



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, September 28, 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	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Pelosi	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@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	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	Jessica Blake	(850) 284-8070	Jessica.Blake@em.myflorida.com



Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	NWS Meeting / RC Meeting
RC Manager	Leon	Response Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie		
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Levy, Gilchrist, Columbia	Tri-County LTRG Meeting
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Lake	Region 5 Quarterly Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	EM Update Call / RC Meeting
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Polk	Idalia Recovery Call / RC Meeting
Region 8: Karen Kozac	Lake	Region 5 Quarterly Meeting
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Lee, Sarasota	Executive Director Support / EM Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	LMS Meeting



Region 4 Coverage Provided by RC 5

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



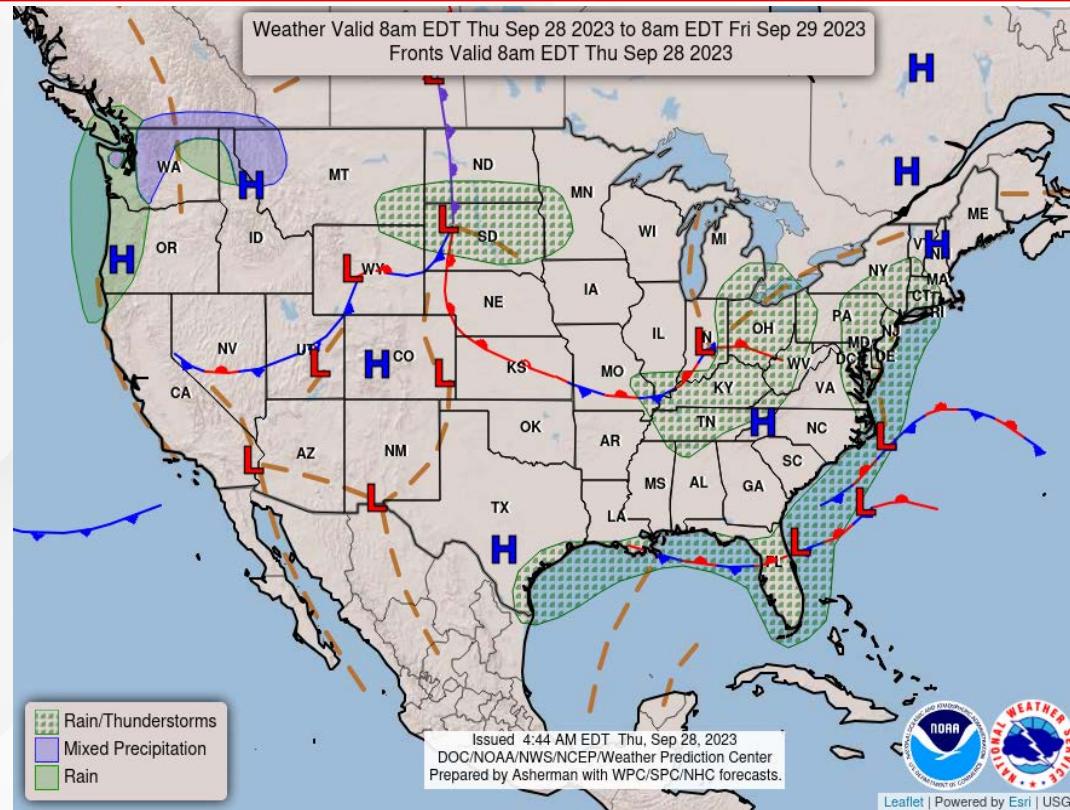
Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	Instructing G-300
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Suwannee	Recovery Meeting
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Idalia Recovery Coordination
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Alachua	Idalia Branch Field Office
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Alachua	Idalia Branch Field Office
RRCT Manager	Alachua	Idalia Branch Field Office
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	Pasco	Instructing G-393
Region 8: Camila Medina	Palm Beach	Administrative Duties
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Lee	L-967 Training
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Miami-Dade	LMS Meeting

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

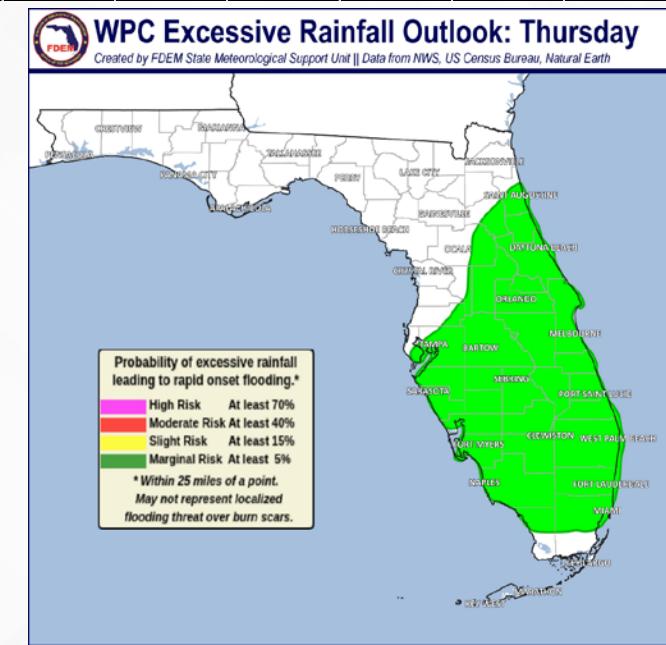
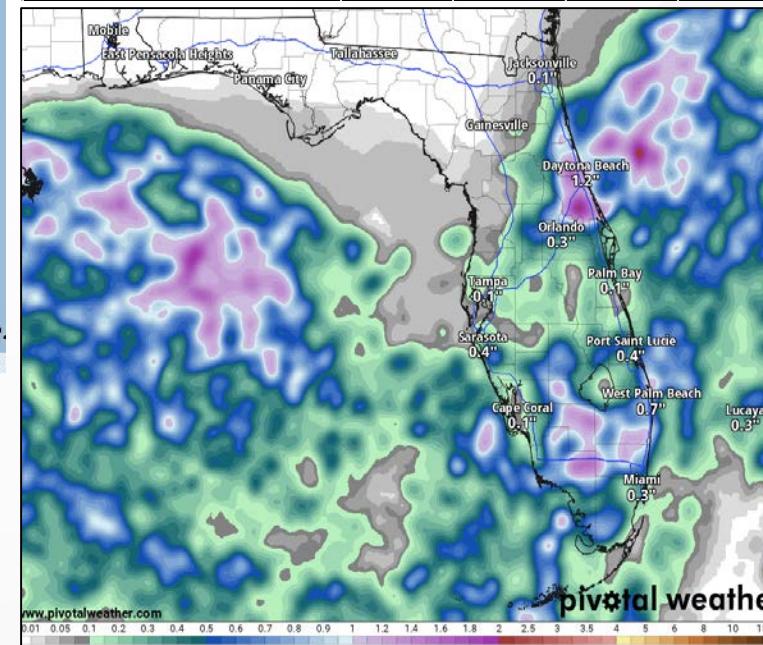


Meteorology Summary



24-Hour Forecast Rainfall Totals –
Locally 3-5" South & East Florida

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning			L	M	H	M	M	H	H	H
Tornado										
Damaging Wind				L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Hail										
Flash Flooding			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Fog (Overnight)			L	L	L					
Excessive Heat				L	L	L	L	L	L	L
River Flood										
Rip Currents	H	H	M	LH	H	L		H	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.61 ft. (0.81 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	184 (-47) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

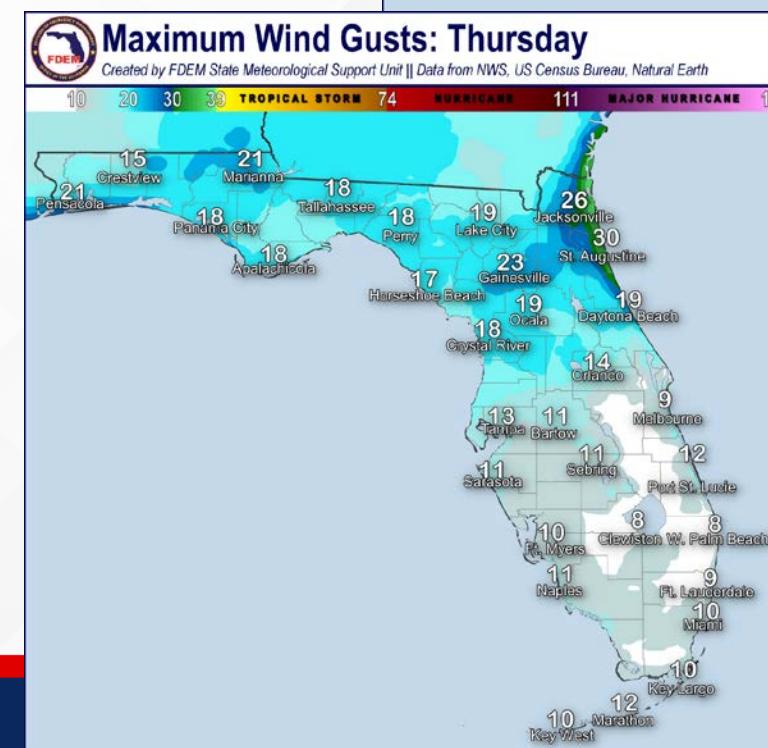
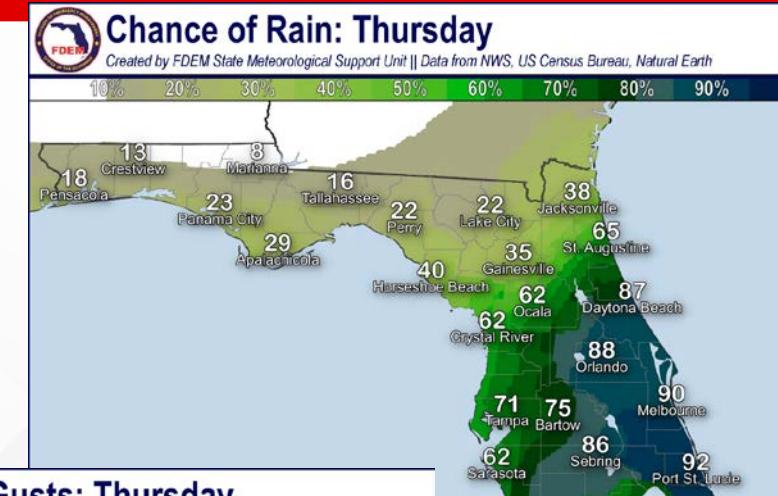
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms continue to push inland along South Florida this morning, with scattered showers lingering along the East Coast and Coastal Florida Panhandle. Misty and cloudy conditions have allowed **patchy fog and low clouds** to develop early this morning along portions of the Northern Peninsula. High pressure will begin to build back in from the North today, bringing drier conditions. The high pressure will push up against the frontal boundary stalled over Central Florida today, creating breezy conditions.

Tropical moisture continues to surge into the Peninsula as the stalled frontal boundary over Central Florida pushes further southward today, bringing another day of numerous showers and thunderstorms late this morning and continuing into the afternoon and evening hours (60-100% chance of rain). While there is no organized risk for severe weather, an **isolated strong to severe thunderstorm** or two capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (45-55 mph), and heavy downpours cannot be ruled out. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** from Northeast Florida, along the I-4 corridor and south through Central and South Florida as tropical moisture will allow showers and thunderstorms to produce heavy and intense downpours, leading to instances of **localized flooding** across previously saturated urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. High pressure building back in over the Florida Panhandle and into the Northern Peninsula will keep rain chances limited today, with only isolated showers along the sea breeze boundaries (5-40% chance of rain).

Increased cloud cover and rain chances will keep high temperatures slightly cooler across the state today. High temperatures will reach the upper 70s to lower 80s across North Florida this afternoon with high temperatures in the middle to upper 80s across the rest of the state. Central and South Florida and the Keys can expect **heat index values** in the upper 90s and approaching **near 100-degrees** by the early-to-middle afternoon. Breezy conditions will develop across North Florida today, with Sustained winds of 10-15 mph and gusts of 15-20 mph. Along the Northeastern Peninsula, **wind gusts** may reach upwards of **25-30 mph**. A **Coastal Flood Warning** is in effect along the Northeast Florida Coast as **minor to moderate coastal flooding** is expected at or near high tide due to the astronomical tides (King Tides) and **beach erosion** will be possible. **Small Craft Advisories** and **High Surf Advisories** have been issued along the Northeast Coast as **seas** of 6-9' and breezy conditions with **large breaking waves** of 5-7' in the surf.

Cloud cover and scattered showers overnight will keep low temperatures in the upper 60s across the Panhandle and Big Bend, and low to middle 70s through Central Florida. South Florida and the Keys can expect low temperature in the middle to upper 70s and low 80s. Isolated areas of **patchy fog and low clouds** cannot be ruled out overnight and early Thursday morning over recently saturated grounds.





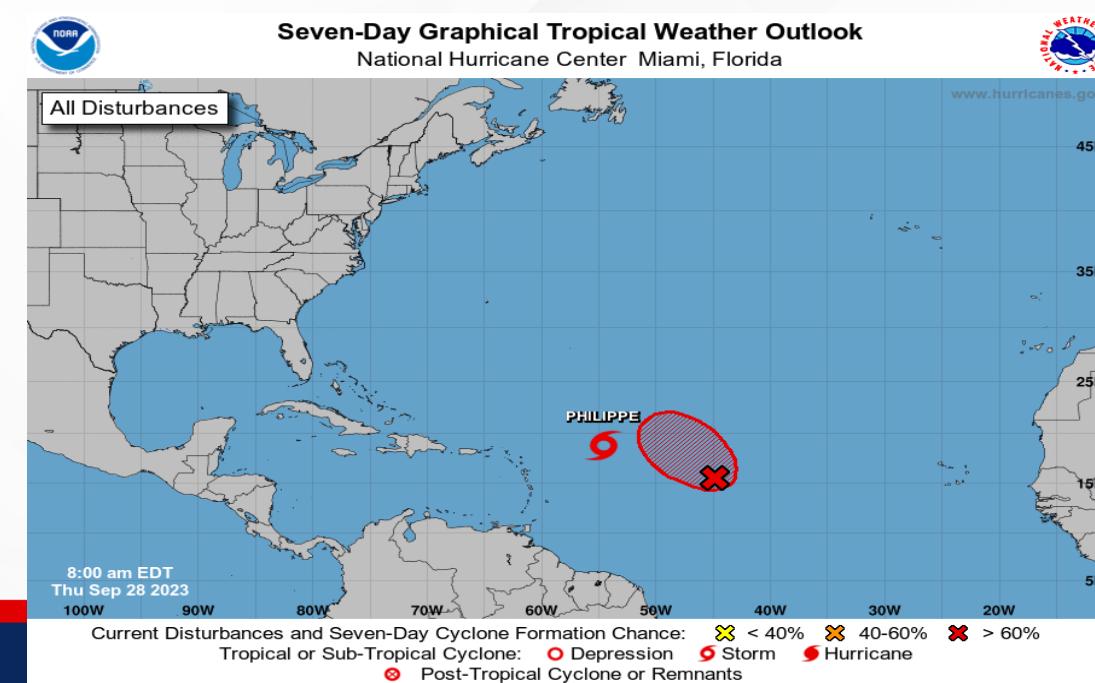
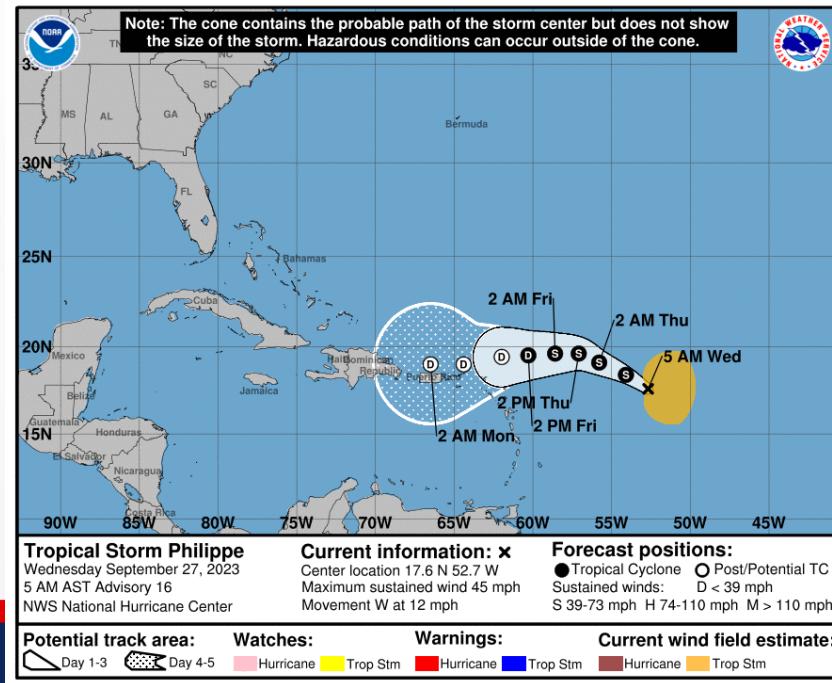
Tropical Weather

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

Tropical Storm Philippe: As of 5:00 AM EDT, Tropical Storm Philippe was located about 560 miles east of the Northern Leeward Islands and moving west-northwestward at 5 mph. A slow west-northwestward to westward motion is forecast during the next day or so, followed by a slower westward to west-southwestward motion by this weekend. Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next day or so, followed by a slower westward to west-southwestward motion by this weekend. *Philippe poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 5-7 days at least.*

Central Tropical Atlantic (Invest 91L): Showers and thunderstorms continue to show signs of organization in association with an area of low pressure located roughly halfway between the Cabo Verde Islands and the Lesser Antilles. Environmental conditions are forecast to be conducive for development, as long as this system remains far enough removed from Tropical Storm Philippe to its west. A tropical depression or storm is expected to form later today or Friday while the system moves northwestward across the central tropical Atlantic. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida at this time.*

* Formation chance through 48 hours and 7 days... **high...90%**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy easterly to northeasterly winds will create a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** along all Panhandle and East Coast beaches. West Coast beaches can expect a low risk for rip currents. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

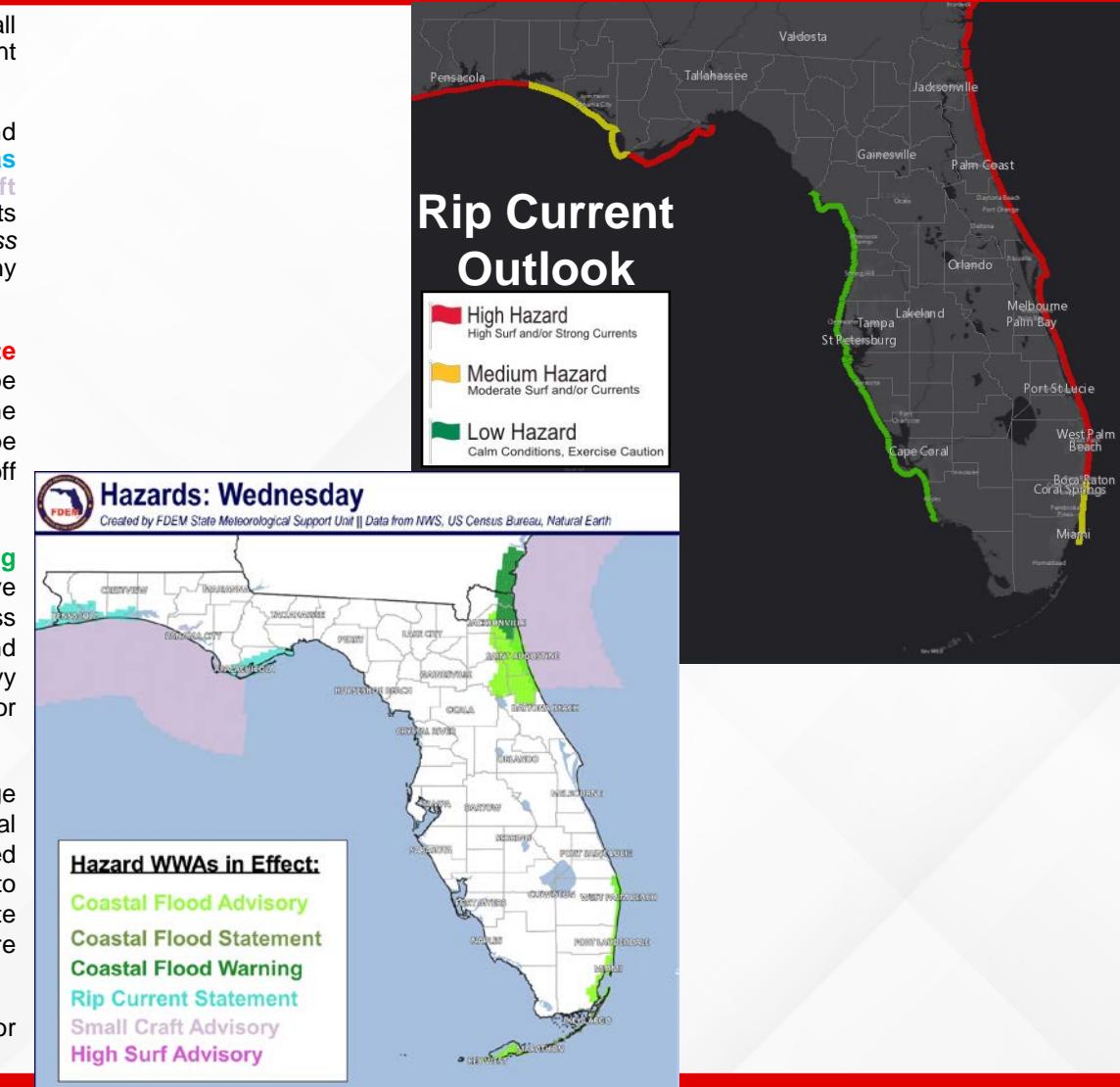
Marine Hazards: Northeasterly to easterly winds will create a large ocean swell along the southeastern U.S. coast and western Atlantic. **Small Craft Advisories** and **High Surf Advisories** have been issued along the Northeast Coast as **seas** of 6-9' and northeasterly winds of 15-25 kts are expected with **large breaking waves** of 5-7' in the surf. A **Small Craft Advisory** is also in effect for the Panhandle as seas of 3-5' with east winds up to 20 kts with frequent gusts up to 25 kts are expected. All other beaches can expect wave heights of 1-3'. *Shower and thunderstorm activity developing across South Florida could bring locally choppy surf and rough beach conditions.* **Red Tide** has not been observed along any Florida coastline.

Coastal Flooding: A **Coastal Flood Warning** is in effect along the Northeast Florida Coast as **minor to moderate coastal flooding** is expected at or near high tide due to the astronomical tides (King Tides) and **beach erosion** will be possible. **Coastal Flood Advisories** are in place along the First Coast to the Space Coast, Southeast Florida and the Lower Keys with **Coastal Flood Statements** in the Upper Keys as **minor coastal flooding** and **beach erosion** cannot be ruled out. Additional rainfall over these areas may lead to instances of localized flooding as rainfall struggles to runoff along coastal areas.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** from Northeast Florida, along the I-4 corridor and south through Central and South Florida as tropical moisture will give way to heavy and intense downpours within shower and thunderstorm activity. An additional 1-3" will be possible across the Peninsula, with **locally higher totals** of 4-5" possible along portions of South and East Florida. Saturated grounds and soils may exacerbate **localized flooding** across portions of the Peninsula during additional heavy rainfall today. Heavy and intense downpours may lead to **localized flash flooding** and ponding of water across urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas.

Riverine Flooding: The [Peace River at Arcadia](#) has fallen below minor flood stage and remains within Action Stage (bank-full). The river could see water levels rise back into **minor flood stage** this week in response to recent rainfall. Tidal portions of the St. Johns River from inland Duval county to Satsuma in Putnam county (such as [at Mayport](#)) are expected to meet and exceed minor flooding later today and tonight as elevated wave heights and breezy conditions cause water to back up. These elevated water levels are likely to continue the next few days. Additional rainfall today will likely create local rises in rivers, creeks, and waters in the Peninsula; however, riverine flooding is not anticipated at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.61 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.81 feet above normal for this time of year.



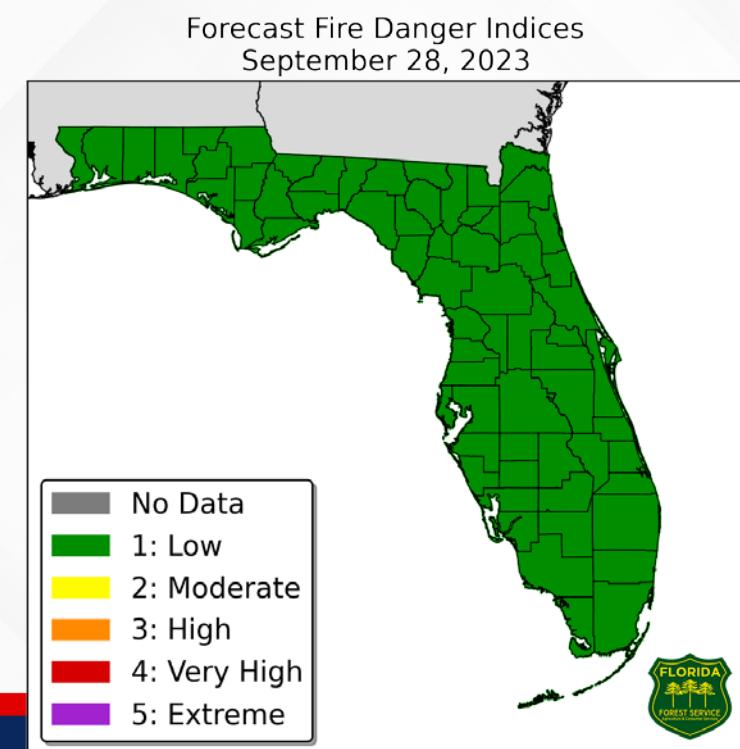
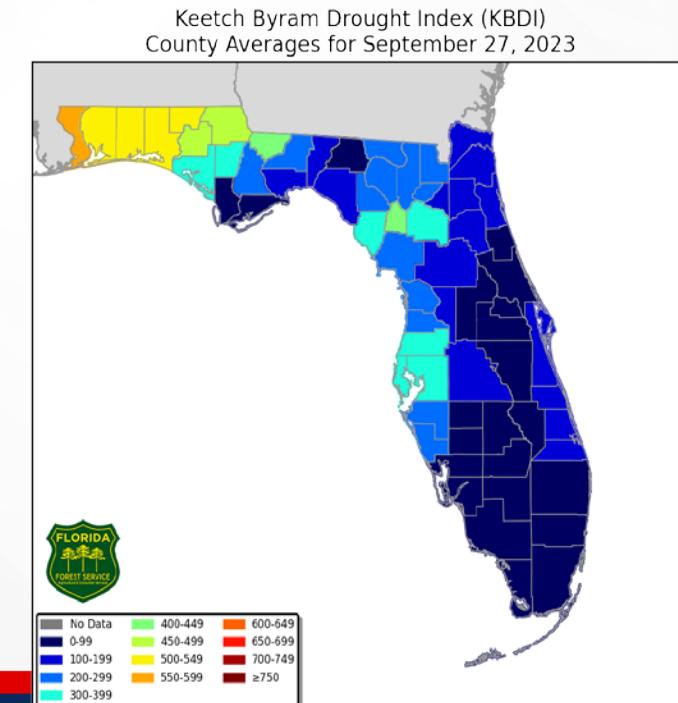
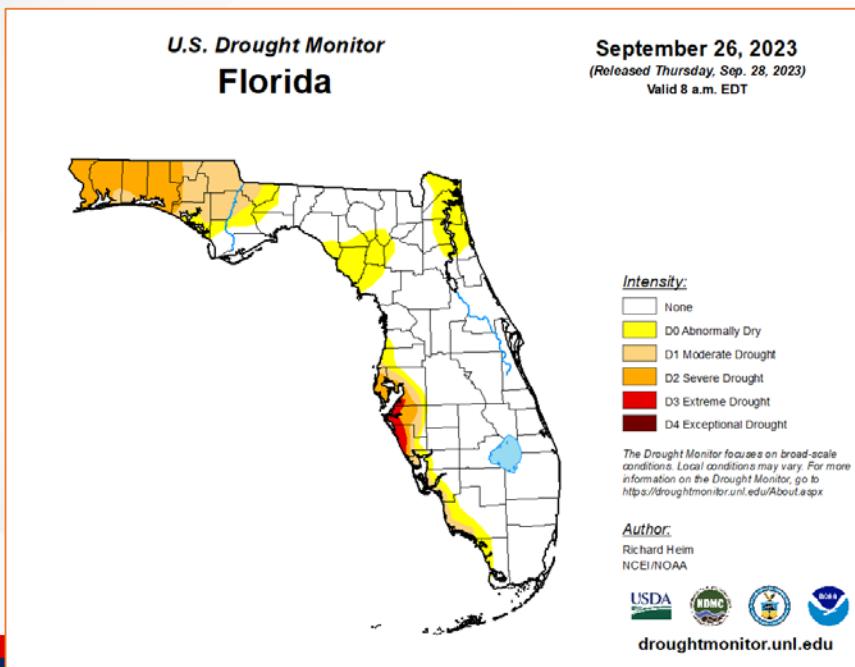


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Tropical moisture continues to surge into the Peninsula bringing another day of numerous showers and thunderstorms and keeping relative humidity values well above critical thresholds. Breezy conditions can be expected across North Florida today as high pressure to the North pushes up the frontal boundary over Central Florida. Sustained winds of 10-15 mph with gusts of 15-20 mph can be expected. Along the Northeastern Peninsula, **wind gusts** may reach upwards of **25-30 mph**. *Thunderstorms may be capable of producing frequent lightning and gusty winds.*

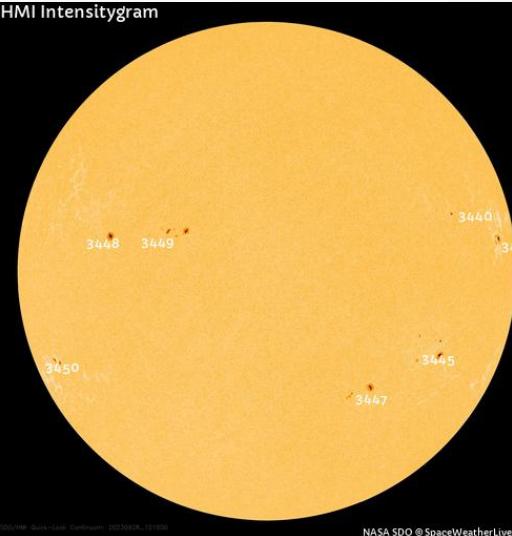
Drought: Despite widespread rainfall across portions of the state, drought conditions continue in the Florida Panhandle and Western Peninsula. **Moderate to severe drought** conditions are now noted along the Panhandle and into the western Big Bend. **Severe to extreme drought** has been maintained from Pinellas county to Charlotte county, with **Moderate drought** from Pasco county to Collier county. Abnormally Dry conditions expand further outward from these areas and have also been maintained along Northeast Florida and from the Nature Coast into the Suwannee River Valley.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **184 (-47)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **five** Florida counties (Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

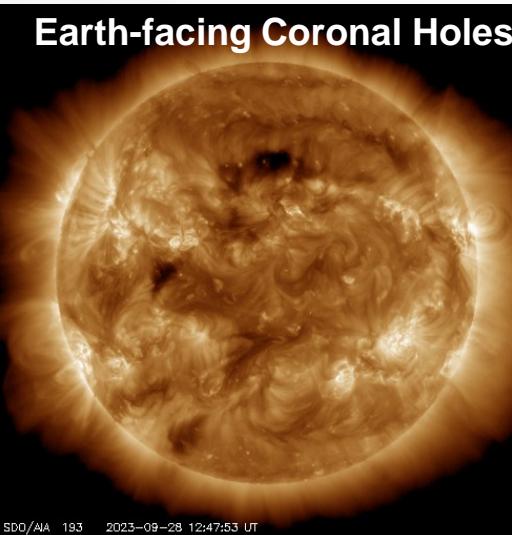




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be at low levels, with a chance for isolated strong (M-class) solar flares through Saturday due to active regions #3435 and #3445. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany stronger solar activity. A slight chance for minor (S1) solar radiation storms continues today as region #3435 begins to move beyond the western limb. A slightly enhanced, yet waning, solar wind environment will continue through Friday, with additional enhancements from a weak co-rotating interaction region (CIR) is expected by late Saturday and possible glancing influences from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) from region #3445 that occurred on 9/25. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions are expected to persist through Friday under high-speed solar wind stream (HSS) influences, becoming slightly more active Saturday due to Coronal Hole High Speed Streams (CH HSS) and possible glancing effects from the 9/25 CME. The overall space threat to Florida remains low.

Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C5 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48 Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
9/28	9/29
Max K _p = 2 (G0)	Max K _p = 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



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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