



**June 30, 2025**

## Headlining This Week's Brief

### Top Stories

Climate and Natural Hazards  
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## Top Stories

### **Atlantic Hurricane Season Ahead of Schedule, New System Possible by July 4**

The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season is off to an early start, with two named storms already forming and dissipating within the past week. Typically, by this point in the season, the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico see an average of one named storm. This year, both Andrea and Barry developed ahead of schedule, although each system was weak and short-lived with minimal impact.

[Andrea](#) formed over the North Atlantic on Tuesday and dissipated later the same day. [Barry](#) developed in the western Bay of Campeche on Saturday before weakening over Mexico by Sunday night. While these early systems mark a slightly accelerated start to the season, they were low-end tropical storms that did not produce significant effects.

Looking ahead to the upcoming Fourth of July holiday weekend, forecasters are monitoring the eastern Gulf of Mexico and adjacent Atlantic waters off the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Although there is currently no organized disturbance, the [National Hurricane Center](#) has identified this region as an area of interest. A stalled cold front offshore is expected to lead to widespread disturbed weather. Forecast models do not currently show strong development, and there remains low confidence that a well-organized system will form. Still, regardless of whether a tropical storm develops, the setup is likely to bring heavy rainfall across parts of North Florida, with [several inches of rain](#) expected over the coming days. Flash flooding may occur in low-lying areas.

In the Pacific, activity remains elevated. [Tropical Storm Flossie](#) is forecast to strengthen into a hurricane by Tuesday. Tropical storm warnings are in effect along parts of the Mexican coast, though confidence is

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high that the storm's strongest winds will stay offshore. Further west, in the Pacific near the Philippines, forecast models show a moderate chance of tropical storm development [east of Luzon](#). However, the system is expected to remain over the open waters of the Philippine Sea for several days and does not currently pose a direct land threat.

## **Multiple Groups Planning Demonstrations Against Trump Administration for July 4**

Several groups in the United States are planning demonstrations over the Fourth of July holiday against the administration of President Donald Trump. Looking to build on the momentum of the No Kings Day demonstrations, some groups have called for marches as part of "No Kings 2.0" on Independence Day, although the number of rallies being organized and the expected attendance will likely be less than what was seen on June 14. Other groups, such as Refuse Fascism and Women's March, are also planning demonstrations on July 4. Major actions on July 4 include Washington, DC (march from Logan Circle to the White House at 2 pm), Chicago (Federal Plaza at 11 am), San Francisco (march from Dolores Park to Pier 39 at 8 pm), and Los Angeles (City Hall at 11 am). The demonstrations themselves are expected to be primarily peaceful, though many will likely be well attended.

After July 4, the next major day of action will be July 17, when a coalition of groups, including Indivisible, the 50501 Movement, is holding rallies under the banner "Good Trouble Lives On." The demonstrations are being held to coincide with the death anniversary of Congressman John Lewis. Organizers claim that hundreds of demonstrations will take place, with many likely to see participation in the thousands.

## **Israel-Iran Ceasefire Holds Amid Nuclear Uncertainty and Cyber Threats**

Iranian authorities [reopened](#) the country's airspace for international overflights, and metro rail services resumed in the capital, Tehran, as the ceasefire between Israel and Iran continues to hold. The future of the agreement remains unclear, with Israeli authorities [preparing](#) a plan to maintain air superiority over Iran and prevent the country from "nuclear advancement and missile production." The Iranian regime's [defiant](#) statements and move to [suspend cooperation](#) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could threaten the ceasefire, potentially triggering further action by Israel or the U.S. There also continue to be varying accounts as to the state of Iran's nuclear program, with CIA Director John Ratcliffe [asserting](#) that it has been set back by years, while IAEA chief Rafael Grossi [said](#) that Tehran could begin enriching uranium "in a matter of months."

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Meanwhile, pro-Iran hackers have targeted some [U.S. private sector businesses](#) with cyberattacks, although they have thus far failed to cause widespread disruptions. While these actors have thus far avoided targeting U.S. critical infrastructure or the financial system at a large scale, experts with the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have repeatedly flagged the threat posed by these groups to critical utility providers and other important U.S. infrastructure and services, most recently in a June 30 [fact sheet](#). More broadly, at least one tech investor warned that the U.S. move to strike Iran physically could lead other potential adversaries, such as China, North Korea, or Russia, to invest more heavily in cyber-warfare, where the U.S. is more vulnerable.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Tens of Thousands Flee Wildfires in Türkiye:** Following forest fires in İzmir, Bilecik, and Hatay, more than [50,000 people have been evacuated](#). Initial assessments report damage to 64 houses and three workplaces in Bilecik, as well as over 100 homes and another workplace in İzmir. Disaster declarations have been made for both provinces. In response, Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) allocated 60 million Turkish Lira in emergency aid to Bilecik and İzmir governorates.
- **Dangerous European Heat Wave:** A dangerous heat wave is gripping much of southern and western Europe. In Spain, temperatures neared 115°F, setting a [new national June record](#), while Portugal recorded highs over 115°F, potentially setting [another national June milestone](#). Greece faced [wildfires and evacuations](#) over the weekend, and multiple Italian regions are considering the [suspension of work activities](#). Most of France is under heat alerts, with [localized wildfire evacuations](#) reported in southern parts of the country in recent days. In the United Kingdom, much of England is under [amber-level heat health alerts](#) through Wednesday. Heatwave conditions are expected to persist through at least midweek, prompting warnings to protect vulnerable populations and limit outdoor exposure.
- **Eastern Australia Threatened by Coastal Storm:** A powerful storm system is forecast to impact southeastern Australia, bringing high-impact flooding, damaging winds, and hazardous coastal conditions. The heaviest rain is expected Tuesday and Wednesday between Port Macquarie and eastern Victoria, with widespread totals of 100–200 mm and localized amounts up to 250 mm, causing moderate to major river flooding, flash floods, and potential isolation of rural areas. Coastal winds of 80 – 95 km/h, peaking at 125 km/h in exposed areas, may lead to scattered power outages and transport disruption, especially across Illawarra, Sydney, Newcastle, and the Hunter region. Dangerous five-to- seven-meter waves could cause coastal flooding and erosion,

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particularly during high tides. The [Bureau of Meteorology](#) will issue additional alerts as conditions evolve.

- **Severe Storms to Threaten Mid-Atlantic United States Tuesday:** The [Storm Prediction Center](#) has issued a Level 2 of 5 severe storm risk. Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms are possible Tuesday afternoon and evening across parts of the Mid-Atlantic, especially from northern Virginia through eastern Pennsylvania into New Jersey. A warm, moist air mass will fuel storm development ahead of an approaching cold front. In these areas, stronger winds higher in the atmosphere may help storms organize into lines capable of producing damaging wind gusts and isolated power outages.

## Worldwide

- **European Authorities Investigate Spate of Needle Attacks:** [French authorities](#) have received hundreds of reports of people saying they had been pricked with needles at concerts, clubs, and music festivals across France, including incidents at a music festival in [Paris](#). The victim count stands at over 1,000 since January, though authorities say that a motive and how the needles were used remain unclear. Toxicology tests have rarely detected drugs or other substances, and no clear patterns have been identified. Additionally, similar unexplained syringe incidents have been reported in neighboring countries, including the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands, raising broader concerns across the region. As of now, no fatalities have been linked to these attacks, and law enforcement continues to investigate.
- **Thousands Protest Thai PM Amid Border Dispute With Cambodia:** Over the weekend, the Thai military [relaxed](#) some border restrictions with Cambodia to allow for the return of stranded workers and vehicles. Ongoing restrictions, triggered initially by an exchange of fire between Thai and Cambodian forces in late May, have resulted in an estimated [daily trade loss](#) of around 330 million baht. The slight relaxation came as thousands gathered in Bangkok to call for the resignation of Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra following a controversial leaked phone call with former Cambodian leader Hun Sen. Paetongtarn will face possible suspension by the [Constitutional Court](#) when it meets on July 1. She will also likely be subject to a [no-confidence motion](#) when parliament reconvenes on July 3, as well as an [anti-graft investigation](#). Continued demonstration activity is expected.
- **Thailand Foils Terror Plot in Phuket Amid Escalating Southern Insurgency:** Authorities have [increased security](#) across the popular tourist provinces of Phuket, Krabi, and Phang Nga after the discovery of several [suspected explosive devices](#), including at least one near [Phuket International Airport](#). The incidents prompted several countries, including [Australia](#), [Canada](#),

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and the [U.K.](#), to update their travel advisories, urging heightened caution in crowded areas throughout Thailand. The discovery of the devices follows intensified violence in Thailand's [south](#), where peace talks between the government and separatist groups have stalled.

- **Crime Costs Chile \$8 Billion Annually, Study Finds:** [Chile](#) loses approximately 2.6% of its GDP, or \$8.2 billion annually, due to rising crime, according to a study released by CLAPES UC, a research center at Chile's Universidad Catolica. Businesses are closing earlier and experiencing significant sales drops as customers avoid high-crime areas. Chile's murder rate has also climbed to 6.0 per 100,000 in 2024 from 2.32 in 2015. Despite being low for Latin America, this increase has had a disproportionate economic impact compared to countries with higher baseline rates due to Chile's historically safe reputation.
- **Two Firefighters Killed in Ambush While Responding to Idaho Wildfire:** On Sunday, two firefighters were killed and a third wounded in an [ambush](#) while responding to a wildfire on Canfield Mountain near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The suspect, [identified](#) by officials as Wess Roley, is believed to have intentionally set the 20-acre blaze to lure the firefighters. He was found dead with a rifle nearby after exchanging gunfire with authorities. A shelter-in-place order for area residents has been lifted, but residents are being urged to stay alert as the [fire](#) has continued to grow and smoke is lingering in the area. Police have not identified a motive in the shooting.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.S. Sanctions Three Mexican Financial Institutions for Alleged Fentanyl Trafficking Payments:** The U.S Treasury Department [imposed](#) sanctions on three Mexican financial institutions — CIBanco, Intercam Banco, and Vector Casa Bolsa — for their alleged role in facilitating payments linked to fentanyl trafficking from China, as part of efforts to combat illicit opioid smuggling. On June 25, the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, utilizing [new authorities](#) under the [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](#), identified these institutions as primary money laundering concerns, alleging they facilitated millions in transactions for Mexican cartels, including payments for fentanyl precursor chemicals from China. The sanctions restrict their access to U.S. financial systems, aiming to disrupt illicit opioid trafficking. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum [criticized](#) the sanctions, alleging a lack of evidence. Mexico's banking authority has temporarily taken over management of CIBanco and Intercam Banco to protect creditors. The accused institutions deny the allegations.
- **Canada Drops Digital Tax, U.S.-Canada Trade Talks Resume:** Canada has [rescinded](#) its planned 3% digital services tax on U.S. tech firms, prompting the resumption of trade talks with the United States. The tax, set to take effect today, June 30, had triggered President Donald Trump to [announce](#) the termination of all trade discussions with Canada. Canadian Prime

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Minister Mark Carney announced the reversal to advance stalled talks, aiming for a deal by July 21. The move follows U.S. pressure and reflects the high stakes of the integrated U.S.-Canada economies, with trade talks now focused on

- broader economic and security partnerships.
- **U.S. Criticizes Hong Kong Crackdown, Notes First Joint China Operation:** Last week, the departing U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, Gregory May, [criticized](#) the city's use of the 2020 Beijing-imposed national security law to detain democracy activists, including media tycoon Jimmy Lai, and to engage in "transnational repression" of activists abroad through arrest warrants and bounties. He expressed U.S. concerns over Lai's detention and others jailed for peaceful political expression, citing U.S. President Donald Trump's focus on Lai's case. Earlier this month, China and Hong Kong authorities [conducted](#) their first joint operation, raiding six individuals' homes for suspected collusion with foreign forces, seizing documents, and restricting travel, all as part of intensified national security efforts.
- **FBI Warns of Scattered Spider Cyberattacks Targeting Aviation Sector:** The FBI and cybersecurity firms, including Google's Mandiant and Palo Alto Networks' Unit 42, have [reported](#) that the Scattered Spider hacking group, known for social engineering, phishing, and ransomware, is targeting the aviation and transportation sectors. On June 28, the FBI noted recent cyberattacks resembling Scattered Spider's tactics affecting airlines, with [Hawaiian Airlines](#) and [Westjet](#) reporting intrusions. The group, primarily English-speaking young hackers, targets large corporations and their IT providers, posing risks across the airline ecosystem. This follows their [attacks](#) on the U.K. retail and insurance sectors.
- **U.S. Supreme Court Limits Nationwide Injunctions by Lower Federal Courts:** The U.S. Supreme Court [ruled](#) six to three that the lower federal courts cannot issue nationwide injunctions blocking government policies, limiting such orders to the specific plaintiffs involved. The decision arose from challenges to President Donald Trump's executive order [restricting](#) birthright citizenship. The court, however, did not rule on the constitutionality of that specific order. The ruling is a win for the Trump administration and means legal challenges will now require class actions or multiple lawsuits for broader relief.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **U.S. and China Reach Trade Deal, Though Details Are Scarce:** The U.S. and China [announced](#) a new trade agreement last week aimed at addressing critical supply chain issues, namely tariffs and rare earth minerals and magnets. China agreed to facilitate exports of rare earth minerals to the U.S., while the U.S. committed to lifting certain trade restrictions previously imposed on China. Details of the agreement remain scarce, and China appears to be continuing its stringent

export controls on rare earth elements, impacting supply chains for the automotive, defense, and electronics industries. Ford Motor Company [disclosed](#) last week that it has “shut down plants for the last three weeks because [it] cannot get high- powered magnets.”

- **Indian Maritime Body Warns of Potential Trade Disruptions as Hundreds of Its Vessels Face Forced Retirement:** India’s maritime sector faces a looming crisis as over 700 Indian-flagged vessels [risk](#) forced retirement due to age regulations imposed by the Directorate General of Shipping under international maritime regulations. The Mumbai-based International Maritime Federation (IMF) is warning that the rules, targeting ships over 20–25 years old, could [cut](#) approximately 20,000 jobs and disrupt trade. The IMF is pushing for standards based on safety, rather than age, arguing that many of the vessels remain seaworthy and that the “[arbitrary](#)” age cap overlooks maintenance and safety records.
- **Risks Accompany Latin America’s Data Center Investment Boom:** Latin America's data center market is experiencing rapid growth, with investments [projected](#) to double from \$5 billion in 2023 to \$10 billion by 2029, marked by recent notable investments. This includes Amazon's \$4 billion commitment to [Chile](#) and \$5 billion to [Mexico](#), as well as Microsoft's \$2.7 billion [investment](#) in Brazil. However, this expansion brings risks for businesses. Data centers are resource-intensive, consuming vast amounts of electricity and water. In regions like Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, which are prone to droughts, data centers can heavily strain local resources. Furthermore, data center projects have triggered [public outrage](#) stemming from [environmental concerns](#) and what some activist groups [view](#) as “extractivis[t]” practices by large technology companies.
- **Canada-Mexico Gas Collaboration Pushes for Energy Independence:** Canada and Mexico are collaborating to reduce Mexico’s reliance on U.S. natural gas, with Canadian companies [investing](#) in Mexico’s domestic production and pipeline infrastructure. Projects such as TC Energy’s Southeast Gateway Pipeline, which deliver U.S.-sourced gas to southern Mexico, aim to boost Mexico’s energy security by diversifying its gas sources. In Canada, the Senate [passed](#) a bill to fast-track approval for resource and infrastructure projects, including pipelines, to reduce its dependency on the U.S. The bill faces strong opposition from indigenous and environmental groups, who argue that it undermines consultation rights and could bypass environmental safeguards, while critics warn of potential legal challenges on the horizon. Supporters emphasize that the legislation includes provisions for meaningful consultation and accommodation with indigenous communities.
- **Middle East Tensions Drive Ocean Freight Costs Higher:** Ocean freight rates to the UAE’s Khor Fakkan port [surged](#) 76% since mid-May due to security risks in the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for 20% of global oil. While the current ceasefire has seen rates retreat slightly from the highs



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seen at the height of the conflict, they remain [well above](#) their pre-conflict levels. Higher insurance costs and vessel rerouting are placing financial strain on shippers. While Iran's threat to close the strait remains, experts suggest that the move would hurt its trade interests, particularly with China. Oil prices, which had [exceeded](#) \$80 per barrel for Brent crude during the hostilities, have also [fallen](#).

## Health

- **Personnel Changes at U.S. CDC Could Impact Vaccine Access, Development:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has replaced a 17-member vaccine advisory panel with new personnel, a shift that could influence future vaccine policy and pharmaceutical industry practices. The panel, [which](#) "advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccines," recently voted to stop recommending annual flu shots containing a [widely-used](#) preservative. The decision followed a presentation by Lyn Redwood, a former head of the [anti-vaccine group Children's Health Defense](#), who is [expected](#) to join the organization to work on issues of vaccine safety.
- **U.S. Tick Populations Surging, Mosquito Season Longer Amid Warming Climate:** The changing climate across the United States is facilitating the breeding and spread of pests capable of carrying dangerous infectious diseases, including mosquitoes and ticks. Tick populations are [surging](#) across the U.S., with the country [reporting](#) record levels of tick bites in May. The impact is especially pronounced in the [northeast](#), with [New York state](#) seeing tick populations swell by as much as 40%. Changing environmental conditions are also providing an opportunity for tick species from elsewhere in the country to [establish](#) in new areas, frequently bringing the threat of new infectious diseases. [Warmer weather](#) is also leading to longer mosquito seasons across the U.S., which could be behind an unseasonably early spike in cases of mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus, which has already been [reported](#) in 11 states this year, well in advance of the typical [peak season](#) of July-September.
- **U.S. Withdrawal of Vaccine Funding Sparks Concerns Amid Global Immunization Decline:** U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. [announced](#) that the United States will suspend funding for immunizations delivered by Gavi (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) to children in low-income countries. The decision reverses a \$1.2 billion Biden administration funding pledge. Kennedy stated that changes to Gavi's governance and accountability structures are necessary before funding can resume. Health experts warned that the decision threatens a significant [source of funding](#) for the organization, which has [vaccinated](#) over one billion children since its launch in 2000. Global vaccination coverage has seen a decade-long [decline](#) that was [exacerbated](#) by the COVID-19 pandemic.



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- **Bolivian Authorities Declare Public Health Emergency Over Measles Outbreak:** Bolivian health officials [declared](#) a public health emergency on June 24 in response to a widening measles outbreak that saw nationwide confirmed cases more than double (from 28 to 60) between June 18-24. While most cases are concentrated in the Santa Cruz region, the outbreak has also spread to the La Paz and Potosí regions, causing education authorities to [announce](#) a pivot to remote learning in some impacted cities and an earlier start to the winter break in an effort to limit the spread of disease. Although it varies by region, the measles [vaccination rate](#) among children in the country is often seven in 10 or lower, according to the health minister, further raising the risk for public health.
- **Legionnaires' Disease Continues to Spread in Sydney:** At least five people have been infected amid an [outbreak](#) of Legionnaires' disease in Sydney. None of the confirmed cases had contact with the others, and four of them required hospitalization for treatment. The disease is caused by inhaling Legionella longbeachae bacteria, which have caused cases in New South Wales [previously](#) and have been [known to occur](#) in the state for decades. It typically affects those handling or inhaling particles of contaminated soil without proper protection, or those exposed to bacteria through contaminated air conditioning systems. Residents of the Potts Point neighborhood of Sydney are considered especially at-risk.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **At Least 16 Killed in Kenya Protests, Further Demonstrations Likely:** At least 16 people died during [nationwide demonstrations](#) against police brutality and government corruption on June 25, according to the state-funded human rights commission. Thousands took part in the demonstrations, which took place on the anniversary of mass protests against a controversial tax bill and followed the death of a blogger while in police custody. Sporadic demonstrations have taken place in the Nairobi Central Business District and elsewhere following Wednesday's actions, with calls circulating online for actions on July 7, a day that is [traditionally](#) marked by pro-democracy protests.
- **Labor Groups to Strike Across India on July 9:** The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has called for a nationwide general strike on July 9. The strike, initially scheduled for May 20 but postponed due to the Pahalgam terror attacks, is expected to see participation from workers in a variety of sectors, including [bank and insurance unions](#), some [farmers' unions](#), [childcare workers](#), and others affiliated with CITU. The CITU strike will also coincide with a planned walkout by [electricity sector workers](#) against privatization, potentially leading to power outages in parts of the country.

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- **Demonstrators Clash With Police as Over 100,000 Gather in Belgrade:** Around 140,000 people [gathered](#) in Belgrade over the weekend to call for early elections as part of a months-long campaign against the current government. Police used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the crowd and [detained](#) several dozen individuals. Demonstrations continued Sunday night into this morning, as thousands [barricaded](#) streets in cities across the country and demanded that detained demonstrators be released. The widespread blockades and heavy-handed police response in Belgrade mark a potential escalation in the long-running protest campaign, with further actions almost certain.
- **Strike to Disrupt Philadelphia City Services:** AFSCME District Council 33, Philadelphia's largest union, is set to go on [strike](#) tonight at midnight after failing to secure a deal with city officials. The union represents workers in sanitation, the water department, police dispatch, street maintenance, and the airport. The last major strike by trash collectors took place around [40 years ago](#) and lasted for 20 days. A multi-day strike would likely significantly disrupt Fourth of July festivities. The union is planning to rally outside City Hall this evening at 5 pm.
- **Other Demonstrations the Global Intelligence Team Is Watching:** Air travel disruptions are likely in **France** after the UNSA-ICNA, the second-largest union representing air traffic controllers, filed a [strike notice](#) for July 3 and 4, just ahead of the start of summer school holidays on July 5. Aviation disruptions are expected to hit **Finland's** Finnair on July 2, 4, and 7, with a [walkout](#) by the Finnish Aviation Union to force the grounding of nearly all scheduled flights. Additional strike dates are set for July 16, 18, 21, and 23. Outside of Europe, supply chains could come under pressure in parts of **India** due to a call for an [indefinite strike](#) by heavy goods transporters and bus operators in **Mumbai** starting tomorrow.

## Upcoming Events

- "June 26-July 25: Muharram (Global)
- June 27-July 5: Ratha Yatra/Ulta Ratha Yatra (Bangladesh)
- June 30: Anniversary of Mass Protests Against Morsi Government (Egypt)
- July 4: Independence Day (United States)
- July 6-7: BRICS+ Summit (Brazil)"    "• July 14: Educators' Strike (Colombia)
- July 17: "Good Trouble" Demonstrations (United States)
- July 17-18: G20 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors' Meeting (South Africa)
- July 22: Legislative Elections (Japan)
- July 24: Healthcare Workers' Strike (South Korea)"