

# DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition | Fortune Favors the Prepared

A plain-language readiness brief for families



## ⚠️ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 - INCIDENT PROBABLE - Brown Sky ⚠️

Thursday, 21 May 2026 | Op Epic Fury Day 83 | Hormuz Blockade Day 39 | LBN CF Day 36 | Trend: STABLE

## COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION: COMCON 4 - INCIDENT POSSIBLE

## WEATHER: WX-CON 2 - SLGT - Storms eastern Colorado; flash-flood risk southern Plains

## SPACE WEATHER: SWX-CON 1 - Minor - Elevated energetic-electron flux

Publication (UTC)	21 MAY 2026 / 1530 UTC
Reporting Period	20-MAY through 21-MAY (24h daily rollup)
SOP	v5.54   Source linkify complete   All hooks PASSED

## 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 eastern Colorado, severe storms with large hail and an isolated tornado risk are possible this afternoon and evening near Denver and Colorado Springs. If you live in the southern Plains, the Piney Woods, or the Hill Country of southwest Texas, heavy rain and a flash-flood risk are expected Thursday into Friday. 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 and high-water plan.** If you live in eastern Colorado, identify your interior room or basement now. If you live in the southern Plains or the Hill Country of southwest Texas, know your high-water routes and never plan to drive through a flooded road. The flash-flood threat builds Thursday into Friday.
- 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, which is at a decision point. 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, 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 Palo Alto firewall or 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.

*A flash-flood risk is forecast for the southern Plains and the Hill Country of southwest Texas, with severe storms over eastern Colorado. NOAA Weather Radio is offline or degraded in 17 states, including parts of the active corridor.*

### THE SHORT VERSION

#### What's happening this week, in five sentences:

1. The US-Iran situation is at a decision point. A planned strike was paused; the window for a deal or a return to military action is in its closing 48 hours. The President said this week he had been close to ordering strikes before allies in the Gulf asked him to hold.
2. Severe weather covers two areas: eastern Colorado today (large hail, an isolated tornado possible), and a separate heavy-rain and flash-flood risk over the southern Plains and the Hill Country of southwest Texas Thursday into Friday.
3. Gas prices are stable today but the next few days carry tail risk from the US-Iran situation. If it escalates, expect a rise of roughly 8-15 cents within 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 reached 21 May) and Microsoft Exchange (deadline 29 May).
5. There is an Ebola outbreak in Central Africa (the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda) that the World Health Organization has declared an international emergency. There are **no US cases**, and the CDC assesses the risk to the US public as low. US airports have added entry screening, and US-bound flights from the affected countries are being routed to a single airport.

### TODAY'S IMPACTS AT A GLANCE

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

CATEGORY	WHAT'S HAPPENING	YOUR ACTION
<b>Weather</b>	Severe storms over eastern Colorado today (large hail, isolated tornado). Heavy rain and flash-flood risk for the southern Plains and the Hill Country of southwest Texas Thursday into Friday.	Confirm shelter plan; phone alerts ON; know high-water routes in Texas.
<b>Gas / Pump</b>	Stable today but tail risk from the US-Iran situation over the next 2-3 days.	Fill tank this week if low.
<b>Food / Groceries</b>	Stable. USDA next crop report June 11. Wheat oversupply baseline holds; some bread/pasta moderation possible.	No urgent action.
<b>Communications</b>	NOAA Weather Radio: 36 transmitters affected across 17 states. Gaps in or near the active storm corridor include CO Colorado Springs, KS Ulysses, IL Hillsboro, TN Shelbyville, and TX Rio Grande City.	Use phone Wireless Emergency Alerts + FEMA App.
<b>Public Health</b>	Ebola outbreak in DR Congo and Uganda; WHO international emergency. <b>No US</b>	No household action. Travelers to the region: check CDC guidance.

	<b>cases</b> ; CDC assesses US public risk as low. US entry screening enhanced.	
<b>GPS / Internet</b>	A space-weather alert covers high-energy electrons around satellites. No effect on home GPS, phones, or internet.	No action needed.

## WEATHER - WHERE IT MATTERS THIS WEEK

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
<b>Eastern Colorado</b>	Slight Risk severe storms today. Supercells with large hail, isolated severe gusts, and a possible tornado off the higher terrain near Denver and Colorado Springs.	Secure outdoor furniture and vehicles; phone alerts ON; identify your interior shelter room.
<b>Southern Plains / Piney Woods</b>	Slight Risk excessive rainfall Thursday into Friday; flash-flood concern. Multiple storm complexes on the same axis.	Plan now: shelter location, charged phones, supplies for 24-48h; know high-water routes.
<b>SW Texas Hill Country</b>	Flash-flood concern within the excessive-rainfall area Thursday into Friday. Heavy rates possible.	Stay weather-aware; never drive through flooded roads; know your high-water routes.
<b>Southern High Plains / SE New Mexico</b>	Isolated large hail possible with afternoon storms.	Secure loose outdoor items; park under cover if you can.
<b>Florida + Southeast</b>	No active severe-weather signals this week.	No action.

**Source:** [NOAA Storm Prediction Center](#) Day 1 outlook and [Weather Prediction Center](#) Day 2 Excessive Rainfall Outlook; [NWS](#) regional forecast discussions.

## SPACE WEATHER & GPS - Quick Status

**Today (Thu 21 May):** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Space Weather Prediction Center](#) has an alert in effect for elevated high-energy electron flux around satellites (the "ALTEF3" alert), continuing since 16 May. Geomagnetic and radio conditions are quiet. Scale reference: [NOAA Space Weather Scales](#).

**Household impact:** None. Home uses of GPS, phones, and internet work normally. This alert matters to satellite operators, not households.

**Ham radio + emergency communications operators:** HF (shortwave) radio conditions are quiet today. The elevated electron environment is a satellite-charging concern, not an HF-propagation one.

**Looking ahead:** Nothing to act on today. If you rely on HF radio or operate satellites, keep an eye on the forecast at [spaceweather.gov](#).

## SUPPLY CHAIN - What It Means at the Store

**Gas pump:** Stable today. The Iran situation creates a 2-3 day tail risk: if a deal is announced, expect a few cents of decline within a week. If the strike resumes, expect 8-15 cents upward over 3-5 days.

**Bread + pasta:** Stable. The US Department of Agriculture's May report shows a wheat oversupply baseline. The next USDA crop report is June 11.

**Shipping containers:** Hormuz Strait traffic remains at single-digit percent of pre-war volume; the US naval blockade is in its second month. Goods routed through the Gulf may continue to see longer transit times and higher insurance costs.

**The bigger picture:** Fortune Favors the Prepared has published a companion report tracing how the blockade flows through to household costs (fuel, groceries, medicine, electronics, and durable goods) over the next two years: [Iranian Blockade US Consumer Impact Analysis](#). Its plain-language takeaway for families: most of the money you can still save is saved by acting in the next 90 days.

**Travel:** US-bound flights from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan are now routed to Washington-Dulles only, for 30 days, because of the Ebola outbreak. If you have travel booked from or through the affected region, check with your airline before departure.

## CYBER, COMMS & LOCAL IMPACTS

**Government computer systems:** Multiple urgent cybersecurity bulletins this week from the US [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#). The federal deadline to patch Palo Alto firewalls was 21 May; the deadline to patch Microsoft Exchange email servers is 29 May; the deadline for affected Cisco network equipment has already passed.

**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 now.

**NOAA Weather Radio:** 36 transmitters affected across 17 states (16 fully out, 20 degraded), per a 21-MAY operator snapshot, including an 18-site cluster in Alaska. The most relevant to this week's weather is CO Colorado Springs, which is out of service inside the eastern-Colorado storm zone, along with KS Ulysses, IL Hillsboro, and TN Shelbyville near the southern-Plains rainfall 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 US attacks Iran, or Iran follows through on its threat to widen the war beyond the region.
- A second strike on a commercial ship in the Persian Gulf or Strait of Hormuz.
- Israel strikes Beirut neighborhoods (the Dahieh district is the bellwether).
- The Storm Prediction Center upgrades any day to HIGH RISK, or the flash-flood threat in Texas escalates.
- A first US case of Ebola, or the CDC raising its US risk assessment above low.
- A second US cyber emergency directive issued in the same week.

### SETTING YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD POSTURE

This brief gives you four Fortune Favors the Prepared conditions - [PREP-CON](#), [COMCON](#), [WX-CON](#), and [SWX CON](#). Your family sets the fifth one yourself: your [CONCON \(Continuity Conditions\)](#) - the readiness level your own household is operating at this week. Use the conditions above to decide where to set it.

## 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](#)

**Conditions reference:** [PREP-CON](#) | [COMCON](#) | [WX-CON](#) | [Space Weather](#).

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

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## END

## END OF REPORT

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***Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.***

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