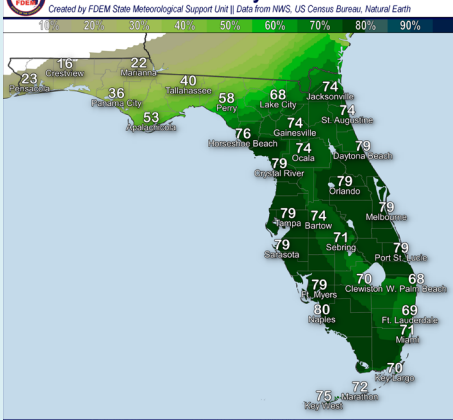


Friday, August 18, 2023

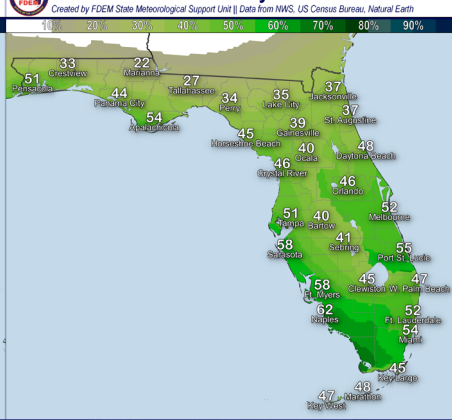
5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

No Threat			Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	River Flooding	Rip Currents
Fri	Peninsula Panhandle		Locally Iso. Peninsula	S. & Central FL		Keys Statewide	Iso. S. & Central FL	Panhandle & E. Coast Elsewhere
Sat	Peninsula Panhandle		Locally Iso. Peninsula	South FL		North FL Statewide	Iso. S. & Central FL	Panhandle & E Coast Elsewhere
Sun	Peninsula Panhandle		Locally Iso. Peninsula	S. & S-Central FL		North FL Statewide	Iso. S. & Central FL	Panhandle & E Coast Elsewhere
Mon	Locally Statewide		Iso. Statewide	Iso. Peninsula		Panhandle Statewide		Panhandle & SE E. Coast Elsewhere
Tue	Locally Peninsula Panhandle		Iso. Statewide	Iso. Peninsula		Panhandle Statewide		Panhandle & SE E-Coast Elsewhere

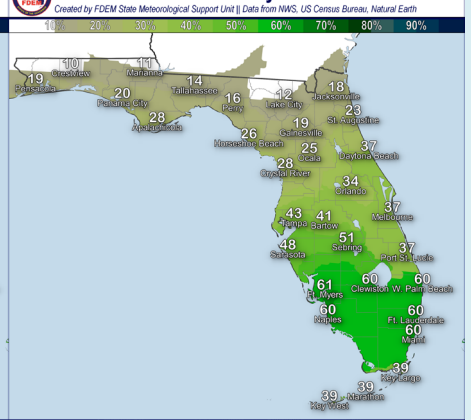
Chance of Rain: Sunday



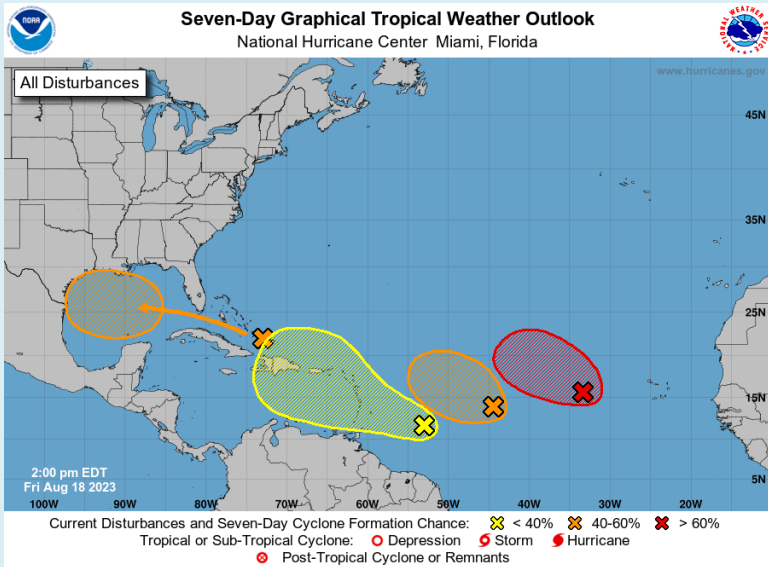
Chance of Rain: Monday



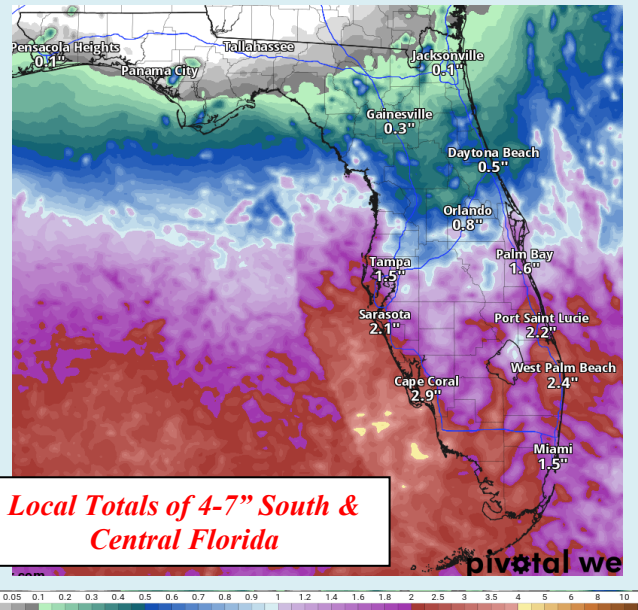
Chance of Rain: Tuesday



Rain Chances: Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday



7 Day Tropical Weather Outlook: 2 PM Friday



Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Tuesday Night

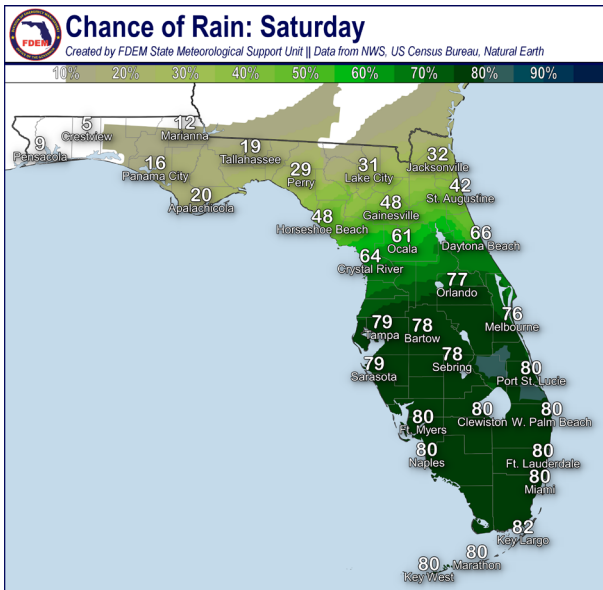


...Tropical Wave Brings Abundant Moisture and Numerous Storms To The Peninsula Over the Next 3 Days...Isolated Strong to Severe Storms Cannot Be Ruled Out...Localized Flooding Will Be Possible Over Urban, Low-Lying/ Poor Drainage, And Already Saturated Areas...Elevated Wave Heights and Breezy Conditions Possible As Tropical Wave Passes By...Drier Air And High Pressure In Florida Panhandle Will Limit Rainfall and Raise Heat Indices...High Pressure and Relatively Drier Conditions Return Statewide Next Week, Lowering Rain Chances...Moderate to High Risk For Rip Currents Along Panhandle and East Coast Beaches Over Next 5 Days...Multiple Disturbances Being Monitored In Central And Eastern Atlantic; No Direct Threat To Florida In Next 5-7 Days, At Least...

Friday – Sunday:

High pressure extending into North Florida from the Southern Plains heat wave and dry air that moved in behind the recent frontal boundary will promote hot and relatively dry conditions in North Florida. Meanwhile, a tropical wave approaching South Florida will provide an influx of tropical moisture across the Peninsula, enhancing storm activity over the next 3 days.

Drier air will allow for only isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms to develop along the sea breeze across the Florida Panhandle and along the I-10 corridor into the Northern Peninsula over the next 3 days (5-45% chance of rain). Rain chances will increase going eastward down I-10, following the



increasing moisture gradient. Rain chances will also increase slightly each day as moisture returns, confining the lower rain chances to the Florida Panhandle Sunday (23-60% chance of rain). Numerous showers and thunderstorms will develop with the sea breezes across the Peninsula in the late morning and early afternoon hours, advancing well inland throughout the day and colliding over the interior Peninsula in the late afternoon and early evening hours (60-90% chance of rain). Despite no organized risk, frequent lightning, locally damaging wind gusts (40-50 mph), and heavy rainfall rates may accompany the **isolated strong to severe thunderstorm** activity across the Peninsula over the next 3 days. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flooding** across South and Central Florida over the next 3 days as the tropical wave passes by. Thunderstorms

statewide will be generally slow-moving in nature, leading to elevated **flooding concerns** within the more organized thunderstorm activity, especially over urban areas, low-lying/poor drainage areas, and over already saturated grounds. Rain chances will begin to drop off Sunday night as the tropical wave moves off into the Gulf of Mexico, leaving behind drier air in its place.

High temperatures will reach the upper 80s to lower 90s across the Peninsula and middle to upper 90s across the Florida Panhandle over the next 3 days. **Triple digit heat indices** will persist statewide (**100-108**). **Heat Advisories** are in effect for the Florida Keys today as **heat indices up to 110-degrees** can be expected today. While heat indices are expected to remain below **Heat Advisory** criteria for the rest of the state today, locally higher heat indices approaching or briefly reaching **Heat Advisory** criteria cannot be ruled out. **Heat Advisories** will likely be needed in portions of North Florida Saturday and Sunday. *Remember to stay hydrated, take breaks from the outdoors, and wear light clothing.*

While shower and thunderstorm activity will generally taper off after sunset, elevated rain and thunderstorm chances may linger along coastal South Florida and the Keys overnight over the next 3



days (40-85% chance of rain). Warm and muggy overnight conditions will continue with low temperatures remaining in the middle to upper 70s statewide. The Florida Keys will continue to be warmer than the rest of the state with overnight low temperatures not falling below the lower to middle 80s.

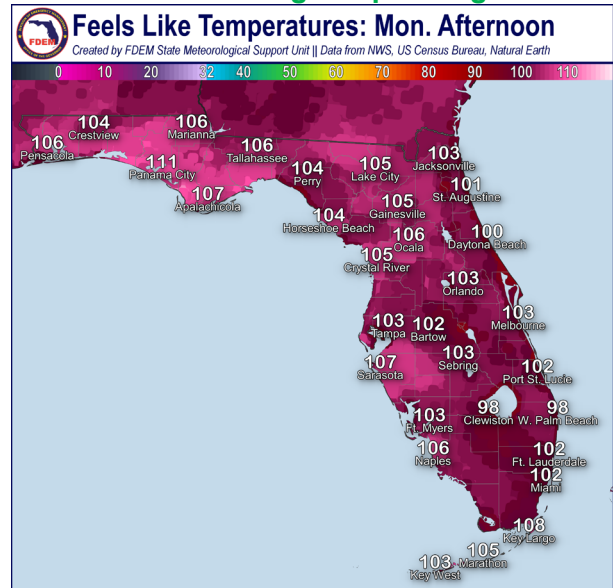
Monday – Tuesday:

The tropical wave will continue to move westward into the Gulf of Mexico Monday, leaving behind drier air in its place. High pressure extending into North Florida from the Southern Plains heat wave and the Atlantic high pressure will continue to build over the state, reintroducing potential for **dangerously hot and humid conditions** and working with the drier air to limit shower and thunderstorm development.

A more typical summer weather pattern will return going into next week, with moisture levels sitting just below normal for this time of year. Scattered sea breeze showers and thunderstorms will develop along sea breeze boundaries in the late morning and early afternoon hours throughout the state, pushing inland throughout the day (10-65% chance of rain). More widespread and numerous storm activity can be expected along coastal areas and across South and Central Florida where slightly higher moisture content will remain. A few isolated **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging gusty winds, and heavy downpours cannot be ruled out. Heavy rainfall over urban and already saturated areas may lead to **localized flooding and ponding of water**.

High temperatures will reach the upper 80s to lower 90s across the Peninsula and upper 90s to low 100s across the Florida Panhandle. **Triple digit heat indices** will continue statewide into the beginning of next week (100-111). **Heat Advisory** will likely be issued for portions of North Florida Monday and Tuesday. Localized heat indices approaching or briefly reaching **Heat Advisory** criteria cannot be ruled out through the beginning of the week, even if no **Heat Advisories** are issued. **Excessive Heat Warnings** cannot be ruled out along the coastal Panhandle. *Remember to stay hydrated, take breaks from the outdoors, and wear light clothing.*

Some isolated to scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms may continue into the overnight hours along coastal South Florida and the Keys (30-45% chance of rain). Low temperatures overnight will fall into the middle to upper 70s across the state. The Florida Keys will once again remain warmer than the rest of the state overnight with low temperatures in the low to middle 80s.



Tropics:

Eastern Tropical Atlantic (Invest 98L): Showers and thunderstorms associated with a broad area of low pressure (Invest 98L) is located a few hundred miles west of the Cabo Verde Islands and continues to show some signs of organization. The system is moving west-northwestward or northwestward at around 10 mph across the eastern tropical Atlantic. Environmental conditions appear generally favorable for additional development and a tropical depression is likely to form over the weekend. By early next week, upper-level winds are forecast to increase, and further development is not expected. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 7 days, at least.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...**medium...60%**

*Formation chance through 7 days...**high...70%**



Central Tropical Atlantic (Invest 99L): An elongated area of low pressure (Invest 99L) located roughly halfway between the Cabo Verde Islands and the Lesser Antilles is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms. The system is currently moving west-northwestward at 10-15 mph across the central tropical Atlantic. Environmental conditions are marginally conducive for further development and a tropical depression could form over the next few days. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 7 days, at least.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...**medium...40%**

*Formation chance through 7 days...**medium...40%**

East-Southeast of the Lesser Antilles: Another area of low pressure could form in the next day or so from the elongated trough of low pressure several hundred miles to the east-southeast of the Lesser Antilles. Slow development is possible over the weekend and early next week as the system moves generally west-northwestward at 10-15 mph across the Lesser Antilles and into the northeastern Caribbean Sea. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 5-7 days, at least.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...10%**

*Formation chance through 7 days...**low...30%**

Western Gulf of Mexico: An area of disturbed weather located over the southeastern Bahamas is forecast to move into the Gulf of Mexico early next week, where a broad area of low pressure could form. Some slow development of the system will be possible, and a tropical depression could form as it moves westward and approaches the western Gulf of Mexico coastline by mid-week. As the disturbed weather moves past South Florida towards the Gulf of Mexico this weekend, abundant tropical moisture yielding elevated rainfall totals, elevated wave heights, and somewhat breezy conditions may be possible across the Peninsula.

*Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...near 0%**

*Formation chance through 7 days...**medium...40%**

Hydrology & Flooding:

Abundant tropical moisture yielding high rainfall totals across the Peninsula will be a primary concern through the weekend as the tropical wave passes through the region into the Gulf of Mexico. Numerous to widespread showers and thunderstorms will develop with the sea breezes across the Peninsula in the late morning and early afternoon hours, advancing well inland throughout the day and colliding over the interior Peninsula in the late afternoon and early evening hours. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flooding** across South and Central Florida through Sunday as the tropical wave passes by. 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. Enhanced storm activity and heavy rainfall across the state over the last week has left portions of the Peninsula saturated as we go into the weekend, further raising the risk of **localized flash flooding** and **ponding of water**. Drier air will move in behind the tropical wave going into next week and high pressure builds across the state, lowering rain chances Monday and Tuesday. Widespread rainfall totals of 1-4" are expected with locally higher totals of 4-7" possible over the next 5 days.

All Florida rivers, creeks and waterways are below and are forecast to remain below flood stage. Abundant tropical moisture will give way to elevated rainfall totals across the Peninsula over the next 3 days; however, riverine flooding is not expected at this time. Regardless, increases in water levels in rivers and waterways across South and Central Florida will be likely, and rises into Action Stage (bank-



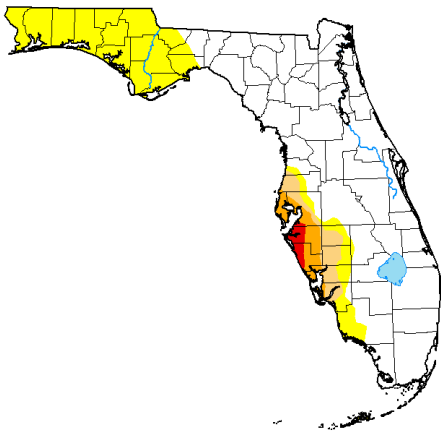
full) or approaching **Minor Flood Stage** cannot be ruled out if higher rainfall totals are realized. Rain chances will begin to decrease early next week, likely allowing any waterways that may experience water level rises of the weekend to crest sometime next week. All other rivers and waterways remain in good shape, and riverine flooding is not expected over the next 5 days. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#). For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.35 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.33 feet above normal. Over the past week, lake elevations have risen 0.04' due to widespread rainfall totals. Additional rises in water levels cannot be ruled out through the next 5 days as additional rounds of heavy rain are possible through the region.

Drought & Fire Weather:

U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida

August 15, 2023
(Released Thursday, Aug. 17, 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:
Lindsay Johnson
National Drought Mitigation Center



Despite several rounds of scattered showers and thunderstorms observed across the Peninsula over the last few weeks, drought conditions have seen little to no change. Abnormally dry (emerging drought) to **extreme drought** conditions were noted, once again, stretching from Hernando County southward through Collier County on this week's Drought Monitor due to a lack of rainfall and high temperatures over the last 30 days. Abnormally Dry conditions have also returned along the Florida Panhandle stretching from Escambia County to Leon County due to below-normal precipitation and continuing high summer heat. 30-Day rainfall deficits remain at 3-5" in the Western Peninsula and Florida

Panhandle, with isolated pockets up to 8" along the Western Peninsula. Widespread rainfall forecasted throughout the Peninsula over the coming days may help to alleviate these conditions.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **222 (-25)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **two** Florida counties (Escambia and Bay) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Drier air has moved in behind the recent frontal boundary in North Florida. The Western Panhandle can expect relative humidity values to fall into the upper 30s to low 40s at times today. The rest of the Florida Panhandle and portions of North Florida will also see relative humidity values dip into the lower 40s to lower 50s at times, but the rest of the state remaining above critical thresholds ahead of the front thanks to abundant tropical moisture. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms can be expected to develop across the Peninsula while the Panhandle experiences a few isolated showers and thunderstorms over the next 5 days. *Lightning embedded within thunderstorm activity may be capable of igniting new wildfires.*

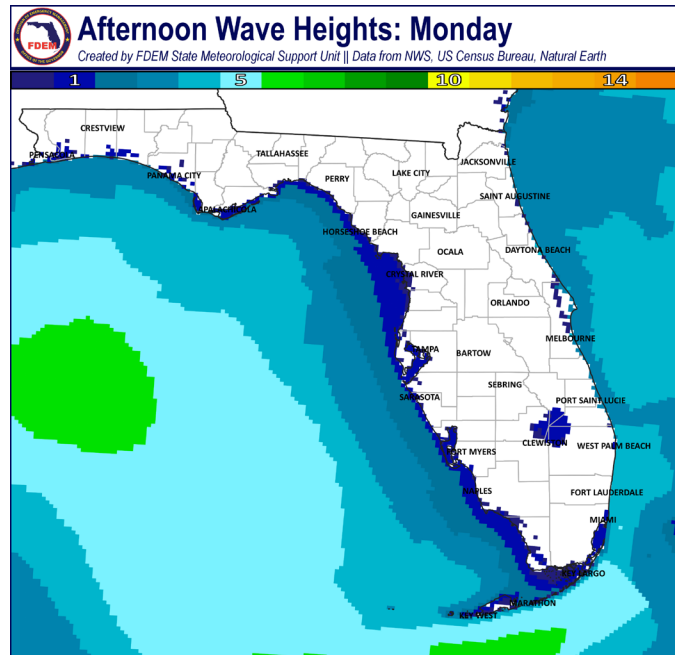
Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **moderate risk of rip currents** will continue along Panhandle, Northeast, and Central-East Coast beaches today with a low risk elsewhere. Little change in the strength of onshore flow will allow rip currents to remain virtually the same Saturday. Sunday and Monday, stronger onshore flow producing wind waves and an approaching Atlantic swell will increase rip current risks for portions of the state. Southeast Florida beaches will see the largest impact with a **high risk of rip currents** Sunday through Tuesday. Panhandle and all other East Coast beaches can expect a **moderate to high risk of**



rip currents with a low to **locally moderate risk** elsewhere through Tuesday. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along all Florida beaches today with locally higher wave heights of up to 3' possible along the Northeast Coast today. Weak variable winds will yield even calmer waters across the Gulf Coast Saturday, while Atlantic swells begin to increase wave heights along the East Coast. Wave heights of 2-3' can be expected along Florida's East Coast and Atlantic facing Keys, with wave heights of 1-2' elsewhere. Winds become stronger and more east-southeasterly Sunday and Monday while the Atlantic swell continues to influence Florida's Atlantic Coast. Wave heights will increase to 1-3' along the Gulf and Panhandle Beaches throughout the day. All Atlantic Facing beaches (including the Keys) can expect wave heights of 3-4' with **breaking wave heights** of 5' possible. Similar conditions will persist Tuesday, allowing wave heights to further increase. Wave heights of 1-4' can be expected along Panhandle and Gulf Coast beaches while Atlantic facing beaches will see wave heights of 3-5' with **breaking waves** and **isolated wave heights** of up to 6' in the Florida Keys. *Showers and thunderstorms developing along the coastline and adjacent waters may create locally choppy surf conditions.*



Red Tide has not been observed above background levels along Florida's coastline.

Blue-Green Algae has been observed via satellite at low to **moderate bloom potential** on approximately 35% of Lake Okeechobee, with the most intense bloom potential in the northeastern quadrant. Low to **moderate bloom potential** has been observed on Lake George and Little Lake George. Scattered bloom potential has also been observed on visible portions of the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Toco Creek. Blue-Green Algae has not been observed on the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

[Pensacola](#) • [Panama City](#) • [Tallahassee](#) • [Gainesville](#) • [Jacksonville](#) • [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) • [Tampa](#) • [Fort Myers](#) • [West Palm Beach](#) • [Miami](#) • [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

