

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Wednesday, 02 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Wednesday, 02 July 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 CRITICAL (heat wave) | SWX-CON 2 WATCH | COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE | NIFC NPL 4 | Venezuela EQ Day 8 -- 2,295 dead | Ebola PHEIC Day 48 -- DRC 1,333 confirmed (399 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE: MIDWEST TO EAST COAST, PEAKS INTO JULY 4TH WEEKEND

A dangerous, multi-day heat wave is building across the Midwest and East Coast, peaking into the July 4th weekend. Philadelphia has declared a Code Red heat emergency; Extreme Heat Warnings are active for southeastern Pennsylvania, northern Delaware, much of New Jersey, and parts of Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. Highs in the mid-90s to over 100F with heat indices well into the 100s -- and overnight lows offering little relief. This may be the hottest stretch some parts of the Northeast have seen since 2011. If you don't have reliable air conditioning, identify a cooling center or an air-conditioned public space (library, mall, community center) near you today, before you need it.

Check on elderly neighbors and anyone without reliable AC -- heat is the most lethal weather hazard in the US, and it's often invisible until it isn't.

WHAT TO WATCH -- THIS 24 HOURS



VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE -- Day 8 Recovery

Day 8: 2,295 confirmed dead, 11,267 injured, nearly 50,000 missing as of today. Rescue teams continue pulling survivors from rubble past the 72-hour window -- a child was found alive after six days trapped. USS Fort Lauderdale continues delivering supplies at La Guaira. Phone and internet remain disrupted -- use Signal/WhatsApp/Zello if available, or satellite. Red Cross Disaster Welfare Inquiry: [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org). Do not travel to Venezuela.



WILDFIRE -- COTTONWOOD FIRE, FIRST CONTAINMENT PROGRESS

Cottonwood Fire (Beaver County UT) is the nation's largest active wildfire, now at 93,918 acres with 19% containment -- the first progress since it started. Level 3 Go evacuations remain in effect for HiLo Estates, Merchant Valley, Eagle Point Resort, and Arrowhead Summer Homes -- if you are in these areas, do not wait for a further order. Three firefighters were killed 28-JUN on a separate fire (the Knowles Fire, Colorado) -- a reminder of how dangerous this season is for first responders. National fire preparedness is now at its second-highest level (PL4). If you're in fire country, know your evacuation route before you need it.



SEVERE WEATHER -- ENHANCED RISK MIDWEST/UPPER GREAT LAKES TODAY

The Storm Prediction Center has an Enhanced risk out today for the Midwest and Upper Great Lakes (Minnesota, Wisconsin, northwest Iowa, Upper Michigan) -- damaging wind gusts are the main threat, with a couple of tornadoes possible. If you're in this area, know where you'd shelter and keep your phone's weather alerts on today. A Slight risk is also out for the central High Plains and the Northeast.



EBOLA PHEIC -- DAY 47 / SITREP GAP

DRC has 1,333 confirmed (399 deaths) cases across 34 health zones; Uganda has 20 confirmed. The Bundibugyo strain has no approved vaccine or treatment. WHO's outbreak update is now more than six days overdue. A healthcare worker in France remains the only confirmed case imported into the EU; contacts remain under surveillance. US risk remains very low -- enhanced entry screening continues at IAD/ATL/IAH/JFK. No action required for most US households. If you recently returned from DRC or Uganda and develop fever, muscle pain, or bleeding, contact a doctor immediately and mention your travel.



CYBER -- NEW CRITICAL VULNERABILITY / HOME NETWORK CHECK

For home users: if you use Ubiquiti UniFi networking equipment, the federal security deadline passed over a week ago -- check that your firmware is current. A new critical vulnerability was added this cycle affecting SimpleHelp, a tool many small businesses and IT support companies use for remote access -- if you or your employer use SimpleHelp, patch by 02-JUL. No ransomware or mass-exploitation events targeting home users were reported this cycle.



WORLD CUP -- DAY 22 / ROUND OF 32 CONCLUDES 03-JUL

Day 22, Round of 32. No confirmed security incidents through today. Today's matches: Mexico beat Ecuador 2-0, with England vs DR Congo and Belgium vs Senegal still to play. The Round of 32 wraps up 03-JUL and the Round of 16 begins 04-JUL. If you're attending matches over the July 4th weekend, remember today's heat wave applies at the venues too -- hydrate, use sunscreen, and know where the shade and medical stations are.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST -- TODAY'S PRIORITIES

WILDFIRE (if you're in fire country)

- ☐ Check local fire status -- has containment improved or has the fire grown overnight?
- ☐ If Level 3 Go order is in your area: leave now, not later
- ☐ Go bag status: medications, documents, charger, water in the vehicle
- ☐ Livestock and pets: have a transport plan before the order arrives
- ☐ Monitor: NIFC.gov, local county emergency management, NWS fire weather alerts
- ☐ Sign up for county emergency alerts at your county EM website if not already done.

HEAT SAFETY (if you're in the Midwest-to-East Coast heat wave zone)

- ☐ Identify an air-conditioned space near you today (library, mall, cooling center) before you need it
- ☐ Check on elderly neighbors, young children, and anyone without reliable AC
- ☐ Never leave kids or pets in a parked car, even briefly -- vehicle interiors can exceed 120F in minutes
- ☐ Reschedule strenuous outdoor activity to early morning or evening; watch for signs of heat exhaustion

GENERAL TUESDAY MORNING PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check NWR (weather radio) -- 18 transmitters still OOS/DEGRADED nationwide -- know your backup alert method
- ☐ Ubiquiti UniFi users: federal security deadline passed over a week ago -- check firmware now
- ☐ If you have family or colleagues in Venezuela: internet and phone service remain disrupted -- use satellite apps or the Red Cross Disaster Welfare Inquiry service (redcross.org) if you haven't already
- ☐ Family communications plan: do you have a meeting place and out-of-area contact if phones are down?

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY

Incident Probable -- multiple simultaneous active situations (Hormuz tensions, national wildfire posture, Venezuela EQ recovery, Ebola PHEIC, active heat wave). Today is not a normal day. Review your emergency contacts, know your local alerts, and make sure your go bag is accessible.

WX-CON 3 CRITICAL -- Heat + Severe Weather

WX-CON 3 CRITICAL. A dangerous multi-day heat wave is affecting the Midwest through the East Coast -- see today's lead story. Separately, an Enhanced severe thunderstorm risk is out for the Midwest/Upper Great Lakes today, with damaging wind gusts the main threat. Wildfire conditions are tracked separately below, not folded into this weather line -- see the wildfire item above for Cottonwood Fire status.

**SWX-CON 2
WATCH -- G2
Watch 03-JUL**

A new geomagnetic storm watch has been issued for 03-JUL, stronger than earlier this week. Practical household impact remains low for most people. If you're in the northern-tier US (Maine, northern Michigan, etc.), aurora may be visible over the next few nights, and it could become visible even further south (as far as New York, Wisconsin, or Washington state) if the storm develops as forecast.

**COMCON 4
Increased Vigilance**

18 NWR weather radio transmitters are OOS or degraded nationwide -- an improvement from earlier this week, but still have a backup alert method (phone alerts, local TV, or a battery-powered radio). If you manage enterprise networking equipment, several vulnerabilities remain unpatched -- see the cyber item above.

RESOURCES

Emergency preparedness planning: fortunefavorstheprepared.com

Daily Threat Report (practitioner): fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr

NIFC National Fire News: nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn

NOAA Space Weather Center: swpc.noaa.gov

SPC Severe Weather Outlooks: spc.noaa.gov

Venezuela earthquake -- USGS: earthquake.usgs.gov

CDC Ebola updates: cdc.gov/vhf/ebola

American Red Cross disaster welfare: redcross.org

END

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Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

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MED-06 Patient Care Documentation

PLN-01 Community Situational Awareness FREE

SEC-02 Know What You're Showing (OPSEC) FREE

SEC-06 Applied OPSEC: Analytical Method and Field Application

Releasing this week:

SEC-01 MAG Member Vetting Course - includes worksheets, symbology guide and more.

SEC-03 Watching the Watchers (Surveillance Detection)

SEC-07 Watching the Watchers - Operations

Coming soon:

INT-06 MDCOA - Most Dangerous Course of Action

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