

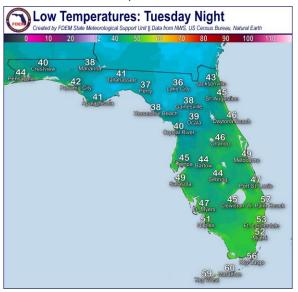




...Mostly Dry Conditions Throughout the Week...Cold Front Later In the Week Bringing Next Best Chance of Rain, But Will Remain Minimal...Locally Sensitive Wildfire Conditions Developing During Afternoon; Recent Rainfall and Light Winds to Keep Overall Threat Low...Areas of Patchy Frost Possible Along I-10 Corridor and Suwannee River Valley Overnight Tuesday and Wednesday...Minor Riverine Flooding Continues for Apalachicola River near Blountstown Through Rest of Week...Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought Conditions Hold Steady Along Western Peninsula...

## **Tuesday – Thursday:**

In the wake of an active weekend and early start to the week, high pressure will move over the northern Gulf of Mexico and over the Gulf Coast states. This area of high pressure will then move eastward towards the Southeastern U.S. by Thursday, which will allow for temperatures to gradually warm up throughout the week. Mostly dry and sunny conditions can be expected during the week across the Sunshine State (near 0% chance of rain). While mostly dry conditions are expected, relative humidity values across West Florida on Tuesday and Wednesday will fall near or below critical thresholds during the afternoons (30% to low 40%). Calm winds and saturated grounds will help to keep the overall wildfire threat concern low; however, locally sensitive wildfire conditions cannot be ruled out at times. Breezy wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph can be anticipated along the immediate East Coast on Tuesday and Wednesday, but elsewhere weaker winds will prevail. As the area of high pressure shifts northeastward on Thursday, relative humidity values will start to recover along the Panhandle and West Florida, but near to below critical relative humidity values will shift eastward as well. On Thursday portions of Northeast and Central Florida can expect locally sensitive wildfire conditions to develop due to near or below critical threshold relative humidity values (middle to upper 30%). Calm winds will help to keep the overall wildfire threat low, but wind gusts could reach upwards of 10-15 mph at times over these areas. An approaching frontal boundary will allow for breezy wind gusts to develop throughout the day on Thursday across the Panhandle and towards the Big Bend. Wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph can be expected to develop as the frontal boundary approaches the Panhandle. During the late overnight and early morning hours on Friday isolated to scattered showers will develop along the Panhandle and the weak cold front moves towards the I-10 corridor (20-35% chance of rain). A rumble of thunder or two cannot be ruled out during the overnight hours as well.



High temperatures will gradually warm throughout the week as high pressure remains in place. On Tuesday and Wednesday high temperatures will be in the middle to upper 60s and low 70s across the state. By Thursday high temperatures will warm up in the upper 60s along the North Florida coastlines, with inland areas reach the low 70s. Across Central and South Florida high temperatures will reach the low to middle 70s. Low temperatures overnight Tuesday will fall into the middle to upper 30s along the I-10 corridor and Suwannee River Valley, with areas closer towards the coastlines in the low 40s. Clear skies and calm winds may allow for areas of patchy frost to develop overnight and early Wednesday morning. Across Central Florida low temperatures will be in the middle to upper 40s, while South Florida will see low temperatures in the 50s. Similar conditions can be expected overnight Wednesday, with warmer conditions

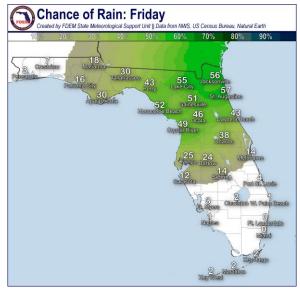




along the Panhandle. Low temperatures in the middle to upper 30s throughout the Suwannee River Valley may allow for **patchy frost** to develop overnight and early Thursday morning. By Thursday night low temperatures will be in the 50s and low 60s across the state.

### Friday – Saturday:

A weak cold front will move across the I-10 corridor Friday morning and into the early afternoon hours bringing scattered showers and possible isolated thunderstorms before moving through the Peninsula (30-55% chance of rain). As the frontal guickly moves through the Peninsula it will continue to weaken further and serve as more of a moisture boundary. Decreasing rain chances can be expected across Central and South Florida along the frontal boundary, but a few isolated showers and rumbles of thunder may be possible throughout the evening and overnight hours (15-25% chance of rain). Severe weather is not expected with this frontal passage as conditions look to be unfavorable for severe thunderstorms to develop. By Saturday the cold front will move offshore from South Florida and the Keys allowing for mostly dry conditions to return statewide (near 0% chance of rain). Drier and cooler air will filter in



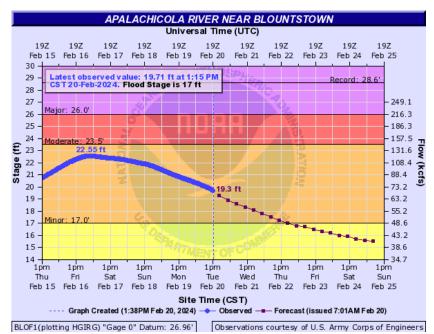
behind the passing cold front. Relative humidity values will fall near or below critical thresholds Saturday afternoon (middle to upper 30%). Locally sensitive wildfire conditions may develop across portions of the state, but saturated grounds and soils will keep the overall wildfire threat low. Northwesterly winds will usher cooler and drier air across the state as an area of high pressure develops over the Central U.S. Breezy post-frontal winds will allow for wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph at times to develop through the morning and into the early afternoon hours.

High temperatures on Friday will reach the low to middle 70s across North Florida and the northern Peninsula and middle to upper 70s across Central and South Florida. Cooler conditions will develop in the wake of the passing cold front. High temperatures on Saturday will reach the middle to upper 60s and low 70s across North Florida and southward towards the I-4 corridor and low to middle 70s across South Florida and the Keys. Low temperatures overnight Friday will fall into the middle to upper 40s across North Florida, low to middle 50s across Central Florida and 60s throughout South Florida. Overnight Saturday low temperatures will fall into the low to middle 40s across North Florida, upper 40s to low 50s across Central Florida and middle to upper 50s and low 60s across South Florida.

#### **Hydrology & Flooding:**







There is no risk for flash flooding over the next 5 days. A weak frontal boundary moving across the state on Friday and into Saturday morning will bring little rainfall associated with it. Rainfall totals over the next 5 days will remain below 0.5". For the latest Flash Flood Outlooks, please visit the Weather Prediction Center.

Elevated surf along portions of Space and Treasure Coast may create instances of localized beach and coastal erosion today, especially along vulnerable coastlines. There are no additional coastal flood concerns through the rest of the week.

A River Flood Warning remains in effect for the Apalachicola

River near Blountstown where water levels remain within minor flood stage. Heavy rainfall fell over southern Alabama and Georgia last week, and additional rainfall fell over the weekend across the Panhandle, allow for heavy rainfall to flow down the river basin. Rainfall will continue to flow through the river basin and keep water levels to decline within minor flood stage through the rest of the week. The river is forecast to fall below flood stage late in the week or over the weekend. Several other Panhandle and Big Bend rivers, creeks and waterways remain within Action Stage (bank-full) following widespread rainfall, but are not expected to rise into minor flood stage. The St. Johns River at Astor also remains within Action Stage as water levels slowly decline following widespread rainfall over the weekend and onshore winds keeping water levels trapped. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the River Forecast Center.

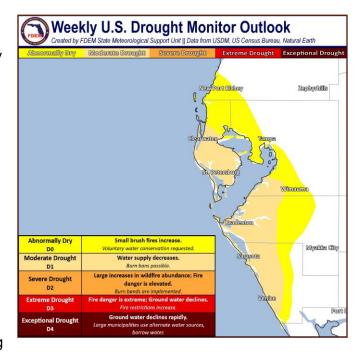
Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 16.39', which is within the operational band and 1.83' <u>above</u> normal.





## **Drought & Fire Weather:**

Little to no changes were made on the most recent Drought Monitor update. Abnormally dry (emerging drought) to moderate drought conditions persist along the western Peninsula. While beneficial rain was observed along the Panhandle and Big Bend, most of the rainfall stayed north of the state line and well north of the drought areas. Over the last seven days, widespread and beneficial rainfall was observed across the Peninsula. Along the western Peninsula rainfall totals upwards of 2-3" were observed, with locally higher totals approaching 4" in some locations. This rainfall will be beneficial for further drought improvements. These rainfall totals will be reflected within the next drought monitor update that is released on Thursday. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) continues to indicate drought conditions will be removed through the late winter and early Spring months (February & March).



The <u>Keetch-Byram Drought Index</u> average for Florida is **17 (-67)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are <u>zero</u> Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Northerly to northwesterly winds will usher cooler and drier air southward across the state on Tuesday and Wednesday in the wake of an active weather period earlier in the week. Relative humidity values across West Florida will fall near or below critical thresholds during the afternoons (30% to low 40%). While locally sensitive wildfire conditions are possible in some areas, the overall wildfire threat remains low Tuesday and Wednesday due to recent rainfall keeping grounds saturated and winds remaining light. By Thursday relative humidity values will start to recover across West Florida, but the drier conditions will shift towards Northeast and Central Florida. Similar to the previous days relative humidity values will fall near or below critical thresholds during the afternoon, but light winds and recent rainfall will keep the overall wildfire threat low. Locally sensitive wildfire conditions may develop at times. A weak cold front will help relative humidity values recover overnight Thursday and into Friday as the frontal boundary will bring isolated to widely scattered showers. Breezy winds are expected to develop with the frontal boundary, creating wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph at times. By Saturday, another round of dry and cool conditions will return across the state in the wake of the frontal boundary. Relative humidity values across the state will fall near or below critical thresholds, creating locally sensitive wildfire conditions. Also, breezy post-frontal winds at times will create wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph at times, which may further contribute to spreading of new or ongoing fires. According to the Florida Forest Service fire dashboard, there are 11 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 15 acres (as of 1:07 PM EST).

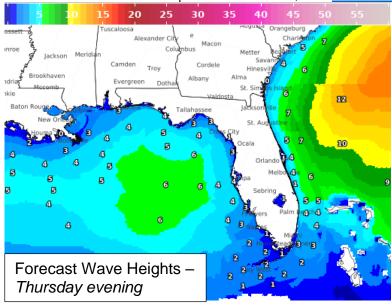
# **Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**

A weakening ocean swell will continue to create a moderate risk for rip currents along the Florida East Coast, with a locally high risk along Palm Beach County. Panhandle and Southwest Florida beaches will continue to see a moderate risk for rip currents. Onshore winds and lingering ocean swells will continue to bring a moderate to high risk for rip currents along the Florida East Coast. Calm winds and waves will lead to a moderate risk for rip currents along the Panhandle and a low risk along the West Coast. Onshore winds returning along the Panhandle will give way to a high risk for rip currents returning on Thursday. Weaker winds will allow for a moderate risk for rip





currents along the Peninsula beaches. As a cold front moves across the state on Friday increase wave heights and onshore winds will give way to a **high risk for rip currents** along Panhandle and West Coast beaches, with a **moderate to high risk** for the East Coast. Breezy northwesterly winds across the state in the wake of the passing cold front will lead to a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** statewide. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit <a href="https://www.weather.gov/beach">www.weather.gov/beach</a>.



A lingering ocean swell along the Space and Treasure Coasts will continue to **bring wave heights** of 5-7' along the Florida East Coast throughout the day. Northerly to northwesterly winds will push wave heights away from the Panhandle and Gulf Coast creating wave heights near 1-3'. The long-period ocean swell will continue to bring wave heights near 4-6' through the rest of the week along East Coast beaches. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see wave heights increase overnight Thursday ahead of an approaching cold front. Wave heights on Friday will increase to 3-5' along the Panhandle and western Big Bend before shifting southward across the western Peninsula

on Saturday.

Red Tide has not been observed in samples collected over the past week.

Blue-Green Algae conditions were observed by samplers at four of the 19 site visits taken from 2/9 to 2/15. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows low to moderate bloom potential on 5-10% of the lake, predominantly along the southwestern shoreline of the lake. The most recent and usable satellite imagery for the St. Johns River was partially obscured by cloud cover; however, it shows scattered low to moderate bloom potential on Lake George and the mainstem of the river down towards Jacksonville. High scattered low to moderate bloom potential was observed from satellite imagery throughout the Caloosahatchee Estuary. No bloom potential was observed on visible portions of the estuary.

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:

<u>Pensacola</u> • <u>Panama City</u> • <u>Tallahassee</u> • <u>Gainesville</u> • <u>Jacksonville</u> • <u>Daytona Beach</u>

<u>Orlando</u> • <u>Tampa</u> • <u>Fort Myers</u> • <u>West Palm Beach</u> • <u>Miami</u> • <u>Key West</u>

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 <u>here</u>.

Have a great rest of the week! Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather



