



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Wednesday, May 24, 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	<a href="mailto:Ian.Guidicelli@em.myflorida.com">Ian.Guidicelli@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Benjamin Mauro	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Cassi Farestvedt	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Kenneth DeCastro	(850) 567-1943	<a href="mailto:Kenneth.DeCastro@em.myflorida.com">Kenneth.DeCastro@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services	Rob Dietrich	(850) 727-3414	<a href="mailto:Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com">Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
Public Information Officer	Alecia Collins	(850) 591-9544	<a href="mailto:Alecia.Collins@em.myflorida.com">Alecia.Collins@em.myflorida.com</a>
DEM Finance and Admin	Kaitlyn Hunt	(850) 694-0312	<a href="mailto:Kaitlyn.Hunt@em.myflorida.com">Kaitlyn.Hunt@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Thomas GA	NWS Annual Tropical Meeting
RC Manager	Leon	HQ Visit
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Pam Bergstrom	St Johns	Region 3 County Meeting (V)
Region 4: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Off and Monitoring
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Office Admin
Region 6: Glen Hammers	Hendry	EM Visit
Miami--Dade	Miami-Dade	USCG Exercise



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: Vacant	N/A	Not Available
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	External Stakeholder Meeting / FROC Meeting
Region 3: Joshua Saunders	Columbia	G2300 Training
RRCT Manager	Out of Region	Annual Leave
Region 4: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Martin	County EM Visit
Region 6: Kathryn Thompson	DeSoto / Glades	County EM Visit
Region 7: Dana McGeehan	Broward	FROC Presentation

Region 1 Coverage provided by RRC 2

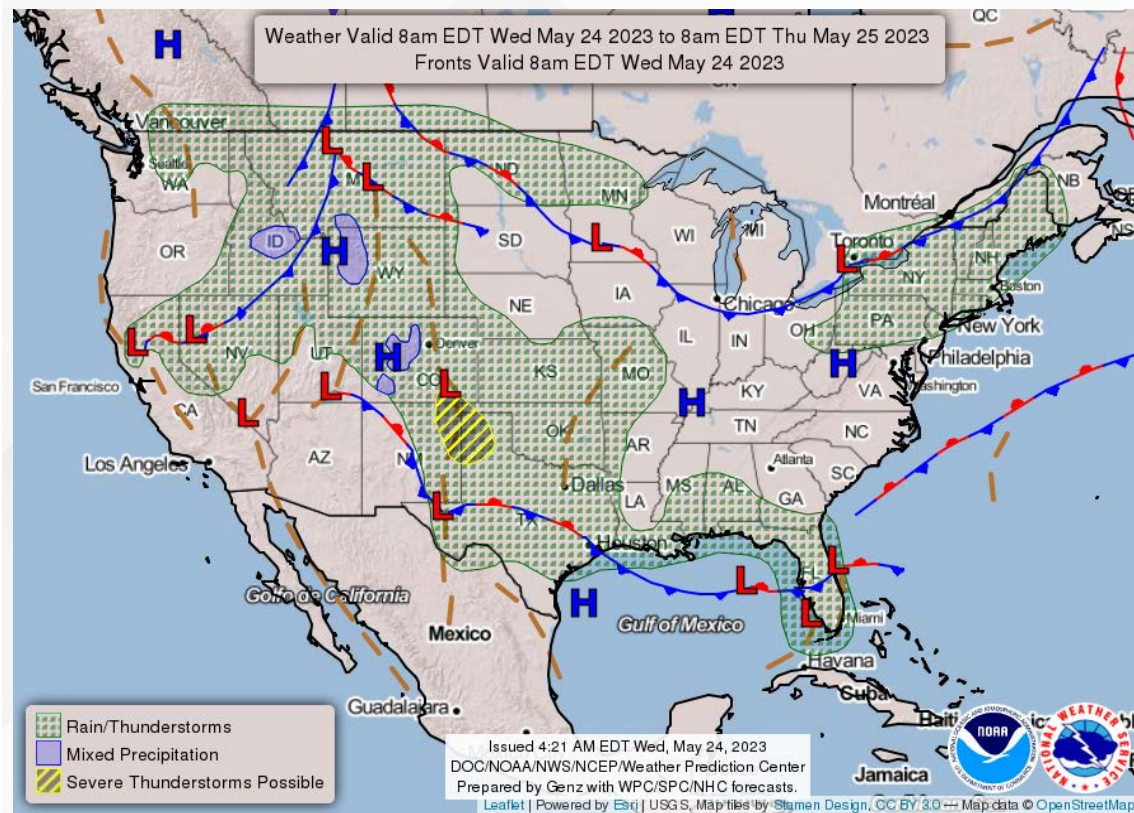
Region 4 Coverage provided by RRC 7

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



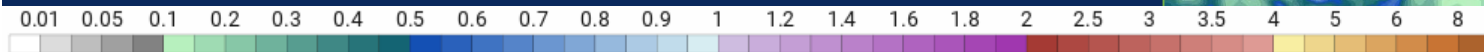


# Meteorology Summary

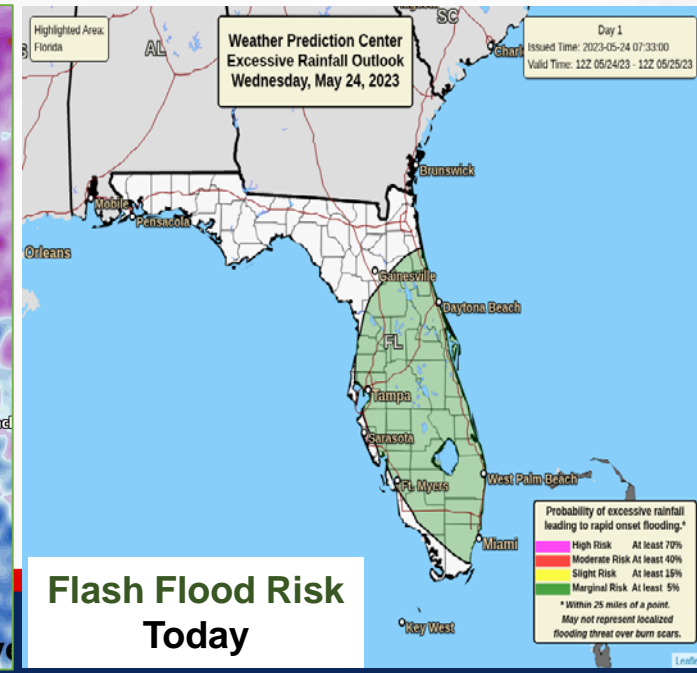
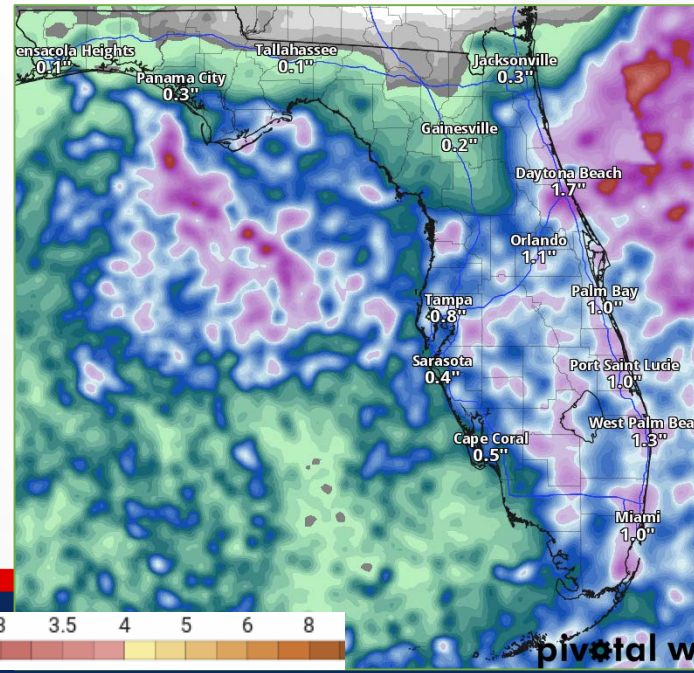


Today's Weather Map

24-Hour Rainfall Totals  
**Locally 3-5" Peninsula**



Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Lightning	M	M	H	H	H	H	H
Tornado							
Damaging Wind			L	L	L	L	L
Hail			L	L	L	L	L
Flash Flooding			L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)							
Excessive Heat							
Wildfire							
Rip Currents	M	M	H	L	M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.77 ft. (0.60 ft. Above Normal)						
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	266 (-56) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)						







# Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A nearly stationary frontal boundary, draped along the I-4 corridor, will slowly drift southward through the day. Ample moisture and the development of the daily afternoon sea breeze will allow numerous to widespread showers and thunderstorms to develop across the Florida Peninsula, maximizing in coverage and intensity during the peak heating hours of the day (75-95% chance of rain). A few thunderstorms may become **strong to locally severe** along and to the south of the front where environmental conditions are supportive of some organized thunderstorm activity. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Severe Weather (level 1 of 5)** as thunderstorms this afternoon may be capable of producing locally damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), hail (dime to quarter size), frequent lightning, and heavy rainfall. **Localized flooding and ponding of water** will be possible over urban and poor drainage/low-lying areas across the Florida Peninsulas as this afternoon's shower and thunderstorm activity. The overall severe weather threat will gradually dissipate later this evening, with lingering showers and embedded thunderstorms expected along the Florida East Coast overnight (45-75% chance of rain).

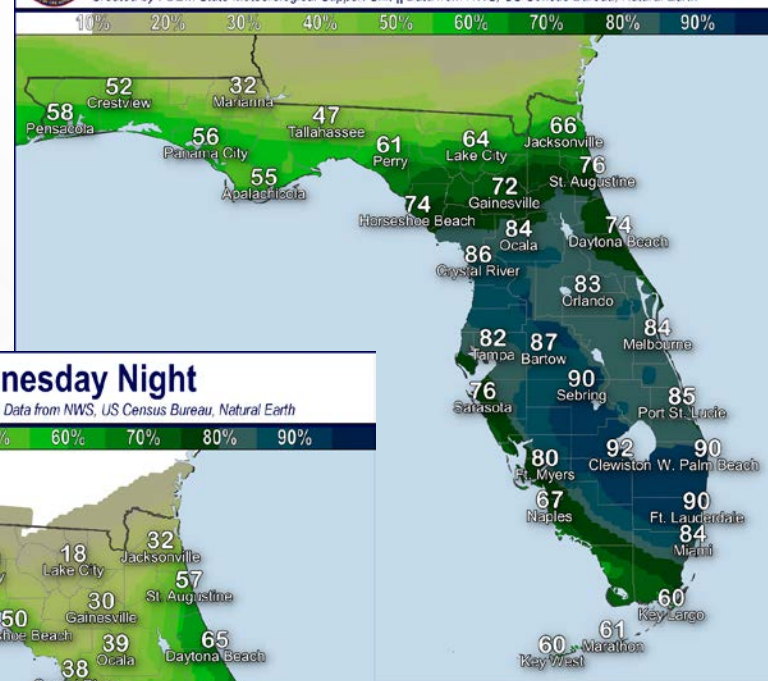
In the wake of the frontal boundary, lower rain chances can be expected along the Florida Panhandle today as drier air will begin infiltrating the area from the northeast. More elevated rain chances remain confined to Panhandle locations along and south of I-10 where the afternoon sea breeze pushes onshore (45-60% chance of rain). A locally stronger thunderstorm cannot be ruled out during the peak heating hours of the day; however, organized severe weather is not anticipated. Shower and thunderstorm activity will largely subside this evening.

Widespread rain chances and cloud cover will keep temperatures in the lower to middle 80s this afternoon. Muggy conditions in the Florida Peninsula will allow for temperatures to **feel like the lower to middle 90s** before any rain relief this afternoon. Low temperatures will remain in the 60s and 70s statewide tonight. Patchy fog may develop tonight over portions of the interior Florida Peninsula during the early Thursday morning hours.



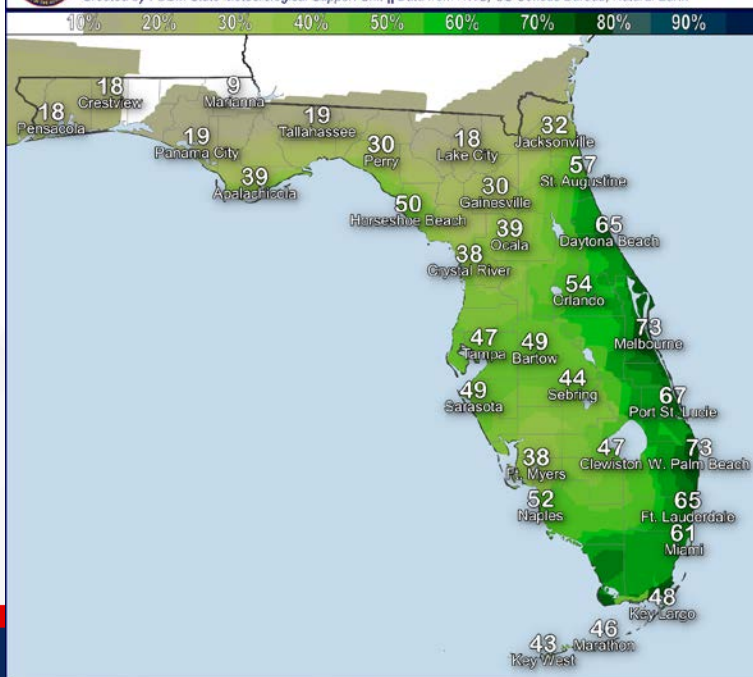
## Chance of Rain: Wednesday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth



## Chance of Rain: Wednesday Night

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth





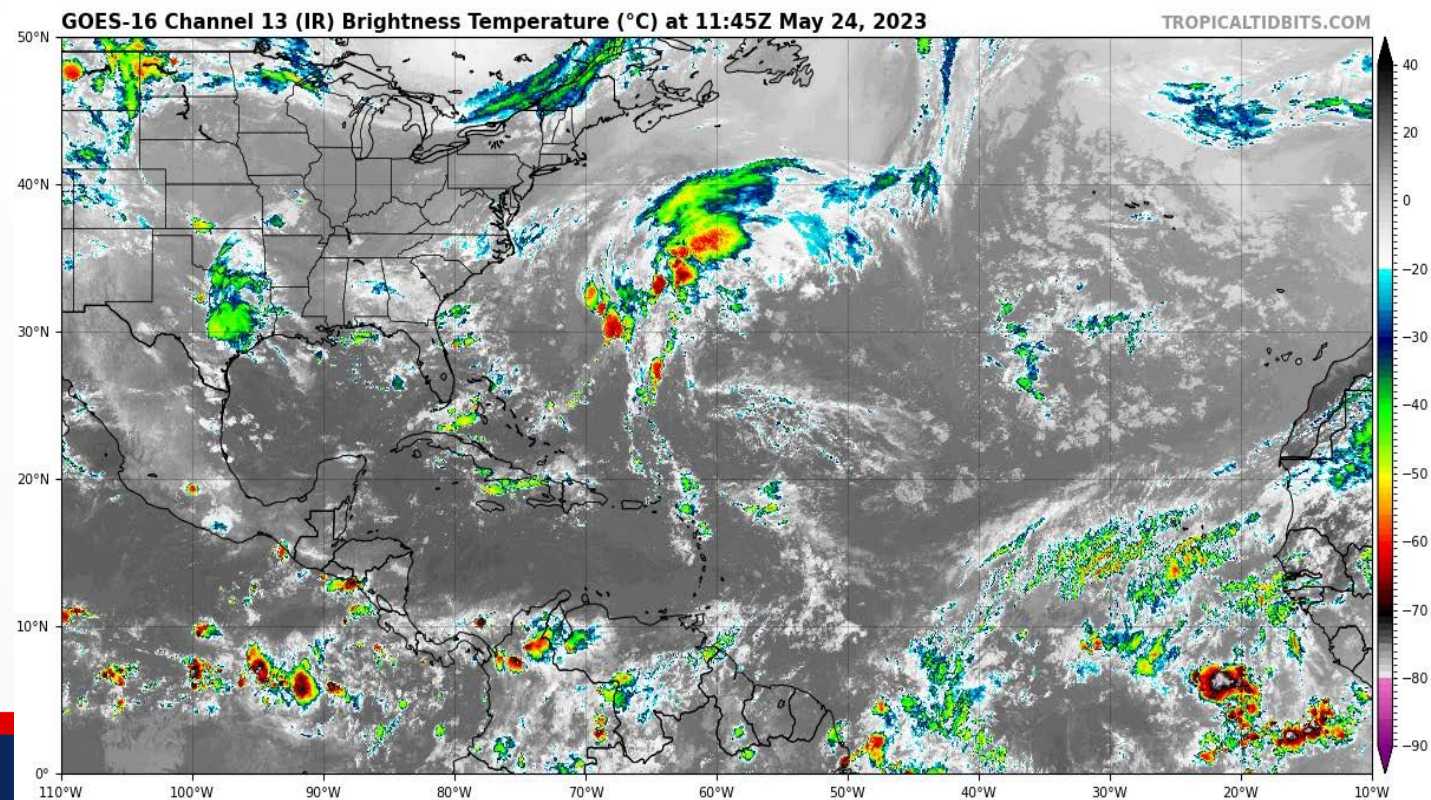
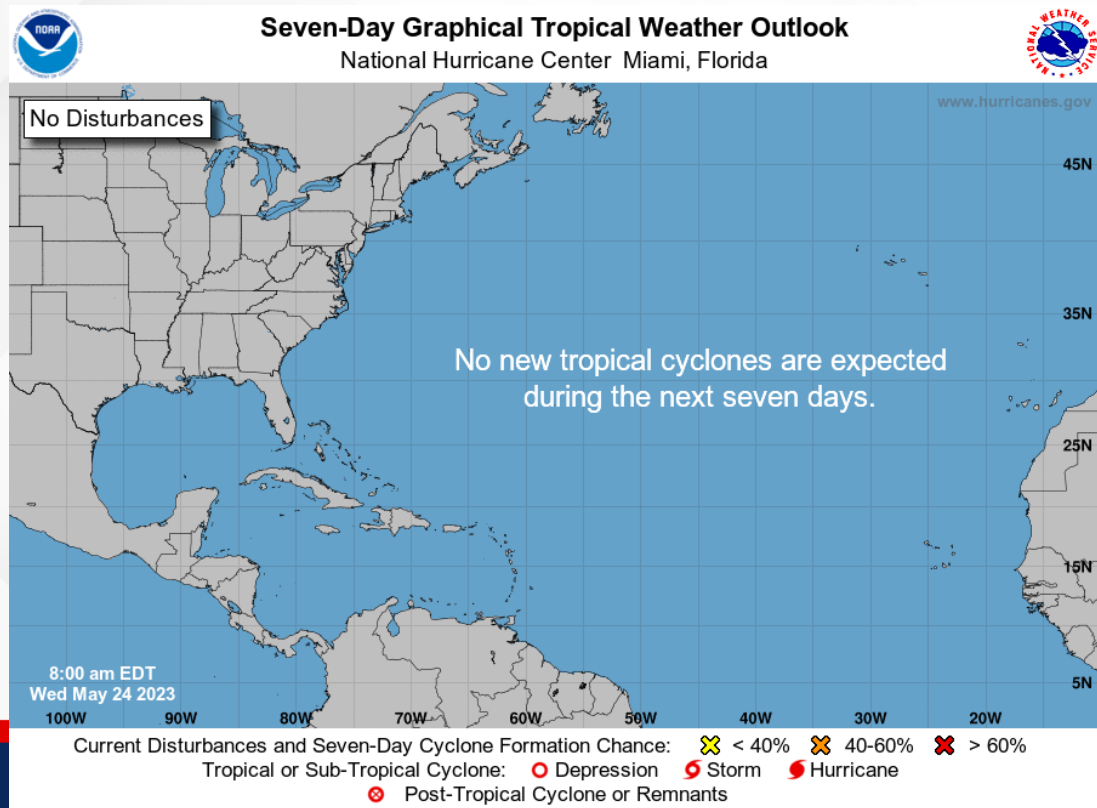


# Tropical Weather

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).

Tropical cyclone development is **not expected** during the next 7 days.

The National Hurricane Center has begun issuing regular Tropical Weather Outlooks for the 2023 hurricane season. These outlooks show areas of possible tropical cyclone development in the next 48 hours and next 7 days. Outlooks are issued every 6 hours at 8am, 2pm, 8pm, and 2am ET, or as conditions warrant. The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins June 1.







# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** Persistent northeasterly flow will yield a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** along the Florida East Coast today, with a **moderate risk** residing along the Florida Panhandle. Low risk conditions continue along the Florida West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Northeasterly flow will influence a long-period ocean swell along the Northeast and East-Central Florida Coasts. **Wave heights** of 3-5' can be expected, with isolated breakers in the surf zone reaching 6'. Waves of 1-3' can be expected along all Gulf Coast beaches.

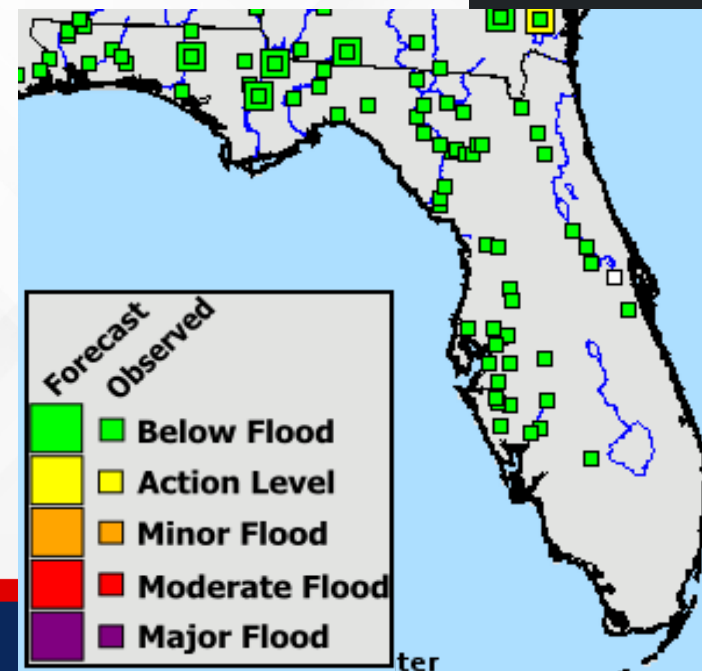
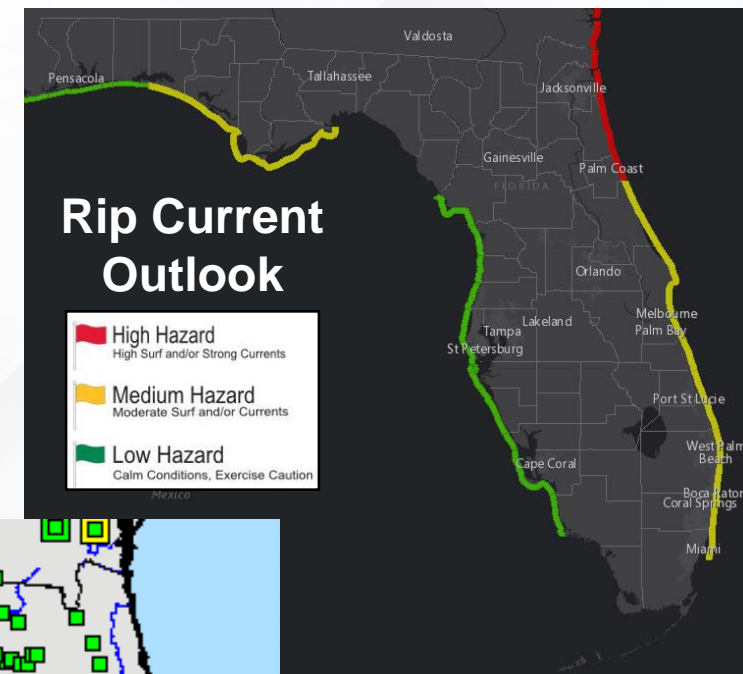
**Red Tide** has been observed above background levels along portions of the Florida West Coast.

**Coastal Flooding:** There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

**Flash Flooding:** The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Florida Peninsula today as scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms can be expected. Thunderstorm activity will be more clustered in nature, allowing for thunderstorms to persist a bit longer than the more typical pulse (singular) thunderstorm. Current forecast models show widespread rainfall totals of 1-2" across the Florida Peninsula, with not much overlapping thunderstorm activity. Locally higher totals of 3-5" cannot be ruled out within the stronger, more organized thunderstorms. **Localized flooding** of urban and poor drainage/low-lying areas will be possible.

**Riverine Flooding:** All Florida rivers, waterways, and tributaries are running below and are forecast to continue running below flood stage. With increased rain chances across the Panhandle and Big Bend, quick-response rivers may see slight rises in water levels; however, riverine flooding is not expected. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](http://www.flriverforecastcenter.com).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 13.77 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.60 feet above normal for this time of year.



**Current & Forecast River Levels**



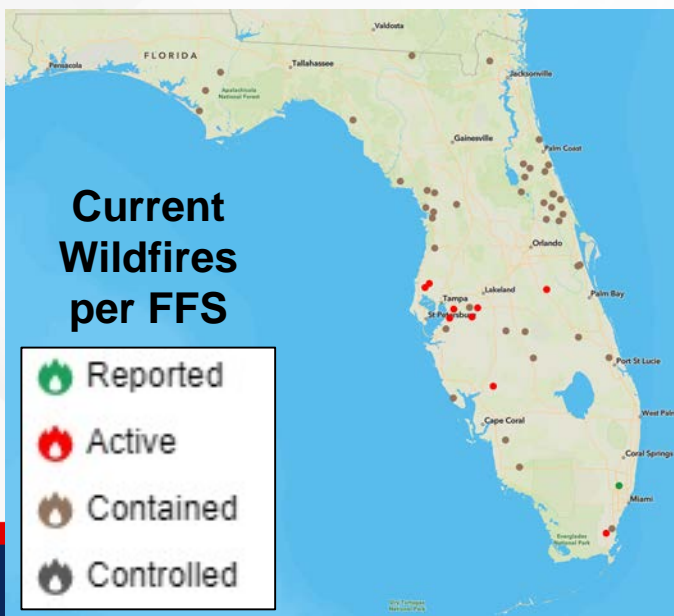
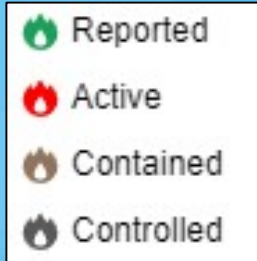
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Numerous to widespread showers and thunderstorms can be expected across Florida today, courtesy of a stalled frontal boundary. Relative humidity values will remain well above critical thresholds statewide, with a general northeast flow developing along the Florida East Coast. Wind gusts may reach 15-25 mph along the Northeast Florida coastline this afternoon. The overall wildfire threat is very low today; however, lightning may ignite new wildfires especially over the drought-ridden western Florida Peninsula. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 52 active wildfires across the state, burning approximately 2,210 acres.

**Drought:** Central Florida remained a drought hotspot, with the expansion of **moderate to extreme drought** noted on last week's Drought Monitor update. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida led the Southeast U.S. with statewide topsoil moisture rated 49% very short to short on 5/14. Parts of Florida continued to experience a significant risk of wildfire activity, with the Sandy Fire in Big Cypress National Preserve having burned nearly 20,000 acres of vegetation by mid-May. In recent days, Florida's drought areas have endured extremely hot weather, with Naples reporting 5 consecutive days with 90-degree heat from 5/11-5/15. Naples endured a month-long dry spell from 4/17-5/16, without a drop of rain during that period. Through 5/16, year-to-date rainfall totaled less than 4 inches in Florida locations such as Tampa (3.90 inches, or 34% of normal), Brooksville (3.52 inches, or 30%), St. Petersburg (2.21 inches, or 22%), and Naples (1.99 inches, or 23%). In stark contrast, year-to-date rainfall on the Atlantic Coast in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, totaled 37.33 inches (289% of normal).

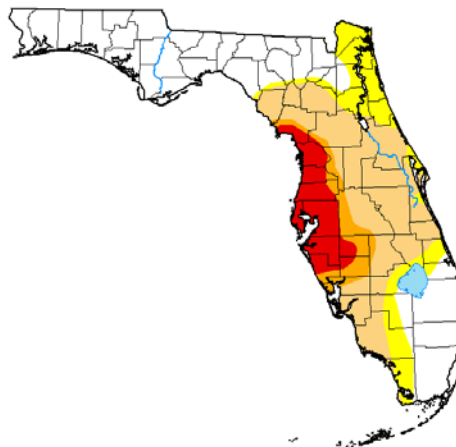
**The Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is 266 **(-56)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **seven** counties (Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

## Current Wildfires per FFS



## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

May 16, 2023  
(Released Thursday, May 18, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

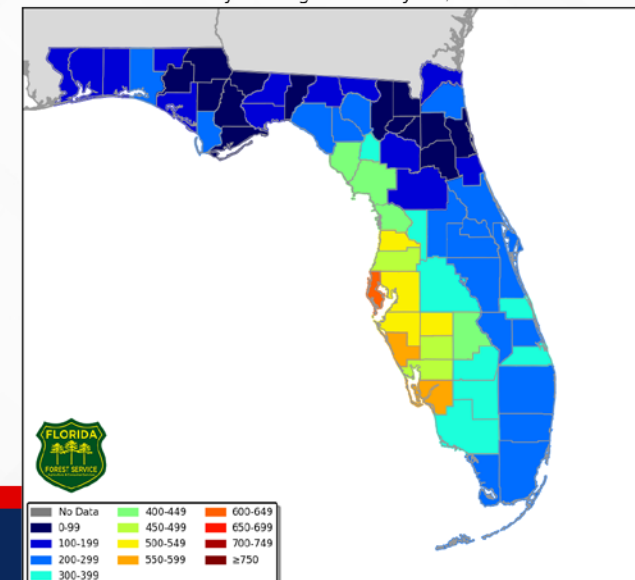
### Author:

Brad Rippey  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

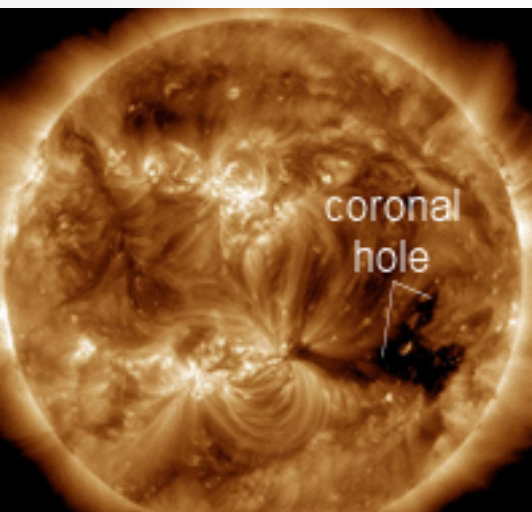
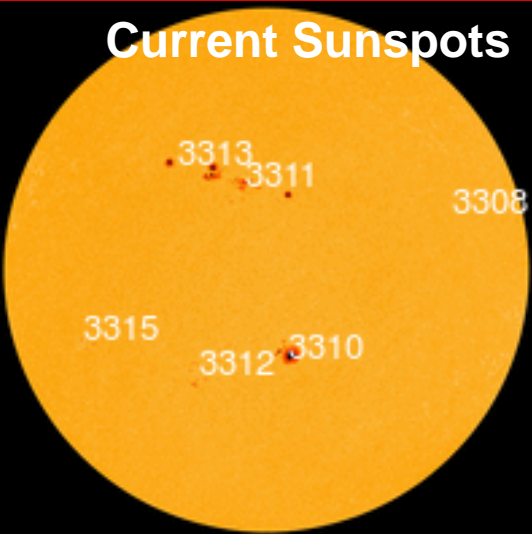
## Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI) County Averages for May 23, 2023



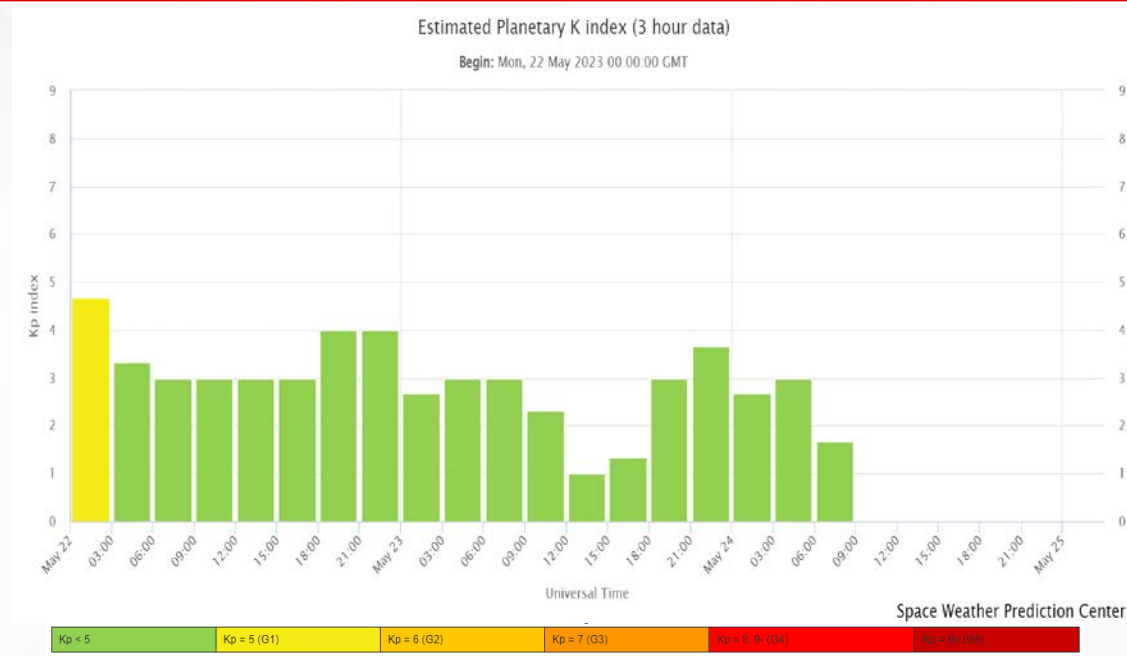


# Space Weather

## Current Sunspots



Earth-facing Coronal Holes



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 50%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M3 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts
48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
5/24		5/25
Max Kp= 4 (G0)		Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%		Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to at low levels, with a chance for isolated strong solar flares (M-class). Minor to moderate radio blackouts may accompany the strongest flare activity (R1-R2) primarily due to the history and flare potential of sunspot #3311. Elevated solar wind parameters continue today, courtesy of coronal hole influences; however, solar winds look to gradually wane on Friday. Periods of minor geomagnetic storming (G1) cannot be ruled out today, but 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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