

Endeavour crew in pre-launch training

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The seven-member space shuttle Endeavour crew is at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida this week for STS-118 pre-launch training.

The crew Wednesday participated in several briefings, as well as an emergency egress walk at Launch Pad 39A. During that exercise, the astronauts received training on the slidewire basket system that would whisk them to safety from the shuttle in an emergency prior to liftoff.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration controllers in Houston said the week's training would conclude with a simulated launch countdown for the crew and the launch team.

Commander Scott Kelly and pilot Charlie Hobaugh were also scheduled to continue their practice flights Wednesday aboard the Shuttle Training Aircraft.

Space Shuttle Endeavour is scheduled to lift off Aug. 7.

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