

# DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Wednesday, 08 July 2026  
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Wednesday, 08 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 14 -- 3,535 dead |  
Ebola PHEIC Day 54 -- 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 56% contained, up from 47% a day ago. Crews have shifted more areas from active firefighting to mop-up. 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, the US and Iran exchanged direct military strikes overnight after Iran hit three tankers near a Middle East shipping route; there's no direct action for US households, but don't be surprised if gas prices tick up over the next few days 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 14 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 14: 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 (96,284 acres, 56% 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 54 / FATALITY RATE RISING

DRC now has 1,561 confirmed cases (506 deaths) -- fatality rate holding at about 32%, unchanged since the last update. 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: two 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), with confirmed ransomware and infostealer exploitation already underway. If you or your employer use either, patch now. No mass-exploitation events targeting individual home users were reported this cycle.



### **WORLD CUP -- ROUND OF 16 CONCLUDES TODAY**

The Round of 16 wrapped up yesterday; Quarterfinals begin tomorrow, 09-JUL, opening with France vs Morocco. 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) -- 23 transmitters still OOS/DEGRADED nationwide, up from 18 yesterday -- know your backup alert method
- ☐ SimpleHelp/SharePoint users: federal security deadlines have both passed -- patch now if you or your employer run either
- ☐ 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 (a US-Iran direct strike exchange overnight, national wildfire posture, Venezuela EQ recovery, Ebola PHEIC). None of these require action from most US households today, but 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**

23 NWR weather radio transmitters are OOS or degraded nationwide, up from 18 yesterday -- 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](https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com)

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

NIFC National Fire News: [nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn](https://nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn)

NOAA Space Weather Center: [swpc.noaa.gov](https://swpc.noaa.gov)

SPC Severe Weather Outlooks: [spc.noaa.gov](https://spc.noaa.gov)

Venezuela earthquake -- USGS: [earthquake.usgs.gov](https://earthquake.usgs.gov)

CDC Ebola updates: [cdc.gov/vhf/ebola](https://cdc.gov/vhf/ebola)

American Red Cross disaster welfare: [redcross.org](https://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.**

**\*\* Posted courses being upgraded to provide certificates of completion \*\***

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

*Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.*

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