



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, March 15, 2023



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Ian Guidicelli	(850) 354-3044	Ian.Guidicelli@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Phillip Thomas	(850) 519-6961	Phillip.Thomas@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Cassi Farestvedt	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@em.myflorida.com
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com
Logistics Chief	Kenneth DeCastro	(850) 567-1943	Kenneth.DeCastro@em.myflorida.com
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com
Emergency Services	Rob Dietrich	(850) 727-3414	Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com
Infrastructure Branch Director	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8 On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer	Alecia Collins	(850) 591-9544	Alecia.Collins@em.myflorida.com
DEM Finance and Admin	Mark Mahoney	(850) 815-7457	Mark.Mahoney@em.myflorida.com



Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	Support Services Call
RC Manager	Leon	Support Services Call
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Pam Bergstrom	St. Johns	Training / Office Admin
Region 4: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Support Services Call (AM) / Off (PM)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Support Services Call / EM Visit
Region 6: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 7: Claudia Baker	Palm Beach	Support Services Call / EM Meetings



Region 6 coverage provided by RCT 7 and RCT 4

RC Status

Normal Operations

In Region / Delayed Response

Out of Region / Delayed Response

Out of Service / Unavailable



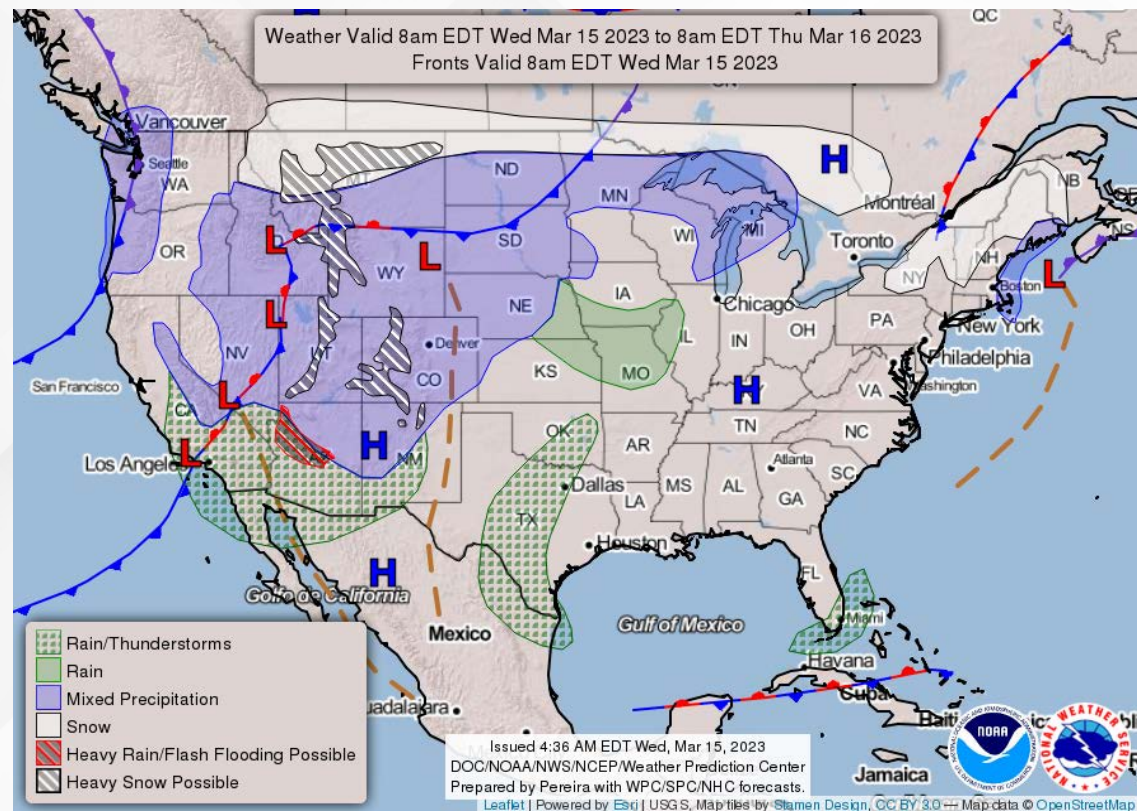
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Normal Operations
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Annual Leave
Region 3: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Normal Operations
RRCT Manager	Region 5	Joint Field Office RSF Coordination
Region 4: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 5: Vacant	N/A	Not Available
Region 6: Kathryn Thompson	In Region	Normal Operations
Region 7: Dana McGeehan	In Region	Annual Leave

RRC Status
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable

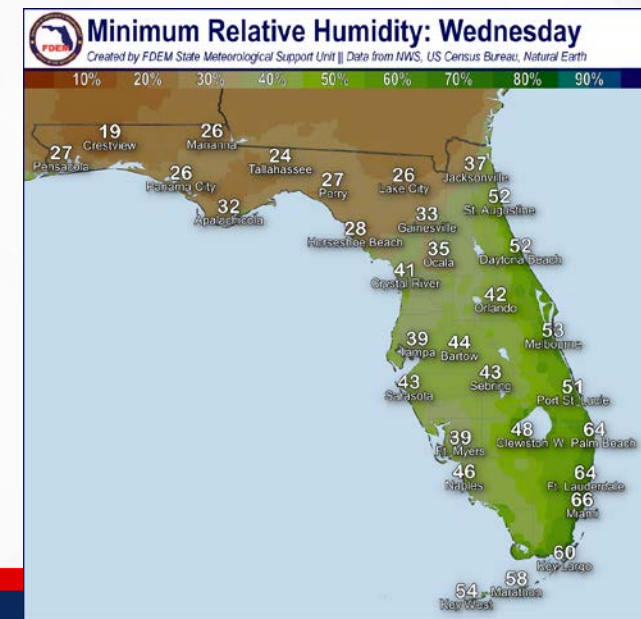
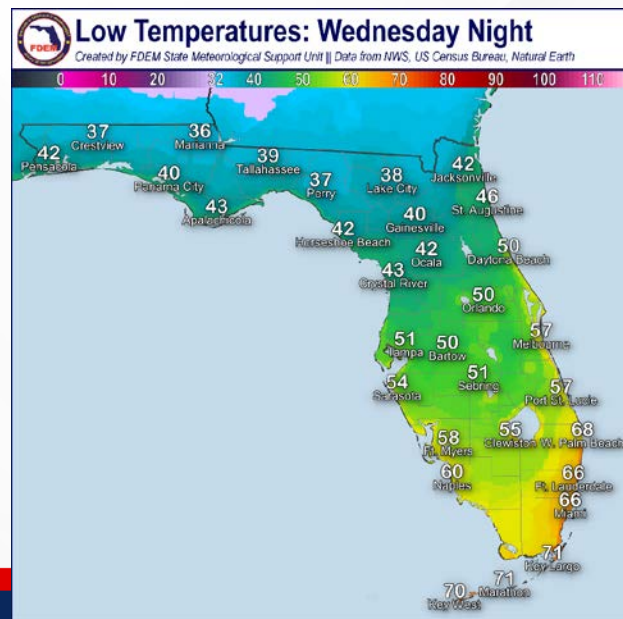


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Lightning							
Tornado							
Damaging Wind							
Flash Flooding							
Freeze (Overnight)	L	L	L				
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
River Flooding							
Fog (Overnight)							
Rip Currents	M	M	H	L	H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.06 ft. (0.61 ft. Above Normal)						
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	335 (-15) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)						



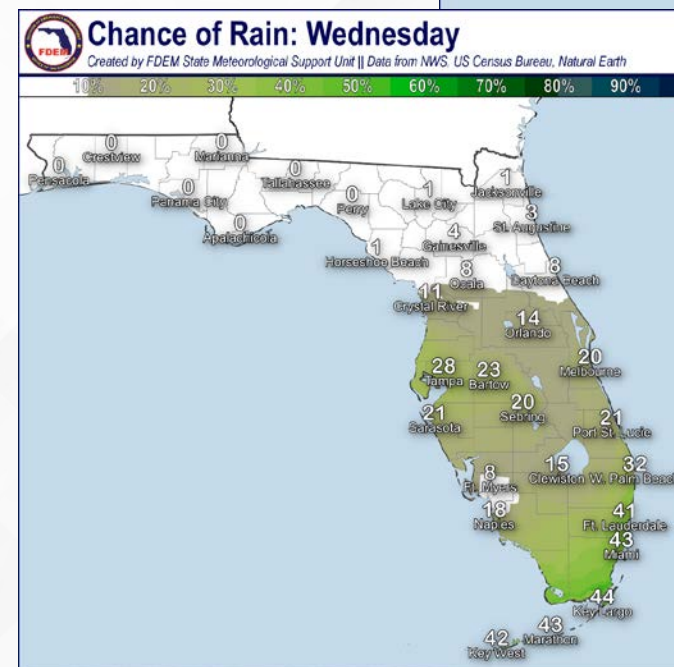
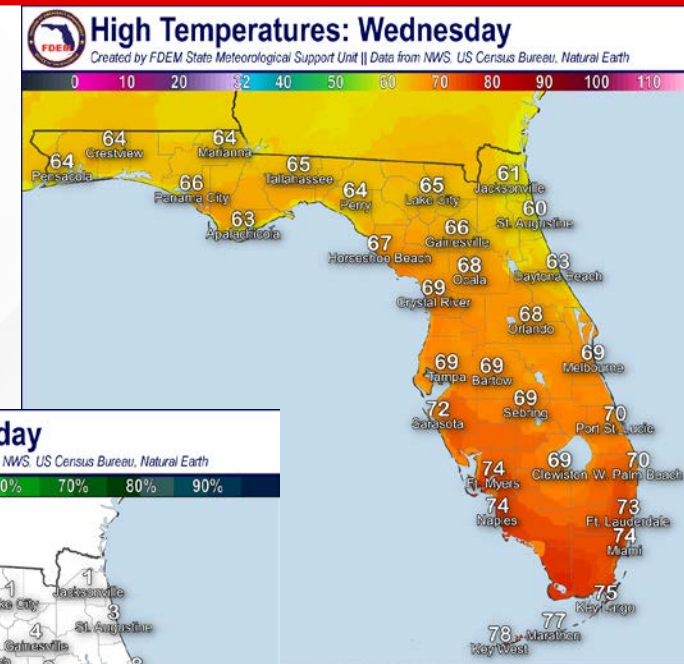


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Panhandle: A cooler start to the morning courtesy of northerly to northeasterly winds providing cooler and drier air from the north. Cooler and drier conditions will continue across North Florida with the help of high pressure creating mostly sunny conditions. Near-zero chances of rain can be expected throughout the day and into the evening hours. Relative humidity values will remain at critically low values in the 20% to High temperatures will reach into the middle 60s across the Panhandle with the help of sunny and clear conditions. Breezy winds will set up along the east coast, which will help keep coastal regions slightly cooler than inland areas. Wind gusts will reach upwards of 20-25 mph. Mostly clear conditions overnight will give way for radiational cooling to allow temperatures to cool down. Low temperatures will drop into the **middle to upper 30s**, with coastal regions seeing low temperatures in the low 40s. With the help of clear conditions and light winds, **patchy frost** will be possible overnight and early Thursday morning. A **Freeze Watch** is in place through Thursday at 9:00 AM EDT for Baker and inland Nassau Counties as temperatures as low as 32 will be possible.

Peninsula: An upper-level disturbance moving across the Peninsula will attempt to bring showers but dry air at the surface will prevent most of the rain from reaching the ground (20-45% chance of rain). A few sprinkles of rain and light showers may reach the ground during the daytime hours. The highest chance of rain will be concentrated across the southernmost peninsula and over the Keys. Breezy winds will also set up across West-Central and Southwest Florida where wind gusts upwards of 15-20 mph will be possible, with a few gusts upwards of 25 mph possible at times. High temperatures will reach into the upper 60s to middle 70s. Skies will clear out throughout the daytime hours, creating clear conditions this evening and overnight. Low temperatures will reach into middle 40s to middle 50s from the northern peninsula towards the I-75 corridor. South of the I-75 corridor and into the Keys low temperatures will be in the 60s and low 70s.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Post-frontal winds of north to northeast will create a **high risk for rip currents** along all east coast beaches. Strong offshore flow will create a **moderate risk for rip currents** for Panhandle beaches. West coast beaches have returned to a low risk for rip currents. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Strong northeasterly winds along the east coast and the Atlantic side of the Florida Keys will keep **wave heights** elevated to 4-6' along beaches through the evening hours. Isolated breaking waves 7' of the surf zone cannot be ruled out during the morning and afternoon hours for Southeast beaches. Northeasterly flow along the Panhandle and western Peninsula will push waves away from the coastline and allow wave heights to reduce to 1-2' by this evening.

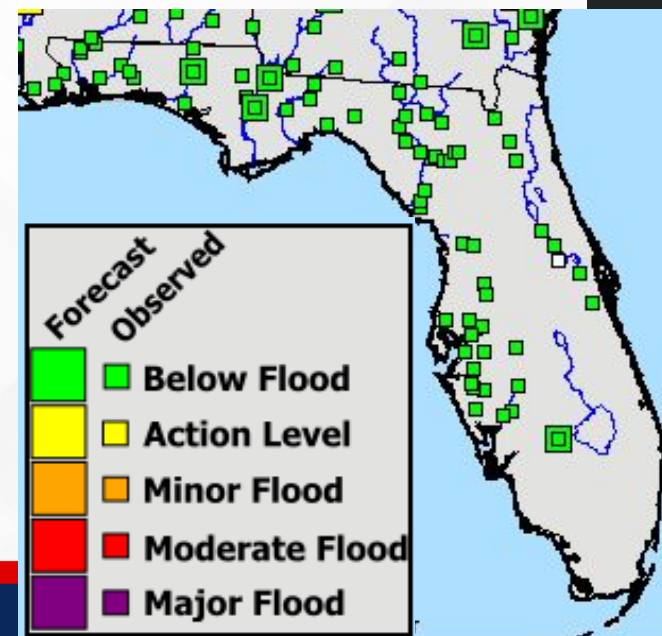
Red Tide been observed above background levels along much of Southwest Florida Coast, with **medium to high concentrations** along Pasco, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier and Monroe counties.

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding.

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding.

Riverine Flooding: All Florida rivers, waterways, and tributaries are running below and are forecast to remain below flood stage. For more details, please visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.06 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.61 feet above normal for this time of year.

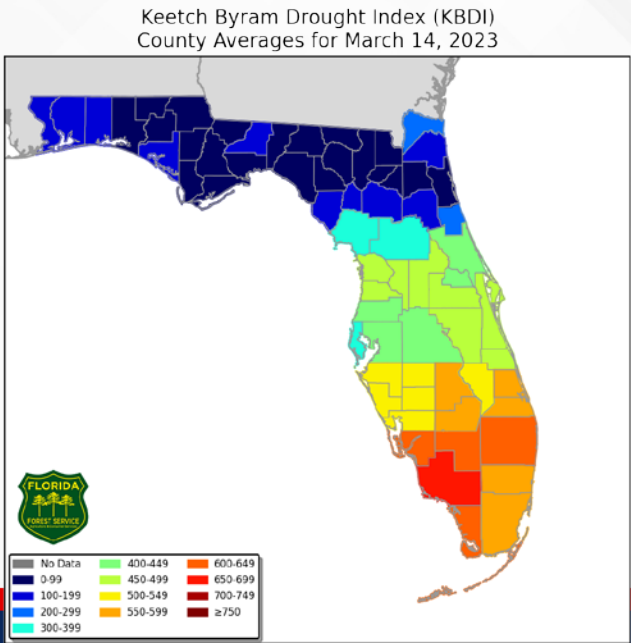
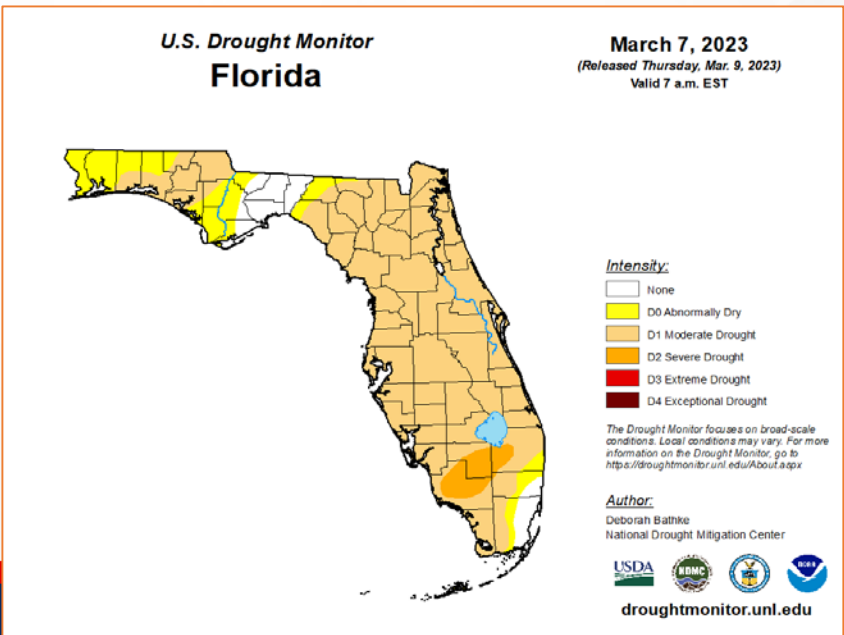


Current & Forecast River Levels



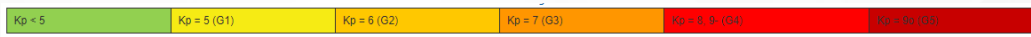
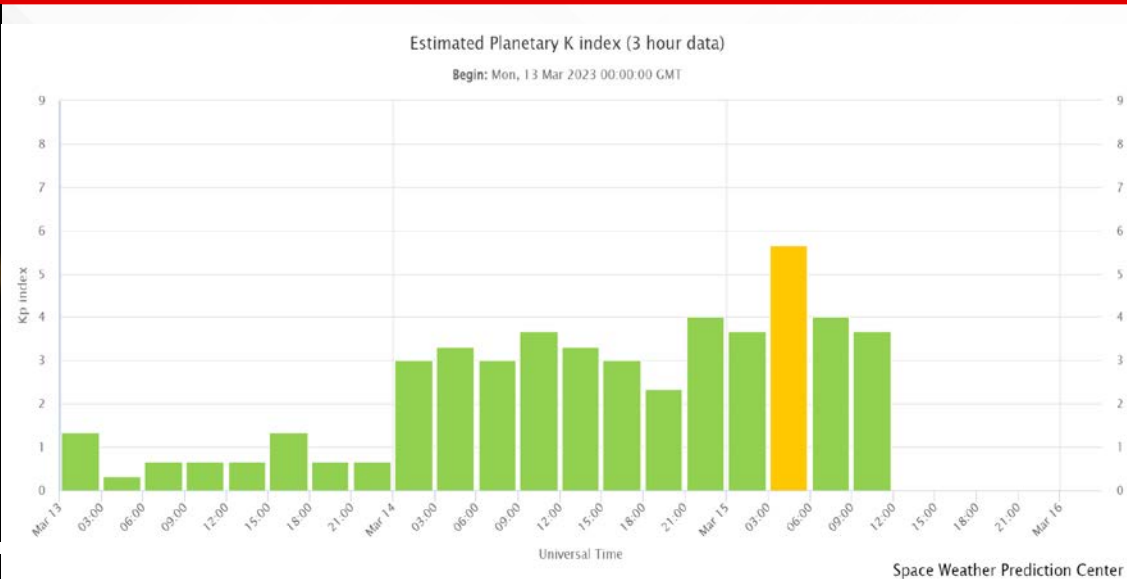
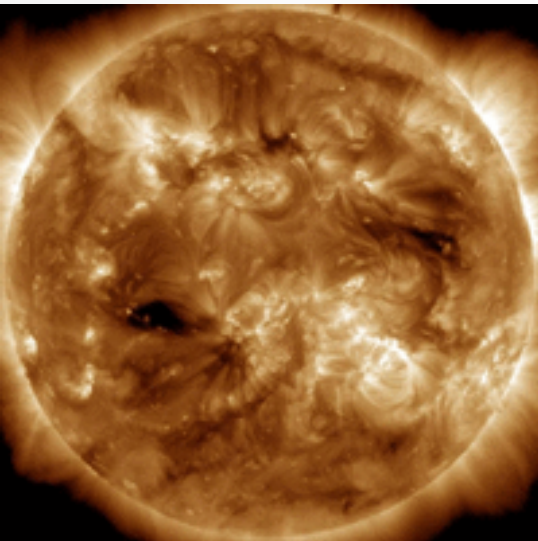
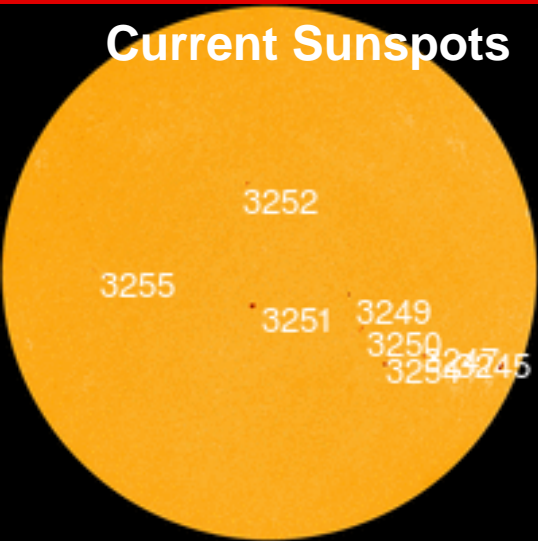
Drought: **Severe drought** has been introduced in South Florida on this week's [Drought Monitor](#) where rainfall has been less than 25% of normal, meaning rainfall deficits on the order of 4-6" below normal over the last 90 days. Streamflow values are running below normal and vegetation/soils continue to dry out. **Moderate drought** expanded across additional portions of the Peninsula and Suwannee River Valley, as well as the western Panhandle. Rainfall deficits of 3-5" continue to grow over these regions, with only the eastern Panhandle and coastal Southeast Florida remaining drought-free.

[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is 335 **(-15)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **seventeen** counties (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and St. Lucie.) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger). Collier, Hendry, Lee, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties have the highest KBDI as values are over 600.





Space Weather



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts
48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
3/15		3/16
Max Kp= 5 (G1)		Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%		Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 15%

Space Weather: A Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) hit Earth’s magnetic field yesterday (March 15) sparking a strong (G2) geomagnetic storm. Almost all sunspots of the Earthside of the sun contain stable and quiet magnetic fields resulting in an unlikely chance for flares. Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for C-class solar flares through Mar. 16. Solar winds will remain enhanced due to a glancing influence of a CME on Mar. 11. No minor (R1) or greater radio blackouts are expected. The overall space weather threat to Florida will remain very low.



SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
Phone:	800-320-0519, 850-815-4001, 850-591-0071 (Backup Cell)	Operational	
Backup Landline:	850-487-3234, 850-487-3228	Operational	
Fax:	850-815-4979	Operational	
Email:	SWP@em.myflorida.com	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/	Operational	
SLERS:	DEM Statewide	Operational	
FNARS:	WGY974	Operational	
Federal NAWAS:	State Watch Office	Operational	
EMnet Message:	FL.000- State Watch Office	Operational	
EMnet Voice:	FL SWP- State Watch Office	Operational	
IPAWS:	LP.1 Stations via Emnet	Operational	
FIN:	SOFEOC	Operational	
Satellite Phones:	888-890-5178 or 480-263-8838	Operational	
Website:	http://www.floridadisaster.org	Operational	

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