

# DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition | Fortune Favors the Prepared

A plain-language readiness brief for families



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

Friday, 22 May 2026 | Op Epic Fury Day 84 | Hormuz Blockade Day 40 | LBN CF Day 37 | Trend: STABLE

## COMMUNICATIONS CONDITION: COMCON 4 - INCIDENT POSSIBLE

WEATHER: WX-CON 2 - SLGT - Storms west Texas and Oklahoma; flash-flood risk Ohio Valley

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

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Reporting Period	21-MAY through 22-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 western Texas or Oklahoma, scattered severe storms with large hail and damaging winds are possible this afternoon and evening. If you live in the Ohio Valley, heavy rain and a flash-flood risk are expected Friday into Saturday. A few brief tornadoes are also possible from the central Gulf Coast into Tennessee. 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 western Texas or Oklahoma, identify your interior room or basement now. If you live in the Ohio Valley, know your high-water routes and never plan to drive through a flooded road. The flash-flood threat builds Friday into Saturday.
- 3. Top off the gas tank by Friday.** Gas prices are a little higher this week as oil rose, and the next few days still carry tail risk from the US-Iran situation, which remains unresolved. If the situation escalates, prices could rise another 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. 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. The Palo Alto deadline has already passed.

## 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 Ohio Valley, with severe storms over western Texas and Oklahoma. 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 still at a decision point. Iran is reviewing a US proposal and has not said yes or no; the President said he is willing to wait a couple of days. Iran's leadership also said it will keep its nuclear material inside the country, which makes a quick deal harder.
2. Severe weather covers two areas: western Texas and Oklahoma today (large hail, damaging winds), and a separate heavy-rain and flash-flood risk over the Ohio Valley Friday into Saturday.
3. Gas prices are a little higher this week and the next few days still carry tail risk from the US-Iran situation. If it escalates, a further rise of roughly 8-15 cents within 3-5 days is likely.
4. Important cyber-security patches are on federal deadlines. If you run any business systems, ask your IT vendor about Palo Alto firewalls (deadline already passed) 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 airport entry screening is now up and running at Washington-Dulles, where US-bound flights from the affected countries are being routed.

## 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 western Texas and Oklahoma today (large hail, damaging winds). Heavy rain and flash-flood risk for the Ohio Valley Friday into Saturday.	Confirm shelter plan; phone alerts ON; know high-water routes in the Ohio Valley.
<b>Gas / Pump</b>	A little higher this week as oil rose; tail risk from the US-Iran situation continues.	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 TN Shelbyville, IL Hillsboro, TX Rio Grande City, and the New Mexico transmitters at Roswell, Carlsbad, and Artesia.	Use phone Wireless Emergency Alerts + FEMA App.
<b>Public Health</b>	Ebola outbreak in DR Congo and Uganda; WHO international emergency. <b>No US cases</b> ; CDC assesses US public risk as low. Airport entry screening is now operational at Washington-Dulles.	No household action. Travelers to the region: check CDC guidance.

**GPS / Internet**

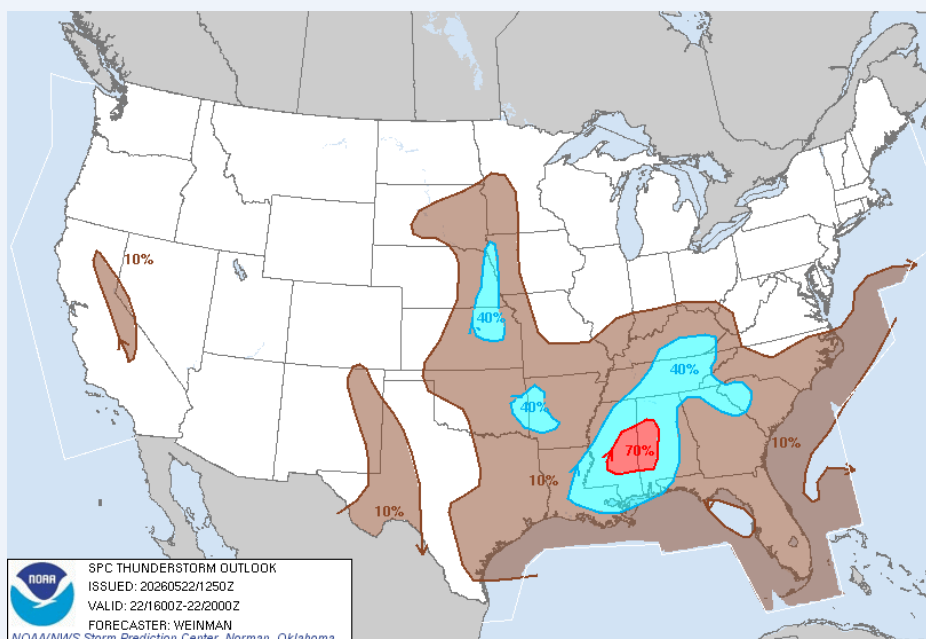
A space-weather alert covers high-energy electrons around satellites. No effect on home GPS, phones, or internet.

No action needed.

## WEATHER - WHERE IT MATTERS THIS WEEK

REGION	HAZARD	WHAT TO DO
<b>West Texas / Oklahoma</b>	Slight Risk severe storms today. Scattered storms with large hail and damaging winds along a sharpening dryline.	Secure outdoor furniture and vehicles; phone alerts ON; identify your interior shelter room.
<b>Ohio Valley</b>	Slight Risk excessive rainfall Friday into Saturday; flash-flood concern. A few brief tornadoes also possible along the storm corridor.	Plan now: shelter location, charged phones, supplies for 24-48h; know high-water routes.
<b>Tennessee / central Gulf Coast</b>	A few brief tornadoes possible along a low-level-jet corridor into Tennessee.	Stay weather-aware through the evening; phone alerts ON.
<b>Central Kansas</b>	Isolated large hail possible with afternoon storms.	Secure loose outdoor items; park under cover if you can.
<b>New Mexico / West Texas - WILDFIRE</b>	Active wildfire season. New large fires burning, including the Seven Cabins Fire (New Mexico) and the Hunggate Fire (Texas), which has forced evacuations. Dry fuels and gusty winds keep fire risk elevated.	If you are near the fire areas, check InciWeb for evacuation status, know your routes, and keep a go-bag ready.
<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; [National Interagency Fire Center](#) wildfire situation report.



## SPACE WEATHER & GPS - Quick Status

**Today (Fri 22 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:** A little higher this week as oil prices rose. The Iran situation creates a continuing 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. Iran announced a new authority to control the Strait this week. Goods routed through the Gulf may continue to see longer transit times and higher insurance costs.

**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 has now passed; the deadline to patch Microsoft Exchange email servers is 29 May; the deadline for affected Cisco network equipment has also 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 22-MAY operator snapshot, including an 18-site cluster in Alaska. The most relevant to this week's weather are TN Shelbyville and IL Hillsboro, out of service near the Tennessee and Ohio Valley storm corridor, and the New Mexico transmitters at Roswell, Carlsbad, and Artesia near the west-Texas storm zone.

**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 the Ohio Valley 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).

## GO DEEPER - THE FULL DAILY THREAT REPORT

**LAST WEEK FREE - the [DTR Full](#) moves to Patreon subscription next week.**

This household brief gives you the essentials. If you want the full analyst report behind it -- the **DTR Full**, a practitioner-tier document of roughly 27 pages -- it carries the detail this brief leaves out: full SALUTE blocks for every FLASH event, structured alternative hypotheses, collection-gap callouts, the Indicators and Warning matrix, the Sector Impact matrix, the carryover monitor sections, and the Geographic Impact Index.

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## END

### END OF REPORT

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

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