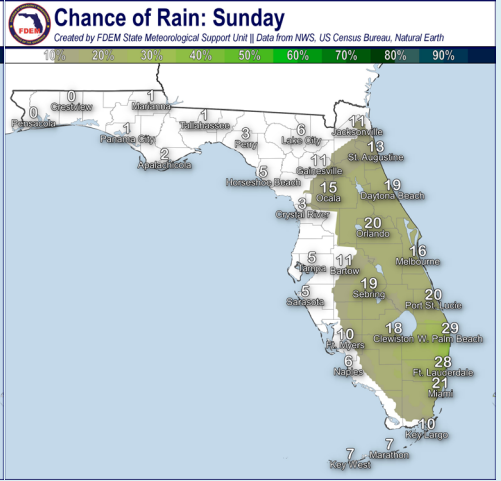
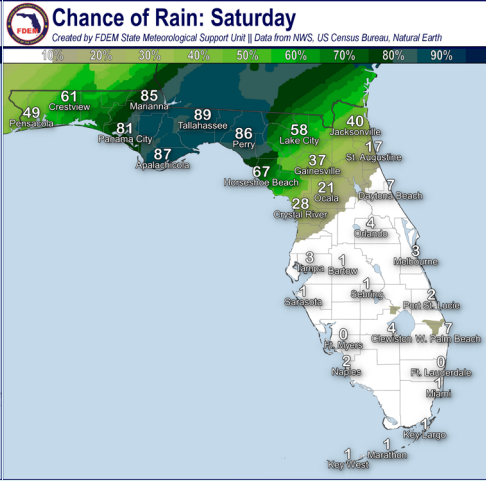
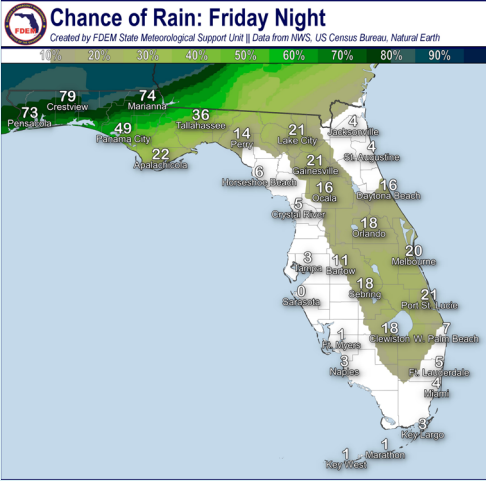


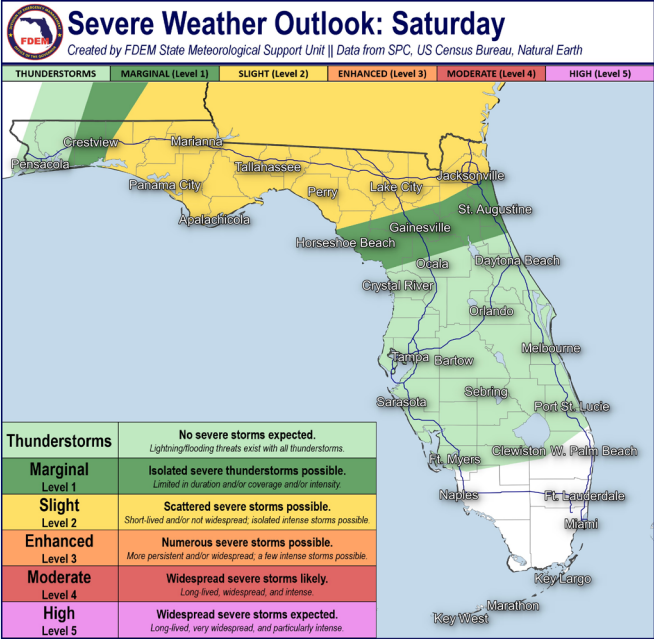
Friday, March 8, 2024

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

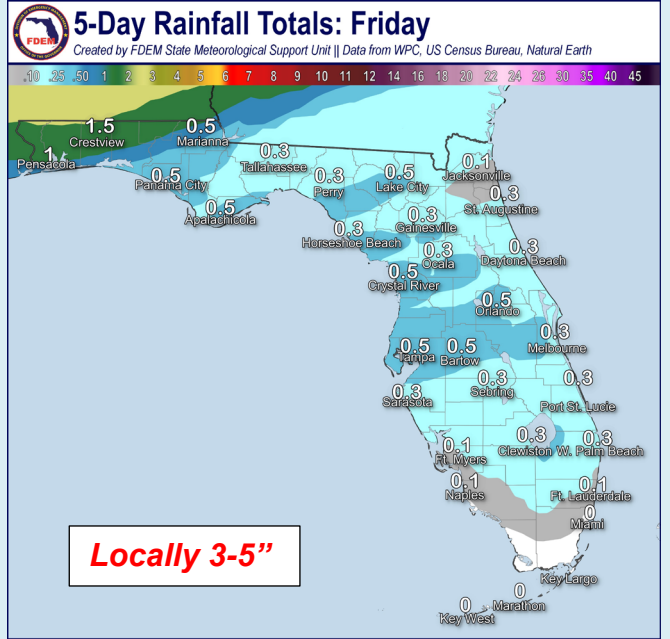
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Flash Flooding	Riverine Flooding	Fire Weather	Rip Currents
Fri	Panhandle Big Bend	Locally Panhandle	W-Panhandle FL Panhandle	Locally Iso. W- Panhandle	Panhandle Big Bend			Panhandle East Coast Gulf Coast
Sat	North Florida Central FL	North Florida N of Ocala	North Florida N of Ocala	FL Panhandle	North Florida	Iso. FL Panhandle		Panhandle & Locally Statewide
Sun	Locally Iso. Central FL					Locally Iso. FL Panhandle	Locally Iso. FL Panhandle	Panhandle & Locally Statewide
Mon						Locally Iso. FL Panhandle	Locally N & Central FL	Panhandle & Locally E. & Gulf Coasts
Tue						FL Panhandle	Locally North Florida	E-Coast & Locally Panhandle Gulf Coast



Rain Chances: Friday Night, Saturday, & Sunday



SPC Severe Weather Outlook: Saturday



Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Tuesday Night

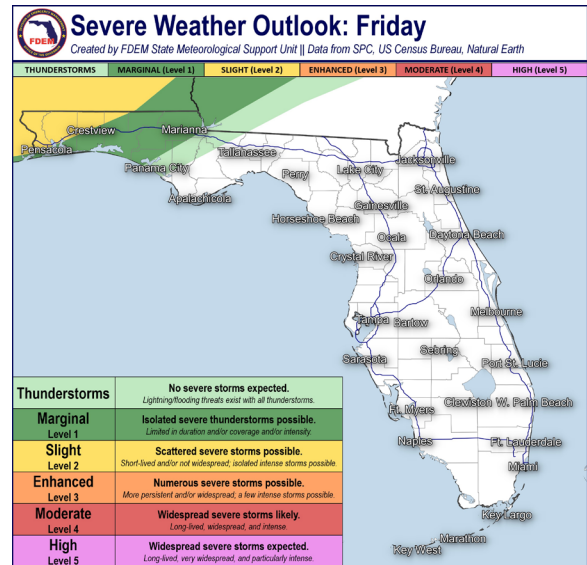


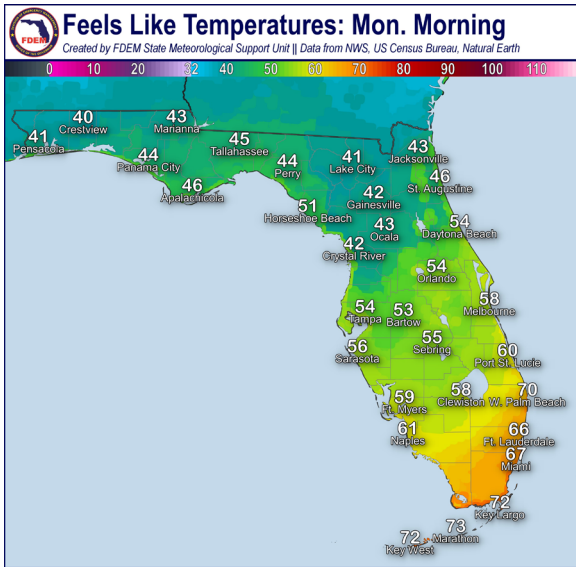
...Scattered to Numerous Showers and Thunderstorms Across the Panhandle Today and Tonight As The Next Cold Front Approaches...Slight Risk For Severe Weather In the Panhandle Today and Across Much of North Florida Saturday...Damaging Wind Gusts, Isolated Tornadoes, and Hail Possible...Slight Risk For Flash Flooding In the Panhandle Today With Marginal Risk Across Much of North Florida Saturday...Localized Flooding and Ponding of Water Possible...Breezy Wind Gusts Upwards of 20-30 MPH In the Panhandle Friday and Statewide Saturday...Above Normal Temperatures Persist Today and Into The Weekend Across Much of the State...Cool and Dry High-Pressure Air Mass Building In Behind the Cold Front Sunday Night...Cooler and Relatively Dry Conditions To Set In Statewide...Sensitive Wildfire Conditions Possible Sunday Through Tuesday...Moderate to High Risk for Rip Currents Statewide...Patchy to Locally Dense Fog Possible Statewide Tonight and Saturday Night...

Friday-Sunday:

The frontal boundary stalled over South Florida will lift northward and out of the state throughout the day as the next cold front approaches from the northwest, yielding isolated showers across the Peninsula and Big Bend today and tonight (5-25% chance of rain) while the Panhandle sees scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms developing (50-80% chance of rain). The incoming cold front will move through the Florida Panhandle Saturday afternoon (60-90% chance of rain) and across the Northern Peninsula Saturday night (45-70% chance of rain), pushing a line of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms through the state ahead of it. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the Western Panhandle today and across much of North Florida Saturday as **strong to severe thunderstorms** producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph), isolated tornadoes, hail, and heavy downpours will be possible. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** extends slightly outward from the edge of the **Slight Risk** both days for the same hazards. While there remains uncertainty to where the band of highest rainfall totals will fall, the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle today with a **Marginal (level 1 of 4) Risk** extending into the Big Bend as heavy downpours within shower and thunderstorms activity may give way to instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water**. A **Marginal Risk** can also be expected across much of North Florida Saturday as heavy rainfall persists ahead of the cold front. Isolated to widely scattered showers may continue along the Peninsula Sunday afternoon (15-35% chance of rain); however, a cooler and drier air mass will move in behind the cold front by Sunday night (near 0-15% chance of rain).

High temperatures will rise in the 70s along the Florida Panhandle and 80s across the Northern Peninsula today and Saturday but remain in the middle to upper 60s along the Florida Panhandle and low to middle 70s along the Northern Peninsula Sunday behind the cold front. The rest of the state will see high temperatures in the 80s over the next 3 days. Coastal areas may see slightly cooler temperatures than adjacent inland areas as sea breezes develop in the afternoons. Breezy winds will develop as the cold front moves through the state with **gusts upwards of 20-30 mph** along the Panhandle today and nearly statewide Saturday. Winds will begin to settle statewide as higher pressure builds in Sunday with gusts of around 15-20 mph anticipated. **Locally stronger gusts of 20-25 mph** will continue to be possible along the Panhandle coastline and across South





Florida. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** may be possible across portions of North and Central Florida Sunday afternoon as breezy winds linger and drier air moves in, dropping relative humidity values into the **middle 30% to low 40%**.

Low temperatures will remain in the upper 60s to upper 70s statewide tonight. Overnight temperatures will fall into the 50s along the Florida Panhandle and low 60s across the Northern Peninsula by Saturday. Cooler temperatures can be expected statewide Sunday behind the cold front with lows in the middle to upper 40s across North Florida, middle 50s across Central Florida, and 60s to low 70s along South Florida and the Keys. Lingering breezy winds will cause temperatures to feel slightly cooler than they are overnight Sunday into early Monday morning with **feels like temperatures** in the low 40s expected along the

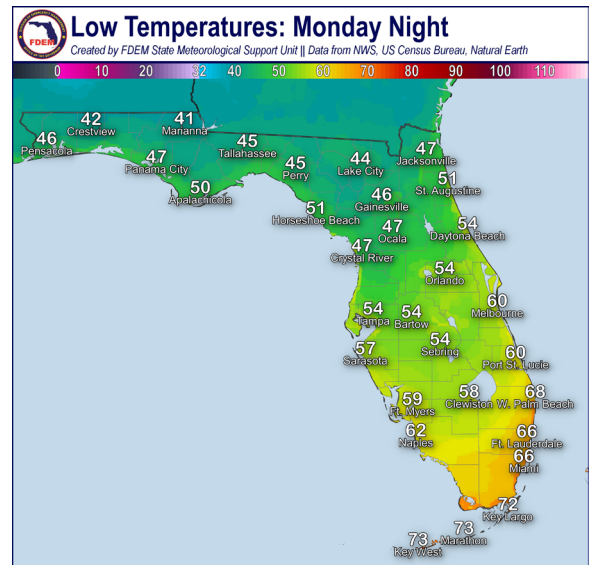
Panhandle and across the Suwanee Valley into the Nature Coast. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** will be possible statewide and over coastal Gulf waters over the next 2-3 days due to saturated grounds and cooling overnight temperatures.

Monday – Tuesday:

A cool and dry high-pressure air mass will take hold over the Eastern U.S. behind the cold front Monday and Tuesday, allowing for relatively dry and pleasant conditions to return across Florida to kick-off the work week (near 0-20% chance of rain).

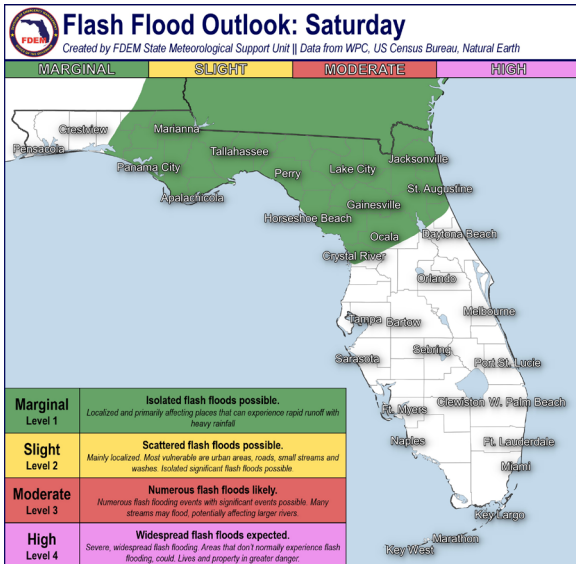
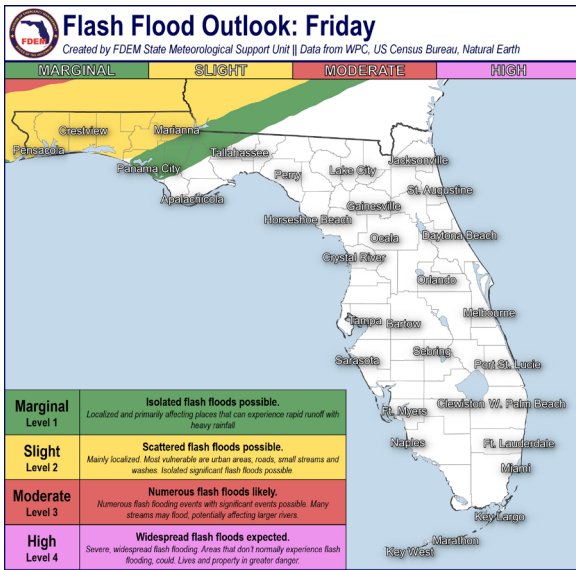
High temperatures will remain in the upper 60s to low 70s across North Florida Monday afternoon but warm back into the low to middle 70s by Tuesday afternoon. The rest of the state can expect high temperatures to remain in the middle 70s to low 80s early next week. Drier air filtering into the state will bring relative humidity values near or below critical thresholds across North and Central Florida Monday and across North Florida Tuesday (**upper 20% to upper 30%**). With saturated grounds and light winds expected, the overall wildfire threat will likely remain low; however, **sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible and **locally elevated wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out over areas that receive lower rainfall totals along the Peninsula.

Low temperatures will fall back into the low to middle 40s across the Florida Panhandle, middle to upper 40s along the Northern Peninsula, middle 50s across Central Florida, 60s across South Florida, and low to middle 70s along the Keys Monday night. By Tuesday, overnight conditions will begin to warm back up with low temperatures in the low to middle 50s across North Florida, low 60s across Central Florida, middle to upper 60s across South Florida, and middle 70s along the Keys.



Hydrology & Flooding:





Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will begin to make their way into the Panhandle later today and tonight, spreading across North Florida Saturday as a cold front moves into the state. Abundant moisture will likely give way to heavy downpours within these showers and thunderstorms over the next 2 days. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle today with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending into the Big Bend. In addition, WPC is outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding** extending across much of North Florida Saturday. Instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible, especially over urban, low-lying/poor drainage, and other vulnerable areas. Heavy rainfall across portions of the state earlier in the week have left grounds saturated, which may allow for a quicker onset of **flooding**. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will persist across the Peninsula Sunday as the cold front continues southward; however, additional flooding is not anticipated. A cooler and drier high-pressure air mass will move back in over the state behind the cold front early next week, allowing rain chances to subside. There is no risk for flash flooding Monday or Tuesday. Over the next 5 days, widespread rainfall totals of 1-3" can be expected with **locally higher amounts** near 3-5" possible depending on where the frontal boundaries resides. For the latest flash flood outlook, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](http://www.weather.gov).

All Florida rivers, creeks and waterways are below flood stage. The [Apalachicola River near Blountstown](#) and [St. Marks River near Newport](#) have risen into Action Stage and the [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#) continues to hold steady within Action

Stage following heavy rainfall earlier in the week. Rivers will be influenced by widespread rainfall observed across and north of the area yesterday and additional rainfall anticipated today with the advancing system. There remains uncertainty to where the highest rainfall totals will be realized. Regardless of how far north or south the heaviest rain occurs, water level rises can be anticipated along most rivers and waterways across the Florida Panhandle with some rivers likely rising into Action Stage or **Minor Flood Stage** by next week. The Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers are forecast to see a lot of water coming down the basins late this weekend and early next week, which could lead to rises in local rivers and waterways later in the week. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 16.02', which is within the operational band and 1.53' above normal. Lake elevations have fallen approximately 0.13' over the past week and approximately 0.30' over the past 30 days. Widespread rainfall expected across the state over the next 5 days may reintroduce water level rises in the lake.

Drought & Fire Weather:

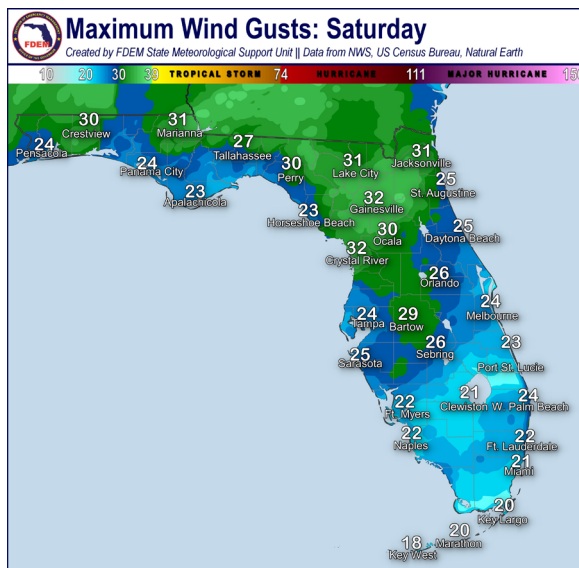
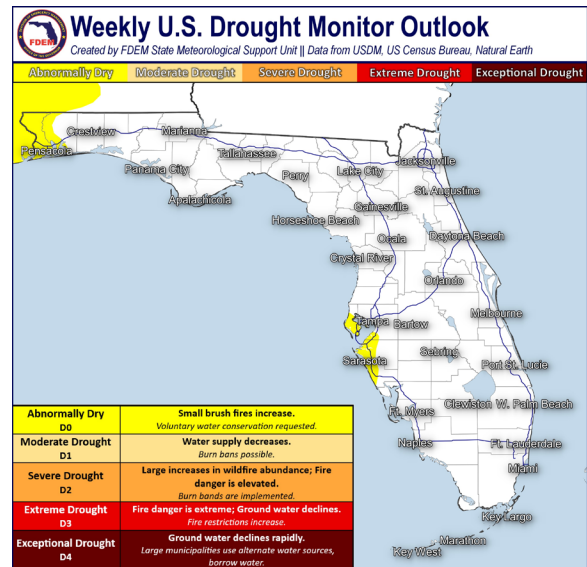


Despite heavy rainfall across portions of the state earlier in the week, the latest [Drought Monitor](#) update shows no changes to existing drought conditions. Year-to-date rainfall deficits continue to yield abnormally dry (emerging drought) conditions in West-Central Florida from Pinellas to Sarasota County. Abnormally dry conditions also remain in place along the Western Panhandle due to drying soils and low streamflows. Heavy rainfall anticipated across North Florida Friday and Saturday may help to improve dry conditions.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **75 (+7)** 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).

Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds statewide over the next 2 days.

Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will make their way into the Panhandle this evening and overnight, spreading across North Florida Saturday afternoon as a cold front makes its way into the state. A few strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible. *Thunderstorms may be capable of producing erratic winds and frequent lightning.* Breezy winds will develop as the cold front moves through the state with **gusts upwards of 20-30 mph** along the Panhandle today and nearly statewide Saturday. Winds will begin to settle statewide as higher pressure builds in Sunday with gusts of around 15-20 mph anticipated. **Locally stronger gusts of 20-25 mph** will continue to be possible along the Panhandle coastline and across South Florida. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible across portions of North and Central Florida Sunday afternoon as breezy winds linger and drier air moves in, pulling down relative humidity values into the **middle 30% to low 40%**. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** may be possible across portions of the state over the next 2-3 days due to saturated grounds, cooling overnight temperatures, in addition to calm winds early next week. *Foggy conditions may further reduce visibility where there are ongoing wildfires.* A cool and dry high pressure air mass will take hold over the Eastern U.S. early next week,



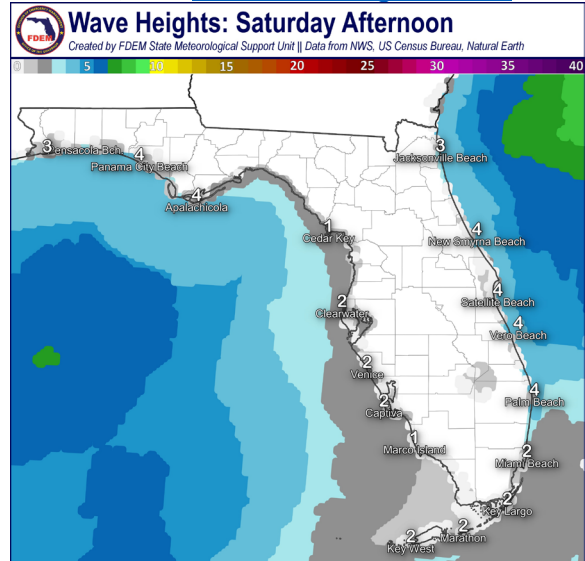
bringing relative humidity values near or below critical thresholds across North and Central Florida Monday and across North Florida Tuesday. Relative humidity values will dip into the **upper 20% to middle 30%** along the Florida Panhandle and **low to middle 30%** across the Northern and Central Peninsula Monday and into the **low to upper 30%** across North Florida Tuesday. With saturated grounds and light winds expected, the overall wildfire threat will likely remain low; however, **sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible and **locally elevated wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out over areas that receive lower rainfall totals along the Peninsula. Winds will continue to settle early next week with winds near 5-10 mph and higher gusts anticipated. According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 12 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 62 acres (as of 2:15 PM EST).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:



Panhandle beaches can expect a **high risk for rip currents** today as breezy winds and ocean swells begin to develop ahead of an approaching cold front. A **moderate risk for rip currents** can continue to be expected along East Coast beaches. A low risk for rip currents continues for the West Coast. East Coast beaches can anticipate a moderate risk for rip currents through Monday. On Tuesday, long period swells originating further out in the Atlantic will arrive along the Florida East Coast, likely creating a **high risk for life-threatening rip currents** along the coastline. A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** will continue to be possible along the Panhandle over the next 5 days. Gulf Coast beaches will likely see rip currents increase to a **moderate to high risk** through Monday before returning to a low-risk Tuesday. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

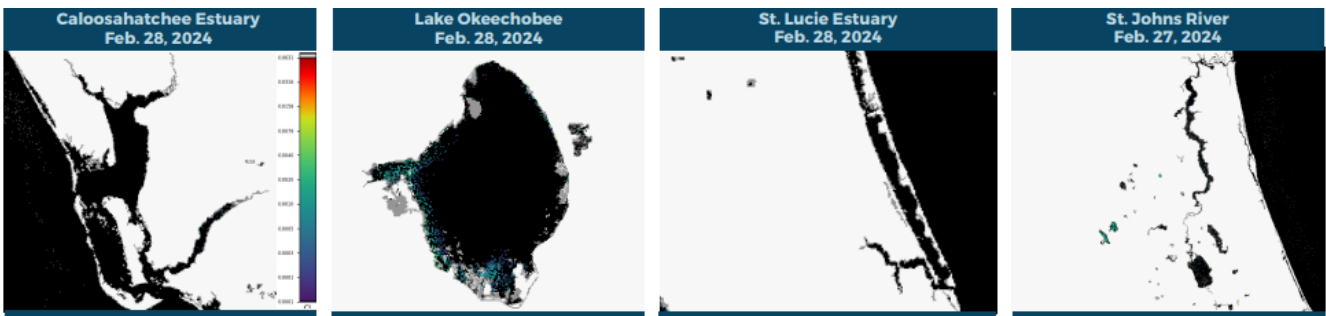
Wave heights will remain around 2-4' along the East Coast and Florida Panhandle this afternoon, building to **3-5'** Saturday as breezy winds develop with an incoming cold front. Further offshore along the East Coast, **wave heights** will reach 6-7' Saturday. All other Florida beaches can expect to see wave heights of near 1-2' this afternoon, building to **2-4'** by Saturday afternoon. **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** may be possible as conditions deteriorate today and Saturday. Beaches statewide will continue to see 2-5' **wave heights** Sunday and Monday as breezy winds gradually subside with **locally higher breaking waves of up to 6-7'** possible in the surf along the Southeast and Central-East Coasts. 2-5' wave heights will generally persist along the Florida Atlantic Coastline Tuesday as long period swells arrive while all other Florida beaches return to around 1-2'.



Coastal flooding is not anticipated over the next 5 days; however, breezy winds, elevated surf, and long period swells may cause tidal levels to rise into Action Stage during times of high tide along the vulnerable Forgotten and Nature Coasts. Isolated water levels approaching **minor flooding** criteria cannot be ruled out.

Red Tide has not been observed above background levels in nearshore or offshore waters over the past week.

Blue-Green Algae was observed via satellite on 2/28 at low to **moderate bloom potential** on 15% of Lake Okeechobee, predominantly along the western and southern shorelines of the lake. Despite satellite imagery being partially obscured by cloud cover, lightly scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** was observed on 2/27 throughout Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River down to the city of Jacksonville. Highly scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** was also observed on 2/28 along the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Satellite imagery on 2/28 shows no bloom potential on the St. Lucie Estuary.



[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)



[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa 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:

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[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 wonderful and safe weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

