

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Tuesday, 01 September 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Tuesday, 01 September 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY, HELD | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON: the space weather disturbance has ended quietly -- no new watch or warning, nothing for a household to do

THE ONE THING TODAY

TROPICAL STORM EDOUARD IS HEADED FOR TEXAS, LANDFALL TUESDAY EVENING -- AND THE FIRE WARNINGS HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR MOVE NORTH

The Gulf system we told you about yesterday has organized and has a name: Tropical Storm Edouard. A Tropical Storm Warning is up for the upper Texas and southwest Louisiana coast, and landfall is expected near Port Arthur Tuesday evening. It is arriving into ground that has gone weeks without meaningful rain around Dallas-Fort Worth, so expect 3 to 6 inches of rain (locally up to 9), heavier than usual flash flooding, and coastal flooding risk from high tides and rough surf -- especially for Houston and Galveston. Separately, the heat wave has expanded hard: dangerous heat now covers a wide swath from the southern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley through the Midwest, Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic, with heat index values up to 110 degrees in parts of Mississippi and the Chicago area, and some advisories running through Friday or Saturday.

TODAY'S RAIN RISK IS TEXAS. *Edouard is expected to make landfall near Port Arthur Tuesday evening with 3 to 6 inches of rain, locally up to 9, heaviest along and east of Interstate 45. If you're anywhere near the upper Texas or southwest Louisiana coast, plan for flash flooding, rough surf, and coastal flooding from high tides. We do not have a fresh national rain-risk map beyond that today -- treat yesterday's Southwest/Great Basin guidance as carried, not re-confirmed.*

AIR QUALITY: We don't have a fresh national air quality picture today. The broader thirteen-alert picture we last confirmed (ozone in Denver, Dallas-Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Memphis, Phoenix; wildfire smoke in Kittitas County WA, Crook/Jefferson/Wasco Counties OR, and southwest Elko County NV) is CARRIED, several days old now - the same advice applies if any of those are still in force where you live: ozone is worst in the afternoon, so move exercise and outdoor work to early morning; wildfire smoke can sit all day, so close the house up, run a filter in one room, and check airnow.gov before going out.



WILDFIRE -- THE MOVE NORTH IS CONFIRMED: WARNINGS NOW MATCH WHERE THE FIRES ARE

The national wildfire preparedness level is carried at 5 out of 5, the highest there is, and has been since 18 July - not independently re-confirmed today. We checked the fire numbers twice this morning and they matched both times: about 3.9 million acres burning in large fires, slightly down from yesterday, with more firefighters on the ground than yesterday (22,434, up from 22,168) and the year-to-date total now over 8.2 million acres. Good news on the open question from yesterday: the fire-danger WARNINGS have confirmed their move north. Active warnings today sit in southeastern Idaho (lightning-driven) and the Nevada/California Sierra Front (wind and low humidity) -- not California's coast ranges. If you're in either of those two zones, treat it as active; if you're anywhere else in Idaho, Washington, Oregon or Montana with heavy fire activity nearby but no named warning for your specific spot, don't assume you're in the clear just because we haven't named it.



SEVERE WEATHER -- SEE THE TOP OF THIS BRIEF

Today's rain and storm risk is the main story and is covered above. The Alaska weather details and the Illinois/Indiana/Pennsylvania river flood warnings from earlier this week are CARRIED, not re-checked today - if you are in any of those areas, treat that guidance as still worth following until we can confirm it either way, rather than assuming it has cleared.



WEATHER RADIO -- 18 DOWN NATIONWIDE, ACROSS 14 STATES

18 NOAA Weather Radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide as of today's roster - 14 out of service and 4 degraded, across 14 states, up from 17 yesterday. New Mexico has three affected. Several stations that were working yesterday are down again today, so don't assume yesterday's list is stale in your favor -- check the table below even if you checked it yesterday. Your weather radio is the alerting method that keeps working when the power and the mobile network do not, so if you are in one of the areas below, do not rely on it alone today. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings, and keep a second way to hear a warning - a local broadcast station, a scanner, or a neighbour who will call you.

STATION	FREQUENCY	STATUS
Cape Gull, AK	162.500 MHz	Degraded
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Fountain Hill, AR	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Colorado Springs, CO	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Baxley, GA	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Hillsboro, IL	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Angola, IN	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Ulysses, KS	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Sugarloaf Mtn, ME	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Petoskey, MI	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Gun Flint Lake, MN	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Artesia, NM	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Roswell, NM	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Carlsbad, NM	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Coos Bay, OR	162.400 MHz	Out of service
Portland, OR	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Brownsville, TX	162.550 MHz	Degraded



EXTREME HEAT -- SPREADING BACK OUT INTO THE CENTRAL US AND MID-ATLANTIC

This is now a major multi-state heat event, confirmed today: 17 states from the southern Plains through the Midwest, Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic are under Heat Advisories or Extreme Heat Warnings, with heat index values as high as 108 to 110 degrees in parts of Mississippi, Kentucky and the Chicago area. Several areas (parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri) are looking at this heat continuing through Friday or Saturday, not just today. If you're anywhere in that corridor, treat it as a multi-day event: check on elderly or unwell people every day, drink before you feel thirsty, and never leave a child or a pet in a parked car.



EBOLA -- DAY 108, THE OUTBREAK TRACKER POSTED FRESH NUMBERS

The health tracker we watch posted its update yesterday: the Congolese count rose to 5,945 confirmed cases and 2,862 deaths, up 82 cases and 38 deaths from the report before. Most of the new cases (66 of the 82) were in Ituri province, the hardest-hit area throughout this outbreak. The share of contacts being followed up actually improved, to 84.4 percent from 82.3 -- a better sign than yesterday's figures suggested, though the case count itself is still climbing. We got this figure from a health-data aggregator rather than the tracker's own page directly, so treat the exact numbers as likely right but not yet double-confirmed. UGANDA REMAINS OFFICIALLY FINISHED: the World Health Organization declared its outbreak over on 26 August after 42 days with no new case. There is still no Ebola risk to US households and no case has been recorded in the United States.



TROPICAL -- EDOUARD IS THE STORY NOW, KARINA IS A MAJOR HURRICANE OFFSHORE

The Gulf system we were watching yesterday is now Tropical Storm Edouard -- see THE ONE THING TODAY above for the full landfall picture. Out in the eastern Pacific, Hurricane Karina has strengthened into a major Category 4 hurricane, but it's far out to sea and poses no direct threat to land; the only effect reaching shore is dangerous surf and rip currents along Baja California, southwest Mexico and Southern California through Wednesday, so if you're at a beach in those areas, stay out of the water even if it looks calm. Two more storms (Marie and Lowell) are active in the Pacific with no US land threat. THE ONLY WATCH OR WARNING IN FORCE FOR ANY PART OF THE UNITED STATES is the Tropical Storm Warning for the upper Texas and southwest Louisiana coast.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

Iran hit back. Overnight, Iran fired ballistic missiles at two US military bases in Jordan and a drone at the United Arab Emirates, in retaliation for the US strike on an Iranian island we told you about yesterday. The good news: Jordan's military says all eight missiles were shot down, and the UAE shot down the drone too, so nothing got through. Iran's state media is separately claiming a tanker hit two mines and that a cargo ship was seized near an Iranian port, but the US military disputes that any ship has actually hit a mine in the strait -- we don't know yet which account is right, so we're not treating either as confirmed. On a more positive note, the European aviation regulator renewed its safety warning for the Persian Gulf region rather than letting it lapse, which was in question as of yesterday. On the sanctions side, no new US Treasury action was found today despite the overnight escalation.

Gas prices: oil prices climbed again overnight as markets absorbed the Jordan/UAE strikes, and the pump is starting to catch up: today's national average is \$4.0954 a gallon, up from \$4.0807 yesterday. Diesel is still carried from yesterday. You do not buy diesel, but the trucks that bring your groceries do, so this is worth checking again once fresh numbers post.

Shipping/delivery delays: shipping through the strait remains far below normal and now less predictable given the overnight strikes and the disputed mine-and-seizure claims near Bandar Abbas. US Central Command says 75 ships have been turned away from Iranian ports since the blockade resumed in mid-July - that figure is carried from several days ago and hasn't been updated today.

No safety action needed in the US: there is no credible threat to US soil tied to this at this time, even with overnight events overseas -- both missile and drone attacks were intercepted before reaching their targets. For the vast majority of households this remains a wallet and planning issue rather than a safety one - the exception is if you have direct exposure to Gulf shipping, regional air travel, or fuel-indexed contracts, in which case treat this week as more uncertain than last.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST -- TODAY'S PRIORITIES

TROPICAL STORM EDOUARD (Texas Gulf Coast especially; landfall Tuesday evening)

- ☐ If you are on the Texas Gulf Coast, especially Houston and Galveston, plan for heavy rain and flash flooding starting Tuesday as Edouard makes landfall near Port Arthur - move your car off low ground and anything you cannot replace off the floor before it arrives, not during it
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Confirmed today across 17 states from the southern Plains to the Mid-Atlantic: dust off the heat routine if you're in the affected corridor -- check on elderly or unwell neighbors and relatives, drink before you're thirsty, and never leave a child or pet in a parked car. This heat is forecast to run through Friday or Saturday in several areas, not just today.
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Houston has an ozone alert through this evening - do outdoor activity in the MORNING if you're there. Our last-confirmed ozone and smoke alerts elsewhere (Denver, Dallas-Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Memphis, Phoenix for ozone; Kittitas WA, central Oregon, southwest Elko NV for smoke) are carried, several days old now - same rules apply if still in force: ozone worst in the afternoon, smoke can sit all day so close up and filter one room
- ☐ 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 (Southeastern Idaho and the NV/CA Sierra Front have active fire-weather warnings today)

- ☐ If you are in southeastern Idaho or the Nevada/California Sierra Front, there are active fire-weather warnings today - check your local fire authority's evacuation zone map. If you are elsewhere in Idaho, Washington, Oregon or Montana where fire activity remains high but no warning is named for your specific spot, don't assume you're in the clear
- ☐ 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 Gun Flint Lake weather radio transmitter is still out -- carry a second way to receive warnings

GENERAL TUESDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio -- 18 transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide across 14 states, three of them in New Mexico. Several stations that were working yesterday are down again today, so re-check the list even if you checked it before. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings as a second path
- ☐ If you or your employer run business software, two new items were added to the federal must-patch list yesterday -- both affecting PaperCut printing software, which a lot of offices and libraries run without realizing it. The five deadlines from a few days ago (Gitea, Citrix remote-access equipment, Microsoft SQL Server, ownCloud file sharing and the Linux kernel) have also now passed. 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. Overnight, Iran followed through on its threat to retaliate: ballistic missiles at two US bases in Jordan and a drone at the UAE, both fully intercepted with nothing getting through. That is a real escalation from yesterday, but it still has not produced anything that meets our threshold for moving the household condition to level 2 - no confirmed threat to US soil, no credible named threat, and the attacks were stopped before landing. At home, Tropical Storm Edouard is the headline item, making landfall on the Texas coast Tuesday evening, while the wildfire warning picture has settled into two specific zones (southeastern Idaho and the NV/CA Sierra Front) rather than the broader uncertainty of yesterday. There remains no credible threat to US soil.
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. Wildfire acreage eased slightly and was confirmed on two separate checks this morning (about 3.9 million acres, more firefighters on scene than yesterday), and the fire-weather warning geography has settled into southeastern Idaho and the NV/CA Sierra Front, matching where the fire activity actually is. The preparedness level is carried at 5 of 5, not independently reconfirmed today.
SWX-CON -- Quiet, Nothing To Do	The three-day space-weather disturbance we told you about has ended, and nothing new has replaced it as of today's check. It never reached storm level (it topped out at level 4 on a scale where storms begin at 5) and effects stayed confined to far northern latitudes the whole time. THERE WAS NOTHING FOR A HOUSEHOLD TO DO AND THERE STILL ISN'T. It never affected phones, wifi, cars or the power grid where most people live.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	18 NOAA weather radio transmitters are out of service or degraded nationwide across 14 states, up from 17 yesterday - always confirm your own area station is working, even if you checked yesterday, since several stations flipped status overnight. New Mexico has three affected. NO group of transmitters sits inside either of today's two active fire-weather warning zones (southeastern Idaho, NV/CA Sierra Front), so there is no coverage gap alert - but this call remains provisional pending a direct cross-check we couldn't complete today.

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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