

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Tuesday, 4 August 2026
fortunefavorstheprepared.com



⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Tuesday, 4 August 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON NSTR: the solar storm has passed and conditions are back below storm level

THE ONE THING TODAY

SPOKANE FIRES GROW TO MORE THAN 10,000 ACRES WITH NO CONTAINMENT; AN ARREST HAS BEEN MADE

The three fires around Spokane, Washington have grown to 10,280 acres and are still zero percent contained. That is about 28% larger than yesterday morning, even though the weather was calmer. Somewhere between 600 and 1,100 homes and buildings have been destroyed - officials have not settled on a number yet and damage assessment teams are still working. A man was arrested on Monday, accused of deliberately setting a fire that spread into the largest of the three. Around 31,700 homes and businesses in Spokane County are still without power, which is more than any other county in the country right now.

If you are anywhere in the Inland Northwest, check your evacuation zone status today rather than relying on yesterday's - the fires grew overnight and hotter weather returns tomorrow. If you are without power, plan for more than one more day: crews are restoring service but some equipment was destroyed by fire and has to be rebuilt.

WHAT TO WATCH -- THIS 24 HOURS



WILDFIRE -- NATIONAL FIRE LEVEL STILL AT MAXIMUM

The national wildfire preparedness level is still 5 out of 5, the highest there is, with 102 large fires burning uncontained across the country and more than 29,000 people assigned to them. Nearly 5.2 million acres have burned this year, which is about 137% of the ten-year average. Firefighters have come from 12 states and from Australia and New Zealand to help.



SEVERE WEATHER TODAY -- SOUTHEAST ARIZONA, WITH TWO DIFFERENT HAZARDS

The Storm Prediction Center has a Slight risk of severe storms today for southeast Arizona only - the Minnesota and Dakotas risk from yesterday has ended. The main danger there is sudden strong wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph coming out of collapsing thunderstorms in the late afternoon and evening, not tornadoes. Separately, the Weather Prediction Center has put southern Arizona under a Slight risk of flash flooding, and specifically warns about old wildfire burn scars, where rain runs off instead of soaking in and can send mud and debris downhill fast. If you live below a burn scar, that is the hazard to plan around today, and it can happen with little warning.



SPACE WEATHER -- THE SOLAR STORM HAS PASSED

The geomagnetic storm that arrived Sunday has faded. Conditions are now back below storm level, and the space weather condition returns to NSTR - nothing significant to report. Any northern lights are limited to far northern areas like Canada and Alaska, so the wider US viewing mentioned yesterday no longer applies. There is no effect on radio, GPS or the power grid in the lower 48 today.



EBOLA -- THE WORST WEEK OF THE OUTBREAK SO FAR

The World Health Organization still reports 3,605 confirmed cases and 1,587 deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a fatality rate of about 44%. Those totals are from 30 July and have not been updated yet - but the most recent full week counted 567 new cases and 296 deaths, the worst week since the outbreak began. Uganda declared its own smaller outbreak over on 28 July. For US households, the practical risk remains very low. There is no outbreak in the United States. The point to take from this is that the situation is still getting worse where it is happening, not better, and much of the difficulty is that the outbreak is in an area with active armed conflict.



CYBER -- A NEW FLAW THAT AFFECTS THE COMPANIES THAT MANAGE OTHER COMPANIES' COMPUTERS

A new actively exploited flaw was added to the federal must-patch list on Sunday, in software called N-able N-central. This one matters more than most because it is the software many IT providers use to manage their customers' computers remotely - so one break-in can reach a lot of other organisations. If a company handles your workplace's IT, it is fair to ask whether they use N-central and whether they have applied the fix. The older Cisco firewall deadline from last week has now passed unpatched in many places.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

Iran's foreign ministry said on Sunday that it is not in talks with the United States at all, which directly contradicts what the White House has been saying. So the picture is less settled than it looked yesterday. The US has not struck inside Iran since 29-30 July, but Iranian forces attacked a US base in Kuwait today, and a cargo ship was hit near the entrance to the Gulf overnight with one crew member missing.

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.089 a gallon, essentially unchanged from a week ago. Crude oil has actually fallen sharply - about 8% over two days - but pump prices lag crude by one to two weeks, so do not expect to see that at the station yet. Diesel is still \$5.31 a gallon, about \$1.50 higher than a year ago.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is still far below normal, and where ships do go through, almost all of them are using a route Iran controls rather than the normal international one. If you are expecting an overseas shipment, keep expecting delays.

No safety action needed in the US: there is no credible threat to US soil tied to this at this time. For the vast majority of households this remains a wallet and planning issue rather than a safety one.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST -- TODAY'S PRIORITIES

WILDFIRE AND PLANNED POWER SHUTOFFS (if you are in the Inland Northwest or fire country)

- ☐ Check your evacuation zone status today -- do not assume yesterday's status still applies
- ☐ If a Level 3 "Go Now" order covers your area: leave immediately, do not wait
- ☐ Go bag in the vehicle: medications, documents, phone charger, water, pet supplies
- ☐ If your power is out from the fires: crews are restoring service, but plan for more than one more day in the hardest-hit areas
- ☐ Monitor nifc.gov, your county emergency management page, and NWS fire weather alerts
- ☐ Sign up for county emergency alerts at your county EM website if you have not already

SEVERE STORM AND FLASH FLOOD SAFETY (southeast and southern Arizona today)

- ☐ Know where your safe room is -- lowest floor, interior room, away from windows
- ☐ Bring in or secure anything outside that can become a projectile in 60+ mph wind
- ☐ If you live below or near an old burn scar in southern Arizona, be ready to move to higher ground quickly -- flash floods and debris flows there can arrive with almost no warning
- ☐ Have two ways to get warnings, since a phone alert can fail -- weather radio, a local station, and a warning app

GENERAL TUESDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 23 transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide, so confirm your own area's station is working rather than assuming it is
- ☐ If you or your employer use an outside IT provider, ask whether they run N-able N-central and whether the fix released on 2 August has been applied
- ☐ Turn on automatic updates on your phone, computer and home router if they are not already on -- that covers most home users for this week's flaws

☐ Family communications plan: do you have a meeting place and an out-of-area contact if phones are down?

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable -- several serious situations are running at once: the US-Iran conflict, where the two sides now publicly disagree about whether talks are even happening; a wildfire season at its maximum national level with a major fire growing inside a US city; and an Ebola outbreak that just had its worst week.
WX-CON 3 GUARDED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 GUARDED, held. Today carries a Slight risk of severe storms for southeast Arizona and a separate Slight risk of flash flooding for southern Arizona. The bigger weather story is the Spokane fires, which grew 28% overnight despite calmer conditions, with hotter weather returning tomorrow.
SWX-CON NSTR - - Solar Storm Has Passed	The geomagnetic storm recorded on Sunday afternoon has faded and conditions are back below storm level. A minor disturbance warning remains in force until midday today, but its effects are limited to areas far north of the continental United States. Nothing to do about this one.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	23 NOAA weather radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide -- always confirm your own area's station is working. No area with transmitters out is under a fire or severe-weather threat today.

RESOURCES

Emergency preparedness planning: fortunefavorstheprepared.com
Daily Threat Report (practitioner): fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr
NIFC National Fire News: nifc.gov/fire-information/nfi
NOAA Space Weather Center: swpc.noaa.gov
SPC Severe Weather Outlooks: spc.noaa.gov
Washington wildfire and evacuation information: wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov
WHO Ebola outbreak updates: who.int
American Red Cross disaster welfare: redcross.org

END

Fortune Favors the Prepared | Daily Preparedness Brief | 04-AUG-2026

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

fortunefavorstheprepared.com