

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Monday, 20 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Monday, 20 July 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON 1 MINOR (G1 watch for 22-JUL) | COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE | NIFC NPL 5 of 5 (raised from PL 4, 18-JUL) | Venezuela EQ Day 27 -- 5,208 dead | Ebola PHEIC Day 66 -- DRC 2,124 confirmed (828 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

US-IRAN WAR ESCALATES: NINE STRAIGHT NIGHTS OF STRIKES, THIRD US SERVICE MEMBER KILLED

Iran has declared the negotiating framework with the US void, though its own negotiator now calls it merely "suspended." The US military has now struck Iran for nine nights in a row over the weekend, and for the first time in this conflict a US service member has been killed -- in fact, a third one, after a strike on a US base in Jordan (17 US troops have died in this conflict since late February). Iran has also struck oil and water-treatment infrastructure in Kuwait and destroyed a desalination plant in Iran itself that served nearby villages. Tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has essentially stopped. There's no direct safety action for US households from any of this, but gas prices may keep moving - - the national average sits around \$3.89/gallon. Separately, the Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest wildfire at just over 107,000 acres and is now 62% contained, up from 57% -- continued good progress, 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 27 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 27: the confirmed toll has risen further to 5,208 dead, up from 4,829 -- backlogged recovery/identification work, not a new event. The injured count (16,740) still hasn't been updated by Venezuelan officials, now for multiple weeks running -- 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. Do not travel to Venezuela.



WILDFIRE -- BABYLON FIRE 62% CONTAINED, NATIONAL FIRE LEVEL AT MAXIMUM

See today's lead story above -- Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest at roughly 107,000 acres, now 62% contained (up from 57%). Cottonwood (UT) is holding around 97,500 acres and roughly 88% contained, though two different fire trackers disagree slightly on the exact number. The national wildfire preparedness level was raised to its highest level (5 of 5) this week, reflecting how busy the fire season has become nationwide. 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 -- ENHANCED RISK UPPER MIDWEST AND GREAT LAKES TODAY

The Storm Prediction Center has an Enhanced risk out today for the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes (Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan) -- damaging wind, large hail, and a few tornadoes are possible, mainly later this afternoon into tonight. Tomorrow, that same Enhanced-risk threat shifts east into the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic. If you're in either of these regions, keep an eye on the forecast and know where you'd shelter.



EBOLA PHEIC -- DAY 66 / UGANDA NEARING VIRUS-FREE STATUS

DRC now has 2,124 confirmed cases (828 deaths) -- the fatality rate is holding around 39%, and cases continue rising in the DRC. Good news, though: Uganda has discharged its last hospitalized patient and is now on a 42-day countdown toward being

	declared outbreak-free -- a real sign that containment is possible with the right response. The American aid worker who tested positive remains hospitalized in Frankfurt, Germany, not the US -- never a domestic 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 infostealer 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 new critical vulnerabilities this cycle and found another one -- affecting SonicWall and Microsoft ADFS products this time. 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 -- SPAIN WINS THE 2026 TITLE Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 in extra time on Sunday at MetLife Stadium to win the 2026 title -- the tournament has now concluded with no security incidents reported at any stadium venue across the event. This is the last cycle we'll cover the World Cup.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

The US military has now struck Iran nine nights in a row, and a third American service member has been killed. Tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has effectively stopped. For most US households, there is nothing to do differently today -- but here is what to expect:

Gas prices: the national average sits around \$3.89/gallon. Oil prices remain near a 3-week high -- another pump-price move is possible if the conflict continues escalating -- 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 FRIDAY MORNING PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check NWR (weather radio) -- 20 transmitters still OOS/DEGRADED nationwide (list refreshed this morning and has changed since last report) -- know your backup alert method

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- ☐ SimpleHelp/SharePoint/iCagenda/Balbooa 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](https://www.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 (the escalating Iran conflict with a third US service member killed, national wildfire posture at its highest level, 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 GUARDED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 GUARDED. Today's risk is Enhanced for the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes -- damaging wind, large hail, and a few tornadoes possible, mainly later today into tonight. That same Enhanced risk shifts into the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic tomorrow. Wildfire conditions are tracked separately -- see today's lead story for Babylon/Cottonwood status.
SWX-CON 1 MINOR -- G1 Storm Watch for Thursday	NOAA issued a watch for a G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm on Thursday, 22-JUL -- the mildest category on their scale. Practical household impact remains low for essentially everyone outside the far northern US.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	20 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](https://www.redcross.org)

END

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