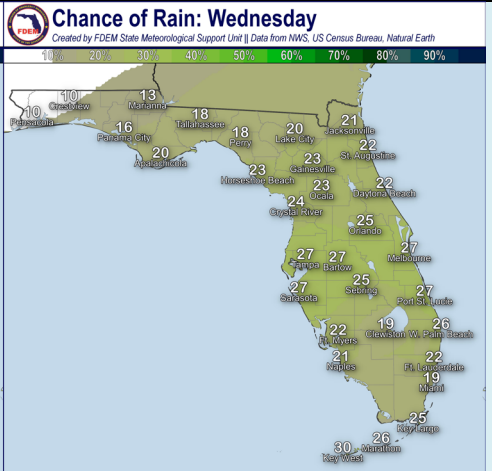
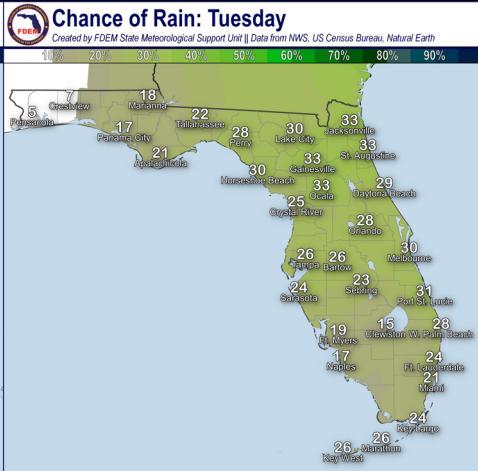
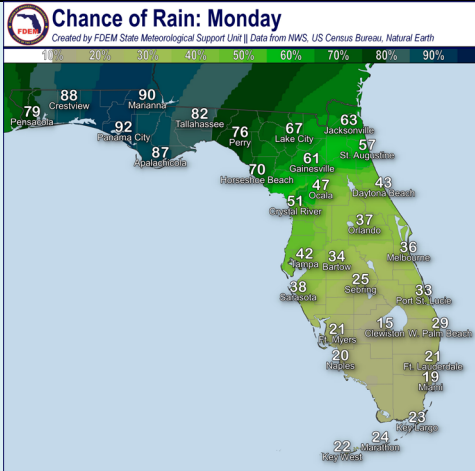
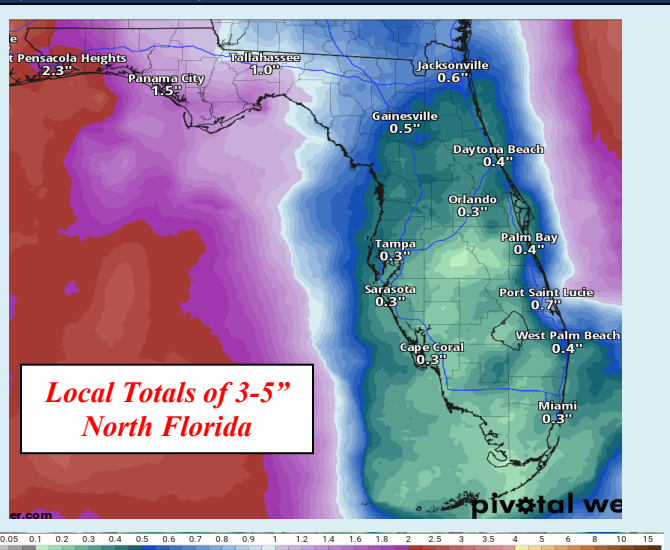
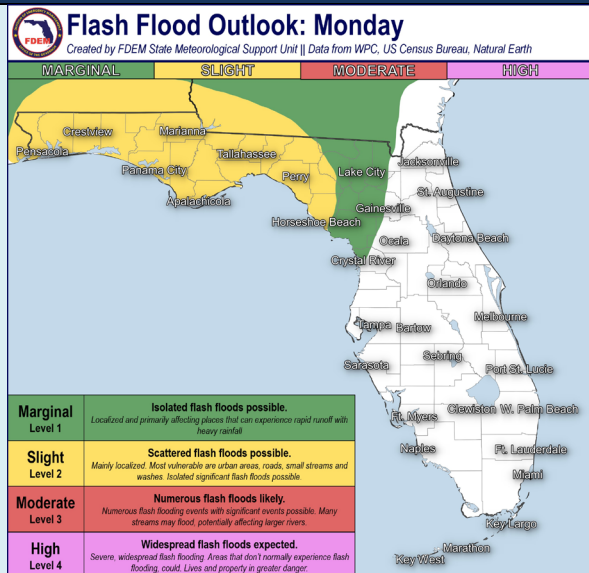


| Friday, December 22, 2023 | | | | | 5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| No Threat | | Low Threat | | Moderate Threat | | High Threat | | |
| Day | Lightning | Tornado | Damaging Wind | Hail | Flash Flooding | River Flooding | Freeze (Overnight) | Rip Currents |
| Fri | | | | | | Locally Big Bend & N-Peninsula | | East Coast Panhandle Gulf Coast |
| Sat | | | | | | Big Bend & N-Peninsula | | East Coast Panhandle Gulf Coast |
| Sun | Panhandle | Locally Iso. Panhandle | Locally Iso. FL Panhandle | | W-Panhandle Panhandle | Big Bend & N-Peninsula | | Panhandle & East Coast Gulf Coast |
| Mon | Panhandle North Florida | Locally Iso. Panhandle | Locally Iso. FL Panhandle | | FL Panhandle NW Peninsula | Locally Big Bend & N-Peninsula | | Panhandle & East Coast Gulf Coast |
| Tue | N-Peninsula Iso. North FL | | | | Locally Iso. North FL | Locally Big Bend & N-Peninsula | | Panhandle & Locally Statewide |
| Wed | Iso. Statewide | | | | | Locally Big Bend & N-Peninsula | Locally Iso. W Panhandle | Locally Statewide Gulf Coast |
| Thu | | | | | | Big Bend & N-Peninsula | Locally Iso. Panhandle | Locally Statewide Gulf Coast |



Chance of Rain: Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday



WPC Excessive Rainfall Outlook: Monday

Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Thursday Night



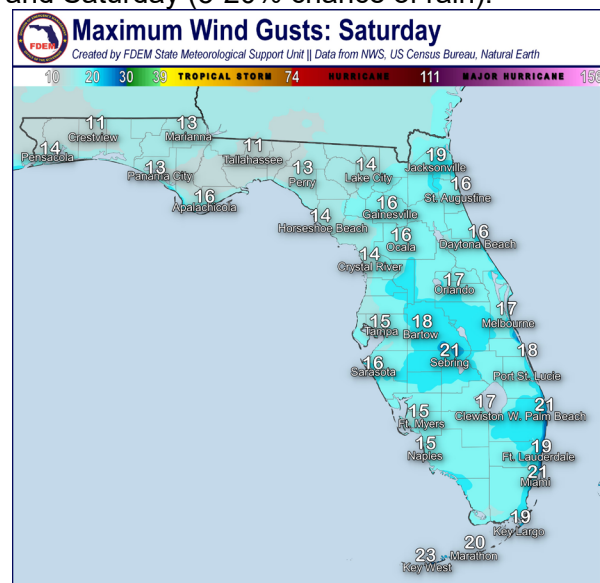
...Dry Conditions Will Persist Statewide Through Saturday...Frontal Boundaries Associated With A Midwest Low Will Bring Soggy Conditions To North Florida this Christmas...Scattered to Numerous Showers and Thunderstorms Expected Across North Florida Sunday Night to Monday Night...Marginal Risk (Level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding Sunday With A Slight Risk (Level 2 of 4) Monday In the Florida Panhandle...Strong to Severe Storms Capable of Producing Frequent Lightning, Damaging Wind Gusts, An Isolated Tornado Or Two, and Heavy Downpours May Be Possible...Isolated to Scattered Showers Statewide Through Thursday...Gradual Warming Expected Before Cooler Conditions Return Early to Mid-Week Behind A Cold Front...Riverine Flooding Will Likely Persist Along Several Rivers In North Florida Into Next Week...Breezy Conditions Expected Over the Next Several Days With Gusts Upwards of 15-25 MPH Sunday...Breezy Winds Likely To Produce Ocean Swells and Hazardous Beach and Boating Conditions Along Florida Coastlines Into Early Next Week...Moderate to High Risk for Rip Currents Along The Panhandle and East Coast Over the Next 7 Days...Elevated Risk Possible Along the Gulf Coast Monday and Tuesday...

Friday – Saturday:

The area of high pressure that has remained situated over the eastern U.S. this week will begin to shift eastward today but continue to promote mostly dry and pleasant conditions across the state into the weekend. A few scattered showers will continue to be possible along the Eastern Peninsula and Keys as onshore flow persists throughout the day today and Saturday (5-20% chance of rain).

Conditions will continue to gradually warm into the weekend. High temperatures will reach the middle to upper 60s across the Florida Panhandle today with upper 60s to low 70s across the Northern Peninsula, low 70s across Central Florida, and middle 70s across South Florida and the Keys. Saturday, all North Florida will warm into the low 70s with middle to upper 70s elsewhere. While **wind gusts** will generally remain around **15-20 mph** statewide today, breezy conditions will persist along the Peninsula Saturday with northeasterly to easterly winds **gusting up to 20-25 mph**. Breezy conditions will continue to create **ocean swells** and yield **hazardous beach and boating conditions** along portions of the Atlantic Coast. Several rivers and waterways remain in **minor to moderate flood stage** across the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula thanks to this past weekend's heavy rainfall. While some of these rivers have crested, **minor flooding** is forecast to persist along some rivers into the weekend.

Isolated showers may linger along the East Coast and Keys into the evening and early overnight hours as onshore flow persists tonight and Saturday (5-20% chance of rain). An isolated shower or two will also begin to develop over the Panhandle Saturday night as an upper-level low develops over the Midwest U.S. (5-10% chance of rain). Low temperatures will remain in the middle to upper 40s across the Florida Panhandle tonight and in the low to middle 50s Saturday night. Warmer overnight conditions can be expected elsewhere tonight and Saturday night with low to middle 50s across the Northern Peninsula, upper 50s across Central Florida, 60s across South Florida, and upper 60s along the Keys. Onshore flow will keep areas along the East Coast slightly warmer than adjacent inland areas overnight. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** may develop across portions of North and Central Florida overnight and into the following morning each day, quickly dissipating after sunrise.



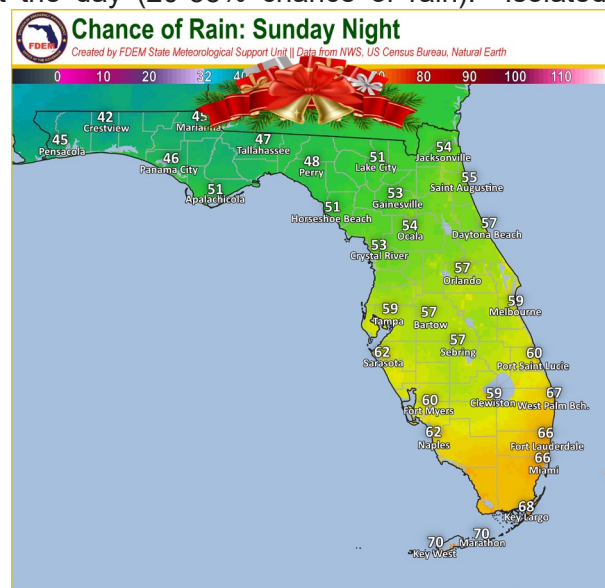
Sunday – Tuesday:



flooding and **ponding of water** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Isolated **strong to severe thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out late Sunday as the active weather pattern develops. A warm front will make its through from the southwest Monday, fueling scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms across North Florida (65-95% chance of rain). The warm front will linger along the Peninsula Monday night as a cold front begins to move into the Panhandle from the west, allowing scattered showers and thunderstorms to persist across the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula (50-70% chance of rain). Isolated to widely scattered showers will develop elsewhere **Christmas Day** (10-35% chance of rain). There is a **Slight Risk for Flash Flooding** across the Florida Panhandle Monday with a **Marginal Risk** extending into the Northwestern Peninsula as **instances of flooding** and **ponding of water** over already saturated, urban, and low-lying/poor drainage areas will be possible as heavy rainfall continues to develop. While a severe weather outlook has not yet been issued, **strong to severe thunderstorms** producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph), an isolated tornado or two, and heavy downpours will likely be possible across portions of North Florida Monday. As the cold front pushes through the state Tuesday, drier air will begin to return; however, scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue statewide throughout the day (20-35% chance of rain). Isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out Tuesday with additional over already saturated grounds.

High temperatures in the 70s can be expected along the Peninsula and Keys Sunday through Tuesday. North Florida will see high temperatures in the upper 60s to low 70s today and Monday cool to the middle to upper 60s Tuesday following the passage of the cold front. Winds will become more southerly and then westerly as the fronts pass through during the period. Sustained winds of around 10-15 mph can be expected with **higher gusts** Monday through Thursday. Stronger winds may be possible near the cold front as it moves into the state Monday. Breezy conditions will likely continue to create **ocean swells** and **hazardous beach and boating conditions** multiple Florida coastlines late this weekend and early

Soggy conditions can be expected to develop across portions of the state for the **Christmas Holiday Weekend** as an upper-level Midwest low moves northeastward, dragging frontal boundaries through the state. A few scattered showers will persist along the East Coast and Keys with continued onshore flow Sunday afternoon (10-20% chance of rain) as isolated to scattered showers begin to make their way into the Panhandle (25-50% chance of rain). Showers and thunderstorms will become more numerous and widespread across the Panhandle and Western Big Bend overnight Sunday as the frontal boundaries approach (60-95% chance of rain). There is a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** Sunday in the far Western Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending eastward along the Panhandle as heavy downpours may give way to localized **instances of**



next week. Heavy rainfall may lead to water level rises in rivers and waterways and prolong **riverine flooding** across portions of North Florida early next week.

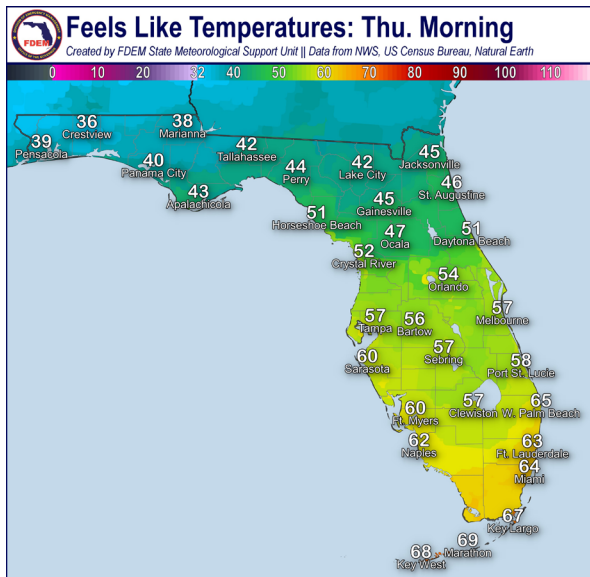
Low temperatures will remain warmer Sunday and Monday night, dipping closer to normal Tuesday night across portions of the state following the passage of the cold front. Low temperatures will remain in the upper 50s to low 60s across North Florida Sunday and Monday night with 60s along the Peninsula and low 70s in the Keys. Tuesday, the Florida Panhandle will fall back into the 40s overnight with low to middle 50s across the Northern Peninsula behind the passing cold front. Low temperatures in the upper 50s can be expected across Central Florida with low to middle 60s in South Florida and upper 60s to low 70s in the Keys through the period.

Wednesday – Thursday:

The cold front will make its way through Central and South Florida Wednesday and push offshore of South Florida Thursday, allowing isolated to scattered showers to persist across the Peninsula and into the Panhandle (15-45% chance of rain).

High temperatures will reach the low to middle 60 across the Florida Panhandle, middle to upper 60s across the Northern Peninsula, low to middle 70s in South Florida, and middle to upper 70s in South Florida and the Keys Wednesday. Cooler conditions will filter in Thursday with high temperatures in the middle 50s across the Florida Panhandle, upper 50s to low 60s in the Northern Peninsula, middle 60s in Central Florida, upper 60s to low 70s in South Florida, and middle 70s along the Keys. Breezy winds may begin to calm slightly; however, sustained winds of around 10-15 mph with **higher gusts** will likely persist along the Eastern Peninsula. Instances of **minor riverine flooding** will likely linger across portions of North Florida through the work week as water levels respond to Monday's heavy rainfall.

A few isolated showers will likely persist statewide into the overnight hours Wednesday night (15-40% chance of rain). While a few isolated showers may continue through Thursday night as well, rain chances will likely begin to decrease as drier air moves in behind the recent cold front. Low temperatures will fall into the **upper 30s** to middle 40s across the Florida Panhandle Wednesday night with middle to upper 40s in North Florida, middle 50s in Central Florida, upper 50s to low 60s in South Florida, and upper 60s in the Keys. Lingering breezy conditions may create **"feels-like" temperatures** in the **middle to upper 30s** in the Panhandle and low to middle 40s across the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula overnight and into Thursday morning. **Low temperatures will likely be even cooler** statewide Thursday night as high pressure and colder air begin to push back into the eastern U.S. behind the cold front.

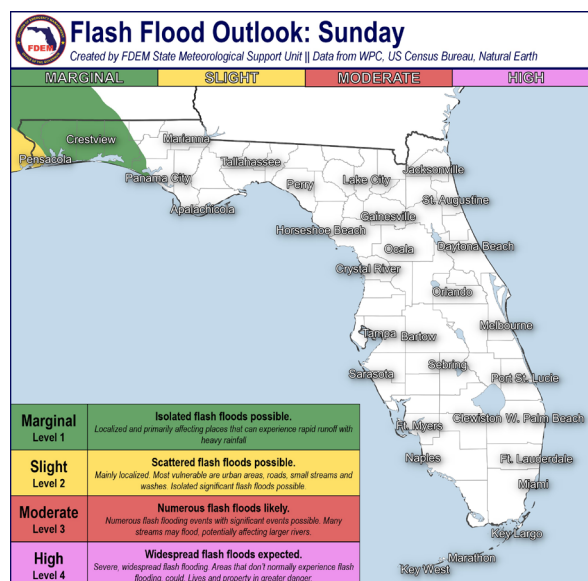


Hydrology & Flooding:

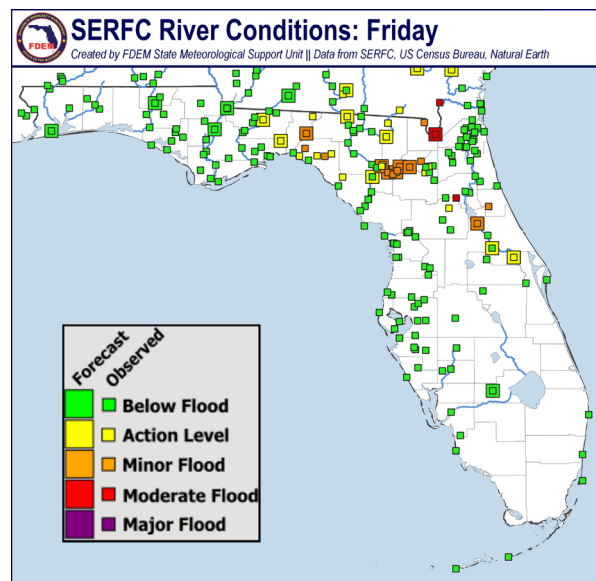
There is no risk of flash flooding over the next 2 days as high pressure remains stationed over the eastern U.S., suppressing shower and thunderstorm development. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms capable of producing locally heavy rainfall will begin to move into the Panhandle ahead of an upper-level Midwest low Sunday. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** Sunday in the far Western Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending eastward along the Panhandle as heavy downpours may give way to localized **instances of flooding** and **ponding of water** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Over the next 3 days, widespread rainfall totals of 1-2" can be expected along the



Panhandle with locally higher totals of 2-3" possible. The rest of the state will see widespread rainfall totals remain below 1" with locally higher totals of around 1-2" possible along the Central-East Coast thanks to isolated showers developing with onshore flow. WPC is outlooking a **Slight Risk for Flash Flooding** across the Florida Panhandle Monday with a **Marginal Risk** extending into the Northwestern Peninsula as a frontal boundary along the coastal Panhandle gives way to numerous and widespread showers and thunderstorms capable of producing heavy downpours throughout the day. Isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out Tuesday over already saturated grounds and vulnerable areas as a cold front pushes into the state from the west, allowing isolated to scattered showers to persist statewide. Over the next 5 days, widespread rainfall totals of 1-3" can be expected across North Florida with locally higher totals of 3-5" possible in the Florida Panhandle. Isolated to scattered showers will continue across the Peninsula Wednesday and Thursday as the cold front slowly pushes southward through Central and South Florida. Flooding is not currently anticipated with these lingering showers as rainfall will likely remain light and brief. For the latest flash flood outlooks, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](#).



River Flood Warnings remain in effect for several Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley and Northeast Florida rivers and creeks following heavy rainfall over the weekend. **Moderate flooding** is ongoing for the [St. Mary's River at Macclenny](#) and is forecast to continue through early Saturday. The [St. Johns River at Astor](#) remains in **minor flood stage**, and water levels are forecast to hold steady



before very slowly declining into next week. **Minor flooding** is still ongoing or forecast begin later today along the [Aucilla River at Lamont](#), [Econfina near Perry](#), [Sante Fe River near Worthington Springs](#), [O'Leno State Park](#) and [Fort White](#). Runoff from rainfall will continue to deposit into rivers, creeks and waterways allowing some local rises in water levels; however, further riverine flooding is not anticipated over the next few days with a drier pattern persisting. While widespread riverine flooding is not anticipated over the next 7 days, additional heavy rainfall anticipated across the Florida Panhandle and into the Northern Peninsula later this weekend and early next week may lead to further water level rises in already flooding rivers and waterways, **prolonging existing flood conditions**, and may push additional already elevated rivers and waterways into **minor flood stage**. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.89', which is within the operational band and 1.20' above normal. Lake elevations remain 0.21' higher than they were at this time last week; however, lake elevations have fallen 0.15' over the past 4 days. Limited rainfall across South Florida over the next 7 days may allow water levels to hold steady or continue decreasing.

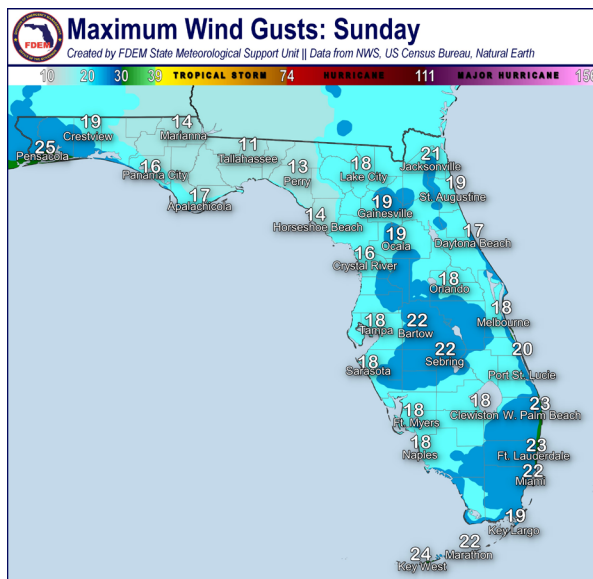


Drought & Fire Weather:

Following heavy rainfall across portions of the over the past weekend (12/16 to 12/17), marginal improvements in drought conditions have been observed. Abnormally dry to **moderate drought** conditions have been removed along the Nature Coast from Taylor County southward to Hernando County as these areas received rainfall totals upwards of 4-6" during the last rain event. Unfortunately, the highest rainfall totals were primarily observed along and north of the I-4 corridor. The Western Peninsula, which remains the most drought-stricken portion of the state at this time, only received rainfall totals of around 2-4", providing little to no relief to the existing drought conditions. **Severe to extreme drought** continues from Pasco County to Sarasota County, with abnormally dry to **moderate drought** conditions extending southward to Collier County. Year to date rainfall deficits along the Western Peninsula remain at **upwards of 16-24"** along the Gulf Coast. 90-Day rainfall deficits show some short-term improvements with 1-4" along the West Coast. Heavy rainfall possible across portions of the state late this weekend and early next week may help to improve drought conditions on next week's update.

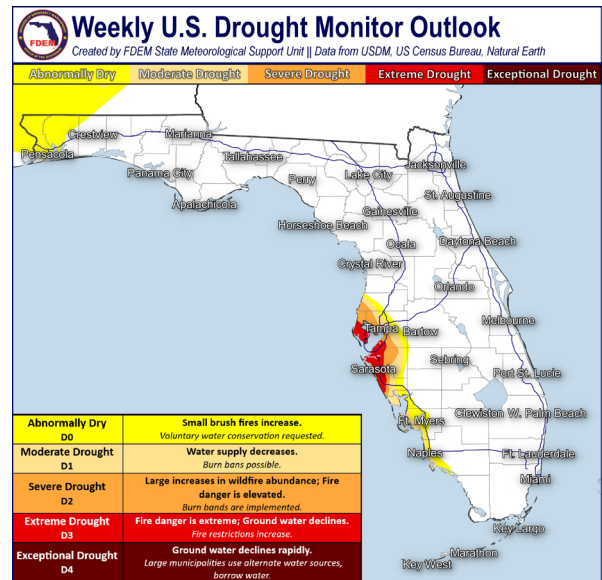
The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **86 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Relative humidity values will generally remain above critical thresholds statewide over the next 7 days as plentiful moisture returns with incoming frontal boundaries. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms can be expected across North Florida Sunday and Monday with isolated to scattered showers elsewhere across the state. Isolated to scattered showers will then continue



statewide Wednesday and Thursday. While **wind gusts** will generally remain around **15-20 mph** statewide today, breezy conditions will persist along the Peninsula Saturday with northeasterly to easterly winds **gusting up to 20-25 mph**. Winds will become more easterly to southeasterly Sunday but will continue to **gust upwards of 20-25 mph** statewide. Sustained winds of around 10-15 mph can be expected with **higher gusts** Monday through Thursday. Stronger winds may be possible near the cold front as it moves into the state Monday. *While stronger thunderstorms producing erratic winds and lightning and breezy conditions may be capable of exacerbating existing fires or starting new fires,* saturated grounds from heavy rainfall this past weekend and high relative humidity values will keep the overall wildfire threat low through the next 7 days.

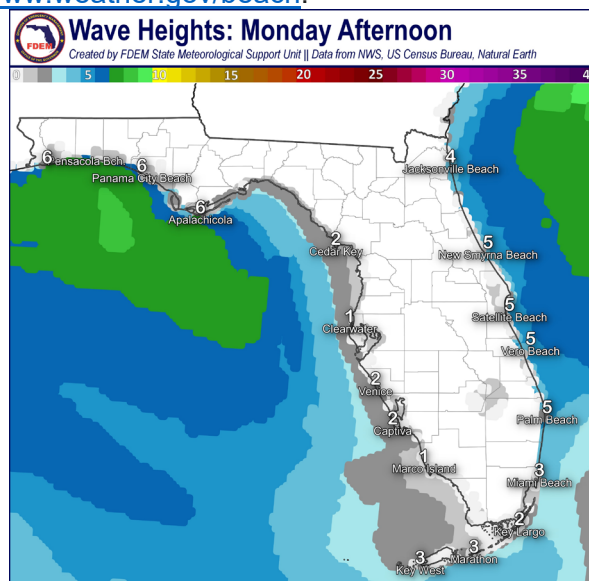
According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 2 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 20 acres (as of 1:40 PM EST).



Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** will generally persist along Panhandle and East Coast beaches over the next 7 days. The Gulf Coast will likely see a low to **locally moderate risk for rip currents** over the next 7 days with an **elevated risk** possible Monday and Tuesday stronger onshore flow develops. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Breezy winds will keep **wave heights** elevated at around **4-7'** along East Coast beaches over the next 3 days with 3-5' waves in the surf along the Atlantic-facing Keys. East Coast beaches will likely see **wave heights** return to 3-4' with 1-2' waves along the Keys Tuesday and Wednesday as winds and ocean swells begin to settle behind the expected cold front. Panhandle and Gulf Coast beaches will see wave heights of around 1-2' today and Saturday. Swells will begin to build in the Gulf Sunday as breezy southerly winds develop. Panhandle and Apalachicola beaches can expect **wave heights of 3-6'** to develop by Sunday afternoon with **locally higher 7' waves** possible. **Wave heights** along all Panhandle beaches will remain elevated Monday, returning to 2-3' Tuesday and Wednesday as winds and swells begin to dissipate. All other Big Bend and Gulf Coast beaches can expect wave heights to remain at around 1-3' through Wednesday with locally 3' waves possible Monday and Wednesday. Wave heights will likely remain around 2-4' statewide Thursday with locally higher waves possible along the East Coast.



Red Tide has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Coastal flooding is not currently anticipated along any Florida coastline over the next 7 days; however, elevated wave heights along vulnerable portions of the Atlantic Coast may create isolated instances of **minor coastal flooding** late this weekend or early next week.

Blue-Green Algae has been observed via satellite at scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee, primarily in western half of the lake. Lightly scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** has been observed on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to downtown Jacksonville. An area of more concentrated **moderate bloom potential** was observed on the St. Johns River near Jacksonville Naval Air Station. Very scattered **moderate bloom potential** has also been observed on visible portions of the Caloosahatchee Estuary; however, Blue-Green Algae has not been observed on visible portions of the St. Lucie Estuary.

[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 holiday weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

