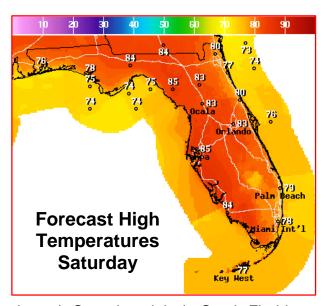




...Isolated to Widely Scattered Showers in South Florida Through Tuesday...Increase in Rain Chances in the Panhandle on Sunday...Dry Conditions Expected in Central and Northeast Florida...Severe Drought Conditions Spread in Central and South Florida, Improve Again in the Northern Peninsula This Week...***HIGH Fire Weather Threat in the Peninsula and Northeast Florida Through Tuesday***...Many Florida Counties Have Burn Bans in Place...High to Moderate Risk for Rip Currents for Many Florida Beaches Through Tuesday...

Friday & Saturday:

High pressure situated to Florida's northeast is expected to remain there through Saturday. This setup will keep winds out of the east to northeast and will also keep most of the state dry. The exception is in South Florida and the Keys, where the easterly flow off the Atlantic will carry some moisture into those areas. This afternoon, expect isolated showers in parts of Central and South Florida and dry conditions elsewhere. Showers are expected to continue in South Florida overnight, but dry conditions are expected elsewhere. Patchy fog may develop in parts of Northeast Florida early Saturday morning. More showers are expected in South Florida on Saturday, and there is a non-zero chance that a

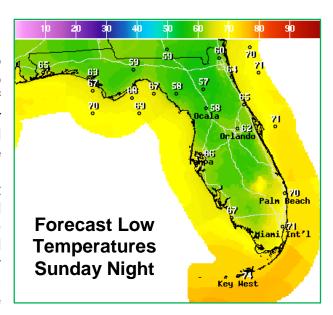


thunderstorm could develop as well. Rainfall totals through Saturday night in South Florida are expected to be less than a tenth of an inch. Otherwise, partly cloudy skies are expected statewide through Saturday night with near-zero rainfall chances in North and Central Florida.

Temperatures this afternoon are expected to reach the upper 70s to mid 80s throughout the state with the warmest temperatures in inland areas; highs on Saturday will be similar to today. Lows tonight and Saturday night will be in the upper 50s to lower 60s in inland portions of North Florida and in the mid 60s to lower 70s elsewhere.

Sunday - Tuesday:

The high pressure is expected to weaken on Sunday as some upper level energy moves into the southeast U.S., allowing some moisture to return to the Panhandle. The combination of ample moisture, daytime heating, and the upper level energy is expected to cause some isolated showers and thunderstorms to develop in the Panhandle on Sunday, primarily before noon. Under continued easterly flow and with sufficient moisture available, isolated to widely scattered showers will be possible in South Florida and the Keys. The rest of North Florida and Central Florida can expect dry conditions under partly cloudy skies. On Monday and Tuesday, rain chances in South Florida and the Keys are







forecast to increase to the 30 to 40 percent range while chances are forecast to be below 20 percent in the Panhandle and the Big Bend. Like Sunday, thunderstorms are possible in the Panhandle, but only showers and a stray thunderstorm are expected in South Florida. The rest of the state can again expect dry conditions under mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies. Patchy fog may develop in the western Panhandle Sunday and Monday mornings with some areas of dense fog possible Monday morning.

Temperatures are expected to warm slightly from Sunday to Tuesday. High temperatures will range from near 80 to the mid 80s, with some inland locations possibly reaching the high 80s on Tuesday. Overnight lows Sunday and Monday will be similar to Saturday night, ranging from the upper 50s to lower 70s, but on Tuesday night, the range will narrow to the lower 60s to lower 70s.

NWS Mobile Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards
NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards

NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards

NWS Key West Daily Hazards
Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories for Florida

Drought Conditions and Fire Weather:

After some overall statewide improvement in drought conditions last week, conditions have worsened this week according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The area of severe drought in Central and Southwest Florida has expanded: as far west as Pinellas and Manatee counties, as far north as Hernando and Orange counties, and as far east as Brevard and Martin counties. In addition, northern portions of Nassau County in Northeast Florida are now considered to be in moderate drought, as well as mainland Monroe County and eastern portions of Miami-Dade County. The news is not all bad, however, as the area of moderate drought in parts of Alachua and Levy counties has been removed. and moderate drought conditions were reduced in Palm Beach County. The area of land in Florida



considered to be in a drought increased only a small percentage (from 42.5% last week to 43.5% this week), but the area of severe drought has nearly tripled (from 13% last week to 34% this week). The long-term lack of rainfall tells the story; over the last 90 days, most of Central and South Florida has seen rainfall deficits between 2 and 6 inches, with some smaller areas up to 8 inches below average. The drought forecast for April from the Drought Monitor indicates that drought conditions in Florida are expected to persist or develop, but at least equal chances for average, below average, or above average rainfall are expected throughout Florida this month, with better chances for above average rainfall in western portions of the Panhandle.

The fire weather threat remains elevated in the Peninsula and Northeast Florida as soils are dry and drought conditions are present in the majority of those areas. Winds will be the largest fire weather factor this weekend, with winds expected to approach 20 mph in some parts





of the Peninsula Friday and Saturday afternoon with winds up to 15 mph expected in most other parts of the Peninsula. Winds across the state are forecast to be lower on Monday and Tuesday. Relative humidity is expected to be low this weekend but remain above critical levels before decreasing to near critical levels Monday and Tuesday. At this time, no fire weather watches or red flag warnings are in effect, but some could be issued if conditions warrant. Regardless, a **HIGH** fire weather threat is forecast for the Peninsula and Northeast Florida through Tuesday. In addition, there is a **low to moderate** fire weather threat in the rest of North Florida through Tuesday; see the threat bar on the front page for more specific information.

Brevard, Citrus, Glades, Hendry, Hernando, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Polk, and Seminole counties currently have burn bans in place. It is advised that anyone handling flammable materials use caution while outdoors on wildfire danger days. Dry vegetation or winds can fuel a wildfire and cause it to spread rapidly, turning a tiny spark into a devastating wildfire. Local fire weather forecasts can be found here.

Hydrology (River Flooding):

The Choctawhatchee River near Bruce/Ebro fell below action stage this morning, leaving no river or waterway in Florida in action stage, much less flood stage. In fact, Florida river streamflows generally remain average to below average, especially in drought-stricken Central and South Florida. With rainfall totals of an inch or less forecast in Florida over the next five days, there are no river flooding concerns. For more information on river stages, please visit the Southeast River Forecast Center's website at www.weather.gov/serfc/.

Rip Currents:

Breezy onshore winds and increased wave heights will lead to a moderate to high rip current risk at many Florida beaches through Tuesday, primarily along the East Coast and the Panhandle. See the threat bar on the front page for details.

Even on low risk days, rip currents can occur, especially near piers, inlets, jetties, and during outgoing tidal cycles. Anyone who plans to enter the water should check their local rip current forecast and learn how to escape a rip current before going to their beach destination. Everyone should always remember that the safest beaches are the ones protected by lifeguards. Daily surf zone and rip current forecasts for all Florida beaches.

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

Pensacola • Panama City • Tallahassee • Gainesville • Jacksonville • Daytona Beach
Orlando • Tampa • Fort Myers • West Palm Beach • Miami • Key West
Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service
For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click here.

Have a great weekend! William Watson, Assistant State Meteorologist State Meteorological Support Unit Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org



