

DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Friday, 04 September 2026
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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Friday, 04 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

HURRICANE LOWELL JUST HIT CATEGORY 5 -- AND HAWAII IS NOW UNDER A HURRICANE WATCH

Hurricane Lowell briefly reached Category 5 strength on Wednesday -- the first Category 5 hurricane in the Central Pacific since 2018 -- and while it has weakened slightly since, it's still a powerful Category 4 storm about 1,000 miles south of Hawaii. A hurricane watch is now in effect for the islands, with a path that could bring a direct hit early next week if the track holds. Separately, fire-weather danger has moved again: today's active Red Flag Warnings are in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota, not the areas flagged yesterday. Texas outage numbers continue improving from Edouard, about 52,000 customers remain without power statewide.

IF YOU'RE IN HAWAII: this is the time to check your hurricane kit and family plan, not wait for a warning -- review your evacuation zone, secure loose outdoor items over the next few days, and keep watching official NWS/Central Pacific Hurricane Center updates since the track can still shift. **IF YOU'RE IN MONTANA, WYOMING OR NORTH DAKOTA:** avoid outdoor burning today and be ready to report smoke immediately. **IF YOU'RE IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS:** check on neighbors still without power, especially anyone on medical equipment.

AIR QUALITY: We checked today and found Code Orange ozone alerts in effect around Memphis, TN and Winston-Salem, NC, tied to the ongoing heat wave. If you're in either area, move outdoor exercise and work to early morning and limit prolonged outdoor exertion this afternoon. We did not get a fresh nationwide check beyond these two confirmed areas, so if you're elsewhere and air quality has been a concern recently, check [airnow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov) before heading out.



WILDFIRE -- NUMBERS HOLD STEADY

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 again today and got the same figure as yesterday: about 3.9 million acres burning in large fires, confirmed on a fresh check, not just repeated. Year-to-date total is now over 8.2 million acres. Today's active Red Flag Warnings are in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota -- see THE ONE THING TODAY above.



SEVERE WEATHER -- SEE THE TOP OF THIS BRIEF

Today's fire-weather and hurricane risks are the main stories and are covered above. We also checked the Illinois/Indiana river flood warning we'd been carrying for over a week -- it remains expired, not renewed. A fresh storm outlook shows a risk of severe thunderstorms today across the southern Great Lakes, Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic, mainly damaging wind gusts.



WEATHER RADIO -- 15 DOWN NATIONWIDE

Today's list is clean -- one timestamped roster, no conflicting numbers. 15 transmitters are down or degraded across 11 states. 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
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
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
South Shore, SD	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service



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

We checked today: Extreme Heat Warnings are confirmed active in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, heat index values 100 to 110 degrees, several areas extending through Friday and Saturday. If you're 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. We also found Code Orange air quality alerts today around Memphis, TN and Winston-Salem, NC, tied to the same heat -- limit outdoor exertion if you're in either area.



EBOLA -- DAY 111, CASE COUNT CONTINUES RISING

The confirmed count in Congo keeps climbing: 6,250 cases and 3,039 deaths today, up from 6,186 and 3,007 yesterday. 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 -- SEE HAWAII HURRICANE WATCH ABOVE

See THE ONE THING TODAY above for the full Hurricane Lowell/Hawaii picture. Hurricane Karina has weakened to Category 4, no Hawaii threat; Tropical Storm Marie strengthened to a Category 1 hurricane, no land threat. Texas outage recovery from Edouard continues.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

The Vice President said today the conflict with Iran "isn't a 'war,'" as the administration navigates a fight that's become unpopular ahead of upcoming elections. Separately, a wire report suggests Iran has gone two nights without a new US strike -- a possible pause, though not confirmed as a real de-escalation. Hospital officials say most of the people wounded in last week's disputed strike have been discharged, with 11 still being treated. Iran's own military disclosed several of its own personnel were killed in the same exchange.

Gas prices: oil prices eased again today, extending yesterday's small pullback -- not a trend yet, but a second day of easing rather than climbing. Shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz was notably lighter this week (six vessels one day, down from the usual dozen-plus), which is worth watching but doesn't yet mean a supply problem. At the pump, gas prices checked out the same as our last several checks, \$4.0954 a gallon; we didn't get a fresh independent pull today, so treat that as likely still true rather than freshly confirmed.

Shipping/delivery delays: European aviation regulators still show the Gulf region as reopened for regular flights (a change from a few weeks ago), even though tensions flared again this week -- some flight delays hit Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports on Wednesday. If you have upcoming travel through the region, build in extra time and check your airline's status page.

No safety action needed in the US: there is no credible threat to US soil tied to this. 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.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST -- TODAY'S PRIORITIES

HAWAII HURRICANE WATCH / TEXAS OUTAGE RECOVERY

- ❑ If you're in Hawaii, review your household hurricane plan now: evacuation zone, water and supplies, and a way to secure loose outdoor items -- Lowell's exact track can still shift, but a watch means preparation time is now, not later
- ❑ If you're in the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Texas area, check on neighbors still without power (about 52,000 statewide this morning), especially anyone on medical equipment -- report outages to your utility if yours hasn't come back
- ❑ We checked today: Extreme Heat Warnings are confirmed active in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa -- dust off the heat routine if you're in that 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
- ❑ We checked today: Code Orange ozone alerts are active around Memphis, TN and Winston-Salem, NC, tied to the heat wave. If you're in either area, move outdoor activity to the morning and limit prolonged exertion outside this afternoon
- ❑ 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 (Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota have active fire-weather warnings today)

- ❑ If you are in Montana, Wyoming or North Dakota, today's fire-weather warnings mean gusty winds and very low humidity -- avoid any outdoor burning and be ready to report smoke immediately. If you are in Idaho, Washington or Oregon 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 FRIDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ❑ Check your NOAA weather radio against the table above. 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 SonicWall and other flaws from a couple of days ago remain the most recent additions. If your workplace uses SonicWall SMA1000 equipment and hasn't patched yet, that's still worth doing today
- ❑ 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 Vice President said today the Iran conflict "isn't a 'war,'" and there's a report Iran has gone two nights without a new US strike -- a possible pause, not a resolution. Neither development changes 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, the bigger story is Hurricane Lowell: it briefly reached Category 5 strength and Hawaii is now under a hurricane watch. Fire-weather risk has also shifted to Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota. 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 holds steady (about 3.9 million acres, confirmed on a fresh check today), and fire-weather risk has shifted to Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota. Hurricane Lowell reaching Hawaii would be a separate trigger to watch -- not yet met, since it remains a watch, not a warning. 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 remains closed. We did not get a fresh space-weather check today, so we're carrying yesterday's picture: a quieter, satellite-charging-related signal has been running for several days. Either way, there is nothing for a household to do about it -- it does not affect phones, wifi, cars or the power grid where most people live.

**COMCON 4
Increased Vigilance**

Today's transmitter list is clean, no conflicting numbers -- 15 stations down or degraded across 11 states, see the Weather Radio section above for the full table. New Mexico has three affected. No group of transmitters sits inside an active fire-weather warning zone, so there is no coverage-gap alert.

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

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby.

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