

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Wednesday, 02 September 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Wednesday, 02 September 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY, HELD | WX-CON 3 GUARDED | SWX-CON: a background space-weather signal has been running quietly for a few days -- still nothing for a household to do

THE ONE THING TODAY

EDOUARD HAS COME AND GONE -- SOUTHEAST TEXAS IS NOW IN CLEANUP, WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS STILL WITHOUT POWER

Edouard made landfall near Johnson Bayou, Louisiana yesterday afternoon with 60mph winds, weakened to a tropical depression by evening, and is fading out over Texas today. The storm knocked out power to roughly 71,000 Texas customers at its peak, mostly around Beaumont-Port Arthur -- about 56,800 are still without power this morning, and several school districts (including Beaumont ISD) are closed for a second day. If you're in that area, this is now a recovery-and-patience story, not an incoming-storm one. Separately, the heat wave story from yesterday continues: dangerous heat still covers a wide swath from the southern Plains through the Midwest, Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic.

IF YOU'RE IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS: check on neighbors without power, especially anyone on medical equipment, and report outages to your utility rather than assuming they already know. Discard refrigerated food that's been without power more than four hours. Watch for residual flooding on low roads even though the rain has passed. We do not have a fresh national rain-risk map beyond the Gulf Coast 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 -- NUMBERS CONTINUE EASING

The national wildfire preparedness level is confirmed still at 5 out of 5, the highest there is, holding since 18 July. We checked the fire numbers directly this morning: about 3.9 million acres burning in large fires, down again from yesterday, with slightly fewer firefighters on the ground (21,268, down from 22,434) as some fires get contained -- the year-to-date total is now over 8.2 million acres. Idaho and Washington now have the most large fires burning of any states. We did not get a fresh check of the fire-weather warning map itself today, so treat yesterday's two active zones (southeastern Idaho, Nevada/California Sierra Front) as carried, not re-confirmed, until we check again.



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 -- 16 DOWN NATIONWIDE -- BUT OUR TWO SOURCE LISTS DISAGREE

We received two different transmitter lists today that don't agree with each other -- one without a timestamp showing 18 transmitters down, one timestamped this morning showing 16. We're using the timestamped list below since it's more clearly current, but we want you to know the two lists disagree rather than quietly picking one and not telling you. Ten stations appear on both lists, so treat those as reliably down regardless of which list is right. Your weather radio is the alerting method that

keeps working when the power and the mobile network do not, so if your area is listed 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
Saint Paul Island, AK	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Summerville, GA	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Muncie, IN	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Baxley, GA	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Hillsboro, IL	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Lancaster, MO	162.550 MHz	Out of service
Ulysses, KS	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Owyhee, NV	162.450 MHz	Degraded
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
Albany, NY	162.550 MHz	Out of service
Portland, OR (older list only)	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service
Brownsville, TX (older list only)	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 109, NO CHANGE TO REPORT

We checked for a fresh update today and did not find one -- the count stays at 5,945 confirmed cases and 2,862 deaths, the same figure we reported yesterday. That's not a sign anything has changed for the better or worse; it just means no new report has posted since our last check. UGANDA REMAINS OFFICIALLY FINISHED: the World Health Organization declared its outbreak over on 26 August. There is still no Ebola risk to US households and no case has been recorded in the United States.



TROPICAL -- EDOUARD IS DONE, THREE STORMS ACTIVE FAR OFFSHORE

Edouard has weakened to a tropical depression and is fading out over Texas -- see THE ONE THING TODAY above for the outage and cleanup picture. Out in the eastern Pacific, Hurricane Karina remains 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, so if you're at a beach in those areas, stay out of the water even if it looks calm. Two more storms (Lowell, now a major hurricane in the Central Pacific, and Marie in the Eastern Pacific) are active with no US land threat. THERE IS NO TROPICAL WATCH OR WARNING IN FORCE FOR ANY PART OF THE UNITED STATES TODAY -- a change from yesterday.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

This escalated further overnight. The US military carried out a round of strikes against Iranian military targets yesterday; Iran says those strikes killed civilians at a wedding, with Iranian officials' own death toll rising through the day from around 5 people to a claim of 11 -- the US military has not confirmed or denied that. Overnight, Iran struck back with missiles and drones at US-linked sites in four places at once -- Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait and a base in Iraq -- the broadest single night of this conflict so far. Most of what Iran fired was shot down or missed; a US official said the Iranian response had failed to accomplish much. Separately, a tanker was hit by unidentified projectiles near Oman yesterday -- no one was hurt.

Gas prices: oil prices jumped again overnight on this latest escalation and are now at their highest since late July. At the pump, though, today's national average gas price checked out identical to yesterday's -- \$4.0954 a gallon. That could mean prices have genuinely held steady for now, or it could mean the source we check hasn't refreshed yet; we're not fully confident either way, so don't be surprised if it jumps at your local station even though our number looks unchanged.

Shipping/delivery delays: the US energy secretary said yesterday that oil shipping volume through the strait actually hit its highest point since this conflict began, even with the fighting -- so the picture for consumer goods and fuel supply is less dire than the headlines might suggest, though it remains a fluid situation worth watching if you have direct exposure to it.

No safety action needed in the US: there is no credible threat to US soil tied to this at this time, even with the broader overnight strikes -- the bulk of what Iran fired was intercepted or missed. 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 as a more volatile week than last.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST -- TODAY'S PRIORITIES

EDOUARD RECOVERY (Southeast Texas especially)

- ☐ If you're in the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, check on neighbors who are still without power (roughly 56,800 customers this morning), especially anyone on medical equipment -- and report outages to your utility if yours hasn't come back
- ☐ Never drive into water over a road, even now that the storm has passed -- standing water on low roads can linger for days
- ☐ 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 had active fire-weather warnings as of yesterday)

- ☐ If you are in southeastern Idaho or the Nevada/California Sierra Front, treat yesterday's fire-weather warnings as still worth checking against your local fire authority's site, since we did not get a fresh update today. 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 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 WEDNESDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Check your NOAA weather radio against the table above -- our two source lists disagree on the exact count, so if your station isn't clearly listed either way, don't assume it's working without checking yourself. Make sure Wireless Emergency Alerts are switched on in your phone settings as a second path
- ☐ If you or your employer run business software, no new items were added to the federal must-patch list today -- the PaperCut printing-software items from a couple of days ago are still the most recent addition. Separately, the government flagged that hackers are actively targeting a specific type of industrial control equipment (Siemens S7 PLCs); if your workplace runs manufacturing or utility equipment, ask whoever handles that to check

- ☐ 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, the Iran conflict widened further: US strikes that Iran says killed civilians at a wedding, followed by Iran striking back at US-linked sites in four countries at once. Most of what Iran fired was intercepted or missed. 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 against the US directly. At home, Edouard has moved from an incoming storm to a power-outage recovery story in southeast Texas, and the wildfire picture continues easing. 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 continues easing (about 3.9 million acres, directly re-checked this morning), and Edouard has weakened well below the threshold that would justify raising this condition. The national preparedness level is confirmed still at 5 of 5.
SWX-CON -- Quiet, Nothing To Do	The three-day space-weather disturbance we told you about earlier this week has ended and stayed closed. Separately, we found that a different, quieter space-weather signal -- related to satellite charging, not the aurora-and-radio-blackout kind -- has actually been running since Sunday without us catching it until today. THERE WAS NOTHING FOR A HOUSEHOLD TO DO ABOUT EITHER ONE AND THERE STILL ISN'T. Neither has affected phones, wifi, cars or the power grid where most people live.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	Our two source lists for weather radio outages disagree with each other today (18 stations down on one list, 16 on the other) -- see the Weather Radio section above for the full table and which stations are confirmed either way. New Mexico has three affected on both lists. No group of transmitters sits inside an active fire-weather warning zone, so there is no coverage-gap alert -- but this call remains provisional given the source conflict.

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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