

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Wednesday, 12 August 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Wednesday, 12 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

YESTERDAY'S STORM WAS A DERECHO -- THE FLOODING IT LEFT BEHIND RUNS THROUGH FRIDAY

The line of storms that crossed Iowa into Indiana yesterday has been preliminarily assessed by the Storm Prediction Center as a derecho - a long-lived, fast-moving windstorm that can do damage comparable to a tornado or hurricane but over a much wider area. A wind gust of 99 mph was recorded at Gary, Indiana, two tornadoes touched down just south of Chicago, and more than 850,000 homes and businesses lost power across Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. All flights were briefly halted at both Chicago airports. One person died in Roseville, Ohio during a medical emergency when responders could not get through flooded roads. Sixteen people were hospitalised after lightning struck a prison complex southwest of Cleveland. Dayton, Ohio recorded 2.07 inches of rain, breaking a record that had stood since 1915. Today the Storm Prediction Center has lowered the severe storm risk to Slight, one tier down, but that is because the worst of the wind has moved east - not because it is over. The National Weather Service expects repeated rounds of rain to keep flood dangers going in the Ohio Valley through early Friday, and Indiana is under 10 flash flood warnings this morning. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine put it plainly: this is not something that will end tonight

If you are in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio or Kentucky, treat today as the second day of one event rather than a new one. If your power is still out, assume restoration could take longer than the utility first estimated - crews are working across four states at once. Do not run a generator in a garage, basement or near a window; carbon monoxide kills people every time there is an outage this size, and it does it quietly. Throw out refrigerated food that has been above 40F for more than four hours. The bigger risk today is water, not wind: never drive into standing water, because most flood deaths happen in vehicles and it takes surprisingly little to float a car. If you had to be rescued or your road washed out yesterday, expect the same roads to flood again with the next round of rain. Charge everything while you have power, and check on elderly neighbours who may be without air conditioning in the heat

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 here are the 11 August edition, because the federal fire centre had not published its 12 August update by the time this brief was written - they are a day old and are given as such. On that edition there were 104 large uncontained fires, up from 98, with 12 new large fires starting in a day and nearly 30,000 people assigned. Year to date 6,428,813 acres have burned, about 156% of the ten-year average for this date. Four fires are showing active or extreme behaviour with evacuations, closures and threats to homes and communities: Wrights Spring and Big Grass in Oregon, and Little Giant and Sinlahekin in Washington. 240 soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord have been deployed to help on the Modrite Fire. The Northwest holds 45 of the country's 104 uncontained large fires



SEVERE WEATHER TODAY -- RISK LOWERED, BUT THE FLOODING CONTINUES

The Storm Prediction Center has today at a Slight risk - one step up from the lowest category - stretching from the northern and central Plains to the lower Ohio Valley. Severe wind gusts and hail are the main concerns on the High Plains, with damaging gusts and isolated hail possible across the Midwest and Ohio Valley. That is a lower tier than yesterday, but the flooding left behind by the derecho is the real hazard and it is forecast to continue through early Friday. Separately, forecasters are watching heavy rain over southern Nevada, southwestern Utah and northern Arizona today, with flash flooding possible through mid-

afternoon - burn scars and dry washes are the danger spots there. On the tropics: there are still no named storms anywhere, but four systems are now being tracked, up from none two days ago. The one that matters is about 1,050 miles east-southeast of Hawaii and now has a 90% chance of becoming a tropical depression or storm within 48 hours. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center is telling people in the Hawaiian Islands to watch it closely. If you have family or travel plans in Hawaii, start paying attention now rather than at the weekend



WEATHER RADIO -- 22 TRANSMITTERS ARE DOWN NATIONWIDE

22 NWR transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of 12-AUG 1125 UTC - 19 fully out and 3 running degraded - across 15 states: Alaska, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and West Virginia. One matters more than the rest today. Angola, Indiana is running degraded while Indiana is under 10 flash flood warnings, and Hillsboro, Illinois is fully out inside the same storm corridor - both sit in the area the derecho crossed, which is the worst possible place to lose a weather radio. If you are in northern Indiana or central Illinois, do not rely on weather radio alone today. St. George, Utah went out of service this cycle and sits inside today's flash flood outlook for southwestern Utah, so the same warning applies there. Gunflint Lake in the Minnesota Boundary Waters remains out over five active forest fires. The good news is where the gaps are not: Ohio and Kentucky, both under the flood threat, have no transmitters out at all, and neither do Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, Oklahoma or Florida where the large fires are burning. Wherever you are, use a second path: switch on Wireless Emergency Alerts in your phone settings, since those come straight to your handset and do not depend on these transmitters, and add a local broadcast station or weather.gov in a browser. Two independent ways to hear a warning is the standard; one is not enough on a day with flooding 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
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Rio Grande City, TX	162.425 MHz	Out of service
St. George, UT	162.475 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, NEITHER UPDATED THIS CYCLE

Neither count was updated in the last day, and both are repeated here with their dates rather than presented as today's numbers. Two official counts are running and they are deliberately kept apart rather than merged. Congolese government figures, cFor 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.



POWER OUTAGES -- WHAT TO DO IF YOURS IS STILL OFF

More than 850,000 homes and businesses lost power across Illinois, Indiana and Ohio in yesterday's derecho, with Lake and Porter counties in Indiana and Will County in Illinois hit hardest. We are not printing a company-by-company count today because the public outage trackers disagree with each other by enormous margins - one had Indiana at 297,000 and another at 11,000 within three minutes of each other - so the only number worth trusting is the one on your own utility's outage map. Call or check your utility directly rather than a third-party site. Practical points while you wait: run a generator outdoors only, never in a garage or basement and never near a window, because carbon monoxide is what kills people after storms like this rather than the storm itself. Keep the fridge and freezer shut - a full freezer holds safe temperatures about 48 hours unopened, a fridge about four. Food above 40F for more than four hours goes in the bin. Unplug sensitive electronics so a surge does not take them out when power returns. If someone in the house depends on powered medical equipment, do not wait to see how it goes - call your utility now and ask to be flagged as a medical priority, and know where the nearest cooling centre is. Colombia's magnitude 7.4 earthquake from Monday continues, with at least 132 dead as of yesterday; there is no US hazard from it and no new figures were issued today

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

There was no new statement from Iran, Oman or Washington in the last day, so nothing here has changed since yesterday. The one new item came indirectly: Pakistan's defence minister said the United States and Iran are close to some sort of arrangement over the Strait of Hormuz, and reporting suggests the Iran-Oman talks are well advanced. That is a third country describing someone else's negotiation, not a statement from either side, so treat it as a straw in the wind rather than news. As of yesterday Iran was still tying any reopening to the United States lifting its naval blockade, easing sanctions and paying compensation, and the Strait remains closed to normal traffic on day 166

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.0360 a gallon today, up about 2.7 cents over the last 48 hours. That is a reversal - prices had been falling all week - though they are still down about 4.4 cents from a week ago and remain well above the \$3.88 of a month ago. Diesel eased to \$5.257 a gallon for the week ending 10 August, down about 9 cents on the week. Crude itself is around \$88.76 a barrel, up more than 6% over the month. 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 cou

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

FLOODING AND POWER OUTAGES (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky)

- ☐ Never drive into standing water -- most flood deaths happen in vehicles, and roads that flooded yesterday will flood again with the next round of rain
- ☐ Generators outdoors only -- never in a garage, basement or near a window. Carbon monoxide is what kills people after storms this size
- ☐ Keep the fridge and freezer closed -- a full freezer holds safe temperatures about 48 hours unopened, a fridge about four. Above 40F for more than four hours, throw it out
- ☐ If anyone in the house depends on powered medical equipment, call your utility now and ask to be flagged as a medical priority -- do not wait to see how it goes
- ☐ Check on anyone elderly, alone or without air conditioning in person rather than by phone -- an outage plus heat is the combination that actually hurts people
- ☐ 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 w

GENERAL WEDNESDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 22 transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide
- ☐ If you or your employer run business firewalls or analytics software, two federal security deadlines fall this Friday - one covers Cisco firewalls, the other a tool called Metabase. Ask whoever handles your IT whether both patches are scheduled. The older N-able N-central fix still matters too: 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? Yesterday's outage across three states is this

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable, held. The driver this cycle is domestic: a derecho crossed Iowa into Indiana yesterday, cut power to more than 850,000 homes and businesses across three states, killed one person in Ohio and put sixteen more in hospital after a lightning strike, and the flooding it left behind is forecast to continue through early Friday. Alongside that, the wildfire season has worsened with uncontained large fires up from 98 to 104 and the national level still at maximum, and the US-Iran standoff continues unchanged with the Strait closed on day 166. Nothing here requires household action beyond the checklist above, but the combination is why the condition is held at 3
WX-CON 3 GUARDED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 GUARDED, held. The severe storm tier has come down to Slight, but that reflects the wind threat moving east rather than the hazard ending: the flooding left by yesterday's derecho is forecast to continue in the Ohio Valley through early Friday, and Indiana is under 10 flash flood warnings. The wildfire picture has worsened, with uncontained large fires up from 98 to 104 and four incidents in active or extreme behaviour
SWX-CON NSTR - - Geomagnetic Field Quiet	The geomagnetic field is quiet for a third day running and there is no space weather warning in force. Radio, solar radiation and geomagnetic storm levels are all at zero as of 12 August 1159 UTC. Yesterday's brief noted forecasters expected a minor disturbance today; it did not happen, and we are not repeating it as though it did. No effects on power, GPS or radio are expected
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	22 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. Two single stations do matter: Angola, Indiana is degraded while Indiana runs 10 flash flood warnings, and Hillsboro, Illinois is out in the same corridor. St. George, Utah sits inside today's southwestern flash flood outlook, and Gunflint Lake is out over the Minnesota fires. The condition is held at 4 rather than lowered because an outage across three states is a communications problem as much as an electricity one

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

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Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

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