

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Thursday, 27 August 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Thursday, 27 August 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON G2 WATCH
IN FORCE: forecasters expect a moderate geomagnetic storm on Friday and Saturday, explained below |
COMCON 4 INCREASED VIGILANCE

THE ONE THING TODAY

FLOODING AND STORMS ON THE I-95 CORRIDOR THIS AFTERNOON

The heat that dominated the past week has eased sharply - heat warnings and advisories have fallen from 57 to 31. WHAT HAS REPLACED IT IS WATER, AND IT IS AIMED AT ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED CORRIDORS IN THE COUNTRY. Flash flood watches are in force from noon until late today across central and southern New Jersey, northern Delaware and Lancaster, Lebanon and Schuylkill counties in central Pennsylvania. In New Jersey that includes Atlantic, Ocean, Monmouth, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties.

THE COMPLICATION IS THAT SEVERE STORMS ARE FORECAST OVER THE SAME GROUND. *The Storm Prediction Center has a Slight risk of severe thunderstorms across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast today, covering the same counties as the flood watches. That matters because the two hazards ask you to do opposite things: severe storms say get inside and stay there, flooding says get off low ground and move. If you are in that corridor, do the moving FIRST - get your car off low ground and anything you cannot replace off the basement floor this morning, before the storms arrive, so that when they do you can simply shelter. Never drive into water over a road. Most flood deaths happen in vehicles.*

AIR QUALITY: eleven alerts are still in force nationally, and the two kinds still need opposite advice. Where the problem is OZONE - Atlanta, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, inland southern California - it peaks in the late afternoon, so do outdoor activity in the MORNING. Where it is WILDFIRE SMOKE - central and eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon - it is worst before dawn and in the early morning, so there the advice FLIPS to later. Children, older adults, pregnant women and anyone with heart or lung conditions should take the most care either way.



WILDFIRE -- MORE BIG FIRES, FEWER CREWS, AND ONLY ONE CONTAINED

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 27 August edition. Firefighters are now working to contain 94 large fires, up from 86 two days ago. There were 113 new fires and seven new large ones in the last reporting period, and ONLY ONE FIRE WAS CONTAINED anywhere in the country. At the same time the number of people assigned fell again, to 21,854 - the third drop in a row. More big fires, fewer crews, and containment almost stalled is a worse combination than any single one of those numbers. FIVE RED FLAG WARNINGS are in force, up from two: the Owyhee Mountains and southeast Oregon, the Okanogan Valley and Waterville Plateau in Washington, and Modoc County in California with the Klamath Basin in Oregon, where forecasters warn that any fire that starts will likely spread rapidly. So far this year 51,434 fires have burned 7,971,399 acres, about 93 percent more than the same date last year.



SEVERE WEATHER -- SEE THE TOP OF THIS BRIEF

Today's severe weather and flooding is the main story and is covered above. Beyond the Mid-Atlantic there is a second Slight risk area across the central Plains, with large hail and damaging wind the main threats. Across the country there are 250 weather alerts in force this morning.



WEATHER RADIO -- 19 DOWN, NEW YORK CITY IS BACK, ALASKA LOSES ONE

19 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of 27-AUG 1425 UTC - 16 fully out and 3 running degraded - across 12 states: Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and Tennessee. **GOOD NEWS: THE NEW YORK CITY TRANSMITTER IS REPAIRED AND BACK ON THE AIR.** That is the one we flagged on Monday and Tuesday as covering about 8.5 million people. Against that, Mt. Robert Barron in southeast Alaska has gone out, giving the Juneau area three impaired transmitters. No group of transmitters covering one area sits under an active fire or storm warning, so no high-gap alert is raised. Georgia has three out and Tennessee one, in areas under air quality alerts rather than storm warnings. Whatever your area, make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings as a second way to be reached.

STATION	FREQUENCY	STATUS
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Mt. Robert Barron, AK	162.450 MHz	Out of service
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
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
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service



EXTREME HEAT -- SEE THE TOP OF THIS BRIEF

The heat has eased considerably this cycle - warnings and advisories are down from 57 to 31 - and today's main hazard is flooding on the I-95 corridor, covered at the top of this brief. Where heat warnings remain, in the Desert Southwest and the southern Plains, the guidance is unchanged: treat it as a multi-day event, check on the same people every day, and never leave a child or pet in a parked car.



EBOLA -- DAY 103, AND WE HAVE THE NUMBERS AGAIN

We told you on Monday and Tuesday that we could not get an updated Congolese count. **WE WERE WRONG ABOUT WHY.** The source was never down - we were using the wrong web address, and that is our error, not theirs. The page updates every weekday and was last updated this afternoon. **THE NUMBERS:** 5,713 confirmed cases and 2,744 deaths as of 25 August, with 770 people in isolation in hospital and 1,269 recovered. That is 423 more cases and 228 more deaths than the six-day-old figure we were carrying. The daily rate is **SLOWING** - 81 new cases a day, then 72, then 57 - which is genuinely good news. But the outbreak is spreading sideways: one province, North Kivu, now has 753 cases and 512 deaths, and nearly seven in ten people confirmed there have died, against about four and a half in ten in Ituri where the outbreak started. There is still no Ebola risk to US households; the CDC has recorded no case in the United States. We are also withdrawing something we told you: we had said Uganda finishes a 42-day all-clear watch on 27 August. We cannot find a source for that date. Uganda declared its outbreak over on 28 July.



TROPICAL -- A NAMED STORM IN THE ATLANTIC FOR THE FIRST TIME

TROPICAL STORM DOLLY formed this morning in the middle of the Atlantic, and forecasters have told people in the Leeward Islands to monitor it. It is moving west at 24 mph, which is fast for a system at this stage, and there is a second area behind it that may also develop. Three weeks ago the Atlantic had nothing at all; it is now entering the busiest part of its season. **NO WATCH OR WARNING IS IN FORCE FOR ANY PART OF THE UNITED STATES** from Dolly or from any other storm. Tropical Storm Lala is still going in the far northwest Pacific on its sixteenth day, but it is a long way from land and is no longer a threat to anyone. If you have family or travel plans in the eastern Caribbean, this is the week to start watching the forecast rather than the week to act.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

The United States announced its new economic measures against Iran on 24 August, and this week the picture has softened rather than hardened. IRAN AND OMAN HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT on how they share the Strait of Hormuz and the money that comes from it - though Iran says reopening the waterway would take more than a deal with Oman. Oil prices have FALLEN more than five dollars a barrel in three days, because traders decided the American measures were less severe than they had expected: the White House has so far not gone after countries that keep trading with Iran. We should note we got this one wrong - on Tuesday we judged an Iran-Oman agreement very unlikely.

Gas prices: the national average is \$4.0997 a gallon on 27 August, and it has now edged DOWN on the day, the week and the month. Diesel is \$5.6183 a gallon, also down slightly on the day, but still up 7 cents on the week and about 51 percent higher than a year ago against 28 percent for petrol. The four-week run of roughly 15-cent weekly diesel rises has slowed to 7 cents - a pause, not a reversal. You do not buy diesel, but the trucks that bring your groceries do.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the strait remains far below normal. The US President said about 10 million barrels of oil passed through on Tuesday and that mines had been cleared; we could not verify either claim independently, so we are reporting them as claims rather than as facts.

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 STORMS (central and southern New Jersey, northern Delaware, central Pennsylvania)

- ☐ Move your car off low ground and anything you cannot replace off the basement floor THIS MORNING, before the afternoon storms rather than during them
- ☐ Never drive into water over a road -- most flood deaths happen in vehicles, and you cannot tell how deep it is or whether the road is still under it
- ☐ Severe storms are forecast over the SAME counties as the flooding. Do the moving first, so that when the storms arrive you can simply stay inside
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Where an air quality alert is for OZONE (Atlanta, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, inland southern California) do outdoor activity in the MORNING. Where it is WILDFIRE SMOKE (central and eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon) do it LATER - smoke is worst before dawn
- ☐ 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, Washington, California, with five Red Flag Warnings in force)

- ☐ Check your evacuation zone status this morning -- 94 large fires are being worked, seven new large fires started in the last period, and only ONE fire was contained anywhere in the country
- ☐ 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 warnings

GENERAL THURSDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 19 transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide across 12 states. New York City is back in service. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings as a second path
- ☐ If you or your employer run business software, a deadline for Oracle web server software falls TODAY and one for Citrix remote-access equipment falls on 29 August. More unusually, this week the federal catalogue added four flaws first found in 2015, 2021 and

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2022 - meaning old or unsupported software can still be a live problem even if everything else is up to date. Ask whoever handles your IT to check what is running, not just what is patched

- ☐ 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 domestic and immediate: flooding and severe storms forecast over the same densely populated corridor from central Pennsylvania through New Jersey. Overseas the picture has softened - Iran and Oman reached an agreement on sharing the Strait of Hormuz, and oil prices fell more than five dollars a barrel because traders judged the new American sanctions less severe than expected. That does not change the threat picture for the United States.
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. The figure being watched is wildfire - 94 large fires being worked against only one contained, with crew numbers falling for a third cycle.
SWX-CON NSTR - - Geomagnetic Field Quiet	SWX-CON G2 WATCH IN FORCE. Forecasters have issued a watch for a MODERATE geomagnetic storm on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 August, caused by a fast stream of solar wind followed by two clouds of solar material. The current readings are all at zero, so this is a forecast rather than something happening now. What it means: effects are mostly north of about 55 degrees latitude - so Alaska, Canada and northern Europe rather than most of the United States. Power companies at high latitudes may see voltage fluctuations and satellite operators may see their spacecraft drift slightly. For a household there is nothing to do. It does not affect your phone, your wifi or the power grid where most people live. If you are in the far north, it is a good aurora forecast.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	19 NOAA weather radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide across 12 states -- always confirm your own area station is working. New York City has been repaired and is back on the air. Mt. Robert Barron in southeast Alaska has gone out. No group of transmitters covering one area sits under an active fire or storm warning.

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

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See the full suite of reports at <https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr/>
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