



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, May 25, 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	Lauren Siddall	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Peloso	(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	Kaitlyn Hunt	(850) 694-0312	Kaitlyn.Hunt@em.myflorida.com



Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	RC Meeting
RC Manager	Leon	Response Meetings / Local EM Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Pam Bergstrom	St Johns	Office Admin / RC Meeting / All Things Digital
Region 4: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Hurricane Exercise
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	FDEM Grants Meeting / RC Meeting
Region 6: Glen Hammers	Lee	SWFL LEPC Meeting / RC Meeting
Miami--Dade	Miami-Dade	RC Meeting



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	Medical Leave (AM) / Leon County EM Meeting (PM)
Region 3: Joshua Saunders	Columbia	G2300 Training
RRCT Manager	Out of Region	Annual Leave
Region 4: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Seminole	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Kathryn Thompson	Highlands	County EM Visit
Region 7: Dana McGeehan	Broward	Administrative Duties

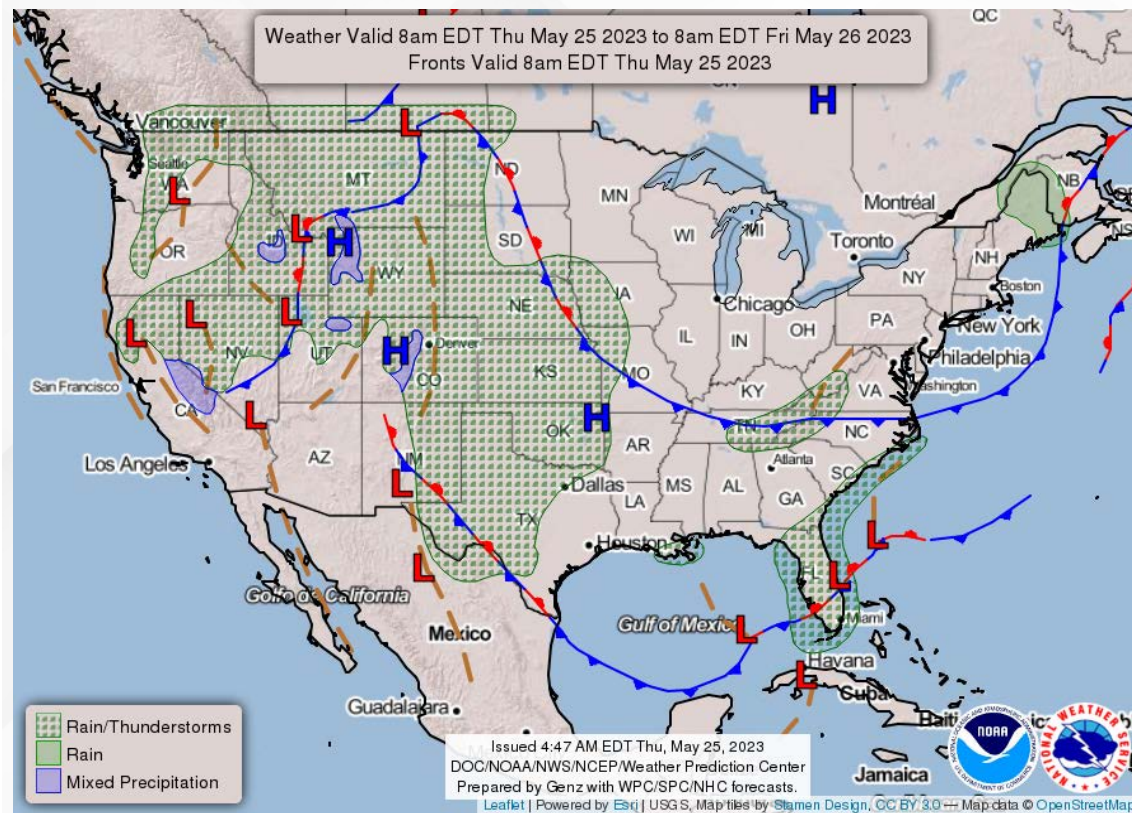
Region 1 Coverage provided by RRC 2

Region 4 Coverage provided by RRC 7

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

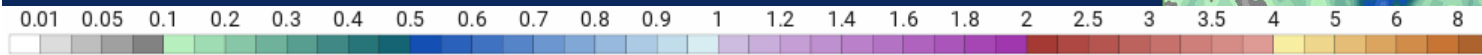


Meteorology Summary

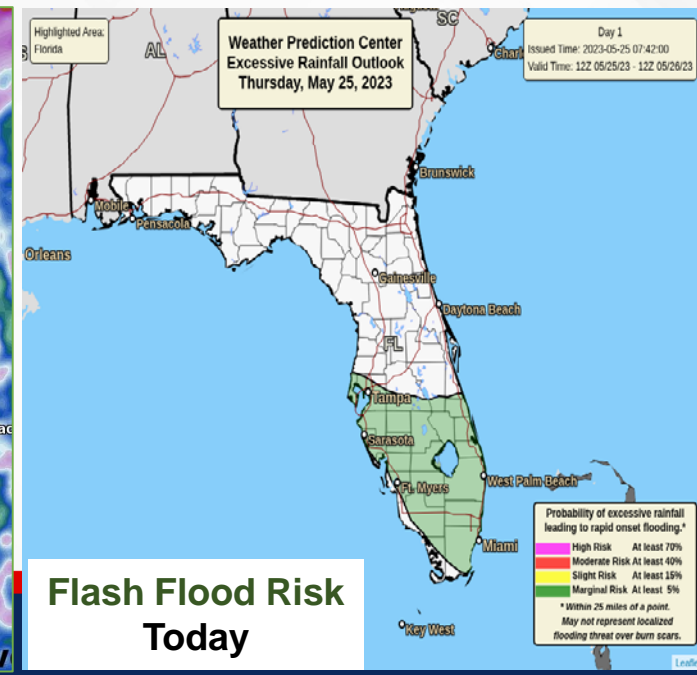
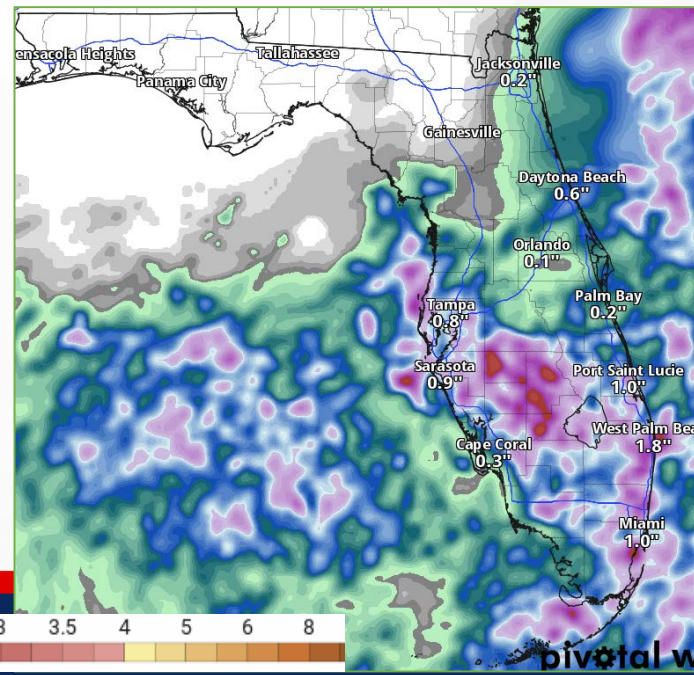


Today's Weather Map

24-Hour Rainfall Totals
Locally 3-5" Peninsula



Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Lightning		L	M	H	H	H	H
Tornado							
Damaging Wind				L	L	L	L
Hail				L	L	L	L
Flash Flooding				L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)							
Excessive Heat							
Wildfire							
Rip Currents	M	H	H	L	M	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.80 ft. (0.64 ft. Above Normal)						
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	277 (+11) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)						





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A weak frontal boundary, draped near Lake Okeechobee, will remain nearly stationary 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 (70-95% chance of rain). While there is no organized risk for severe weather, a few thunderstorms may become **strong to locally severe** this afternoon. Stronger thunderstorms may be capable of producing gusty winds (45-55 mph), frequent lightning, small hail, and heavy downpours. Locally heavy rainfall may lead to instances of **flooding** across urban areas and poor drainage/low-lying locations across Central and South Florida as higher rainfall totals look to reach 3-5" with this afternoon's thunderstorm activity. Shower and thunderstorm activity will gradually dissipate in areal coverage through the late evening hours; however, elevated rain chances can be expected to persist through the overnight hours along the Florida coastline (50-75% chance of rain).

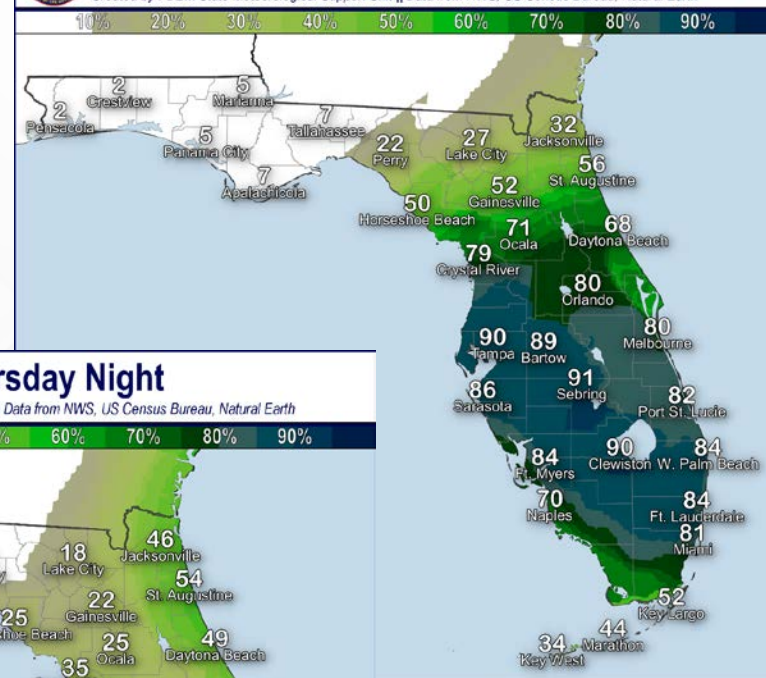
In the wake of the frontal boundary, near-zero rain chances and partly to mostly sunny skies return to the Florida Panhandle. More elevated rain chances remain confined to the eastern Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley as northeasterly flow provides a limited source of moisture (30-55% chance of rain).

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.



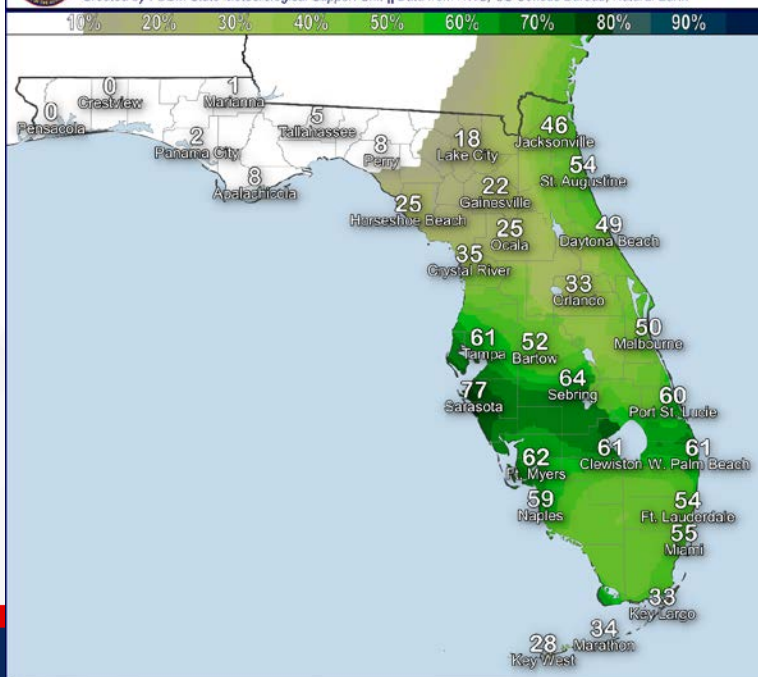
Chance of Rain: Thursday

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



Chance of Rain: Thursday Night

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





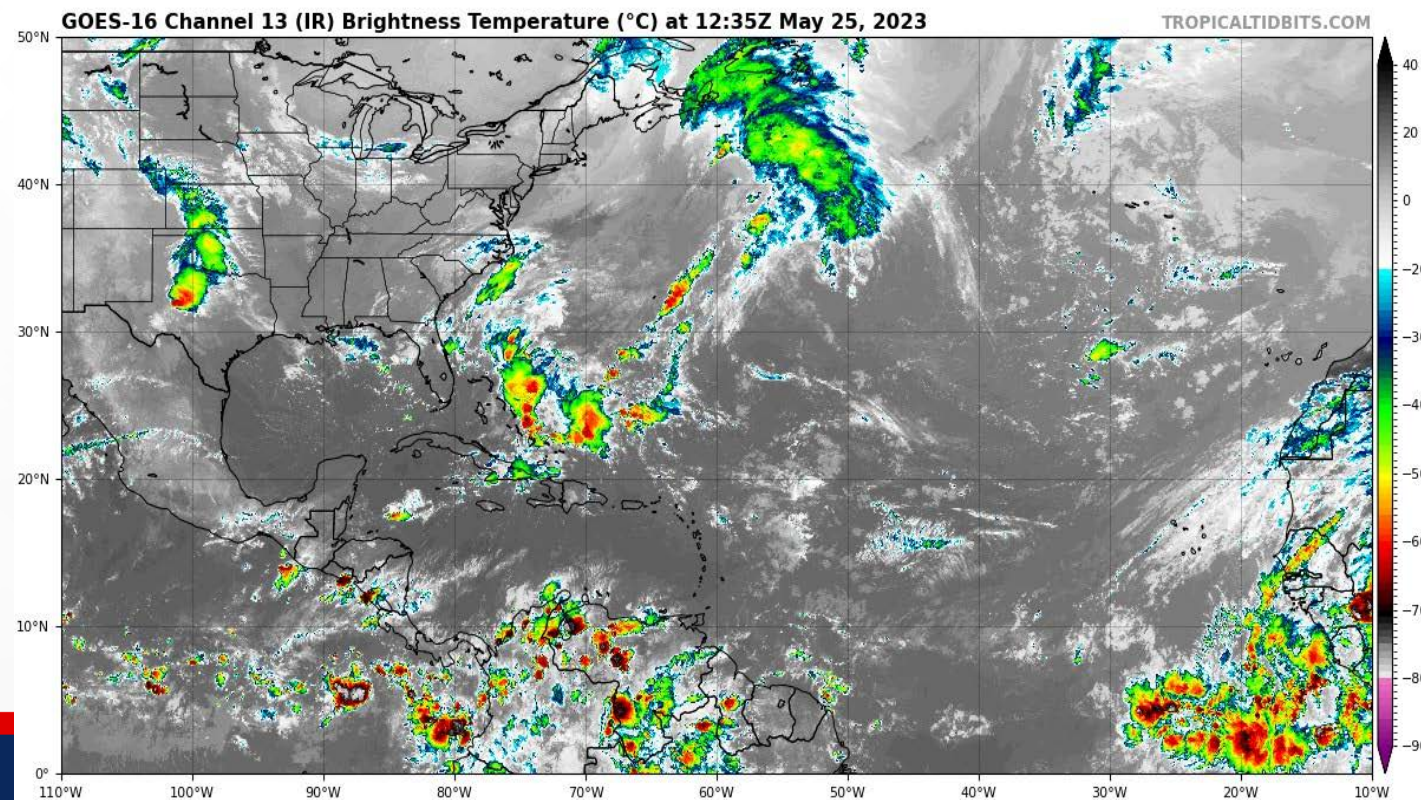
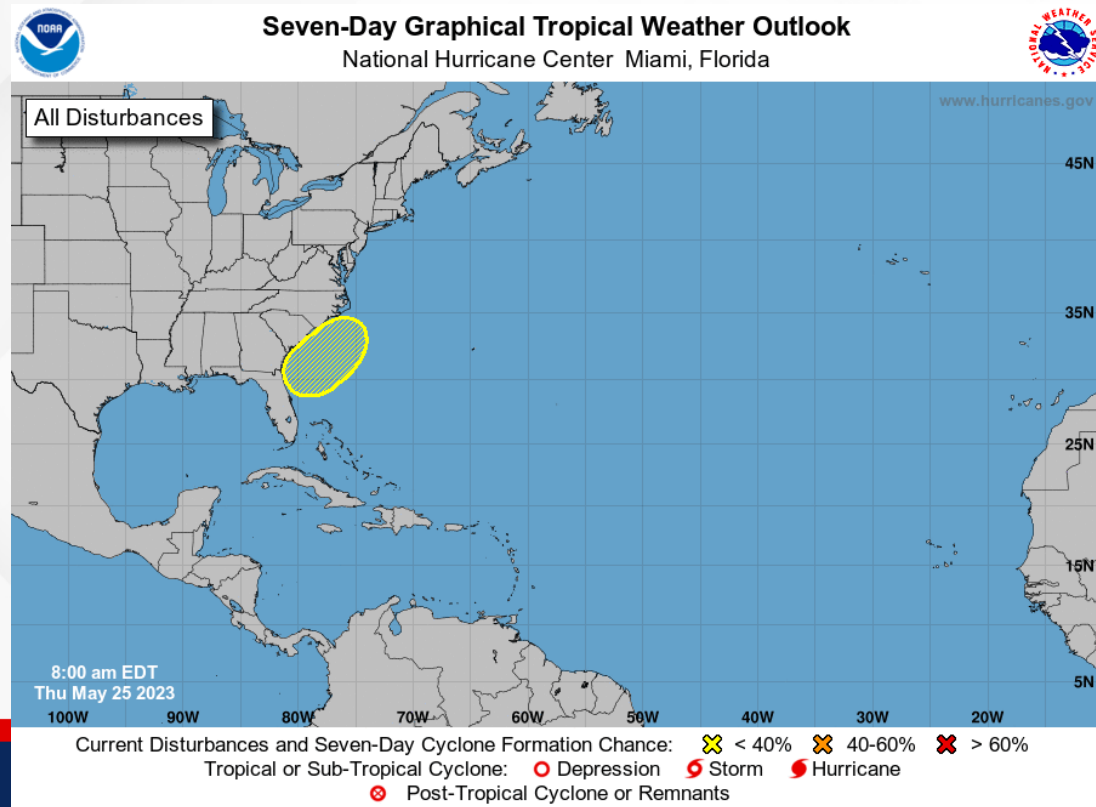
Tropical Weather

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Southwestern Atlantic: A non-tropical area of low pressure is expected to form along a frontal boundary offshore of the Southeast U.S. within the next day or two. The system appears unlikely to become a subtropical or tropical cyclone since it is forecast to remain frontal while moving generally northward and inland over the Carolinas this weekend. Regardless, the system is likely to produce gusty winds, dangerous surf, and a high risk of rip currents along portions of the Southeast U.S. coastline late this week into the weekend.

Formation chance through the next 48 hours... **near 0% (low) chance**

Formation chance over the next 7 days... **10% (low) chance**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Building northeasterly flow will yield a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** along the Florida East Coast and Panhandle today. Low risk conditions continue along the Florida West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit 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 4-6' can be expected, with isolated breakers in the surf zone reaching 7' by this evening. Waves of 2-3' can be expected along all Gulf Coast beaches.

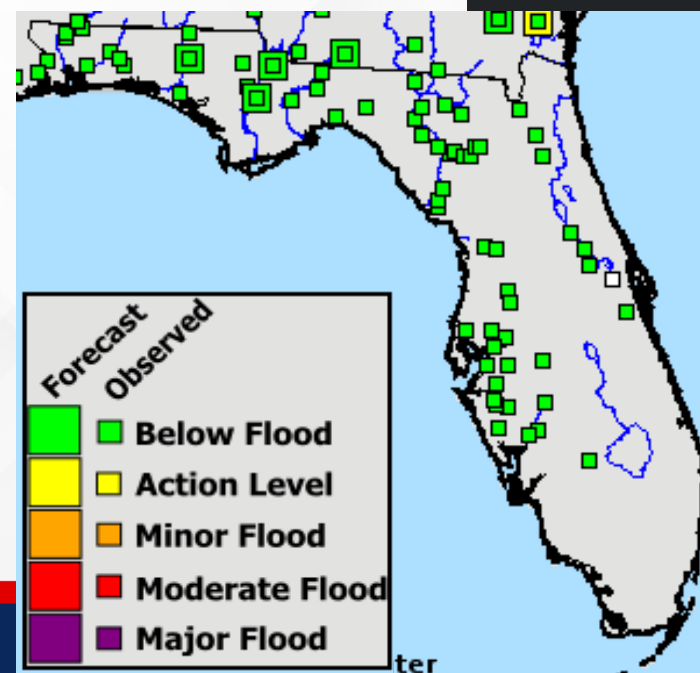
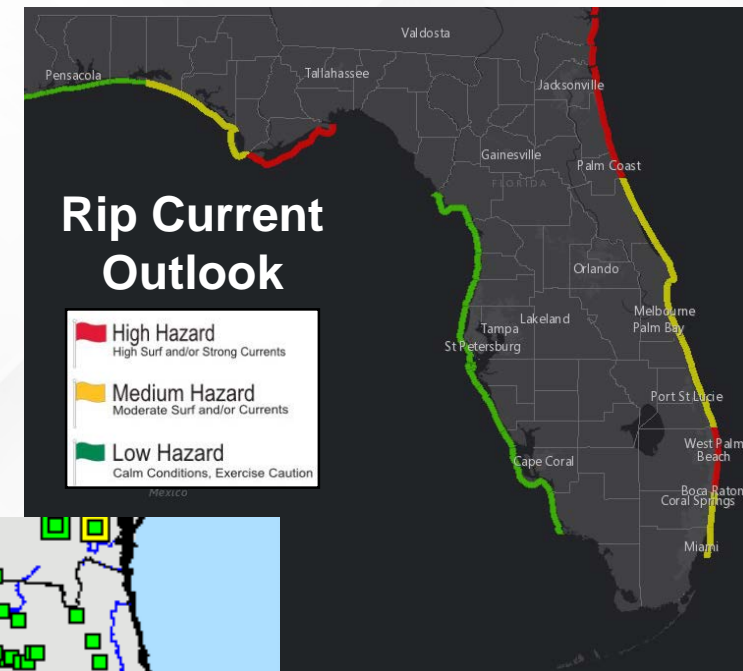
Red Tide has been observed above background levels along isolated portions of the Florida West Coast.

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. Current forecast models show widespread rainfall totals of 1-2" across the Florida Peninsula, mainly along and south of the I-4 corridor. 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.riverforecastcenter.com).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.80 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.64 feet above normal for this time of year.



Current & Forecast River Levels

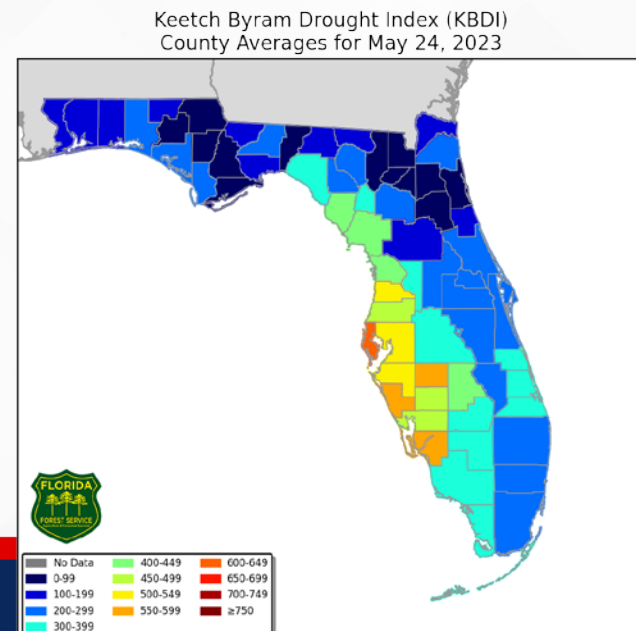
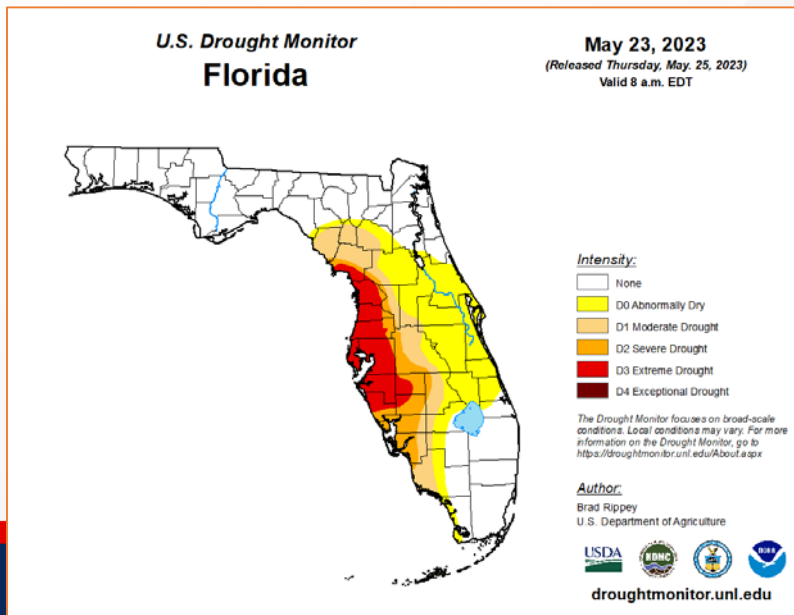
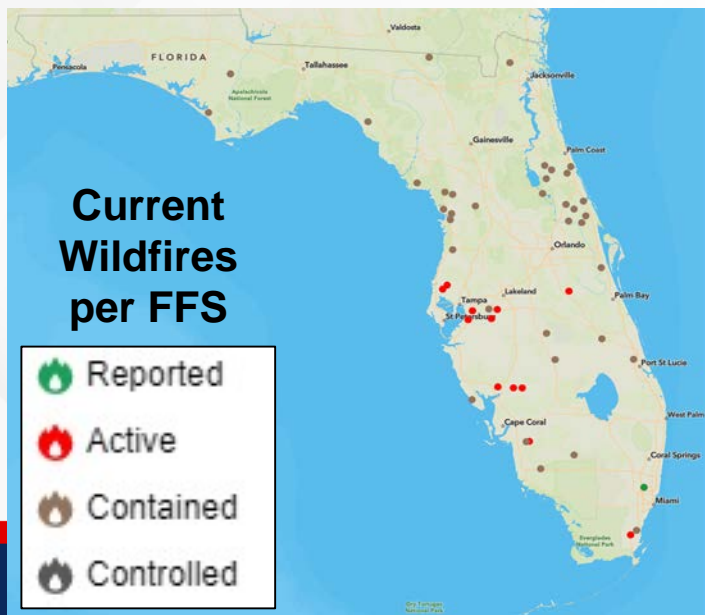


Drought & Fire Weather

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 49 active wildfires across the state, burning approximately 1,593 acres.

Drought: Some of the heaviest rainfall over the past week across the Southeast U.S. occurred in the Sunshine State, leading to significant improvement in soil moisture and a reduction of the wildfire threat. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, statewide topsoil moisture in Florida was rated 33% very short to short on May 21, down from 49% the previous week. Rainfall was lighter, however, in a few areas, including some of Florida's driest areas along the Gulf Coast. Naples, Florida, continued to await its first rain of the month, with the year-to-date total (through May 23) standing at 1.99 inches, just 22% of normal. **Moderate to extreme drought** continues along the Florida West Coast on this week's Drought Monitor update, with drought removal east of the I-75 corridor.

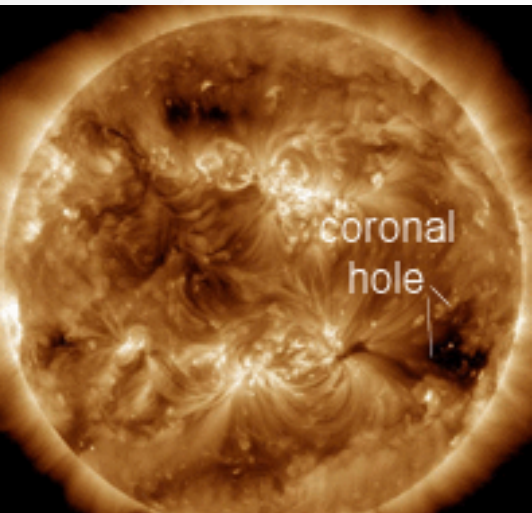
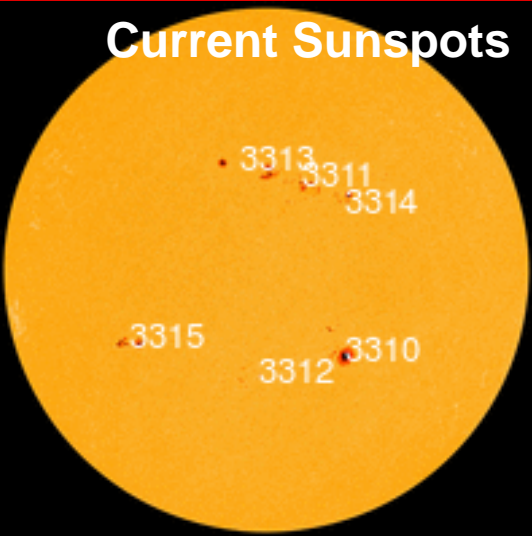
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 277 (+11) on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **seven** counties (Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



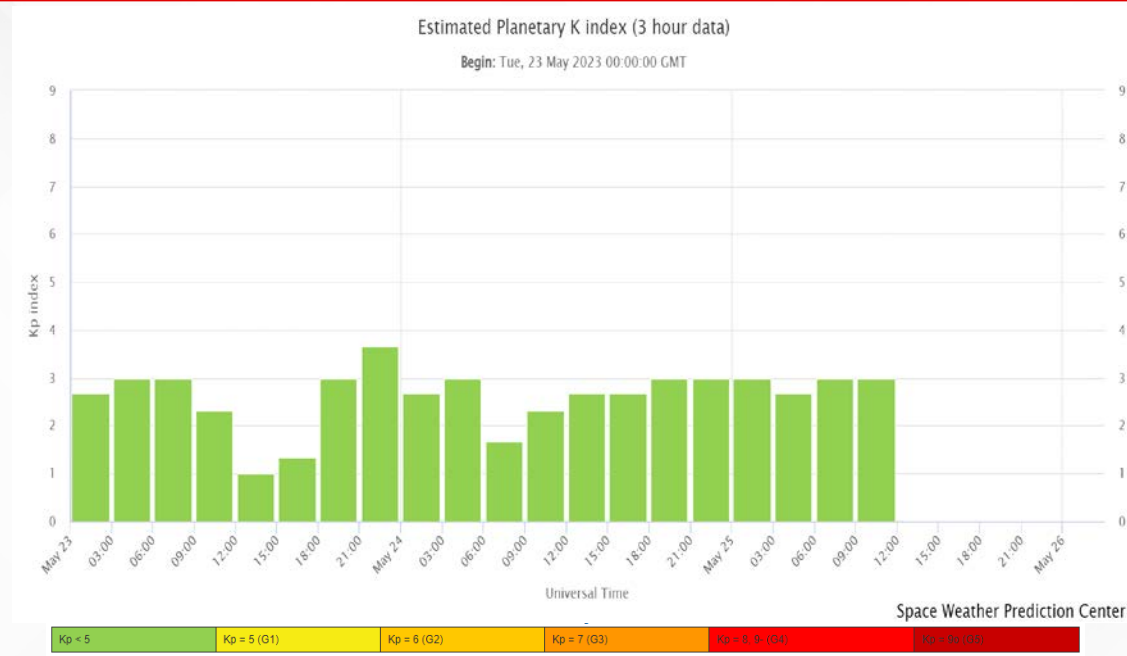


Space Weather

Current Sunspots



Earth-facing Coronal Holes



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts

48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/25	5/26
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

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. We are monitoring a fast-growing sunspot #3315 that could result in solar flare activity. Elevated solar wind parameters continue today, courtesy of coronal hole influences; however, solar winds look to gradually wane on Friday. Unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions can be expected 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:	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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