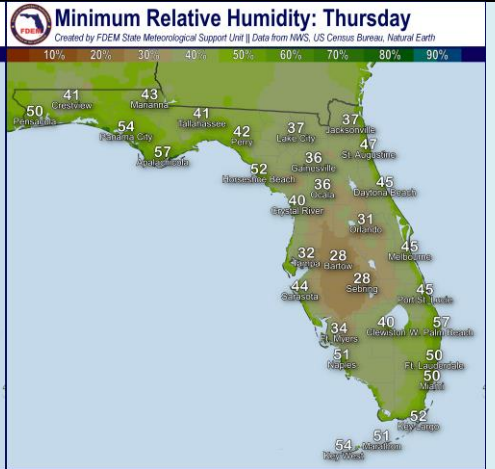
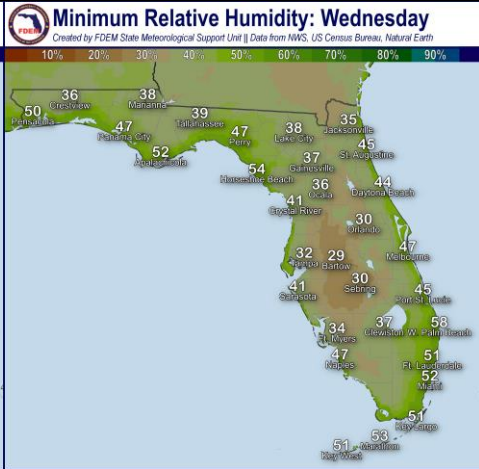
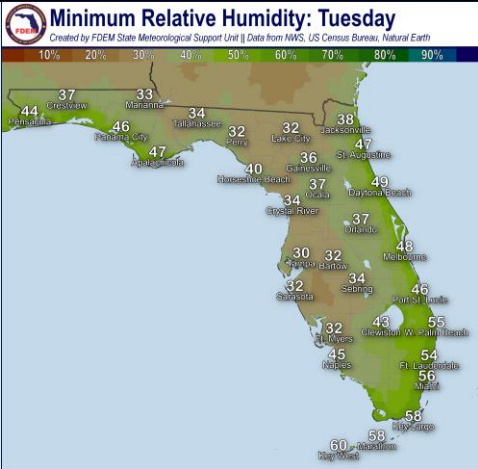


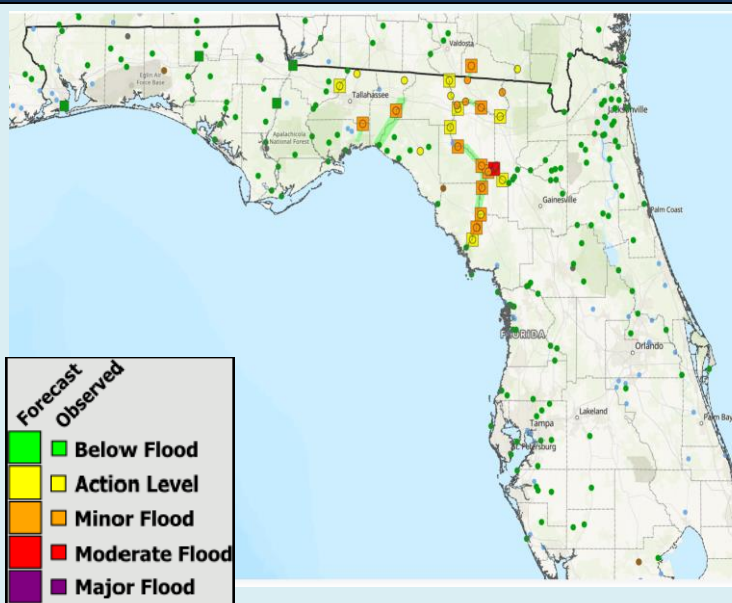
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

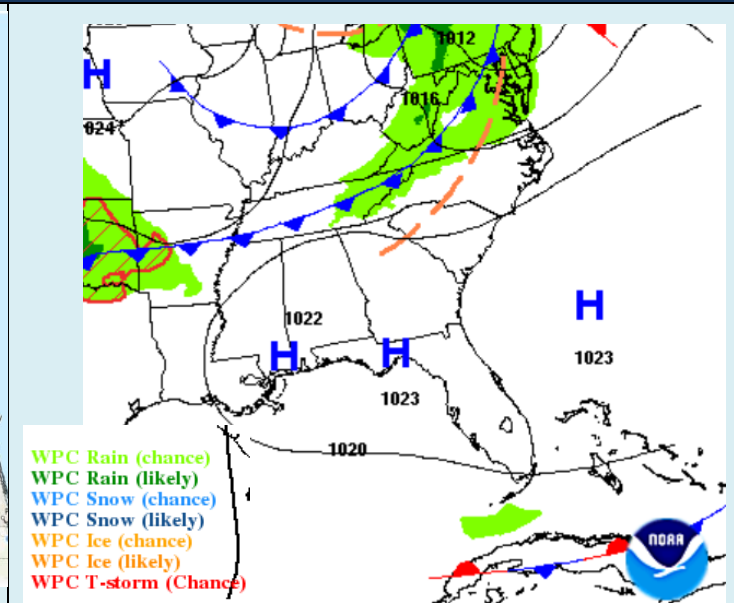
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Wildfire	Fog (Overnight)	River Flooding	Rip Currents
Tue					Locally Int. Peninsula Statewide		Santa Fe Big Bend & Suwannee River	East Coast Panhandle & Southwest Florida West Coast
Wed					Locally Int. Peninsula		Santa Fe Big Bend & Suwannee River	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Thu					Locally Int. Peninsula		Santa Fe Big Bend & Suwannee River	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Fri					Locally Int. West-Central Florida Peninsula		Santa Fe Big Bend & Suwannee River	Southeast Florida Panhandle & East Coast West Coast
Sat					Locally Southwest Florida Peninsula		Santa Fe Big Bend & Suwannee River	Panhandle & Southeast Florida Southwest Florida & East Coast West Coast



Minimum Forecast Relative Humidity Values: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday



Active or Forecast River Flooding Warnings



Forecast Weather Pattern: Wednesday Morning



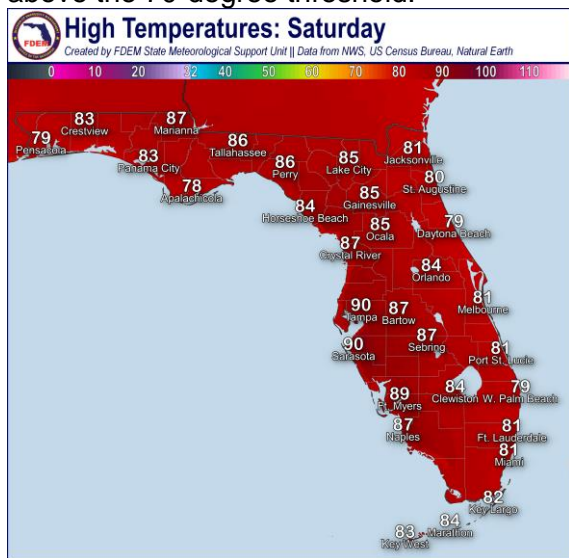
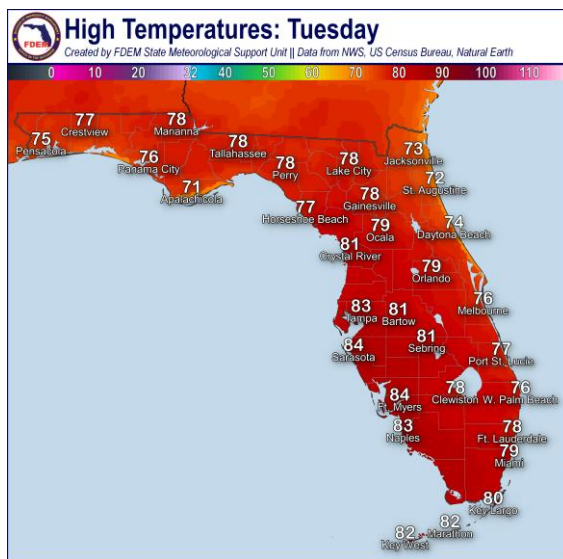
**...High Pressure to Dominate and Bring Dry Conditions Statewide Over the Next 5 Days...Gradual Warming of Temperatures Throughout the Week...Drier Conditions Across the Peninsula, Along with Emerging Drought Conditions, to Give Way to Increased Wildfire Conditions...Minor to Moderate Riverine Flooding Continues Along Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley in Response to Early April Severe Weather Event...East Coast Beaches to See Elevated Risk for Rip Currents Through Midweek Due to Ocean Swells and Onshore Winds...**

**Tuesday – Thursday:**

Mostly sunny skies, dry conditions, and overall tranquil weather can be expected across the Sunshine State for the remainder of the work week, courtesy of an area of high pressure positioning itself over the Southeastern U.S. Rain chances will remain less than 10% statewide. Abundant sunshine will allow for temperatures to gradually warm through the forecast period, with afternoon high temperatures today in the upper 70s across North Florida and the lower 80s throughout the Florida Peninsula. By Wednesday and Thursday, widespread temperatures climbing into the middle to upper 80s can be expected statewide with a few locations over the interior Florida Peninsula potentially eclipsing the 90-degree mark.

East-northeasterly winds of 5-10 mph today along the Florida East Coast will shift further south over the Florida Peninsula Wednesday and Thursday, confining afternoon wind gusts of 15-20 mph to the Southeast Florida coastline and the Florida Keys midweek.

Low temperatures will be on the rise through the week as the forecast period begins on the cooler side. Low temperatures in the lower 50s can be expected across North and interior Central Florida tonight, the middle to upper 50s across Central and interior South Florida, and the 60s to 70s along the South Florida Coast and the Keys. Overnight temperatures in the upper 50s to middle 60s can be expected statewide by Wednesday night, with coastal South Florida and the Keys remaining above the 70-degree threshold.



**Friday – Saturday:**

While the area of high pressure over the southeastern U.S. erodes away, the dormant weather pattern will be reinforced from another dominant high pressure system residing over the Northeast U.S. into the weekend. Very warm temperatures under mostly sunny skies return to the Sunshine State on Friday and Saturday, with highs rising into the middle to upper 80s statewide. Localized temperatures reaching the lower 90s can be expected over portions of West-Central Florida each afternoon.

Breezy conditions return, with winds out of the east to east-southeast reaching 10-15 mph during the afternoon hours. Wind gusts of 15-25 mph can be expected, with **locally higher wind gusts** possible along the immediate coastlines and Florida Keys (**25-30 mph**).



Despite winds resuming an onshore flow, moisture return will be quite limited through the weekend; rain chances will remain less than 5% statewide, with cloud cover held to a minimum. Low temperatures will trend warmer into the weekend, with the 60s expected throughout North and Central Florida and the 70s along coastal South Florida and the Florida Keys.

**Hydrology & Flooding:**

There is no risk for flash or coastal flooding over the next 5 days. For the latest Flash Flood Outlooks, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](#).

**River Flood Warnings** remain in effect for several Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley rivers and waterways following the early April severe weather event. The [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#) has risen into **moderate flood stage** as water levels before the heavy rain event were already elevated, and additional water levels led to additional rising. The water levels along the forecast point are forecast to level out later this week and hold steady before slowly declining early next week. **Minor riverine flooding** continues for the [St. Marks River near Newport](#) and [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) as forecast to slowly decline below flood stage later this week. Several forecast points along the Suwannee River including, [near Suwannee Springs](#), [Luraville](#), [Branford](#), [Hildreth](#), [Rock Bluff](#) and [Manatee Springs](#) as **minor flooding** is ongoing. The forecast point at the [Suwannee River near Wilcox](#) is forecast to rise into **minor flood stage** by midweek as elevated water levels continue to flow downstream through the river basin, and a **River Flood Warning** will go into effect midweek. Dry conditions over the next 5 days will help to allow water levels to slowly decline. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

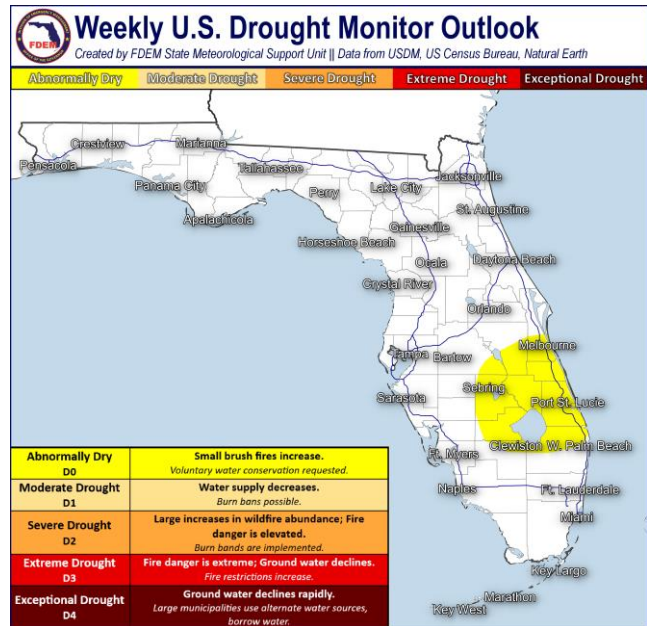
Lake Okeechobee’s average elevation is 14.60 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.79 feet above normal.

**Drought & Fire Weather:**

With the widespread rainfall from the early April severe weather event, the emerging drought conditions were removed along the far western Panhandle on the latest [Drought Monitor](#) update. A new area of *abnormally dry (emerging drought) conditions* were introduced on this week’s update along portions of East-Central and Southeast Florida, including Lake Okeechobee. Despite active weather and abundant rainfall across North and West Florida, the rainfall has yet to fall along the eastern Peninsula as it moves southward. Rainfall deficits over the last 30 days have grown to 1-3” below normal for this time of year, with the greatest rainfall deficits within Indian River and St. Lucie Counties. Lack of rainfall and ongoing warm and dry conditions led to the introduction of abnormally dry conditions. Rainfall received on Monday should help to alleviate conditions and prevent further worsening of conditions, but abnormally dry conditions will likely persist into the next outlook that will be released on Thursday.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **253** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There is **one** Florida county (St. Lucie) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

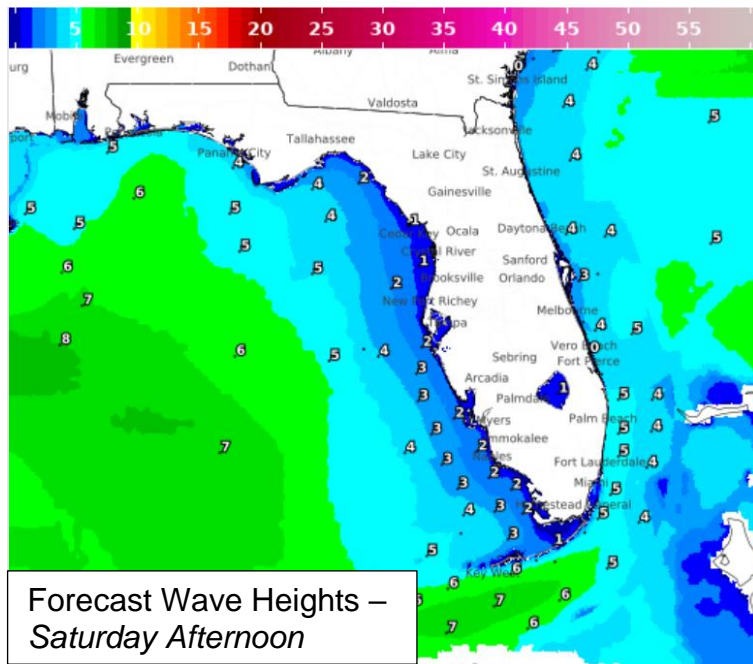
Dry conditions will persist over the next 5 days with the help of high pressure influence. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** can be expected throughout the Peninsula as relative humidity values will fall **below critical thresholds**, especially across portions of West-Central Florida, during the



afternoon hours. **Locally elevated wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out across portions of East-Central and Southeast Florida where new emerging drought conditions were introduced last week. Breezy wind gusts of 15-20 mph will be possible at times, especially if the sea breeze is able to develop throughout the day along the coastlines; however, lighter winds should help to limit Red Flag Conditions. Later in the week, breezy **wind gusts of 20-25 mph** return across the Peninsula, contributing to an increased potential for wildfire conditions. According to the [Florida Forest Service](http://www.floridastateforestry.com), there are 25 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 540 acres (as of 10:22 AM EDT).

**Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**

A distant ocean swell and breezy onshore winds will create a **high risk for rip currents** along all East Coast beaches through the mid-week before the ocean swell dissipates. As the ocean swell dissipates, surf will gradually weaken allowing for a **moderate risk for rip currents** through the end of the week. Southeast Florida beaches may see a **locally higher risk for rip currents** heading into the weekend due to elevated surf along beaches. Winds flowing parallel to the Panhandle and dissipating wave heights will create a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** along beaches on Tuesday. Weakening winds and ocean swells will allow for beaches to return to a **moderate risk for rip currents** by the middle to latter portions of this week. Onshore winds will return later in the week and gradually build with the help of a developing ocean swell over the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and a **high risk for rip currents** will return to beaches by the weekend. West Coast beaches can expect a low risk for rip currents with **locally elevated risks** along Southwest Florida beaches at times. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).



Breezy onshore winds and a distant ocean swell along the Florida East Coast will create **wave heights** of 5-8' along beaches through Tuesday evening before the swells begins to dissipate overnight. **High Surf Advisories** may be needed along Southeast Florida beaches where **wave heights** could reach upwards of 8-9' in some locations, creating **dangerous beach and boating conditions**. East Coast beaches will see wave heights gradually subside as the ocean swell passes and dissipate Wednesday evening. By Thursday, wave heights will return to 1-3' through the rest of the week and into the weekend, with locally elevated surf upwards of 4' along Southeast Florida beaches. An ocean swell associated with the recent passing cold front will gradually weaken along Southwest Florida and Gulf-facing Key beaches on Tuesday and into

Wednesday. Wave heights of 2-4' can be expected for Panhandle and West Coast beaches through mid-morning on Wednesday, with the largest waves just offshore from Southwest Florida beaches, as the ocean swell continues to dissipate. Calm seas near 1-2' return to Panhandle and West Coast beaches overnight Wednesday and will continue through Friday afternoon. Another ocean swell begins to build over the eastern Gulf of Mexico Friday afternoon allowing for wave heights to gradually increase heading into the weekend. By Saturday, **wave heights** of 3-6' return across the Panhandle, with wave heights of 2-4' along the rest of the West Coast.

**Red Tide** was not observed in samples collected across the state this past week.



[Blue-Green Algae](#) conditions were observed by samplers at 14 sites out of the 21 total site visits during the week of 4/12-4/18. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows low to **moderate bloom potential** on approximately 40% of the lake, with the most condensed bloom potential in the northern half of the lake. The St. Johns River shows highly scattered low to **high bloom potential** from Lake George downstream to Jacksonville. Low to **moderate bloom potential** was observed from the upper Caloosahatchee Estuary down to the Matlacha Pass. No visible bloom potential was observed along the St. Lucie Estuary.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

**For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:**

[Pensacola](#) • [Panama City](#) • [Tallahassee](#) • [Gainesville](#) • [Jacksonville](#) • [Daytona Beach](#)

[Orlando](#) • [Tampa](#) • [Fort Myers](#) • [West Palm Beach](#) • [Miami](#) • [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful rest of the week!

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist

Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

