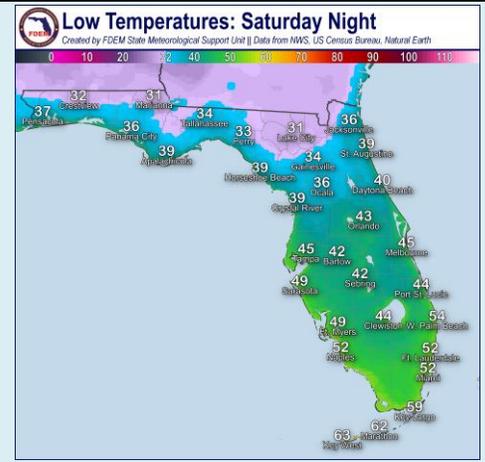
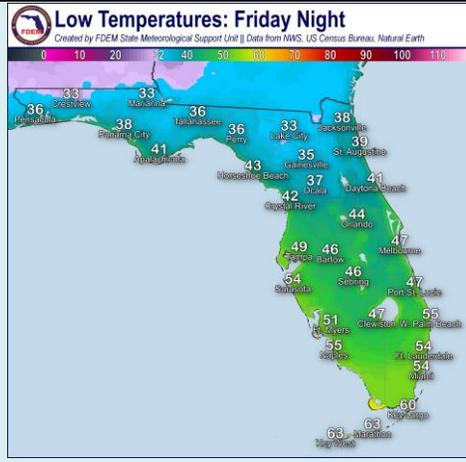
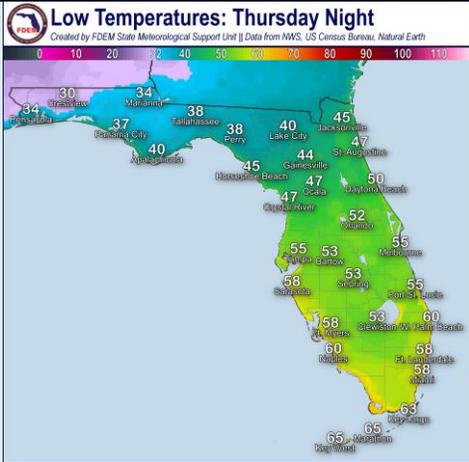


Thursday, December 28, 2023

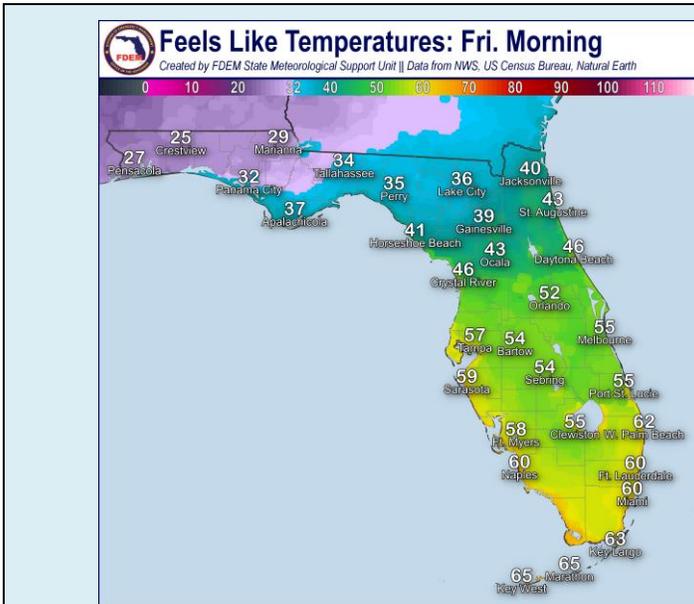
8-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado/Hail	Damaging Wind	Flash Flooding	Freeze (Overnight)	River Flooding	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Thu	South Florida & Keys		Iso. South Florida & Keys	Iso. Southwest Florida & Keys	W. Panhandle I-10 Corridor	Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley & Northeast Florida	Iso. Western Panhandle	Panhandle Elsewhere
Fri					N. Panhandle I-10 Corridor	Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley & Northeast Florida	Iso. Interior Panhandle	Panhandle & West Coast East Coast
Sat					I-10 Corridor North Florida & Nature Coast	Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley & Northeast Florida	Iso. Interior Panhandle	Panhandle & West Coast East Coast
Sun					Iso. Suwannee River Valley	Northeast Florida	Iso. Northeast Florida	Panhandle & West Coast East Coast
Mon						Northeast Florida		West Coast Panhandle & East Coast
Tue	Iso Panhandle Coast (Overnight)							Panhandle Elsewhere
Wed	Iso. Panhandle & Big Bend							Panhandle Elsewhere
Thu	Iso. Nature Coast & Central FL							Panhandle NE FL Elsewhere

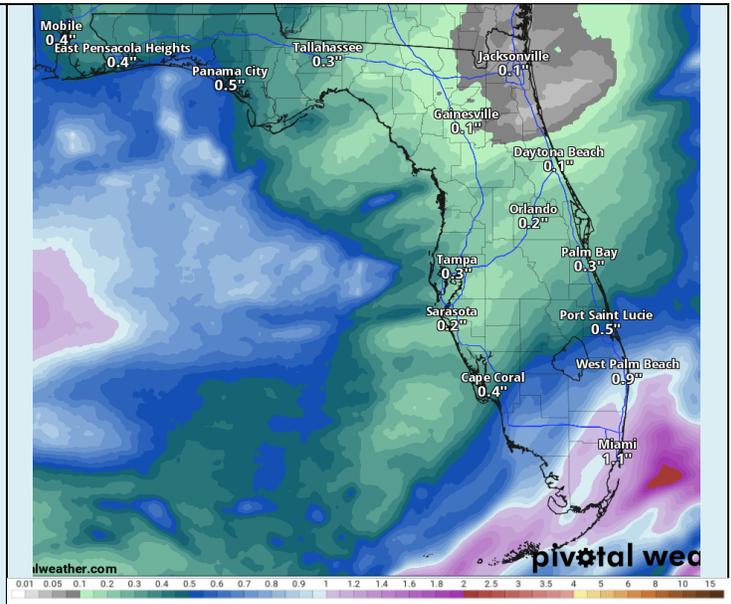


Forecast Low Temperatures: Thursday, Friday & Saturday Night



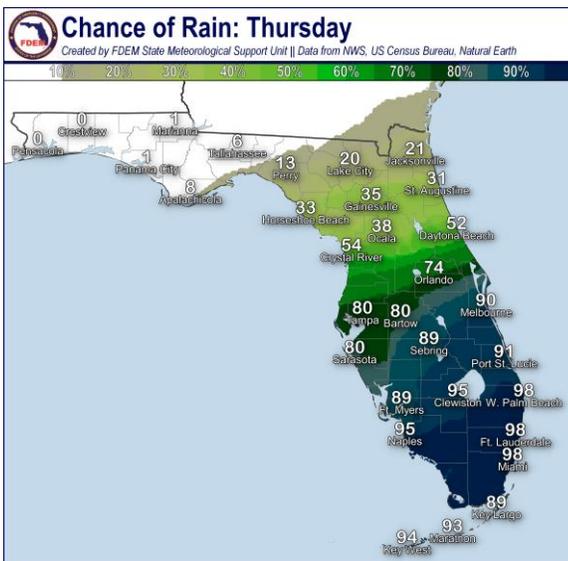


Feels-Like Temperatures – Friday Morning



Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Wednesday Night

...Upper-Level Disturbance Moving Across Southern Peninsula and Keys Bringing Widespread Rainfall to the Peninsula...Isolated Thunderstorms Possible Thursday Morning Near Florida Keys...Cold Front Pushing Eastward Across Panhandle During the Day and Into Peninsula Overnight...Below Normal Temperatures for this Time of Year Setting Up Overnight Thursday and Into Holiday Weekend...Patchy to Widespread Frost and Light Freeze Across Much of North Florida and Towards I-4 Corridor Overnight Friday and Into Saturday Morning...Temperatures Rebound Slightly for New Years...Second Cold Front Moving In Early Next Week; Not Much In Terms of Rainfall Anticipated...Another Upper-Level Disturbance Moving Along Northern Gulf of Mexico Mid-Week...



Thursday:

A weak upper-level disturbance will push inland along the I-4 corridor on Thursday bringing widespread showers across the Peninsula (75-95% chance of rain). This weak system is not anticipated to bring much in terms of thunderstorm activity, but an isolated thunderstorm or two cannot be ruled out along the Gulf waters and the southern Peninsula as the system's weak warm front moves inland. **Breezy winds gusts of 25-30 mph** can be expected to develop Thursday morning and continue into the afternoon hours as the center of the system moves onshore and towards the Atlantic waters. This system is expected to push through the Peninsula and re-emerge offshore along the Atlantic waters by Thursday evening. The reinforcing cold front behind this system will move eastward along the I-10 corridor and across the

northern Peninsula, bringing isolated showers along the boundary (25-40% chance of rain). While there is no organized risk for flash flooding, multiple showers or training showers along the southern Peninsula coastline could lead to locally higher rainfall totals of 1-2". Drier and cooler air will move in



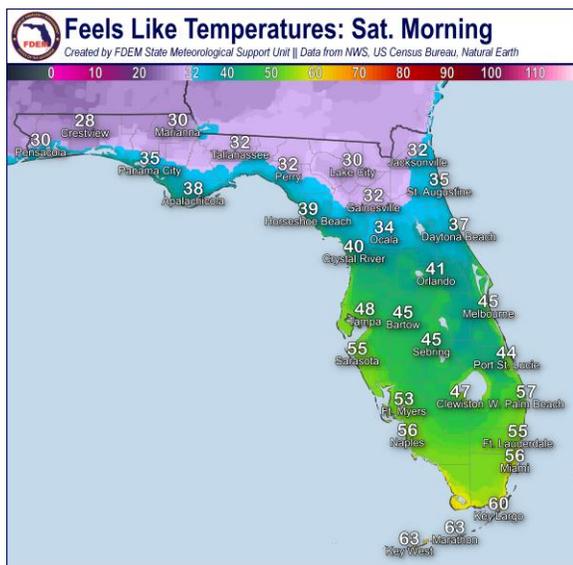
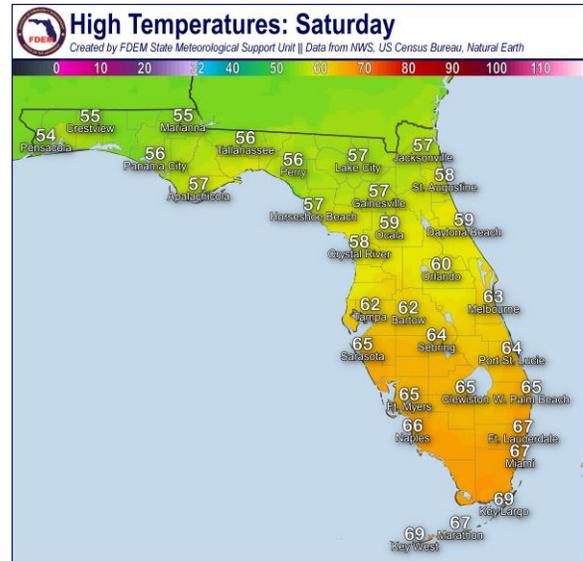
behind the cold front as an area of high pressure builds behind it. High temperatures in the middle 50s to middle 60s can be expected across the Panhandle and upper 60s to low 70s throughout the Peninsula. Low temperatures will fall into the **low to middle 30s** across the Panhandle and Big Bend, upper 30s to middle 40s across Northeast Florida and the northern Peninsula, low to middle 50s throughout Central Florida and upper 50s to low 60s across South Florida and the Keys.

Temperatures will feel-like they are in the **middle to upper 20s** across the western Panhandle and **low to middle 30s** across the eastern Panhandle and Big Bend early Friday morning. **Patchy frost** could develop overnight and early Friday morning along the far western Panhandle where there are light winds and mostly clear skies. Lingering moisture and cloud cover across South Florida may allow for areas of **patchy fog** to develop overnight and early Friday morning.

Friday – Sunday:

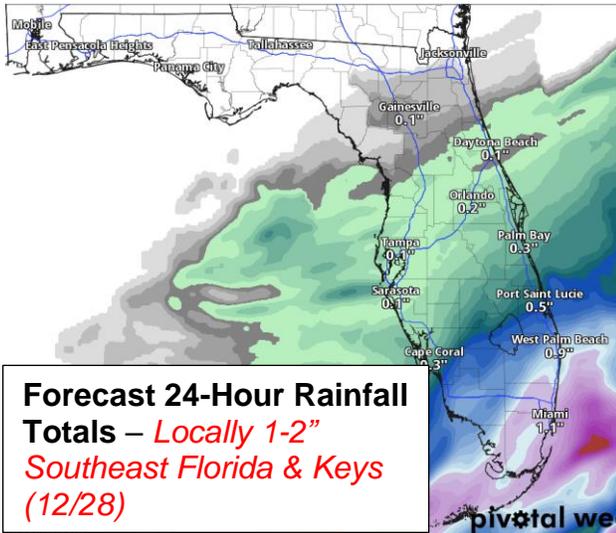
In the wake of a passing cold front, high pressure will build over the southern U.S. bringing much cooler and drier air across the state (near 0-5% chance of rain). A few isolated showers may be possible along the Florida Keys on Friday and Saturday where there is lingering moisture behind the front (15-20% chance of rain). Any shower activity that does develop will remain light and brief. Gulf waters along the Big Bend and Nature Coast could see a stray shower or two Friday and Saturday, but drier air inland will keep rain limited to the waters and immediate coastline. Breezy **wind gusts of 20-25 mph** will develop across Northeast Florida on Friday and Saturday. Cloud cover will start to clear out through the latter part of this week and over the weekend allowing for mostly sunny skies to return statewide by Sunday.

Much cooler conditions and below normal temperatures can be expected beginning Friday and continue into the holiday weekend. High temperatures in the middle to upper 50s can be expected across North Florida, low to middle 60s across Central Florida and upper 60s to low 70s across South Florida through the weekend. Low temperatures overnight will fall into the **low to middle 30s** across the I-10 corridor and northern Panhandle with the help of mostly clear skies. **Wind Chill Advisories** may be needed along portions of Northeast Florida as winds near 10 mph are anticipated. *If winds are able to remain below 10 mph, these advisories will not be needed.* Areas of **patchy frost** may develop overnight and early Friday morning along portions of North Florida. Temperatures will feel-like they are in the **upper 20s to low 30s** across interior North Florida and along I-10 early Saturday morning. Areas closer to the coast will have feels-like temperatures in the middle to upper 30s through Nature Coast and the northern Peninsula. Coastal regions across North Florida and the northern Peninsula can expect low temperatures in the upper 30s to middle 40s overnight. Central and South Florida will see low temperatures in the upper 40s to middle 50s overnight. **Widespread frost and a light freeze** can be anticipated overnight Friday and into Saturday morning across much of North Florida. Overnight Saturday and



Wind Chill Advisories may be needed along portions of Northeast Florida as winds near 10 mph are anticipated. *If winds are able to remain below 10 mph, these advisories will not be needed.* Areas of **patchy frost** may develop overnight and early Friday morning along portions of North Florida. Temperatures will feel-like they are in the **upper 20s to low 30s** across interior North Florida and along I-10 early Saturday morning. Areas closer to the coast will have feels-like temperatures in the middle to upper 30s through Nature Coast and the northern Peninsula. Coastal regions across North Florida and the northern Peninsula can expect low temperatures in the upper 30s to middle 40s overnight. Central and South Florida will see low temperatures in the upper 40s to middle 50s overnight. **Widespread frost and a light freeze** can be anticipated overnight Friday and into Saturday morning across much of North Florida. Overnight Saturday and





Hydrology & Flooding:

While there is no organized risk for flash flooding, isolated rainfall totals near 1-2” will be possible across the southern Peninsula and the Florida Keys following rainfall associated with a weak low pressure system on Thursday. Multiple showers and training showers over the same regions could lead to locally higher rainfall totals across the area, leading to some nuisance to **localized flooding** at times. An isolated thunderstorm or two could bring locally heavier rainfall at times, leading to localized flooding at times especially across urban and low-lying poor drainage areas. Rainfall totals across the Peninsula are expected to remain below 0.5” as the system moves across the Peninsula on Thursday. Multiple weak systems and frontal boundaries moving across the

state over the next couple of days, with stretches of dry periods in between each of them will limit the flash flood risk.

Breezy winds associated with a weak upper-level disturbance moving across the southern Peninsula and Florida Keys could lead to instances of **minor coastal flooding** on Thursday, especially along Gulf-facing Keys. There are no additional coastal flood concerns over the next several days.

River Flood Warnings remain in effect along the Big Bend, Suwanee River Valley and Northeast Florida following heavy rainfall from 12/16-12/17 which has allowed for **minor river flooding** is forecast to continue. The [St. Johns River at Astor](#) is forecast to remain within **minor flood stage** until further notice while water levels slowly decline. Drier conditions and lack of significant rainfall over the next couple of days will lead to water levels steadily declining through minor flood stage later this week and over the weekend. The [Santa Fe River at O’Leno State Park](#) is forecast to fall below flood stage on by Thursday evening. The [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) and [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers State Park](#) and [St. Mary’s River at Macclenny](#) are forecast to fall below flood stage over the weekend. [Fisheating Creek at Palmdale](#) could rise into Action Stage (bank-full) this weekend following widespread rainfall over the Peninsula and Lake Okeechobee. There are no additional riverine concerns over the next several days. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

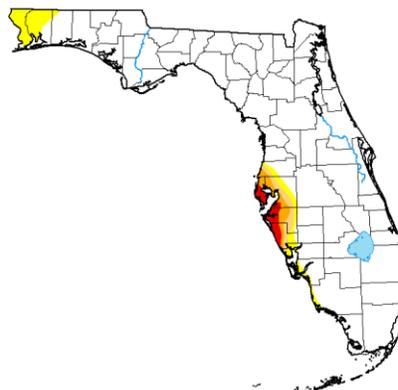
Lake Okeechobee’s average elevation is 15.97 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.32 feet above normal.

Drought:

Minimal changes were made to this week’s [Drought Monitor](#) update. The most noticeable difference was the removal of moderate drought conditions along Southwest Florida following a more active weather pattern these last few weeks. Ongoing **severe to extreme drought conditions** continue for West-Central Florida where rainfall deficits for the year are 20-22” below normal. The Ruskin, Sarasota-Bradenton and Venice areas continue to experience their **driest year-to-date** on record. Anticipated widespread rainfall today will help to chip away at the drought conditions some. A small portion of the far western Panhandle remains within abnormally

U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida

December 26, 2023
(Released Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



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:
Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



dry (emerging drought) conditions where 30-day rainfall deficits are near 1-2" below normal. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal chances for rainfall during the month of January across the Peninsula, which should help to slowly ease drought conditions. As well, with the typical El Nino pattern, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) continues to above normal rainfall chances across the Peninsula during the winter months.

Locally sensitive wildfire conditions may develop over the next few days across portions of the Panhandle and interior North Florida. Drier and colder air moving in behind a passing cold front allowing for relative humidity values to drop near critical thresholds (upper 30% to middle 40%) by the afternoon hours. Breezy winds will develop across Northeast Florida on Friday and Saturday creating **wind gusts upwards of 20-25** mph at times. Mostly dry conditions can be expected statewide beginning Friday and continuing through the holiday weekend. Recent rainfall should help to keep grounds and soils saturated, helping to keep the wildfire risk low. By early next week, rain chances across the Panhandle and Big Bend will increase as another weak cold front moves eastward. A brief dry period can be expected near midweek before another upper-level disturbance moves towards the Panhandle and Big Bend from the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **84** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

As a strong cold front progresses through the state, a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** can be expected along statewide beaches through much of the forecast period. The locally greater risk will develop along the Gulf Coast, where a **high risk of rip currents** can be expected to develop this weekend as strong onshore accompanies another transient frontal boundary. A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected to continue along the Florida East Coast through early next week. A more tranquil and dormant weather pattern will take shape Monday into Tuesday as an area of high pressure builds in the wake of the series of frontal systems. A low risk of rip currents can be expected along many Florida beaches, with a **moderate risk of rip currents** residing along the Panhandle coastline. By Wednesday, building onshore winds bring a **high risk of rip currents** to the Panhandle ahead of our next weather system, with a **moderate risk** returning to portions of the Florida East Coast by Thursday. Dangerous beach and boating conditions can be expected to continue into the later parts of next week.

Wave heights of 1-3' can be expected along Florida beaches today, with locally higher breakers reaching 3-5' possible along the Southeast Florida Coast (Palm Beach County). Surf heights will build through the weekend, with **wave heights** of 2-4' taking shape along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. Locally higher breakers in the surf zone reaching 5' cannot be ruled out along the West Coast Friday and Saturday. As we start the New Year, wave heights look to gradually return to 1-3' statewide within lingering 2-4' chop possible along the Florida Gulf Coast. 1-2' breakers in the surf zone can be expected along all Florida beaches through midweek. As our next weather system approaches along the Gulf Coast, **wave heights** will gradually build through the remainder of the forecast period. Wave heights of 2-3' return to the Florida Panhandle, with isolated breakers reaching 4' possible. By Thursday, strong onshore flow will yield **wave heights** of 3-5' can be expected along the Panhandle coastline, with **locally greater breakers** reaching 6-8' by Thursday evening along the western Florida Panhandle. Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along the Florida East Coast.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) update reports there were 10 reported site visits with samples collected at each site. Algal bloom conditions were observed by samplers at three of the sites. The best available satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows scattered low to **moderate bloom potential**, mostly in the nearshore waters along the northwestern and southeastern shores along the lake. Imagery for the St. Johns River shows lightly scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on Lake George and the mainstem of the river downstream towards the I-295 bridge. The best satellite imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary shows very scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** in the upper and lower portions of the estuary. The St. Lucie Estuary shows no bloom potential on visible portions. [Red Tide](#) has not been observed along the Florida coastline.



[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily 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 rest of the week!

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist

Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

