



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, March 18, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Benjamin Mauro	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Kelsey Walters	(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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
RC Manager	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Pam Bergstrom	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Paul Siddall	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 7: Claudia Baker	In Region	Off & Monitoring



Region 6 coverage provided by RC 7 / RC 4

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



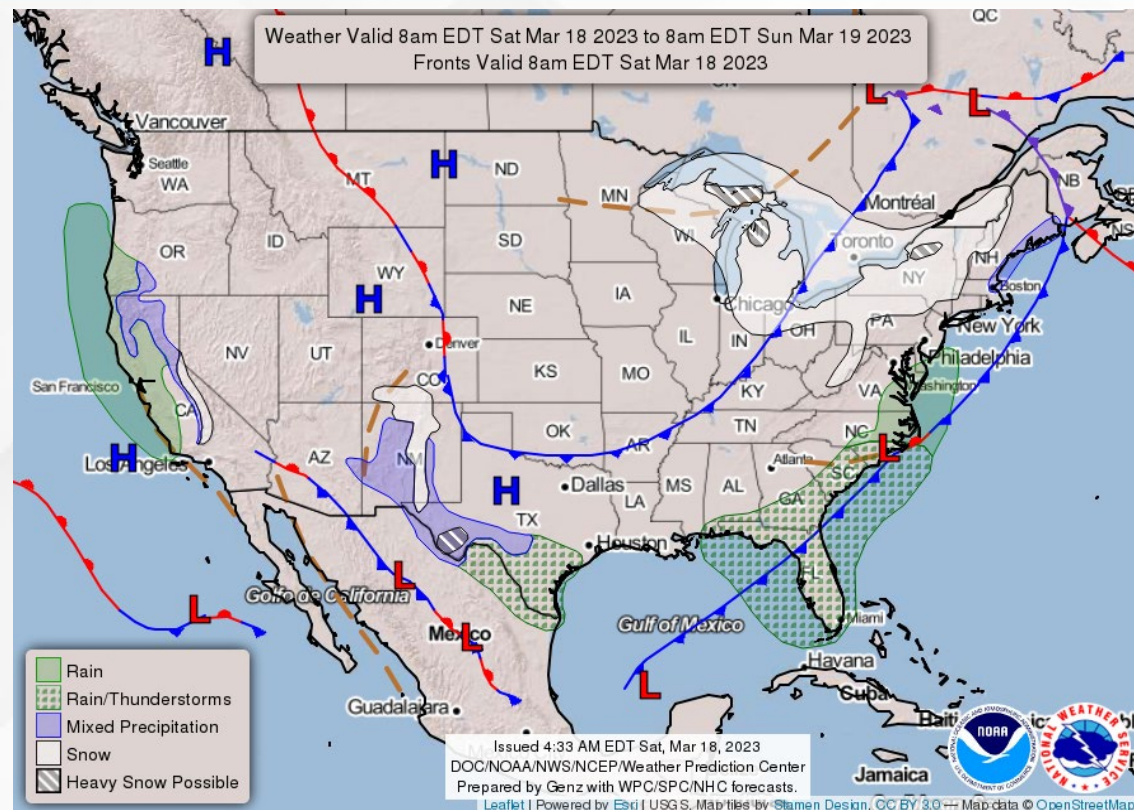
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
RRCT Manager	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 5: Vacant	N/A	Not Available
Region 6: Kathryn Thompson	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 7: Dana McGeehan	In Region	Off & Monitoring

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



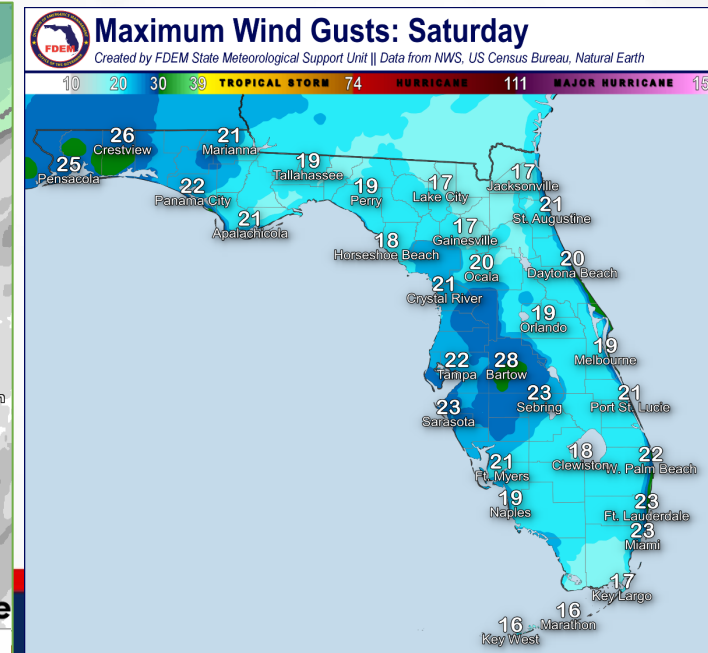
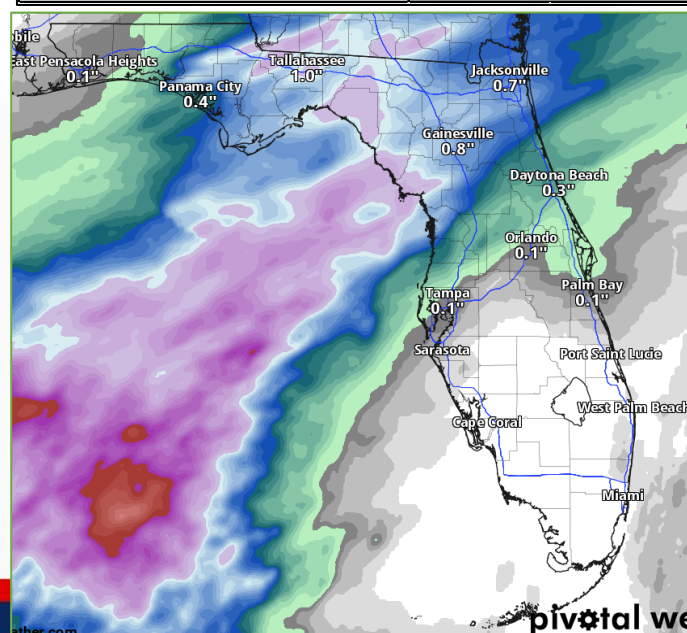
Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

24-Hour Forecast
Rainfall Totals

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Lightning		M	M	M	M	L	L
Tornado							
Damaging Wind							
Flash Flooding							
Freeze (Overnight)	L						
Wildfire				L	L	L	L
River Flooding							
Fog (Overnight)							
Rip Currents	H	H	M	H	M	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	14.96 ft. (0.54 ft. Above Normal)						
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	345 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)						





Meteorology Summary

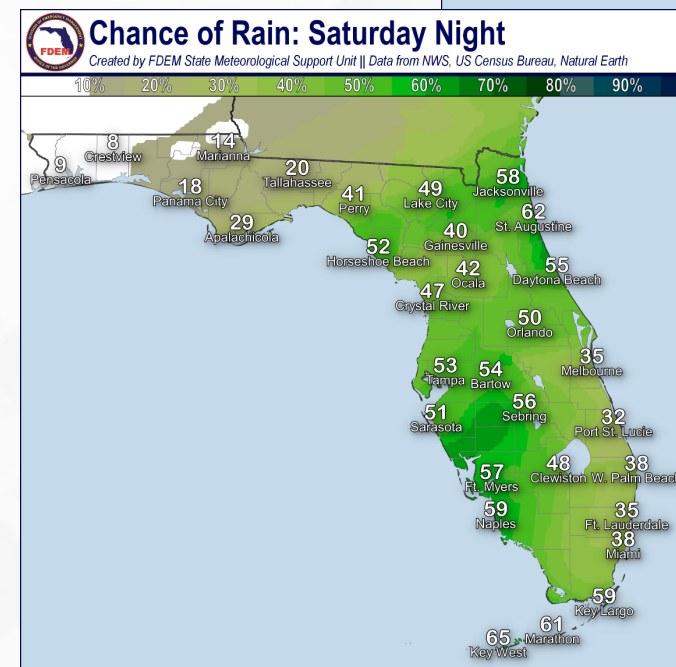
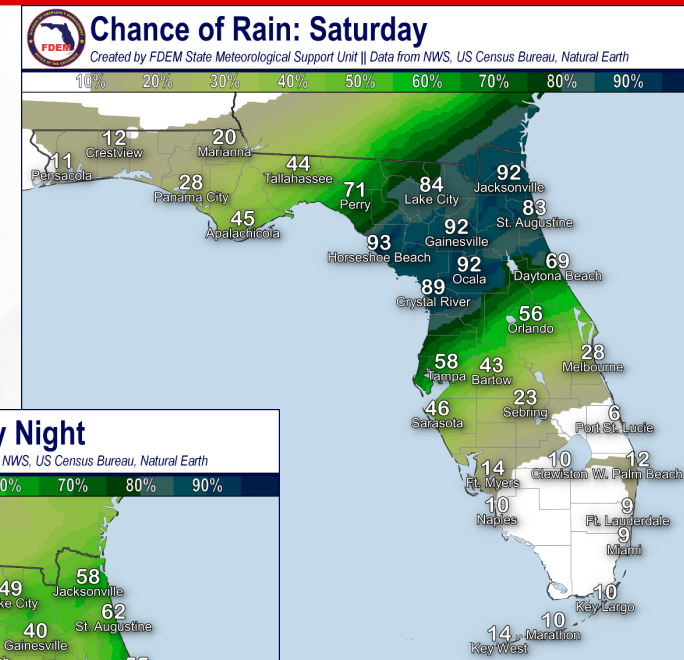
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Ongoing shower and embedded thunderstorm activity across the eastern Florida Panhandle and Big Bend will continue to expand in areal coverage through the day as a cold front advances into the Peninsula. Rain chances will spread eastward into additional portions of Northeast Florida and the Nature Coast through the daytime hours (65-95% chance of rain) as ample moisture along and ahead of the frontal system prompts the development of scattered to widespread shower and thunderstorm activity. While there is no organized risk for severe weather, a few thunderstorms during the peak heating hours of the day may be strong and capable of producing gusty winds, lightning, and heavy downpours.

In the wake of the frontal boundary, brisk post-frontal winds will begin to usher in a much cooler and drier airmass across the Panhandle. These influences will be apparent in the temperatures, as afternoon highs look to remain in the middle to upper 50s.

As we enter the evening hours, the cold front is forecast to reside south of the I-4 corridor, bringing elevated rain chances across the Peninsula overnight (45-60% chance of rain). While the risk for thunderstorm development will largely subside after sunset, a few coastal thunderstorms will be possible as the front makes its exit into the Florida Straits Sunday morning.

Clearing skies over the Florida Panhandle coupled with strong northerly winds will allow for temperatures to drop into the middle to upper 30s across interior locations, with lows reaching the lower to middle 40s expected across Northeast Florida and the Nature Coast. Moisture, cloud cover, and ongoing shower and thunderstorm activity will keep lows more mild over Central and South Florida tonight.





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, West Florida, and Southeast Florida Coasts. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: An increasing ocean swell can be expected to build along both the Gulf and Atlantic coastlines today, with **wave heights** reaching 3-5' at Panhandle and Treasure Coast beaches. Wave heights of 2-3' can be expected elsewhere.

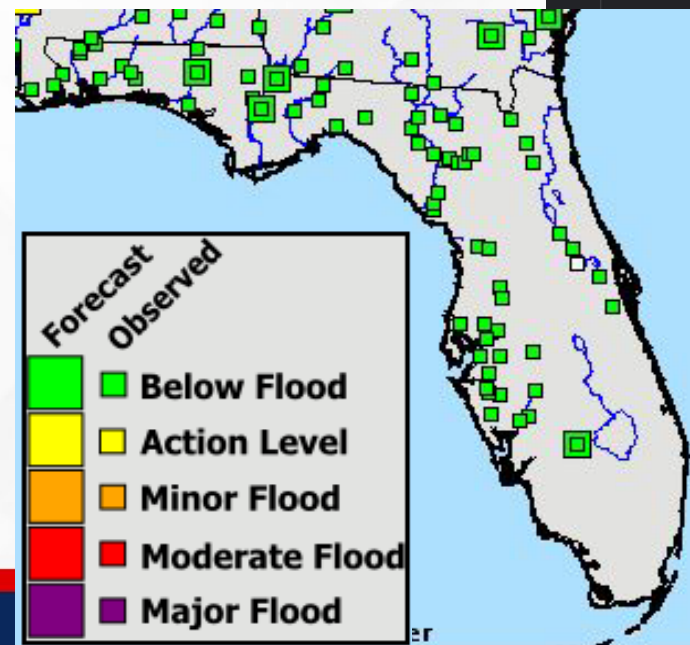
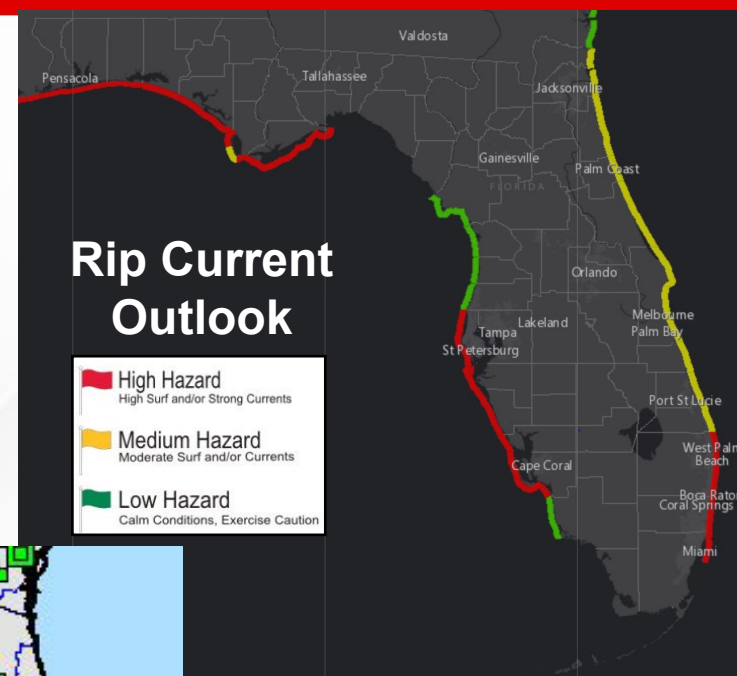
Red Tide been observed above background levels along much of Southwest Florida Coast, with **medium concentrations** along Pasco, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Isolated samples of **high concentration** were observed along Pinellas and Collier Counties.

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding.

Flash Flooding: While there is no organized risk for flash flooding across Florida, heavy rainfall rates associated with today's cold front may lead to isolated pockets of nuisance flooding across low-lying and poor drainage areas. Regions that experienced the first round of rainfall with yesterday's shower and thunderstorm activity may be more vulnerable, especially over the Florida Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley, and into Northeast Florida where rainfall totals of 1-2" cannot be ruled out.

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 14.96 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.54 feet above normal for this time of year.



Current & Forecast River Levels

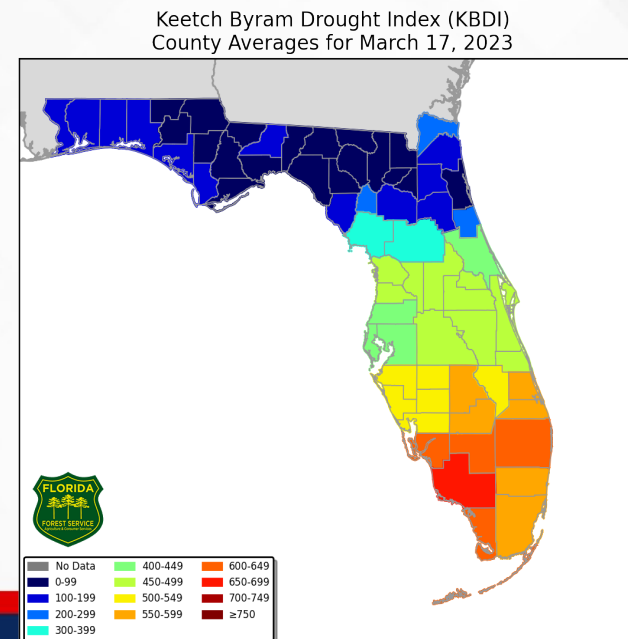
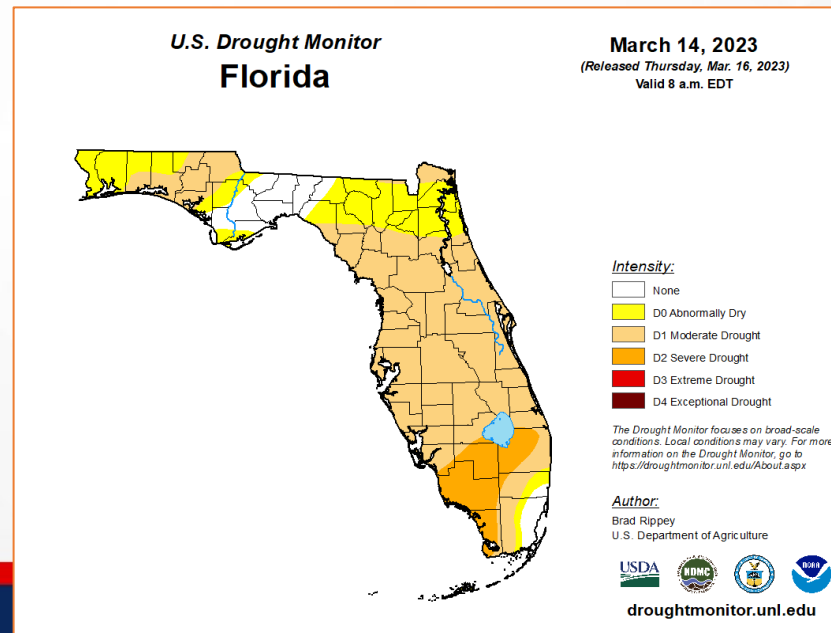
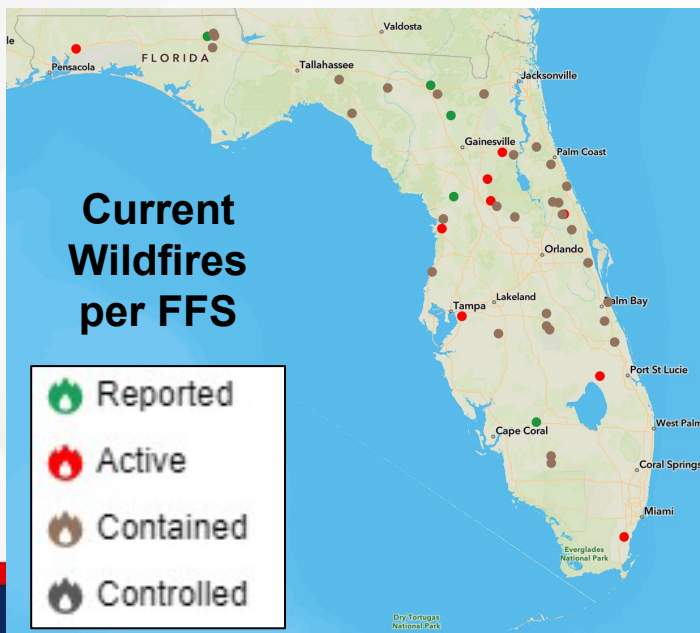


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Strong pre-frontal winds will lead to **elevated wildfire concerns** across the Florida Peninsula today. Relative humidity values will drop into the upper 30s to middle 40s, with isolated lower values possible over the interior portions of East-Central Florida. Southerly to southwesterly winds of 10-15 mph can be expected into the afternoon, with wind gusts reaching 15-25 mph. As thunderstorms continue in the forecast, lightning may ignite new wildfires and winds near thunderstorms may be gusty and erratic. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 42 active wildfires across the state, burning approximately 2,047 acres.

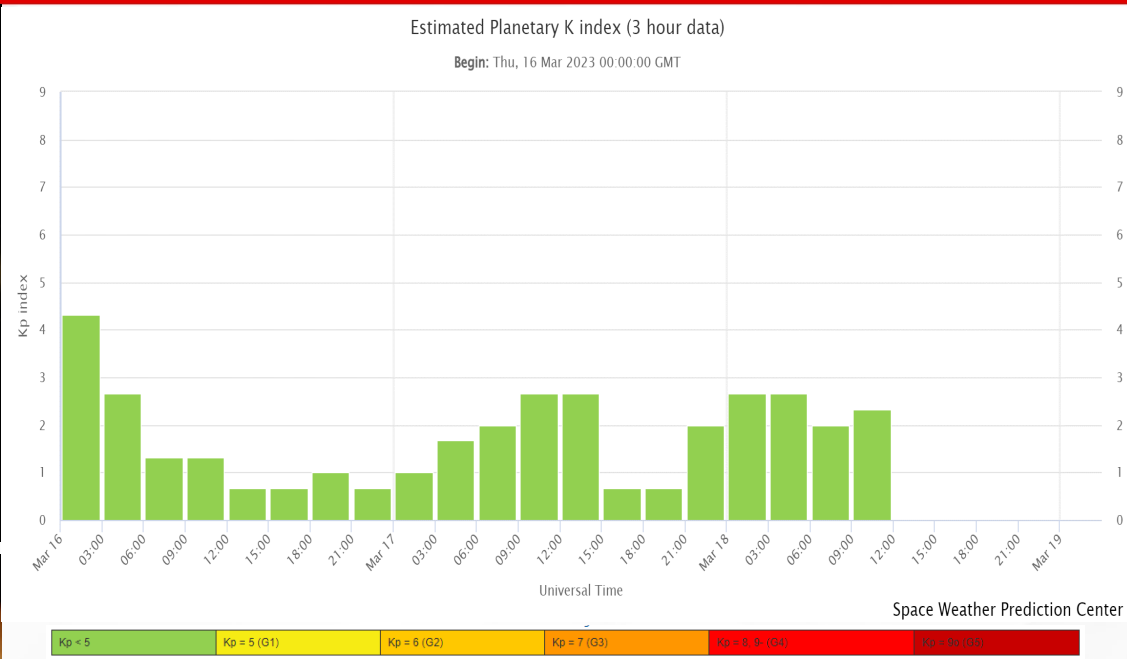
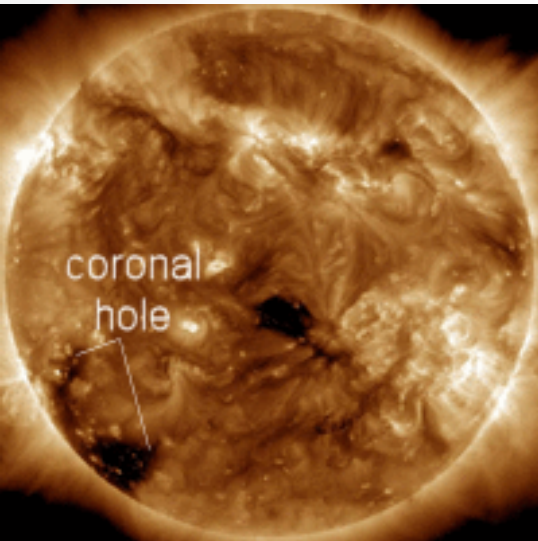
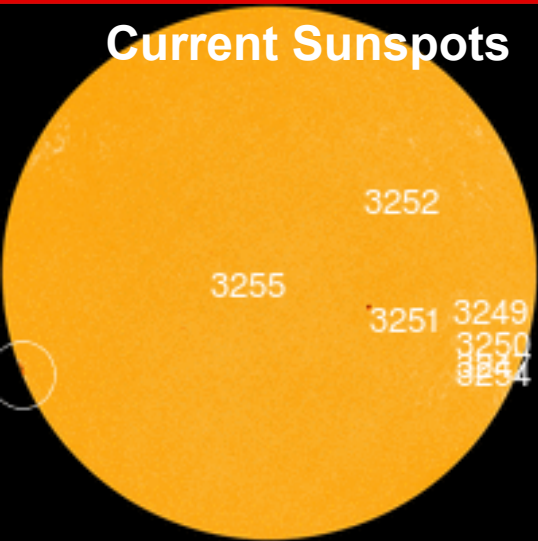
Drought: Heavy shower and thunderstorm activity over the past week provided some relief from Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) and **moderate drought** conditions. In contrast, little to no rain fell across southern Florida, where regions of **severe drought** further expanded southwest of Lake Okeechobee. 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 345 (+6) 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: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts
48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
3/18		3/19
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, only a slight chance of a moderate to strong solar flare can be expected today. Nominal 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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