

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Friday, 14 August 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Friday, 14 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

A HURRICANE WARNING IS UP FOR HAWAII ISLAND -- TROPICAL STORM LALA ARRIVES SATURDAY

Tropical Storm Lala is about 455 miles east-southeast of Hilo this morning with winds of 60 mph, and forecasters expect it to strengthen into a hurricane as it reaches the Big Island on Saturday. A Hurricane Warning is now in force for Hawaii County and a Tropical Storm Watch for Maui County, including Maui, Lanai, Molokai and Kahoolawe. Governor Josh Green signed a state of emergency on 13 August. The biggest danger is not the wind. Forecasters expect 8 to 12 inches of rain across Maui and the Big Island, with as much as 25 inches possible in places, and they warn plainly that this may cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides on steep ground. Storm surge of 1 to 3 feet is expected along the coast. Hawaii County opens community shelters at 6pm today. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park closes most areas at noon. Hawaiian Airlines is cancelling some flights between the islands from this afternoon, including Hilo, while flights to and from the mainland are running normally for now. On the mainland, the Midwest storm event of 11 August is now closed as a tracked item. Today National Weather Service expects repeated rounds of rain to keep flood dangers going in the Ohio Valley through early Friday, and Indiana carries 45 flood warnings under a MODERATE excessive-rainfall risk this morning.

If you are on the Big Island or Maui, today is the day you get ready, not tomorrow. Fill vehicles and water containers, charge everything, refill prescriptions, and move anything loose outdoors inside. Know your evacuation zone and your route before the rain starts, because 25 inches of rain on that terrain closes roads and takes out bridges. Do not plan to drive through water. If you use a generator, run it outdoors only, never in a garage or near a window - carbon monoxide is what kills people after storms like this, and it does it quietly. Text HawaiiAlerts to 888777 for Hawaii County Civil Defense alerts. If you have travel booked between the islands this weekend, check your flight status before leaving for the airport. 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. Roads that flooded once will flood again with the next round of rain. Charge everything before the weather arrives, and check on elderly neighbours in person rather than by phone

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 13 August edition, a day behind this brief and given as such. On that edition there were 95 large uncontained fires, down from 101, with 4 new large fires starting in a day and 29,058 people assigned. Year to date 6,485,336 acres have burned, about 154% of the ten-year average for this date. The federal fire centre now names only one fire as still showing active behaviour: Little Giant in Washington, with evacuations, road and trail closures and threats to homes and critical infrastructure. Three fires named yesterday are not mentioned today and have not been declared contained, so we are not repeating their figures either way. The Northwest holds 43 of the country's 95 uncontained large fires



SEVERE WEATHER TODAY -- FLASH FLOODING RISK MOVES TO IOWA AND ILLINOIS

The Storm Prediction Center has today at a Slight risk - one step up from the lowest category - across the mid Missouri and mid Mississippi Valleys, with a line of storms expected to form south of Omaha this afternoon and move east through Iowa into northwest Illinois, bringing damaging wind gusts and hail. The flooding risk has moved with it. The Weather Prediction Center

has raised a MODERATE risk of excessive rainfall - the second-highest level - over central and southern Iowa into west-central Illinois, valid through tomorrow morning, and expects scattered to numerous flash floods, some of them serious. If you are in that area, today is the event day: do not drive into standing water, and move vehicles off low ground before this afternoon. In Indiana the picture is the opposite. The 45 flood warnings still in force there are on rivers that are falling rather than rising, so the problem is closed roads and access rather than new flooding. On the tropics: Tropical Storm Lala is the only named system and it is covered at the top of this brief. There is no active storm in the Atlantic. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center has moved past advising people to watch and has issued a warning. If you have family or travel plans in Hawaii, act today rather than at the weekend



WEATHER RADIO -- 22 TRANSMITTERS ARE DOWN NATIONWIDE, NONE IN HAWAII

22 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of 14-AUG 1125 UTC - 19 fully out and 3 running degraded - across 16 states: Alaska, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. **TWO THINGS TO KNOW TODAY.** First, no Hawaii transmitter is out or degraded, so weather radio coverage across the Hurricane Warning area is working normally - keep your radio on and tuned. Second, Hillsboro, Illinois is fully out inside the area now under the MODERATE flash-flooding risk, which is the worst possible place to lose a weather radio. If you are in central or southern Illinois today, do not rely on weather radio alone. No group of transmitters covering a single area sits under an active fire or storm threat, so no high-gap alert is raised. 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 a hurricane warning in force somewhere in the country

STATION	FREQUENCY	STATUS
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Saint Paul Island, AK	162.525 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
Muncie, IN	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Ulysses, KS	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Hazard, KY	162.475 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
Cape Hatteras, NC	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
Otway, OH	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Rio Grande City, TX	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Sutton, WV	162.450 MHz	Out of service



EXTREME HEAT -- WARNINGS CONTINUE IN INDIANA AND ILLINOIS

Extreme Heat Warnings are in force in Indiana and Illinois, with Heat Advisories alongside them in Illinois, on the 14 August pull of active National Weather Service alerts. The wider heat band carried in yesterday brief was not re-checked state by state this morning and is not repeated as though it were, so check weather.gov for your own county rather than assuming yesterday map still applies. The advice does not change with the map: check on anyone elderly, alone, or without air conditioning in person rather than by phone, never leave children or pets in vehicles, and move outdoor work to the early morning. Heat combined with a power outage is the combination that actually hurts people. A warning means the heat is dangerous to anyone, not only to vulnerable people. Drink before you are thirsty. Where heat and today storms overlap in Illinois, the real hazard is a power cut during high heat, so decide now where you would go if your cooling fails.



EBOLA -- CONGO COUNT NOW 4,566 CASES AND 2,128 DEATHS

The Congolese count was updated. Two official counts are running and they are deliberately kept apart rather than merged. Congolese government figures published on 12 August, covering data to 11 August, now report 4,566 confirmed cases and

2,128 deaths, with 570 people in isolation - an increase of 117 cases and 67 deaths in a single day of reporting. **CORRECTION:** yesterday brief gave 4,381 cases alongside 2,061 deaths. Those two numbers came from different reports and should not have been put together; the matching pair at that date was 4,449 and 2,061. The World Health Organization figure is separate and older. CFor US households the practical risk remains very low. The US Centers for Disease Control said on 12 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, 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

The Midwest storm outage item is closed: the utility has returned its storm centre to normal operations and no current outage count is published. If your power is still off, the number that matters is the one on your own utility outage map, not a public tracker - the trackers disagreed with the utility itself by 34 times at the same hour this week. 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

Both sides hardened yesterday. The US Treasury Secretary said Washington will apply economic measures on Iran unlike any it has used before, with announcements next week, while keeping the naval blockade of Iranian ports in place; the War Secretary said the Navy can keep that blockade going indefinitely. On the other side, Iran newly appointed security chief added a fresh condition for reopening the Strait: the release of Iranian money frozen abroad. Two tankers were hit by drones inside the Strait on Thursday evening; nobody was hurt. What this means for you is simply that the standoff is getting longer rather than shorter, so plan against the monthly trend rather than hoping for a quick fall in prices. The Strait remains closed to normal traffic on day 168

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.0776 a gallon today, up about 4.2 cents over the last 48 hours. Prices are now rising on every comparison AAA publishes: a week ago \$4.0422, a month ago \$3.8587, a year ago \$3.1601. Diesel is climbing faster still, up about 6.9 cents in the same 48 hours to \$5.4265 a gallon. Crude itself eased to about \$87.18 a barrel over two days but gained close to 5% across the week. 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, and two tankers were attacked inside it on Thursday evening. We are not repeating a vessel-turnaway figure today because we could not verify one from a source we trust. Expect delivery times on goods routed through the Gulf to stay longer than normal rather than to improve this month.

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

HURRICANE PREPARATION (Hawaii Island and Maui) AND FLASH FLOODING (Iowa and Illinois)

- ☐ Never drive into standing water -- most flood deaths happen in vehicles, and 25 inches of rain on Big Island terrain will close roads without warning
- ☐ Generators outdoors only -- never in a garage, basement or near a window. Carbon monoxide is what kills people after storms this size
- ☐ In Hawaii, finish preparations TODAY: fill vehicles and water containers, charge devices, refill prescriptions, bring loose outdoor items inside, and know your evacuation zone before the rain starts
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Hawaii County shelters open at 6pm today; text HawaiiAlerts to 888777 for Civil Defense alerts, and check interisland flights before travelling

- ☐ In Iowa and Illinois, move vehicles off low ground before this afternoon and sign up for county emergency alerts if you have not already

WILDFIRE AND SMOKE (Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana)

- ☐ 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 still out -- carry a second way to receive w

GENERAL FRIDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 22 transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide, none of them in Hawaii. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings as a second path, and keep weather.gov or a local broadcast station as a third
- ☐ If you or your employer run business firewalls or analytics software, two federal security deadlines fall TODAY - 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? A hurricane landfall is exactly this

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable, held. The driver this cycle is domestic: a Hurricane Warning is in force for Hawaii County ahead of Tropical Storm Lala, which is forecast to reach hurricane strength as it arrives at the Big Island on Saturday with up to 25 inches of rain possible, and the state is under a declared emergency. Alongside that, a MODERATE flash-flooding risk covers Iowa and Illinois today. The wildfire picture eased slightly, with uncontained large fires down from 101 to 95, though the national level is 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 carries 45 flood warnings under a MODERATE excessive-rainfall risk. The wildfire load eased slightly, with uncontained large fires down from 101 to 95 and only one incident named in active behaviour, though the national level is still at maximum
SWX-CON NSTR - - Geomagnetic Field Quiet	The geomagnetic field is quiet for a fourth day running and there is no space weather warning in force. Radio, solar radiation and geomagnetic storm levels are all at zero on the 14 August reading, and are forecast to stay at zero for the next three days. 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. One single station matters: Hillsboro, Illinois is out inside today MODERATE flash-flooding area. No Hawaii transmitter is affected, so coverage across the Hurricane Warning area is intact. The condition is held at 4 rather than lowered because a hurricane landfall is a communications problem as much as a wind 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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