

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Tuesday, 07 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Tuesday, 07 July 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 4 ELEVATED | SWX-CON 2 WATCH |
COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE | NIFC NPL confirmed 4 of 5 | Venezuela EQ Day 13 -- 3,535 dead |
Ebola PHEIC Day 53 -- DRC 1,561 confirmed (506 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

UTAH'S BIGGEST WILDFIRE IS NEARLY HALF CONTAINED -- GOOD NEWS, BUT EVACUATIONS STILL ACTIVE

The Cottonwood Fire near Beaver, Utah -- still the largest active wildfire in the country -- is now 47% contained, up sharply from less than a quarter just five days ago. Crews have shifted from active firefighting to mop-up in several areas. That's real progress, but Level 3 "Go Now" evacuation orders remain in effect for several communities (HiLo Estates, Merchant Valley, Eagle Point Resort, Arrowhead Summer Homes). If you're in one of those areas, containment progress does not mean it's safe to return -- wait for an official all-clear. Separately, two ships were struck near a Middle East shipping route today; there's no direct action for US households, but don't be surprised if gas prices tick up slightly after weeks of decline.

Containment progress is genuinely good news -- but for families under an active evacuation order, the order is what matters, not the percentage.

WHAT TO WATCH -- THIS 24 HOURS



VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE -- Day 13 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 13: the confirmed toll has risen to 3,535 dead, up from 2,954 -- backlogged recovery reporting, not new harm. Four survivors were pulled alive from rubble 11 days after the earthquake, a reminder that hope remains even weeks later. The government has stood up a dedicated reconstruction agency this cycle. Phone and internet remain disrupted in some areas -- use Signal/WhatsApp/Zello if available, or satellite. Red Cross Disaster Welfare Inquiry: redcross.org. Do not travel to Venezuela.



WILDFIRE -- COTTONWOOD FIRE -- STILL THE NATION'S LARGEST

See today's lead story above for the Cottonwood Fire update (95,807 acres, 47% contained). Level 3 Go evacuations remain active for several communities -- if you're in an affected area, do not wait for a further order. If you're anywhere in fire country this summer, know your evacuation route before you need it.



SEVERE WEATHER -- SLIGHT RISK NORTHERN HIGH PLAINS/UPPER MIDWEST TONIGHT

The Storm Prediction Center has a Slight risk out tonight for the northern High Plains into the Upper Midwest -- North and South Dakota, Minnesota (large hail and severe wind gusts possible, with storms possibly clustering into an overnight complex). Isolated damaging winds are also possible in the southern Mid-Atlantic, the Carolinas, and parts of Texas/Louisiana. If you're in any of these areas, know where you'd shelter and keep your phone's weather alerts on tonight.



EBOLA PHEIC -- DAY 53 / FATALITY RATE RISING

DRC now has 1,561 confirmed cases (506 deaths) -- the fatality rate has continued climbing to about 32%, up from about 31% last cycle. Uganda remains steady at about 20 confirmed. The Bundibugyo strain has no approved vaccine or treatment. US risk remains very low -- enhanced entry screening continues at major airports. 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 two weeks ago -- check that your firmware is current. Two other vulnerabilities are now overdue for a second cycle in a row: SimpleHelp (used by many small businesses and IT support companies for remote access) and Microsoft SharePoint Server (affecting organizations running their own SharePoint servers). If you or your employer use either, patch now. No ransomware or mass-exploitation events targeting home users were reported this cycle.



WORLD CUP -- ROUND OF 16 CONCLUDES TODAY

The Round of 16 wraps up today with its final two matches (Argentina vs Egypt in Atlanta, Switzerland vs Colombia in Vancouver); Quarterfinals begin 09-JUL. There were fan-zone security incidents at San Pedro Square earlier this cycle (a homicide and separate stabbings), though no incidents at any stadium venue. Iran's elimination and departure removed the tournament's highest diplomatic flashpoint. Confirm match times before heading out. Stay hydrated and know where shade and medical stations are, regardless of the weather.

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 (general reminders following the recent heat wave)

- ☐ 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 MONDAY 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 two weeks 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). Today is not a normal day. Review your emergency contacts, know your local alerts, and make sure your go bag is accessible.

WX-CON 4 ELEVATED -- Severe Weather

WX-CON 4 ELEVATED. The multi-day heat wave that affected the Northeast has ended. A Slight severe thunderstorm risk is out tonight for the northern High Plains/Upper Midwest, with large hail and damaging winds the main threats; isolated damaging winds also possible in the southern Mid-Atlantic and parts of Texas/Louisiana. Wildfire conditions are tracked separately -- see today's lead story for Cottonwood Fire status.

**SWX-CON 2
WATCH -- Solar
Electron Flux
Event**

A solar radiation event and a radio blackout were recorded today; practical household impact remains low for most people. There's no confirmed aurora visibility forecast for tonight tied to this specific event -- if that changes, we'll flag it in a future brief.

**COMCON 4
Increased Vigilance**

18 NWR weather radio transmitters are OOS or degraded nationwide -- still have a backup alert method (phone alerts, local TV, or a battery-powered radio). If you manage enterprise networking equipment, two separate 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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18 self-study online courses are now live, covering communications, intelligence, medical, logistics and planning.

New courses added every couple of days.

Some are free, some will be free for 5-days from posting.

<https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com/curriculum/>

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

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