Florida Division of Emergency Management
State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, August 16, 2023
State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation
## SERT On-Call Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations Chief</td>
<td>Ian Guidicelli</td>
<td>(850) 354-3044</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ian.Guidicelli@em.myflorida.com">Ian.Guidicelli@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch Officer</td>
<td>Caitlyn Gillespie</td>
<td>(850) 688-2119</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duty Officer</td>
<td>Ben Mauro</td>
<td>(850) 566-4904</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com">Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Officer- Day</td>
<td>Lauren Siddall</td>
<td>(850) 815-4001</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Officer- Swing</td>
<td>Kelsey Walters</td>
<td>(850) 815-4001</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Officer- Night</td>
<td>Jim Lawhon</td>
<td>(850) 815-4001</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meteorologist</td>
<td>Caitlyn Gillespie</td>
<td>(850) 688-2119</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plans Chief</td>
<td>Kaylynn Perry</td>
<td>(850) 254-5657</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Chief</td>
<td>Kenneth DeCastro</td>
<td>(850) 567-1943</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kenneth.DeCastro@em.myflorida.com">Kenneth.DeCastro@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services Director</td>
<td>Pam Hughes</td>
<td>(850) 528-5638</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
<td>Rob Dietrich</td>
<td>(850) 727-3414</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com">Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Branch Director</td>
<td>Christina Goetzman</td>
<td>(850) 519-8581</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESF 8 On-Call</td>
<td>Brandon Gore</td>
<td>(866) 786-4673</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Information Officer</td>
<td>Alecia Collins</td>
<td>(850) 591-9544</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alecia.Collins@em.myflorida.com">Alecia.Collins@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEM Finance and Admin</td>
<td>Jessica Blake</td>
<td>(850) 284-8070</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jessica.Blake@em.myflorida.com">Jessica.Blake@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Team</td>
<td>County Location</td>
<td>Status / Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jim Roberts</td>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
<td>LEPC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Willie Bouie</td>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>Support Services Call / FROC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Glen Hammers</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>Support Services Call / LMS Meeting(V)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pam Bergstrom</td>
<td>St Johns</td>
<td>Support Services Call / Office Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Austin Beeghly</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>EM Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Paul Siddall</td>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>Support Services Call / EOC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cristian Rivera</td>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>FDOH Meeting / FROC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Karen Kozac</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>Support Services Call / EM Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Theresa Hendry</td>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>FROC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Claudia Baker</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>Support Services Call / EM Visit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RC 5

**RC Status**
- Normal Operations
- In Region / Delayed Response
- Out of Region / Delayed Response
- Out of Service / Unavailable
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>County Location</th>
<th>Status / Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 1: Allison Blevins</td>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
<td>LEPC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 2: Justin Lazzara</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>FROC Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 3: VACANT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 4: Joshua Saunders</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>L-964 Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 5: Elizabeth Caison</td>
<td>Volusia</td>
<td>FROC Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRCT Manager</td>
<td>Hernando</td>
<td>Internal / External Stakeholder Meeting (Virtual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6: Jeremy O’Dell</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7: VACANT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 8: VACANT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 9: Kathryn Thompson</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>SB4A Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 10: Dana McGeehan</td>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>Damage Assessment Workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Region 3 Coverage provided by RRC 2 & RRC 4
Region 7 Coverage provided by RRC 6
Region 8 Coverage provided by RRC 5 & RRC 10
Today's Weather Map

Meteorology Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>R1</th>
<th>R2</th>
<th>R3</th>
<th>R4</th>
<th>R5</th>
<th>R6</th>
<th>R7</th>
<th>R8</th>
<th>R9</th>
<th>R10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lightning</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaging Wind</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hail</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash Flood</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fog (Overnight)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive Heat</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Flood</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rip Currents</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Okeechobee Elevation</td>
<td>15.34 ft. (1.36 ft. Above Normal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keetch-Byram Drought Index: 284 (-2) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)

Severe Thunderstorm Risk – Today
The frontal boundary approaching North Florida has become stationary this morning and is expected to slowly drift northwest this afternoon. Abundant moisture ahead of the frontal boundary will continue to allow for enhanced storm development statewide today. Drier air will move in behind the frontal boundary, keeping rain chances lower in the Western Panhandle. In addition, high pressure across South Florida will promote the development of sea breezes along both coasts across the Peninsula this afternoon.

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlook a Marginal Risk for Severe Thunderstorms (level 1 of 5) across the Peninsula and Big Bend region this afternoon and evening (45-85% chance of rain). Locally damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), frequent lightning, and heavy rainfall rates will likely accompany the stronger thunderstorm activity. Numerous showers and embedded thunderstorms have already begun this morning stretching from the Nature Coast to the Tampa Bay area this morning thanks to abundant moisture ahead of the approaching frontal boundary and south-southwesterly flow. This activity will likely continue to expand in areal coverage and intensity in coordination with the afternoon sea breeze. Storms will be focused along and north of I-4 this morning before shifting to areas south of I-4 as the sea breezes collide later in the afternoon. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlook a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) across the Peninsula and Big Bend region as thunderstorms statewide will be generally slow-moving in nature, leading to elevated flooding concerns within the more organized thunderstorm activity, especially over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas.

The approaching frontal boundary will produce increased rain chances and cloud cover across the state, finally providing some relief from the hot and humid conditions. For the first time in over a week, heat indices are expected to remain just below Heat Advisory criteria statewide. High temperatures will reach the upper 80s to lower 90s with heat index values rising into the triple digits for much of the state this afternoon (100-107). The Panhandle and portions of the Big Bend region can expect heat indices to remain in the middle to upper 90s. In the West-Central Peninsula, isolated higher heat indices approaching or briefly reaching Heat Advisory criteria still cannot be ruled out during peak heating hours of the day.

While shower and thunderstorm activity will generally taper off after sunset, elevated rain and thunderstorm chances may linger along the Peninsula and portions of the Florida Panhandle overnight (35-80% chance of rain). Warm and muggy temperatures can be expected to continue across Florida tonight, with low temperatures remaining in the middle 70s to lower 80s. The Florida Panhandle will see slightly cooler overnight conditions behind the frontal boundary with low temperatures in the low to middle 70s.
Central Tropical Atlantic: An elongated low pressure located about 750 miles west-southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms over the central tropical Atlantic. The system is currently moving west-northwestward at about 10 mph across the central tropical Atlantic. Environmental conditions seem to be conducive for gradual development, and the system could develop into a tropical depression over the next several days. *This system poses no threat to Florida over the next 7 days, at least.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...*low...*30%*
*Formation chance through 7 days...*medium...*50%*

Eastern Tropical Atlantic: A tropical wave moving off the west coast of Africa is producing a large area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. The system is forecast to move west-northwestward at about 15 mph, with an area of low pressure forming in a day or so near or just west of the Cabo Verde Islands. Further development of the low is possible, developing into a tropical depression over the weekend. Environmental conditions are expected to become unfavorable for further development early next week. *This system poses no threat to Florida over the next 7 days, at least.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...*low...*20%*
*Formation chance through 7 days...*medium...*40%*

Western Gulf of Mexico: A broad area of low pressure could form in the central or western Gulf of Mexico by the beginning of next week. Slow development is possible after the low forms as it moves westward and approaches the western Gulf of Mexico coastline by the middle of next week.

*Formation chance through 48 hours...*low...*near 0%*
*Formation chance through 7 days...*low...*20%*
Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A moderate risk of rip currents continues along the Florida Panhandle and Central-East Coast today, with a locally high risk for Gulf county. A low risk of rip currents is expected along all remaining Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along all Florida beaches today. The afternoon sea breeze sparking showers and thunderstorms along the coastal waters may create locally choppy surf conditions. Red Tide has not been observed along any Florida coastline.

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

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlookng a Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding (level 1 of 4) across the Peninsula and Big Bend region as localized flooding will be the primary concern over low-lying/poor drainage and urban areas today. Ample moisture will allow for slow-moving showers and thunderstorms to produce heavy rainfall rates. Widespread rainfall totals of 1-3” can be expected, with locally higher amounts of 3-5” possible.

Riverine Flooding: All Florida rivers, creeks and waterways are below and are forecast to remain below flood stage. The frontal boundary pushing into North Florida will elevate rain chances statewide today; however, there are no riverine flooding concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee’s average elevation is 15.34 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.36 feet above normal for this time of year.
**Fire Weather:** Hot and humid conditions persist across the state once again today, but with heat indices finally reaching below heat advisory criteria. Portions of the Central Interior Peninsula and Western Panhandle will see relative humidity values dip into the middle 40s to middle 50s at times, with the rest of the state remaining above critical thresholds. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms can be expected to develop this afternoon and evening across the Big Bend and Peninsula. *Thunderstorms will be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic winds.*

**Drought:** While portions of the Peninsula saw heavy rainfall over the last week, the western Peninsula continued to experience abnormal dryness. *Extreme Drought* continues along Manatee County through Charlotte County, with *Severe Drought* along Pinellas County to Lee County, due to a lack of summer sea breeze thunderstorms and periods of excessive heat over the last several weeks. 30-day rainfall deficits remain 3-5" below normal along the western Peninsula. Rainfall expected across the Peninsula over the next week may help to alleviate conditions.

**The Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **284 (-2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **two** Florida counties (Escambia and Santa Rosa) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).
**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be low with a slight chance for strong (M-class) flares through the rest of the week. Solar wind conditions are expected to become enhanced today as a Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) becomes geoeffective. Quiet to active geomagnetic conditions can be expected through the rest of the week due to the CH HSS. The space weather threat to Florida remains very low.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>800-320-0519, 850-815-4001, 850-591-0071 (Backup Cell)</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup Landline:</td>
<td>850-487-3234, 850-487-3228</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>850-815-4979</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a></td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWO Tracker:</td>
<td><a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a></td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLERS:</td>
<td>DEM Statewide</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNARS:</td>
<td>WGY974</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal NAWAS:</td>
<td>State Watch Office</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMnet Message:</td>
<td>FL.000- State Watch Office</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMnet Voice:</td>
<td>FL SWP- State Watch Office</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAWS:</td>
<td>LP.1 Stations via Emnet</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIN:</td>
<td>SOFEOC</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite Phones:</td>
<td>888-890-5178 or 480-263-8838</td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a></td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP