



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, January 24, 2024



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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Ben Mauro	(850) 566-4904	Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Siddall	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Melissa James	(850) 566-6422	Melissa.James@em.myflorida.com
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com
Logistics Chief	Orlando Arindell	(850) 759-6967	Orlando.Arindell@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	Office Admin
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Region 2 Quarterly Meeting Prep
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Lafayette, Taylor	EM Visits
Region 4: James Carter	Duval	Jax Ready Fest / North central HCC Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Office Admin
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Citrus	Special Needs Meeting
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Lee	RDSTF Meeting
Region 8: Karen Kozac	St. Lucie	Office Admin
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)



Region 9 Coverage Provided by RRC 9
Region 10 Coverage Provided by RRC 10

RC Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

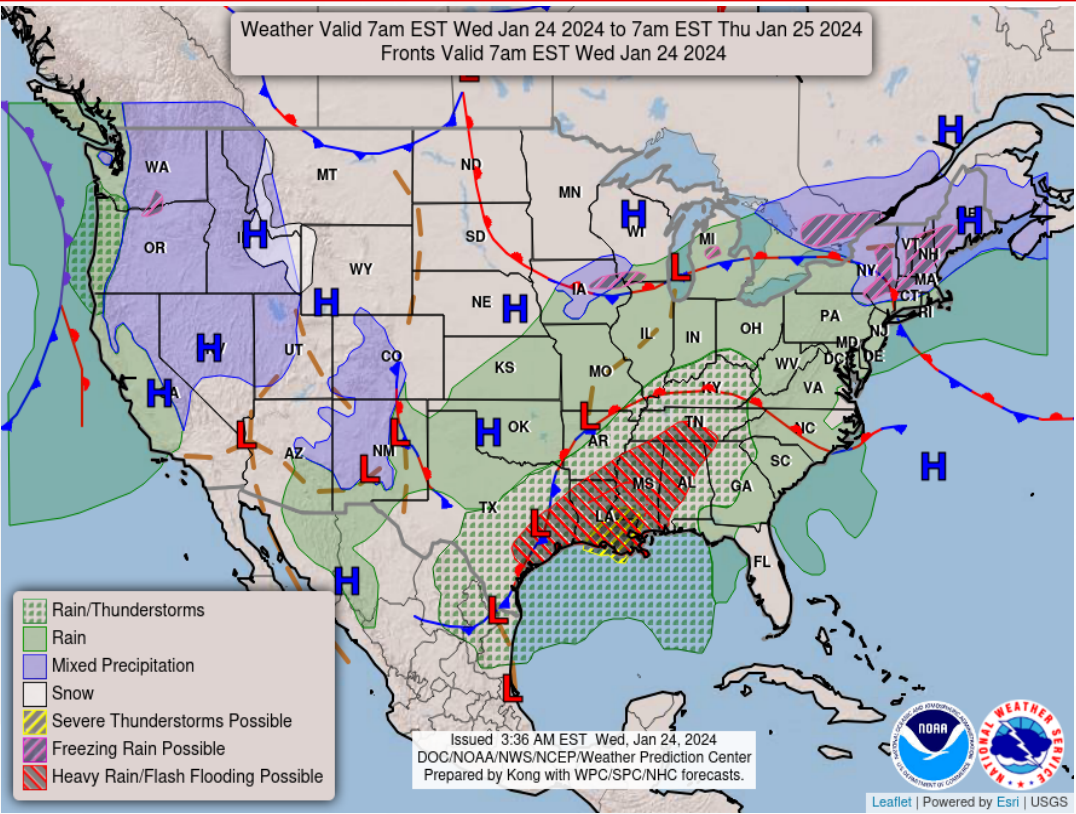
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Leon	HQ Visit
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Regional Meeting Preparation
Region 3: Patrick James	Dixie / Taylor	LMS Meeting / LTRG Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Duval	External Stakeholder Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Volusia	County EM Meeting
RRCT Manager	Pasco	County EM Meeting
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	Lee	RDSTF Meeting
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Lee	RDSTF Meeting
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Broward	Administrative Duties

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 5 & RRC 10

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

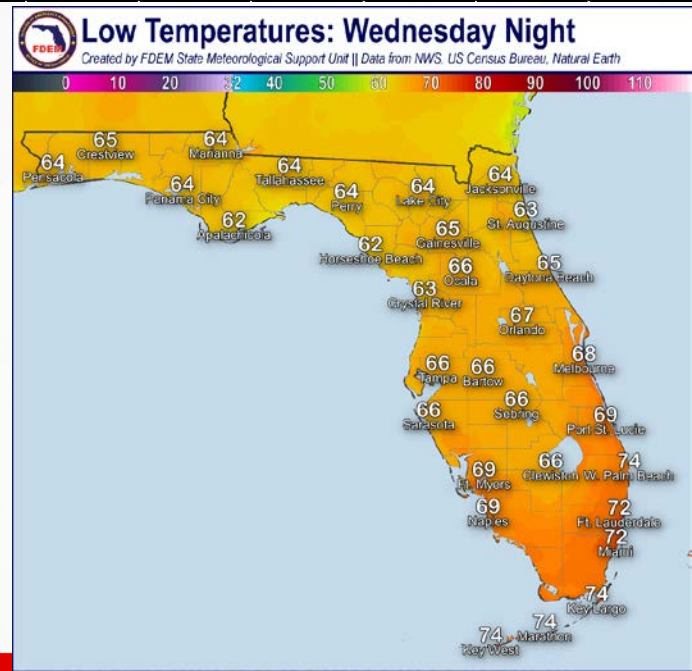
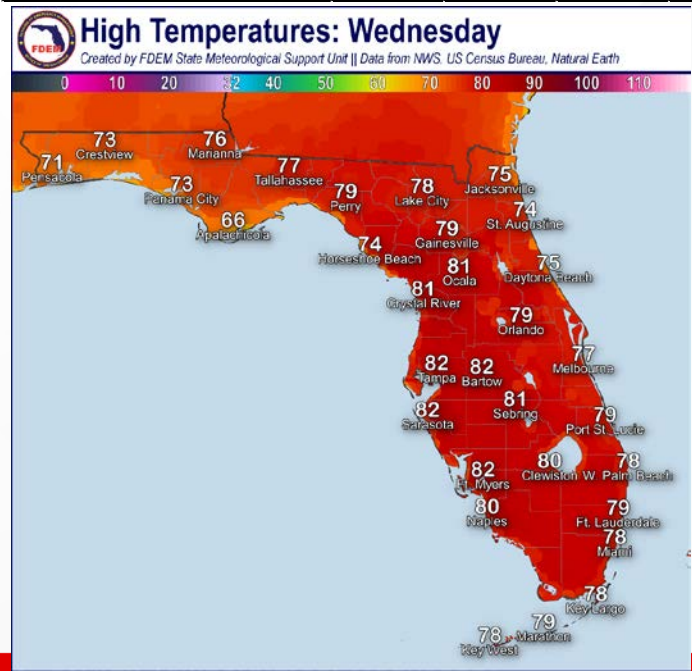


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L							
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	L	L	L				
Flash Flooding	L									
River Flooding			L							
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	16.23 ft. (1.53 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	44 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



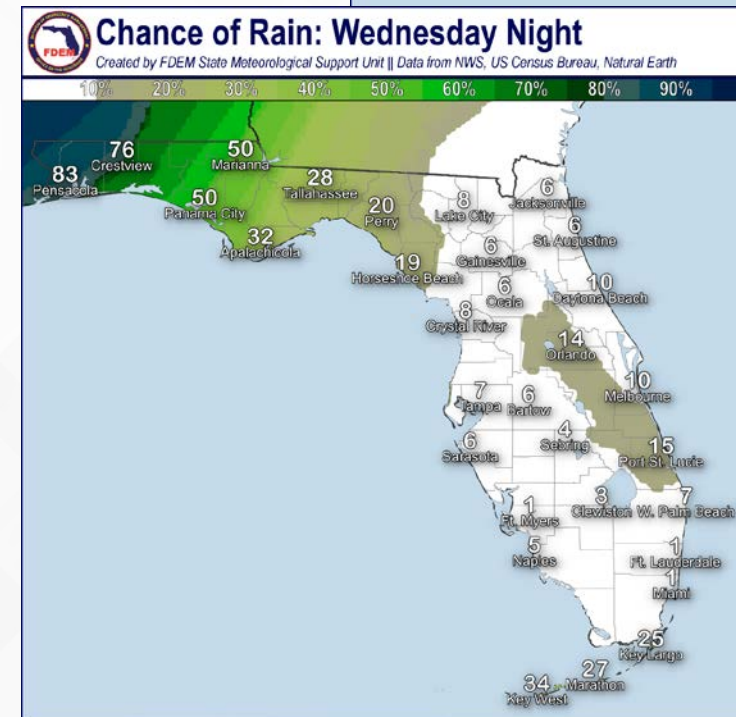
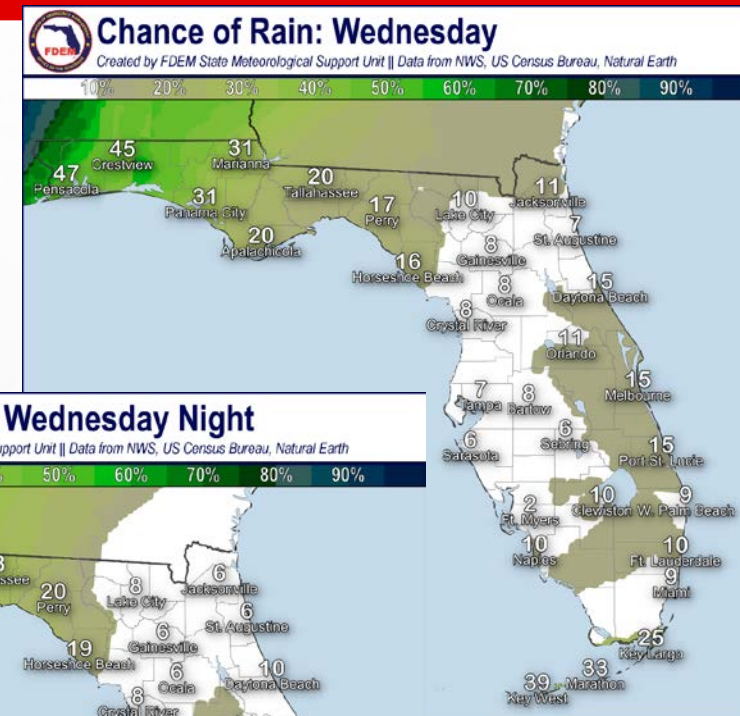


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Panhandle: Moisture pulling northward from the Gulf of Mexico will give way to isolated showers throughout the late morning and afternoon hours (20-45% chance of rain). Later this evening and into the overnight hours scattered to widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms will develop and move into the western Panhandle (50-80% chance of rain). There is some uncertainty as to how far east these showers and thunderstorms will move eastward. Some computer model guidance shows the showers and thunderstorms moving eastward towards the Apalachicola River, then dissipating before reaching the Big Bend. Some computer model guidance shows some additional showers moving northward from the Gulf of Mexico evening hours and continuing through the overnight hours along the Big Bend. Regardless, a more active weather pattern can be expected across the Panhandle and Big Bend. While the greatest risk for severe weather is to the west of the Florida Panhandle, an **isolated strong to severe thunderstorm** could push eastward into the Panhandle later this evening and overnight. Any stronger thunderstorm activity that develops could have gusty winds (40-50 mph) and heavy downpours. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the western Panhandle as moisture from the Gulf of Mexico will give way to heavy downpours within showers and thunderstorms. Areas of **patchy fog and low clouds** can be anticipated to develop overnight and early Thursday morning across North Florida, especially along the immediate coastline and over the adjacent waters. While confidence about dense fog is low, **locally dense fog** cannot be ruled out along the immediate coastline and could possibly spread inland some. Conditions will continue to be monitored throughout the day for dense fog conditions. High temperatures will reach the low to middle 70s along the western Panhandle and upper 70s to near 80-degrees along the rest of North Florida. Low temperatures overnight will fall into the low to middle 60s.

Peninsula: High pressure over the western Atlantic Ocean continues to dominate across the Peninsula and will keep conditions mostly dry. A mixture of sunshine and cloud cover can be expected throughout the Peninsula. Onshore winds along the East Coast and the Florida Keys will give way to isolated showers developing this afternoon and evening and pushing inland towards the I-95 corridor (15-25% chance of rain). Any shower activity that develops along the coastline will remain very light and brief. High temperatures will reach the upper 70s along the East Coast with the help of onshore breezy winds and the low 80s across the western and interior Peninsula. **Above normal low temperatures** for this time of year can be expected overnight, with some possible record-breaking low temperatures. Low temperatures in the middle to upper 60s can be expected, with Southeast Florida and the Keys seeing low temperatures in the low 70s and approaching the middle 70s. Areas of **patchy fog and low clouds** are possible overnight and early Thursday morning along West-Central Florida, with possible **locally dense fog** closer to the coastline and over the gulf waters.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected across all Panhandle and East Coast beaches due to onshore winds and elevated wave heights. A low risk for rip currents can be expected along West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

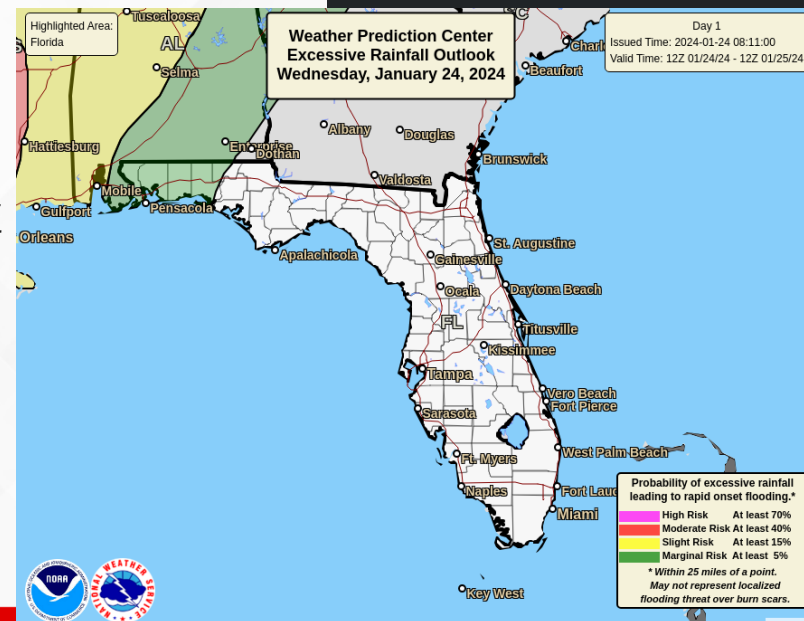
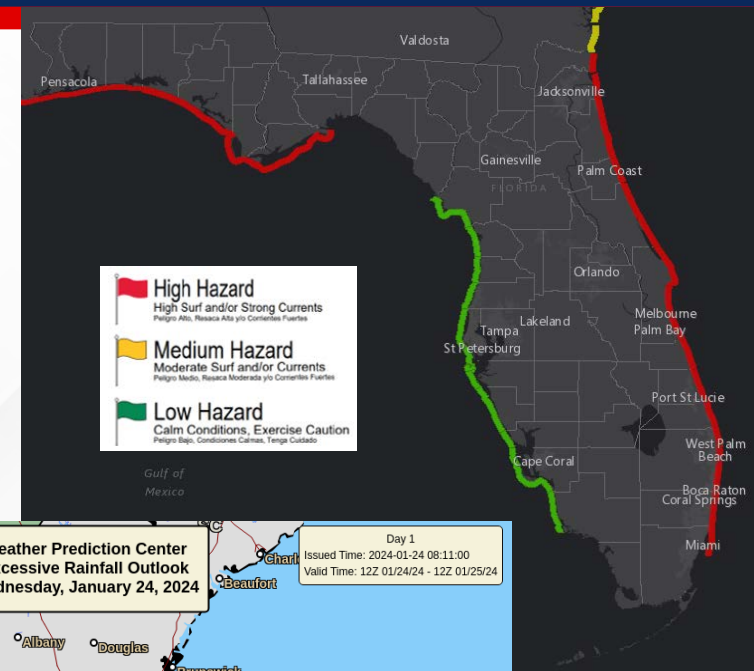
Marine Hazards: **High Surf Advisories** are in place along the western Panhandle beaches and an ocean swell over the northern Gulf of Mexico will create **wave heights** of 4-6' along the coastline. Big Bend and West Coast beaches can expect wave heights near 1-3 throughout the day. Along the East Coast, onshore winds will allow for **wave heights** of 4-5' along the coastline. Breaking waves further offshore within the surf zone could reach upwards of 6' along some beaches at times. **Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the western Panhandle. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are anticipated to develop later this evening and into the overnight hours, bringing widespread heavy rainfall. Onshore winds will continue to pull moisture northward from the Gulf of Mexico allowing for several rounds of heavy rainfall within shower and thunderstorm activity. Rainfall totals of 1-2" will be possible within heavy showers, and **locally higher totals** upwards of 3" cannot be ruled out along the western Panhandle coastline. Multiple and training showers moving inland off the Gulf of Mexico will allow for coastal areas to see multiple rounds of rainfall, leading to **localized flooding** and ponding of water at times. Urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas cannot rule out **localized flash flooding** within heavy rainfall. *It should be noted that the Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding is just west of the Florida Panhandle and could be shifted eastward if heavier rainfall was to occur.*

Riverine Flooding: The **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#) as the river is forecast to remain within **minor flood stage** through this week. All other Florida rivers, creeks and waterways are below flood state. While heavy rainfall is anticipated along the western Panhandle, water levels should be low enough to handle anticipated rainfall but rises within local waterways may be possible. There are no additional river flood concerns today. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 16.23 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.53 feet above normal for this time of year.





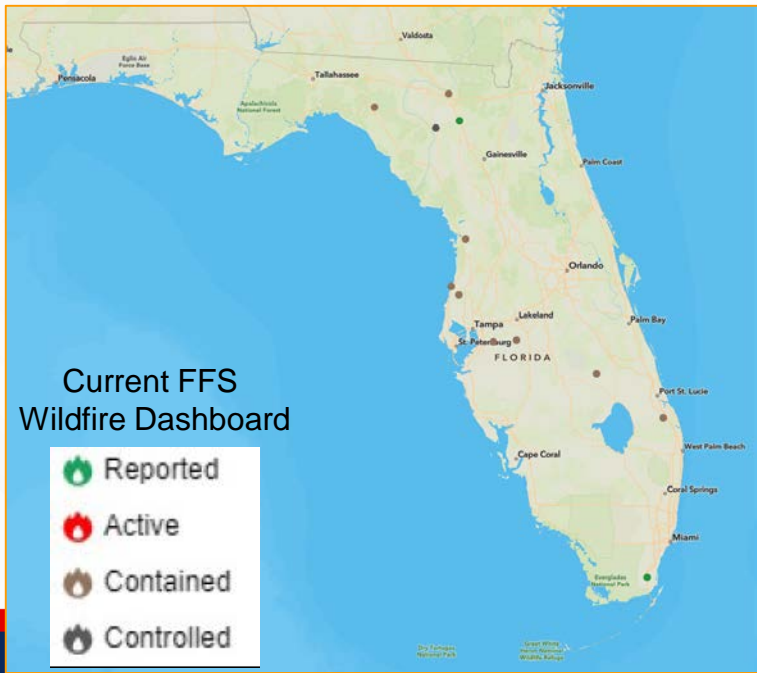
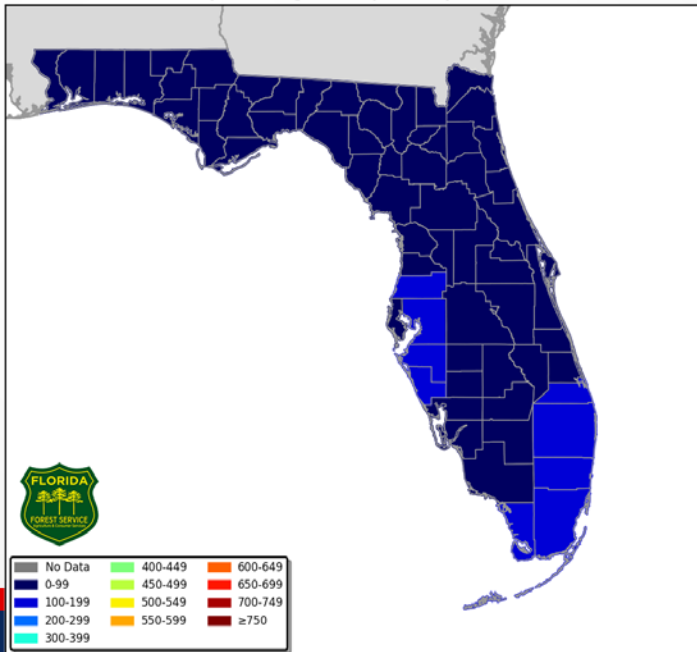
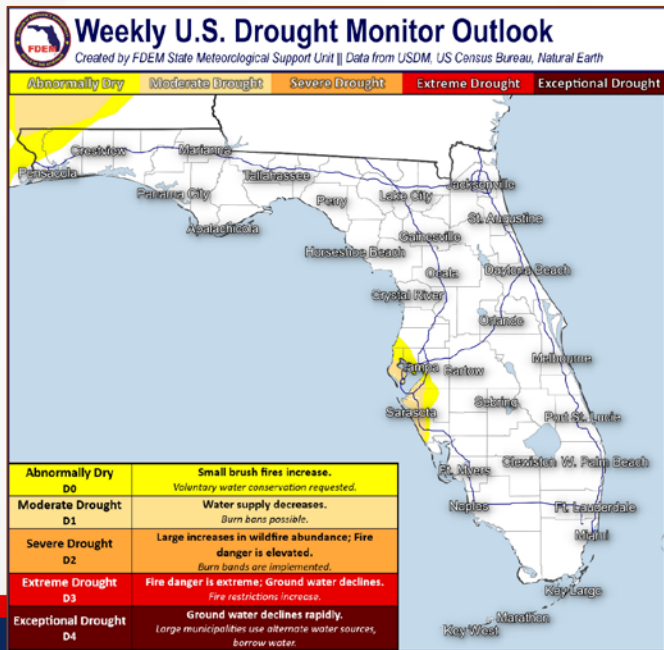
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Southeasterly winds across the state will continue to provide moisture to keep relative humidity values well above critical thresholds. A more active weather pattern will take shape later this evening and overnight across the Panhandle with scattered to numerous showers and a few isolated thunderstorms. Southeasterly winds near 10-15 mph can be expected throughout the daytime hours, with wind gusts upwards of 15-20 mph across the state. Areas of patchy fog and low clouds may develop overnight and early Thursday morning across Northeast Florida and along the Nature Coast and West-Central coastlines, with a chance for isolated areas of locally dense fog at times closer to the coastlines. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 12 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 63 acres.

Drought: Both short and long-term drought conditions have once again improved this week across Florida with the passage of a strong frontal boundary early in the week. In excess of 2" and locally more than 4" of rain was received along the Western Peninsula from the system. Abnormally dry to **moderate drought** conditions still remain along the Tampa Bay region from Pasco to Sarasota county; however, **severe to extreme drought** has been entirely removed from the region. Abnormally dry to **moderate drought** conditions also persist along the Western Panhandle but have decreased in arial extent thanks to the recent rainfall. Additional weather systems bringing multiple rounds of rainfall will work to limit further drought expansion.

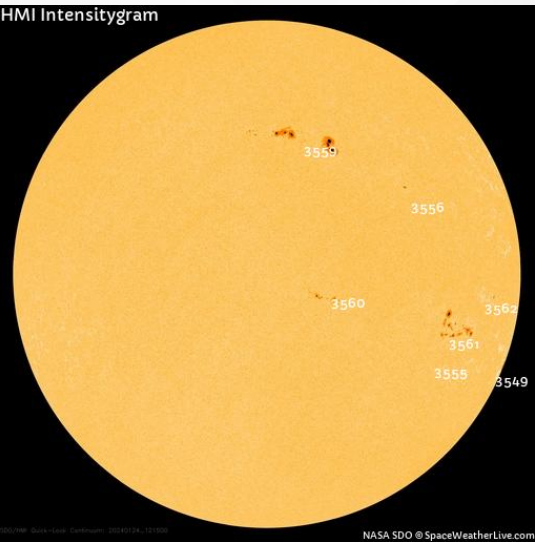
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **44 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for January 23, 2024

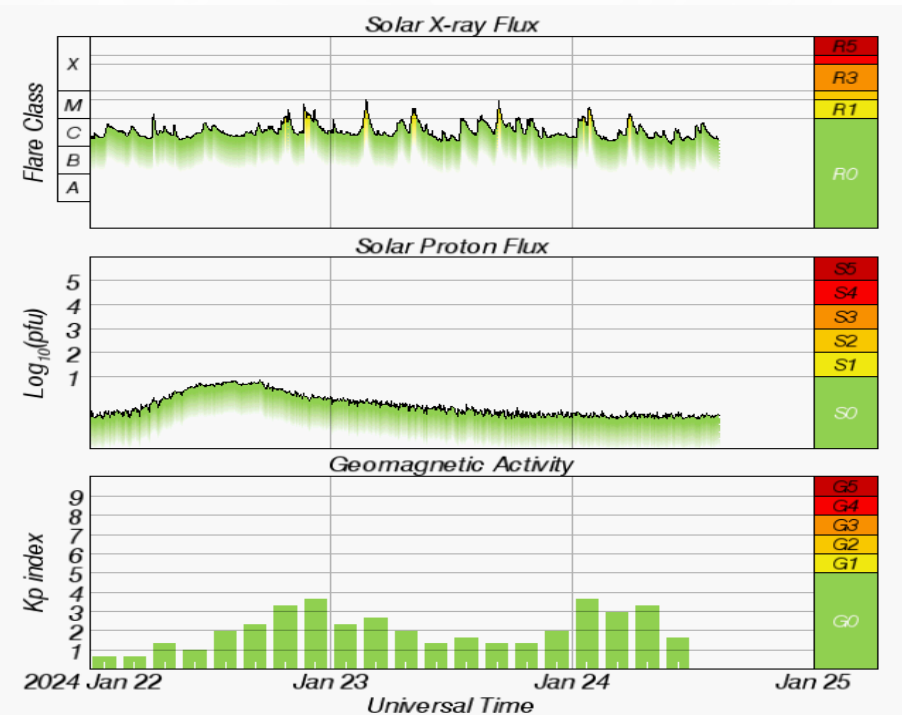
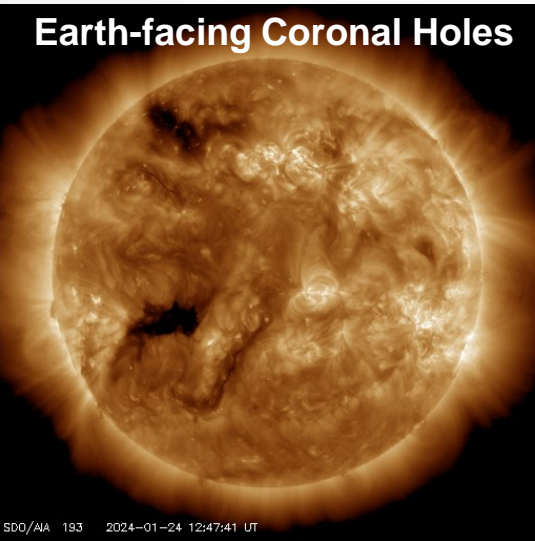




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: G1 Watch – 1/24-26	M4 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
1/24	1/25
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: High levels of solar activity can be expected to continue with strong (M-class) solar flares expected and a slight chance for significant (X-class) solar flares over Jan 24-26. Elevated solar activity is due to active sunspots #3559 and #3561 and their solar flare potential. Sunspot #3561 has been a hyperactive sunspot and produced several M-class eruptions, and its continued activity could lead to minor (S1) solar radiation storms. The solar wind environment will continue to see enhanced moments due to the possibility of multiple Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). These CMEs are either aimed towards the Earth or will provide a glancing blow to the Earth's geomagnetic field over the next few days, with the greatest chance over Jan 25-26. Periods of minor (G1) geomagnetic storms are likely due to the potential for several CMEs over the next couple of days, and there is a chance for periods of isolated moderate (G2) geomagnetic storms. There is a Minor (G1) Geomagnetic Storm Watch in place beginning today and through Friday. The space threat to Florida is low.



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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