

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Friday, 24 July 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Friday, 24 July 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON: no G1-level solar storm alert today (a sub-threshold K4 advisory remains active; previous G1-Minor watch has lapsed) | COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE | NIFC NPL 5 of 5 (raised from PL 4, 18-JUL) | Venezuela EQ Day 31 -- 5,346 dead | Ebola PHEIC Day 70 -- DRC 2,473 confirmed (999 deaths)

THE ONE THING TODAY

US-IRAN WAR ESCALATES FURTHER: 13 STRAIGHT NIGHTS OF STRIKES, NEW ATTACK ON KUWAIT AND JORDAN OVERNIGHT

Iran's negotiating framework with the US remains void as of 16-JUL. The US military has now struck Iran for 13 nights in a row. 17 US service members have died in this conflict since late February -- this figure predates a fresh attack on Kuwait and Jordan reported by both governments this morning; we don't yet know if anyone was hurt in that newest attack. Iranian sources separately report fires on two tankers in the Strait after they "took an unsafe route." Separately, Yemen's Houthi rebels announced a new blockade against Saudi Arabia shipping, opening a second flashpoint in the Red Sea. Tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains sharply reduced (down about two-thirds from two weeks ago) but has not fully 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 \$4.09/gallon, up from \$3.89. Separately, the Babylon Fire (UT) remains the nation's largest wildfire at just over 107,000 acres and is now 95% contained, static since 22-JUL.

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 31 Recovery/Reconstruction

Day 31: the confirmed toll has risen further to 5,346 dead, up from 5,278 -- backlogged recovery/identification work, not a new event. The injured count (16,740) remains unrefreshed since early July -- a data-integrity gap in its own right, not a confirmed current figure. 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 95% 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 95% contained, static since 22-JUL. Cottonwood (UT) remains at 97,464 acres and 90% contained, also static. The national wildfire preparedness level remains at its highest level (5 of 5), 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 TODAY, PLUS TROPICAL STORM BERTHA UPDATE

The Storm Prediction Center has a Slight risk out today for central/eastern North Dakota into northern Minnesota -- large hail, damaging wind, and an isolated tornado are possible this afternoon and evening. A lower-end Marginal risk covers the coastal Carolinas/southeast Georgia and the southern High Plains. Separately, Tropical Storm Bertha weakened to a tropical depression early this morning after a second landfall near the Texas-Louisiana border yesterday afternoon; no deaths or damage were reported, and it's expected to dissipate within a day or two. If you're in North Dakota/northern Minnesota or one of the Marginal-risk areas, keep an eye on the sky this afternoon and evening. Bertha's remnant moisture may still bring localized heavy rain along the Gulf Coast through today.



EBOLA PHEIC -- DAY 70 / UGANDA NEARING VIRUS-FREE STATUS

DRC now has 2,473 confirmed cases (999 deaths) -- the fatality rate is holding around 40%, and case growth has picked up this week (roughly 50 new cases in a single day). 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 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 fifth cycle in a row, with confirmed ransomware and infostealer exploitation already underway. iCagenda and Balboa Forms remain overdue too. A newer SharePoint flaw added mid-month is now also overdue for a fix. We checked again this cycle: two more were added since -- a Check Point management-console flaw and a SharePoint flaw already being actively exploited, both added 22-JUL with a fix deadline of 25-JUL. 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.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

The US military has now struck Iran for 13 nights in a row. 17 American service members have died in this conflict to date -- that count is from before today's new attack and will need to be checked again tomorrow. Tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains sharply reduced (though not fully 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 \$4.09/gallon, up from \$3.89. Oil prices remain near a 5-week high and volatile -- 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

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- ☐ Check NWR (weather radio) -- 20 transmitters still OOS/DEGRADED nationwide, up from 18 yesterday, two new outages (list refreshed this morning) -- 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](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 Slight for central/eastern North Dakota into northern Minnesota -- large hail, damaging wind, and an isolated tornado are possible. A lower-end Marginal risk covers the coastal Carolinas/southeast Georgia and the southern High Plains. Wildfire conditions are tracked separately -- see today's lead story for Babylon/Cottonwood status.
SWX-CON -- No Active Solar Storm Alert Today	The prior G1 (Minor) geomagnetic storm watch, forecast through 22-JUL, has lapsed; a minor sub-threshold advisory remains active but has not reached G1 level as of this morning's check.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	20 NWR weather radio transmitters are OOS or degraded nationwide, up from 18 yesterday -- two new outages this cycle, no restorations; always confirm your own area's status. 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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