DAILY PREPAREDNESS BRIEF

Household Edition -- Thursday, 29 October 2026

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⚠ PREPAREDNESS CONDITION 3 -- BROWN SKY -- INCIDENT PROBABLE ⚠

Thursday, 29 October 2026 | PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY, HELD | WX-CON: 2 slight | SWX-CON: stand-down

THE ONE THING TODAY

UPDATE YOUR LINUX COMPUTERS: FIX DUE SATURDAY

Hackers are using a flaw in the Linux kernel, the core of the software that runs most web servers and many other devices, and federal agencies must fix it by Saturday. If you or your group run anything on Linux, install the latest updates now.

IF YOU RUN LINUX: Install your system's latest updates and restart, check devices such as network storage for firmware updates, and ask your web host to confirm its servers are patched.

SINCE OUR LAST BRIEF: storms with hail up to 3 inches and a weak tornado hit Minnesota and Wisconsin; flash flood warnings hit southeast New Mexico and West Texas overnight; Iran's Revolutionary Guard claims it mined three tankers, which no one has confirmed; and 10 Alaska weather radio stations are degraded.

FLASH FLOOD RISK TODAY IN WEST TEXAS AND SOUTHEAST NEW MEXICO

Leftover moisture from Tropical Storm Vance could bring 2 to 5 inches of rain to West and Central Texas and southeast New Mexico today, on ground that has flooded all week. Arizona, including Phoenix, has a flood risk Friday and Saturday. Keep phone alerts on.

SCAM ALERT -- FAKE FEMA HELP IN NEW MEXICO AND FLORIDA

New Mexico is preparing a new request for federal disaster help after this month's floods, and Florida Panhandle counties hit by Hurricane Isaias already have it. Real FEMA help is free: never pay a fee or give a gift card or bank password, and apply only through disasterassistance.gov or your county.

WEATHER RADIO -- 29 STATIONS DOWN OR DEGRADED

29 transmitters are off the air or degraded across 12 states, up from 19: ten stations around Juneau in southeast Alaska are degraded, and Altus, Oklahoma is off the air. Artesia, Carlsbad and Roswell, NM are still off the air under today's flood risk, so use phone alerts and local media there. Mt. Ashland, Oregon is back on.

STATION	FREQUENCY	STATUS
Kotzebue, AK	162.550 MHz	Degraded
Saint Paul Island, AK	162.525 MHz	Out of service
SE Alaska, 10 sites (Juneau area)	various	Degraded
Baxley, GA	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Summerville, GA	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Kauai, HI	162.400 MHz	Out of service
Hillsboro, IL	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Shelbyville, IL	162.500 MHz	Out of service

Marion, IN	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Gem, KS	162.400 MHz	Out of service
Ulysses, KS	162.450 MHz	Out of service
Gunflint Lake, MN	162.525 MHz	Out of service
Waubun, MN	162.450 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
Altus, OK	162.425 MHz	Out of service
Shelbyville, TN	162.475 MHz	Out of service

FIRES -- QUIET NATIONWIDE

Fire activity is light nationwide. Three new small fires were reported in South Carolina, Mississippi and New York.

HEALTH -- EBOLA STILL SPREADING IN CONGO

Congo's count stands at 10,060 confirmed Ebola cases, and WHO says 50 to 80 new cases a day are being confirmed. Kenya has 9 cases and 2 deaths, and Uganda reports no current cases. There are still no US cases.

SPACE WEATHER -- MINOR STORM WATCH SATURDAY

A minor geomagnetic storm watch is posted for Saturday (UTC), and northern states may see the aurora late Friday night. No action is needed at home.

WHAT TODAY'S IRAN NEWS MEANS FOR YOU

There was no US strike on Iran. Iran's Revolutionary Guard claims three tankers hit mines, which no one has confirmed, and a news report says Gulf allies were told to prepare for a short US campaign after the election. There is no credible threat to US soil and no national terrorism advisory in effect.

Gas prices: Oil is about $114 a barrel. Regular is $4.23, down about 2 cents since yesterday, and diesel is $6.33.

Travel: Saudi Arabia shot down another missile aimed at its oil region Thursday, and nonessential US embassy staff remain ordered out. Check State Department advisories and your airline before any Middle East trip.

At home: For American families the Iran conflict still shows up mainly at the gas pump, not as a safety threat.

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST -- TODAY'S PRIORITIES

TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO -- FLASH FLOOD RISK TODAY

- ☐ Never drive through water over the road; turn around
- ☐ Keep phone alerts on and your phone charged
- ☐ Know a route home that avoids low-water crossings
- ☐ In Eddy, Lea and Chaves counties, rely on phone alerts: weather radio is off the air
- ☐ Check on neighbors, especially older adults living alone

ARIZONA -- FLOOD RISK FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

- ☐ Phoenix and central Arizona are under a Flood Watch; check it before you travel
- ☐ Never drive into a flooded wash or dip

- ☐ Move valuables up off the floor in flood-prone homes

GENERAL THURSDAY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Look up your local weather radio station in the table above
- ☐ Ignore any caller who wants payment to speed up disaster aid
- ☐ Space weather: look north for aurora late Friday night; no action needed
- ☐ Election season: ignore texts or emails asking you to "verify" your voter registration

CONDITION SUMMARY

PREP-CON 3 BROWN SKY	Incident Probable, held. Tension overseas remains high, with no credible threat to US soil.
WX-CON 2 -- Slight	Held: a slight risk of flash flooding for West and Central Texas and southeast New Mexico today, and for Arizona Friday and Saturday.
SWX-CON -- Stand-Down	A minor storm watch is posted for Saturday; the condition stays at stand-down unless it arrives.
COMCON 4 Increased Vigilance	29 weather radio transmitters are down or degraded across 12 states (table above); three are out in southeast New Mexico, under today's flood risk.

RESOURCES

Emergency preparedness planning: fortunefavorstheprepared.com
Daily Threat Report (practitioner): fortunefavorstheprepared.com/dtr
National Hurricane Center: nhc.noaa.gov
Disaster assistance: disasterassistance.gov
Flood safety: weather.gov/safety/flood
NOAA Space Weather Center: swpc.noaa.gov
CDC Ebola updates: cdc.gov/ebola
American Red Cross disaster welfare: redcross.org

END

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