Secure outdoor furniture and vehicles.
Texas Hill Country	Slight Risk Wednesday flash-flood. Multiple storm complexes on same axis Thursday.	Plan now: shelter location, charged phones, supplies for 24-48h.
Florida + Southeast	No active severe-weather signals this week.	No action.

Source: [NOAA Storm Prediction Center](#) Day 1 and Day 4 outlooks; [NWS](#) regional forecast discussions.

SPACE WEATHER & GPS — Quick Status

Today (Tue 19 May): National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Space Weather Prediction Center](#) has a G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm watch in effect through end of day. A coronal mass ejection from last Friday's solar flare arrived overnight. Scale reference: [NOAA Space Weather Scales](#).

Wednesday 20 May: Watch expires 06z (about 2 AM Eastern). Conditions return to quiet.

Household impact: Most household uses of GPS and internet will work normally. Brief GPS positional dips of a few yards are possible. Aurora may be visible from northern states tonight.

Ham radio + emergency communications operators: Polar paths degraded. Daytime 20m DX favored; nighttime 40m/80m for regional traffic. Watch for electron flux >1000 pfu (LEO satellite charging risk if you have sat experimentation).

SUPPLY CHAIN — What It Means at the Store

Gas pump: National average is \$4.36/gallon today, stable since Monday. The Iran situation creates a 2-3 day tail risk: if a deal is announced, expect a 3-5 cent decline within a week. If the strike resumes, expect 8-15 cents upward over 3-5 days.

Bread + pasta: Stable. U.S. Department of Agriculture's May report has wheat oversupply baseline. Some Plains farmer planting impact possible from this week's flooding, but next [USDA](#) crop report is June 11.

Shipping containers: Hormuz Strait traffic is at single-digit % of pre-war volume. Iraqi April Hormuz exports were 10 million barrels vs 93 million pre-war monthly (about 90% drop). Iran launched a new transit authority Monday that may include tolls on shipping. Holiday-season shipping likely sees longer transit times.

Travel: Major European airlines continue Gulf-region flexibility through end of week. If you have travel booked to Dubai, Riyadh, or Beirut over the next 2-3 days, check with your airline before departure.

CYBER, COMMS & LOCAL IMPACTS

Government computer systems: Multiple urgent cybersecurity bulletins this week from the U.S. [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#). Federal agencies have until tomorrow Wednesday 21 May to patch Palo Alto firewalls, until 29 May to patch Microsoft Exchange email servers, and missed yesterday's deadline for [Cisco](#) network equipment.

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 tonight.

NOAA Weather Radio: 33 transmitters affected across 14 states (14 fully out, 19 degraded). The roster did not change overnight, but the threat-overlap composition shifted east. The seven most critical gaps are KS Ulysses, IL Hillsboro, MN Gunflint Lake, MI Petoskey, MI Adrian/Petersburg, IN Angola, and TN Shelbyville — all inside this week's severe-weather corridor.

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).

SIGNALS THAT CONDITIONS ARE GETTING WORSE

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

- The U.S. attacks Iran (the 2-3 day deal window closes around 21-22 May).
- A second strike on a commercial ship in the Persian Gulf or Strait of Hormuz.
- Israel strikes Beirut neighborhoods (Dahieh district is the bellwether).
- The Storm Prediction Center upgrades any day to HIGH RISK across the central Plains.
- A second case of Andes hantavirus emerges outside the federal quarantine facility.
- A second U.S. cyber emergency directive issued in the same week.
- The Putin-Xi joint statement (released morning Wed 20 May) includes language threatening U.S. or its allies on Iran or Taiwan.

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 Conditions reference: [fortunefavorstheprepared.com / preparedness-conditions](#) (full PREP-CON / COMCON / WX-CON / SWX-CON framework).

Analytical methodology: [fortunefavorstheprepared.com / analytical-standards](#) (sourcing standards, estimative-language scale, risk-score formula, alt-hypothesis discipline).

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