



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, March 18, 2024



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@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	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer	Marnie Villanueva	(850)-591-9544	Marnie.Villanueva@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	Okaloosa	Flood TTX / Regional DOH Planners Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Florida Certified Contract Manager Training / SERT Liaison Mtg
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Office Admin
Region 4: James Carter	Clay	EM Visit
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Support Operations
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of State (NC)	Out of State Airport Exercise
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Polk	RC/RRC Meeting
Region 8: Karen Kozac	St Lucie	Vehicle Maintenance / Southeast Coordination Call
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	OVS Meetings



Region 9 Coverage Provided by RRC 9

Region 6 Coverage Provided by RC 7

RC Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	Instructing G-300
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Hurricane Idalia HMGP Briefing
Region 3: Patrick James	Alachua	Hurricane Idalia HMGP Briefing
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	St Lucie	Instruction Preparation
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	Hurricane Idalia HMGP Briefing
RRCT Manager	Hernando	Hurricane Idalia HMGP Briefing
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	Leon	HQ Visit
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Lee	Hurricane Idalia HMGP Briefing
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Broward	External Stakeholder Meeting

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 5 & 10

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

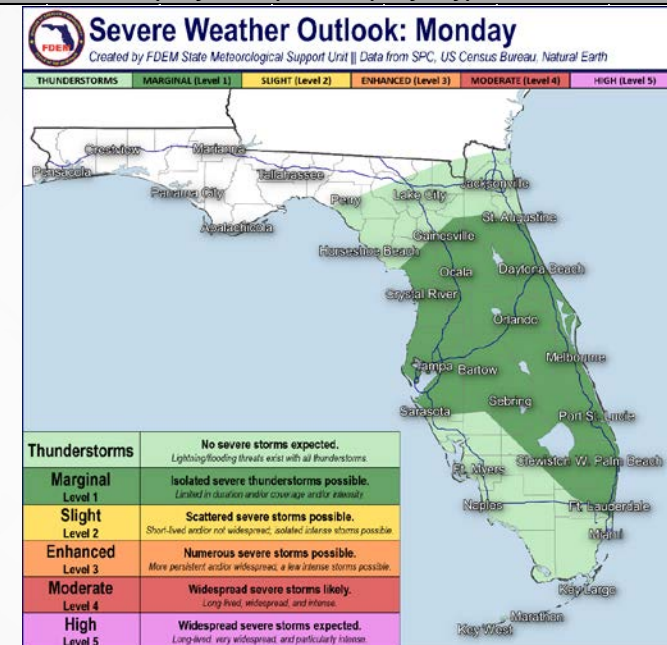


Low Temperatures: Monday Night

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

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110

37 Pensacola 34 Crestview 36 Marianna 39 Tallahassee 38 Panama City 39 Perry 38 Lake City 43 Jacksonville 41 Gainesville 43 St. Augustine 41 Hialeah 43 Ocala 48 Daytona Beach 42 Crystal River 51 Orlando 50 Tampa 50 Bartow 56 Maitland 54 Sarasota 53 Sebring 58 Palm Springs 59 Ft. Myers 65 Ft. Lauderdale 61 Naples 66 Miami 70 Key Largo 71 Key West



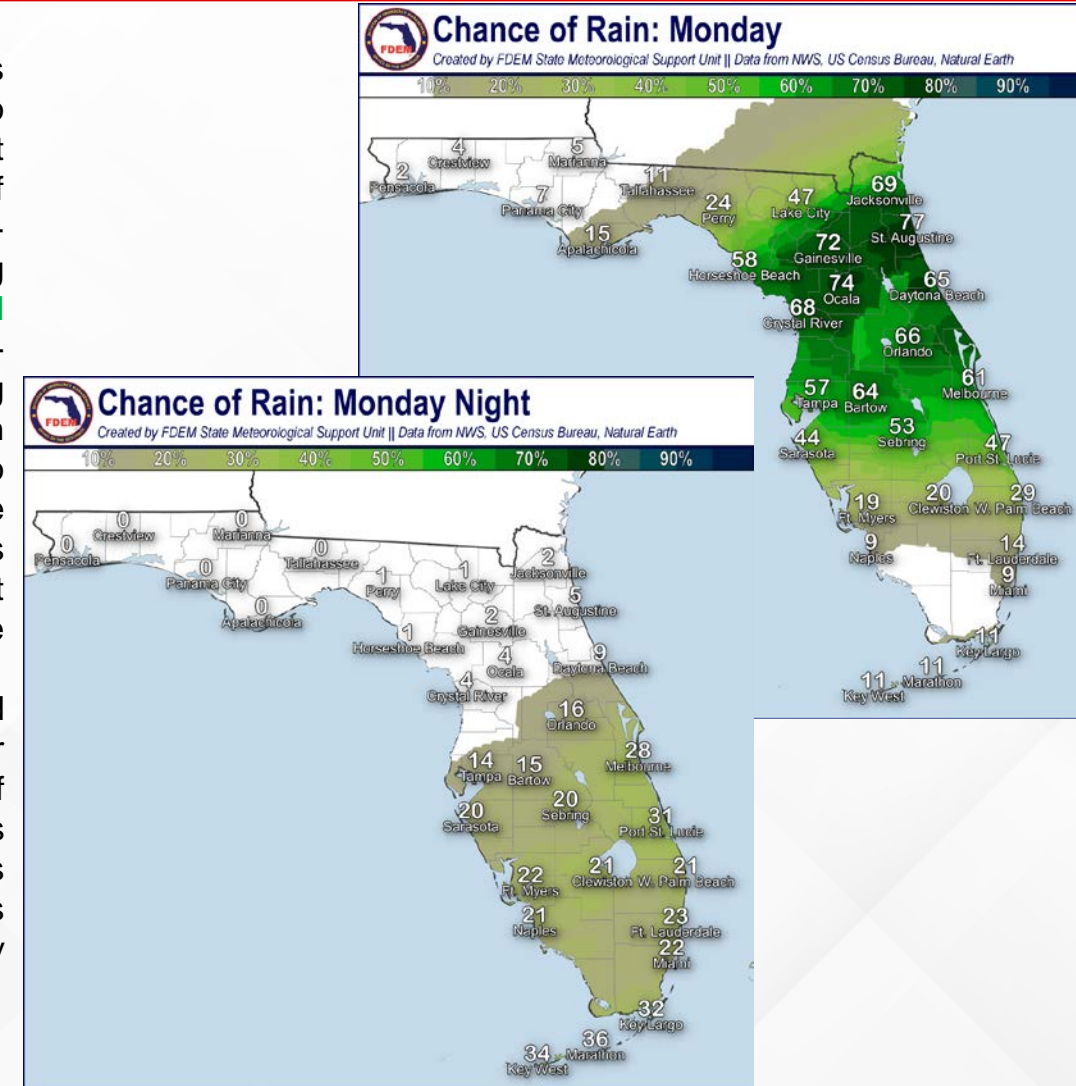


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Showers and embedded thunderstorms are continuing to push onshore the Nature Coast this morning, with the heaviest activity residing just north of I-4. Rain chances will continue to overspread through Central Florida this afternoon (55-75% chance of rain) as a cold front advances southeastward through the state. Atmospheric conditions support the development of a few **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing locally damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), frequent lightning, instances of large hail (1-1.5" in diameter, or quarter to ping pong ball size), and heavy downpours. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk for Severe Weather (level 1 of 5)** over Central Florida and along the Southeast Florida I-95 corridor during the daytime heating hours. A brief, isolated tornado cannot be ruled out along the immediate Space Coast as the sea breeze attempts to move onshore. Afternoon high temperatures will be warm in the middle to upper 80s, with temperatures feeling like the lower to middle 90s over the interior southern Peninsula. Rain chances become increasingly scarce late this afternoon and evening, with only a lingering 20-30% chance of rain and thunderstorms tonight. Low temperatures will remain far more mild than North Florida locations, with overnight temperatures in the 50s expected over Central Florida, the 60s across South Florida, and the 70s along the Florida Keys.

In the wake of the cold front, northerly winds and near-zero rain chances can be expected along the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend. Afternoon high temperatures will stay in the upper 60s to lower 70s this afternoon, despite the clearing skies. Sustained winds of 10-15 mph out of the north to northwest can be expected to build through the afternoon hours, with wind gusts reaching 20-25 mph. Northerly winds will usher much colder temperatures tonight, with lows falling to **near freezing (33-36-degrees)** over the interior Florida Panhandle and the upper 30s to lower 40s along the coastline and into the Suwannee River Valley. Lingering breezy conditions overnight and the lack of moisture will likely limit the development of frost overnight.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk of rip currents** can be expected along many Florida Panhandle, East-Central Florida, and Southwest Florida beaches today. A locally **high risk of rip currents** will continue for Gulf County beaches. Low risk conditions persist elsewhere. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

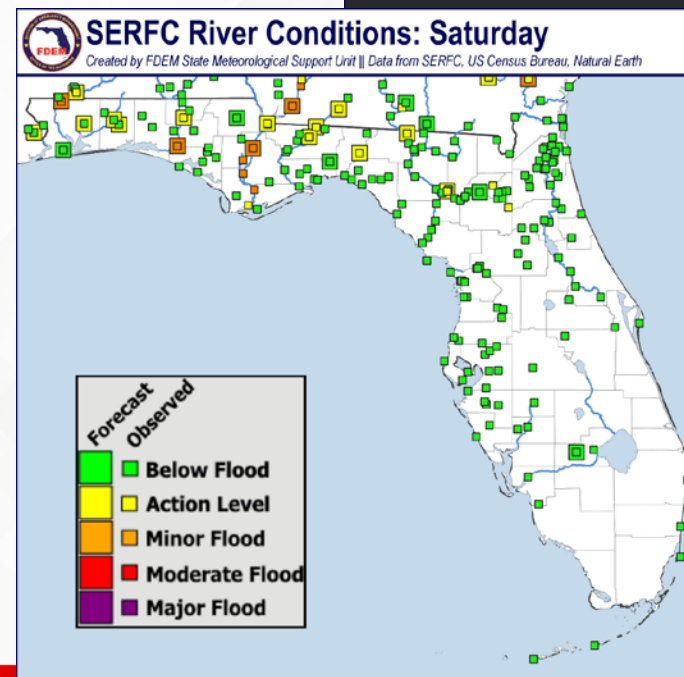
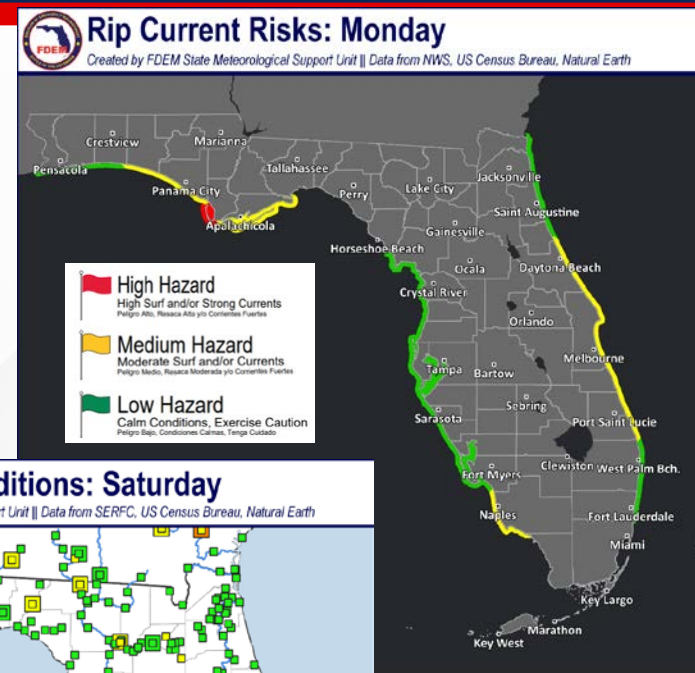
Marine Hazards: **Wave heights** of 2-3' can be expected along the Florida Panhandle coastline, with breakers remaining between 1-2' along all remaining Florida beaches. **Red Tide** was not observed above background levels along any Florida coastline.

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Showers and thunderstorms today will be capable of producing a quick 0.5-1" of rainfall this afternoon, with locally higher amounts of 2" possible. Localized **nuisance flooding or ponding of water on roadways** cannot be ruled out over the Florida Peninsula urban corridors, especially for locations that experience multiple rounds of shower and thunderstorm activity.

Riverine Flooding: A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the [Apalachicola River near Blountstown](#) until further notice as **minor flooding** continues. All other North Florida rivers have fallen below flood stage. Upcoming dry weather will allow elevated North Florida water levels to continue flushing water and generally recede. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.75 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.33 feet above normal for this time of year.





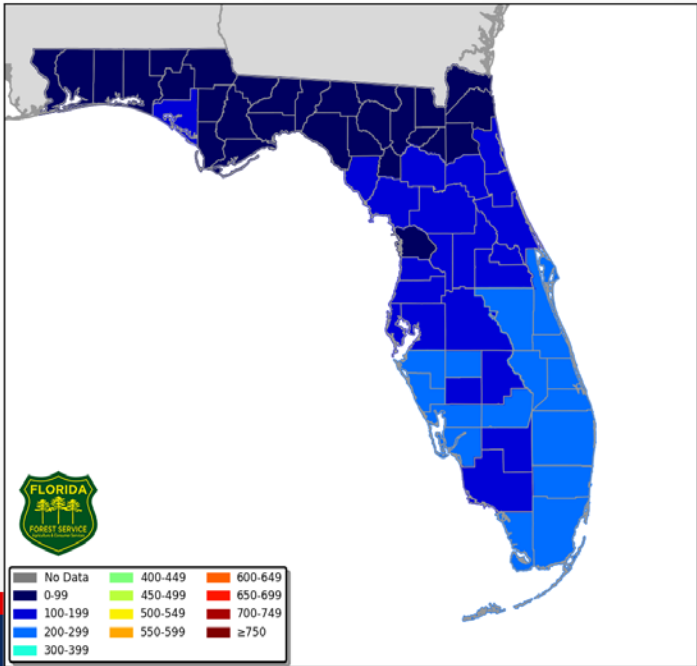
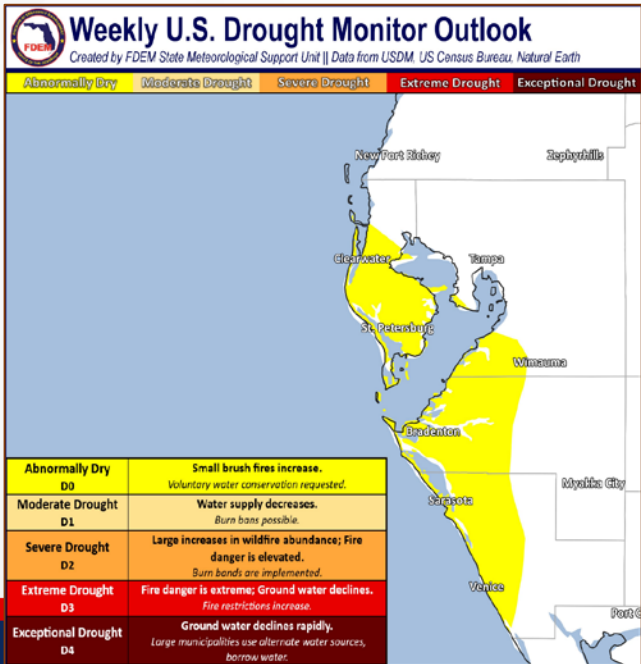
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Rain chances spread into the Florida Peninsula today, limiting the wildfire risk this afternoon; however, lightning within thunderstorms could spark new wildfires and winds may be gusty/erratic in the more organized thunderstorm activity. Northerly winds in the wake of the cold front will allow for relative humidity values to fall into the upper 30s to middle 40s along the Florida Panhandle this afternoon. Winds of 10-15 mph will continue to build through the afternoon, with wind gusts reaching 20-25 mph at times. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 22 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 205 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.

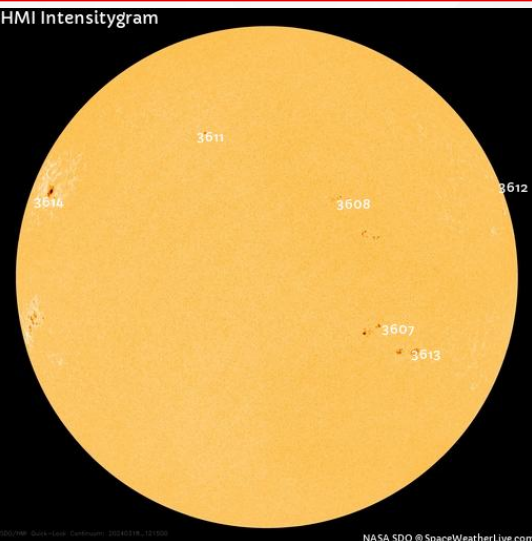
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **141 (+11)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 17, 2024

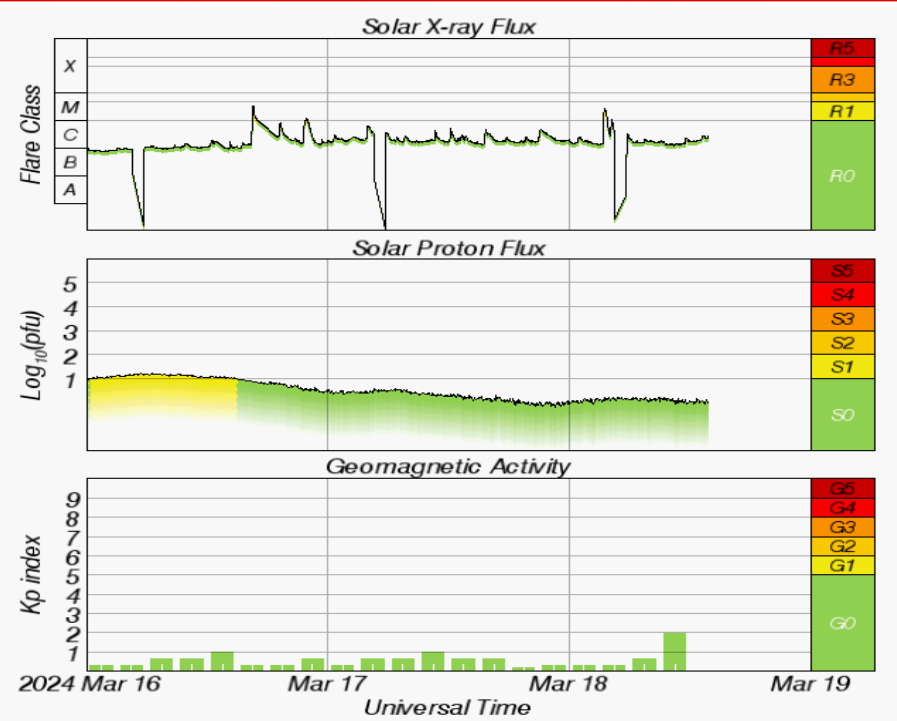
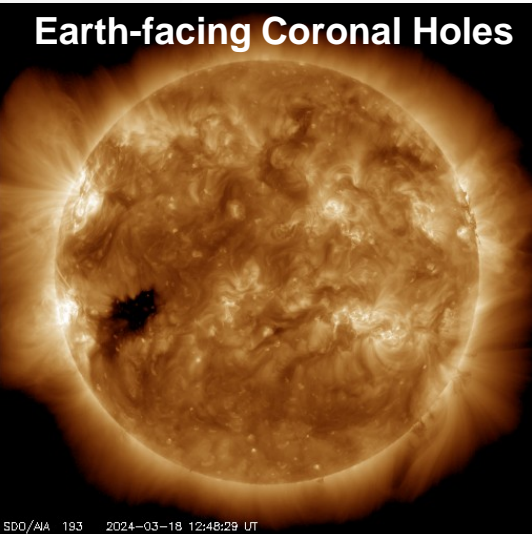




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M2 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/18	3/19
Max Kp= 2 (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 be low, with a chance for moderate (M-class) solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany the stronger and more organized flare activity as a new sunspot emerges over the Sun's eastern limb. Ambient solar wind conditions are expected to prevail today, with any enhancements in the solar wind regime holding off until midweek. Geomagnetic storming is not anticipated, and the overall space weather threat will remain 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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