

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Monday, 13 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Monday, 13 July 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 ELEVATED | SWX-CON 2 WATCH |
COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE | NIFC NPL 4 of 5 (confirmed current, 12-JUL) | Venezuela EQ Day 20
-- 4,333 dead | Ebola PHEIC Day 58 -- DRC 1,792 confirmed (625 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

IRAN HAS DECLARED THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSED -- HERE'S WHAT THAT MEANS FOR GAS PRICES AND SHIPPING

Iran announced on 12-JUL that it has formally closed the Strait of Hormuz to all vessel traffic -- a bigger step than the toll-fee dispute we'd been tracking. President Trump publicly disputed this the same day, saying the Strait "remains open," so the two governments are now directly contradicting each other on a basic fact. The US and Iran have continued exchanging strikes for a fourth night in a row, and Iran struck Jordan for the first time. There's no direct safety action for US households, but gas prices are now confirmed moving: the national average is up about 8 cents over the past week to \$3.87/gallon, and that's likely to continue if the situation doesn't calm down. Separately, the Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest wildfire at just over 106,000 acres and is now 47% contained -- meaningfully better contained than a few days ago, though evacuation status can still change quickly.

If you're near either Utah wildfire, know your evacuation zone status today -- don't assume yesterday's status still applies, even with containment improving.

WHAT TO WATCH -- THIS 24 HOURS



VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE -- Day 20 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 20: the confirmed toll has risen to 4,333 dead, up from 3,899 -- backlogged recovery/identification work, not a new event. Interim President Delcy Rodriguez has asked the UK to release about 30 tons of Venezuelan gold held under sanctions to help fund reconstruction. 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 STILL LARGEST, BOTH FIRES BETTER CONTAINED

See today's lead story above -- Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest at 106,324 acres/47% contained (up from 102,932/21%); Cottonwood (UT) is 97,373 acres/77% contained, with limited resident access permits now being issued for some areas. Evacuation status is improving but can still change quickly -- if you're in an affected area, don't wait for a further order if conditions worsen. If you're anywhere in fire country this summer, know your evacuation route before you need it.



SEVERE WEATHER -- MARGINAL RISK SOUTHEAST/MONTANA TODAY, ENHANCED RISK NEW ENGLAND TOMORROW

The Storm Prediction Center has a Marginal risk out today for the Southeast (Florida into eastern Georgia/South Carolina) and Montana -- mainly isolated damaging wind gusts, nothing widespread. Tomorrow is a bigger concern: an Enhanced risk is forecast for northern New England, with strong-to-severe storms and a real tornado threat, including the possibility of a strong tornado, as a sharp weather system moves through. If you're in New England, keep an eye on the forecast tonight and tomorrow and know where you'd shelter.



EBOLA PHEIC -- DAY 58 / FIRST US CASE CONFIRMED

DRC now has 1,792 confirmed cases (625 deaths) -- the fatality rate has risen to about 35%. Uganda remains steady at 20 confirmed, no new cases in two weeks. New this cycle: a US citizen aid worker has tested positive after working in the outbreak zone -- this is the first US case, though details on how they're being treated aren't public yet. The Bundibugyo strain

has no approved vaccine or treatment. US risk for the general public remains very low -- this is one confirmed traveler-related case, not community spread. 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: SimpleHelp (used by many small businesses and IT support companies for remote access) and Microsoft SharePoint Server (affecting organizations running their own SharePoint servers) are now overdue for a third cycle in a row, with confirmed ransomware and infostealer exploitation already underway. Two more tools -- iCagenda and Balboa Forms, both used on some websites -- were added to the federal must-patch list this week too. If you or your employer use any of these, patch now. No mass-exploitation events targeting individual home users were reported this cycle.



WORLD CUP -- SEMIFINALS THIS WEEK

The quarterfinals wrapped up over the weekend -- France, Spain, England, and Argentina are through to the semifinals. France plays Spain Tuesday (14-JUL, Dallas) and England plays Argentina Wednesday (15-JUL, Atlanta), both at 3pm ET. There were fan-zone security incidents at San Pedro Square earlier in the tournament (a homicide and separate stabbings), though still no incidents at any stadium venue. 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 four nights in a row, and Iran has formally declared the Strait of Hormuz -- a key shipping route -- closed to all traffic, which President Trump publicly disputes. For most US households, there is nothing to do differently today -- but here is what to expect:

Gas prices: the national average is now \$3.87/gallon, up about 8 cents over the past week as pump prices catch up to the earlier jump in oil prices. 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: the Strait of Hormuz shipping route is seeing its lowest traffic in five weeks after Iran's closure declaration. 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 -- the recent multi-day heat wave has ended)

- ☐ 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 -- know your backup alert method

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- ☐ 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 (Iran's Strait-of-Hormuz closure declaration and continued strikes, 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 3 ELEVATED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 ELEVATED. The multi-day heat wave that affected the Northeast has ended and the grid emergency from that event is over. A Marginal severe thunderstorm risk is out today for the Southeast and Montana; a bigger Enhanced risk with a real tornado threat is forecast for northern New England tomorrow. Wildfire conditions are tracked separately -- see today's lead story for Babylon/Cottonwood status.
SWX-CON 2 WATCH -- Solar Electron Flux Event	A solar electron flux event has continued and actually intensified since our last update; 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 -- 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

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