



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, March 26, 2024



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Caleb Pitts	(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	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@em.myflorida.com
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	Christina.Goetzman@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	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	Gadsden	NWS/NWPS Hydrology Training
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	NWS/NWPS Hydrology Training
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Hamilton, Taylor	EM Visits / Vehicle Maintenance
Region 4: James Carter	Indian River	L-101 Course
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Orange	Support Operations / Executive Director Support / NHC
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Orange	Support Operations
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Indian River	L-101 Course
Region 8: Karen Kozac	Orange	Support Operations
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	OVS Meeting



Region 4 Coverage Provided by RRC 3

Region 6 Coverage Provided by RC 3

Region 7/9 Coverage Provided by RRC 9

Region 8 Coverage (Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie) Provided by RRC 5

Region 8 Coverage (Palm Beach) Provided by RRC 10

RC Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

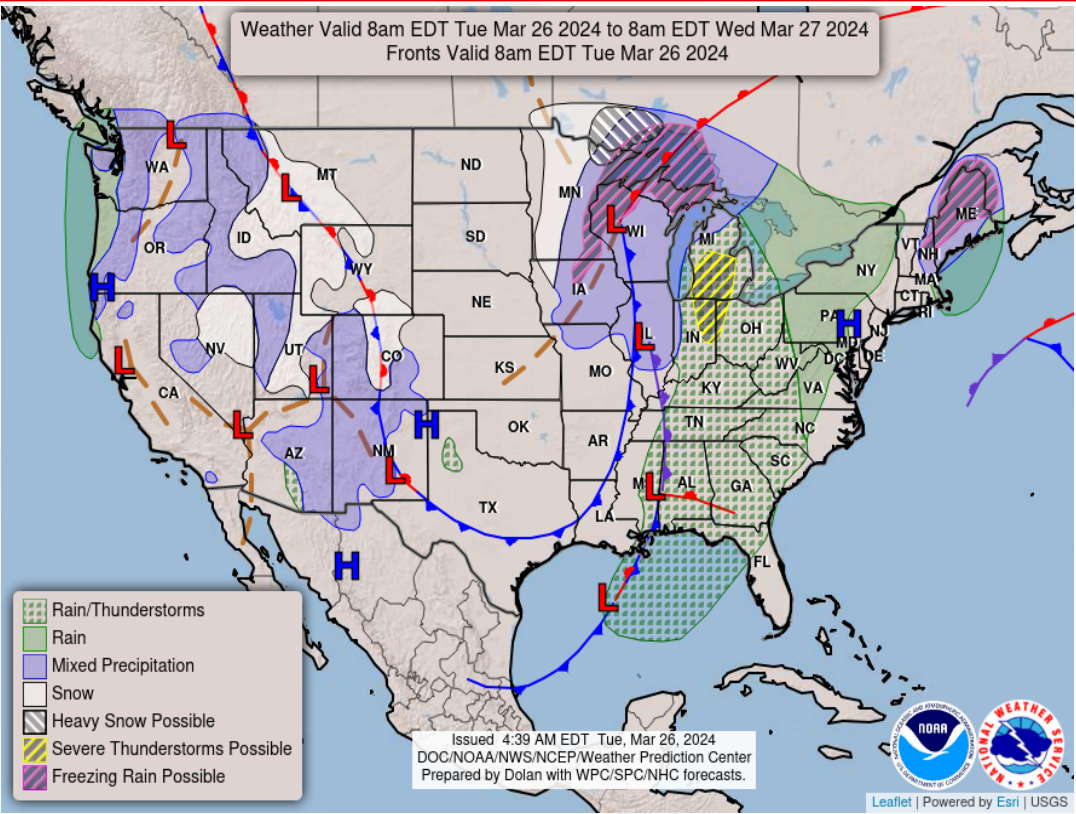
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Instructing G-2300
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Administrative Duties
Region 3: Patrick James	Alachua	Quarterly Meeting Preparation
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	St. Lucie	L-101 Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
RRCT Manager	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Leon	Administrative Duties
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

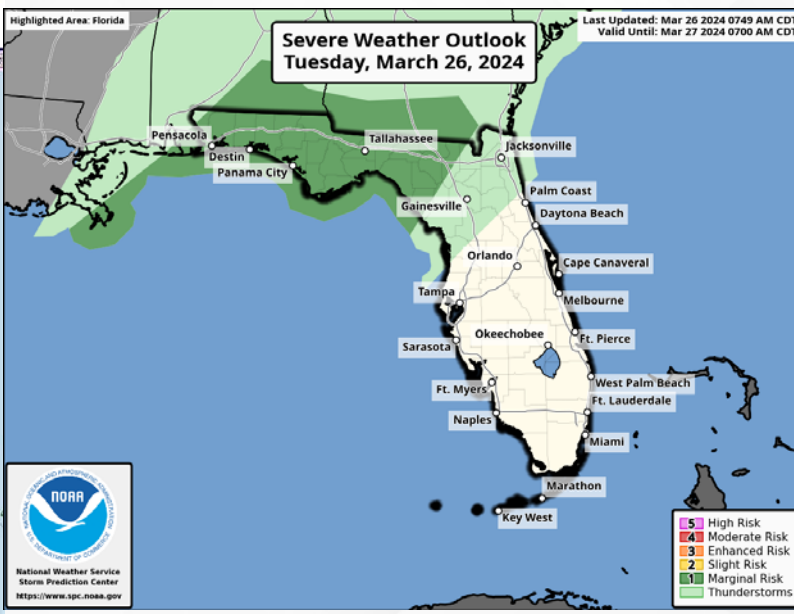
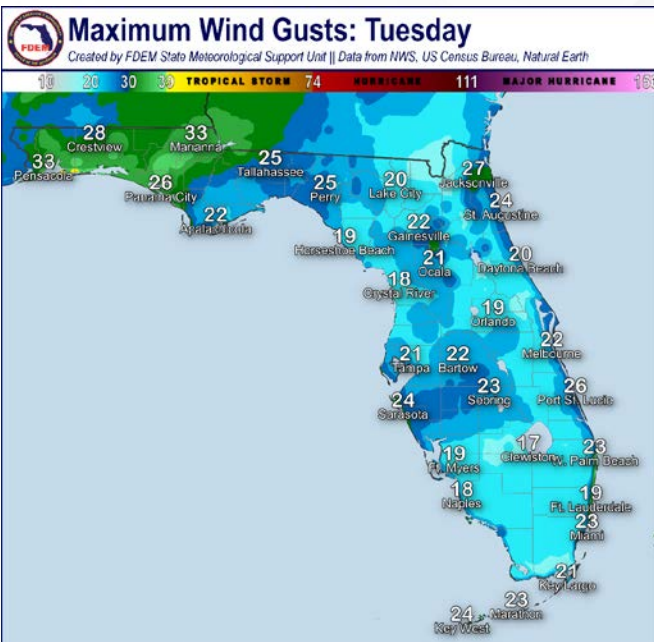


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	L	L							
Tornado	L	L	L							
Damaging Wind	L	L	L							
Hail										
Flash Flooding (Overnight)	L	M	M							
Coastal Flooding		L								
Wildfire										
River Flooding										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	M		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.47 ft. (1.11 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	110 (+10) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



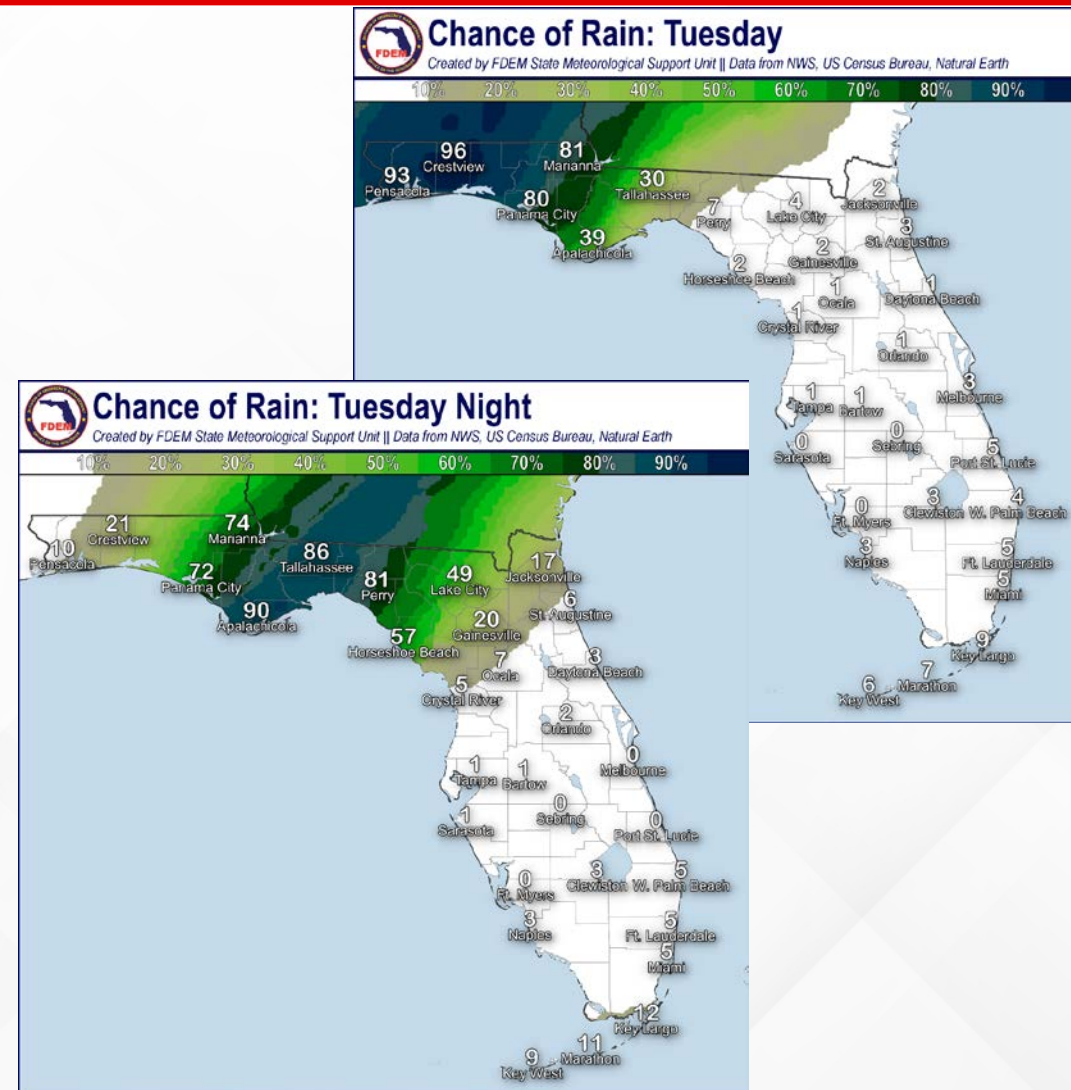


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A cold front advancing eastward towards the western Florida Panhandle will bring scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout the morning before continuing along the I-10 corridor through the rest of the Panhandle and into the Big Bend (70-90% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** across the Panhandle and Big Bend as **isolated strong to severe thunderstorms** will be possible throughout the day. Any strong to severe thunderstorm that develops will be capable of producing lightning, damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph), an isolated tornado or two and heavy downpours. The overall threat for severe thunderstorms has decreased since the morning hours, but there is still potential for isolated strong to severe thunderstorms throughout the day as the frontal boundary pushes eastward. Mostly dry conditions can be expected east of the I-75 corridor and throughout the Peninsula during the daytime hours as high pressure of the Eastern Seaboard shifts over the western Atlantic waters. While the greatest chance for rainfall will be across the Panhandle, a few light sprinkles or showers cannot be ruled out along portions of the Southeast Florida coastline where there are breezy winds flowing onshore. **Breezy winds of 20-25 mph** can be expected nearly statewide, with stronger **wind gusts of 30-35 mph** along the Panhandle ahead of and along the eastward-moving cold front. High temperatures will remain in the low to middle 70s for the far western Panhandle due to extensive cloud cover and elevated rain chances. Ahead of the frontal boundary high temperatures will remain in the low to **middle 80s**.

Through the evening and overnight hours, the cold front will weaken and stall over the Big Bend providing a brief break in activity. However, favorable atmospheric and environmental conditions will give way to showers and possible thunderstorms re-developing overnight across the eastern Panhandle and Big Bend (70-90% chance of rain). A **Flood Watch** will go into effect overnight and continue into early Thursday morning as widespread rainfall, which may be heavy at times, will persist. Multiple rounds of heavy rainfall could lead to instances of **localized flash flooding and ponding of water** at times across urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Low temperatures in the wake of the cold front will fall into the middle to upper 50s along the western Panhandle. Across the rest of the state, low temperatures will remain in the 60s and low 70s.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** can be expected for nearly all beaches statewide due to onshore winds and large ocean swells. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

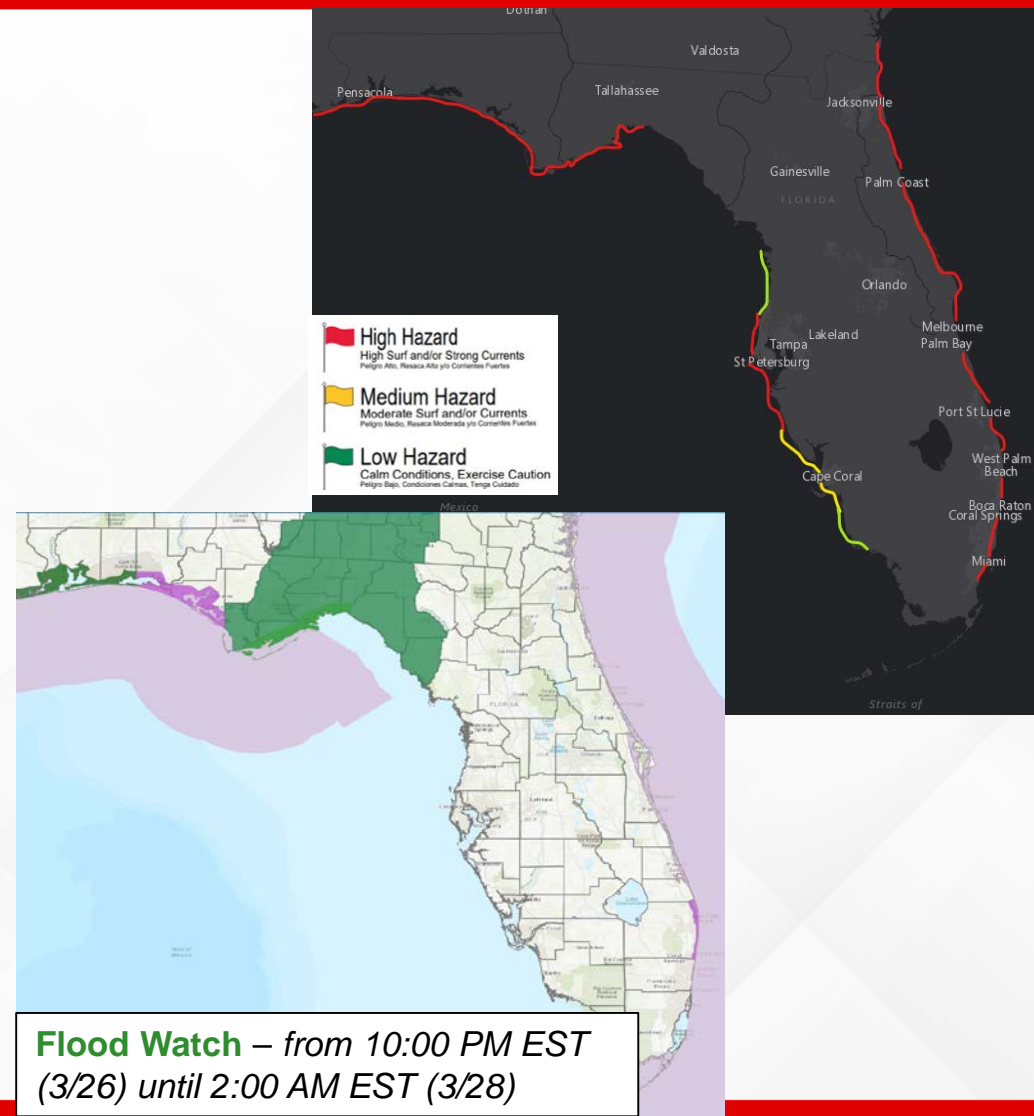
Marine Hazards: A large ocean swell over the northeastern Gulf of Mexico will bring dangerous beach and boating conditions for Panhandle beaches as **wave heights** of 5-8' can be expected throughout the day. A **High Surf Advisories** remain in effect along several Panhandle beaches, with a **High Surf Warning** along the far western Panhandle coastline. The lingering ocean swell over the western Atlantic continues to bring elevated surfing conditions for much of the Florida East Coast through Treasure Coast. **Wave heights** of 4-6' will continue through today, with **breaking waves** further offshore in the surf zone near 7-8'. A **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect for beaches along Palm Beach County. **Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: Strong onshore winds along portions of the Big Bend and Apalachee Bay where elevated surf continues to build will lead to instances of **minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide through today. A **Coastal Flood Advisory** is in effect through this evening along coastal Franklin, Wakulla and Jefferson as over washing of low-lying roads and coastlines will be possible. Isolated instances of **minor coastal and beach erosion** may be possible at times along Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches following persistent onshore winds and elevated surf conditions along the coastline.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Panhandle and Big Bend as a cold front will bring scattered showers and thunderstorms as it advances eastward throughout the day. Stronger thunderstorm activity may be capable of producing heavy downpours at times across the region, which could lead to localized **instances of flash flooding and ponding of water** across any urban and low-lying/poor drainage area. **Rainfall totals** associated with the cold front could produce upwards of 1-3" along the Panhandle and western Big Bend. Later this evening and into the overnight hours the frontal boundary will stall over the Big Bend, and conditions will favor widespread rainfall which could be heavy at times. As a result, a **Flood Watch** will go into effect overnight tonight (10:00 PM EDT) and continue through early Thursday morning (2:00 AM EDT). Widespread rainfall totals through Thursday morning could reach upwards of 2-4" with **locally higher totals** upwards of 5" in some locations.

Riverine Flooding: All Florida rivers, creeks and waterways are currently below flood stage. Local rises in water levels may be possible today as thunderstorms could produce heavy rainfall at times. Depending on where the heaviest rainfall occurs over the next few days, water levels within Panhandle and Big Bend rivers and waterways could rise back up into Action Stage (bank-full) later in the week; however, this situation remains dependent on where the heaviest rainfall occurs. At this time there are no additional riverine concerns. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](http://www.floridawater.com).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.47 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.11 feet above normal for this time of year.





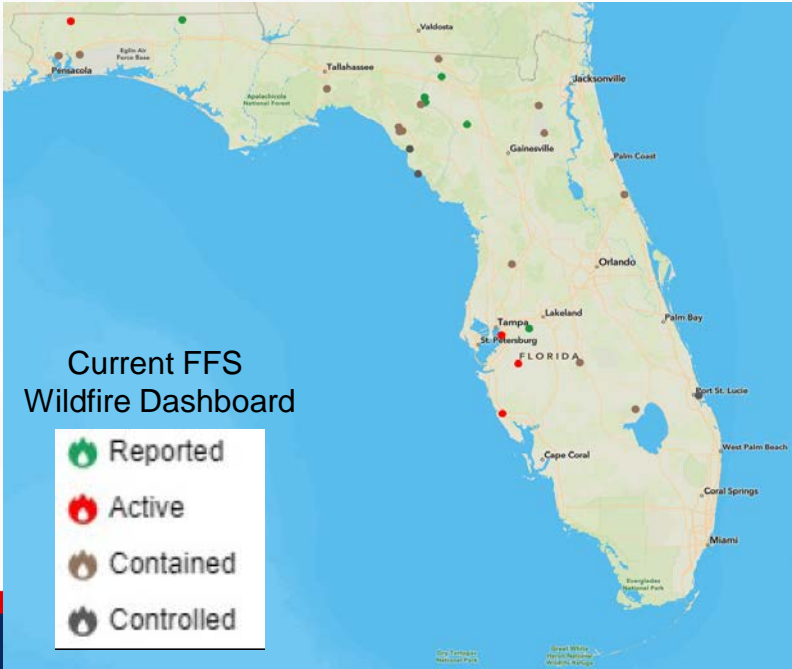
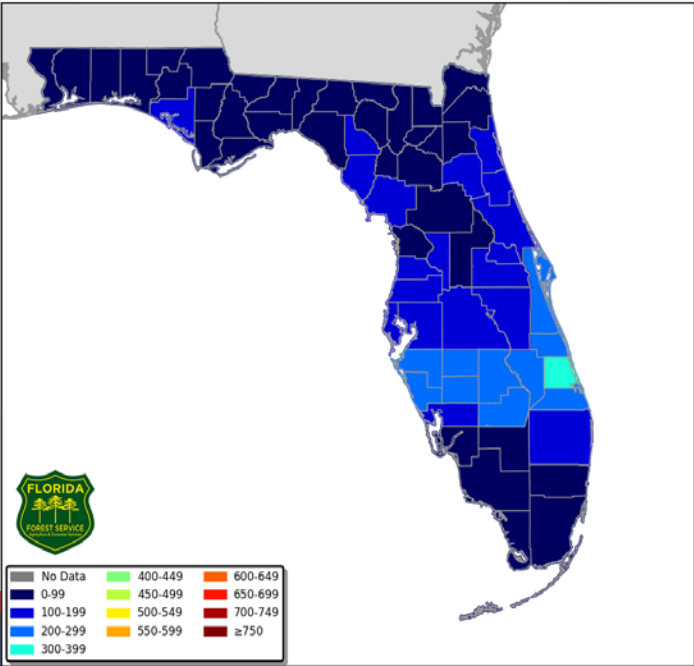
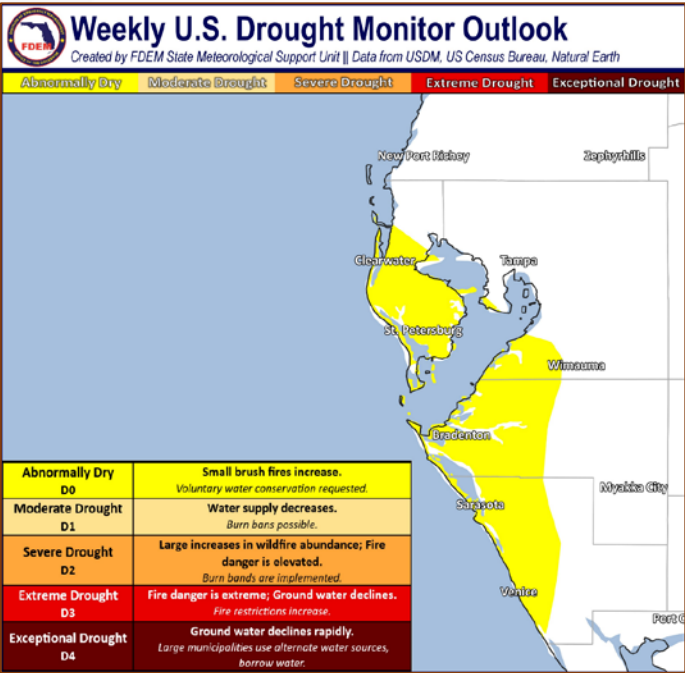
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Relative humidity values continue to slowly recover as winds out of the south to southeast help to bring moisture northward. Interior portions of the Suwannee River Valley and West-Central Florida could see values in the low to middle 40% this afternoon, but overall relative humidity values will remain well above critical thresholds. Breezy winds will continue across the state throughout the day with **wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph**. Stronger gusts ahead and along of cold front moving eastward could reach **upwards of 30-35 mph** at times along the Florida Panhandle. Thunderstorms along the cold front may be strong to severe at times, and *capable of producing gusty and erratic winds and lightning*. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 27 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 475 acres.

Drought: Conditions remain unchanged on this week's Drought Monitor update. Long-term rainfall deficits continue to promote Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) conditions along West-Central Florida. A widespread 3-5" of rain was observed along the Southern Peninsula and Keys Friday with locally higher totals of 5-8" along the far southern Peninsula and the Keys. North of Lake Okeechobee, widespread rainfall totals near 1-2" were observed with locally higher totals of 2-3". Combined with widespread heavy rainfall expected across portions of the state today will likely help to improve ongoing dry conditions through the Peninsula.

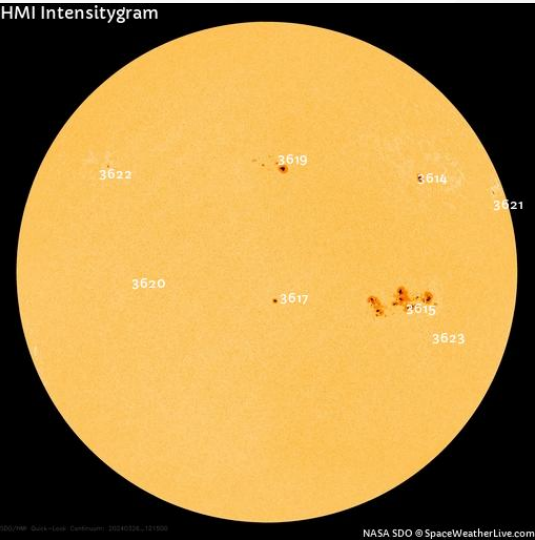
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **110 (+10)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 25, 2024

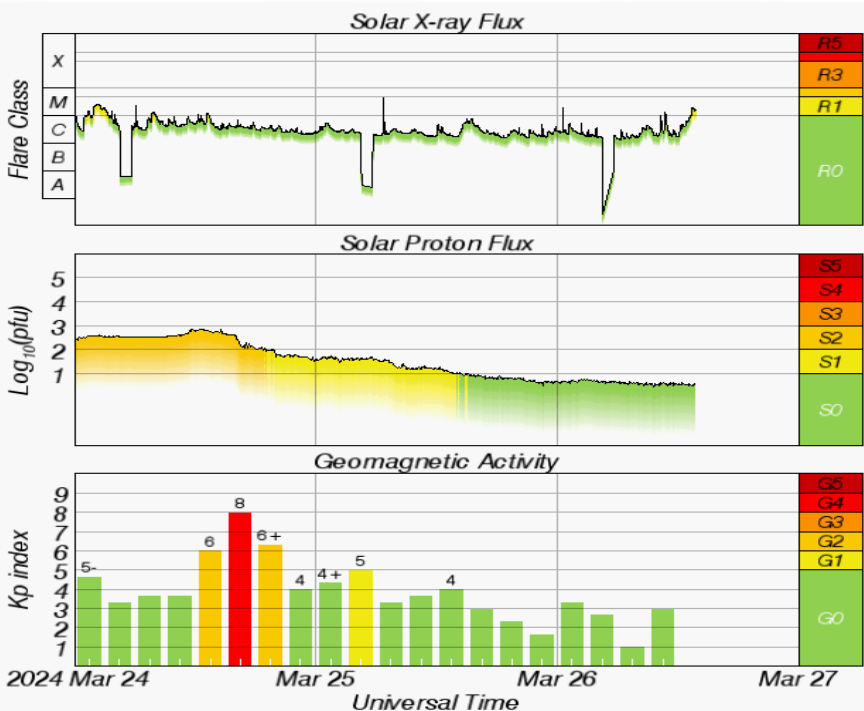
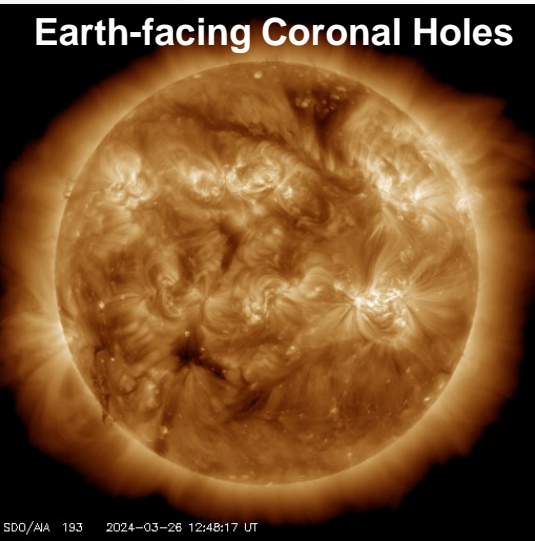




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 85%	Geomagnetic Storm: G1 Watch – 3/26	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 25%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/26	3/27
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 10%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 11%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to continue at moderate levels with a chance for significant (X-class) solar flares through the middle of the week due to active sunspot #3615. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected with any strong (M-class) solar flares that develop, with strong (R3) radio blackouts likely accompanying any significant (X-class) solar flares. Lingering Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) influences will continue through today. Solar wind conditions will continue to see enhancements today, with decreasing conditions throughout the day and into tomorrow before returning to near nominal. There are no significant coronal holes on the Earthside of the sun. Flare potential from active sunspot #3615 could be capable of producing minor (S1) solar radiation storms. Diminishing CME influences will continue to bring unsettled to minor (G1) geomagnetic storms throughout the day. Quiet to unsettled levels can be expected to return tomorrow. The overall space threat to Florida is 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