



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, March 16, 2023



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Henry County AL	Farley NPP Meeting
RC Manager	Leon	Response Mtgs / NOAA Call / All Things Digital
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Pam Bergstrom	Flagler	Training / NOAA Call / All Things Digital
Region 4: Paul Siddall	Charlotte	Capabilities Assessment
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Brevard	Sheltering Meeting
Region 6: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 7: Claudia Baker	Broward	OVS / LMS / RC Mtg / All Things Digital



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



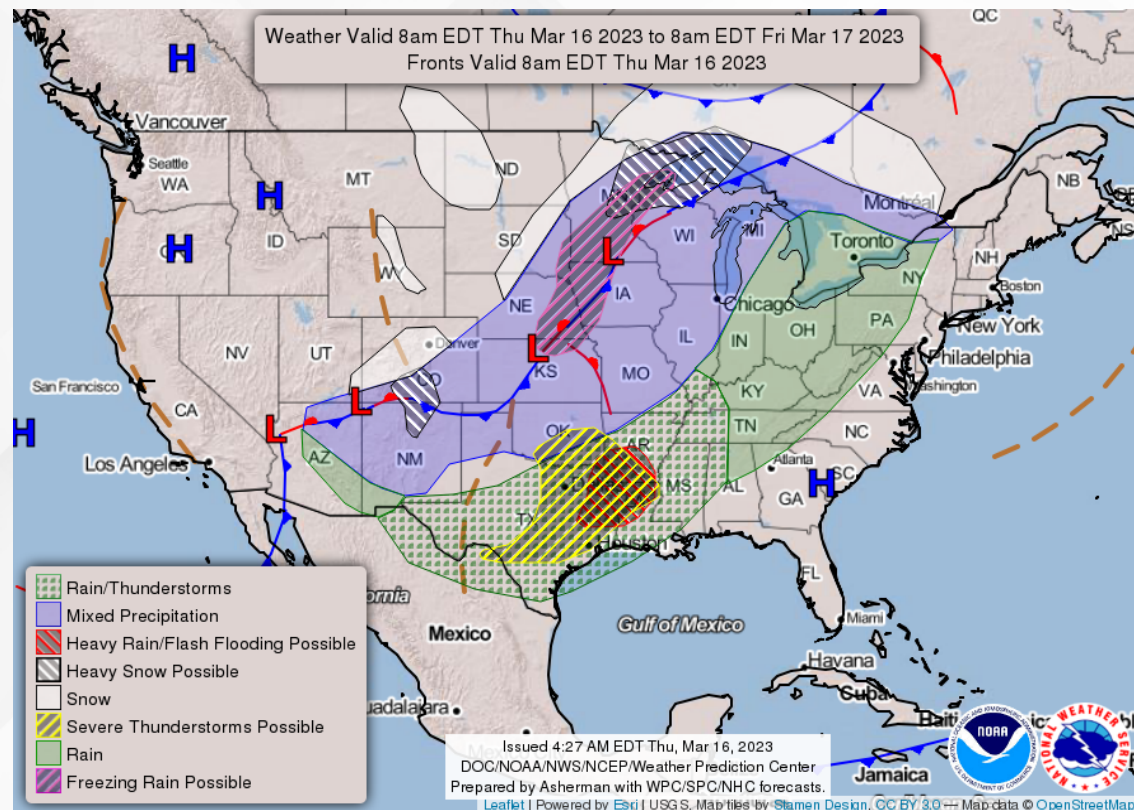
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

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	Indian River County FL Courses
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

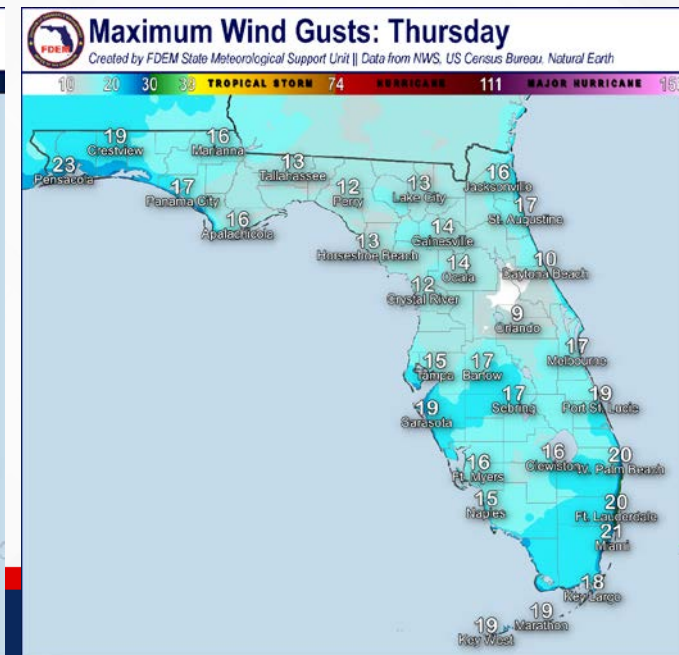
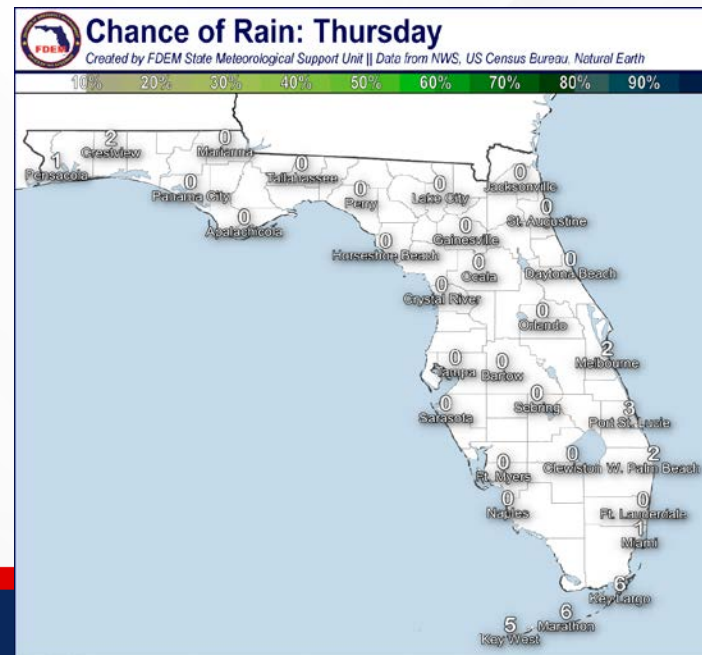


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Lightning							
Tornado							
Damaging Wind							
Flash Flooding							
Freeze (Overnight)							
Wildfire	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
River Flooding							
Fog (Overnight)							
Rip Currents	H	H	H	L	H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.00 ft. (0.56 ft. Above Normal)						
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	335 (+/- 0) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)						



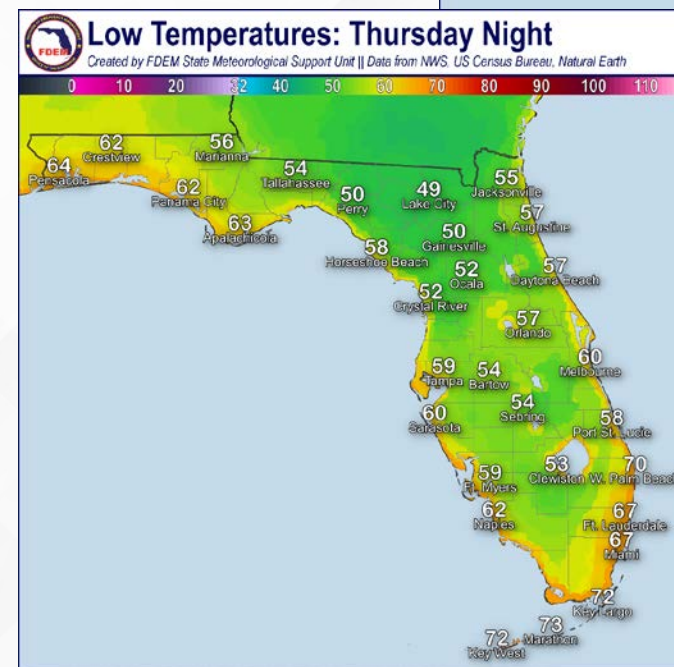
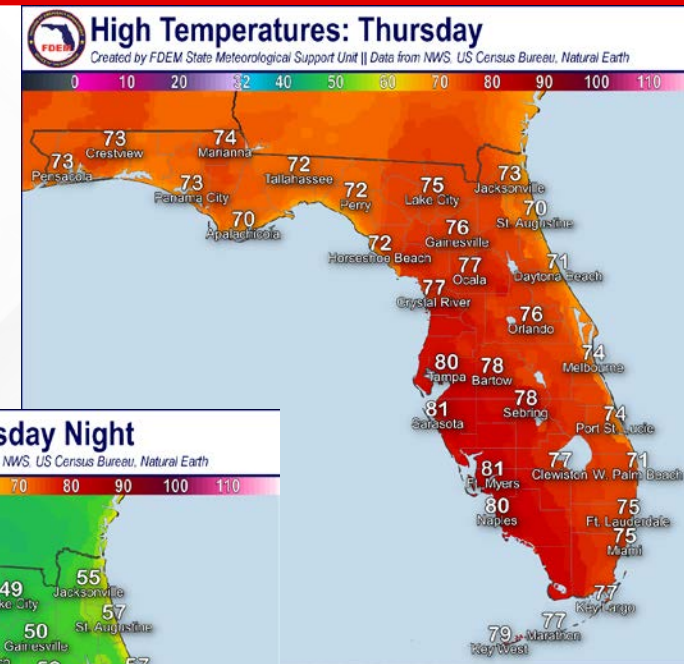


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Mostly sunny skies and near-zero rain chances can be expected across the Sunshine State today, courtesy of an area of high pressure. Easterly winds of 5-10 mph can be expected to become more southerly through the day, setting the stage for a more active weather period Friday. Wind gusts may reach 15-20 mph at times this afternoon, especially along the coastlines. Afternoon temperatures will remain in the lower 70s across North Florida and along the Florida East Coast, and the middle to upper 70s over the Peninsula. A few isolated locations along the Florida West Coast may eclipse the 80-degree mark; however, mild conditions can largely be expected statewide.

Temperatures will begin to improve overnight, with low temperatures in the upper 40s and 50s confined to the interior portions of the state. Southerly flow will allow for lows to remain in the 60s along the Panhandle, and the upper 60s to lower 70s along the Peninsula coastline. Cloud cover will gradually increase from west to east along the I-10 corridor as our next weather system approaches along the central Gulf Coast.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Easterly winds will become more southerly through the day, leading to a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** along all Panhandle and East Coast beaches today. Low risk conditions continue for the Florida West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Lingering onshore swell will yield wave heights of 2-4' along the Atlantic Coast, with isolated breakers in the surf zone reaching 5' along the Treasure Coast. Wave heights of 1-3' can be expected along the Florida Gulf Coast.

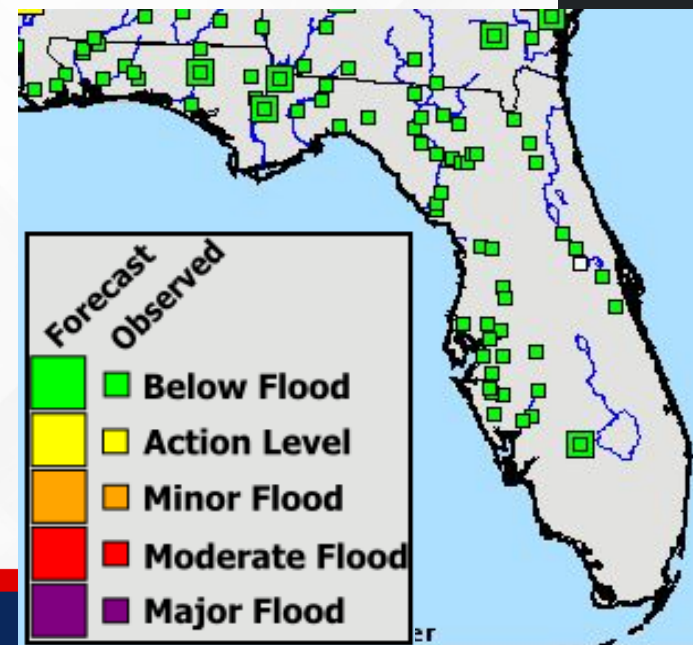
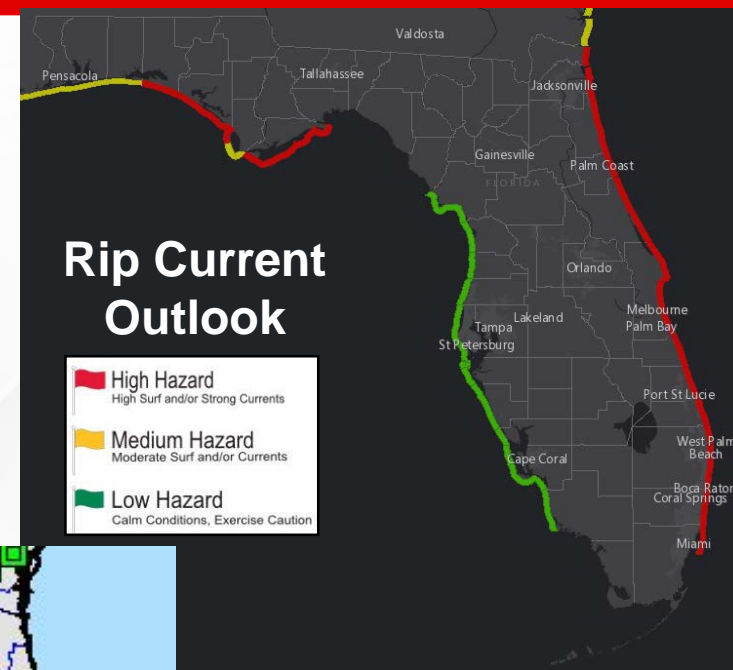
Red Tide been observed above background levels along much of Southwest Florida Coast, with **medium concentrations** along Pasco, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Isolated samples of **high concentration** were observed along Pinellas and Collier Counties.

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 15.00 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.56 feet above normal for this time of year.



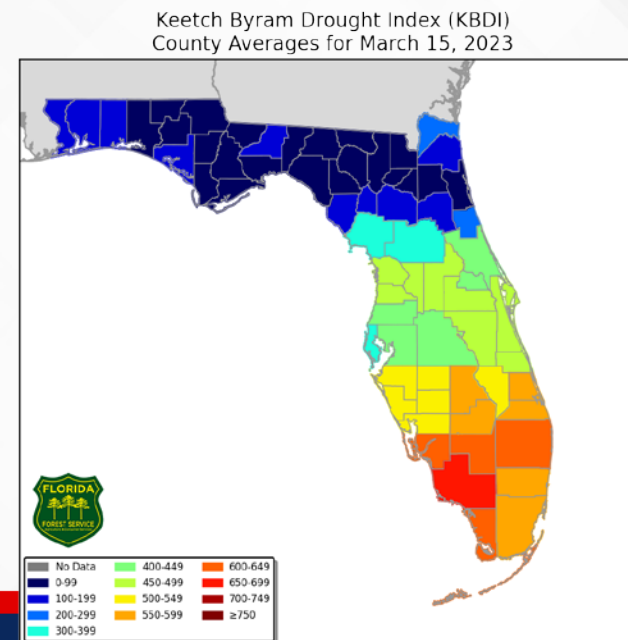
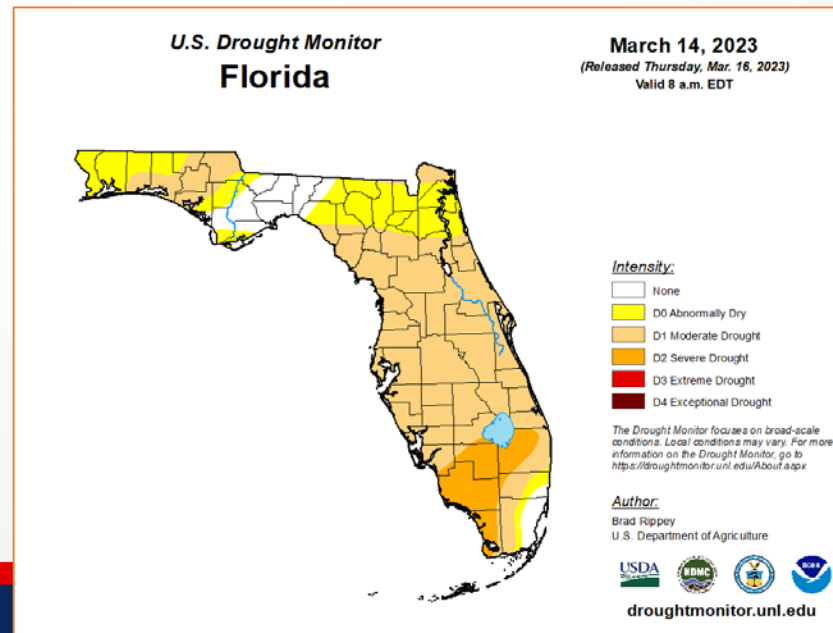
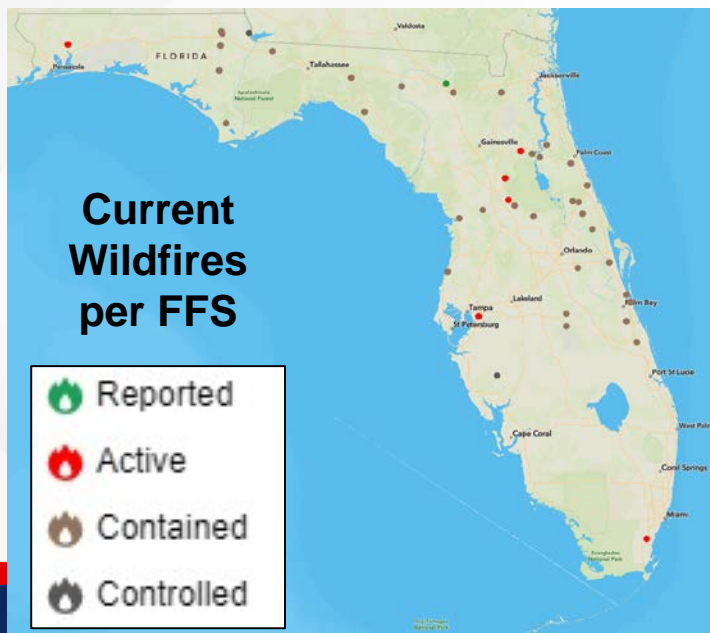


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Cooler and drier air will continue to push southward across the state with the help of high pressure to the north. Critically low relative humidity values in the upper 20s to middle 30s will create an **elevated risk for wildfires** across much of Florida today. While the easterly wind regime largely remains moderate through the day, a slight increase in speed cannot be ruled out as winds develop a southerly component (gusts reaching 10-20 mph). Red Flag Warning criteria may be achieved over interior portions of the Florida Peninsula during the peak heating hours of the day, and trends will be monitored. Dry soils and fuels will allow for new or ongoing wildfire to spread more easily. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 42 active wildfires across the state, burning approximately 1,718 acres.

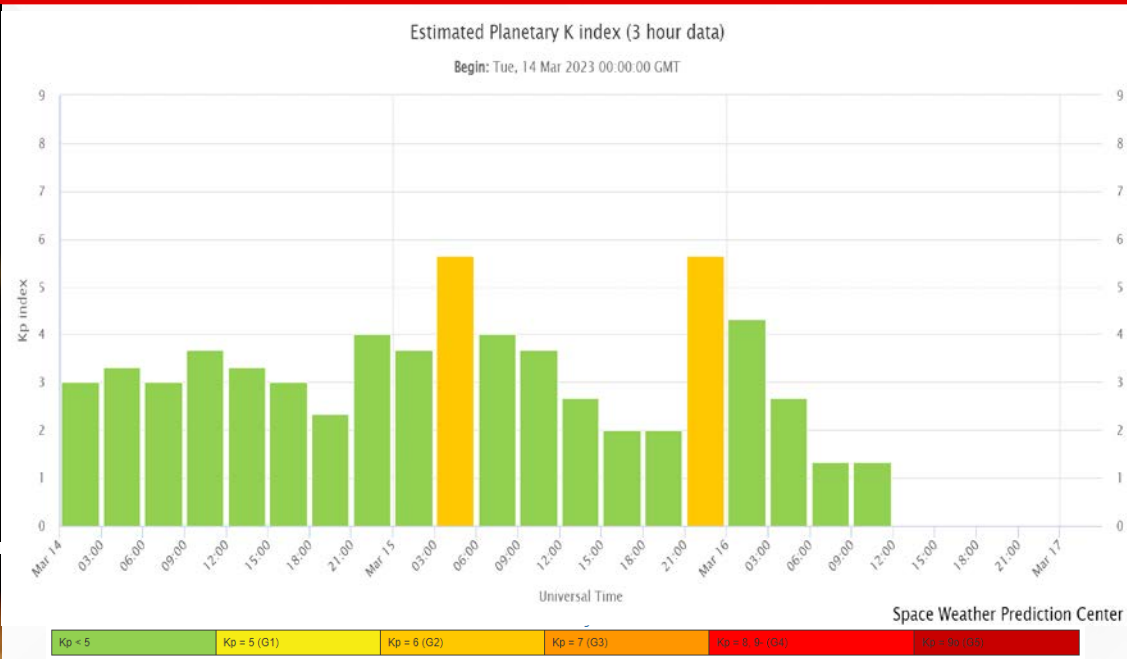
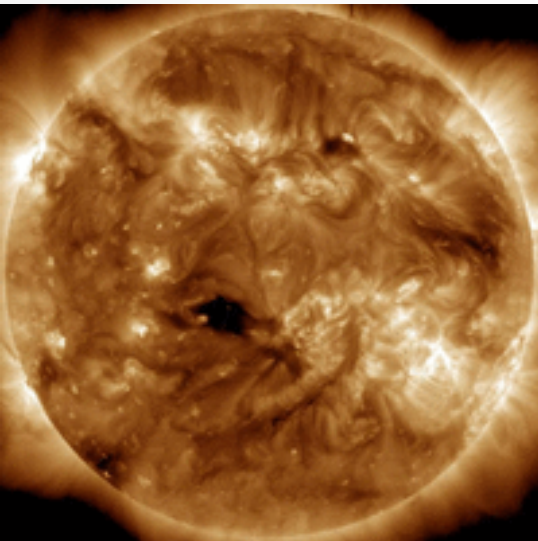
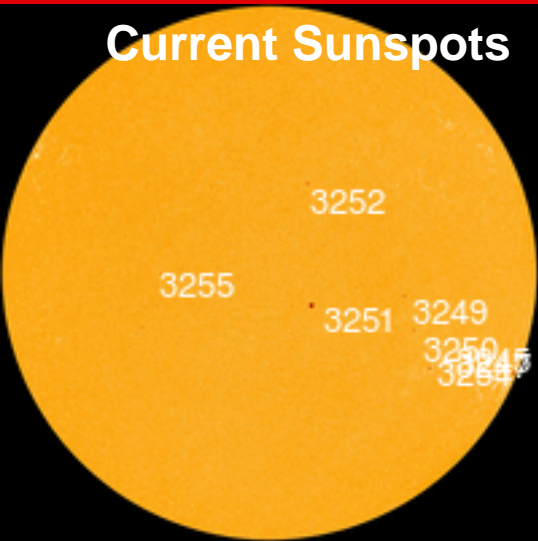
Drought: Heavy shower and thunderstorm activity over the past week provided some relief from Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) and **moderate drought** conditions. In contrast, little to no rain fell across southern Florida, where regions of **severe drought** further expanded southwest of Lake Okeechobee. Rainfall deficits continue to grow across the Florida Peninsula, with several South Florida Counties experiencing a KBDI in excess of 600. Through the week, year-to-date rainfall over Southwest Florida totaled less than 1", 23% of normal rainfall.

[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is 335 (+/- 0) 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		
3/16		3/17
Max Kp= 5 (G1)		Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 15%		Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be very low, with a chance for moderate solar flares (C-class) into the weekend and a slight chance for stronger solar flares (M-class) exists. Continued grazing Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) influences are expected to persist within the solar wind regime today, with further enhancements anticipated from additional periphery influences from the 3/12 and 3/13 CMEs. Isolated minor geomagnetic storms (G1) and a chance for a moderate geomagnetic storm (G2) will be possible; however, the overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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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