



March 10, 2025

Headlining This Week's Brief

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Top Stories

Significant Multi-Hazard Weather System to Target Central U.S. Late Week

A powerful and fast-developing storm system is set to impact areas from the Canadian border to Mexico late this week, bringing a dangerous mix of severe weather, extreme fire danger, and blizzard conditions. This sprawling system will rapidly intensify as it moves eastward from the U.S. Central and Southern Plains into the Midwest, placing tens of millions at risk. By Friday, the Central Mississippi Valley and Deep South could face a significant severe weather outbreak, with the potential for widespread damaging winds exceeding 75mph, large hail, and tornadoes—some possibly strong. The [Storm Prediction Center](#) is already highlighting elevated odds for severe weather, which is likely to escalate to a Level 3 to 4 risk (locally higher) on the 5-tier scale. The highest risk spans from much of Arkansas and southern Missouri, southeastward through southern Illinois, western Tennessee, and northern Mississippi. The severe threat will continue Friday night and Saturday as the system moves into the Southeast, increasing the risk of nighttime tornadoes and destructive storms over Mississippi, Alabama, and surrounding areas.

[Dangerous fire weather conditions](#) will also escalate across Texas, New Mexico, and the Oklahoma High Plains, where powerful westerly winds and rapidly drying fuels will create extreme wildfire risks. With humidity levels expected to plummet, any ignitions could quickly become fast-moving wildfires, posing a significant threat to communities. Given windy conditions, blowing dust may also become a problem along portions of I-10 at times throughout the week. Meanwhile, across the central and northern Plains, winds of 60-70mph (locally higher) will create the risk of scattered power outages and travel disruptions, even in areas outside the core severe weather zone.

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Further north, on the colder side of the system, a [significant winter storm](#) is expected to unfold. Heavy snowfall will begin in the Sierra Nevada and the Rockies on Thursday before spreading into the northern Plains by Friday. Blizzard conditions are likely across the Dakotas and into southern Canada, with whiteout conditions making travel nearly impossible at times. Parts of I-90 and I-94 across the Dakotas, as well as I-29 north of Sioux Falls, may see severe disruptions due to blowing and drifting snow. Residents in these areas should prepare for rapidly changing and potentially life-threatening conditions heading into the weekend.

South Korea Prepares for Potential Violence as Decision on President's Impeachment Approaches

[South Korea is preparing](#) for possible unrest this week as the Constitutional Court considers its ruling on whether to uphold the impeachment of President Yoon Suk-yeol following the [short-lived imposition](#) of martial law in December. A verdict is expected as soon as this week, with many observers [anticipating](#) an announcement Friday. Police have said they will [deploy](#) "all available resources," with nearly one out of every 10 officers in the country [mobilized](#) in Seoul specifically. Seoul Metro has said they may [close](#) Anguk Station, near the Constitutional Court, on the day of the verdict. Several nearby [schools](#) may also close.

Yoon's trial has engendered a rise in [extreme rhetoric and political violence](#) in South Korea. In January, after Yoon's detention was extended, supporters [stormed](#) a court building, vandalizing much of the inside. Since then, there have been [reports](#) of violent rhetoric across several private chat channels. In their preparations for possible worst-case scenarios, police are looking to avoid a repeat of the [violent demonstrations](#) that accompanied President Park Geun-hye's removal from office, during which two people died. Should Yoon's impeachment be upheld, South Korea will have 60 days to hold a special presidential election.

More than 1,000 Killed During Fighting in Coastal Syria

Syria's government said that a [security operation](#) along the country's coast in Latakia and Tartous provinces has ended. The fighting began on Thursday as forces loyal to former leader Bashar al-Assad [staged attacks](#) on the new government's security forces. The initial attack was followed by waves of apparent revenge killings, ultimately resulting in over 1,500 deaths, the majority of them civilians, according to unverified numbers from the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). Latakia and Tartous are home to Syria's Alawite minority, which was Assad's home community and primary base of

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support. The U.S. and Russia have called for a UN Security Council meeting on Monday to address the escalating violence.

The violence along the coast highlights the difficulties facing Syria's new government following years of civil war. In a suburb of Damascus populated by the Druze community, unknown gunmen [killed a member of the security forces](#), prompting arrests. Kurdish groups [continue to operate](#) in the north, where they face attacks from Türkiye, which is friendly with the new Syrian government. And Israel, which is occupying territory in a demilitarized zone in the south, has [conducted airstrikes](#), apparently targeting military assets of the Assad regime.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Queensland Faces Lingering Impacts Following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred:** Weather conditions along Australia's eastern coast are improving following severe impacts from ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, though lingering impacts continue to disrupt the area. As many as 316,000 customers along the Gold Coast and surrounding regions were left without power over the weekend due to heavy rains and damaging wind, with over [100,000 customers still affected](#) on Tuesday (AEST). Emergency services have conducted numerous swift-water rescues in areas like Palmwoods, Nambour, Eudlo, and Woombye, where [major flash flooding](#) occurred after more than 350mm of rainfall. [Flood warnings](#) remain active for the Lockyer Valley, Ipswich, and Brisbane, with authorities urging residents to stay vigilant and avoid floodwaters. Recovery efforts are underway, but [challenges involving full power restoration](#) and infrastructure damage may persist through much of the week.
- **Atmospheric River to Bring Heavy Rain, Snow, and Flooding to California Midweek:** A [powerful atmospheric river](#) will impact California from late Tuesday through Thursday, bringing heavy rain, gusty winds, and mountain snow. Widespread rain is expected to peak midweek as the primary system arrives. Coastal and valley areas, including [Los Angeles and Orange Counties](#), are forecast to receive one to two inches of rain, with locally higher amounts in mountainous areas increasing the risk of flash flooding and debris flows near burn scars. Snow levels will start above 6,000 feet Wednesday but drop to 2,500- 3,000 feet Thursday, with the [Sierra Nevada expecting one to three feet of snow](#) and blizzard conditions with winds up to 60mph. Bay Area commuters will face rain and wind gusts of 40-55mph Wednesday morning, with the heaviest rain arriving in the evening. Highways, including I-5 at Tejon Pass and I-80 at Donner Pass, may see delays or closures due to snow. A second, weaker system may bring additional precipitation by the weekend.

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- **Cyclone Jude Brings Heavy Rains to Mozambique:** Cyclone Jude made landfall near Nacala in northern Mozambique on Monday, bringing sustained winds of up to 140kmh (87mph). This marks the [third cyclone to impact the region within four months](#), following Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi. The National Disaster Management Institute (INGD) estimates that over 341,000 people in Nampula province are at high risk from the cyclone's effects. Torrential rains have been reported, with forecasts predicting upwards of 200mm (eight inches) of rainfall through midweek across coastal districts, including Nacala, Mossuril, Memba, and Monapo. The cyclone has already caused power outages, leaving about 40,000 customers without electricity, and has led to the [cancellation](#) of domestic flights to some northern cities. As Jude progresses westward, it is expected to bring heavy rains to Malawi on Tuesday as it gradually weakens over land. AlertMedia meteorologists are monitoring the potential for redevelopment should the primary circulation move over the Mozambique Channel by late week.

Worldwide

- **Israel Cuts Off Electricity to Gaza as Negotiations Over Ceasefire Continue:** Israel has [cut off](#) electricity to Gaza to pressure Hamas into extending the first phase of the ceasefire and securing the release of more hostages. Israel and the U.S. have [backed](#) the so-called Witkoff outline, which involves an extension of phase one of the ceasefire for 60 days in exchange for the release of additional hostages. Hamas is pushing for a move to phase two of the originally agreed-upon deal that would see the release of all hostages in exchange for a permanent end to the war. Elsewhere in the region, the Houthis in Yemen have [issued](#) a four-day ultimatum, demanding Israel lift its blockade on Gaza aid and threatening military action if their demands are not met.
- **U.S. Suspends Intelligence Sharing With Ukraine as Pressure Builds to End War:** Following a suspension of military aid to Ukraine, U.S. President Donald Trump [ordered](#) a pause of intelligence sharing used by Ukraine to attack targets in Russia. President Trump is reportedly [considering](#) a reversal of the suspension, depending on how talks scheduled with a Ukrainian delegation in Saudi Arabia over possible concessions to end the war go. Trump is also considering [revoking](#) the legal status of nearly a quarter million Ukrainians in the U.S. who fled the conflict. On the ground, Russian forces have [retaken](#) several villages in the Kursk region that Ukraine originally seized during a surprise offensive in August. Russian forces are now close to encircling the main Ukrainian force.
- **Executive Protection Trends; Crypto Elite Pivot to Private Security:** A recent [report](#) by Torchstone Global highlighted trends in security threats to high-profile individuals. In 2024, the

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company tallied 462 such incidents, with drivers including an exceptionally active election year, resulting in threats and attacks on politicians and public officials, as well as the murder of United HealthCare CEO Brian Thompson in December 2024. Analysts found that the home remained the most common location for incidents. They specifically noted a rise in financially motivated crimes targeting [sports figures](#) and others with publicly available schedules.

- **Mexico Braces for Further Violence Ahead of Judicial Elections:** On June 1, Mexico will hold its first judicial elections following controversial [reforms](#) passed last year forcing judges to stand for elections instead of being appointed. Experts have warned that the government lacks the resources to provide adequate protection for all candidates, sparking concerns that Mexico could face another election campaign [similar](#) to last year's Presidential elections, which saw significant levels of cartel-related violence. In December, gunmen [fatally](#) shot Magistrate Edmundo Roman Pinzon, and since 2012, at least 22 local judicial professionals have been killed in Mexico.
- **Other Stories the Global Intelligence Team Is Monitoring:** The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) reports that **Africa's Sahel region** [accounts](#) for more than half of terrorism-related deaths, with Burkina Faso named as the country most affected by terrorism for a second time. Elsewhere in Africa, the U.S. has ordered non-emergency staff to depart **South Sudan** due to rising tensions following the [arrest](#) of several senior officials in the country's opposition group that threatens to shatter a fragile peace deal. And in Europe, violent protests broke out in **Romania** after the Central Election Bureau [rejected](#) controversial politician Calin Georgescu's application to run for president.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.S. Cyber Strategy Signals Shift in Stance on Russia:** Recent shifts in U.S. cybersecurity policy show that the Trump administration no longer considers Russia a significant cyber threat. According to reporting from [The Record](#) in late February, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered U.S. Cyber Command to stop all planning against Russia; however, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [stated](#) that there has been no change to their posture in defending against cyber threats. Recent statements by a cybersecurity official with the State Department and a memo from CISA [mentioned](#) China and Iran—but not Russia—as state actors who perpetuate cyber threats. The reprioritization aligns with a [larger shift in alignment](#) between the U.S. and Russia.

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- **Cyber Threat Group Silk Typhoon Shifts Tactics to Attacks on IT Supply Chains:** Cybersecurity experts report that Silk Typhoon—a China-linked espionage group—is now exploiting common IT solutions to gain initial access to targeted organizations. Researchers at Microsoft found that Silk Typhoon has targeted providers of “[remote management tools and cloud applications](#)” in their latest campaign, using that access to target downstream customers. The shift in tactics makes it easier for the cybercriminal group to bypass traditional security defenses, as it exploits companies’ trust in IT and remote management service providers. In related news, the U.S. government [named and charged](#) alleged Silk Typhoon members in global computer intrusion campaigns last week.
- **Latin America Faces Uptick in Cyber Threats:** Latin America is seeing a surge in cyber threats compared to other regions of the world, according to cybersecurity company [Check Point](#). Organizations based in Latin America are “facing an average of 2,569 attacks per week, nearly 40% higher than the global average.” Cybercriminals are increasingly leveraging AI and turning to data-leak extortion. The four most-targeted countries in Latin America include Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. According to cybersecurity firm Fortinet, Mexico accounted for more than half of all cyber threats [reported](#) in Latin America in the first half of 2024. In late 2024, the Ransomhub ransomware group [threatened](#) to leak data stolen from Mexico’s government.
- **Chinese Efforts to Monetize Data Through New Policy Hitting Roadblocks:** The Chinese government has implemented a change to accounting policies to [allow](#) companies to register data as a balance sheet asset. The first country to implement such a regulation, the move [underscores](#) China’s broader strategy to leverage data for economic growth and technological advancement. Data-rich companies, including tech and e-commerce companies, are well-positioned to benefit from the change, but have been slow to log data as assets since the policy was implemented. Challenges facing the policy include strict rules on data security and navigating global accounting standards that do not yet recognize data as a traditional asset.
- **Hack of Japanese Telecommunications Company Impacts 18,000 Corporate Clients:** A data breach at Japanese telecommunication services provider NTT Communications Corporation (NTT Com) [impacted](#) almost 18,000 corporate clients in early February. NTT Com, which provides phone and network technology to individuals and businesses, discovered the breach after an unnamed threat actor gained [unauthorized access](#) to an internal system used for managing service orders, compromising the data of customer companies. This included customer names, contract numbers, phone numbers, email addresses, and information on service usage. NTT Com

says the company immediately restricted access to the compromised device within its internal systems and that data of individual consumers were not affected by the breach.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Tariffs Pared Back on Canada, Mexico, but More Planned for Future:** The U.S. briefly imposed 25% tariffs on all goods from Canada and Mexico last week, as well as an additional 10% on Chinese goods, before [exempting](#) those that are compliant with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) until April 2. Duties on the crucial fertilizer component potash were also [reduced](#) to 10%. Shortly after the tariffs went into effect, Canada [responded](#) with duties of their own on \$30 billion worth of American goods, and Ontario said it is placing a 25% tariff on [electricity exports](#). Meanwhile, [Chinese tariffs](#) on a variety of U.S. agricultural products went into effect today. Looking forward, [steel](#) and [aluminum](#) tariffs are set to go into effect on [Wednesday](#), and the administration plans to impose “reciprocal” tariffs on April 2. U.S. President Donald Trump has also ordered reviews of the [wood supply chain](#).
- **U.S. Rail Freight Theft Costs Hit \$100M for 2024:** Freight theft in the United States increased by an [estimated 40%](#) in 2024, costing railroads over \$100 million, according to the [Association of American Railroads](#) (AAR). Railroad operators further state that criminals are more frequently armed, increasing the likelihood of violence. Stakeholders are [urging](#) Congress to take action and that would facilitate better security measures, federal coordination, and tougher penalties to deter theft. They have also called for the establishment of a Federal Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center and Supply Chain Fraud and Theft Task Force.
- **U.S. Ends Chevron’s Oil License in Venezuela:** U.S. President Donald Trump has [ended](#) Chevron’s license to operate in Venezuela and export its oil. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated “all Biden- era oil and gas licenses” in the country would be revoked, though this does not impact non-U.S. companies’ operations. Former President Joe Biden had updated Chevron’s license in 2022 in an attempt to [persuade](#) Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro to establish a fair electoral process. The oil producer has until April 3 to shut down operations.
- **Europe Agrees to [Phased](#) Approach of Entry/Exit System:** European Union countries have [agreed](#) to a phased launch of the long-delayed Entry/Exit System (EES), set to replace manual passport stamping with an automated system. The EES will register non-EU travelers’ biometric data and entry/exit records at the bloc’s borders. Initially planned for 2022, repeated delays pushed its rollout to late 2025. The system aims to enhance security and streamline border

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crossings but has raised concerns over technical readiness and implementation challenges. The phased approach will help countries and travelers adapt gradually to the new system.

- **CHIPS Act Faces Uncertainty After Trump Speech:** The CHIPS Act, a \$39 billion initiative to boost U.S. semiconductor manufacturing, faces uncertainty after recent [criticism](#) from the Trump administration. President Donald Trump has [argued](#) that the CHIPS Act represents wasteful subsidies for wealthy corporations and claimed tariffs could achieve similar goals without taxpayer expense. He also criticized the law for failing to deliver results despite significant investments. GOP lawmakers have largely [dismissed](#) Trump's call for repeal, citing the law's importance for national security and economic stability. Some expressed openness to minor adjustments but emphasized that most of the allocated funds have already been spent.

Health

- **WHO Extends Mpox Emergency as New Variant Emerges:** The World Health Organization (WHO) [approved](#) a revised set of temporary recommendations for locations experiencing mpox transmission and extended the label of public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) for the ongoing outbreak. This comes as a new variant of mpox was [identified](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The new "APOBEC3" mutation comes from the clade 1a strain and raises concerns about its potential for increased transmissibility; however, it appears to be less deadly. In other updates, the fourth case of clade 1b mpox in the U.S. was reported in New York on February 12, though the CDC [reports](#) that all four cases have been found to be separate events and not linked to broader community transmission.
- **CDC Assisting With Texas Measles Outbreak as Cases Rise:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [deployed](#) a team to assist with the ongoing measles outbreak in West Texas and New Mexico. The deployment comes as a [second death](#) was reported in connection to the ongoing outbreak. While the cause of death is still under investigation, the deceased, an unvaccinated adult, did test positive for measles. The Texas Department of State Health Services has [reported](#) 198 measles cases as of March 7, while the New Mexico Department of Health [confirmed](#) 30 cases. All cases in New Mexico have been reported in Lea County, which borders Texas' Gaines County, the [outbreak's](#) epicenter.
- **Additional Cluster Identified as Part of Uganda Ebola Outbreak:** Officials with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention [identified](#) a second cluster of Ebola Sudan. The cases are linked to the recent death of a 4-year-old boy, the second of the current outbreak. The

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number of cases has increased to [14](#) since January 30, when the outbreak was declared, and has spread to five districts in Uganda, including the capital Kampala. The country has dealt with six major Ebola outbreaks with the last one, in the fall of 2022, leaving at least [55 people dead](#). There is [no vaccine](#) for Ebola Sudan.

- **WHO Probes Unexplained Illness in the DRC:** A [WHO investigation](#) into recent unexplained illnesses in the DRC indicates that either [bacterial meningitis](#) or a case of chemical poisoning is the likely cause; this is in line with [initial suspicions](#). There was no evidence of Marburg or Ebola; however, approximately half of the malaria tests given [came back positive](#). The WHO found [no link](#) between the two illness clusters in Bolomba Health Zone and Basankusu Health Zone in the Equateur Province. Further testing, including cerebrospinal fluid and toxicological testing, is being conducted as a part of the investigation to [“explore chemical causes.”](#)
- **Yellow Fever Infections Increase in Tolima Colombia; PAHO Warns of Rise in Americas:** As of March 9, there have been 37 [confirmed](#) cases of yellow fever in Tolima department in Colombia, 15 of them fatal. Department of Health Secretary Katerine Rengifo reports that the situation is affecting 47 municipalities of the department. In related news, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an epidemiological [alert](#) on February 3 concerning yellow fever in the Americas due to the recent increase in confirmed human cases. In 2024, yellow fever cases were mainly concentrated in the Amazon region of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, and Peru; however, in 2025, the disease has [been reported in](#) São Paulo and Tolima, Colombia. PAHO warns that additional countries may also be affected.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Demonstrations Against Musk, Trump Policies Continue:** A demonstration campaign targeting Tesla dealerships and showrooms has gained traction in recent weeks as protesters seek out ways to target the new administration of U.S. President Donald Trump and Tesla CEO Elon Musk. While the majority of demonstrations have been peaceful and minimally disruptive, some have drawn [several hundred participants](#) and featured arrests. There have also been [reports](#) of vandalism and arson attacks targeting Tesla dealerships, vehicles, and charging stations. In addition to demonstrations targeting Tesla, notable upcoming actions include a march at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Friday at 12 pm and a protest at Foley Square in New York City on Saturday at 11 am. The 50501 Movement has also called for another coordinated day of action on April 4.

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- **India to See Demonstrations Against Waqf (Amendment) Bill:** The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) is planning a demonstration against the [Waqf \(Amendment\) Bill, 2024](#) on March 13 at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. The bill, which is expected to be tabled during the current session of Parliament, would [amend](#) a law that governs property donated for charitable or religious purposes. Opponents assert that the legislation will be used to dispossess the Muslim community of valuable holdings. The Hindu Raksha Dal has threatened to hold a [counter-demonstration](#) and implied that they may physically confront other protesters, while the AIMPLB has threatened to launch a nationwide movement if the bill is advanced. Demonstrations have also been held in Patna, Vijayawada, and Kolkata.
- **Large Demonstration Planned in Belgrade Saturday, President Alleges Violence Planned:** An ongoing student-led protest movement plans to hold the [largest rally yet](#) of its months-long campaign on Saturday in Belgrade. Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić has said that any who take part in the action will be arrested, claiming that organizers are planning violence. Demonstrators are demanding accountability for the deadly collapse of the Novi Sad railway station canopy, which killed 15 people in November.
- **Germany Sees Increase in Industrial Action by Public Sector Workers:** Thousands of flights were canceled across Germany today in the Verdi trade union's most high-profile strike action since negotiations with federal and municipal authorities began in January. Disruptions to public sector services, including public transportation, daycares, and other municipal services, are likely across Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, and in Braunschweig this week due to the strikes called for by Verdi. Additional strike actions are likely ahead of the third round of collective bargaining, which is scheduled for March 14-16 in Potsdam. Verdi, which [represents](#) 2.5 million employees and is the country's second-largest trade union, has [threatened](#) to strike again with Berlin's BVG public transport network after rejecting a pay offer last week.
- **Teachers Union in Mexico Call for 72-Hour National Strike:** The National Educational Workers Coordination (CNTE), one of the main teachers' unions in Mexico, has called for a [strike](#) in areas where they have a presence from March 19-21. The strike will be accompanied by a large march in Mexico City on March 21. Teachers across several states in Mexico have been demonstrating since late February as they call for the repeal of the ISSSTE Law of 2007. Members of the National Educational Workers Union (SNTE), Mexico's largest teachers' union, have also been engaging in strike activity and demonstrating, including blocking roads and [taking over toll booths](#).

Upcoming Events

- January February 28-March 29: Ramadan (Global) *dates approximate*

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- March 11: General Election (Greenland)
- March 12: Legislative Elections (Belize)
- March 12: U.S. Tariffs on Steel, Aluminum Go into Effect (Global)
- March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Global)
- March 21: General Elections (Curaçao)
- March 26: Independence Day (Bangladesh)
- March 28: Parliamentary Elections (Tajikistan)
- March 29: Day of the Young Combatant (Chile)
- March 30: Land Day (Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza)
- April 2: U.S. to Impose "Reciprocal" Tariffs (Global)
- April 9: Constitution Day (Kosovo)
- April 12: Presidential Election (Gabon)
- April 12-April 20: Passover (Global)
- April 13: Presidential Election Run-Off (Ecuador)
- April 17: Maundy Thursday (Global)
- April 18: Good Friday (Global)
- April 20: Easter (Global)
- May 1: Labor Day/May Day (Global)
- May 4: Presidential Election (Romania)