

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Tuesday, 14 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Tuesday, 14 July 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 4 ELEVATED | SWX-CON 2 WATCH
(pending re-confirm) | COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE | NIFC NPL 4 of 5 (last confirmed 12-JUL) |
Venezuela EQ Day 21 -- 4,490 dead | Ebola PHEIC Day 59 -- DRC 1,926 confirmed (702 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

US REIMPOSES IRAN SHIPPING BLOCKADE; FIRST CONFIRMED INJURY IN THIS ROUND OF STRIKES

The US military restarted its blockade of Iranian shipping today, and President Trump says the US will keep the Strait of Hormuz open and charge a fee for cargo passing through rather than accept Iran's closure claim. Two tankers were hit by projectiles in the Strait today and one crew member was killed -- the first confirmed death tied to this round of strikes (not a US citizen). There's no direct safety action for US households, but gas prices may start moving again -- the national average is holding at \$3.87/gallon as of this morning, with a fresh update expected later today. Separately, the Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest wildfire at just over 106,000 acres and is now 50% contained, up from 47% a couple days ago -- meaningfully better, 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 21 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 21: the confirmed toll has risen further to 4,490 dead, up from 4,333 -- backlogged recovery/identification work, not a new event. The injured count (16,740) hasn't been updated by Venezuelan officials in over a week now, which is itself a concerning sign about the pace of their own reporting. 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 50% CONTAINED, NEW COMMAND TEAM TAKES OVER

See today's lead story above -- Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest at roughly 106,300-106,600 acres, now 50% contained (up from 47%), and a new firefighting command team took over early this morning. Cottonwood (UT) is holding at 97,373 acres/77% contained -- we couldn't confirm a fresher number for Cottonwood this cycle despite checking. 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 59 / US CASE MOVED TO GERMANY FOR TREATMENT

DRC now has 1,926 confirmed cases (702 deaths) -- the fatality rate is holding around 36%, and case counts jumped noticeably since the last update. New this cycle: we now know where the American aid worker who tested positive is being treated -- a hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, not the US. That's good news for anyone worried about domestic spread; it was never a US-

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based exposure risk. The Bundibugyo strain still has no approved vaccine or treatment. US risk for the general public remains very low. 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 and Microsoft SharePoint Server are now overdue for a fourth cycle in a row, with confirmed ransomware and info-stealer exploitation already underway. The two smaller tools added last week -- iCagenda and Balboa Forms, both used on some websites -- are now overdue too. We checked for a new critical vulnerability list this cycle and didn't find one, which is good news after two additions in two weeks. If you or your employer use any of the tools above, patch now. No mass-exploitation events targeting individual home users were reported this cycle.



WORLD CUP -- SEMIFINALS THIS WEEK

France plays Spain today in Dallas/Arlington -- kickoff has already happened as of this brief, so check for the result before you head out or make plans. England plays Argentina tomorrow (15-JUL, Atlanta). 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 TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

The US military restarted its blockade of Iranian shipping today. President Trump says the US will keep the Strait of Hormuz open and charge a fee on cargo instead of accepting Iran's closure claim. A tanker strike today killed one crew member -- the first confirmed death in this round of the conflict. For most US households, there is nothing to do differently today -- but here is what to expect:

Gas prices: the national average is holding at \$3.87/gallon this morning. Oil prices jumped again overnight on the blockade news, so expect another pump-price increase in the coming days if things don't calm down -- consider filling up soon rather than waiting.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains well below normal levels. 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

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- ☐ Check NWR (weather radio) -- 23 transmitters still OOS/DEGRADED nationwide (list has changed since yesterday) -- know your backup alert method
- ☐ SimpleHelp/SharePoint/iCagenda/Balboa Forms users: federal security deadlines have all now passed -- patch now if you or your employer run any of these
- ☐ 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 (US-Iran shipping blockade and first confirmed strike injury, 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 4 ELEVATED. An Enhanced severe-weather risk verified today for northern New York and New England -- strong-to-severe storms and a real tornado threat, including possibly a strong tornado. A smaller Slight risk is out for Montana. Wildfire conditions are tracked separately -- see today's lead story for Babylon/Cottonwood status.
SWX-CON 2 WATCH -- Solar Electron Flux Event	Today's space-weather feed shows a routine geomagnetic alert, a step down from the more unusual event we flagged in recent days. Practical household impact remains low for most people. We're double-checking whether this is a genuine calming or just a gap in today's data before fully standing down this item.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	23 NWR weather radio transmitters are OOS or degraded nationwide -- the specific list has changed since yesterday, so don't assume your area's status is the same. 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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Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

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