



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, March 28, 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	Ben Mauro	(850) 566-4904	Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(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	Melissa James	(850) 566-6422	Melissa.James@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 / RC Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Liberty, Leon	Outreach Materials P/U and Delivery / Response Mtgs
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Gilchrist	Region 3 Quarterly Meeting
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, St. Lucie	Support Operations / Return to Region 8 Travel
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	LMS / RC 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

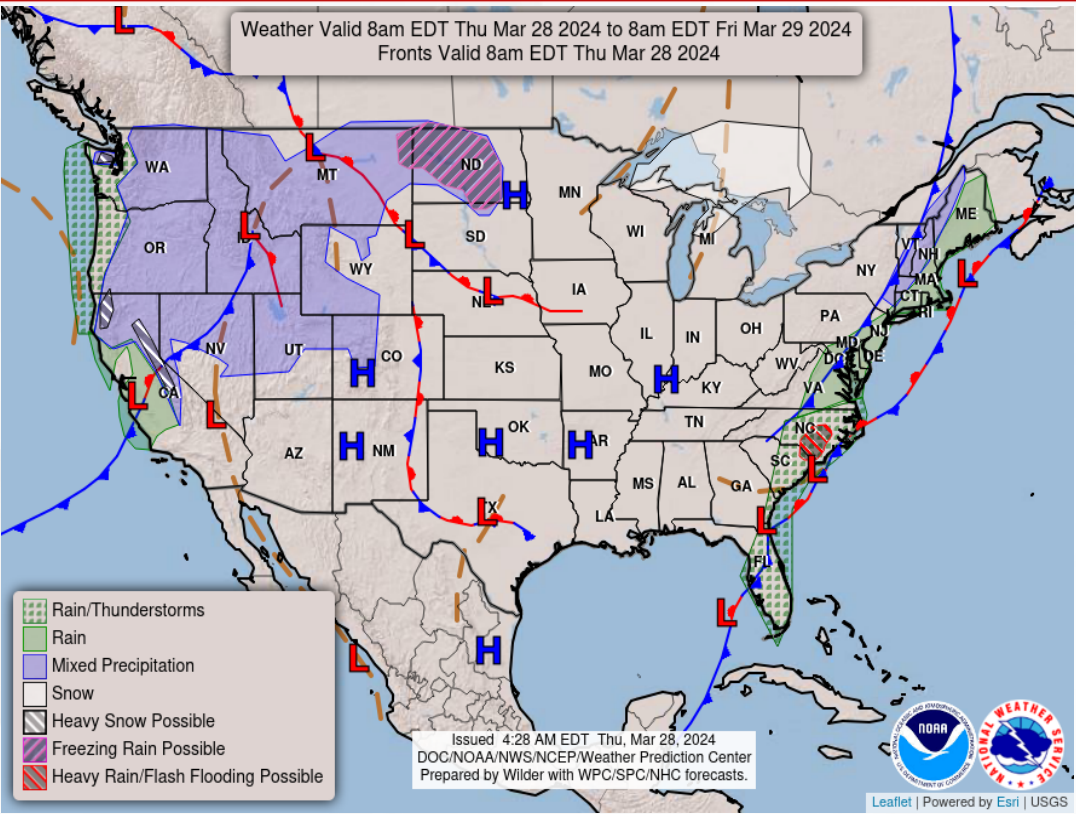
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jackson	Site Inspection
Region 3: Patrick James	Gilchrist	Regional Quarterly Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Inidian River	L-101 Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
RRCT Manager	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Grant Goodwin	Orange	National Hurricane Conference
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Lee	External Stakeholders Meeting
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	In State	Return Travel from NHC

Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 5 & 10

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

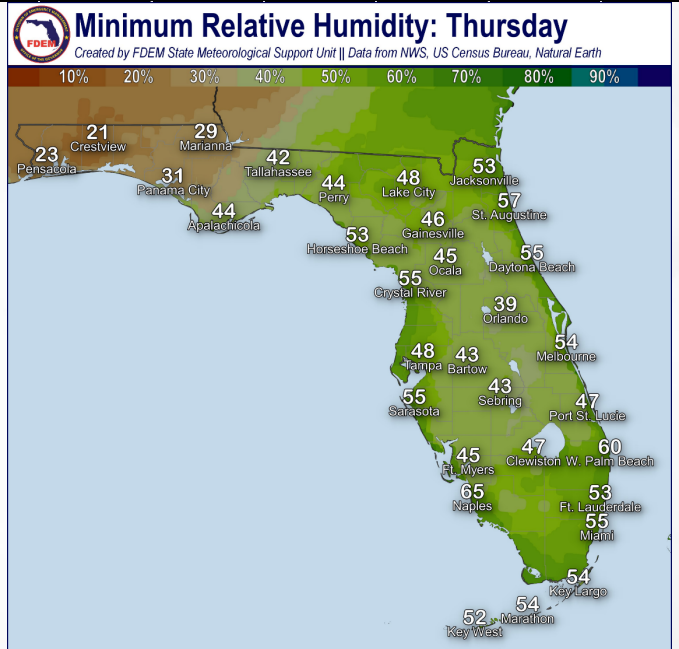
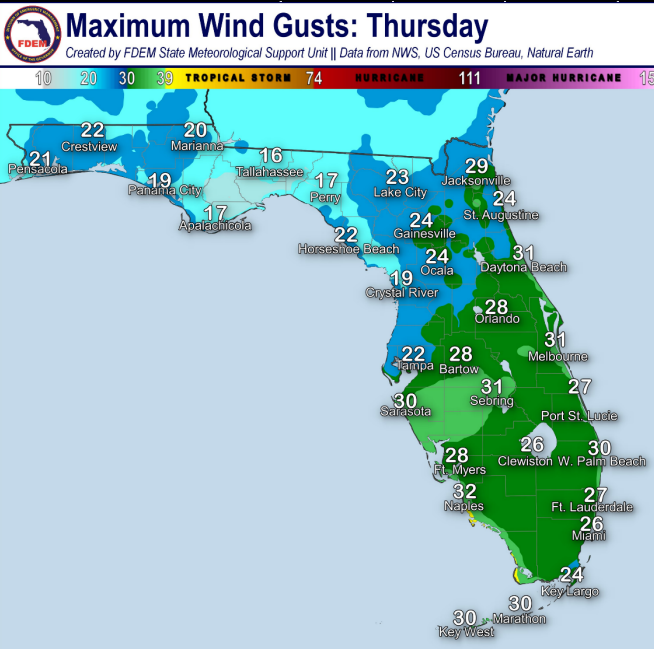


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning				L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Coastal Flooding										
Wildfire	L	L								
River Flooding										
Rip Currents	M	H	H	H	M	H		H	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.38 ft. (1.04 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	119 (-1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





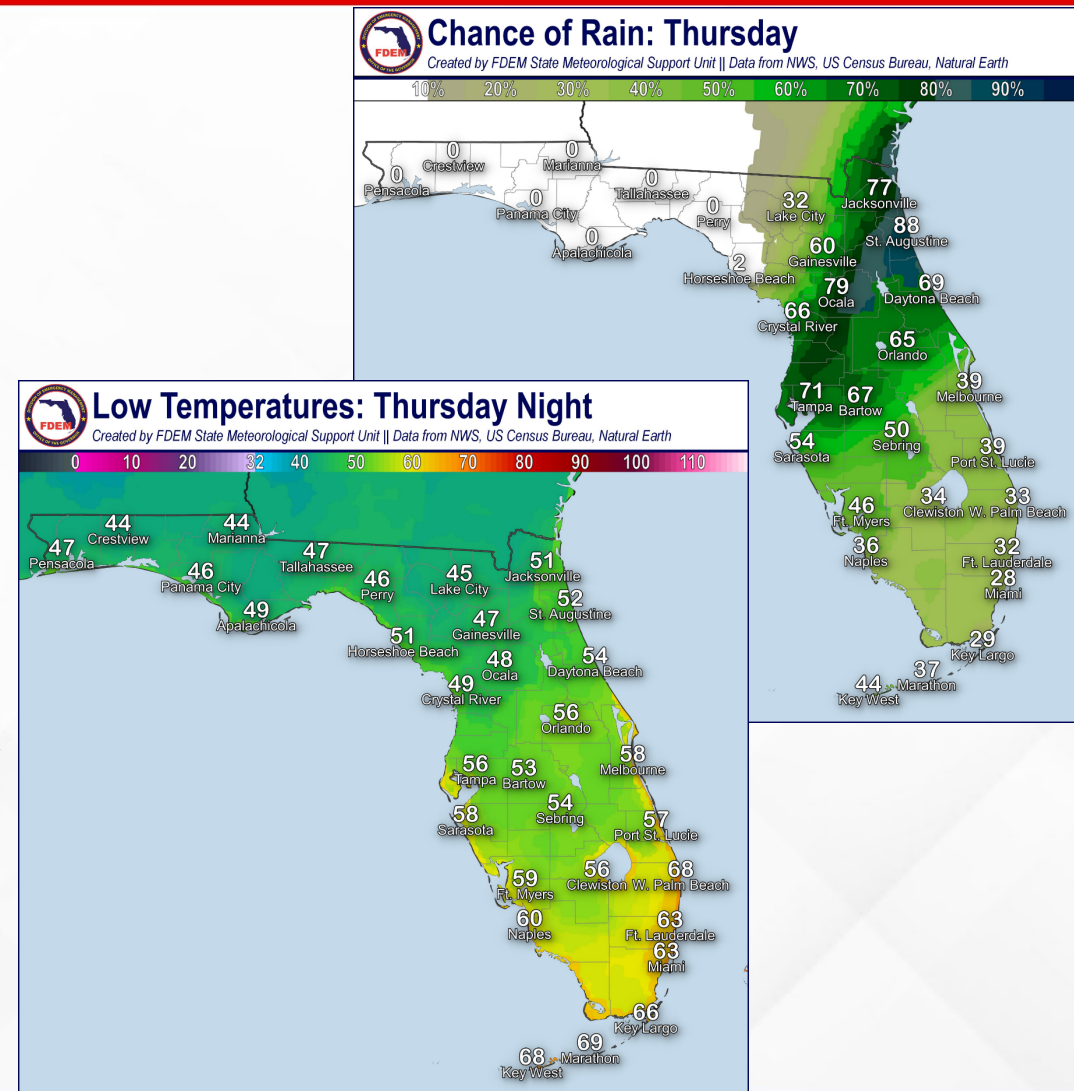
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

The frontal boundary that has been slowly drifting eastward remains stationed along the I-4 corridor this morning and continues to produce scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms along the Northern Peninsula (65-90% chance of rain). The cold front has regained a quicker southeastward forward motion and will make its way off the coast of the Southern Peninsula by this afternoon (35-55% chance of rain), allowing mostly sunny skies to return statewide this evening. High temperatures will generally remain in the low to middle 70s across North Florida, upper 70s to low 80s through Central Florida, and low to middle 80s along South Florida and the Keys this afternoon.

Behind the cold front, dry air and northwesterly to northerly winds are expected as high pressure begins to build in for the weekend and into early next week. **Wind gusts upwards of 25-30 mph** can be expected across South and Central Florida, including the Keys, with **15-25 mph gusts** elsewhere. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will develop along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend this afternoon thanks to high dispersions, breezy winds, and **near to below critical relative humidity values (20-40%)** behind the cold front. While elevated fuel moisture from recent heavy rainfall will help to limit the overall wildfire threat, pockets of **elevated fire weather conditions** may be possible locally in areas that continue to experience dry conditions

Near zero rain chances and clear to mostly clear skies will return statewide overnight as the center of high pressure expands eastward over the state. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 40s across the Florida Panhandle and Suwannee Valley, low 50s across the rest of the Northern Peninsula, middle to upper 50s through Central Florida, upper 50s to low 60s through South Florida, and middle to upper 60s along the Keys.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

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

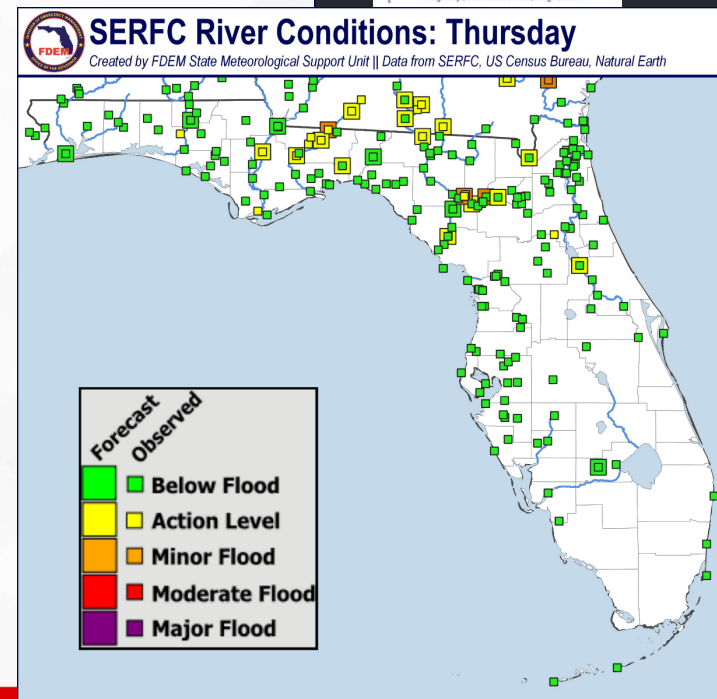
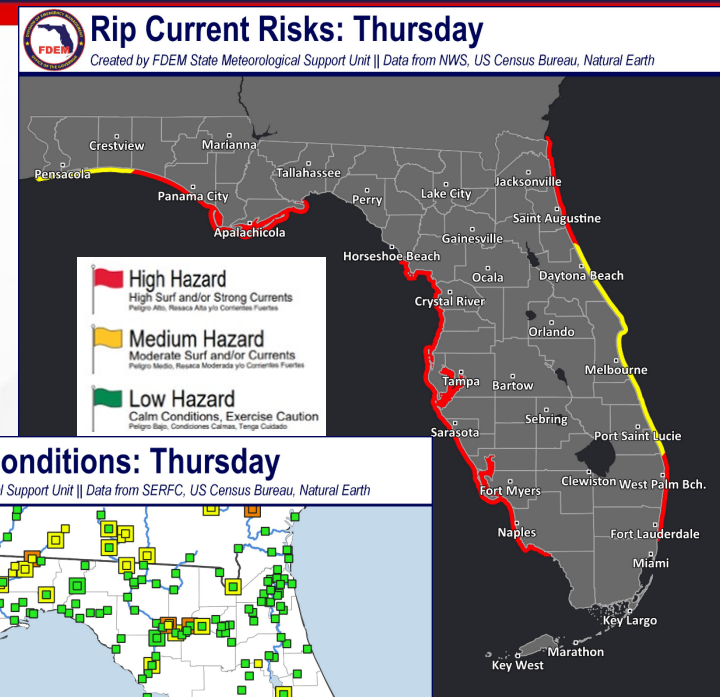
Marine Hazards: The long-period ocean swell over the western Atlantic waters will weaken throughout the day but continue to create **wave heights** of 3-6' along East Coast beaches. A **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect along coastal Palm Beach County through this evening as **large breaking waves of 3-7'** continue to be possible. Elevated surf along the Florida Panhandle will begin to dissipate today as **wave heights** return to 2-5' this afternoon. West Coast beaches can anticipate **wave heights** to increase to **4-7'** by this afternoon as swells in the Gulf of Mexico shift southeastward with the cold front. **Red Tide** has been observed at background levels in two samples collected in Southwest Florida, from and offshore of Sarasota County, over the past week.

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

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will persist along the slow-moving frontal boundary in the Northern Peninsula this morning, breaking apart and becoming increasingly isolated as the cold front moves through the rest of the Peninsula this afternoon. Widespread rainfall totals are forecast to remain well below 1" this afternoon with clear to mostly clear skies returning late this afternoon through the overnight hours.

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 with many rivers and waterways forecast to rise into Action Stage (bank-full) in response to heavy rainfall received over the last few days. The [Ochlockonee River near Concord](#) and portions of the Santa Fe River Basin ([O'Leno State Park](#) & [Three Rivers Estates](#)) are forecast to rise into **minor flood stage** late this weekend or early next week as water levels continue to rise. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.38 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.04 feet above normal for this time of year.





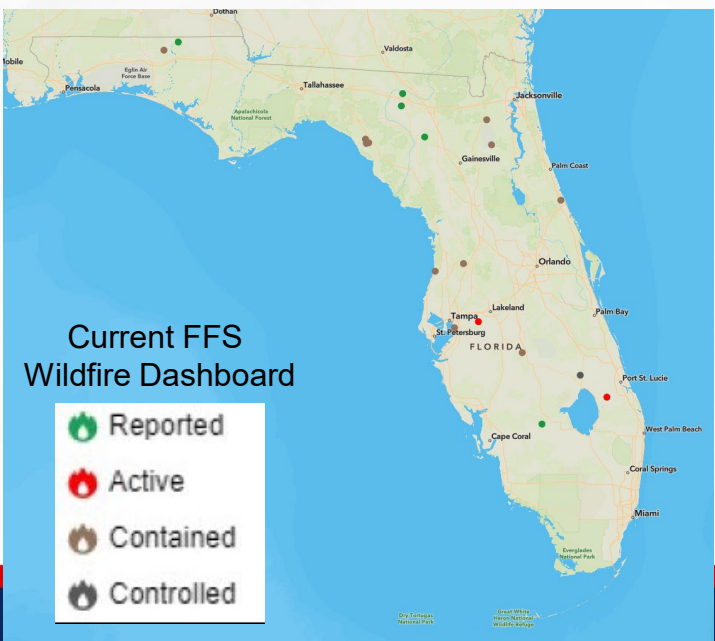
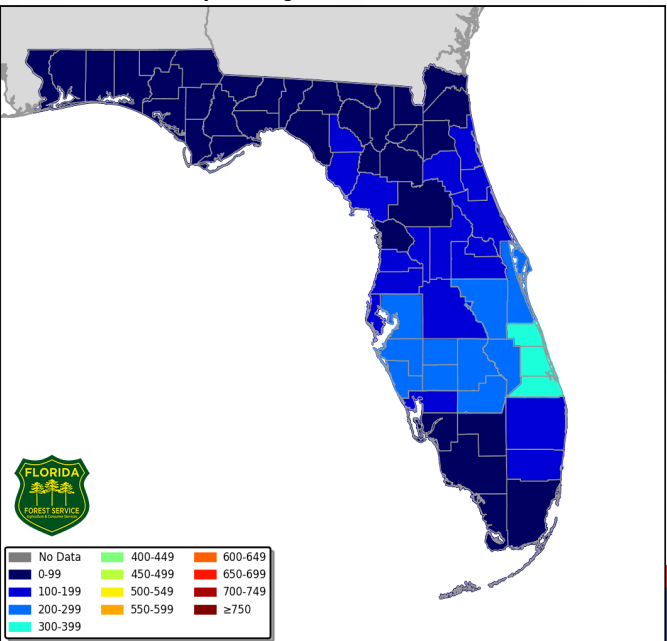
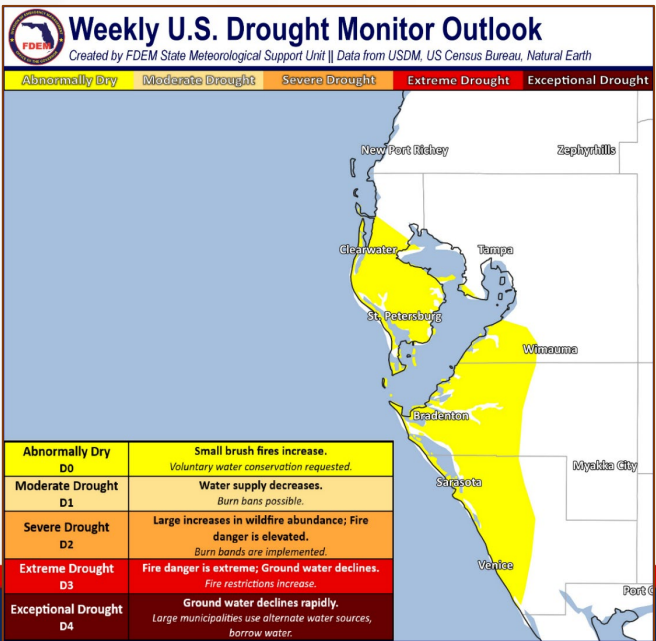
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A frontal remains stationed across Central Florida this morning and continues to produce scattered showers and thunderstorms. The cold front will continue moving southeastward through the Peninsula and off the coast of the Southern Peninsula by this afternoon. Behind the cold front, dry air and northerly winds are expected as high pressure begins to build in for the weekend and into early next week. **Wind gusts upwards of 25-30 mph** are anticipated across South and Central Florida, including the Keys, with **15-25 mph gusts** elsewhere at times. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will develop along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend this afternoon thanks to high dispersions, breezy winds, and **near to below critical relative humidity values (20-40%)** behind the cold front. While elevated fuel moisture from recent heavy rainfall will help to limit the overall wildfire threat, pockets of **elevated fire weather conditions** may be possible locally in areas that continue to see 30-day rainfall deficits near 1-2". Relative humidity values are expected to remain above critical thresholds elsewhere with **locally drier pockets** possible in Central Florida (**35-45%**). According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 19 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 292 acres.

Drought: Conditions remain unchanged on this week's Drought Monitor update. A widespread 1-3" of rain was observed along the Florida Panhandle over the past week with a widespread 2-5" along the southern Peninsula and the Keys and locally higher totals across both regions. The rest of the state only received a widespread rainfall totals of near or below 1". Long-term rainfall deficits continue to promote Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) conditions along West-Central Florida. Limited rainfall expected across the state over the next week may exacerbate existing dry conditions.

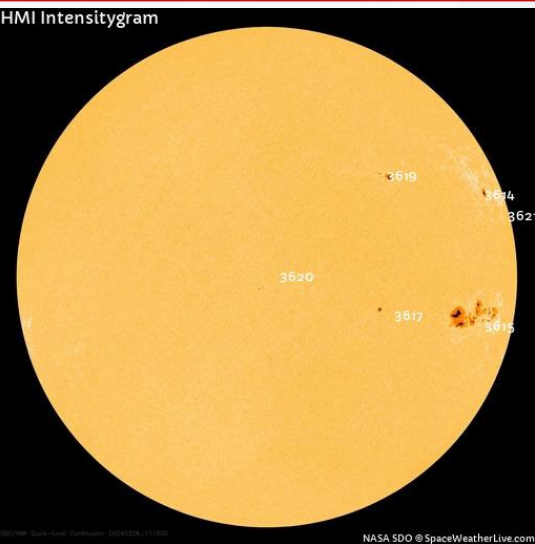
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **119 (-1)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **zero** Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 27, 2024

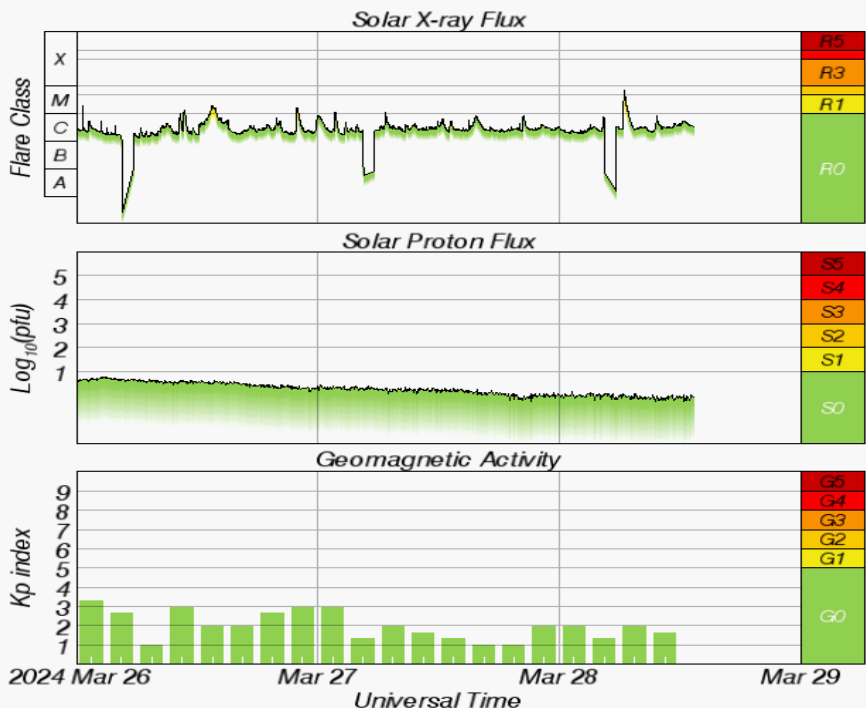
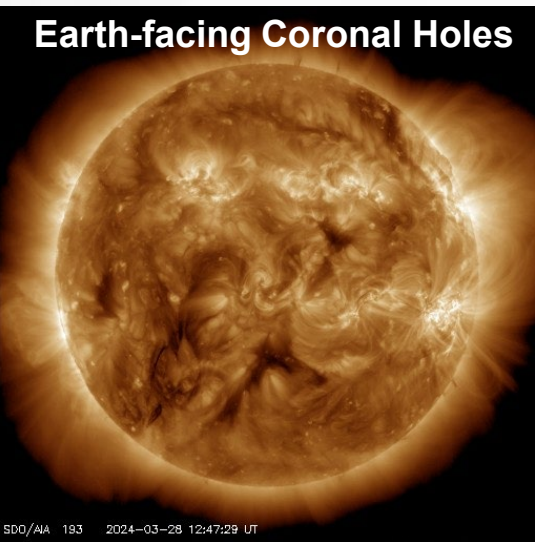




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M7 Solar Flare
X-class: 25%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/28	3/29
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at moderate levels with a chance for a significant (X-class) solar flare due to the flare potential of sunspot #3615 which continues to harbor energy for 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. A chance for minor (S1) solar radiation storms will persist due to the potential and location of sunspot #3615. Ambient-like solar wind and mostly quiet geomagnetic conditions will return today as Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) effects continue to wane. Periods of isolated unsettled geomagnetic conditions may return late Friday in response to developing Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) effects. 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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