



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, February 19, 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	Taylor Cheney	(850) 545-4047	Taylor.Cheney@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Logan Qualk	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Zachary Remante	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@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	Gadsen	Healthcare Coalition / DOH Regional Planners Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Office Admin
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	IS Training
Region 4: James Carter	Duval	Office Admin
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Monroe	Office Admin / Travel to Monroe
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Highlands	EM Visit
Region 8: Karen Kozac	St Lucie	Office Admin
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Office Admin



Region 5 Coverage Provided By RRC 5

Region 9 Coverage Provided By RRC 9

RC Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Washington	External Stakeholders Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Administrative Duties
Region 3: Patrick James	Alachua	Administrative Duties
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Out of Region	Leave
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	Instruction Preparation
RRCT Manager	Hernando	Administrative Duties
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	Out of Region	Leave
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Lee	Administrative Duties
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Miami - Dade	Turkey Point NPP Exercise Preparation

Region 4 Coverage Provided by RRC 3

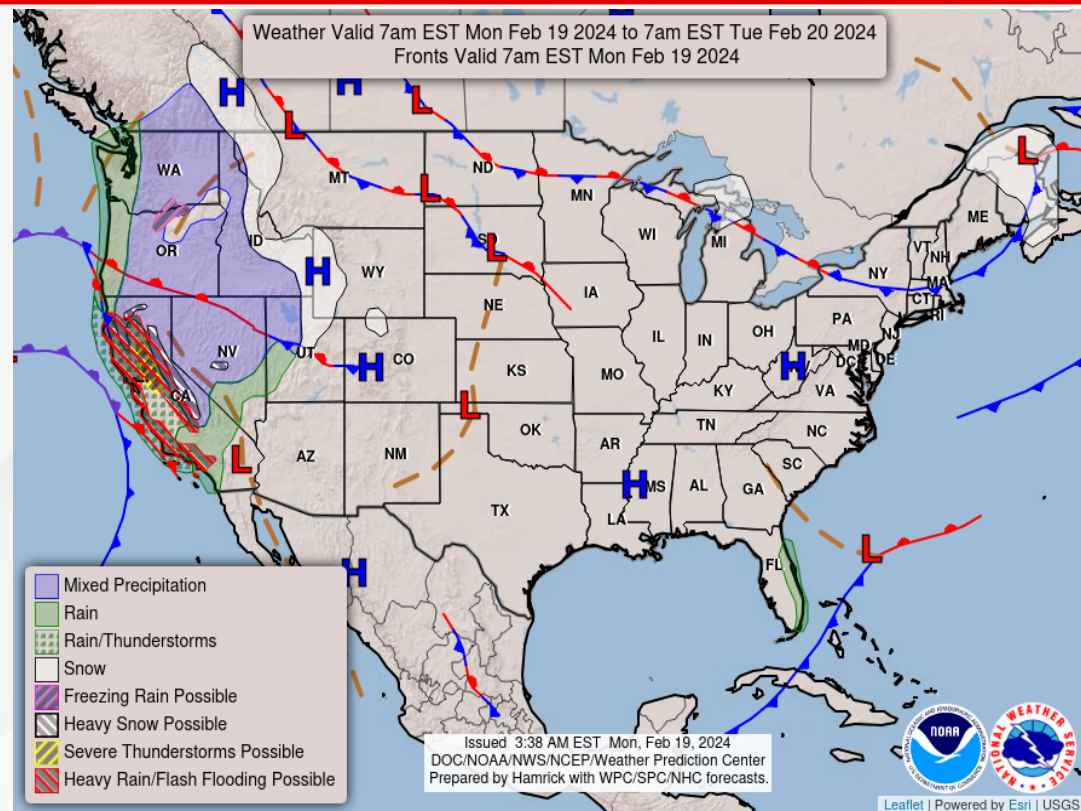
Region 7 Coverage Provided by RRC 5

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 5 and 10

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

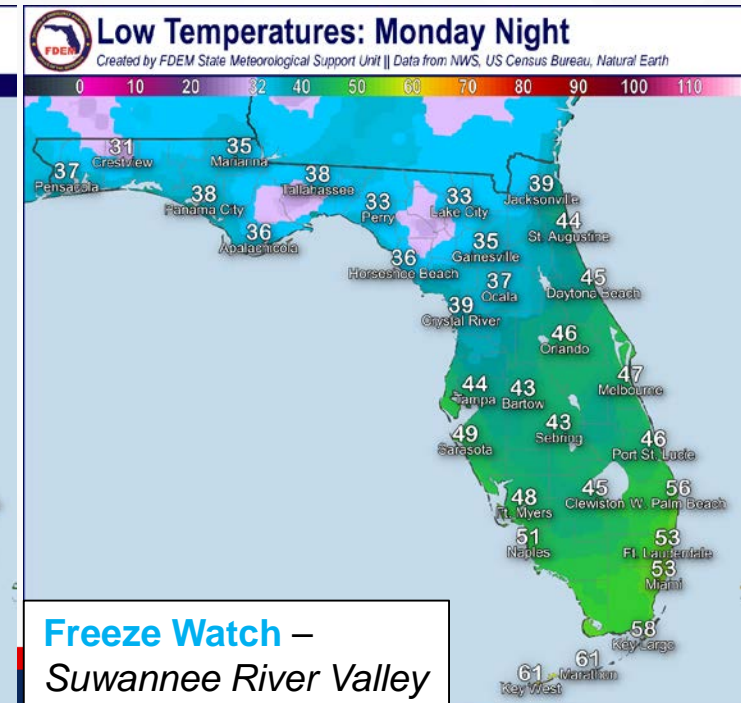
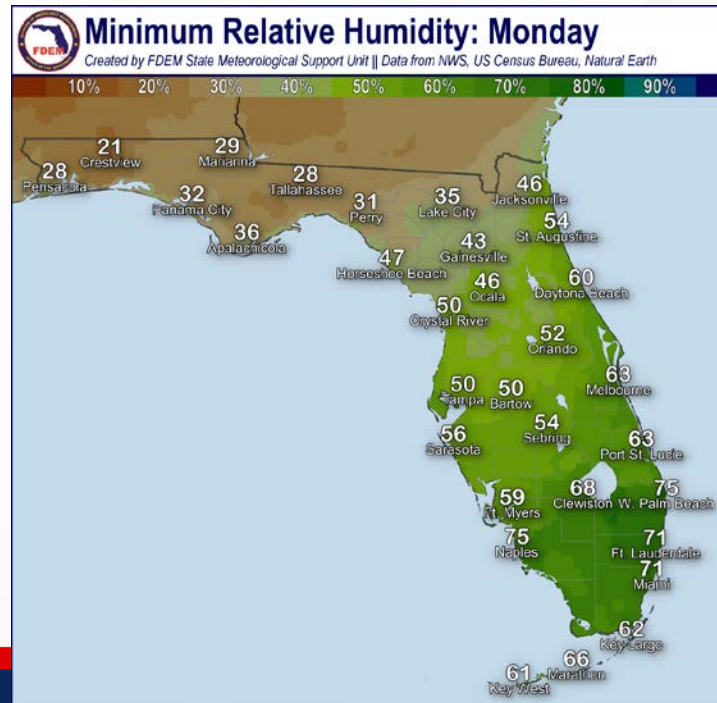


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Freezing (Overnight)	M	L	M	L		L				
Fog (Overnight)										
River Flooding	L	L								
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	M	H		H	M	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	16.32 ft. (1.76 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	84 (-46) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



Freeze Watch —
Suwannee River Valley



Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

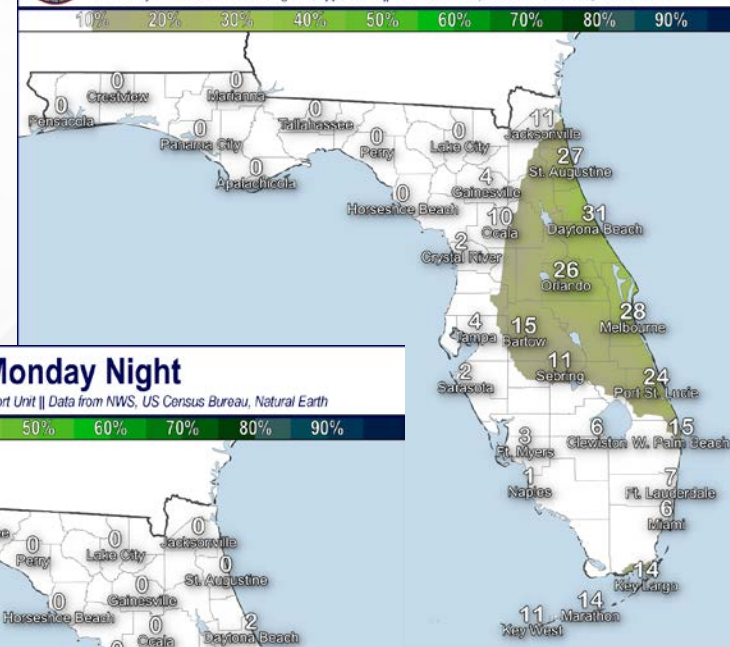
This weekend's low pressure system has moved across the Peninsula and over the western Atlantic waters. The system will continue to push further away from the Florida East Coast throughout the day, but isolated to scattered showers can be expected through the morning and early afternoon hours as activity diminishes (15-30% chance of rain). Breezy **wind gusts of 25-30 mph** can be expected through the morning hours before weakening into the afternoon and evening hours as the low moves further over the Atlantic waters. Mostly dry conditions can be expected across the Panhandle and West Florida as drier and cooler air filters in behind the system. Relative humidity values will fall **below critical thresholds (middle 20-30%)** across the Panhandle and Big Bend this afternoon creating **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** at times. Despite relative humidity values falling below critical thresholds the overall wildfire threat remains low due to calm winds and recent rainfall keeping grounds saturated. High temperatures will reach into the upper 50s and low 60s across North Florida, middle 60s across Central Florida and upper 60s and low 70s across South Florida and the Keys this afternoon.

Dry conditions can be expected to return statewide overnight as high pressure shifts over the Gulf Coast states (near 0% chance of rain). Clearing skies and calm winds will return overnight allowing for cool low temperatures. Low temperatures will be in the **low to middle 30s** across the I-10 corridor and interior North Florida and Nature Coast through the I-95 corridor, with some areas experiencing low temperatures **near or below freezing (30-32 degrees)**. **Areas of patchy to widespread frost** can be anticipated through the early morning hours on Tuesday with the help of mostly calm winds and clear skies. A **Freeze Watch** has been issued for portions of the Suwannee River Valley ahead of sub-freezing temperatures **as low as 31-degrees** overnight and into early Tuesday morning. Low temperatures across Northeast and Central Florida will remain in the upper 30s to middle 40s, while low temperatures across South Florida will be in the upper 40s to middle 50s overnight. The Florida Keys can expect low temperatures in the upper 50s to low 60s.



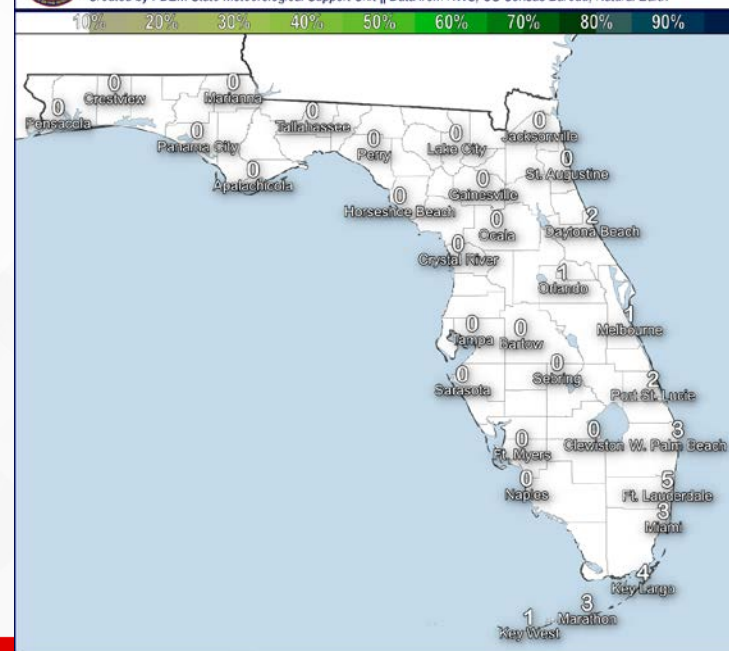
Chance of Rain: Monday

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



Chance of Rain: Monday Night

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





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected along most of the Florida East Coast due to a developing ocean swell and breezy winds. A **high risk for rip currents** can also be expected along West-Central Florida beaches due to onshore in the wake of the passing system. A **moderate risk for rip currents** continues for the Panhandle. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

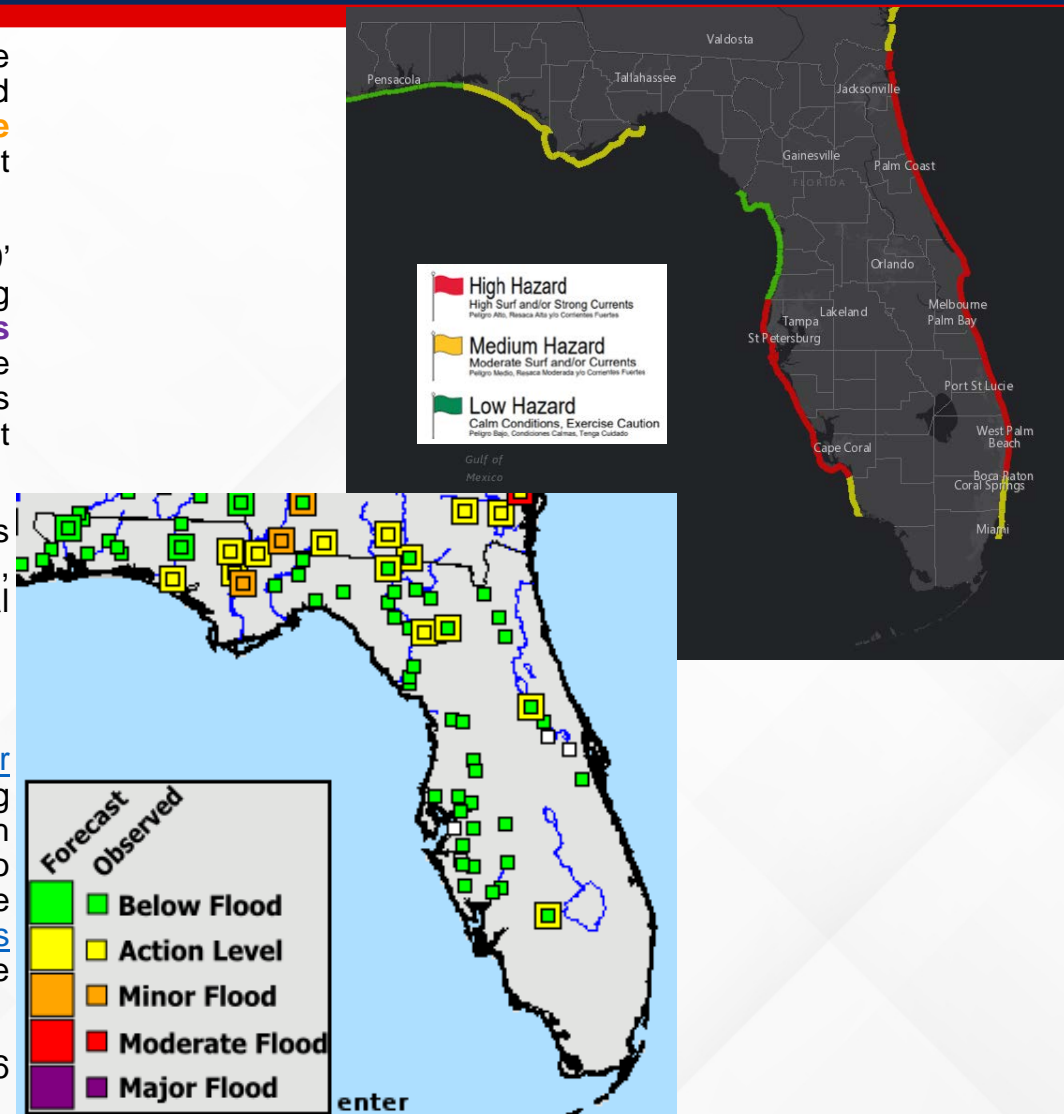
Marine Hazards: An ocean swell along Space and Treasure Coast will create **wave heights** of 6-9' along beaches with **breaking waves** of 10-11' within the surf zone this afternoon. Breezy winds along the coastline will also create **wave heights** of 4-6' for the rest of the East Coast. **High Surf Advisories** are in effect along the Florida East Coast as **dangerous beach and boating conditions** can be expected through this evening. Gulf and West Coast beaches can expect diminishing ocean swells creating wave heights of 1-3'. **Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: There is no organized risk for coastal flooding. Elevated surf and breezy winds may create instances of localized beach and coastal erosion along the Florida East Coast at times, especially along the vulnerable coastlines. Recent rainfall may also contribute to exacerbating coastal impacts.

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding today.

Riverine Flooding: A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the [Apalachicola River near Blountstown](#) where heavy rainfall over southern Alabama and Georgia have led to water levels rising within the river basin and flow downstream. **Minor riverine flooding** is expected to continue through the week before falling below flood stage over the weekend. Elevated water levels will continue to move downstream through the river basin over the next few days. Recent rainfall and breezy onshore winds will allow for water levels to remain elevated within Action Stage (bank-full) for the [St. Johns River at Astor](#); however, minor flooding is not anticipated at this time. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 16.32 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.76 feet above normal for this time of year.





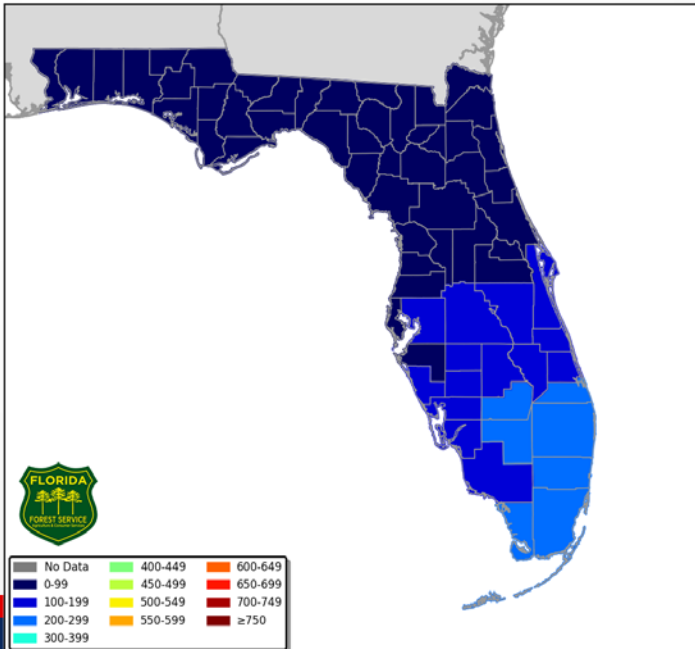
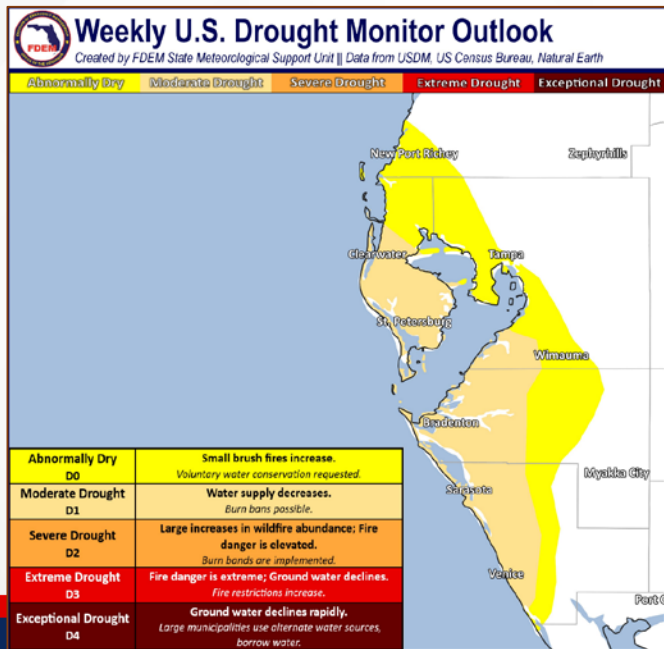
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Isolated to scattered showers will continue east of the I-75 corridor through the morning with shower activity diminishing through the afternoon and evening hours as a low pressure system moves further away from the Florida East Coast. Breezy winds along East Florida will continue this morning and afternoon with **wind gusts of 25-30 mph**. Drier conditions will return in the wake of the active system as high pressure develops and shifts over the Gulf Coast states. Relative humidity values will fall **below critical thresholds (middle 20-30%)** across the Panhandle and Big Bend this afternoon as much drier air filters southward. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible; however, recent rainfall and calm winds will keep the overall wildfire threat low. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 14 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 345 acres.

Drought: Despite plentiful rainfall across portions of the state early this week, no changes have been made to this week's drought update. Abnormally dry to **moderate drought** conditions persist along the Tampa Bay region from Pasco to Sarasota county. Heavy rainfall expected across the Peninsula this weekend may help to improve or alleviate drought conditions.

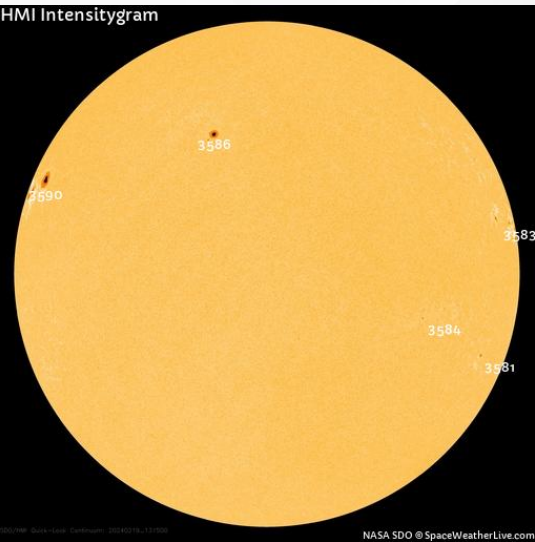
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **84 (-46)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for February 18, 2024

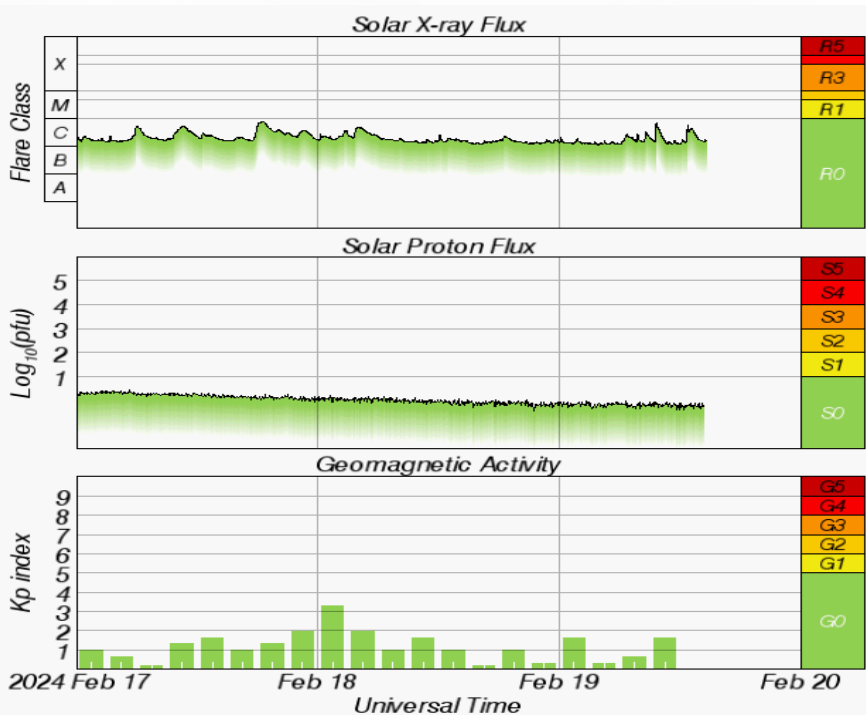
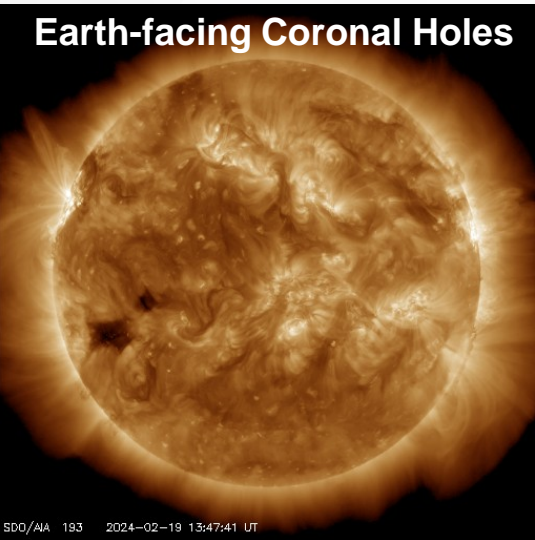




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C6 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/19	2/20
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space weather: Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares through Feb 21. A big new sunspot is emerging from the far side of the sun's northeastern limb (#3590), but it is too early to say what kind of magnetic field it possesses. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany stronger solar activity. Nominal conditions are likely through the midday before weak enhancements from a potential grazing from the Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) from Feb 16. No minor (S1) or greater solar radiation storms are expected. Mostly quiet geomagnetic conditions can be expected through the midday before unsettled conditions develop ahead of the weak CME. No minor (G1) or greater geomagnetic storms are expected. The overall space threat to Florida is very 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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