



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, May 26, 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 | 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 | Alex Furlong | 850-328-7491 | Alex.Furlong@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 | Hunter Stafford | (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, Leon | Off and Monitoring |
| RC Manager | Leon | Vehicle Maintenance / Equipment Testing |
| Region 2: Willie Bouie | | |
| Region 3: Pam Bergstrom | Baker | County Exercise |
| Region 4: Paul Siddall | Hillsborough | Off and Monitoring |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | Orange | LEPC Meeting |
| Region 6: Glen Hammers | Charlotte | EM Visit |
| Region 7: Claudia Baker | Miami-Dade | Region 7 Grants 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 | Administrative Duties |
| Region 3: Joshua Saunders | Out of Region | Annual Leave |
| RRCT Manager | In Region | Off and Monitoring |
| Region 4: Jeremy O'Dell | | |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | Orange | East Central FL LEPC Meeting |
| Region 6: Kathryn Thompson | Sarasota | County Stakeholder Meeting |
| Region 7: Dana McGeehan | Broward | DRC Site Visits |

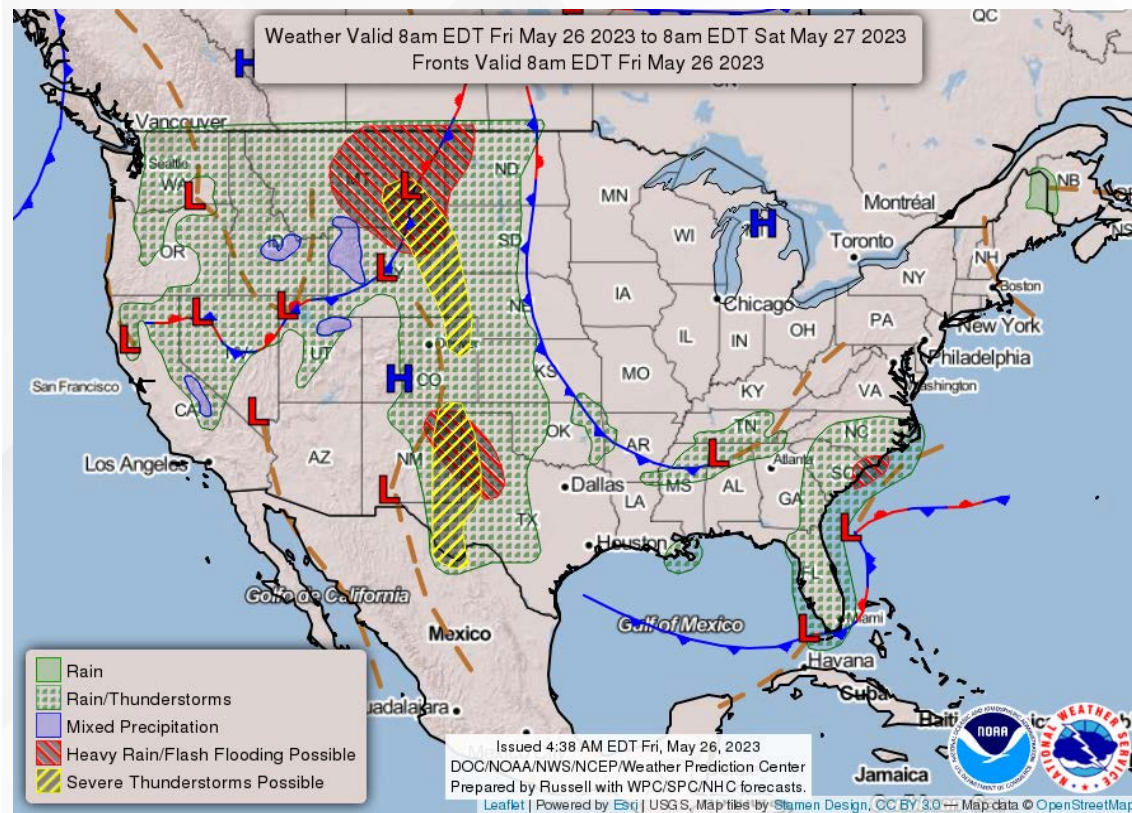
Region 1 Coverage provided by RRC 2

Region 3 Coverage provided by RRC 2

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

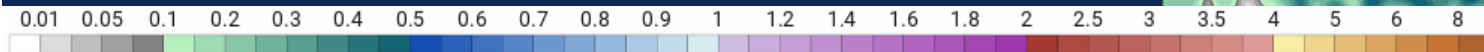


Meteorology Summary

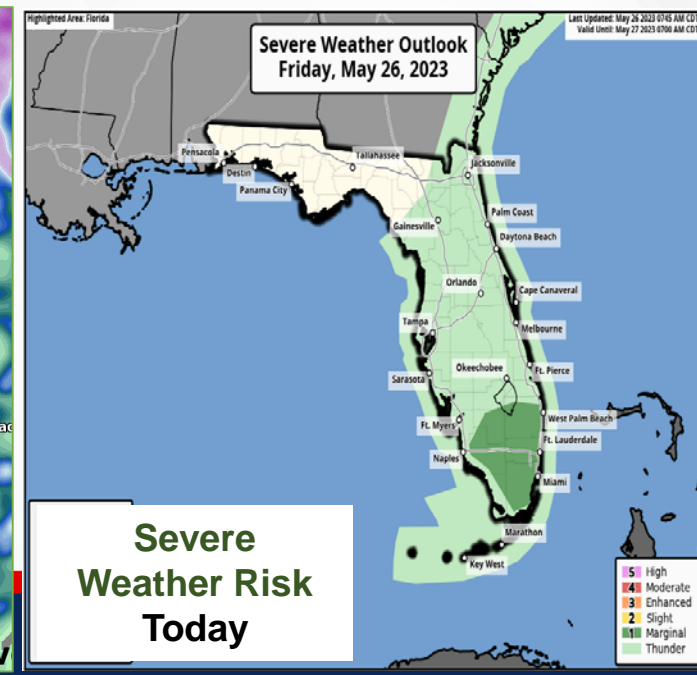
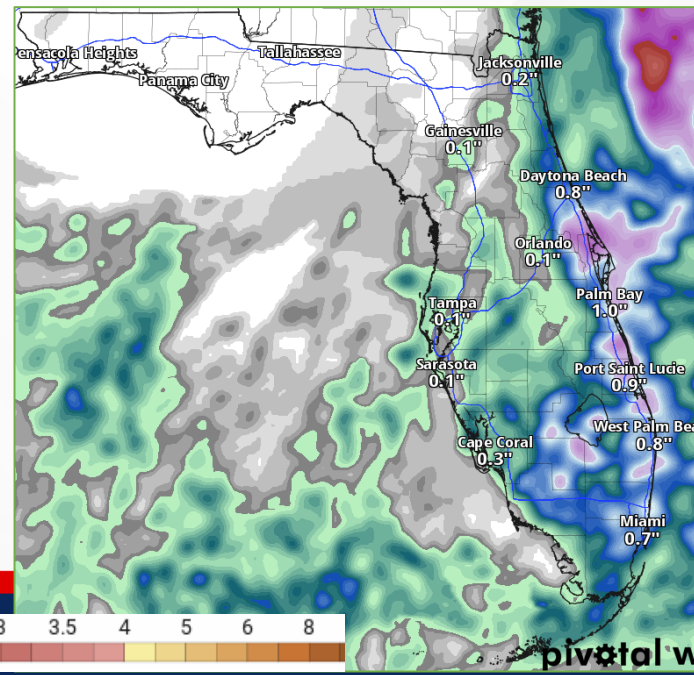


Today's Weather Map

24-Hour Rainfall Totals
Locally 3-5" Peninsula



| Threat | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 |
|-----------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Lightning | | | L | M | M | H | H |
| Tornado | | | | | | | |
| Damaging Wind | | | | L | L | L | L |
| Hail | | | | L | L | L | L |
| Flash Flooding | | | | | L | L | L |
| Fog (Overnight) | | | | | | | |
| Excessive Heat | | | | | | | |
| Wildfire | | | | | | | |
| Rip Currents | M | H | H | M | H | M | H |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation: | 13.81 ft. (0.66 ft. Above Normal) | | | | | | |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index: | 257 (-19) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) | | | | | | |





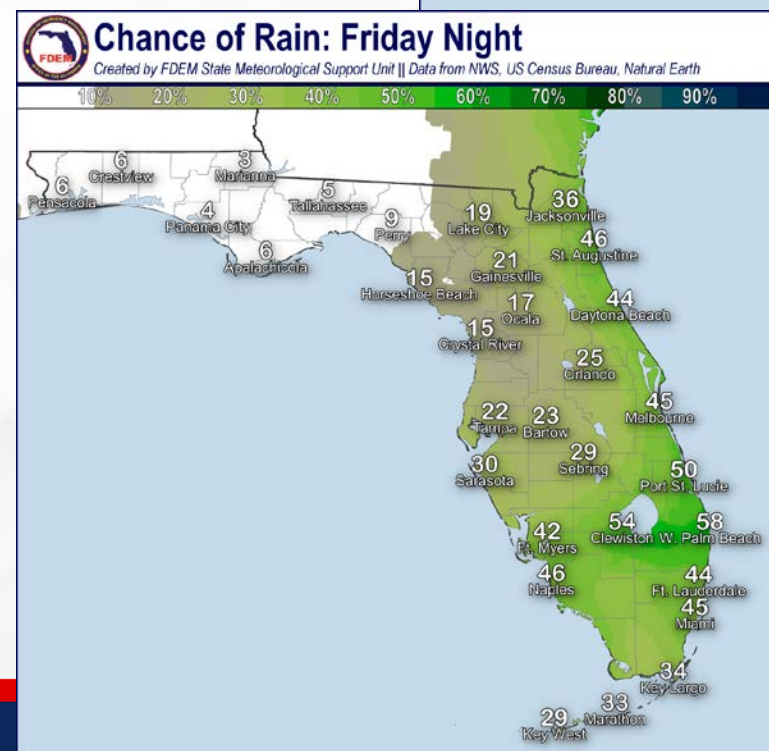
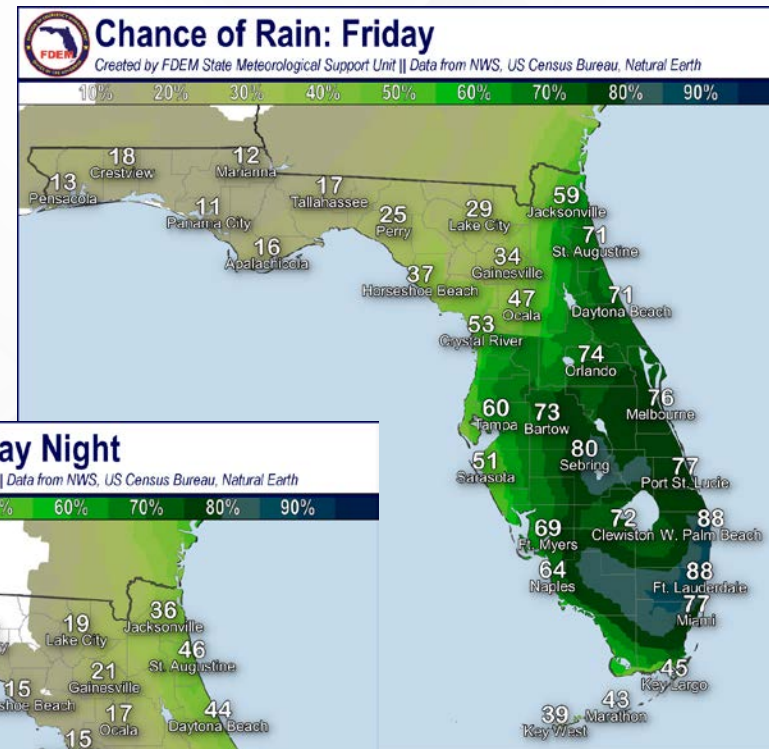
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A weak stalled boundary remains draped over the southern Florida Peninsula, giving way to another day of numerous to widespread shower and thunderstorm activity (75-90% chance of rain). **Isolated strong to severe thunderstorms** may develop during the peak heating hours of the day over the southern Peninsula and the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) newly introduced a **Marginal Risk for Severe Weather (level 1 of 5)**. Locally damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), frequent lightning, small hail, and heavy downpours can be expected to accompany the more organized thunderstorm activity. Saturated soils, courtesy of the recent wet and active weather pattern, will lead to an elevated risk for **localized flooding** across the Peninsula urban corridors and low-lying and poor drainage areas. Thunderstorm activity will gradually dissipate in coverage and intensity after sunset, with a lingering chance of rain and an embedded thunderstorm possible (35-55% chance of rain).

As we move into the Holiday Weekend, our attention focuses on an organizing non-tropical area of low pressure over the adjacent southwestern Atlantic. Strong onshore winds of 10-20 mph will continue to overspread from north to south through the Sunshine State, with **Wind Advisories** going into effect this afternoon (wind gusts of 40-45 mph possible along the coastline). Beach and boating conditions will continue to deteriorate today and continue into the weekend. Strong northerly to northeasterly winds will usher in a drier airmass across the Suwannee River Valley, expanding westward through the Florida Panhandle. While a stray shower cannot be ruled out, dry air will inhibit shower and thunderstorm activity to make it further inland.

Afternoon high temperatures will remain in the middle 70s to lower 80s across North Florida and the middle 80s across Central and South Florida. As rain chances dissipate from west to east this evening, skies look to clear through the overnight hours. Low temperatures will be cooler than the previous days, with temperatures reaching the upper 50s to lower 60s across North and interior Central Florida. Lows will remain in the 60s and 70s along the Central Florida coastline and through the Peninsula.





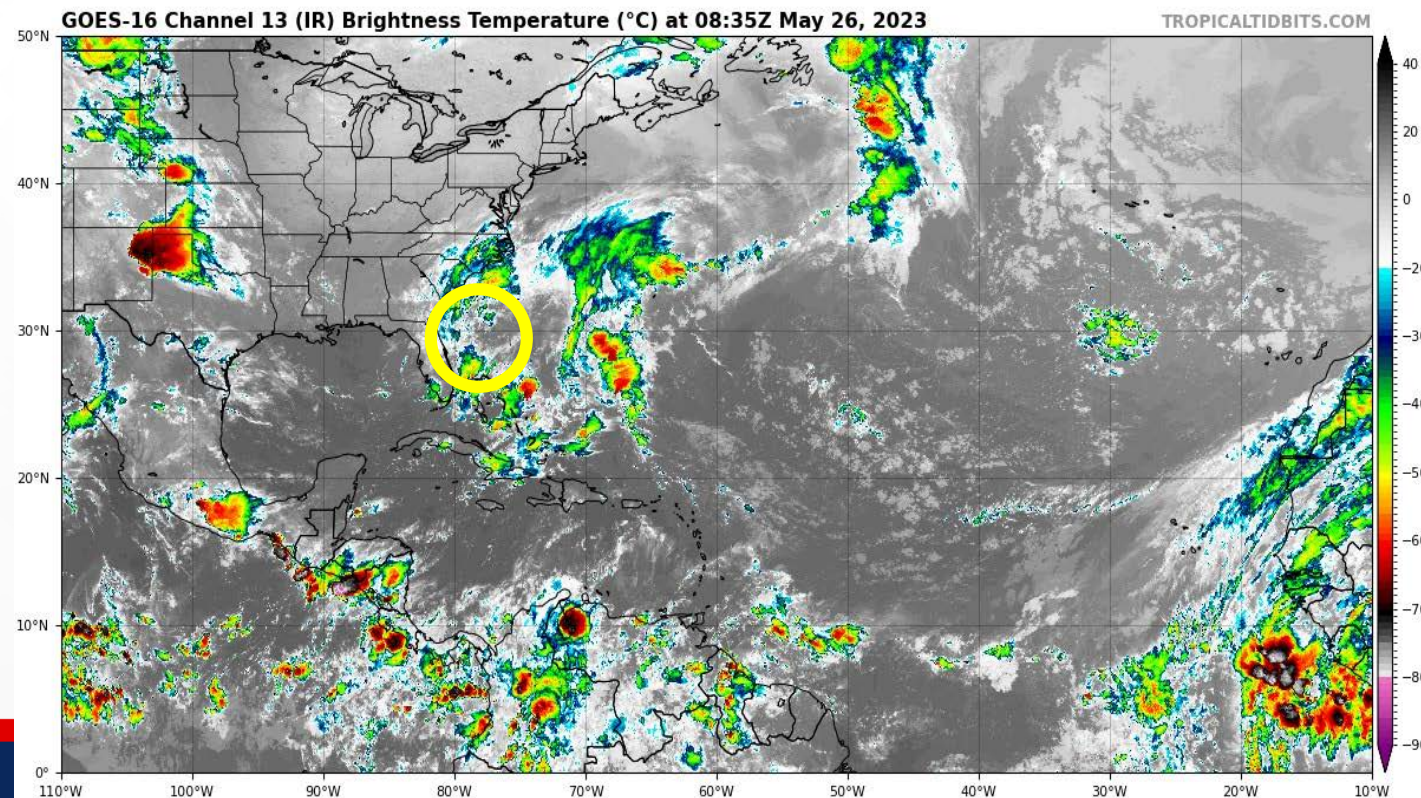
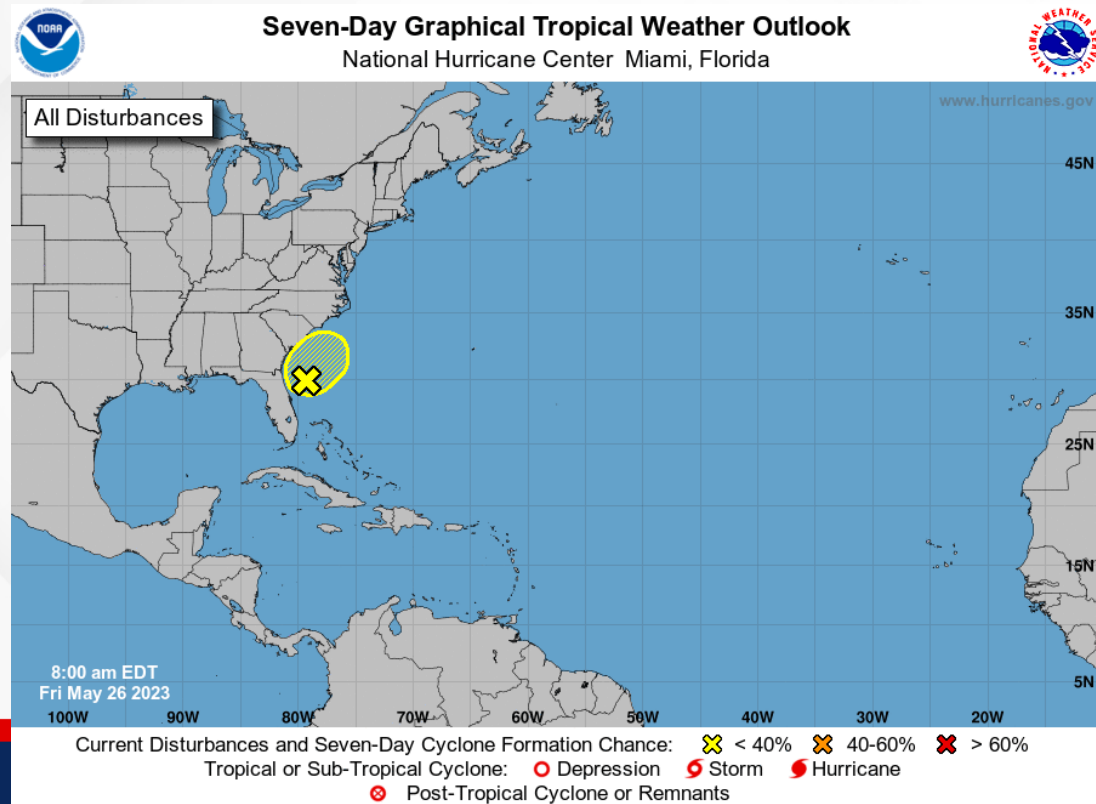
Tropical Weather

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

Southwestern Atlantic: A broad non-tropical area of low pressure located east of the northeastern coast of Florida and an associated frontal boundary off the coast of the Southeast U.S. are producing a large area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. The low is unlikely to become a subtropical or tropical cyclone since it is forecast to remain attached to the frontal boundary while moving generally northward and inland over the Carolinas late Saturday or Sunday. Regardless, the system is expected to produce gusty winds, dangerous surf, and high rip current conditions along the Northeast and East-Central Florida Coast through 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. Brisk northerly winds over the Gulf waters will lead to a **moderate risk of rip currents** along West-Central Florida beaches. 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 7-10' can be expected, and a **High Surf Advisory** will go into effect this afternoon through Saturday evening along the Northeast Florida Coast. A **High Surf Advisory** extends along the Space Coast through late tonight as breakers in the surf zone may reach 6-9' at times. Waves of 2-3' can be expected along all Gulf Coast beaches.

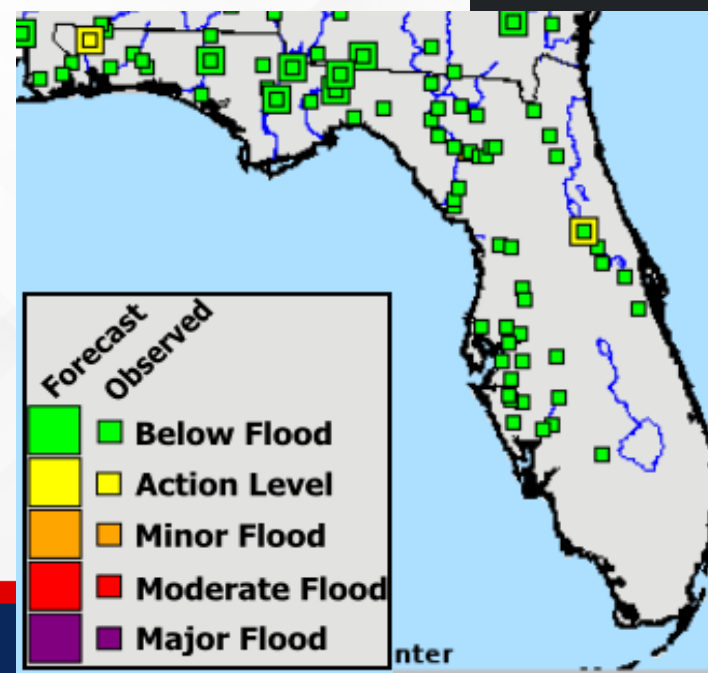
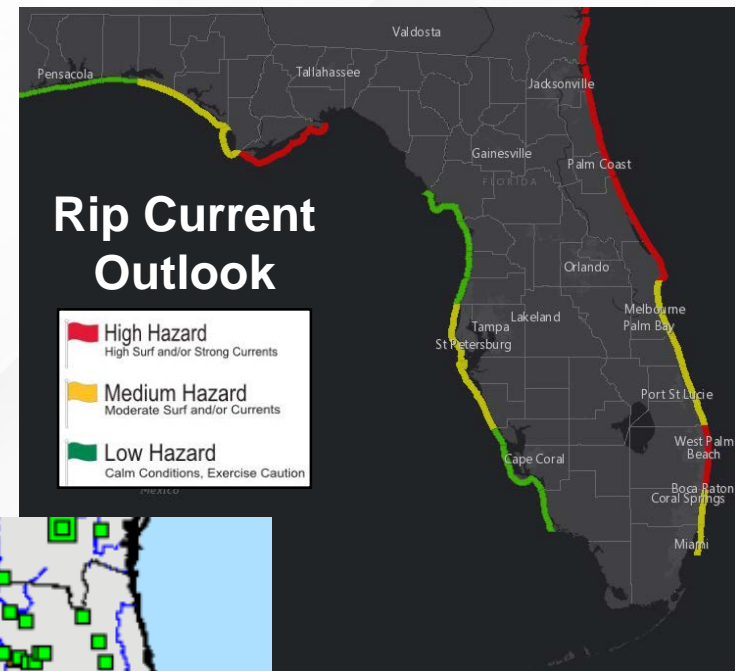
Red Tide has been observed above background levels along isolated portions of the Florida West Coast.

Coastal Flooding: Persistent northerly to northeasterly flow along Florida's Northeast and East-Central coastlines may lead to **minor coastal and tidal flooding**. While there is no organized threat for coastal flooding, the already vulnerable Northeast Florida Coast could see areas of minor beach erosion as large onshore swells continue to develop today.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across East-Central and South Florida today. Rainfall totals of 1-2" can be expected, mainly along and south of the I-4 corridor. Locally higher rainfall amounts may reach 3-5" this afternoon, courtesy of heavy rainfall rates. **Localized flooding** of urban corridors and poor drainage/low-lying areas cannot be ruled out.

Riverine Flooding: All Florida rivers, waterways, and tributaries are running below and are forecast to continue running below flood stage. Water levels along the St. Johns River at Astor will continue to slowly rise due to the increasing northerly to northeasterly winds and large swells along the Northeast Florida Coast, impeding downstream flow. Additional rises into Action Stage (bank-full) can be expected through tonight; however, levels should remain below flood stage. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.81 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.66 feet above normal for this time of year.



Current & Forecast River Levels

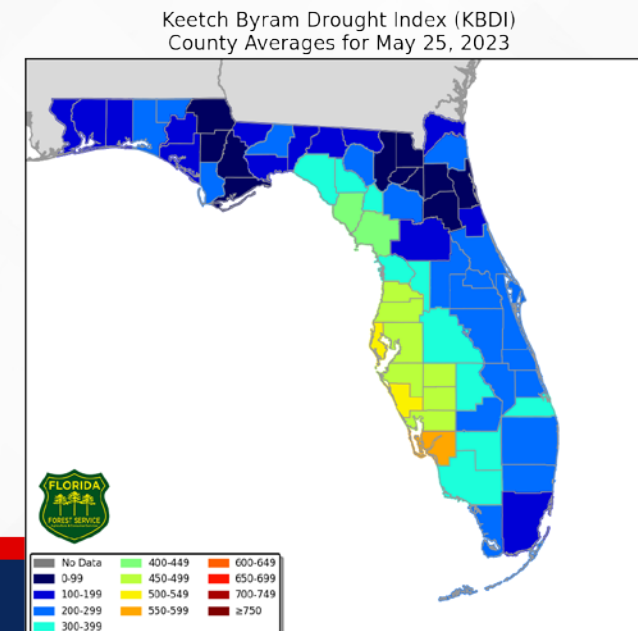
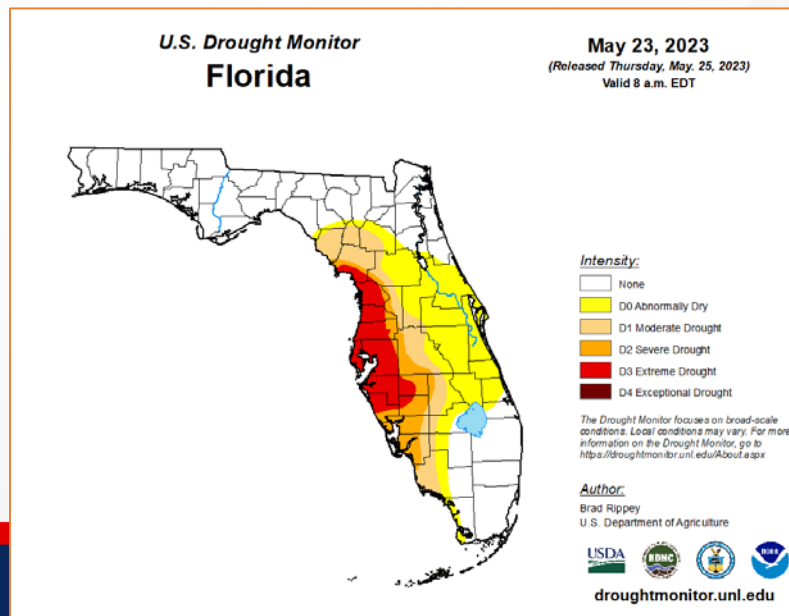
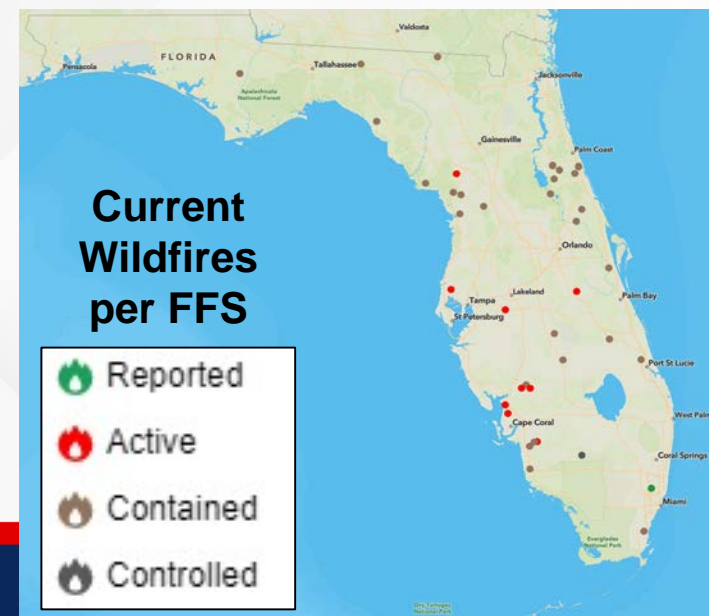


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Rain chances remain elevated over the Florida Peninsula today, with a drier airmass infiltrating across the Florida Panhandle. Relative humidity values will remain well above critical thresholds (45-55%) this afternoon; however, strong northerly to northeasterly flow can be expected to overspread from north to south through the day. Sustained winds of 10-20 mph look to occur across North and Central Florida during the daytime hours, and **Wind Advisories** are in effect for portions of the Florida East Coast as wind gusts of 40-45 mph are possible. 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 38 active wildfires across the state, burning approximately 1,284 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.

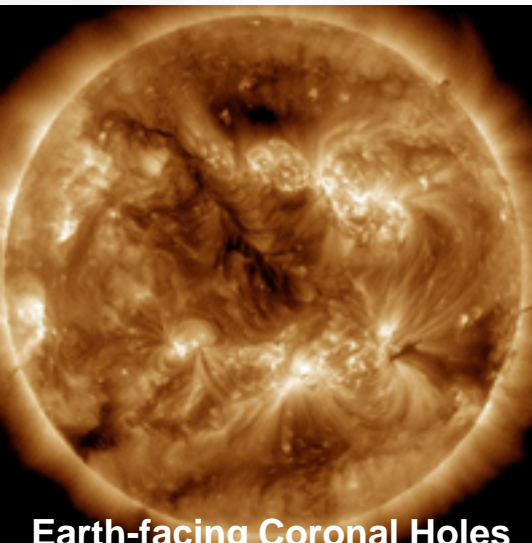
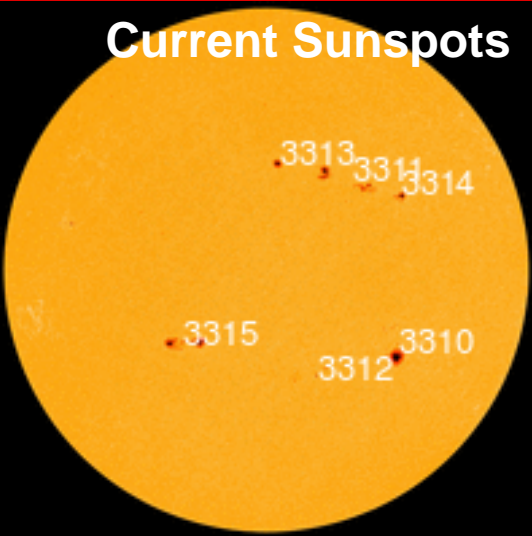
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 277 (+11) on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **three** counties (Lee, Manatee, and Pinellas) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



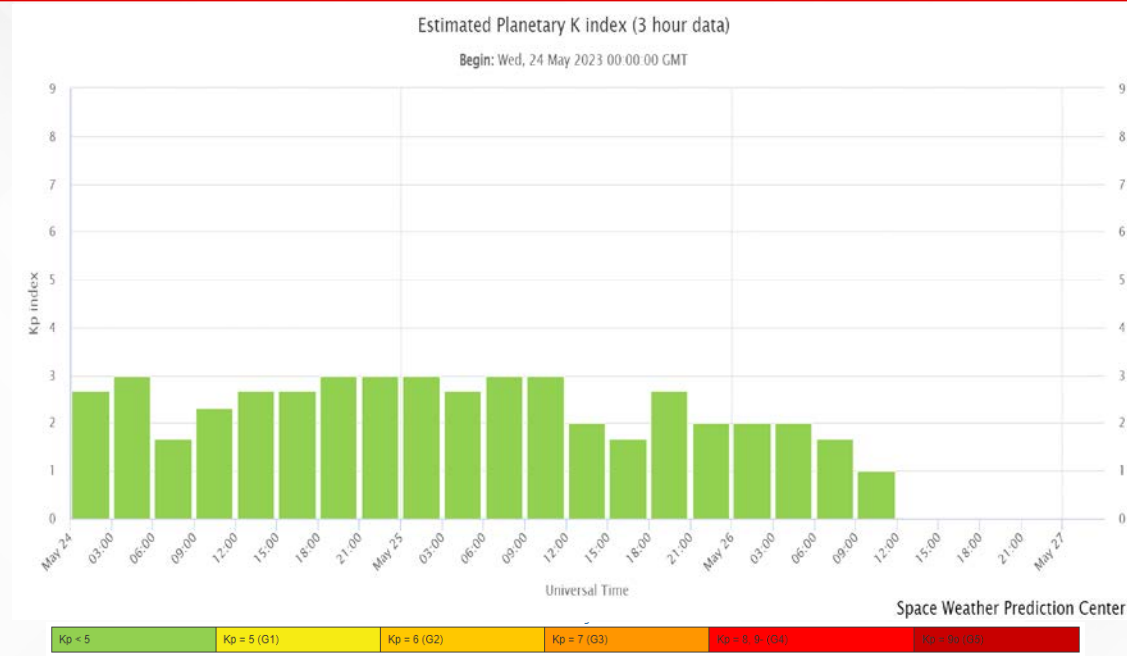


Space Weather

Current Sunspots



Earth-facing Coronal Holes



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| M-class: 35% | Geomagnetic Storm: None | M1 Solar Flare |
| X-class: 5% | Radiation Storm: None | R1 Radio Blackouts |
| 48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast | | |
| 5/26 | | 5/27 |
| Max Kp= 3 (G0) | | Max Kp= 3 (G0) |
| Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1% | | Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1% |

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to at low to moderate 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. Solar wind parameters are expected to continue to be elevated today under waning coronal hole influences. An additional enhancement in the solar wind regime is possible today due to a glancing blow from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) from 5/22. Quiet to active geomagnetic conditions will develop through the day, with an isolated G1 (minor) geomagnetic storm possible. 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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