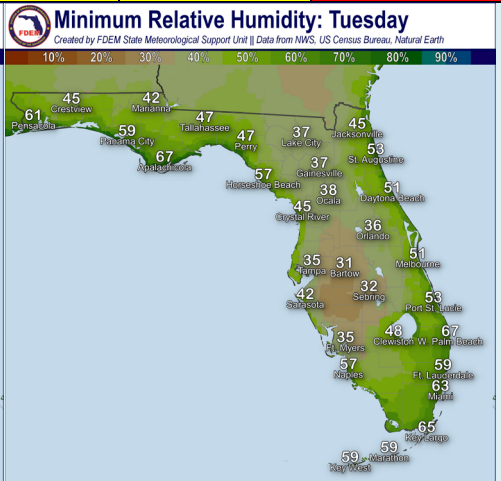
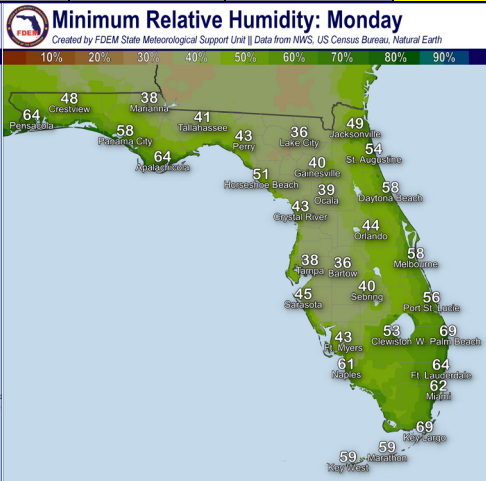
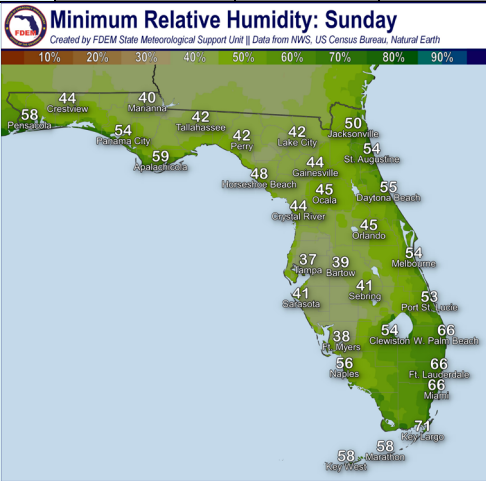


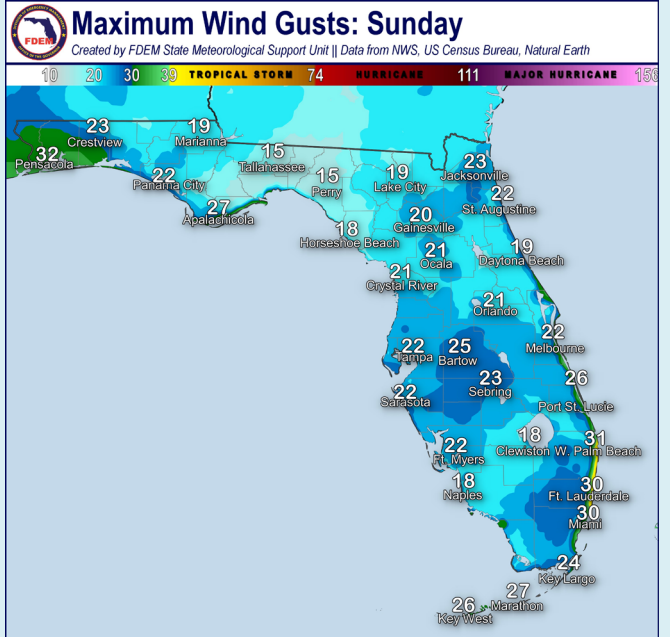
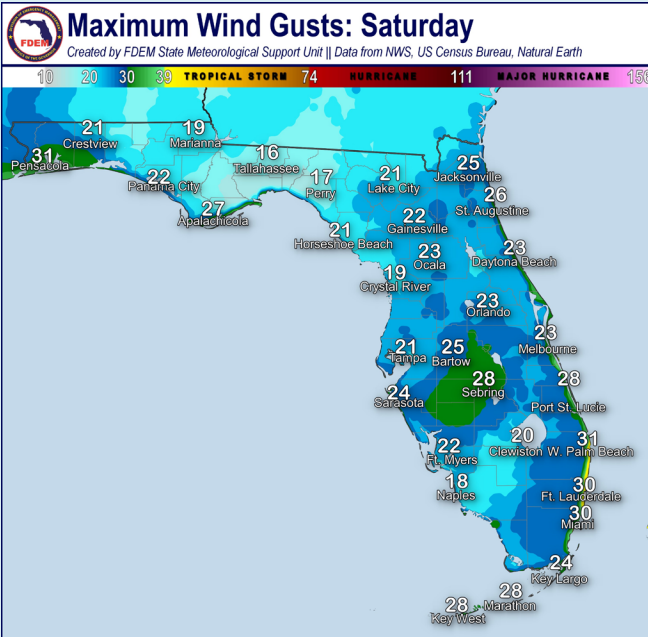
Friday, April 26, 2024

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Flash Flooding	Wildfire	Riverine Flooding	Rip Currents
Fri						Locally N, Central, & SW Florida	Suwannee Valley Big Bend	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Sat						Locally W-Central FL	Suwannee Valley Iso. Big Bend	E-Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Sun						Locally N & Central FL	Suwannee Valley	Statewide Locally
Mon						Locally W-Peninsula	Suwannee Valley	Statewide Locally
Tue						Locally N & Central Peninsula	Suwannee Valley	E-Coast & Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity: Saturday, Sunday, Monday



Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts: Saturday

Forecast Maximum Wind Gusts: Sunday



...Warm and Dry Conditions Persist Statewide Over the Next 5 Days As High Pressure Continues to Dominate The Weather Pattern...Isolated Showers Possible At Times With Sea Breezes and Nearby Frontal Boundaries...High Temperatures Nearing or Reaching the Low 90s at Times...Sensitive to Locally Elevated Wildfire Conditions Across Portions of North, Central, and Southwest Florida In the Afternoons; Red Flag Warnings Cannot Be Ruled Out in Emerging Drought Areas...Breezy Winds With Gusts Near 20-30 MPH Today Strengthening to 20-30 MPH With Locally Stronger Gusts Along Coastlines This Weekend...Breezy Winds Will Linger Into Early Next Week...Hazardous Beach and Boating Conditions Likely As Winds Strengthen and Create Large Breaking Waves Along Numerous Florida Beaches...Moderate to High Risk For Rip Currents Nearly Statewide Saturday Through Tuesday...Minor to Moderate Flooding Persist Along Several Big Bend and Suwannee Valley Rivers...

Friday-Sunday:

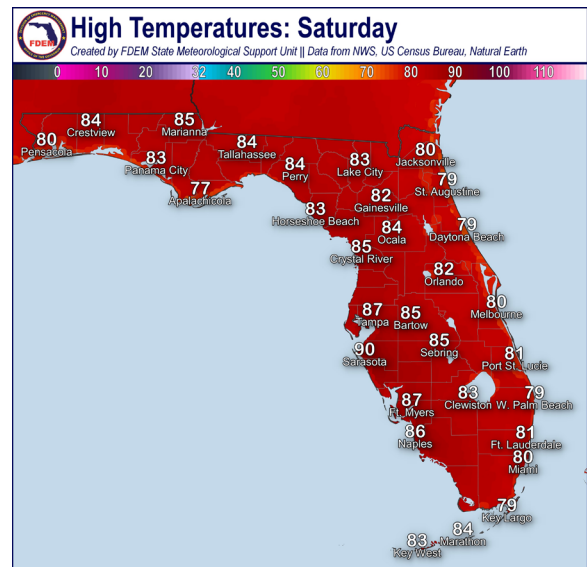
High pressure along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard will continue to promote relatively dry conditions through the weekend with mostly sunny skies becoming increasingly cloudy (near 0-20% chance of rain). A few isolated showers will be possible along the I-10 corridor, Northeastern Peninsula, Southeast Coast, and Keys at times as a stalled frontal boundary lingers and dissipates near the Florida-Georgia line and sea breezes develop along the Florida Panhandle and Florida Atlantic Coast where sufficient moisture is present. High temperatures will remain warm thanks to abundant sunshine, rising into the 80s to **low 90s** statewide with upper 70s possible along Florida Panhandle and East Coastlines thanks to the afternoon sea breezes.

Winds will strengthen today and remain breezy this weekend as a low-pressure system over the Central U.S. pushes up against the area of high pressure to the east. Wind gusts **near 20-25 mph** are anticipated nearly statewide this afternoon with locally stronger **gusts up to 30 mph** along Northeast and Southeast Florida. Breezy, and at times gusty, winds with **gusts near 20-30 mph** are possible statewide this weekend with **locally stronger 30-40 mph gusts** along the Western and Coastal Panhandle and Florida Atlantic Coastline. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** can be expected across portions of North, Central, and Southwest Florida over the next 3 days as dry air lingers, pulling relative humidity values down to **near or below critical thresholds (30-45%)**. **Red Flag Warnings** cannot be ruled out as breezy winds develop over areas that are experiencing emerging drought conditions.

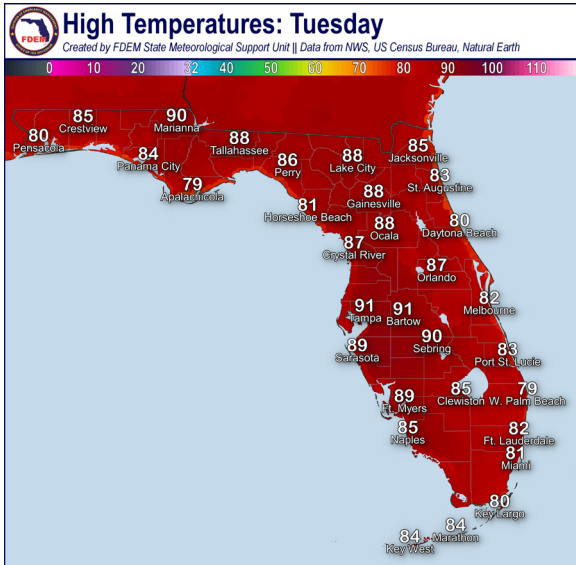
Low temperatures will remain in the middle to upper 60s across North and Central Florida and upper 60s to middle 70s across South Florida and the Keys tonight and Saturday. Slightly cooler temperatures can be expected Sunday night with lows in the low to middle 60s across North and Central Florida with upper 60s to middle 70s persisting across South Florida. Coastal areas will likely see slightly warmer overnight conditions than adjacent inland areas through the period. Breezy winds will likely prevent fog development over the next 3 days.

Monday – Tuesday:

High pressure centered just east of the Southeast U.S. will continue to dominate the weather pattern early next week, promoting sunny to mostly sunny skies and warm conditions. Isolated showers will continue to be possible along Panhandle, Southeast Coast, and Keys early next week as



a frontal boundary pushes into the Southeast U.S. and sea breezes form along Florida coastlines (near 0-15% chance of rain). Abundant sunshine will allow high temperatures to rise into the 80s to **low 90s** statewide Monday and Tuesday with upper 70s possible along Florida Panhandle and East Coastlines thanks to the afternoon sea breezes.



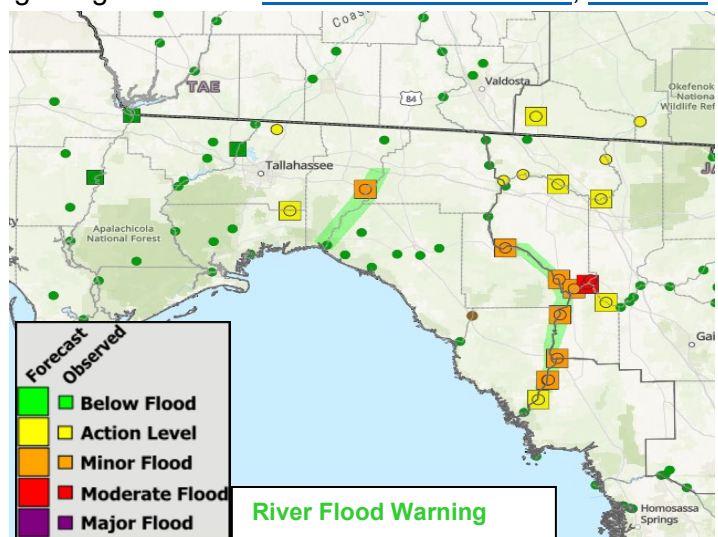
Winds will begin to weaken early next week; however, **winds near 10-20 mph** with **higher gusts** will likely linger statewide. **Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will persist across portions of North and Central Florida Monday and Tuesday as dry air pulls relative humidity values down to **near or below critical thresholds (25-40%)**. **Red Flag Warnings** cannot be ruled out as breezy winds develop over areas that are experiencing emerging drought conditions.

Clear to mostly clear skies with isolated showers along the Keys will continue through the overnight hours Monday and Tuesday (near 0-15% chance of rain). Low temperatures will remain in the 60s across North and Central Florida, upper 60s to low 70s across South Florida, and middle 70s along the Keys both nights.

Hydrology & Flooding:

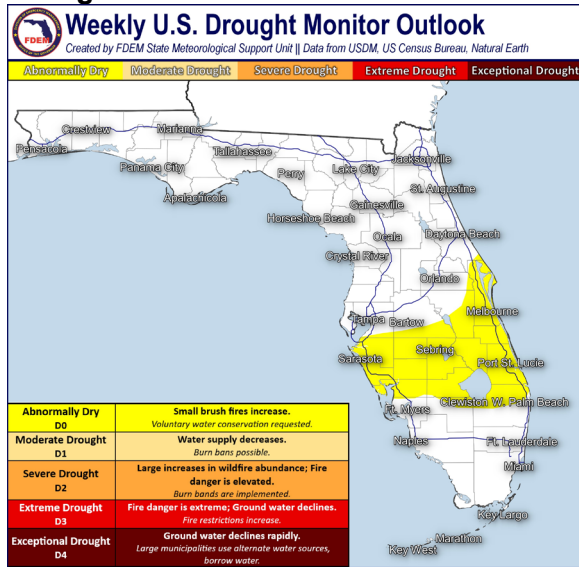
There is no risk of flash flooding over the next 5 days. A few isolated showers will be possible along the I-10 corridor, Northeastern Peninsula, Southeast Coast, and Keys at times as a weak cold front lingers and dissipates near the Florida-Georgia line and sea breezes develop along the U.S. Atlantic Coast where elevated moisture is present. Isolated showers will continue to be possible along Panhandle, Southeast Coast, and Keys early next week as a frontal boundary pushes into the Southeast U.S. and sea breezes form along Florida coastlines. Widespread rainfall totals are forecast to remain below 1". For the latest Excessive Rainfall Outlook, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](#).

River Flood Warnings remain in effect for several rivers and waterways along the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley. **Moderate river flooding** continues for the [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#) as water levels have crested and are beginning to fall. The [Aucilla River at Lamont](#), [Santa Fe River near Hildreth](#), and portions of the Suwannee River ([at Luraville](#), [at Branford](#), [at Rock Bluff near Bell](#)) remain within **minor flood stage** and are forecast to fall below flood stage this weekend and early next week. Additional forecast points along the Suwannee River ([near Wilcox](#) and [at Manatee Springs](#)) continue to see **minor flooding** as water flows downstream through the river basin. Dry conditions over the next few days will help to allow elevated water levels to crest and slowly decline. No additional riverine flooding is expected and there are no other riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).



Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 14.44', which is within the operational band and 0.70' above normal. Lake elevations have fallen approximately 0.28' over the past week and approximately 0.94' over the past 30 days. Limited rainfall anticipated over the next 5 days will likely allow water levels to continue falling.

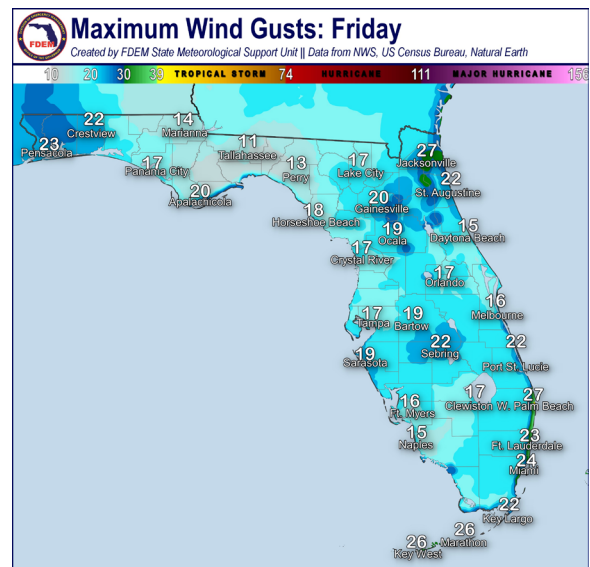
Drought & Fire Weather:



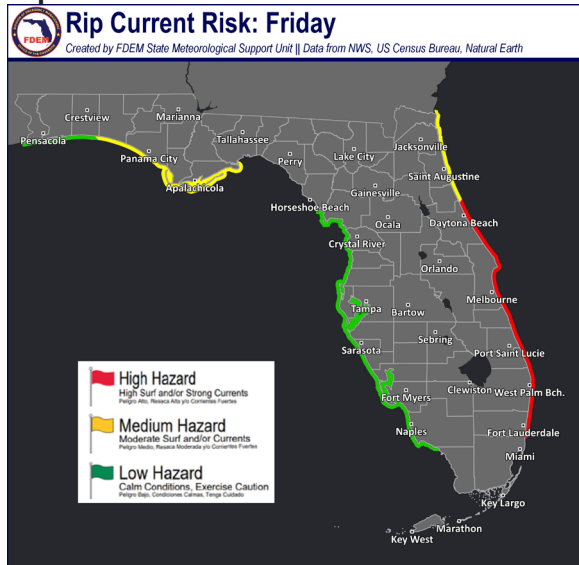
High pressure has yielded dry conditions and above normal temperatures nearly statewide over the last week, leading to deteriorating soil moisture and streamflow conditions. **Abnormally dry (emerging drought)** conditions have expanded along portions of the Central and Southern Peninsula on the latest [Drought Monitor](#) update and now stretch from the coast to the coast south of I-4 and north of I-75, surrounding and north of Lake Okeechobee. 60-day rainfall deficits have reached 4-6" below normal along eastern portions of Central and South Florida, east and northeast of Lake Okeechobee, with isolated pockets of 6-8" below normal. North and northwest of Lake Okeechobee to the West Coast, 60-day rainfall deficits have reached 2-4" below normal. Little to no rainfall expected across the region over the next week may exacerbate drought conditions.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **290 (+12)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **two** Florida counties (Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

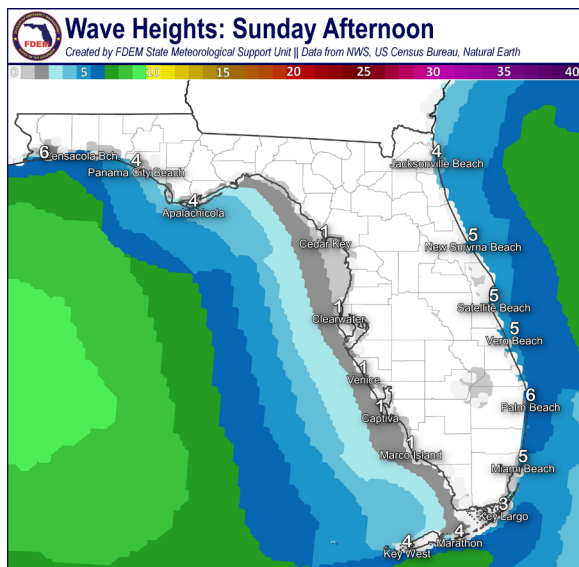
Breezy easterly to southeasterly winds will allow for moisture to slowly recover statewide over the next 5 days; however, high pressure will maintain its dominance over the U.S. Eastern Seaboard and continue to allow warm and dry air to linger across portions of North, Central, and Southwest Florida. Relative humidity values will fall **near or below critical thresholds (25-40%)** along portions of North, Central, and Southwest Florida over the next 5 days, creating **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. **Red Flag Warnings** are not anticipated but cannot be ruled out along portions of interior Central Florida that have seen a lack of substantial rainfall persist across the area and are experiencing **abnormally dry (emerging drought)** conditions. Winds will strengthen today as a frontal system over the Central U.S. pushes up against the area of high pressure to the east. Wind gusts **near 20-25 mph** are anticipated nearly statewide this afternoon with locally stronger **gusts up to 30 mph** along Northeast and Southeast Florida. Breezy, and at times gusty, winds with **gusts near 20-30 mph** are possible statewide this weekend with **locally stronger 30-40 mph gusts** along the Western and Coastal Panhandle and Florida Atlantic Coastline. Winds will begin to weaken early next week; however, **winds near 10-20 mph** with **higher gusts** will likely linger statewide. According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 33 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 530 acres (as of 2:30 PM EDT).



Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:



Strengthening onshore winds will create a **high risk for rip currents** along the East Coast this afternoon with a **locally moderate risk** along the Northeast Coast. Several Florida Panhandle beaches will continue to see a **moderate risk for rip currents** today with a low risk persisting elsewhere. All East Coast and Florida Panhandle beaches will likely see rip currents increase to a **high risk** tonight and Saturday morning as winds continue to strengthen. A **high risk** will continue along Panhandle and East Coast beaches into early next week as breezy onshore winds persist. The West Coast will see a low to **moderate risk for rip currents** continue Saturday, likely increasing to a **moderate to high-risk** Sunday and Monday and returning to a low to moderate risk Tuesday. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.



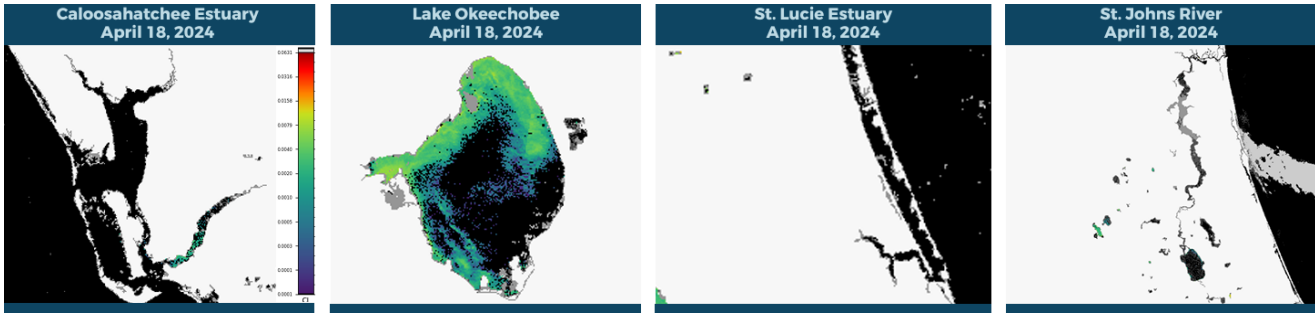
Breezy winds will begin to rebuild ocean swells in the Gulf of Mexico and Western Atlantic today, raising **wave heights to 3-5'** along the Florida Atlantic Coast and 1-3' elsewhere. 4-7' wave heights can be expected to develop along the Florida Atlantic Coast and the Florida Panhandle this weekend as winds strengthen. As winds begin to gradually weaken early next week, wave heights will return to 3-5' along the East Coast, 4-6' along the Atlantic-facing Keys, and 2-4' along the Florida Panhandle. **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** can be anticipated along these coastlines as breezy winds and ocean swells develop. **High Surf Advisories** cannot be ruled out along the Panhandle and Atlantic-facing Keys. West Coast beaches will likely see wave heights remain near 2-4' through the weekend and early next week.

Coastal flooding is not expected over the next 5 days; however, breezy onshore winds may lead to **elevated water levels (0.25-0.75' above normal)** at times of high tide along the vulnerable Forgotten Coast, primarily near Apalachicola, through the weekend.

Red Tide has not been observed at or above background levels over the past week. There have been no reports of fish kills or respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide.

Blue-Green Algae was observed via satellite on 4/18 at low to **moderate bloom potential** on approximately 40% of Lake Okeechobee, with the most condensed bloom potential in the northern half of the lake. Satellite imagery of the St. Johns River from 4/18, although partially obscured by cloud cover, showed highly scattered low to **high bloom potential** from Lake George downstream to the city of Jacksonville. Satellite imagery from 4/18 showed scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** throughout the Caloosahatchee Estuary from the upper estuary down to the Matlacha Pass area and no visible bloom potential along the St. Lucie Estuary. **Blue-Green Algae blooms** were also observed and was reported Wednesday (4/24) in the Econlockhatchee River affecting Orange, Volusia, and Seminole counties. As a result, boat ramps in the vicinity have been closed to swimming access.





[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:

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[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 weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

