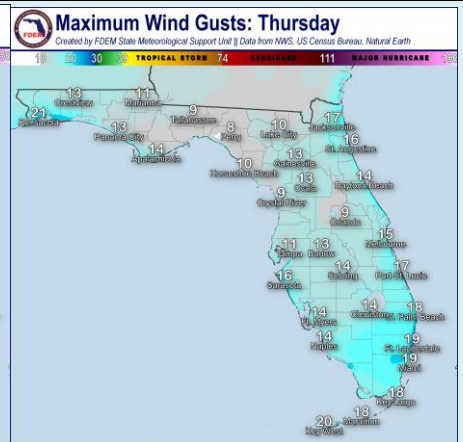
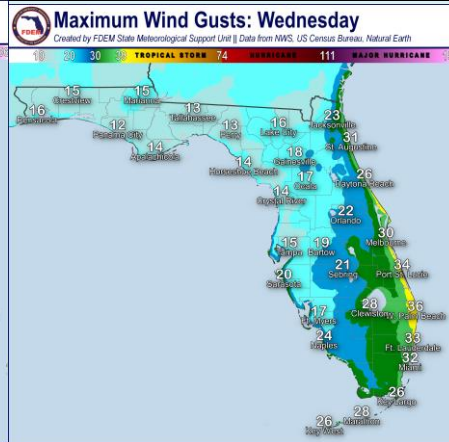
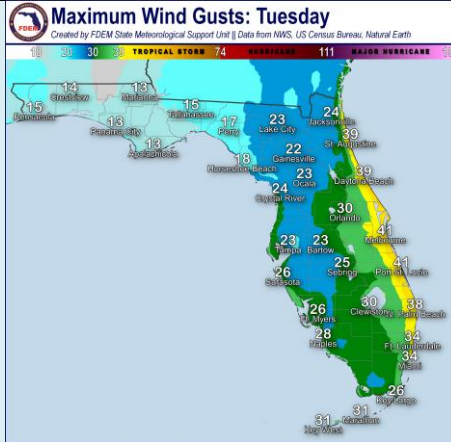


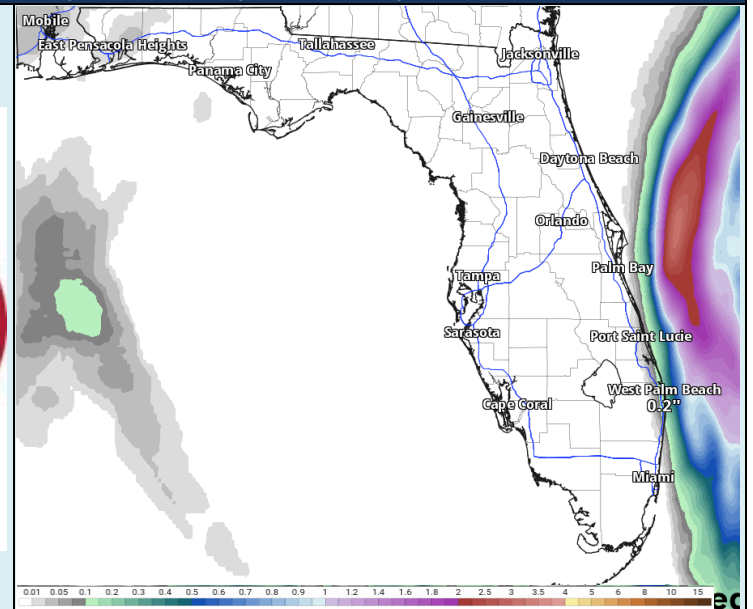
Tuesday, February 6, 2023					5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook			
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Freeze (Overnight)	Coastal Flooding	Fog (Overnight)	River Flooding	Rip Currents
Tue					Locally East Coast		St. Johns River at Astor	North Florida, East Coast & Southwest Florida West Coast
Wed				N. Suwannee River Valley & NE FL	Locally East Coast		St. Johns River at Astor	East Coast Panhandle & SW FL West Coast
Thu					Locally Iso. East Coast	Locally Big Bend & Northeast Florida	St. Johns River at Astor	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Fri						Locally Big Bend & Northeast Florida		East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Sat						Big Bend & Northeast Florida		East Coast & Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday



Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week: February 5-9



Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Saturday Night



**...Gusty Winds and Dangerous Beach and Boating Conditions for East Coast Through Mid-Week...Wind Advisories In Effect Through Overnight Tuesday Due to Possible Wind Gusts of 40-45 MPH...Mostly Dry Conditions Through the Rest of the Work Week Across the State...Next Best Chance of Rain on Saturday Ahead of Approaching Frontal Boundary...Areas of Fog and Low Clouds Possible Overnight Thursday and Friday Across Big Bend and Northeast Florida...Minor Coastal Flooding Along East Coast Due to Elevated Wave Heights and Tides...Trapped Tides Within St. Johns River to Lead to Water Level Rises and Minor Flooding...**

### **Severe Weather Awareness Week (February 5-9, 2024):**

Florida's Severe Weather Awareness Week is an opportunity for Floridians to learn about the various weather hazards that frequently impact the state and how families and businesses can prepare for these natural events.

**Lightning:** Lightning is one of nature's deadliest and most unpredictable weather phenomena. All thunderstorms contain lightning that can strike a person, tree or an object either on the ground or in the air. In 2023, over 19 million lightning strikes (in-cloud and cloud to ground) were recorded in Florida, and Florida ranks #1 on lightning strikes per square mile on average. Florida's geography plays a large role, especially during the summer. One characteristic that makes lightning is its extensive range. **Did you know** that lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it is a tall tree and isolated object? **When thunder roars, go indoors!**

**Marine Hazards and Rip Currents:** Rip currents occur naturally and affect many Florida beaches year-round. Rip currents are dangerous because they can pull unprepared swimmers away from shore and into deeper and offshore waters. They become especially dangerous when swimmers panic and struggle against the current while being pulled away from the beach or unable to keep themselves afloat and swim to shore. Before venturing out on the water, it is important for boaters to check the weather. What may seem like a tranquil start to the day can quickly turn violent with hazards such as severe thunderstorms, strong winds, rough seas, lightning, and waterspouts. **Did you know** that sometimes you can see the signs that show a rip current is present? A visible channel of churning, choppy water; a narrow channel where there is a difference in water color; a line of seaward moving foam; or an offshore area of murky water. **Don't fight, swim left of right!**

**Thunderstorms & Tornadoes:** Thunderstorms occur frequently across Florida, in fact, Florida has the greatest number of thunderstorms in the U.S. Florida averages over 70 thunderstorm days per year. One of the reasons Florida has so many thunderstorms is that many of the ingredients (moist, unstable air and source of lift) needed to create thunderstorms can be found here almost every day, especially during the summer months. A Severe Thunderstorm Warning will be issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) when a thunderstorm detected by radar is producing or capable of producing straight-line winds in excess of 58 mph, and/or hail larger than 1" in diameter (quarter-size or larger). Severe thunderstorms can also produce tornadoes with little to no advance warning. Tornadoes are not usually associated with the "Sunshine State," but Florida ranks 4<sup>th</sup> nationally in the annual average number of tornadoes (1993-2022). **Did you know** a vast majority of the tornado-related deaths in Florida since 1950 occurred between 9:00 pm and 8:00 am, with February, March and April being the deadliest months. **If a Tornado Warning is issued for your area, seek shelter immediately and make sure to have as many walls between you and the outside as possible!**

**Hurricanes & Flooding:** The most feared weather phenomenon throughout Florida during the summer and early fall is the tropical cyclone. Close to the tropics and surrounded on three sides by warm waters, the unique location of Florida makes it particularly vulnerable to the system as they develop across the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Florida has a long history of hurricanes, and records indicate that 125 hurricanes and 157 tropical storms have impacted the state since 1851, with many more cited in history books prior to that year and before official records were maintained. The North Florida Atlantic Ocean Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1 and



**Wildfires & Extreme Heat/Cold:** Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, the state is always influenced by tropical moisture, especially in the summer. When hot temperatures combine with high humidity, our body feels like it is hotter than it really is since the increased moisture in the air limits our body's ability to cool off through sweating. **Did you know** in 2010 a heat index of 107 degrees was observed at the Apalachicola Airport? While many people head south to escape cold temperatures in the winter, it is not always warmer in Florida. Numerous severe cold outbreaks have blanketed the state with snow or ice, below freezing temperatures and strong winds that produce bitterly cold temperatures and chills. Not only should practicing fire safety be considered when trying to heat your home in the winter, but resident and visitors should practice fire safety outdoors since wildfire season in Florida is 12 months long. While there are natural ways a wildfire can be ignited, most wildfires are caused by humans. Wildfires can cause major environmental, social, and economic damages.

The low pressure system that brought widespread rainfall across the Peninsula yesterday has moved offshore along the Southeastern U.S. and western Atlantic Ocean. As the system remains over the open waters it will strengthen further, bringing gusty winds along the Florida East Coast throughout the day. Northerly to northwesterly **wind gusts will strengthen to 35-45 mph** along the immediate coastline, with **wind gusts upwards of 25-35 mph** west of the I-95 corridor and throughout the Peninsula. **Wind Advisories** are in effect along the coastline through the late evening and early overnight hours where **winds of 20-30 mph and wind gusts upwards of 40-45 mph** are expected. With gusty winds along the coastline, isolated showers over the adjacent Atlantic waters will push towards Space and Treasure Coasts later in the afternoon and evening hours, then into the Southeast Florida coastline overnight (25-45% chance of rain). While isolated thunderstorms are expected, some lightening and thunder may be heard. Mostly dry conditions can be expected. Gusty winds will usher cooler and drier air southward (near 60°F) and clear skies can be expected overnight. Winds will weaken and become more easterly along the Southeast Florida coastline overnight and into early Wednesday. Some rain still be expected at times as the low pressure system continues to move offshore.

## Chance of Rain: Tuesday

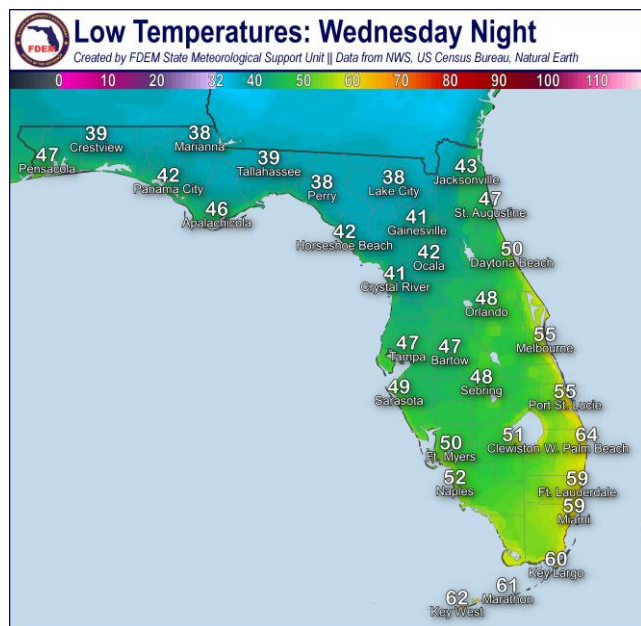
Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%

Map of Florida showing the chance of rain for Tuesday. The map is color-coded by percentage, with a legend at the top. The colors range from light yellow (10%) to dark green (90%). The map shows the state of Florida with various cities labeled. The chance of rain is generally low (0-10%) across most of the state, with a small area in the central-eastern part showing a 19% chance. Other areas show 0%, 1%, 2%, 5%, 6%, 7%, 11%, 21%, 28%, and 5%.



cooler conditions will allow for low temperatures to fall into the middle to upper 30s along the I-10 corridor and the Suwannee River Valley, with areas closer to the coast seeing low temperatures in the low 40s. Light winds and clear skies will make temperatures feel cooler than they are during the early morning hours on Wednesday. Temperatures will feel-like they are in the **low 30s** at times across the interior Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley by early Wednesday morning, just before sunrise. The western Peninsula will see low temperatures in the middle to upper 40s, and low 50s further into Southwest Florida. The eastern Peninsula will see low temperatures in the upper 40s to middle 50s.



### Wednesday – Friday:

The low pressure system over the western Atlantic Ocean will move eastward towards the central Atlantic on Wednesday, but will continue to bring breezy and gusty winds along the eastern Peninsula through the morning and afternoon hours. The **strongest winds gusts of 30-35 mph** will remain along the immediate coastline, with **wind gusts of 25-30 mph** continuing across the eastern Peninsula and throughout South Florida. As the system continues to move further away from the Southeastern U.S. gusty winds will subside overnight Wednesday and Thursday morning. Mostly sunny and dry conditions can be expected Wednesday and continuing throughout the rest of the week as an area of high pressure moves eastward towards the Southeastern U.S. (near 0% chance of rain). There is a chance for lingering showers along the southeast Florida coastline

during the morning hours on Wednesday (15-25% chance of rain). Isolated showers will attempt to push towards the East Coast from the Atlantic waters, but drier air at the surface will limit shower development. As the high pressure shifts towards the U.S. East Coast Thursday and Friday, moisture will start to recover, and onshore winds will remain light. **Areas of fog and low clouds** can be expected to develop across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida overnight Thursday and Friday, with areas of **locally dense fog** possible at times.

High temperatures will reach the upper 50s to low 60s across North Florida and Nature Coast on Wednesday, with high temperatures in the middle to upper 60s across Central Florida and low 70s across South Florida. Temperatures will continue to gradually warm up through the rest of the week with the help of high pressure expanding across the state. By Thursday, high temperatures across the state will reach upper 60s to middle 70s during the afternoon. Friday's high temperatures will be in the low to middle 70s across the state, with portions of the interior Peninsula approaching the upper 70s. Low temperatures overnight Wednesday will fall into the upper 30s to middle 40s across North Florida, upper 40s to low 50s along the western Peninsula and upper 40s to middle 50s across the eastern Peninsula. With clear skies and calm winds, areas of **patchy frost** could develop along the northern Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley overnight Wednesday and into Thursday morning. Low temperatures Thursday night will fall into the upper 40s to low 50s across North Florida, middle to upper 50s across Central Florida and upper 50s to middle 60s across South Florida. By Friday night, low temperatures will be in the 50s statewide through Lake Okeechobee, while South Florida will see low temperature in the 60s.



## Saturday:

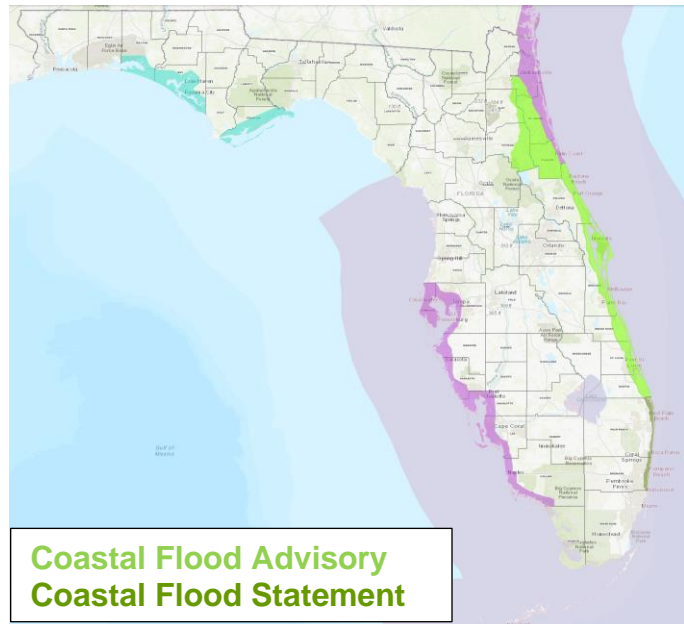
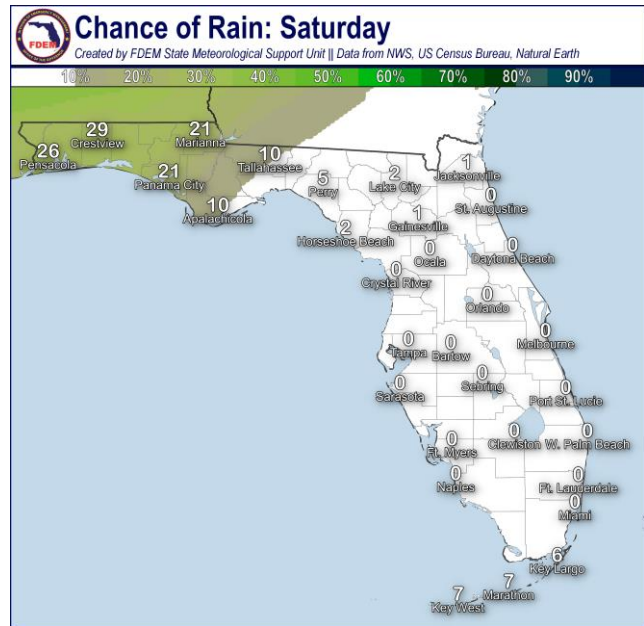
High pressure will shift off the U.S. coastline and over the Atlantic waters on Saturday ahead of a developing system over the Great Plains. This frontal system will continue to slowly move eastward on Saturday increasing rain chances for the Panhandle early Saturday morning. Moisture flowing inland from the Gulf of Mexico ahead of the frontal boundary extending across the Southeastern U.S. will allow for isolated showers, and possible thunderstorms, to develop throughout the day on Saturday (20-30% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions will continue across Northeast Florida and throughout the Peninsula on Saturday. These isolated showers will continue into the evening and overnight hours along the Panhandle as the frontal boundary stalls over the Southeastern U.S. (15-30% chance of rain). **Areas of patchy fog** may develop overnight and early Sunday morning along Northeast Florida and the Suwannee River Valley.

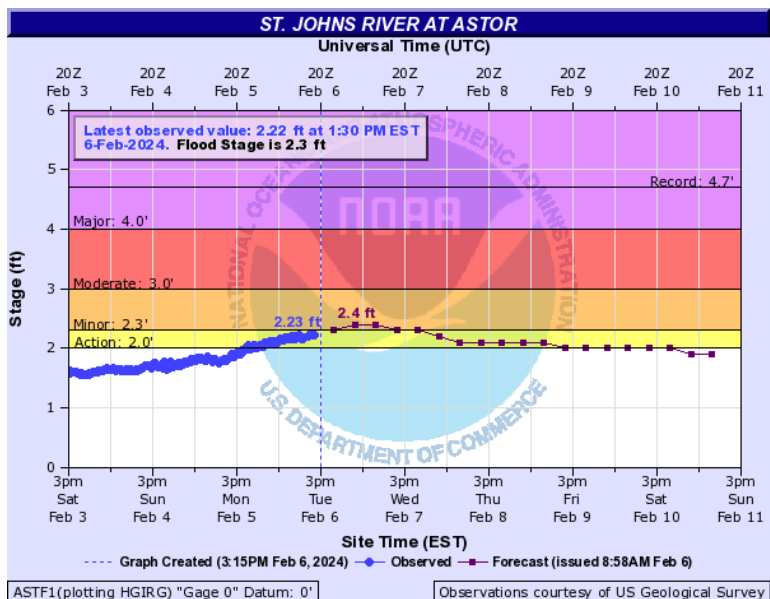
High temperatures in the low to middle 70s can be expected on Saturday, with portions of the interior Peninsula approaching the upper 70s. Low temperatures in the middle to upper 50s can be expected across North Florida, upper 50s to low 60s across Central Florida and middle to upper 60s and low 70s across South Florida and the Keys.

## Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk for flash flooding over the next 5 days. For the latest Flash Flood Outlooks, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](#).

Elevated tides along the East Coast can be expected today and through the middle of the week. A large ocean swell off the Southeastern U.S. coast and over the western Atlantic will give way to elevated wave heights of 7-12' for numerous East Coast beaches. Strong and gusty winds along the East Coast will develop throughout today and continue into Wednesday along and east of the I-95 corridor. The combination of the elevated tides and surf, and strong gusty winds, will give way to **minor coastal flooding and beach erosion** along the East Coast near and during times of high tide beginning today and continuing into Thursday morning. The greatest risk for minor coastal flooding will be during the morning high tide cycles. **Coastal Flood Advisories** extend across Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches due to the potential for **minor coastal flooding and beach impacts**. Localized instances of **moderate beach erosion** may be possible at times as saltwater and large waves may overtop vulnerable dunes and seawalls along the coastline. Strong onshore winds and elevated tides will trap tides within the lower portions of the St. Johns River leading to **minor tidal flooding** at times over the next couple of days. Trapped tides may linger within the river





basin through the rest of the week as water levels slowly decline and allow for the river to flush out. Southeast Florida beaches can anticipate a more **isolated risk for minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide. **Coastal Flood Statements** are in effect along portions of the Southeast coastline through Thursday morning.

Several Panhandle and Big Bend rivers and waterways remain within Action Stage (bank-full). Tidal portions of the St. Johns River will increase near or into minor flood stage over the next couple of days as tides become trapped within the river basin. Trapped tides and elevated water levels may give way to the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) rising into **minor flood**

**stage** this morning and continuing over the next few days through the middle of the week. There are no additional river flood concerns over the next several days. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 16.35', which is within the operational band and 1.73' above normal.

### Drought & Fire Weather:

Minimal changes were made to the latest [Drought Monitor](#) update. The most notable change was the removal of moderate drought conditions and reducing the area of abnormally dry conditions along Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Drought conditions have improved over the area following heavy rainfall from (1/26-1/28) where 2-3" of rainfall was observed during an active weather period. Little to no changes were made to the ongoing abnormally dry (emerging drought) to **moderate drought conditions** along West-Central Florida where mostly dry conditions continued across the area.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **84 (-17)** 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).

The overall wildfire threat will remain low over the next 5 days as. Drier air filtering southward into North Florida and the northern Peninsula will allow for relative humidity values to fall near critical thresholds this afternoon (upper 30% to low 40%). Elevated wind gusts of 15-20 mph can be expected at times through the late morning and afternoon hours. Similar conditions will develop on Wednesday where portions of the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley will see relative humidity values near critical thresholds (middle to upper 30%) by the afternoon, but wind gusts will only reach 10-15 mph at times. Recent rainfall and saturated grounds will help to keep wildfire conditions low. By Thursday relative humidity values start to recover and will remain above critical thresholds through the rest of the week. **Areas of fog and low clouds** will likely develop overnight and early in the morning hours beginning overnight Thursday and continue into the weekend across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida. *Foggy conditions may further reduce visibility where there are ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 15 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 500 acres (as of 10:09 AM EST).

### Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

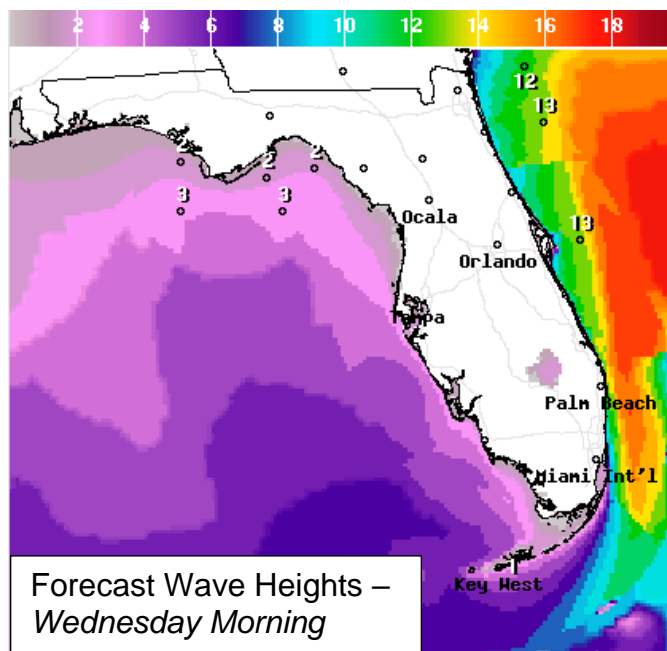
A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected for the East Coast today and through the rest of the week due to long-period ocean swells. A **moderate risk for rip currents** can be expected along





Panhandle beaches through Friday due to northerly to northeasterly winds pushing wave heights offshore. A **high risk for rip currents** is possible along the western Panhandle on Saturday due to winds returning to onshore flow and increasing wave heights. Lingering ocean swells along Southwest Florida may allow for **an elevated risk for rip currents** on Wednesday. A low risk for rip currents can be expected for the West Coast over the next 5 days. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

Gusty winds due to a low pressure system off the Southeastern U.S. coast and western Atlantic will create a long-period ocean swell along the Florida East Coast. **Wave heights upwards of 7-12'** can be expected along Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches through Thursday morning, creating dangerous beach and boating conditions. **High Surf Advisories** have been issued along these beaches and are in effect through Thursday morning. Slightly smaller **wave heights of 4-6'** can be expected along Southeast Florida beaches through Thursday evening. The long-period ocean swell will slowly weaken through Friday and Saturday but continue to create **wave heights of 4-6'** for Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches. Southeast Florida beaches can expect wave heights to turn to 2-4' on Friday and Saturday. A large ocean swell over the southern Gulf of Mexico will create elevated **wave heights of 6-8'** along Southwest Florida beaches on Tuesday. A **High Surf Advisory** will remain in place through the overnight hours on Tuesday and into Wednesday. Winds shifting out of the north to northeast will allow for wave heights along the Gulf and West Coast to decrease, including the previous ocean swell. By Wednesday afternoon, wave heights of 1-3' can be expected for all beaches through Saturday evening. Western Panhandle beaches will see **wave heights upwards of 4'** at times late Saturday evening and overnight as onshore winds return.



Southeast Florida beaches can expect wave heights to turn to 2-4' on Friday and Saturday. A large ocean swell over the southern Gulf of Mexico will create elevated **wave heights of 6-8'** along Southwest Florida beaches on Tuesday. A **High Surf Advisory** will remain in place through the overnight hours on Tuesday and into Wednesday. Winds shifting out of the north to northeast will allow for wave heights along the Gulf and West Coast to decrease, including the previous ocean swell. By Wednesday afternoon, wave heights of 1-3' can be expected for all beaches through Saturday evening. Western Panhandle beaches will see **wave heights upwards of 4'** at times late Saturday evening and overnight as onshore winds return.

[Red Tide](#) has not been observed in samples across the state.

[Blue-Green Algae](#) update shows widely **scattered moderate bloom potential** on visible portions of Lake Okeechobee, with the northern portion of the lake showing the lowest bloom potential. The St. Johns River shows scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on Lake George at the mainstem of the river. Imagery for the Caloosahatchee Estuary shows low to **moderate bloom potential** in the upper portion of the estuary. No bloom potential was visible on 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 great rest of the week!

Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

