



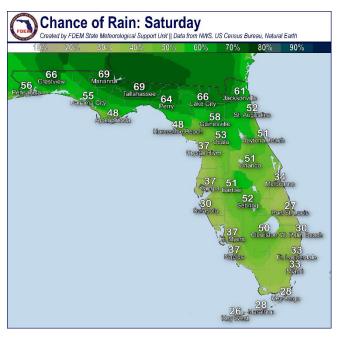


...High Rain Chances Return to North Florida This Weekend...Flash Flooding Possible Each Day...Heat Index Values in the 100-110 Degree Range Possible Each Day Statewide...Nearby Tropical Systems Elevating the Rip Current Threat at Panhandle and East Coast Beaches...

North Florida:

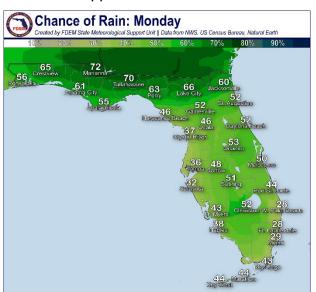
Friday-Saturday:

Rain chances will return to North Florida this weekend as an upper-level disturbance moves through the southeast over the next several days. Today, the best chances of rain will be in the western panhandle and north of I-10. Storms that develop in North Florida today will be slow moving and may result in flash flooding across urban and low-lying areas. Saturday, the upper-level disturbance will begin to settle into the region bringing a more widespread chance of storms and showers across all of North Florida. While storms on Saturday will not be as slow moving. these storms will be more organized, and have a greater potential to produce gusty winds, frequent lightning and heavy rain resulting in



flash flooding. Both Friday and Saturday, storms will be moving in a northwest to southeast direction, so storms may have a later start and ending time than what is typical for this time of year. Storms may not become scattered to numerous until the late afternoon or evening hours, and linger until midnight before dissipating.

Today, afternoon high temperatures will be above normal in the mid 90s, with heat index values in the 100-110 degree range. As cloud cover starts to build on Saturday, temperatures will be slightly cooler and are forecast to be close to normal for this time of year in the low 90s inland and upper 80s across coastal locations. However, with storms arriving generally later in



the day, heat index values may still be able to climb as high as 106 degrees before storms arrive. Lows will be in the mid to upper 70s tonight and Saturday night.

Sunday-Tuesday:

A period of wet weather will continue through Monday as another upper-level disturbance and weak frontal boudary moving into the region continues to drive rain chances. Storms should initiate earlier in the day compared to Friday and Saturday, and scattered to widespread showers and storms are expected across North Florida by midday Sunday and Monday. While widespread severe weather is not anticipated, some storms will potential for frequent lightning, gusty winds (upwards of 45 mph), and heavy rainfall.



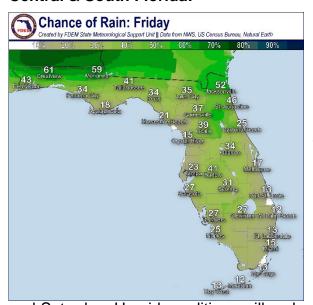


Communites impacted by Tropical Storm Fred will be especially vulnerable to flooding as the soils are already saturated. Rain chances may continue to linger into the late evening hours each night due to the weak frontal boundary lingering over the area and keep moisture levels high.

This boundary may move southward Monday night, resulting in an earlier end to rain on Monday and transitioning back to a normal summertime pattern with scattered showers and storms across the area during the afternoon and early evening on Tuesday.

Temperatures will continue to be seasonal heading into next week, with highs in the upper 80s to lower 90s and heat index values up to 107 degrees. Lows will be in the mid to upper 70s across the region.

Central & South Florida:



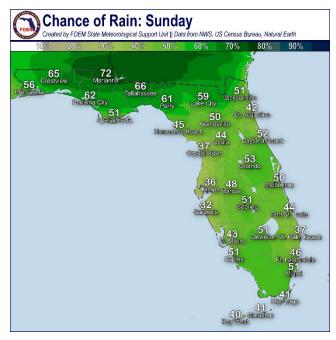
Friday-Saturday:

A typical summertime pattern across Central and South Florida can be expected as isolated showers and thunderstorms develop along the coastlines and move toward interior portions of the Peninsula throughout the afternoon hours. The best chance for multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms will reside along the I-4 cooridor. Look for much of the scattered rain and storm activity to taper off throughout the evening hours, with some lingering showers overnight. Widespread or significant severe activity is not anticipated. A few storms could be strong with gusty winds (45-55 mph), frequent lightning, and localized heavy rainfall. High temperatures in the lower to mid 90s can be expected this afternoon

and Saturday. Humid conditions will make afternoon high temperatures feel in the 100s. Low temperatures in the mid to upper 70s can be expected across Central and South Florida, with the Keys remaining in the lower 80s overnight.

Sunday-Tuesday:

Rain chances look to increase early next week across Central and South Florida. While southeastern Florida remained relatively dry Friday and Saturday, elevated rain chances can be exepcted Sunday. The greatest concentration of rain and storm activity will look to impact the I-4 cooridor, away from westerncentral Florida. Expect rainfall chances to largely dissipate after sunset, with remnant activity lingering across the Keys and easterncentral Florida through the evening. A few, more organized, storms could be strong with gusty winds (45-55 mph), frequent lightning,







and localized heavy rainfall. Look for afternoon high temperatures to reach the low 90s, with "Feels Like" temperatures reaching the triple digits. Muggy conditions will keep overnight temperatures in the upper 70s to lower 80s.

Flash Flooding:

An approaching upper level disturbance will yield scattered to numerous rain showers and embedded thunderstorms across North Florida this weekend. Rainfall totals of 2-4" will accompany this activity, with locally higher totals concentrated across the Panhandle. Continuous rounds of rain will be capable of producing periods of flash flooding across urban and low-lying areas, especially in locations that have already saturated grounds given the recent rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Fred. An increased threat for flash flooding will expand eastward throughout the Panhandle Saturday, reaching portions of the Suwannee River Valley and northeastern Florida Sunday. The Weather Prediction Center has highlighted North Florida in a Marginal Risk (1 of 4) of flash flooding Friday through Sunday. Rainfall totals of 1-2" are possible across portions of the Peninsula, with locally higher totals along the I-4 corridor and southwestern Florida into early next week.



Tropics:

At 11 AM ET Friday, the center of Hurricane Grace was located in the Bay of Campeche, or about 845 miles west-southwest of Key West, Florida, and moving toward the west near 14 mph. Grace is forecast to move across the southwestern Gulf of Mexico this afternoon, and then make landfall along the coast of mainland Mexico tonight. Maximum sustained winds are near 85 mph with higher gusts, and some additional strengthening is forecast until Grace makes landfall. Ocean swells generated by Grace will affect portions of the Gulf Coast through the weekend, which are likely to cause life-threatening rip current conditions.

At 11 AM EDT Friday, the center of Tropical Storm Henri was located about 470 miles east of Jacksonville, Florida, moving toward the northwest near 7 mph. A turn toward the north is expected by tonight, and Henri is forecast to accelerate in that direction through early

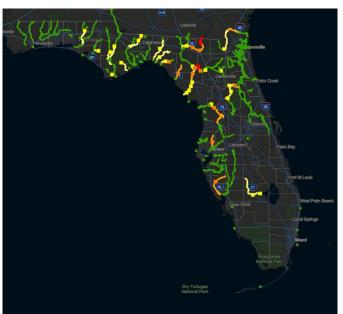




Sunday. On the forecast track, Henri is expected to make landfall in southern New England by late Sunday. Maximum sustained winds are near 65 mph with higher gusts. Strengthening is forecast during the next couple of days, and Henri is expected to become a hurricane by Saturday and be at or near hurricane strength when it makes landfall in southern New England. Swells generated by Henri should affect much of the east coast of the U.S. today and into the weekend, causing life-threatening rip current conditions.

Elsewhere, a tropical wave located over the eastern Atlantic several hundred miles to the southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands is producing a broad area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Environmental conditions appear marginally favorable for some slow development by the beginning of next week as this system moves gradually to the northwest at 5 to 10 mph and currently has a 20 percent chance of becoming a tropical depression by Tuesday.

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center at www.hurricanes.gov.



Hydrology:

In the wake of Tropical Storm Fred, many Panhandle and western Big Bend rivers have recently or are currently cresting in action stage (near bank full). While small rises are possible from rain associated with the weekend weather, significant flooding is not currently anticipated.

Further east, River Flood Warnings remain in effect for parts of the Suwannee River, the lower Santa Fe River, Cypress Creek at Worthington Gardens, the Withlacoochee River at Holder, the Myakka River at Myakka River State Park, and the Steinhatchee River. Water levels on the upper reaches of the Suwannee River and the lower portions of the Santa Fe River are

falling, but will remain in flood stage for the next 7-14 days, which will keep water levels on the lower Suwannee River at a near constant level around the minor flood stage mark.

The Withlacoochee River at SR-200 in Citrus County is expected to drop below flood stage today or Saturday, and Cypress Creek in Hillsborough and the Myakka River in Sarasota County are both forecast to drop below flood stage on Monday. For more details on specific river levels, please visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 14.41 feet, which is within the operational band (3 feet below the high water level) and 0.36 feet above normal for this time of year. Lake levels will continue to slowly rise due to recent and forecast rainfall.

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

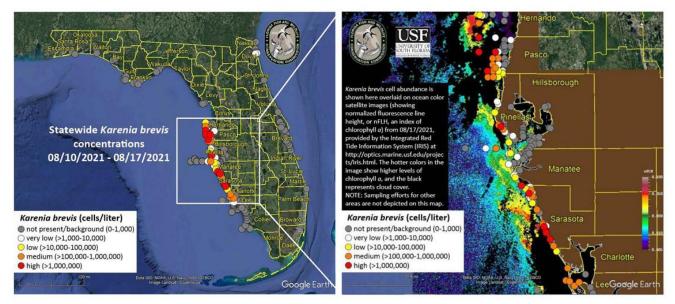
Onshore winds combined with ocean swells generated by Hurricane Grace will continue a **high risk of rip currents** along the entire Panhandle and Big Bend coast through the weekend. Some beaches may be reduced to a moderate risk on Monday, but a high threat could continue for some Panhandle and Big Bend beaches through the middle of next week.





Along the East Coast, ocean swells generated by Tropical Storm Henri will continue a moderate to high risk of rip currents for Atlantic Coast beaches through at least Sunday, but increasing onshore winds may keep the risk elevated for East Central and Southeast Florida beaches early next week. A general low risk is anticipated for West Central and Southwest Florida beaches.

A significant Red Tide bloom continues along the West Coast of the Peninsula. **Medium to High concentrations** have been reported along the Gulf Coasts between Hernando and Lee Counties. Low concentrations were observed in Duval County. High concentrations are resulting in respiratory irritation for both sensitive individuals and the general public, along with numerous fish kills. For the latest Red Tide concentration reports, please view the <u>Florida Fish</u> and Wildlife Commission map.



NWS Mobile Daily Hazards
NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards
NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Key West Daily Hazards

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

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

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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!
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Florida Division of Emergency Management | www.FloridaDisaster.org



