### 5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Damaging Wind</th>
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<td>Panhandle &amp; I-10 Corridor, Central FL</td>
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<td>I-10 Corridor, Central Florida</td>
<td>Iso, Northern Panhandle</td>
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<td>North Florida</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>Iso, Space Coast</td>
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<td>Int, Panhandle</td>
<td>North Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Iso, South Florida</td>
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<td>Locally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Northeast FL &amp; Peninsula</td>
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<td>Northeast FL &amp; Central Florida</td>
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<td>Panhandle, East Coast, West Coast</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Iso, South Florida</td>
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<td>Nature Coast &amp; Northeast Florida</td>
<td>North Florida</td>
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### Low Temperatures: Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday Night

- **Low Temperatures: Sunday Night**
- **Low Temperatures: Monday Night**
- **Low Temperatures: Tuesday Night**

### 5Ps of Cold Weather Preparedness

- **Protect Plants**
  - Cover cold-sensitive plants to protect them from dangerous temperatures.

- **Practice Fire Safety**
  - Use safe heating sources indoors. Do not use fuel-burning devices such as grills; they release deadly carbon monoxide.

- **Protect Pets**
  - Bring outdoor pets inside or provide a warm shelter for them.

- **Protect Pipes**
  - Cover pipes and allow outdoor faucets to slowly drip to prevent them from freezing and breaking.

- **Plan**
  - Dress in warm layers and wear a hat and gloves.
Active Weather Period Across Panhandle and Big Bend as Strong to Severe Thunderstorms Move Along I-10 Corridor and Central Florida...Damaging Wind Wind Gusts, Isolated Tornadoes, and Isolated Instances of Hail Possible...Cooler and Drier Conditions Behind Passing Cold Front This Weekend Across North Florida...Lingering Moisture and Front Boundary to Continue to Bring Showers and Isolated Thunderstorms Over the Weekend for Central and South Florida...Next System Moving Eastward from Western Gulf of Mexico Early Next Week Bringing Another Round of Showers and Thunderstorms...Strong Cold Front Moves Through North Florida Early Next Week...Coldest Air of the Winter Season Arriving and Possible First Hard Freeze Overnight Tuesday and Into Wednesday Morning...Low Temperatures Across North Florida In Teens and 20s; Feels-Like Temperatures In Single Digits and Teens Early Wednesday Morning...

Friday:

An active weather day can be expected to develop on Friday as a low pressure system moves northeastward from the Southern Plains and towards the Ohio Valley (75-near 100% chance of rain). During the morning hours, the systems warm front will move northward through Central Florida and into North Florida and towards the I-10 corridor. Isolated showers and a few rumbles of thunder will develop during the mid-to-late morning hours as the warm front moves northward. Once the warm front moves through, there will be a brief break before a line of strong to severe thunderstorms moves eastward along the Panhandle and I-10 corridor. Breezy wind gusts of 30-45 mph can be expected to develop across the Panhandle and along the Gulf Coast. Wind Advisories are in effect along portions of the Panhandle as winds of 20-30 mph can be expected, with wind gusts upwards of 40-50 mph at times. Later in the morning and throughout the afternoon and evening, the line of isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will push eastward into the Panhandle, Big Bend and along the I-10 corridor. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather along the I-10 corridor and throughout the Panhandle, with a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) extending into Central Florida and through the I-4 corridor. The main hazards associated with these severe thunderstorms include damaging wind gusts (50-70 mph), isolated tornadoes and isolated instances of hail. It should be noted that today’s line of thunderstorms is not as well-organized in comparison to Tuesday’s squall line. This line will continue to move eastward through the Big Bend and Northeast Florida through the afternoon and evening hours, before moving into Central Florida late in the evening and overnight. While the line will continue to weaken as it slowly moves into Central Florida, but there is still a chance for isolated strong to severe thunderstorms to continue through the late evening and overnight hours (50-75% chance of rain). High temperatures will reach the 70s and low 80s by this afternoon with the help of southerly to southeasterly winds bringing moisture northward. Behind the cold front, conditions will begin to clear out as cooler air makes it way southward. Portions of the far western Panhandle could see low temperatures near or below freezing (31-33-degrees) overnight Friday and into Saturday morning, while the rest of the Panhandle can expect low temperatures in the middle to upper 30s. From Northeast Florida and southward towards the I-4 corridor low temperatures in the middle 40s to middle 50s can be expected. Central and South Florida will see low temperatures in the 60s and low 70s overnight.
Saturday – Sunday:
Mostly dry conditions can be expected throughout the weekend across the Florida Panhandle and North Florida in the wake of the passing cold front. High pressure along the Gulf Coast states will help to keep conditions mostly dry throughout the weekend. The weakening cold front will push into South Florida Saturday morning and push through the southern Peninsula before stalling over the Florida Keys overnight Saturday and into Sunday. Isolated to scattered showers can be expected to continue throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday as moisture remains in place southern of the I-4 corridor and throughout the southern Peninsula (25-40% chance of rain). There is a chance for a few isolated thunderstorms throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, but at this time there is no organized risk for severe weather on either day. High temperatures on Saturday will be in the middle to upper 50s across North Florida, 60s across Central Florida and 70s and low 80s across South Florida. By Sunday high temperatures return to the 60s and 70s statewide. Areas along the interior Panhandle overnight Saturday and into early Sunday morning will see temperatures at or below freezing, with low temperatures in the low to middle 30s across North Florida and the Suwannee River Valley. Clearing skies and calm winds could allow for areas of patchy frost to develop overnight and early Sunday morning. Slightly warmer conditions can be expected overnight Sunday and into Monday night across North Florida with low temperatures in the middle to upper 30s and low 40s along the coastline. Isolated portions of the northern Panhandle could see low temperatures near or below freezing overnight Sunday and into Monday. Low temperatures across Central Florida will be in the middle 40s to middle 50s, while South Florida will see low temperatures in the 60s and low 70s.

Monday – Tuesday:
Our next system will develop over the western Gulf of Mexico and will gradually move eastward towards the Gulf Coast throughout the day on Monday. A stalled frontal boundary will remain just off the Panhandle coastline and along the northern Peninsula which will help to bring isolated to scattered showers can be expected to develop during the morning and afternoon hours before becoming more widespread later in the evening and into the overnight hours as the center of the system approaches the Big Bend and Nature Coast coastlines. Isolated to scattered thunderstorms can also be anticipated with this system across Northeast and Central Florida as it approaches and moves inland and across the northern Peninsula before re-emerging along the Northeast coastline early Tuesday morning. There is a chance for some of these thunderstorms to be strong to severe, depending on the extent of the frontal boundary pushing northward and the exact timing of this system. As this system develops and
pushes inland along the Big Bend and Nature Coast coastlines, a strong cold front will develop with it. This strong cold front will push eastward along the Panhandle early Tuesday morning and continue to move across the state throughout the day on Tuesday. Along the frontal boundary scattered showers and thunderstorms can be expected throughout Central and South Florida as it continues to move southward throughout the morning and afternoon hours. The frontal will push through South Florida Tuesday evening and overnight before pushing offshore. Clearing skies can be expected in the wake of the passing cold front Tuesday evening and overnight across the Panhandle and North Florida. The coldest air of the season can be expected to arrive in the wake of this frontal boundary.

High temperatures on Monday will reach the upper 50s to low 60s across North Florida, middle to upper 60s and low 70s across Central Florida and middle to upper 70s across South Florida. Colder air ushering behind the cold front will keep conditions cool on Tuesday across the Panhandle as high temperatures in the middle to upper 40s can be expected, while the rest of North Florida can expect high temperatures in the 50s. Central Florida can expect high temperatures in the 60s and middle 70s while South Florida can expect high temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s. Low temperatures overnight Monday will fall near or below freezing temperatures along the western Panhandle overnight, while the rest of the Panhandle can expect low temperatures in the middle to upper 30s. Across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida low temperatures in the middle to upper 40s and low 50s can be expected. Central and South Florida will see low temperatures in the 60s and low 70s. The first hard freeze of the winter season can be expected overnight Tuesday and into Wednesday across North Florida as low temperatures of upper teens and 20s. Breezy winds will make temperatures feel like they are in the single digits across the Panhandle and teens across North Florida. Wind Chill Advisories will likely be issued overnight and early Wednesday morning throughout North Florida. Cold air will sink southward into Central Florida allowing for low temperatures in the 30s and low 40s through Lake Okeechobee. South Florida will see low temperatures in the middle to upper 50s and low 60s.

Hydrology & Flooding:
Rainfall totals will be relatively low across North Florida as a frontal system advances eastward across the region today and Saturday. There is no organized risk for flash flooding; however, a quick 1-1.5” of rainfall cannot be ruled out within the stronger, more organized thunderstorm activity. Widespread rainfall of 1-2” can be expected across the Florida Peninsula, stretching from the Florida Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley through Lake Okeechobee. There is a Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding (level 1 of 4) outlooked for the Florida Nature Coast to Northeast Florida, mainly along and north of the I-4 corridor Monday as heavy rainfall rates may lead to localized instances of flooding and ponding of water over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Locally higher rainfall totals reaching 2-3” cannot be ruled out, especially for areas that experience multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms over the next 5 days. For the latest Flash Flood Outlooks, please visit the Weather Prediction Center.
Minor flooding remains ongoing along several North Florida rivers, creeks/streams, and waterways including the Aucilla, Apalachicola, Econfina, and Fenholloway River today, with many others running near or in Action Stage (bank-full). The Apalachicola River will remain in minor flood stage through the middle of next week, with the Econfina River and Fenholloway River in Taylor County remaining in minor flood stage until further notice. Although two additional frontal systems are expected to push through the North Florida region through the forecast period, heavy rainfall is not a primary concern with this activity. Additional riverine flooding is not anticipated. Further east, minor flooding will continue during the next several days along the St. Mary's River at Macclenny with crests likely during the upcoming weekend. River Flood Warnings remain in effect for the Santa Fe River near Three Rivers Estates this weekend; additional rises are possible along most mainstem rivers and tributaries later next week as additional rainfall occurs early next week. For more details, please visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee’s average elevation is 16.01’, which is within the operational band and 1.29’ above normal. Lake Okeechobee’s average elevation is 15.95’, which is within the operational band and 1.34’ above normal. Lake elevations have fallen 0.01’ over the past week. Limited rainfall across South Florida over the next 6 days may allow water levels to hold steady or continue decreasing.

Drought & Fire Weather:
Both short and long-term drought conditions have improved this week across Florida, with the passage of multiple frontal system. Drought improves over the western portions of the Florida Peninsula, but areas along the coastline near Tampa Bay still have over 20” rainfall deficits year-to-date. A narrow area of extreme drought continues for the immediate Sarasota and Manatee County Coasts, with areas of severe to moderate drought outline the Tampa Bay region. A small region of Abnormally Dry (emerging drought) still exists over interior Northwest Florida, but additional weather systems bringing multiple rounds of rainfall will work to limit any drought expansion.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 45 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).

Wildfire concerns will be held to a minimum across Florida over the next 5 days, courtesy of elevated rain chances, several passing frontal systems, and already saturated soils. In the wake of today and Saturday’s cold front, cooler and drier winds out of the west to northwest will allow for relative humidity values to fall to 35-45% across North Florida and the Nature Coast; however, values will remain well above critical thresholds. Lower relative humidity (40-45%) can be expected along North Florida
Sunday; however, moisture quickly returns Monday ahead of an additional round of showers and embedded thunderstorms. According to the Florida Forest Service fire dashboard, there are 3 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 5 acres (as of 12:45 PM EST).

**Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**

An active weather pattern will maintain a **high risk of rip currents** along all Gulf Coast and Southeast Florida beaches through the weekend, with a **moderate risk** extending along the Northeast and East-Central Florida coastlines. As an area of high pressure settles over the region later this weekend and early next week, a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** can be expected along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast with low risk conditions returning to West Florida. Another frontal passage on Tuesday will give way to an increasing risk of rip currents statewide, with a **moderate to high risk** expected along all Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

Breezy conditions will yield elevated **wave heights** along the Florida Panhandle today and Saturday, with **High Surf Advisories** in effect along the western portions of the region for breaking waves in the surf zone reaching 5-8' (isolated 9' possible) through Saturday morning. As winds develop a westerly component through the weekend, **3-5' waves** can be expected along the West Florida Gulf Coast by Saturday. Wave heights of 2-4' can be expected along the Florida Atlantic Coast through the weekend. As winds gradually subside through the later weekend and early parts of next week, wave heights will subside to 2-4' statewide with locally higher breakers in the surf zone reaching 5' possible.

**Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week. Organized coastal flooding is not anticipated over the next 5 days. Breezy onshore flow and elevated surf could cause localized beach erosion issues along the Florida Panhandle and Apalachee Bay coastlines; however, this event will not be long in duration to yield widespread coastal flood concerns.

**Blue-Green Algae** has been observed via satellite imagery at low to **moderate bloom potential** on 5-10% of the lake, primarily in nearshore waters along the western shoreline. Satellite imagery shows lightly scattered low bloom potential on Lake George and the mainstem of the river downstream to just south of Doctors Lake. There is also scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** in both the upper and lower reaches of the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

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.

Have a wonderful and safe weekend!
Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)