



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, March 9, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Jay Griffin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Peloso	(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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Willie Bouie	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 4: James Carter	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Karen Kozac	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Region 7 Coverage Provided by RC 6

Regions 8 and 9 Coverage Provided by RC 10

RC Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
RRCT Manager	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	In Region	On Call Status for Region 9
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Out of Region	Leave
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	In Region	Off & Monitoring

Region 2 Coverage Provided by RRC 1

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 10 & 5

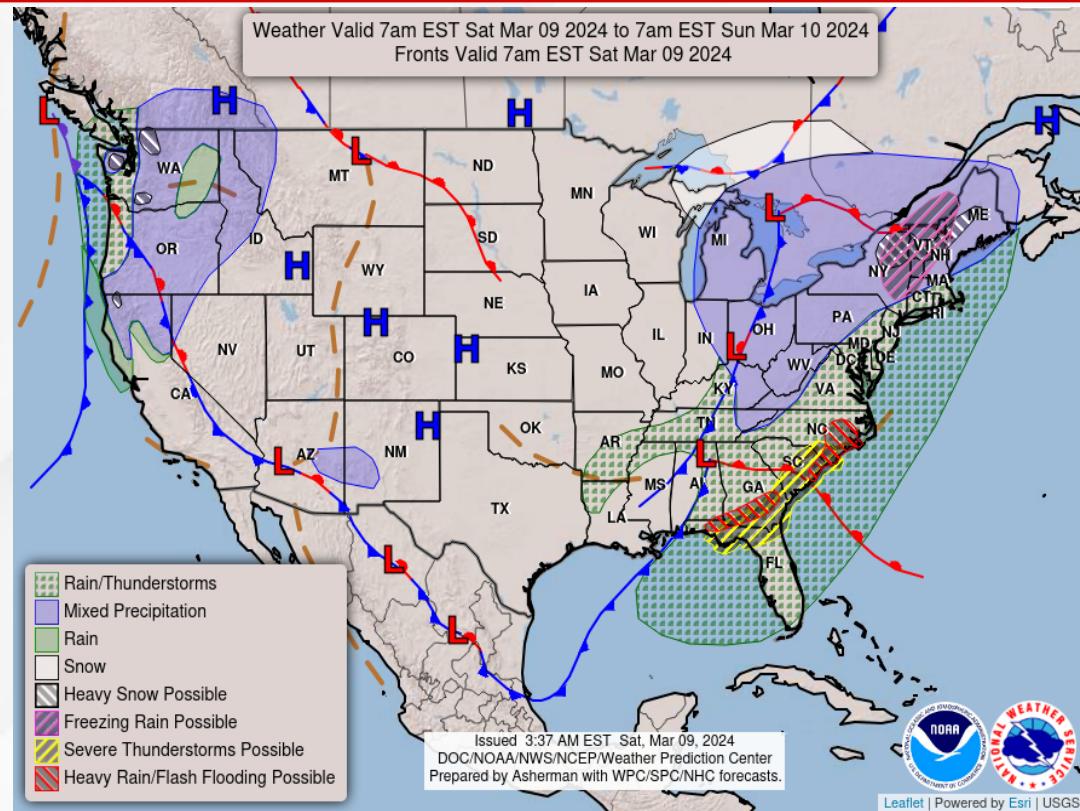
Region 9 Coverage Provided by RRC 7

RRC Status

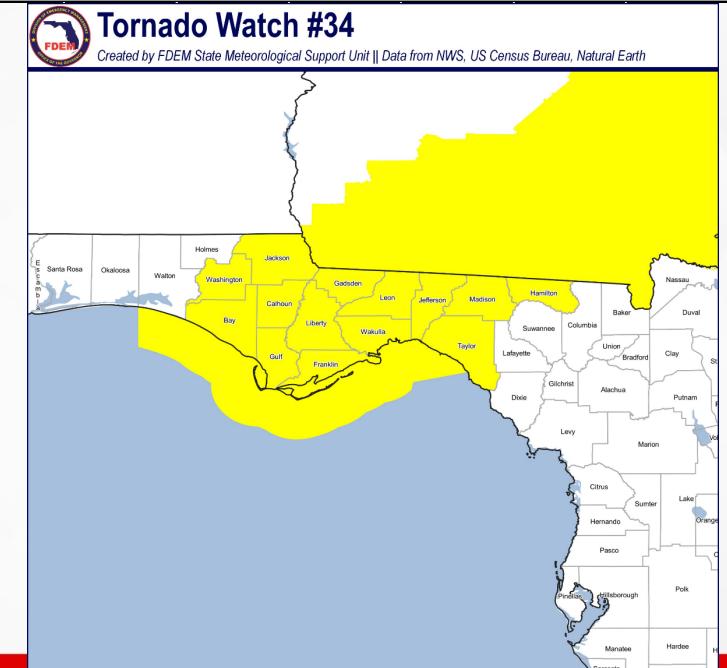
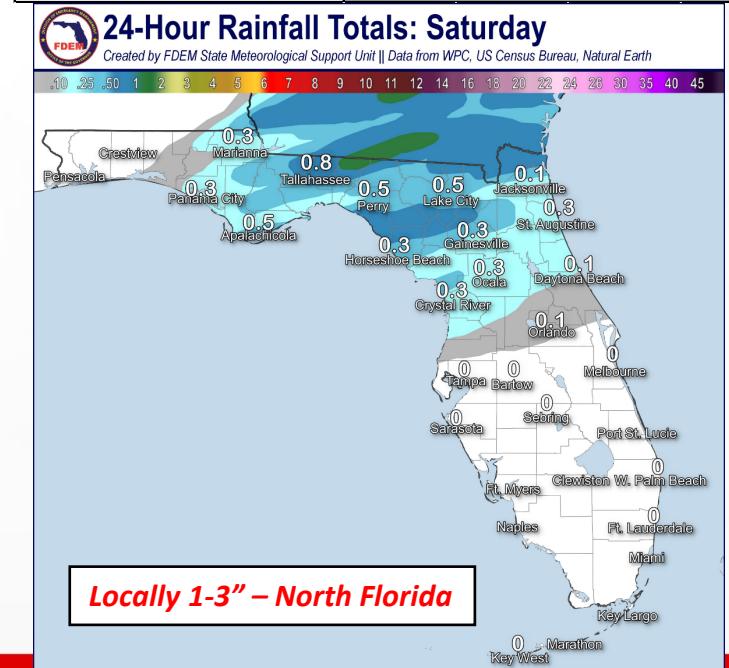
Normal Operations
In Region / Delayed Response
Deployed / Delayed Response
Out of Service / Unavailable



Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map





Meteorology Summary

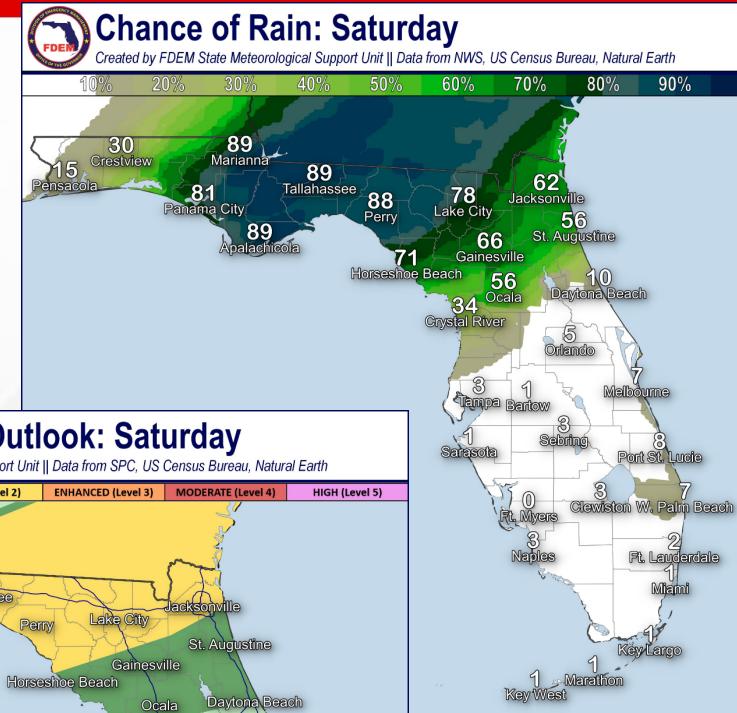
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Areas of patchy to locally dense fog can be expected across the Peninsula this morning, dissipating through the mid-morning hours. **Dense Fog Advisories** have been issued over nearshore Gulf waters from the Ochlockonee River to the Suwannee River and over coastal waters from the Ochlockonee River to Apalachicola, Florida until 3 P.M. EDT this afternoon as areas of **dense sea fog** are expected to reduce visibility to less than 1 NM.

A cold front advancing eastward through the Florida Panhandle will push a line of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms currently positioned across the Eastern Panhandle through the Big Bend and into the Northern Peninsula (60-90% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across much of North Florida with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending south of I-10 to Crystal River and Daytona Beach. **Tornado Watch #34** is in effect along the Central and Eastern Panhandle Florida Panhandle until 2 P.M. EDT/1 P.M. CDT this afternoon as **strong to severe thunderstorms** producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (50-70 mph), a few tornadoes, isolated large hail (up to 1.5" in diameter), and heavy downpours will be possible. Additional **Tornado Watches** may be issued further eastward later today. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Eastern Panhandle and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** across much of North Florida as heavy downpours within shower and thunderstorms activity may give way to instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water**.

Elsewhere across the state, partly sunny skies can be expected (near 0-30% chance of rain). High temperatures will rise into the middle to upper 70s along the Florida Panhandle and Suwannee Valley and middle to upper 80s across the Peninsula and Keys this afternoon, with locally cooler temperatures likely along coastlines. Breezy winds with **gusts near 25-35 mph** can be expected across the Big Bend and North and Central Florida as the cold front makes its way through the state today. Areas elsewhere across the state can anticipate **breezy wind gusts of around 15-25 mph**.

The cold front will push through the Northern and Central Peninsula overnight, moving the line of showers and thunderstorms southeastward with it. Showers and thunderstorms will remain more organized as they move through the Northern Peninsula (45-70% chance of rain) before weakening as it moves through the rest of the Peninsula overnight (10-40% chance of rain). Meanwhile, northwesterly winds will begin to pull drier and cooler air in across the Florida Panhandle behind the cold front (near 0-20% chance of rain). Muggy, above normal temperatures can be expected ahead of the cold front with lows in the upper 60s to low 70s expected across Central Florida and middle to upper 70s across South Florida and the Keys. Conditions will begin to see a cooling trend behind the cold front across North Florida tonight with low temperatures anticipated to fall into the upper 40s to middle 50s across the Florida Panhandle and upper 50s to low 60s along the Northern Peninsula. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** may be possible across the Peninsula and over coastal Gulf waters along Southwest Florida overnight and early Sunday morning.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Panhandle beaches can expect a **high risk for rip currents** today as breezy winds and ocean swells continue to develop. A **moderate risk for rip currents** can continue to be expected along East and Gulf Coast beaches as breezy winds develop through the Peninsula throughout the day. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

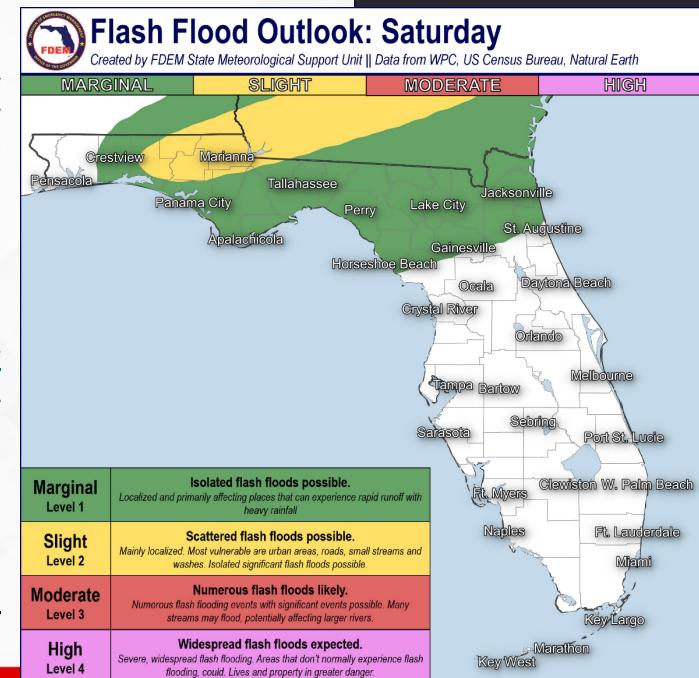
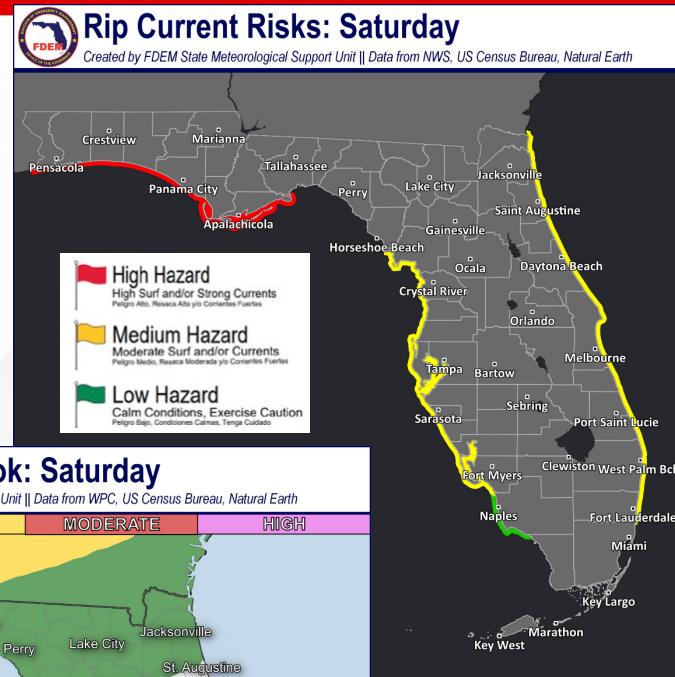
Marine Hazards: **Wave heights** of 3-5' can be expected along East Coast and Panhandle beaches this afternoon as breezy winds and ocean swells develop statewide thanks to the advancing cold front. All other Florida beaches can expect wave heights to remain near 1-3'. **Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not anticipated today; however, breezy winds may lead to elevated tides into Action Stage at times of high tide along the vulnerable Forgotten and Nature Coasts as breezy winds and elevated surf develop. Isolated water levels approaching **minor flooding** criteria cannot be ruled out.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Eastern Panhandle and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** across much of North Florida today. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will move across the Florida Panhandle and Suwannee Valley today ahead of the advancing cold front, moving into the Northern Peninsula overnight. Southerly to southwesterly winds will continue to bring in abundant moisture across the state, likely allowing for heavy downpours to develop within shower and thunderstorm activity. With grounds across portions of North Florida still relatively saturated from widespread rainfall seen earlier in the week, some areas may be more prone to a faster onset of **flooding** and **ponding of water**. Urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas will also be more vulnerable to **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** in the event of training showers and thunderstorms producing heavy downpours. While rainfall totals are generally expected to remain near or below 1" today, **locally higher totals** in excess of 1-3" may possible.

Riverine Flooding: 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. 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. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 16.00 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.52 feet above normal for this time of year.



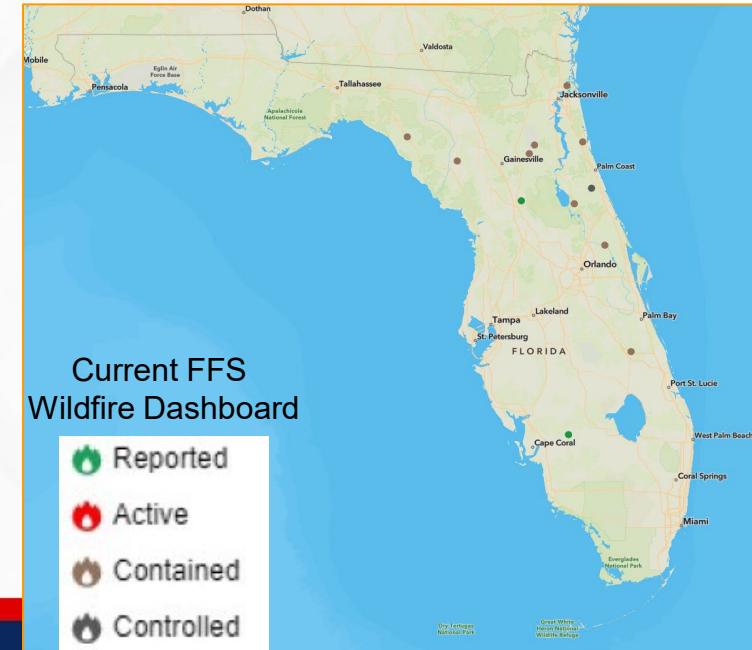
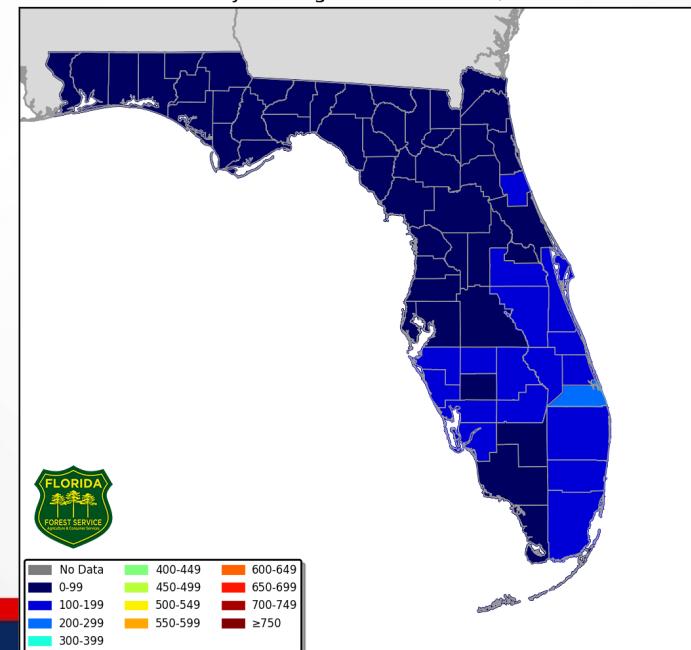
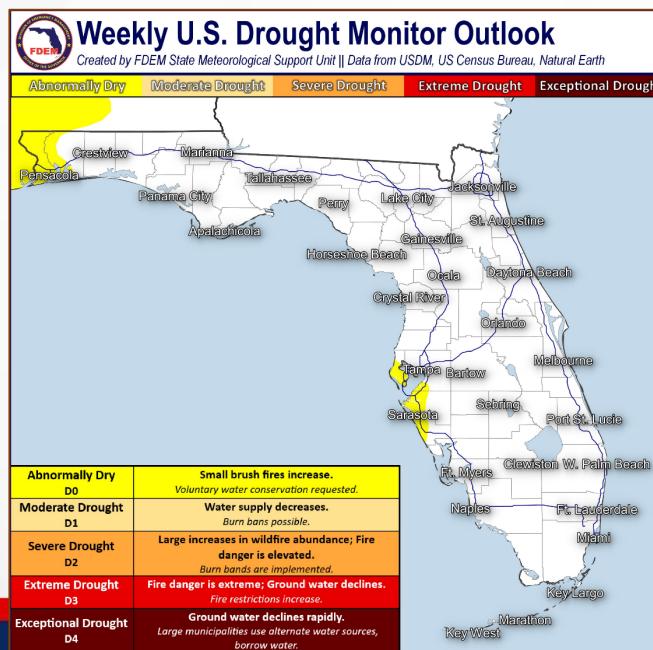


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** that have developed along the Peninsula will gradually dissipate through the mid-morning hours. **Dense Fog Advisories** have been issued over nearshore Gulf waters from the Ochlockonee River to the Suwannee River and over coastal waters from the Ochlockonee River to Apalachicola, Florida until 3 P.M. EDT this afternoon as areas of **dense sea fog** are expected to **reduce visibility to less than 1 NM**. Southerly to southwesterly winds will continue to bring in abundant moisture across the state today, keeping relative humidity values well above critical thresholds. A line of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms make their way across North Florida today ahead of a cold front, weakening as the line moves through the Northern and Central Peninsula tonight. Breezy winds will develop statewide as a cold front advances, **gusting near 25-35 mph** at times across the Big Bend and Northern and Central Peninsula with **15-25 mph gusts** across the rest of the state. Winds will turn northwesterly behind the cold front, bringing in cooler and drier air across the Panhandle tonight. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** will continue to be possible along the Peninsula and over coastal Gulf waters along Southwest Florida overnight into early Sunday morning. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 12 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 196 acres.

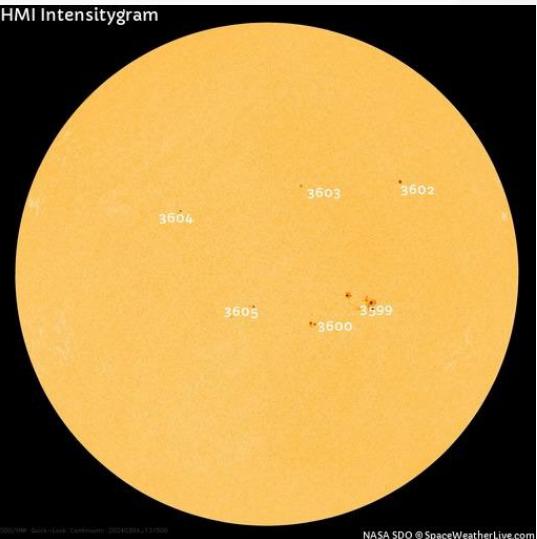
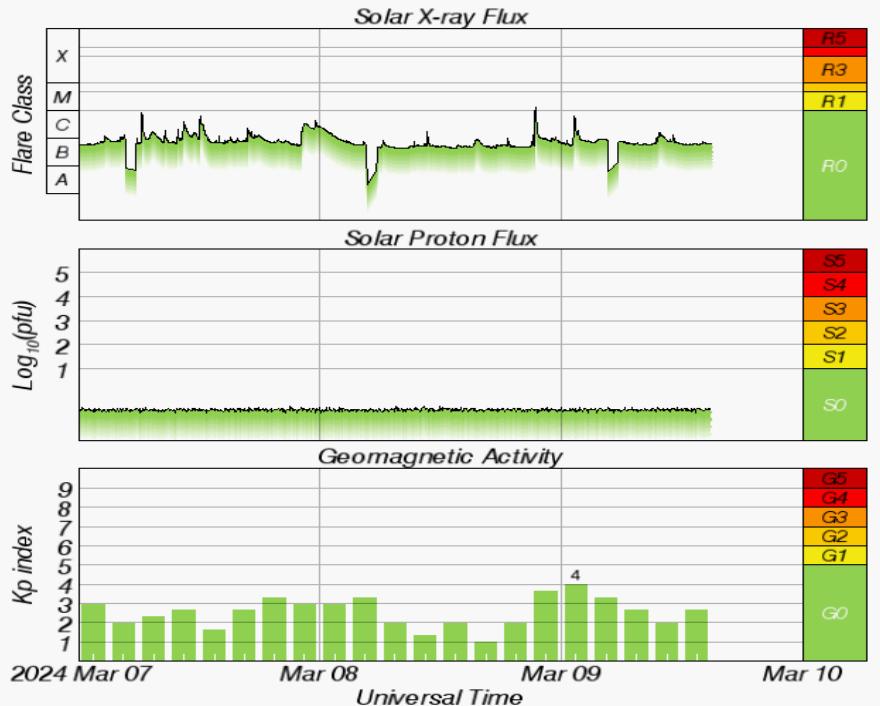
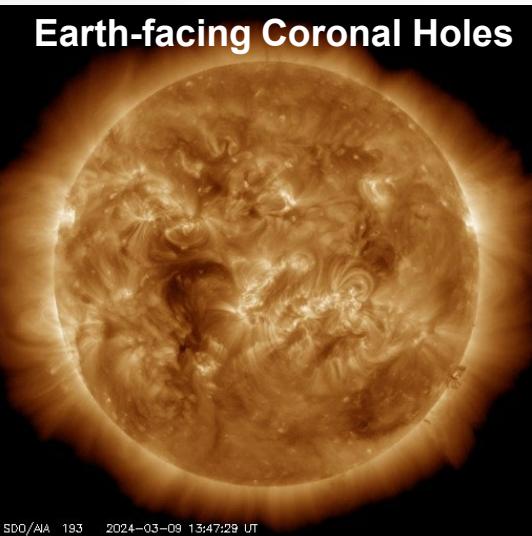
Drought: Despite widespread rainfall across portions of the state earlier in the week, there have been no changes made on this week's drought monitor update. Year-to-date rainfall deficits continue to promote abnormally dry conditions along West-Central Florida from Pinellas to Sarasota County. Abnormally 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).





Space Weather

**Current Sunspots**

Space Weather: Solar activity continues to remain low with a slight chance for strong (M-class) solar flares over the next few days. Sunspot #3599 possesses a magnetic field that harbors energy for M-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will likely accompany any stronger solar activity that does occur. Solar radiation levels are expected to remain at normal to moderate levels through the weekend. Further enhancements to the solar wind environment are possible today as Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) influences persist and combine with the anticipated arrival of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 3/5. Slowly diminishing conditions are expected Sunday as these influences dissipate before enhancements are likely reintroduced Monday due to another CH HSS. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions are forecast today with periods of isolated active levels and (G1) geomagnetic storming likely due to the CH HSS influences combining with glancing effects from the 3/5 CME. Conditions are forecast to return to mostly quiet to unsettled levels Sunday. The overall space threat to Florida is very low.

Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 15%	Geomagnetic Storm: G1 Watch - 3/9	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

3/9	3/10
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



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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