



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, March 27, 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	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	Jay Griffin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(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	FROC Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	NFRDSTF Meeting / FROC Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Leon, Taylor	NFRDSTF Meeting / EM Visit
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

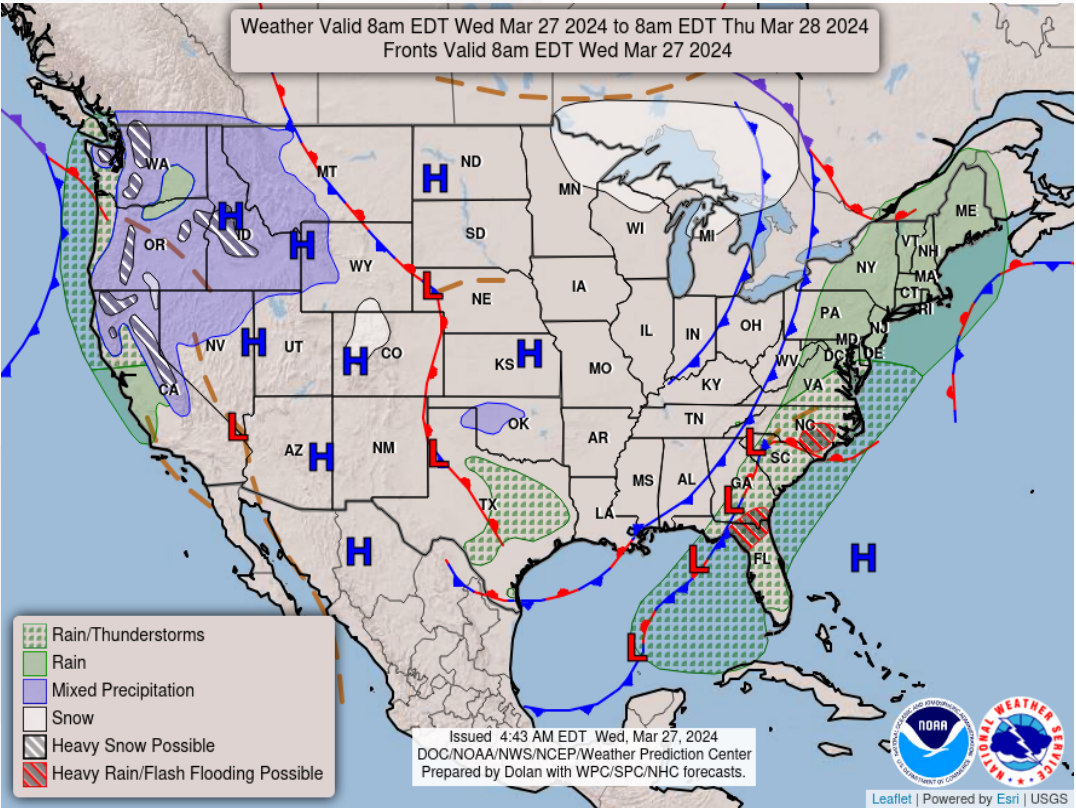
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Walton	Instructing G-2300
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	RDSTF / FROC Meetings
Region 3: Patrick James	Taylor	LMS Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	St. Lucie	L-101 Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
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	Lee	Regional TTX Planning Meeting
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Orange	National Hurricane Conference

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 5 & 10

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

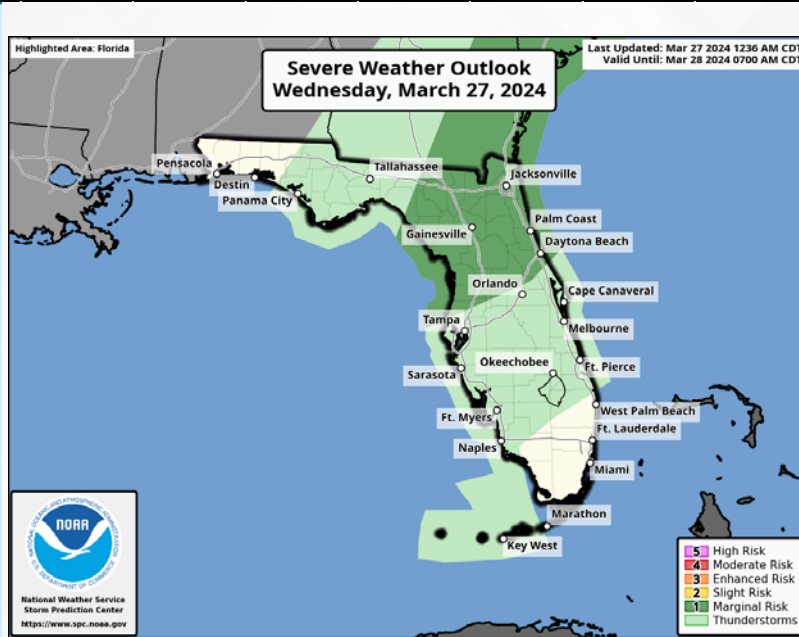


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	M	H	H	M	M	L			
Tornado										
Damaging Wind			L	L	L	L				
Hail			L	L	L	L				
Flash Flooding		M	M	M	L					
Coastal Flooding										
Wildfire										
River Flooding										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	M		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.39 ft. (1.05 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	121 (+12) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





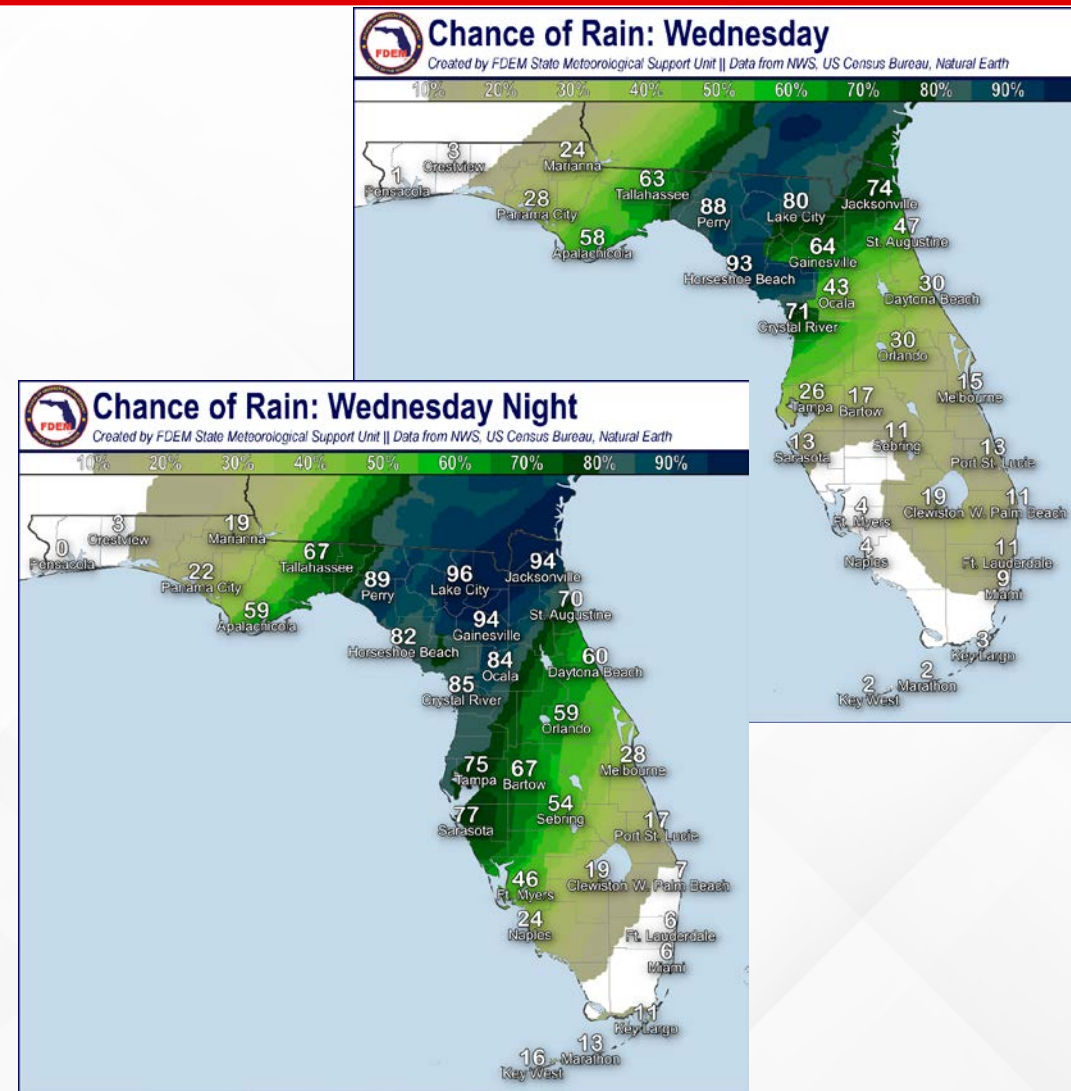
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Yesterday's cold front has moved into the Big Bend and portions of the Suwannee River Valley bringing widespread showers and thunderstorms. The cold front will continue to slowly drift eastward before becoming stagnant over the eastern Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley throughout the day (70-90% chance of rain). Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms can be expected this morning and continuing into the afternoon hours as the frontal boundary becomes stationary. Isolated strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible throughout the day across the Big Bend, Northeast Florida and the northern Peninsula. A few breaks in shower and thunderstorm activity, as well as cloud cover may allow for additional strong to severe thunderstorms to develop later in the afternoon and evening hours. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** as these **strong to severe thunderstorms** will be capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (50-65 mph), large hail (1.5" – ping pong size) and torrential downpours. The sea breeze moving onshore along the Northeast Coast and northern Space Coast could also interact with shower and thunderstorm activity, leading to additional isolated thunderstorms developing during the afternoon and evening; however, potential seems low. The greatest concern with these widespread showers and thunderstorms is heavy downpours that could lead to an increased potential for **localized flooding**. A **Flood Watch** remains in effect across the Big Bend and portions of the Suwannee River Valley where widespread rainfall totals of 1-3" with locally higher totals upwards of 5" will be possible through early Thursday morning. Slow-moving or training shower and thunderstorms will be capable of producing several rounds of rainfall, which may include heavy downpours at times.

Later this evening and throughout the overnight hours, the cold front will re-develop over Northeast Florida and the northern Peninsula allowing for shower and thunderstorm activity to spread southward into Central and Southwest Florida (60-95% chance of rain). While conditions won't be as favorable for strong to severe thunderstorm development this evening and overnight, some **isolated strong to severe thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out at times. The cold front will then slowly advance southeastward towards the I-95 corridor by daybreak on Thursday.

High temperatures will remain the middle to upper 70s across North Florida due to extensive cloud cover and rainfall. Throughout the Peninsula, high temperatures will warm up into the low to middle 80s by the afternoon. Drier and cooler air moving in behind the frontal boundary along the western Panhandle will allow for low temperatures in the upper 40s to middle 50s. Across the rest of North Florida and the northern peninsula, low temperatures will remain in the low 60s. Further South into Central and South Florida, low temperatures will reach the middle to upper 60s and low 70s. The Florida Keys will remain mild in the middle 70s providing little relief from daytime highs.





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.

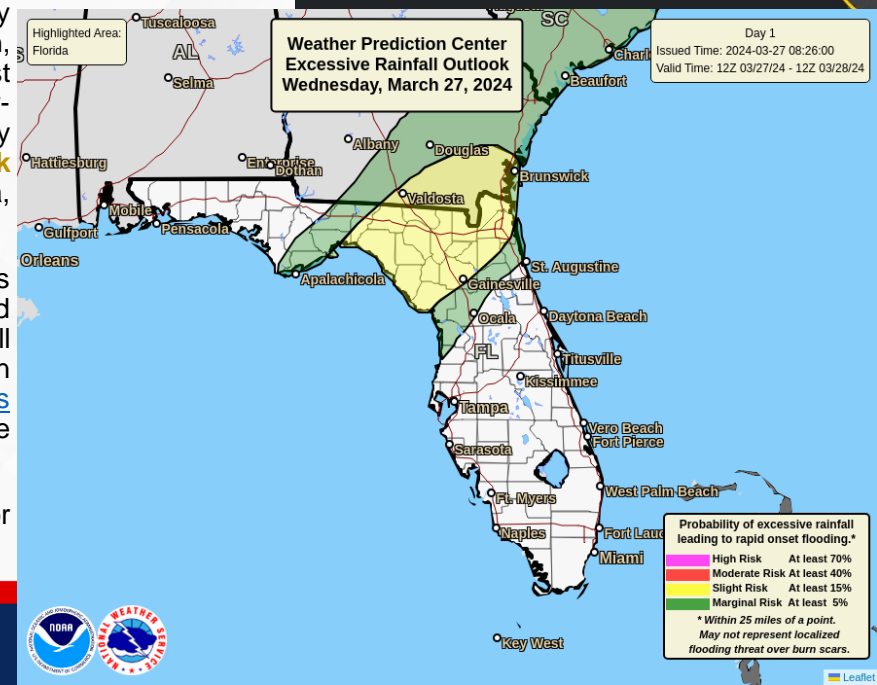
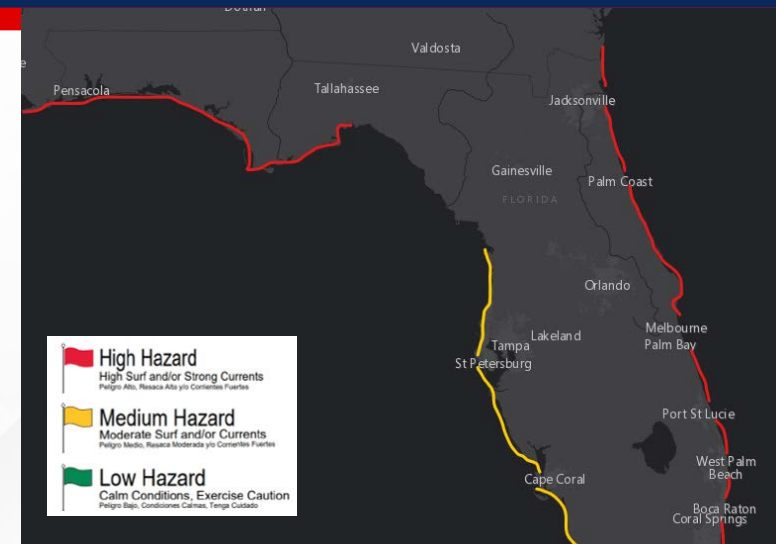
Marine Hazards: The long-period ocean swell over the western Atlantic waters continues to hold steady and create **wave heights** of 4-7' along East Coast beaches. **Breaking waves** for Treasure Coast beaches could reach upwards of 8' at times throughout the day, and a **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect along Palm Beach County beaches. Elevated surf along the western Panhandle will continue through today as **wave heights** of 4-5' will be possible. **High Surf Advisories** remain in place along the far western Panhandle due to dangerous beach and boating conditions. All other Panhandle and West Coast beaches can anticipate wave heights of 2-3'. **Red Tide** has not been observed above background levels over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: Onshore winds and elevated surf along portions of the western Florida Panhandle, as well as Treasure Coast, may allow for localized instances of **minor coastal and beach erosion** at times near and during high tide.

Flash Flooding: A **Flood Watch** remains in effect across the Big Bend and into portions of the Suwannee River Valley as widespread showers and thunderstorms can be expected throughout the day due to stationary frontal boundary. Favorable atmospheric and environmental conditions, as well as abundant moisture, will allow for instances of heavy downpours at times within shower and thunderstorm activity. **Rainfall totals** of 1-3" can be anticipated across the region, with **locally higher totals** upwards of 5" in some areas. Coastal regions along the Big Bend and towards Nature Coast could also see locally higher rainfall totals as showers and thunderstorms move inland from the Gulf of Mexico. Slow-moving or near stationary showers and thunderstorms will also increase the potential for **localized flooding**, especially across any urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the coastal Big Bend, into the Suwannee River Valley and into Northeast Florida, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending from the southern Apalachicola River and into Nature Coast.

Riverine Flooding: All Florida rivers, creeks and waterways are currently below flood stage. Local rises in water levels will be possible throughout the day across the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley where widespread showers and thunderstorms can be expected throughout the day. Water levels rises will remain dependent on how much rainfall occurs, as well as where the greatest rainfall occurs. Later this week, multiple rivers and waterways could rise into Action Stage (bank-full) following widespread rainfall. Portions of the Santa Fe River Basin ([O'Leno State Park](#) & [Three Rivers Estates](#)) are forecast to rise into **minor flood stage** late this week or over the weekend. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.39 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.05 feet above normal for this time of year.





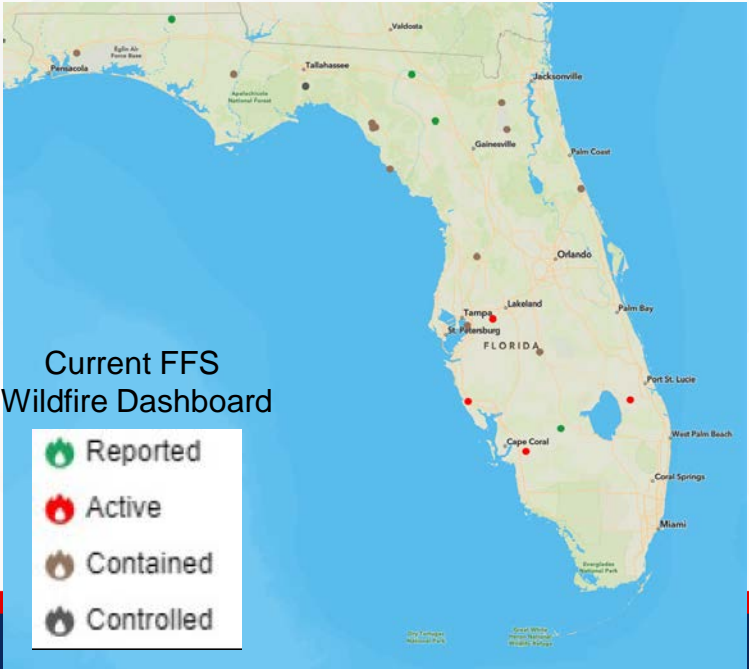
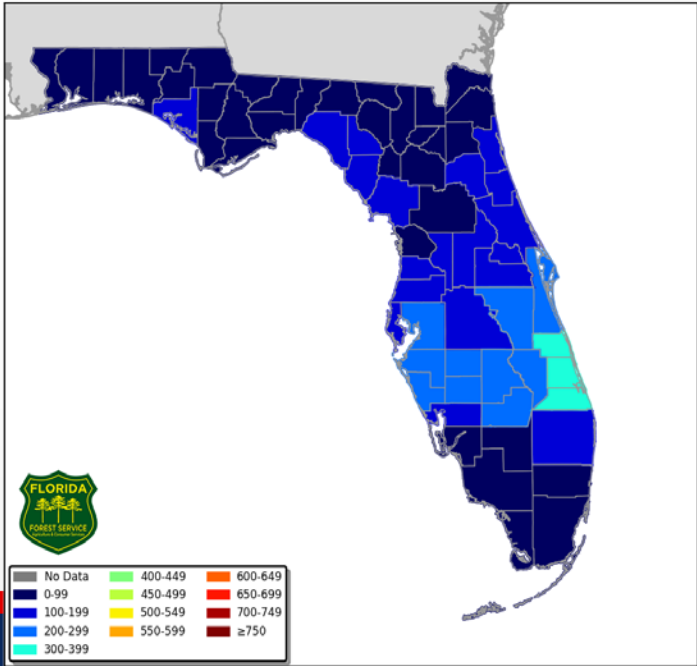
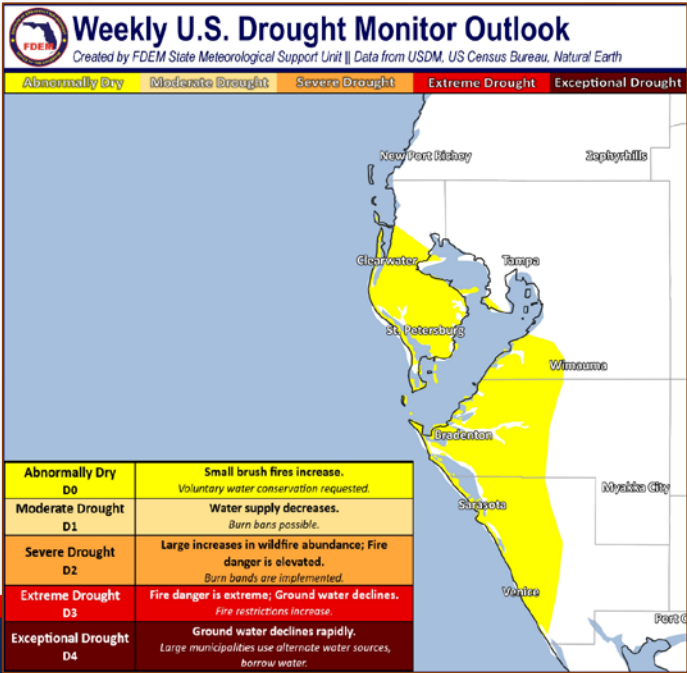
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A stationary frontal boundary draped over the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley will bring widespread showers and thunderstorms east of the Apalachicola River. Southerly winds across the Peninsula will bring moisture northward and keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds. Behind the frontal boundary, drier air will start to move southward into the western Panhandle allowing for relative humidity values near critical thresholds by the afternoon. Winds will remain light near 5-10 mph statewide, with wind gusts upwards of 15 mph outside of thunderstorm activity. Thunderstorms may be capable of producing erratic winds and frequent lightning. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 21 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 481 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.

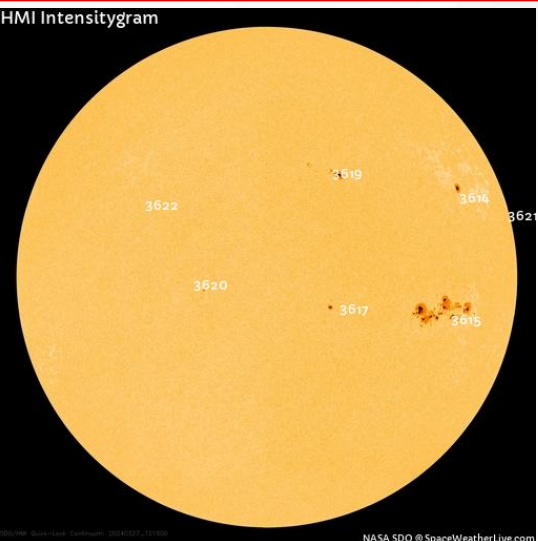
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **121 (+12)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 26, 2024

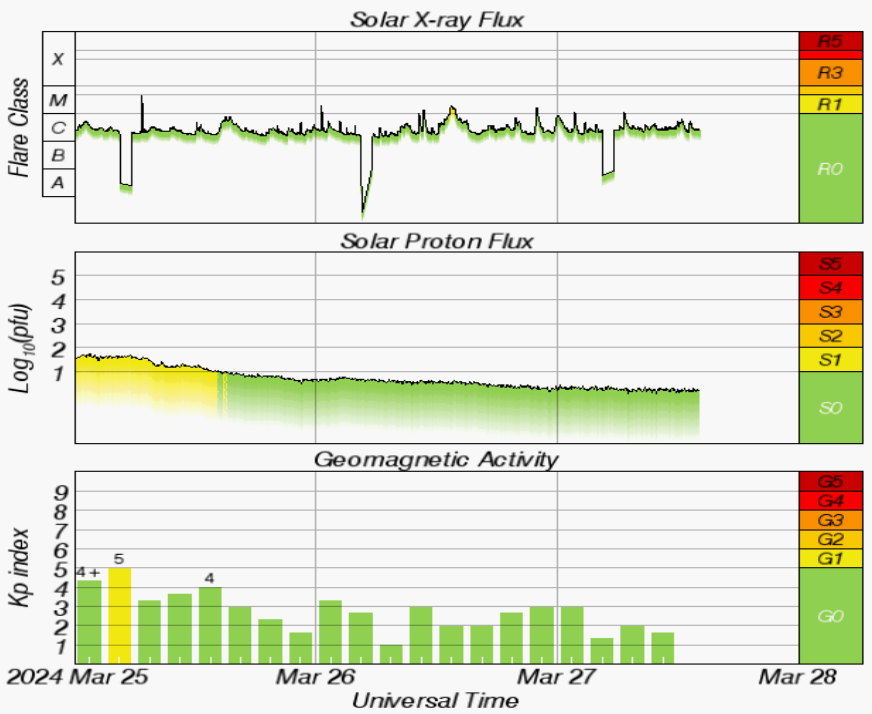
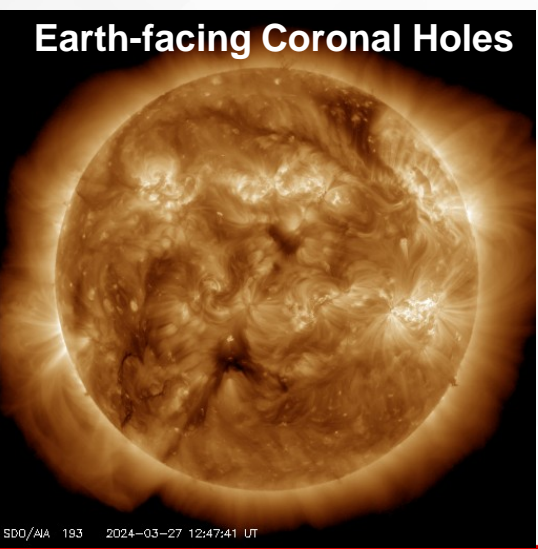




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 25%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/27	3/28
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity remains at moderate levels due to the large active sunspot #3615 that continues to harbor energy for significant (X-class) solar flares. Any strong solar activity will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts, and any significant solar activity will be capable of producing strong (R3) radio blackouts. In the wake of the Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) and solar radiation storm earlier in the week, solar wind conditions will return to ambient-like throughout the day. There still remains a chance for minor (S1) solar radiation storms due to the potential activity from sunspot #3615. The Earth's geomagnetic field has returned to quiet to unsettled conditions and no minor (G1) or greater geomagnetic storms are expected. 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	

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