

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Monday, 24 August 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Monday, 24 August 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON ALERT IN FORCE: the sun is quiet on the storm scales but a radiation alert affecting satellites has run four days, explained below | COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE

THE ONE THING TODAY

DANGEROUS HEAT ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST AND SOUTHERN PLAINS, ALL WEEK

The flooding that ran for nine days across the Ohio Valley and Appalachians is over, and no flash flood warning remains anywhere in that area. What has replaced it is heat, and it is the more dangerous of the two. There are 24 Extreme Heat Warnings, 31 Heat Advisories and 4 Extreme Heat Watches in force, covering Texas, California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Nevada. The National Weather Service in Las Vegas is forecasting 115 to 118 degrees across Death Valley and the Colorado River Valley and 108 to 112 across the Las Vegas and Pahrump valleys, and says the dangerous conditions last THROUGH THE WORK WEEK rather than for an afternoon. In Lubbock, Texas, the forecast is 113.

The number that matters most is not the daytime high. It is the overnight low, which the Las Vegas office puts only in the upper 80s to low 90s in desert valleys. Your body recovers from heat at night; when the night stays hot, the strain adds up day after day, which is why someone who felt fine on Monday can be in serious trouble by Wednesday. Check on anyone over 65, anyone living alone, and anyone working outdoors, EVERY DAY this week rather than once. Never leave a child or a pet in a parked car for any length of time. If your home has no air conditioning, find your nearest cooling centre now rather than on the afternoon you need it. If you rely on a fan alone, know that fans stop helping above about 95 degrees and can make things worse.

WHAT TO WATCH -- THIS 24 HOURS



WILDFIRE -- NEW FIRES DOUBLED AND CREWS ARE BEING SENT HOME

The national wildfire preparedness level is still 5 out of 5, the highest there is, and has been since 18 July. The figures here are the 23 August edition, a day behind this brief and given as such. Two hundred new fires started in the last reporting period, double the 97 reported three days earlier, five of them large, and NOT ONE fire was reported contained. At the same time the number of people assigned to fires fell again, from 26,890 to 22,122 - nearly 4,800 released in four days. More fires starting and fewer people on them is the combination worth watching. So far this year 50,580 fires have burned 7,738,302 acres, about 91 percent more acreage than the same date last year. Every one of the ten national fire regions now has at least one large fire, including Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Minnesota, which is a wider spread than the usual Western pattern. The new risk is dry lightning: forecasters expect fast-moving storms with little rain over the Northern Rockies and eastern Pacific Northwest, and Boise has issued a Red Flag Warning specifically for lightning with wind gusts to 55 mph.



SEVERE WEATHER AND FLOODING -- SCATTERED STORMS, AND ONE UNUSUAL FLOOD RISK

The Storm Prediction Center has a Slight risk - one step up from the lowest category - in four places: the northern Plains and upper Midwest, the central High Plains, the lower Mississippi Valley and central Gulf Coast, and the coastal Carolinas. Large hail and damaging wind are the main threats. Flash flood warnings are in force this morning in southeastern Arkansas, where 2 to 4 inches of rain has already fallen in Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lincoln and Chicot counties. THE UNUSUAL ONE IS IN COLORADO: there is a flash flood watch for the ASPEN ACRES BURN SCAR in Pueblo County. Ground burned by a wildfire cannot absorb rain, so heavy rainfall over a burn scar can send mud and debris downhill fast, even hours after the fire itself has been contained. If you live near a recent burn scar anywhere, treat a heavy rain forecast the way you would treat a flood warning.



WEATHER RADIO -- 20 TRANSMITTERS DOWN, FOUR CAME BACK, AND ONE STILL MATTERS

20 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of 24-AUG 1409 UTC - 17 fully out and 3 running degraded - across 13 states: Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and Tennessee. GOOD NEWS FIRST: four transmitters we flagged on 20 August are repaired and working again - Duke Island, Gravina Island and Mount McArthur in southeast Alaska, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi. South Point on the Big Island of Hawaii is also back. THE ONE THAT MATTERS TODAY IS KULANI CONE, on the Big Island, which is still out while the whole island is under a flood watch. If you are on the Big Island, do not rely on a weather radio alone. NEW YORK CITY is newly out as well, alongside Albany. There is no weather hazard in New York today, so this is something to get fixed rather than to act on - but it covers about 8.5 million people, so if you are in the city, switch on Wireless Emergency Alerts in your phone settings now.

STATION	FREQUENCY	STATUS
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Saint Paul Island, AK	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Pensacola, FL	162.400 MHz	Out of service
Augusta, GA	162.550 MHz	Out of service
Baxley, GA	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Summerville, GA	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Kulani Cone, HI	162.550 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
Petoskey, MI	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Gunflint Lake, MN	162.525 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
New York City, NY	162.550 MHz	Out of service
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service



EXTREME HEAT -- SEE THE TOP OF THIS BRIEF

The heat is the main story this cycle and is covered above. In short: 24 Extreme Heat Warnings, 31 Heat Advisories and 4 Extreme Heat Watches across Texas, California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Nevada, running through the work week, with overnight lows too high to allow recovery. Texas alone has 208 alert zones in force and California 109.



EBOLA -- DAY 100, AND MOST OF IT IS IN ONE PROVINCE

Sunday marked 100 days of this outbreak by one count and today marks 100 days by ours; the difference is which event you count from, and both are right. The Congolese count published on 20 August is 5,290 confirmed cases and 2,516 deaths, on data to 19 August, with 837 people in isolation in hospital and 1,152 recovered. The number worth knowing is where it is: ONE PROVINCE, ITURI, HOLDS 4,447 CASES AND 1,984 DEATHS - about 84 in every 100 cases. The five other affected provinces have small numbers, two cases in one of them. The daily increase slowed to 81 cases and 40 deaths in the most recent single day, down from about 94 a day before, though one day is not a trend. There is still no Ebola risk to US households: the CDC has recorded no case in the United States and rates the risk to the American public as low. Uganda finishes its 42-day all-clear watch on 27 August.



TROPICAL -- A FLOOD WATCH FOR THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII

If you have family on the Big Island of Hawaii, this one is for them. Tropical Depression Moke is about 380 miles southwest of Hilo, and although its centre is well out to sea, the rain on its northern edge has spread over the island. The National Weather Service has put ALL EIGHT BIG ISLAND ZONES UNDER A FLOOD WATCH through this afternoon, warning that low-lying roads may close and that towns could see more serious flooding from fast runoff. Elsewhere: Tropical Storm Lala, which reached hurricane strength last week far to the northwest, has weakened and its warning has been cancelled. Tropical Storm Iselle is well southwest of Baja California and threatens no one. And after weeks of nothing, the Atlantic has its first system to watch - a low east of Bermuda with a 50 percent chance of developing, forecast to stay well out to sea.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

The United States says it will announce new economic measures against Iran today. The President has called it an economic D-Day and the Treasury Secretary said on Sunday that one is coming, aimed at countries that keep doing business with Iran. Iran has responded by warning that ships breaking its rules in the Strait of Hormuz could be seized, and a senior security official threatened to stop oil flowing altogether if neighbouring countries join in. One new thing is worth noting: Iran president said publicly that the country cannot keep fighting forever, which is the first open disagreement we have seen inside the Iranian leadership.

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.0991 a gallon today, up about half a cent on the day and 3.5 cents over the week, but slightly LOWER than a month ago. Diesel is the one that keeps climbing: \$5.6134 a gallon, up 16.8 cents in a week and 52 percent higher than a year ago. That is the third week running that diesel has jumped about 15 cents while ordinary petrol has stayed flat. You do not buy diesel, but the trucks that bring your groceries do, so expect that to keep showing up in prices.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the strait remains far below normal, at about six cargo ships a day. The US military says it has escorted more than 660 million barrels of oil through the strait since early May.

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

HEAT (Texas, California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Nevada)

- ☐ Check on anyone over 65, living alone, or working outdoors EVERY DAY this week -- multi-day heat builds up, so the third day is more dangerous than the first
- ☐ Never leave a child or a pet in a parked car for any length of time, not even for a minute with the window cracked
- ☐ Find your nearest cooling centre TODAY rather than on the afternoon you need it, and remember a fan alone stops helping above about 95 degrees
- ☐ 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
- ☐ On the Big Island of Hawaii, Kulani Cone weather radio is out while the island is under a flood watch -- use your phone alerts instead. In New York City the transmitter is also out, though there is no hazard there today
- ☐ If you live near a recent wildfire burn scar, treat a heavy rain forecast as a flood warning -- burned ground cannot absorb water and sends mud downhill fast

WILDFIRE AND SMOKE (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington, with new risk from dry lightning)

- ☐ Check your evacuation zone status this morning -- new fires doubled to 200 in the last reporting period and not one fire was reported contained
- ☐ 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](https://www.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 warnings

GENERAL MONDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 20 transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide across 13 states. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings as a second path, and keep [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) or a local broadcast station as a third
- ☐ If you or your employer run business software, FIVE federal security deadlines have now PASSED -- four on 21 August covering Microsoft Windows networking, Microsoft SharePoint, VMware vCenter and Apple macOS, and one on 23 August. A sixth, covering Zimbra email software, falls today. If those patches were not applied they are overdue rather than upcoming, and no further reminder is coming. Ask whoever handles your IT to confirm
- ☐ 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

☐ Family communications plan: do you have a meeting place and an out-of-area contact if phones are down? A flash flood that closes roads is exactly the situation it is for

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable, held. The driver this cycle is overseas rather than domestic: the United States has scheduled new economic measures against Iran for today, and Iran has answered by threatening to seize ships and to halt oil exports if neighbouring countries join in. That raises the chance of an incident in the Middle East and of further fuel-price pressure, but it does not change the threat picture for the United States. At home the main hazard is heat.
WX-CON 3 GUARDED -- Severe Weather	WX-CON 3 GUARDED, held. Neither of the two things that would raise it happened: no death or mass evacuation was confirmed on a tracked fire or storm, and the number of large fires being worked rose only slightly. The figure that would move it is the doubling of new fire starts with none contained, and that is being watched rather than acted on.
SWX-CON NSTR - - Geomagnetic Field Quiet	SWX-CON ALERT IN FORCE. Two things happened here. First, the fast burst of solar material we flagged on 20 August did NOT produce a geomagnetic storm - the storm scales have read zero for the last two days and are forecast to stay there. Second, a different alert has been running since 21 August: high-energy radiation around the Earth has stayed above the alert level for four days straight. That one affects satellites rather than people - it can damage the electronics on communications and imaging spacecraft over time. It does not affect your phone, your wifi, or the power grid, and there is nothing for a household to do about it.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	20 NOAA weather radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide across 13 states -- always confirm your own area station is working. Four came back into service since Thursday. Kulani Cone on the Big Island of Hawaii is out while the island is under a flood watch and is the one worth acting on; New York City is out with no hazard in force there 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

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