



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, March 17, 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	Jazmin Perkins	(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	Jackson	EM Visit / Office Admin
RC Manager	Leon	RCT Inventory / Office Admin
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Pam Bergstrom	St. Johns	EM Visit
Region 4: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 6: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 7: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	EM Meeting / OVS / Vehicle Maintenance



Region 6 coverage provided by RC 7

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	In Region	Annual Leave
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



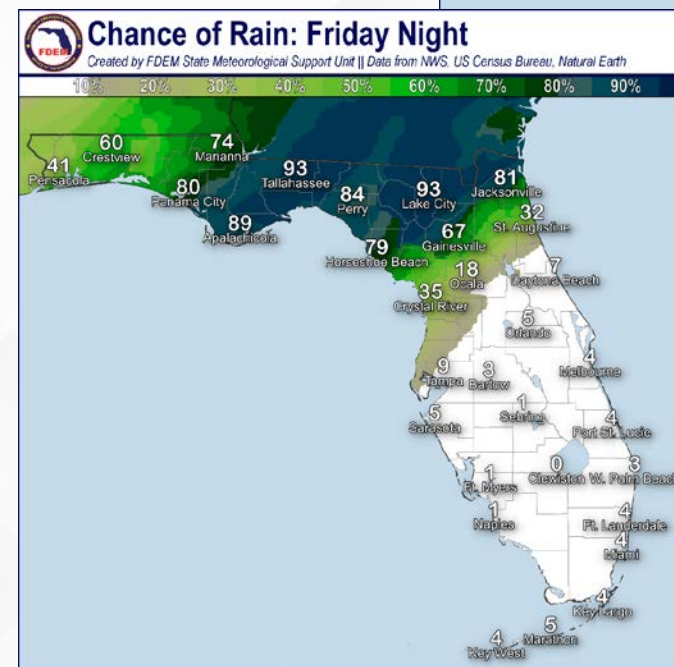
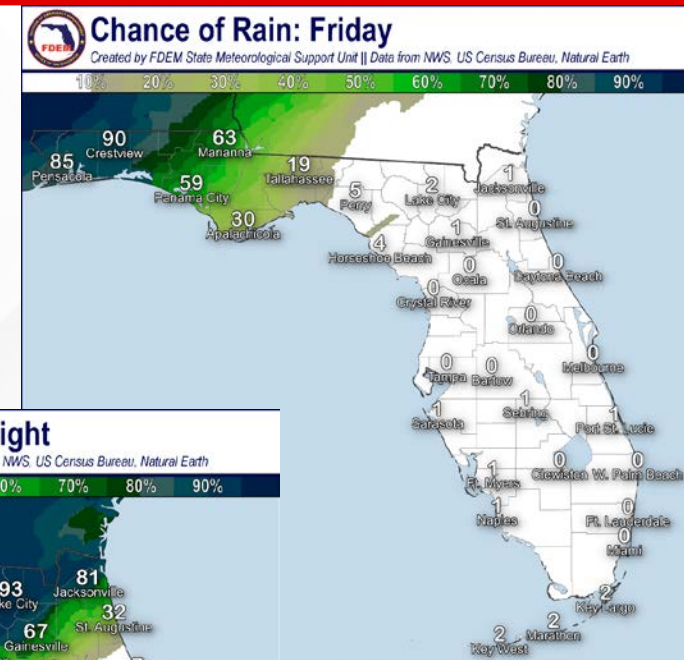
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

An active weather pattern can be expected across North Florida today as a strong cold front will make its way through the Gulf Coast states. Strong southerly winds of 10-20 mph (gusts reaching 20-30 mph at this times) will usher in ample moisture across the Florida Panhandle to fuel shower and thunderstorm activity arriving in the afternoon. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk for Severe Thunderstorms (level 2 of 5)** across the Panhandle, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending to the I-10/I-75 interchange. While a few thunderstorms may develop ahead of the main frontal boundary, the primary mode of severe weather will come in the way of an organized line of **strong to severe thunderstorms**. Locally damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), isolated tornadoes, lightning, and heavy downpours may accompany this activity. The risk for strong to severe thunderstorms will gradually wane through the evening hours; however, rain chances will overspread eastward along the I-10 corridor overnight (75-95% chance of rain).

A mixture of sunshine and clouds, with near-zero rain chances can be expected across the Peninsula today. Breezy southerly conditions will set the stage for a more active weather period Sunday; however, these southerly winds today will bring warm afternoon high temperatures in the upper 70s to middle 80s.

Northerly winds will follow in the wake of today's cold front, ushering in a cooler and drier air mass. Low temperatures tonight will reach the middle to upper 40s across the Panhandle, with 60s and 70s expected elsewhere.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy conditions statewide will yield an **elevated rip current risk** along all Florida coastlines today, with the **highest risk** residing along the Panhandle and Southeast Florida Coasts. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 3-5' can be expected along Panhandle and East Coast beaches today, with breakers in the surf zone remaining in the 1-2' range along the Florida West Coast.

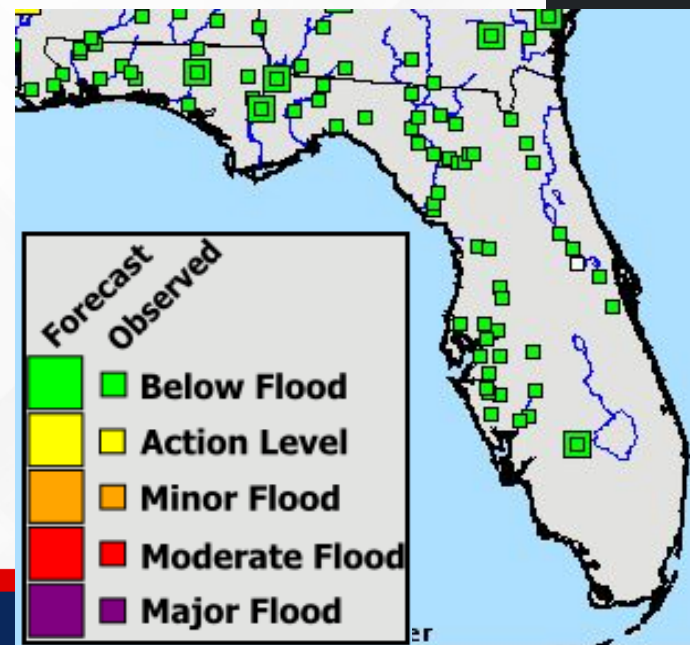
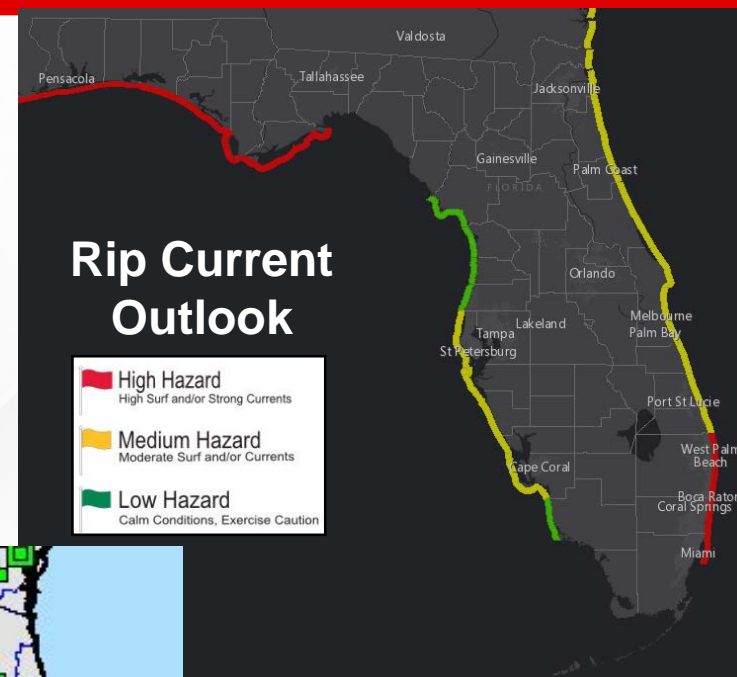
Red Tide been observed above background levels along much of Southwest Florida Coast, with **medium concentrations** along Pasco, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Isolated samples of **high concentration** were observed along Pinellas and Collier Counties.

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding (level 1 of 4)** across the Florida Panhandle today as heavy rainfall rates associated with strong to severe thunderstorm activity may lead to instances of flooding. While widespread flooding is not anticipated, pockets of **minor flooding** across low-lying and poor drainage areas will be possible.

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](http://RiverForecastCenter.com).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 14.98 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.56 feet above normal for this time of year.



**Current & Forecast
River Levels**

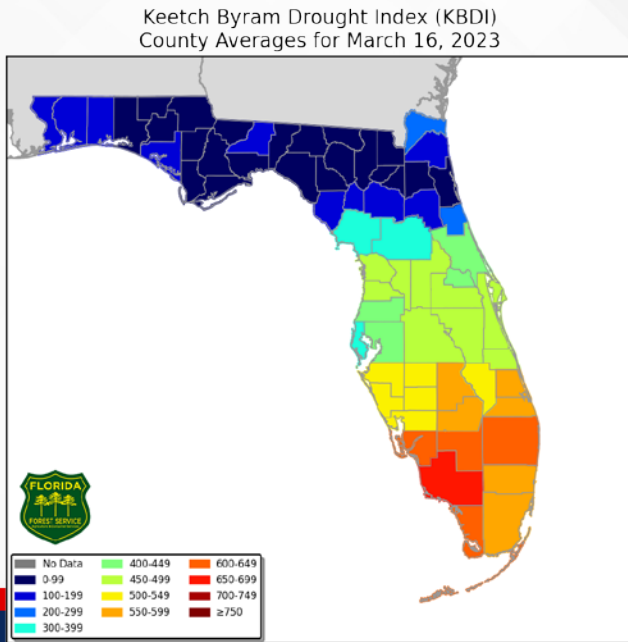
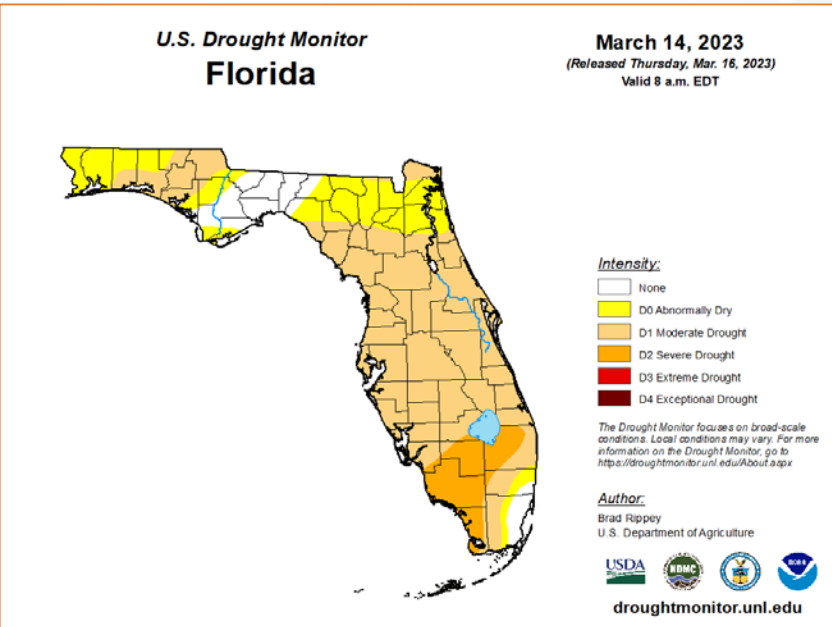
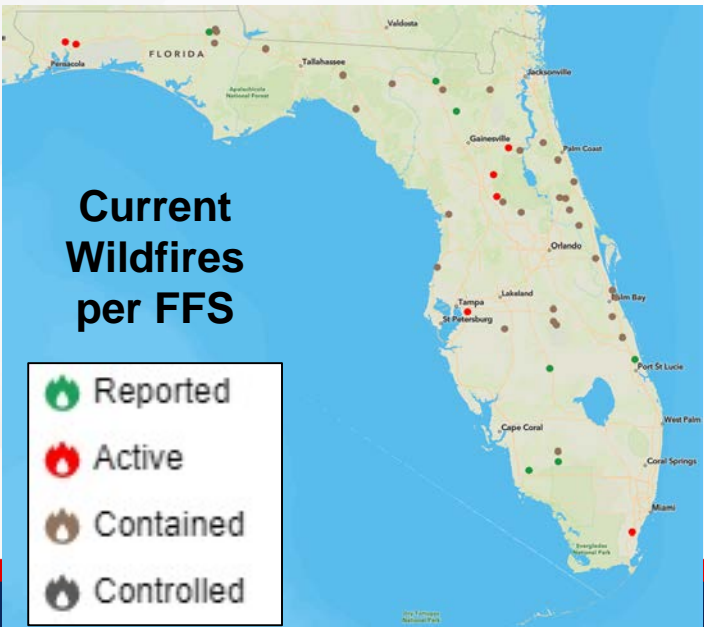


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Strong pre-frontal winds will lead to **elevated wildfire concerns** across the Florida Peninsula today. Relative humidity values will drop into the lower 30s to lower 40s, with isolated lower values possible over the interior portions of East-Central Florida. Southerly to southwesterly winds of 10-20 mph can be expected into the afternoon, with wind gusts reaching 20-30 mph. As thunderstorms enter the forecast across the Florida Panhandle, lightning may ignite new wildfires and winds near thunderstorms may be gusty and erratic. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 45 active wildfires across the state, burning approximately 1,831 acres.

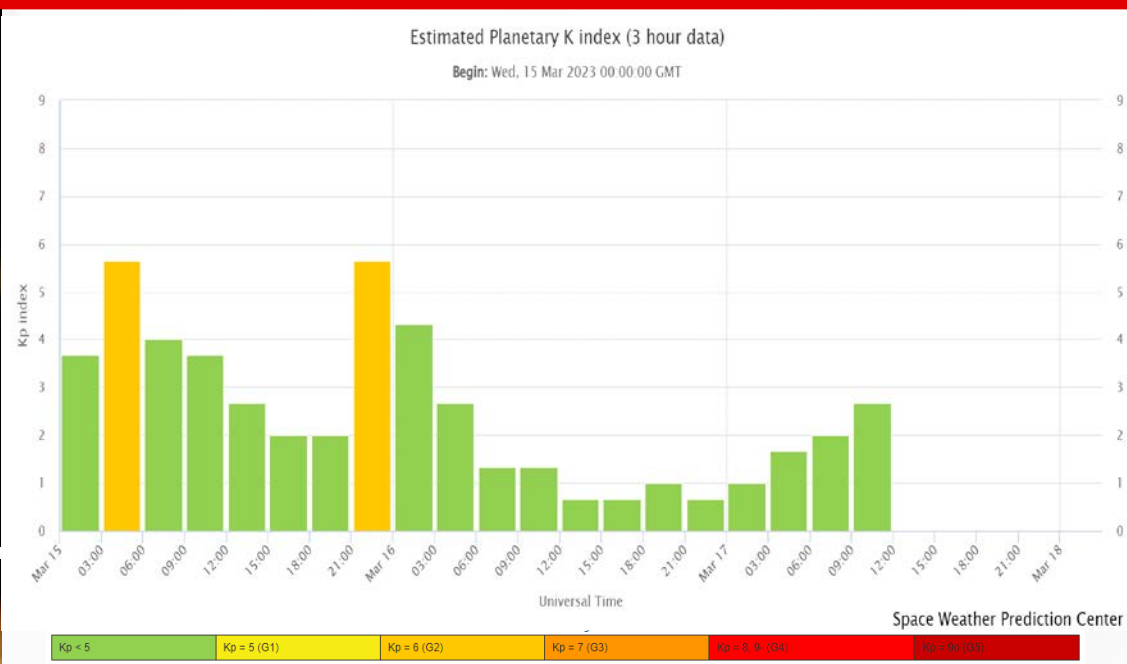
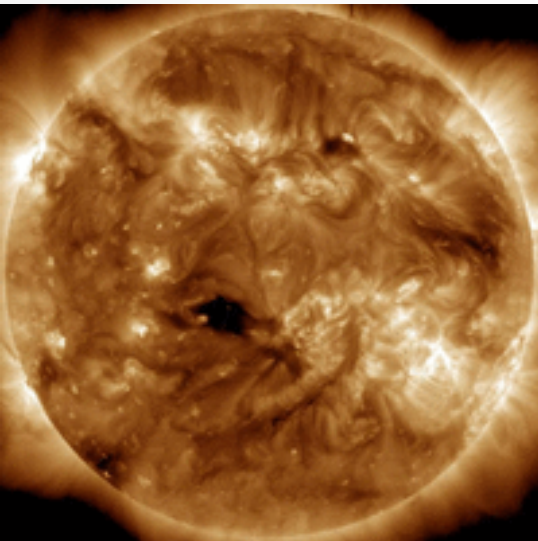
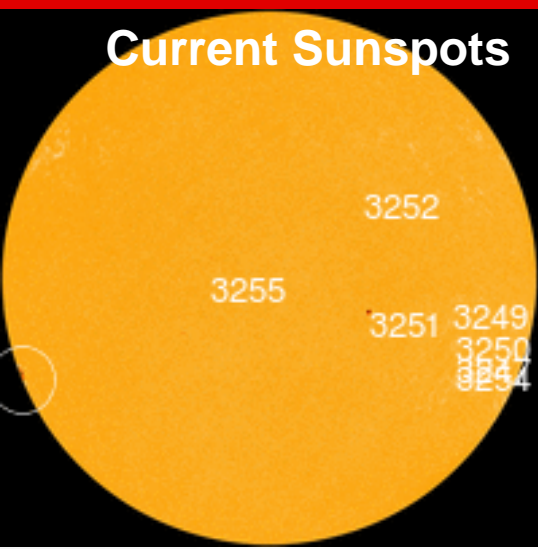
Drought: Heavy shower and thunderstorm activity over the past week provided some relief from Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) and **moderate drought** conditions. In contrast, little to no rain fell across southern Florida, where regions of **severe drought** further expanded southwest of Lake Okeechobee. 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 339 (+4) 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	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts
48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
3/17		3/18
Max Kp= 3 (G0)		Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%		Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain low today as we watch a new and sizeable sunspot emerge over the southeastern limb. Background solar wind conditions can be expected to prevail into the weekend, with quiet geomagnetic conditions. 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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