

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Thursday, 09 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Thursday, 09 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 16 -- 3,535 dead |
Ebola PHEIC Day 54 -- DRC 1,561 confirmed (506 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

A NEW WILDFIRE HAS PASSED COTTONWOOD AS THE NATION'S LARGEST -- HERE'S WHAT CHANGED

A second Utah wildfire, the Babylon Fire near Monticello, has grown to over 101,000 acres and is now the largest active wildfire in the country, passing the Cottonwood Fire near Beaver (which is itself still large at 96,000+ acres and 58% contained, real progress from 56%). If you're near Monticello, evacuation zones are in SET status -- be ready to leave on short notice. For Cottonwood, Level 3 "Go Now" evacuation orders remain in effect for several communities (HiLo Estates, Merchant Valley, Eagle Point Resort, Arrowhead Summer Homes); containment progress does not mean it's safe to return -- wait for an official all-clear. Separately, the US and Iran have now exchanged direct military strikes for a second night in a row, and Iran has widened its response to a third Gulf country; there's no direct action for US households, but gas prices have started ticking up (national average up about a nickel in the past day) after weeks of decline.

If you're near either fire, know your evacuation zone status today -- don't assume yesterday's status still applies.

WHAT TO WATCH -- THIS 24 HOURS



VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE -- Day 16 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 16: 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](https://www.redcross.org). Do not travel to Venezuela.



WILDFIRE -- BABYLON FIRE NOW LARGEST, COTTONWOOD STILL ACTIVE

See today's lead story above -- Babylon Fire (UT) is now the nation's largest at 101,073 acres/11% contained; Cottonwood (UT) is 96,333 acres/58% contained. Level 3 Go evacuations remain active near Cottonwood; SET-status zones are active near Babylon. 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 -- QUARTERFINALS BEGIN TODAY

The Round of 16 wrapped up yesterday; Quarterfinals begin today, opening with France vs Morocco in Boston. 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.

WHAT THE IRAN SITUATION MEANS FOR YOU RIGHT NOW

The US and Iran have now traded strikes for two nights in a row, and Iran has widened its response to a third country in the Gulf. For most US households, there is nothing to do differently today -- but here is what to expect:

Gas prices: the national average has started ticking up (about a nickel in the last day) after weeks of decline. Expect this to continue if the situation doesn't calm down -- consider filling up in the next day or two rather than waiting.

Shipping/delivery delays: a key Middle East shipping route is seeing much less traffic than normal. If you rely on imported goods for a business, or are expecting an overseas shipment, build in extra time.

No safety action needed in the US: there is no credible threat to US soil tied to this at this time. This is a wallet/planning item, not a safety item, for the vast majority of households.

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
- ☐ 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	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.

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

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

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.
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