



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, March 17, 2024



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Cassi Farestvedt	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Brandon Gore	(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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 4: James Carter	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Support Operations
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of State (NC)	Out of State Airport Exercise
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Karen Kozac	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Region 2 Coverage Provided by RRC 2
Region 3 Coverage Provided by RRC 3
Region 4 Coverage Provided by RRC 4
Region 6 Coverage Provided by RC 7
Region 9 Coverage Provided by RRC 9

RC Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

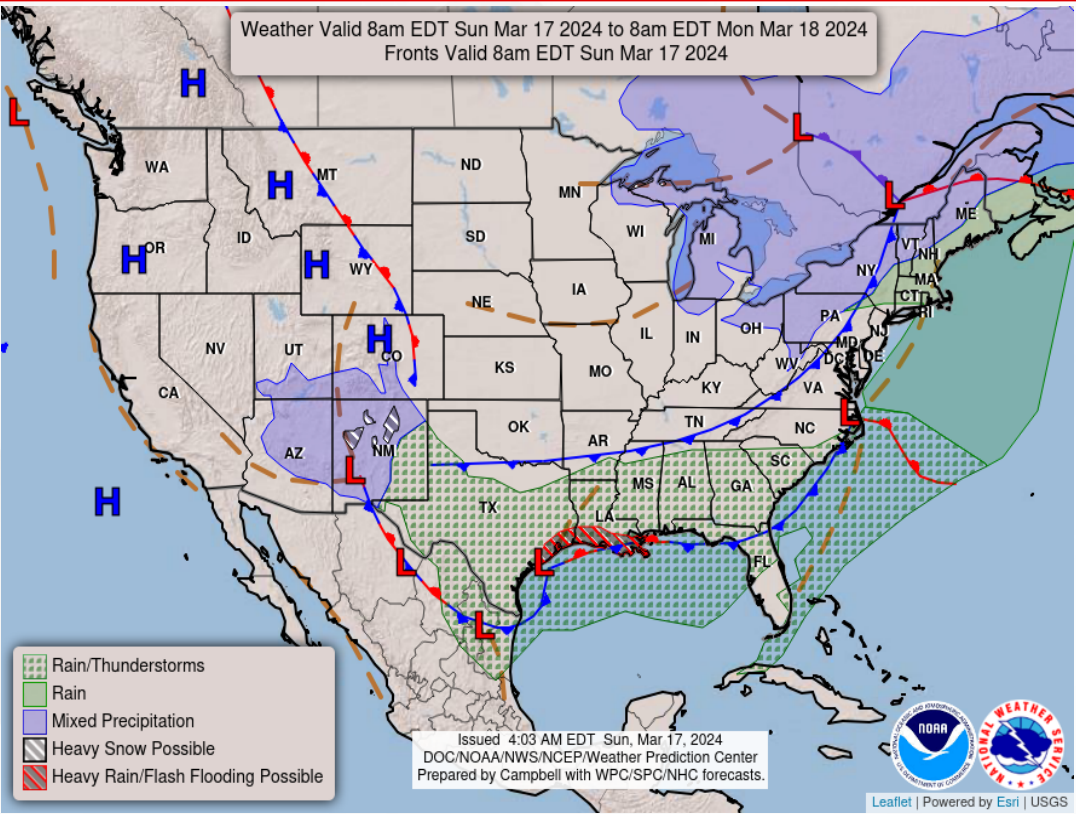
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	On-Call Coverage for Region 2
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	On-Call Coverage for Region 4
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison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

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 10 & 5

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

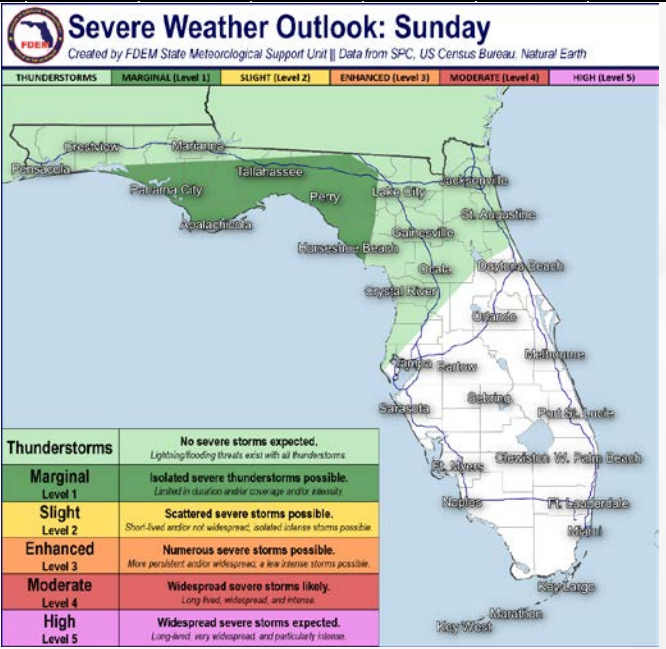
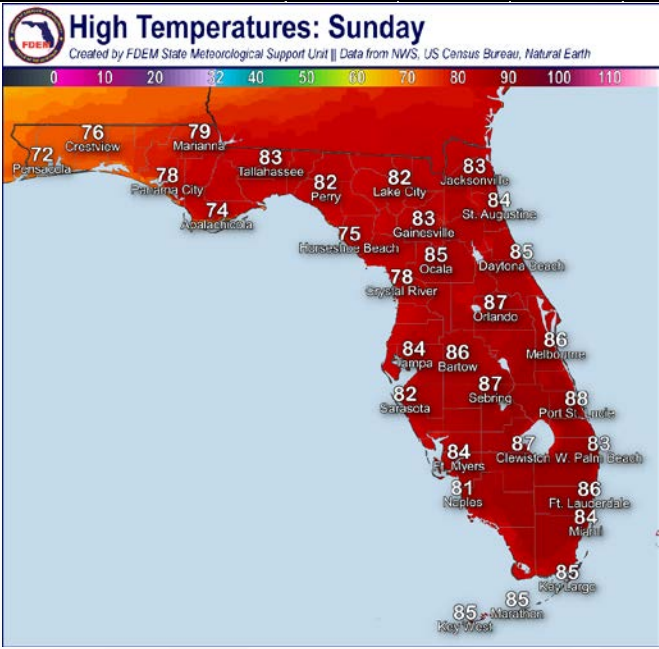


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	L	L	L		L		
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L	L	L							
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	
Wildfire										
River Flooding	L	L								
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	M	L		M	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.77 ft. (1.35 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	130 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





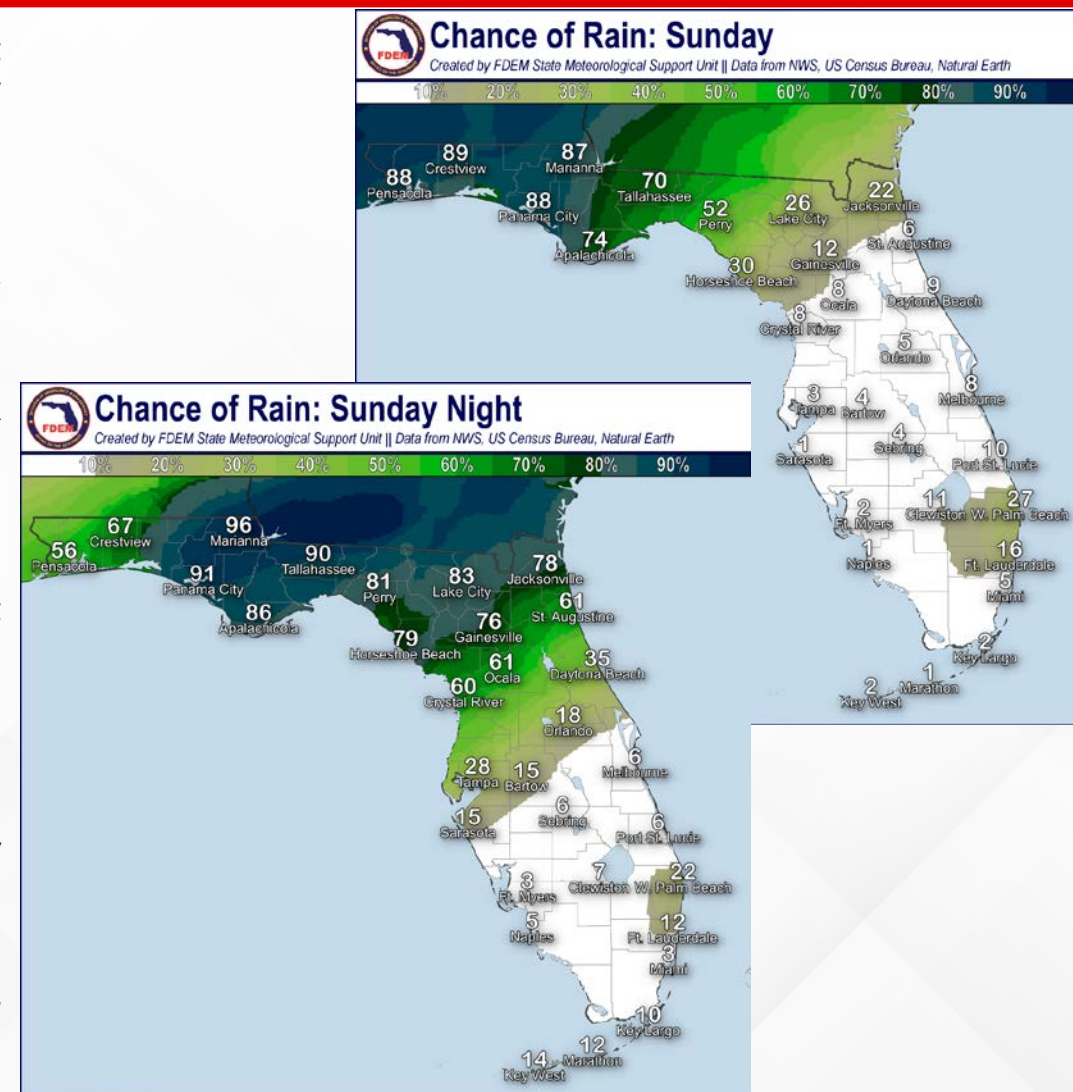
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A cluster of strong to severe thunderstorms along the Texas Big Bend will quickly move east today, along and offshore of the northern Gulf Coast. Rain chances will begin to increase over the western Florida Panhandle (75-90% chance of rain) this afternoon, and overspread along the I-10 corridor through the evening hours (55-75% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Severe Weather (level 1 of 5)** along the Florida Panhandle this afternoon as the stronger, more organized clusters of thunderstorms may be capable of producing locally damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), frequent lightning, and **heavy rainfall rates**. Computer model guidance this morning has trended southward with the more favorable severe weather ingredients, confining the severe weather threat to the immediate Panhandle coastline and its adjacent waters early; however, the afternoon sea breeze may work to bring favorable conditions for **strong to severe thunderstorms** along the I-10 corridor to the interior Florida Big Bend. Temperatures in the middle 70s to middle 80s can be expected this afternoon.

Generally, rain-free conditions can be expected through the Florida Peninsula today (less than 15% chance of rain). A few showers and embedded thunderstorms along the Treasure Coast may develop this afternoon (15-30% chance of rain); lightning and gusty winds cannot be ruled out during the peak heating hours of the day. Afternoon high temperatures will rise into the middle to upper 80s, with a few interior locations could eclipse the 90-degree mark.

Rain chances will remain elevated across North Florida (75-near 100% chance of rain), with more spotty shower activity possible to the I-4 corridor (15-35% chance of rain). The overall severe thunderstorm risk will subside after sunset; however, a few rumbles of thunder and heavy rainfall rates will be possible into the Monday morning hours. Low temperatures will remain in the upper 50s to middle 60s across North Florida, the upper 60s to lower 70s through the Florida Peninsula, and the middle to upper 70s along the Florida Keys. Areas of **patchy fog** will be possible over portions of the Florida Big Bend, Nature Coast, and Peninsula. Areas of **locally dense fog** cannot be ruled out over West-Central Florida early Monday morning.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** will persist along the East-Central Florida Coast today. A **high risk for rip currents** is expected along the Florida Panhandle, and low risk conditions can be expected along all remaining Florida beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

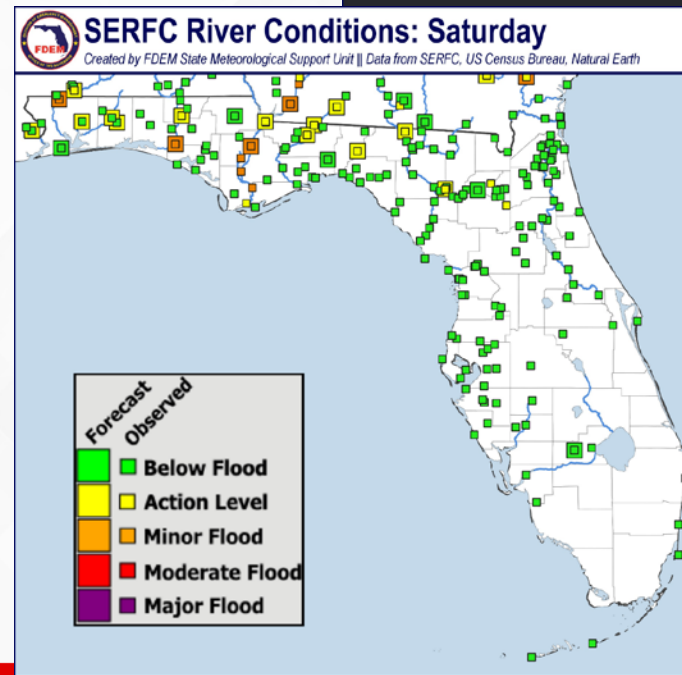
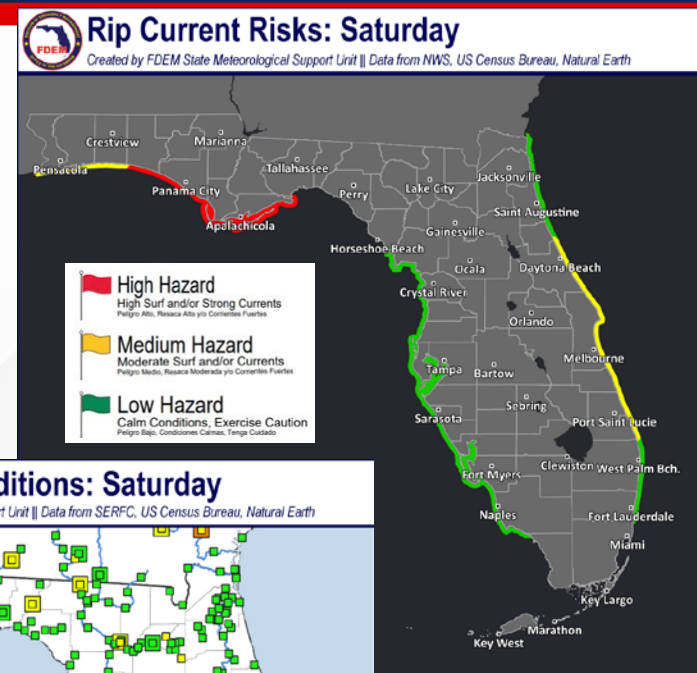
Marine Hazards: **Wave heights** of 1-2' can generally be expected statewide today. **Red Tide** was observed at background concentrations in one sample each from Southwest Florida (Manatee County), Northwest Florida (Bay County), and along Florida's East Coast (Miami-Dade County) over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Flash Flooding (level 1 of 4)** along the I-10 corridor as heavy rainfall rates may lead to areas of ponding of water or flooding, especially over low-lying/poor drainage areas. The heaviest rainfall totals will likely reside along the immediate Panhandle coastline, with rainfall totals of 0.5-1". Locally higher amounts exceeding 2-3" cannot be ruled out.

Riverine Flooding: A **River Flood Warning** is in effect for the [Choctawhatchee River near Bruce \(SR-20\)](#) as **minor flooding** is forecast to continue until Monday afternoon. A **River Flood Warning** will also remain in effect for the [Escambia River near Century](#) until early Monday morning as **minor flooding** is ongoing. **Minor flooding** is occurring and forecast to continue along the [Apalachicola River near Blountstown](#) until further notice. Additional rainfall over already elevated rivers and waterways in the Florida Panhandle this weekend is not expected to cause new riverine flooding; however, a few rivers may rise back to near bank-full. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.77 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.35 feet above normal for this time of year.





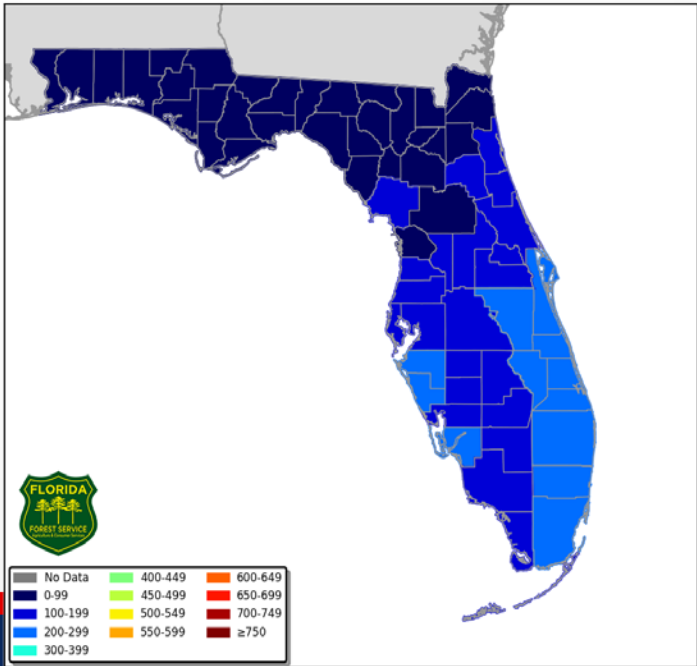
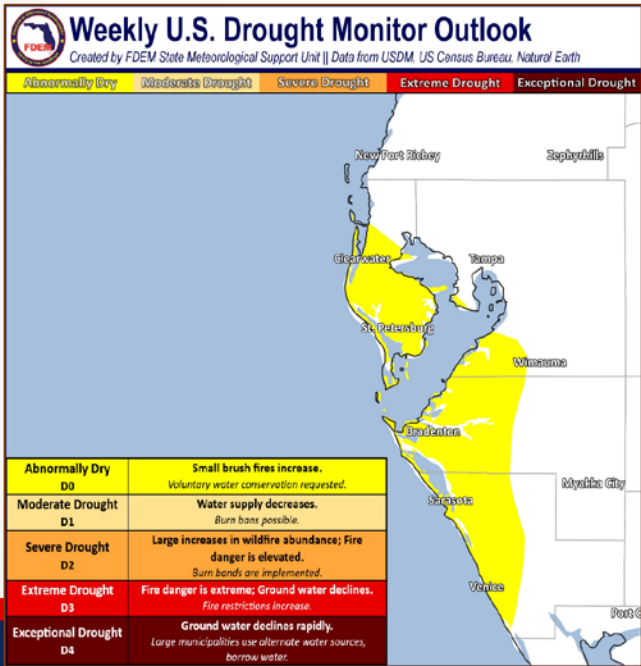
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Rain chances return to North Florida today as a frontal system advances eastward. Strong wind gusts may be embedded with the more organized thunderstorm activity. Relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds; however, values could reach 40-45% over portions of the central Florida Peninsula. The overall wildfire threat across Florida remains low, courtesy of a lighter wind regime. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 22 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 210 acres.

Drought: Improvements to conditions have been noted on this week's drought monitor update in response to heavy rainfall received over the past week. Increased shower and thunderstorm activity this past weekend has allow for above normal rainfall to return to North Florida over the past 7 days (2-4" above normal), eliminating Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) conditions along the Western Panhandle. Unfortunately, long-term rainfall deficits continue to promote Abnormally Dry conditions along West-Central Florida. Above normal rainfall expected across the state over the next week may help to alleviate dry conditions in the Western Peninsula on next week's drought update.

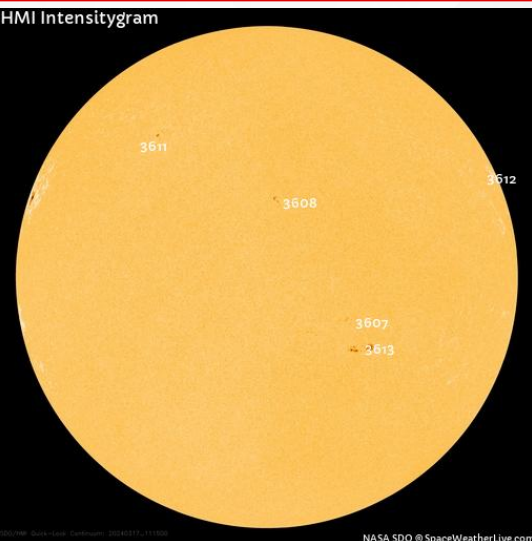
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **130 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 16, 2024

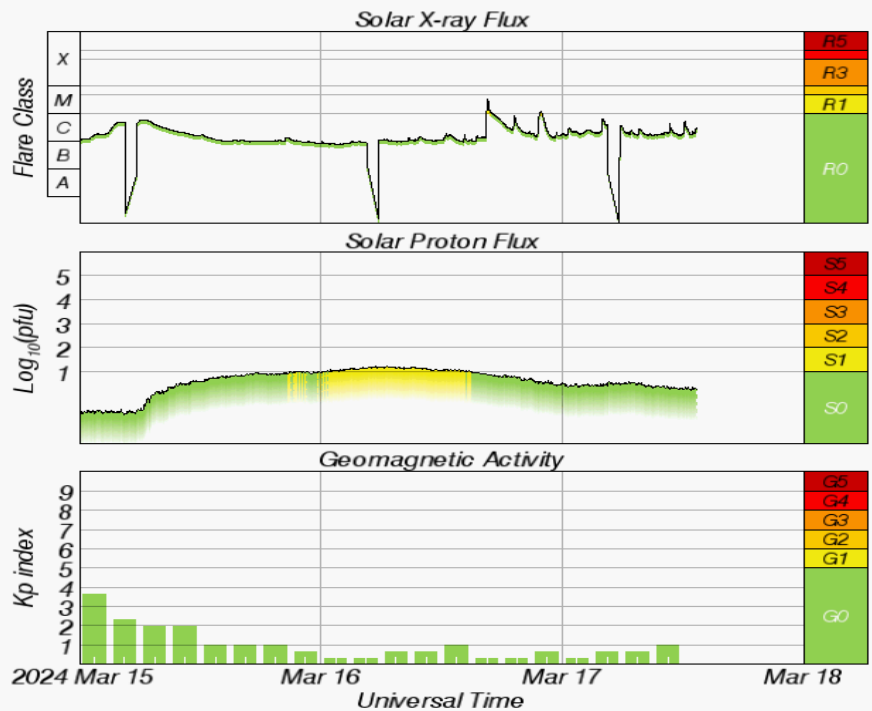
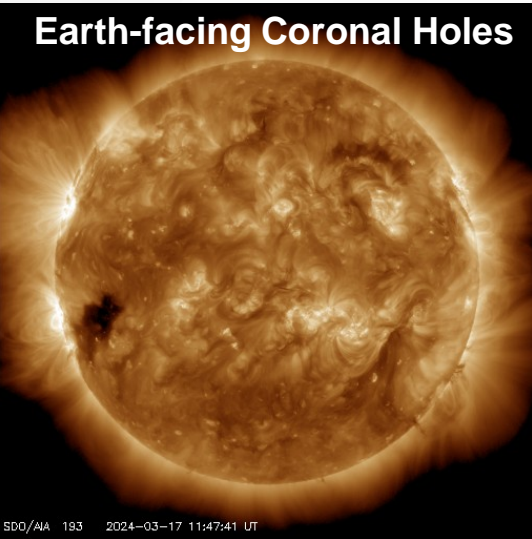




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M3 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/17	3/18
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to low over the next 24 hours as we monitor large sunspot #3590 returning after a two-week trip around the far side of the Sun; there is a low risk for moderate solar flares (M-class). Any solar flare that occurs may produce R1 (minor) radio blackouts, comparable to yesterday’s activity. Weakly enhanced solar wind conditions are possible today; however, organized geomagnetic storming is not anticipated. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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	

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP