



**June 17, 2025**

## Headlining This Week's Brief

### Top Stories

Climate and Natural Hazards  
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Upcoming Events

## Top Stories

### **Politician Assassinated in Minnesota as Millions Take Part in "No Kings" Demonstrations**

Organizers said that [millions of people](#) took part in hundreds of demonstrations across the United States as part of "No Kings Day" protests on Saturday. While the demonstrations were overwhelmingly peaceful, the day began with what Minnesota Governor Tim Walz called a "[politically-motivated assassination](#)," when a man [shot](#) two state lawmakers, killing former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband and injuring Senator John Hoffman and his wife. The suspect, Vance Boelter, was apprehended this morning near his home. Officials have not officially declared a motive in the shooting, although police found a [list](#) in Boelter's vehicle that included the names of other Democratic lawmakers, along with abortion providers.

In addition to the shootings in Minnesota, the Texas Department of Public Safety briefly [evacuated](#) the Texas State Capitol Complex after receiving a "credible threat" against state lawmakers planning to attend Saturday's protest. The shootings and threats follow a [report](#) from the Bridging Divides Initiative showing a rise in threats and harassment targeting local officials over the past year. Further instances of politically motivated violence are likely amid the current political environment.

For additional information on Saturday's demonstrations and others against the current presidential administration, including a [shooting](#) in Salt Lake City, a [vehicle-ramming](#) in Virginia, and clashes with police in [Los Angeles](#), read AlertMedia's [Situation Report](#).

### **Israel-Iran Conflict Deepens, Impacts Felt Across Middle East**

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The [expansion](#) of the conflict between Iran and Israel threatens trade and travel in a growing number of Middle Eastern countries. Escalations on both sides—with Iranian missiles [penetrating](#) Israeli air defenses and Israel Defense Forces (IDF) aircraft targeting a widening swathe of industrial and infrastructure [targets](#) in Iran—are driving countries like Jordan and Egypt to periodically [restrict](#) travel or freeze [industrial activity](#) at risky sites, potentially impacting regional energy markets and other trade. At least 24 people in Israel and 224 in Iran have been killed as of the time of writing, with hundreds more wounded in both countries.

Countries outside the region—particularly the United States and other Western partners—are also concerned about the potential impacts and are [restricting](#) travel to the region or increasing local security [preparations](#) in response to the widening war. The Trump administration was previously scheduled to resume negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program in Oman on June 15, but that meeting was [canceled](#) without rescheduling.

Israel’s attacks on the South Pars gas field—the world’s largest known natural gas deposit—and other [sites](#), alongside a precautionary production [stoppage](#) at Israel’s own largest gas field, will likely impact regional energy supplies and pricing, though observers note that global oil prices stabilized following reports that Iran’s “production capacity and export capacity have been spared,” though this could change as Operation Rising Lion continues to evolve. For more information on the current conflict between Israel and Iran, read AlertMedia’s [Situation Report](#).

## **Four Consecutive Days of Severe Thunderstorm Risk Across the U.S.**

From Monday evening through Thursday, a stretch of severe thunderstorms will impact parts of the central and eastern United States, beginning in the northern and Central Plains and shifting east through the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and Mid-Atlantic.

On [Monday](#), the Storm Prediction Center issued two Level 3 of 5 (enhanced) risk areas over Minnesota and Nebraska. Damaging wind gusts up to 75 mph and large hail are the main threats, with a few brief tornadoes possible. Storms will peak between 3 pm and 10 pm, though strong winds could persist overnight in the Central Plains.

[Tuesday](#) brings another Level 3 risk across central Kansas. Areas farther east, including Kansas City, may see storms congeal into a squall line and push through overnight. Isolated power outages are possible.

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On [Wednesday](#), severe storms will stretch from the southern Plains to the southern Great Lakes. Damaging winds and hail remain the primary threats as storms develop along a cold front and move east through the evening.

By [Thursday](#), the severe risk shifts into the Mid-Atlantic as a cold front sweeps through. Areas from Scranton and Philadelphia to Baltimore, DC, Richmond, and Roanoke may see damaging winds with scattered storms; watches are likely.

This four-day severe weather threat follows two recent deadly flooding events in the U.S. Last Thursday, flash [floods in San Antonio claimed 13 lives](#), and on Saturday, five people were killed and three remain missing following [major flooding in West Virginia](#).

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Mexico Hurricane and Flood Threat:** The eastern Pacific shows a [strong signal](#) for tropical storm or hurricane development, with potential impacts near the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, from a developing disturbance. Once named, the storm will take the next name on the list, Erick. Residents in and around Puerto Escondido should remain alert, as worsening conditions are expected from Wednesday night into Thursday. Beyond coastal impacts, the system is likely to bring significant inland rainfall, flooding, and landslide risks throughout Oaxaca. While the heaviest flooding is expected in Oaxaca, the remnants of the storm will enhance rainfall and increase the risk of scattered flooding across Guerrero, Puebla, Veracruz, Morelos, the State of Mexico, Mexico City, and surrounding areas from late Thursday through Saturday. As Mexico City enters the rainy season, parts of the metro have already experienced red rainfall warnings and localized flash flooding—similar events may occur in the days ahead. Elsewhere, across the Atlantic, western Pacific, and Indian Ocean, no tropical development is forecast over the next seven days.
- **Consecutive Days of Critical Fire Conditions Across Southwest U.S.:** Strong winds, above-average temperatures, and extremely dry conditions will set the stage for elevated to critical fire weather conditions across the Southwest United States early this week. South Nevada, south Utah, and northwest Arizona will be most at risk for rapid wildfire spread [Monday](#) afternoon and evening as wind gusts out of the southwest are expected to reach 30-40mph at times. On [Tuesday](#), eastern Arizona and western New Mexico will be most at risk for dangerous fire weather.
- **Western and Central Europe Heat Wave:** A strong ridge of high pressure is forecast to remain anchored over Western and Central Europe for the next seven to 10 days, and possibly through

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the end of the month. This persistent pattern will bring prolonged above-average temperatures and minimal to no precipitation. Temperatures are expected to climb 10–15°C above normal across Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and surrounding regions. In addition to heightening the risk of heat-related illnesses, the heat and dryness will significantly increase wildfire danger. Ongoing [drought conditions](#) across much of northwest Europe will further amplify the already elevated fire threat.

## Worldwide

- **Series of Attacks on Colombian Police Leave Several Dead, Dozens Wounded:** On June 10, at least seven individuals, including two police officers, were [killed](#) in a series of explosions and attacks on police stations in the Colombian city of Cali and the neighboring provinces of Cauca and Valle del Cauca. Colombia's National Police alleged that the FARC-EMC rebel group was behind the violence, with the members placing bombs in vehicles and motorcycles parked near police stations, alongside attacks involving gunfire and grenades. FARC-EMC has also [called](#) for an "armed strike" from today through June 21 across the Guavire department in southeastern Colombia in response to what they have called the "collusion" of a rival group with security forces, suggesting that President Gustavo Petro's aspirations of "Total Peace" are further away than ever.
- **Rising Anti-Immigrant Sentiment Fuels Violence Across Northern Ireland:** Clashes among rioters and police broke out on June 7 in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, following the alleged sexual assault of a girl by two Romanian-speaking teenagers. Initially seeking justice, a vigil for the victim [escalated](#) into multiple days of violent unrest fueled by rising anti-immigrant sentiment. The unrest, which has [persisted](#) for [several](#) days and spread to other cities, has led to attacks on homes and public property, particularly [targeting](#) ethnic minorities. Police have made multiple arrests and are investigating the events as racially motivated hate crimes, with Romanian embassy officials [working](#) with local authorities. In Ireland, opposing demonstrations over immigration are planned in Dublin this Sunday.
- **U.S. Considering Adding 36 Additional Countries to Travel Ban List:** The Trump administration is [preparing to expand its travel ban to 36 additional countries](#), building on the list of 19 countries that face full or partial restrictions as of last Monday. The new list includes 25 African nations and countries in the Caribbean, Central Asia, and the Pacific Islands. A State Department memo signed by Secretary Marco Rubio outlines a 60-day compliance window for nations to improve identity verification, transparency, visa overstay rates, and address other security concerns. Countries failing to meet these benchmarks may face visa suspensions or full entry bans, though it is unclear when those bans would take effect.

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- **Trump Targeting Democrat-Run Cities Amid Shift in Immigration Stance:** U.S. President Donald Trump has [called](#) on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to increase its activities in large cities, specifically calling out Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. ICE raids in Los Angeles' garment district prompted last week's unrest, with police and military forces still present in the city. The directive comes as Trump is shifting his immigration stance under pressure from key industries, [resulting](#) in ICE officials directing agency officers to pause worksite raids on farms, meat-packing plants, hotels, and restaurants. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is planning to ramp up civil and criminal prosecutions of employers who hire undocumented workers. Border czar Tom Homan [stated](#) last Wednesday that "Worksite enforcement operations are going to massively expand" and that the government will seek employer sanctions.
- **Anti-Government Demonstrations in Bolivia Turn Deadly Amid Economic, Electoral Strife:** Since early 2025, Bolivia has been [gripped](#) by ongoing anti-government demonstrations fueled by [economic hardship](#) and political turmoil, particularly following the [decision](#) to bar former President Evo Morales from running in the upcoming August presidential election. Demonstrations, concentrated in rural areas, have [intensified](#) with road blockades and clashes with security forces, resulting in at least four first responder deaths, including three police officers. Due to the recent escalations on Sunday, June 15, supporters of former Bolivian President Evo Morales [ended](#) the roadblocks across Bolivia, declaring a "humanitarian pause" to allow for an international investigation into violent clashes during protests.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **Cyberattack Disrupts Whole Foods Supply Chain:** Last week, United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI), the primary distributor of Whole Foods, [detected](#) a cyberattack, forcing a shutdown of critical IT systems. The attack caused significant disruptions, [limiting](#) UNFI's ability to fulfill customer orders and leading to [empty shelves](#) in some Whole Foods and other grocery stores. UNFI is collaborating with law enforcement and cybersecurity experts to investigate and restore systems, targeting full recovery within the next couple of days. The incident, part of a broader [wave](#) of retail cyberattacks, highlights vulnerabilities in supply chains, impacting customers and smaller businesses reliant on UNFI.
- **Air India Crash Could Prompt Scrutiny of Indian Air Safety, Airline, Manufacturer:** The June 12 [crash](#) of Air India flight AI171 that killed at least 290 people will likely drive closer scrutiny of India's flight safety regulations and enforcement practices, with investigators having [ruled out](#) foul play after [recovering](#) the aircraft's black box. The incident could also [energize](#) challenges facing Air India, which is attempting a financial turnaround and has been reprimanded for [safety failures](#) several times in recent years. Boeing, the manufacturer of the plane involved in the

crash, has also faced significant scrutiny in recent years following a series of deadly crashes involving a separate plane the company manufactures, the 737 Max.

- **Colombian President Calls for Labor Referendum Amid Political Tensions:** On June 11, Colombian President Gustavo Petro [issued](#) a decree to hold a referendum in August on labor law reforms, including an eight-hour workday limit, after Congress rejected his proposals twice. The decree follows a period of legislative disagreement, with Congress voting 49-47 against Petro's 12-question referendum proposal in May. This action occurs alongside the critical condition of opposition senator Miguel Uribe Turbay, who was shot over the weekend. The [decree](#) now awaits review by Colombia's Constitutional Court, which may assess its legality amid potential challenges, including a lawsuit seeking to annul the Senate's prior vote.
- **Brazil's Supreme Court Rules Social Media Liable for Illegal User Content:** On June 12, Brazil's Supreme Court, in a majority decision, [ruled](#) that social media companies can be held liable for illegal user content, marking a pivotal case for digital regulations in Latin America. This decision [aligns](#) Brazil's approach with the European Union's stricter tech oversight, potentially prompting platforms to preemptively remove content to avoid liability. The ruling has sparked concerns over freedom of speech, particularly following the 2023 Brasilia Riot, which underscored the need for proactive content moderation.
- **New York Lawmakers Pass Bill to Improve AI Safety Regulations, Meta Faces Scrutiny Over AI Chat Feature:** Last week New York state lawmakers [passed](#) the Responsible AI Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which would require artificial intelligence (AI) companies like OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic to disclose security and safety measures for frontier models, aiming to prevent catastrophic AI-induced disasters. The act, which awaits Governor Kathy Hochul's approval, would also [mandate](#) that companies develop safety plans to protect against things like "automated crime, bioweapons, and other widespread harm and destruction." Simultaneously, Meta faces [scrutiny](#) as users unknowingly shared private conversations via its AI platforms, exposing sensitive information publicly due to a misunderstood "share" feature.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Key Middle East Waterways Remain Open Amid Elevated Security Threat:** Despite [reports](#) suggesting that Iranian officials are considering closing the Strait of Hormuz amid their ongoing conflict with Israel, the key maritime chokepoint remains [open](#) at the time of publication. However, concerns are growing that spillover from the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, coupled with the Iranian regime's close relations with Houthi militants that have launched repeated attacks on maritime targets in the region, could increase the threat to vital shipping lanes across the Middle

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East. Maritime traders transiting the Red Sea previously increased their [insurance](#) against political risk to help offset unexpected costs due to security needs or longer voyages stemming from port congestion and other knock-on impacts. While Yemen's Houthis [warned](#) as recently as June 11 that any attack on Iran would provoke a wider war, including [strikes](#) on U.S. targets, the group's involvement in the fresh Iran-Israel conflict remains [contained](#) to strikes targeting Israel directly at the time of publication. Captains are [advised](#) to continue avoiding the Red Sea and to log passage through the Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing conflict.

- **Chinese Exporters Turning to Southeast Asia to Offset Lost U.S. Trade:** Chinese exports to three key manufacturing hubs in Southeast Asia rose by three times the global average between the June-May period of 2024 and the same period in 2025, helping to offset declining shipments to the U.S. due to high tariffs. The increase in shipments to Thailand (20.9%), Vietnam (18.8%), and Indonesia (16.8%) reflect both growing local consumer markets and these countries' increasingly pivotal role in global supply chains, with many Chinese manufacturers reportedly increasing [investments](#) in factories across the region "to declare any re-exports as made in Vietnam, Thailand or Indonesia."
- **Vietnam Courting U.S. Firms as Trade Negotiations Continue:** Amid [reports](#) that the United States and Vietnam are nearing a trade deal, Vietnamese trade envoy Nguyen Hong Dien [encouraged](#) executives from Nike and Walmart to "voice their strong support" for a "fair, balanced and sustainable agreement." Vietnam hopes that the support of major U.S. companies reliant on Vietnamese suppliers could help shield the country from tariffs as high as 46% if an agreement is not reached. Vietnam faces some of the highest tariffs threatened by the Trump administration if it does not reach an agreement, and while officials have taken steps to address U.S. concerns, Vietnam is said to have recently [received](#) a list of difficult-to-meet U.S. demands, suggesting that a deal is not guaranteed.
- **United States to Phase Out Federal Disaster Response Agency:** On June 10, U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans to "[wean](#)" states off federal emergency aid and [phase out](#) the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the end of the 2025 hurricane season. As recently as May, an [internal review](#) at FEMA found that the agency was already underprepared for the hurricane season to begin, and Trump's efforts to wind down the organization—which is responsible for coordinating the federal response to both man-made and natural disasters— and cut federal funding for disaster recovery are likely to make it more difficult to stage expedient and effective responses during national emergencies.
- **Chinese Authorities Requiring Sensitive Information Before Approving Rare Earth Exports:** Several Western companies have [warned](#) that Chinese authorities are requiring access to sensitive information, such as customer lists, product diagrams, and facility details, before



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approving exports of rare earths, magnets, or other important tech components. Experts are growing concerned that China's near-total control of global rare earth element supplies and growing willingness to disrupt supply chains as a geopolitical tool could [contribute](#) to a "chip shortage on steroids." The potential impact on global tech manufacturing is causing business leaders in the auto industry and other sectors to prepare for "widespread shutdowns in the coming months."

## Health

- **WHO Extends Emergency Status for Mpox:** The World Health Organization (WHO) mpox emergency committee found that the mpox surge in Africa continues to meet the criteria of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), given outbreak developments. The WHO extended a majority of its recommendations for mpox and issued new funding and governance recommendations that prioritize medium-term care, given funding shortfalls. Similarly, modified recommendations on vaccines stressed their limited availability. The emergency status extension comes as Ethiopia [reported](#) its first mpox death and Sierra Leone [grapples](#) with a nationwide outbreak of the clade 2 strain.
- **RFK Jr. Names New Vaccine Advisers After Unprecedented Purge of CDC Panel:** U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. removed all seventeen members of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) vaccine advisory panel last week, drawing criticism from some public health experts. Two days later, RFK Jr. [announced](#) his picks for eight new members, several of whom have criticized mRNA vaccines and COVID-19 lockdown policies. The American Medical Association (AMA) is [calling](#) for a Senate investigation into the panel overhaul, with AMA president Bobby M. Mukkamala stating the association is "deeply concerned" that new members have been selected "without transparency and proper vetting to ensure they have the expertise necessary to make vaccine recommendations to protect the health of Americans." The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)) [influences](#) the official immunization schedule for children and adults, which determines what vaccines get covered by insurance.
- **Bird Flu Continues to Affect Poultry Supply Chains, Three Human Cases Reported:** Avian influenza continues to impact the U.S.'s poultry industry, with agricultural officials [detecting](#) bird flu at a fourth commercial poultry farm in Arizona last week. The state's largest egg producer reported it [lost](#) 95% of its chickens to bird flu. Amid concerns of a poultry supply shortage, South Korea plans to [partially resume](#) imports from Brazil. Meanwhile, Brazil's agriculture minister is optimistic that more countries will scale back trade bans as the bird flu outbreak [appears](#) to be contained. In terms of human cases, Bangladesh and China reported a combined total of three



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human H5N1 infections in the WHO's [latest influenza update](#), though health officials continue to assess that the current overall global public health risk of additional human cases is low.

- **DC, Boston Warn of Measles Exposure at Airports, Ontario Sees Cases Climb:** Health officials in Washington, DC, and Boston are monitoring for potential measles clusters after two people with measles traveled through [Dulles International Airport](#) and [Logan Airport](#) between June 7 and 8. Both infected travelers visited other sites on the east coast cities. The CDC [issued guidance](#) for summer camp operators, urging them to check for documentation that children and staff are either vaccinated or have immunity through prior infection. In Canada, health officials in Ontario province [urge](#) routine vaccination after six babies were born with congenital measles. Ontario has been experiencing an outbreak of measles cases since late last year, with hundreds of cases reported last month.
- **Kentucky Reports First Pertussis Deaths Since 2018 as Cases Surge Around the Globe:** Health officials in Kentucky [reported](#) that two infants died from whooping cough. Neither of the infants nor their mothers had gotten their recommended immunizations against pertussis. Pertussis is a contagious respiratory illness, and infants under one year of age are at greatest risk of developing severe complications. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) [issued an alert](#) last month on increasing pertussis in the Americas and urged immunization. Australia is also seeing a surge in cases, with the state of Queensland [reporting](#) more than [2,600 cases](#) so far this year after experiencing its worst [pertussis epidemic](#) in 2024. While vaccine coverage in Australia is relatively high, rates there have [declined](#) since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Anti-Trump Groups Look Ahead to Next Days of Action:** After drawing millions into the streets for overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrations across the U.S. on Saturday, the No Kings Coalition is looking ahead. While many of the groups involved in this weekend's demonstrations are holding organizing calls today to debrief and outline next steps, some calls to action have already begun circulating. The Ohio chapter of 50501 has called for a rally at the Statehouse on July 4, while several communities along the border with Canada have also said that they plan to demonstrate on America's Independence Day. They'll almost certainly be joined by several other groups. On July 17, the No Kings Coalition is planning another day of mass action to coincide with the anniversary of Congressman John Lewis' passing.
- **Argentina's Peronists Plan Mass March for Wednesday:** Peronist party Secretary General Teresa García said that the party is planning a march that will be the "largest in recent history" as they accompany former President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner when she turns herself over to

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authorities after a sentence for fraud was [upheld](#). On Wednesday, Kirchner is [expected](#) to take a car from Buenos Aires' Constitución neighborhood to the Federal Courts on Comodoro Py St. Kirchner has requested that she be permitted to serve her six-year sentence at home. Last week, when the court ruled that Kirchner's sentence would be upheld, demonstrations and roadblocks took place across [Buenos Aires](#) and elsewhere in Argentina.

- **Further Demonstrations Likely in Kenya Following Death of Blogger:** Police [clashed](#) with demonstrators and deployed tear gas in Nairobi's Central Business District last week in response to [multiple days of protests](#) over the death of blogger Albert Ojwang while in police custody. Ojwang's death is part of a [growing trend](#) of state violence targeting demonstrators and activists in East Africa, particularly in Kenya, following nationwide demonstrations in June 2024 against tax increases. Calls are circulating on social media for teachers to strike all this week in solidarity with Ojwang, who was also an educator, and for further demonstrations tomorrow.
- **Striking Canada Post Workers to Vote on Contract Offer:** Over 50,000 Canada Post workers who have been on an overtime ban since May 23 will [hold a vote](#) on the latest contract offer from the carrier. Canada Minister of Jobs and Families Patty Hajdu [ordered](#) the vote after negotiations between the carrier and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), which had been ongoing for 18 months and had already led to one extended work stoppage, [stalled](#) yet again. Many shippers shifted some of their volume due to the uncertainty, resulting in a reported [65%](#) drop in parcel volume from last year. An exact date for the vote has not been set yet, only that it is to be held "as soon as possible."
- **Demonstrators Plan Action at Paris Air Show:** Anti-war demonstrators are expected to target the 2025 International Paris Air Show (PAS), which runs from June 16-22 at the Parc des Expositions Paris le Bourget (Le Bourget Exhibition Center). Various civil society groups with the "War on War Coalition" are calling on supporters to gather outside the Bobigny Labor Exchange on Saturday at 1 pm. Additionally, the groups plan to establish an "anti-war village" outside of the Mail City Hall (Mail de l'Hôtel de Ville) in Bobigny on Sunday, beginning at 11 am.

## Upcoming Events

- June 14 - July 13: FIFA Club World Cup (United States)
- June 15-17: G7 Summit (Kananaskis, Canada)
- June 19: Juneteenth (United States)
- June 24-26: NATO Summit (The Hague, Netherlands)
- July 3: Independence Day (Belarus)
- July 4: Independence Day (United States)
- July 6-7: BRICS Summit (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- July 14: Bastille Day (France)
- July 22: Legislative Elections (Japan)
- July 28: Independence Day (Peru)