News Event EA Protection Plan

An EA that trades calmly for three weeks can give it all back in four minutes around a central bank decision. This plan turns 'avoid the news' from a slogan into settings: which events, how wide a window, and what the EA may and may not do inside it.

1. Grade the events for your pairs

Tier	Events	Default EA behaviour
1 — stop	FOMC, ECB, BoE rate decisions & press conferences; US CPI; Non-Farm Payrolls	No new trades 30 min before to 30 min after; manage or close open baskets per your written rule
2 — caution	Retail sales, GDP, PMI, unemployment claims, central bank speeches	No new trades 15 min either side, or trade at half risk if your backtest supports it
3 — note	Minor releases, holidays in one centre	Trade normally; expect thin liquidity and wider spreads

2. Choose your open-position rule now

- [ ] Close everything before Tier 1: simplest, safest, and the only rule a grid/martingale EA can honestly follow.
- [ ] Or hold with stops: only acceptable for fixed-lot strategies with hard stop losses already in place — spreads can jump several times over, and stops execute at the available price, not the requested one.
- [ ] Never "widen stops for the news". You are not reducing risk; you are renaming a bigger loss.
- [ ] Write the rule per EA. Two EAs with opposite news behaviour on one account is an unwritten rule.

3. Filter settings checklist

- [ ] News source in the EA is enabled and the terminal allows WebRequests to the calendar URL (Tools → Options → Expert Advisors).
- [ ] Buffer minutes match your tiers above — and you have watched the filter trigger once on a small event before trusting it on CPI day.
- [ ] Currency filter includes USD and the currencies of both sides of every pair you trade (gold traders: USD events are XAUUSD events).
- [ ] After the window: the EA resumes automatically. An EA left paused for a week after FOMC is a silent strategy change.

> **The news rule:** the goal is not to predict the release. It is to make sure a number you cannot forecast cannot reach your account's loss limit in a single candle.

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