

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Tuesday, 11 August 2026
fortunefavorstheprepared.com



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

Tuesday, 11 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

TODAY'S STORM RISK IS A STEP HIGHER THAN YESTERDAY -- DAMAGING WIND FROM ILLINOIS ACROSS THE OHIO VALLEY

The Storm Prediction Center has raised today to an Enhanced risk of severe thunderstorms - the middle tier of five, and one step above what ran yesterday - from northern Illinois across the Ohio Valley. Damaging straight-line wind is the main hazard, not tornadoes. Forecasters expect more than one organised line of storms to already be running at daybreak, the first across Iowa and southern Minnesota and a second most likely over Indiana and Ohio, which then track east and southeast through the Ohio Valley and into Appalachia, Virginia and the wider Mid-Atlantic through the afternoon and evening. Winds high in the atmosphere are unusually strong for August, which is what lets these lines hold together and bring damaging gusts to the ground.

If you are anywhere from northern Illinois through Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and into Virginia, the practical difference today is timing: storms may arrive in the morning rather than waiting for the afternoon, so do not plan on a quiet start. Secure anything loose outside before you leave the house, park away from large trees where you can, and expect scattered power cuts where the strongest lines pass. Charge phones and power banks early. If your area also has a heat alert, remember a power cut and high heat together is the combination that actually hurts people - know now where you would go if the air conditioning stops.

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. The national figures below are the 10 August edition, because the federal fire centre had not published its 11 August update by the time this brief was written - they are a day old and are given as such. On that edition there were 98 large uncontained fires with 29,840 people assigned to them, and 101 new fires started in a day. Year to date 6,354,141 acres have burned against a ten-year average of 4,082,007 for this date, so roughly 156% of normal. Two fires were showing extreme behaviour with evacuations, road closures and threats to homes: Wrights Spring near Sprague River in southern Oregon, and Little Giant northwest of Leavenworth in Washington. Oregon and Washington together account for 46 of the country's uncontained large fires.



SEVERE WEATHER TODAY -- ENHANCED RISK, UPGRADED FROM YESTERDAY

The Enhanced risk area runs from northern Illinois into the Ohio Valley. A wider Slight risk - one tier lower - covers parts of the northern Plains and a long band from Iowa east to Virginia. Damaging wind gusts are the main threat in the eastern area; wind and hail are both possible on the northern Plains. There are no named tropical storms or hurricanes anywhere at present, but that is not the same as quiet water: five separate areas are being watched for development, and the one that matters most is a broad low about 1,100 miles east-southeast of Hawaii, which forecasters give a 90% chance of becoming a tropical depression within a week. Nothing there requires action today; if you have travel or family in Hawaii, start watching it now rather than at the weekend.



WEATHER RADIO -- 23 TRANSMITTERS ARE DOWN NATIONWIDE

23 NWR transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of 11-AUG 1125 UTC - 20 fully out and 3 running degraded - across 15 states: Alaska, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. Start with where the gaps are not. Ohio and Iowa, both inside today's

storm risk, have no transmitters out at all, and neither do Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Oklahoma or Florida, where the large fires are burning. Four affected stations do sit inside or beside today's storm risk and are worth knowing about individually: Hillsboro in Illinois and Angola in Indiana, and Covesville in Virginia and Sutton in West Virginia as the storms reach Appalachia and the Mid-Atlantic later. Each is a single station rather than a cluster, so neighbouring transmitters should mostly cover the gap, but do not rely on weather radio alone in those areas today. The other one to flag is Gunflint Lake in the Minnesota Boundary Waters, which is out while five large fires burn in the Superior National Forest and none of them is more than 84% contained - if you are camping or paddling up there, you have lost your most reliable warning path and should carry a second one. If your radio is silent or scratchy anywhere, use a second path: switch on Wireless Emergency Alerts 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
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
Macon, GA	162.475 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
Aitkin, MN	162.450 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
Rio Grande City, TX	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Covesville, VA	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Sutton, WV	162.450 MHz	Out of service



EXTREME HEAT -- WARNINGS IN MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS, ADVISORIES IN A DOZEN MORE STATES

Four Extreme Heat Warnings are in force, covering much of central and western Missouri, the Missouri side of the St Louis area, adjacent counties in southwestern Illinois, and southeastern Kansas. Thirty-nine Heat Advisories run alongside them across a wide band: the Georgia and South Carolina coast, Arkansas, north Texas including the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the Texas panhandle, Oklahoma, central Kansas, central Illinois, southern Indiana, Kentucky, southeastern Iowa, eastern North Carolina and the Colorado Front Range around Colorado Springs. A warning means the heat is dangerous to anyone, not only to vulnerable people. The practical points are the ordinary ones and they still work: drink before you are thirsty, move outdoor work and exercise to early morning, and check on anyone elderly, alone or without air conditioning in person rather than by phone. Never leave a child or a pet in a parked car, not even briefly. Where heat and today's storms overlap - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Kansas - the real hazard is a power cut during high heat, so decide now where you would go if your cooling fails.



EBOLA -- TWO OFFICIAL COUNTS, BOTH STILL RISING, NEITHER RE-ISSUED TODAY

Two official counts are running and they are deliberately kept apart rather than merged. Congolese government figures, current to 7 August, stand at 4,053 confirmed cases and 1,850 deaths. The World Health Organization's own published count is still 3,605 cases in Congo and 1,589 deaths in total, current to 30 July, because it has not issued an update since. Neither figure was re-issued today. The outbreak is now the largest in Congo's history and the second largest ever recorded anywhere. The heads of the WHO and the Africa Centres for Disease Control said jointly on 6 August, after visiting Kampala, Bunia and Kinshasa, that in parts of eastern Congo the outbreak is outpacing the response. More than 300 children have died; children are about a quarter of cases but nearly a third of deaths. For US households the practical risk remains very low. The US Centers for Disease Control said on 7 August that there are no cases in the United States from this outbreak and that the risk to the American public and to travellers is low. There is no household action to take. The reason it stays in this brief is that this strain has no licensed

vaccine - WHO experts recommended on 7 August that the existing Ebola vaccine be trialled at full scale to see whether it offers any cross-protection - and an outbreak growing faster than the response is worth watching rather than assuming it is handled.



EARTHQUAKE -- MAGNITUDE 7.4 IN COLOMBIA, HUNDREDS DEAD, NO US HAZARD

A magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck western Colombia yesterday morning, centred near San Jose del Palmar in Choco, about 250 miles west of Bogota. Colombia's geological service calls it the strongest earthquake recorded in the country this century. The Colombian Association of Capital Cities put the toll at at least 132 dead and 570 injured as of this morning; the government's own separate figures, given by the president, are 700 injured and roughly 5,000 homes damaged or destroyed. The two counts come from different bodies and are not added together. Pereira, Cali, Quibdo, Manizales and Armenia are all under red alert, the country's highest disaster tier, a national state of emergency has been declared, and seven airports have suspended operations. Hospitals, roads, water supply, power and phone networks are all disrupted in the worst-hit areas, and the pediatric and neonatal wings of a hospital in Cali collapsed. There is no tsunami and no hazard to the United States. Two things matter for households here: if you have family or travel plans in western Colombia, expect phone and internet contact to be unreliable for days rather than hours and use a written meeting-point plan rather than assuming you can call; and if you want to help, give money to an established relief agency rather than sending goods, because collapsed airports and roads are exactly the conditions in which donated physical items become a burden.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

Iran says the Oman-mediated talks on a shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz are progressing, but has again tied any reopening to American concessions - lifting the naval blockade, sanctions relief and compensation - and is refusing direct talks with Washington for now, saying the June interim deal has been breached. President Trump has signalled patience rather than pressure. Over the weekend a tanker operated by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company was attacked inside the strait, and Houthi forces claimed an attack on Saudi Arabia's Jazan refinery. The strait remains closed to normal traffic on day 165.

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.0116 a gallon today, essentially flat over the last 48 hours and down about 7.8 cents from a week ago. Diesel is \$5.3213 and has also eased slightly over the week. Both remain well above where they sat a month ago - petrol was \$3.8824 and diesel \$4.8769 - so the recent direction of travel is down but the level is still high. If you heat with oil or drive a diesel vehicle, budget against the monthly level rather than the weekly dip.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the strait remains far below normal. We are not repeating a vessel-turnaway figure today because we could not re-verify one from an official source this cycle, and a stale number is worse than none. Expect continued delays and surcharges on goods that arrive 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

SEVERE STORMS AND HEAT (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic)

- ☐ Storms may be running at daybreak rather than starting in the afternoon -- check the forecast before you leave the house, not at lunchtime
- ☐ Secure or bring in anything outside that can become a projectile -- damaging straight-line wind is the main hazard today, not tornadoes
- ☐ Charge phones and power banks early, and park away from large trees where you can
- ☐ If you are also under a heat warning or advisory: decide now where you would go if a storm cuts your power and your air conditioning stops
- ☐ Check on anyone elderly, alone or without air conditioning in person rather than by phone
- ☐ Sign up for county emergency alerts at your county EM website if you have not already

WILDFIRE AND SMOKE (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah and the Minnesota Boundary Waters)

- ☐ Check your evacuation zone status this morning -- levels on the fastest-growing fires have changed within hours, not days
- ☐ Go bag in the vehicle: medications, documents, phone charger, water, pet supplies

- ☐ Smoke plan: know which room you can close up and filter, and check airnow.gov before outdoor exercise -- if you have asthma, COPD or a heart condition keep rescue medication with you
- ☐ If you are in the Boundary Waters, the Gunflint Lake weather radio transmitter is out -- carry a second way to receive warnings before you go in

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 the N-able N-central fix has actually been applied -- the first patch for that flaw was incomplete and a second one followed, so having patched once is not the same as being covered
- ☐ 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? Colombia is this week's reminder that phone networks fail exactly when you most want them

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable, held. Three things are running at once: the US-Iran standoff, where Iran has again tied any reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to American concessions while a tanker was attacked inside the strait over the weekend; a wildfire season at roughly 156% of the ten-year average for acres burned with the national level at its maximum; and today's upgraded severe storm risk across the Ohio Valley. The Colombian earthquake is severe but carries no US hazard and does not bear on this condition. Nothing here requires household action beyond the checklist above.
WX-CON 3 GUARDED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 GUARDED, held. Today carries an Enhanced risk of severe storms from northern Illinois across the Ohio Valley, one tier higher than yesterday, with damaging straight-line wind the main hazard, plus a wide band of extreme heat through the middle of the country. The wildfire picture has not eased: the national preparedness level remains at its maximum and two western incidents are in extreme fire behaviour with structures and critical infrastructure threatened.
SWX-CON NSTR - - Geomagnetic Field Quiet	The geomagnetic field is quiet and there is no space weather warning in force. Radio, solar radiation and geomagnetic storm levels are all at zero as of 11 August 1147 UTC. Forecasters expect a chance of a minor geomagnetic disturbance on 12 August, which at that level affects aurora visibility at high latitudes and nothing that households depend on. No effects on power, GPS or radio are expected.
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 group of transmitters covering a single area sits under an active fire or storm threat, so no high-gap alert is raised today. Four single stations do sit inside today's storm risk - Hillsboro in Illinois, Angola in Indiana, Covesville in Virginia and Sutton in West Virginia - and Gunflint Lake is out over the Minnesota Boundary Waters fires. The condition is held at 4 rather than lowered because the Colombian earthquake has taken down phone and internet service across a wide area, a reminder that communications fail under load exactly when they are needed.

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
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 | 11-AUG-2026

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

fortunefavorstheprepared.com