

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Thursday, 6 August 2026
fortunefavorstheprepared.com



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

Thursday, 6 August 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON NSTR: the geomagnetic field is quiet and no space weather effects are expected

THE ONE THING TODAY

THE BIG WESTERN FIRES HAVE MOVED NORTH AND WEST OF SPOKANE, AND THEY ARE GROWING FAST

For the past week the Spokane fires have been the story. They still matter enormously if you live there - about 65,000 people have been displaced and roughly 700 homes and buildings are gone - but they are no longer the fires growing fastest. Four other fires each added more than 11,000 acres in a single day of firefighting. Sinlahekin, near Tonasket in north-central Washington, is now 117,078 acres and only 9% contained. Little Giant, northwest of Leavenworth, is 70,853 acres and not contained at all. Tartar in Idaho added 30,415 acres in one day, and Widemouth 2 in Utah added 16,218 acres. Nationally there are 94 large uncontained fires with 28,700 people assigned to them, and crews from Australia and New Zealand have now been brought in to help.

If you are anywhere in north-central or eastern Washington, north-central Oregon, Idaho or northern Utah, check your county emergency management page this morning rather than this evening. Evacuation levels on these fires have been changing within hours, not days. If you are outside the fire areas, this is a smoke and air-quality issue - check airnow.gov before outdoor exercise, and if you have asthma, COPD or a heart condition, keep rescue medication with you rather than at home.

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, and has been since 18 July. There are 94 large uncontained fires burning across the country with 28,700 people assigned to them, up by about 1,250 in a single day. So far this year 5.47 million acres have burned, which is 143% of the ten-year average for this date - and that ratio jumped five points in one day. The federal agency that publishes the figure says its own year-to-date total undercounts, so treat it as a floor.



SEVERE WEATHER TODAY -- ONE MAIN AREA, DAMAGING WIND AND HAIL

The Storm Prediction Center has a Slight risk of severe storms today - one step up from the lowest category - across southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma, southwest Missouri and far northwest Arkansas. Expect damaging wind gusts and hail this afternoon and evening, with some storms organising into lines that carry the wind threat into the late evening. Storms will begin over southern Kansas and southwest Missouri in the afternoon and track southeast into northern Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas by early evening. A second, lower threat of isolated damaging gusts runs from the Mid-Atlantic north into New York, and a third covers western Nebraska into southern South Dakota. Everywhere else is quiet, and there are no tropical storms or hurricanes anywhere in the Atlantic with none expected for at least a week.



WEATHER RADIO -- 21 TRANSMITTERS ARE DOWN NATIONWIDE

21 NWR transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of 06-AUG 1125 UTC - 18 fully out and 3 running degraded - across 13 states: Alaska, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee and Texas. The good news is where the gaps are not. Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas - three of the four states in today's main storm area - have no transmitters out of service at all. Kansas has one out, at Ulysses, but that is in the far southwest of the state and well away from today's risk. Washington, Oregon and Idaho, where the big fires are burning, are also completely clear. The one worth knowing about is Albany, New York, which is out while today's scattered wind-gust threat reaches into New York; it is a single station rather than a cluster, so neighbouring transmitters should mostly fill the gap, but do not rely on weather radio alone there today. If your radio is silent or scratchy, use a second path: make sure Wireless

Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings, since that system sends warnings straight to your handset and does not depend on these transmitters at all, and add a local broadcast station you can actually receive or weather.gov in a browser. Two independent ways to hear a warning are the standard; one is not enough on a day with storms in the forecast.

STATION	FREQUENCY	STATUS
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Nome, AK	162.550 MHz	Out of service
Saint Paul Island, AK	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Santa Ana, CA	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Baxley, GA	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Summerville, GA	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Hillsboro, IL	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Angola, IN	162.425 MHz	Degraded
Ulysses, KS	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Petoskey, MI	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Gunflint Lake, MN	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Rochester, MN	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Artesia, NM	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Carlsbad, NM	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Roswell, NM	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Owyhee, NV	162.450 MHz	Degraded
Albany, NY	162.550 MHz	Out of service
Lafayette, TN	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Bay City, TX	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Rio Grande City, TX	162.425 MHz	Out of service



FOOD RECALL -- THE LETTUCE OUTBREAK HAS GROWN TO FIFTEEN STATES

An outbreak of cyclospora - a parasite that causes prolonged watery diarrhoea - linked to recalled shredded iceberg lettuce has grown from nine states to fifteen. The six added are Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire and North Carolina, joining Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Two people, both in Michigan and both with existing health problems, have died. The lettuce came from Taylor Farms de Mexico, was recalled on 17 July, and most cases trace back to lettuce served at Taco Bell. Recalled product had best-by dates running to 3 August, so it should already be off shelves and out of refrigerators - the case count is still climbing mainly because people who got sick weeks ago are only now being confirmed. If you still have bagged or shredded iceberg lettuce with a best-by date on or before 3 August, throw it out. Symptoms start about a week after eating contaminated food and can take up to two weeks, so if you have had watery diarrhoea for more than a few days, tell your doctor about the lettuce: cyclospora needs a specific test and a specific antibiotic and will not clear up quickly on its own.



EBOLA -- THE CONGO'S OWN FIGURES ARE NOW WELL AHEAD OF THE WHO'S

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's health ministry now reports 3,874 confirmed cases and 1,751 deaths, a fatality rate of about 45%, on figures current to 3 August, with 717 patients in isolation. The World Health Organization's own count is still 3,605 cases and 1,587 deaths from 30 July, because it has not published since. The two counts are kept separate here rather than mixed together. The gap between them - 269 cases and 164 deaths over four days - means the next WHO update will jump rather than tick up. 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, and deaths are rising in step with cases rather than lagging, which is what you would expect from real spread rather than from better testing.



WATER SYSTEMS -- COMPUTER ATTACKS NOW REPORTED IN AT LEAST TWELVE STATES

Attacks on the computers that run water and wastewater systems have now been reported in at least twelve states, up from the seven named in a federal alert on 30 July. Investigators suspect a link to Iran but have not said so officially. Named states include Michigan, Minnesota, Georgia, New Jersey and South Dakota; in Minnesota more than thirty community water systems were affected. In Georgia, the Clayton County Water Authority, which serves 300,000 people around Atlanta, had a drop in water pressure and issued a boil-water advisory, with service restored within hours. The important part: officials say drinking water has not been affected anywhere. What has happened is that some utilities lost the ability to control pumps and valves remotely and had to send staff to operate them by hand - disruptive for them, not dangerous for you. Sign up for your water utility's alerts if you have not, since a boil-water notice is only useful if it reaches you, and keep the standard one gallon of water per person per day for three days on hand.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

Iran and Oman have agreed the exact route ships would take through the Strait of Hormuz, and a joint statement is being finalised. An announcement was expected on 5 August and did not come. Iran has also been clear that agreeing the route is not the same as reopening the waterway, and says it will not reopen while the US naval blockade of Iranian ports continues. There have been no US strikes inside Iran for eight nights, which is the longest pause of the conflict so far.

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.0633 a gallon, down about 3.5 cents from a week ago. This is the first time in this conflict that falling oil prices have actually reached the pump. Diesel has not followed - it is \$5.348 a gallon for the week ending 3 August, still rising, and about \$1.55 higher than a year ago. If you heat with oil or drive a diesel vehicle, budget for that gap to persist.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is still far below normal and US Central Command reports 48 vessels turned away since the blockade resumed on 14 July, three of them in the last day. Expect continued delays and surcharges on goods that come by sea rather than any sudden shortage.

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 SMOKE (if you are in the Inland Northwest, north-central Washington or fire country)

- ☐ Check your evacuation zone status this morning -- levels on these fires have changed within hours
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Smoke plan: know which room you can close up and filter, and buy replacement filters before the air gets bad rather than after
- ☐ Monitor nifc.gov, airnow.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 SAFETY (southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma, southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas)

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Storms are expected to run into the late evening, so do not assume the risk ends at sunset -- keep a way to receive warnings while you are asleep
- ☐ Have two ways to get warnings, since any one can fail -- weather radio, Wireless Emergency Alerts on your phone, and a local station

GENERAL THURSDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 21 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 has been applied -- the federal deadline for that flaw is today
- ☐ 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

FORTUNE FAVORS THE PREPARED | DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF | 6 AUGUST 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable -- several serious situations are running at once: the US-Iran conflict, where the two sides have now agreed a shipping route but disagree publicly about whether it reopens the strait; a wildfire season running at 143% of normal with the national level at its maximum; and computer intrusions into water utilities in at least twelve states. None of these requires household action today, but together they are why the condition is held at 3.
WX-CON 3 GUARDED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 GUARDED, held. Today carries a Slight risk of severe storms across southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma, southwest Missouri and far northwest Arkansas, with damaging wind and hail the main hazards. The bigger weather story remains wildfire: four separate fires each grew more than 11,000 acres in a single day even though the fire weather forecast carried no critical areas, because the fuels are now dry enough to carry fire without strong wind.
SWX-CON NSTR - - Geomagnetic Field Quiet	The solar storm of last week has fully passed and the geomagnetic field is now quiet. The minor disturbance warning that had been running expired on 4 August and was not renewed, and no new warning has been issued since. No effects on power, GPS, radio or aurora are expected through 8 August.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	21 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, and the states in today's storm area are clear. The condition is held at 4 rather than lowered because of the water-utility intrusions, where several operators have lost remote monitoring and control.

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 | 06-AUG-2026

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.
fortunefavorstheprepared.com