



# Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

## Morning Situation Report

Thursday, May 9, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Ben Mauro	(850) 566-4904	<a href="mailto:Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com">Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Scott Shafer	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Melissa James	(850) 566-6422	<a href="mailto:Melissa.James@em.myflorida.com">Melissa.James@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services	Rob Dietrich	(850) 727-3414	<a href="mailto:Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com">Robert.Dietrich@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Megan Hill	(850) 591-2496	<a href="mailto:Megan.Hill@em.myflorida.com">Megan.Hill@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
Public Information Officer	Marnie Villanueva	(850)-591-9544	<a href="mailto:Marnie.Villanueva@em.myflorida.com">Marnie.Villanueva@em.myflorida.com</a>
DEM Finance and Admin	Jeremy Smith	(561) 662-8028	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Gadsden	Severe Weather Monitoring / Meetings
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Response Meetings / County EM Surveys
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Suwannee	Suwannee Valley Electric COOP Pre-Hurricane Season Meeting
Region 4: James Carter	Out of State (OK)	EMAC Deployment / Not Available
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Lee	Executive Director Support / Region 9 Roundtable Meeting
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Lee	Region 9 Roundtable Meeting
Region 8: Karen Kozac	Out of State (OK)	Travel EMAC Deployment / Not Available
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Lee	Region 9 Roundtable Meeting



Region 4 Coverage Provided by RRC 4  
 Region 5 Coverage Provided by RRC 5  
 Region 8 Coverage Provided by RRC 5  
 Region 9 Coverage Provided by RRC 9

RC Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Washington	Administrative Duties
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Leave
Region 3: Patrick James	Marion	FL Workshops
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Putnam	G-361 Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Marion	Instructing FL Workshops
RRCT Manager	Marion	Instructing FL Workshops
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	St. Lucie	Internal Stakeholders Meeting
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Lee	Region 9 Roundtable Meeting
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Miami-Dade	Instructing FL-603 & 608

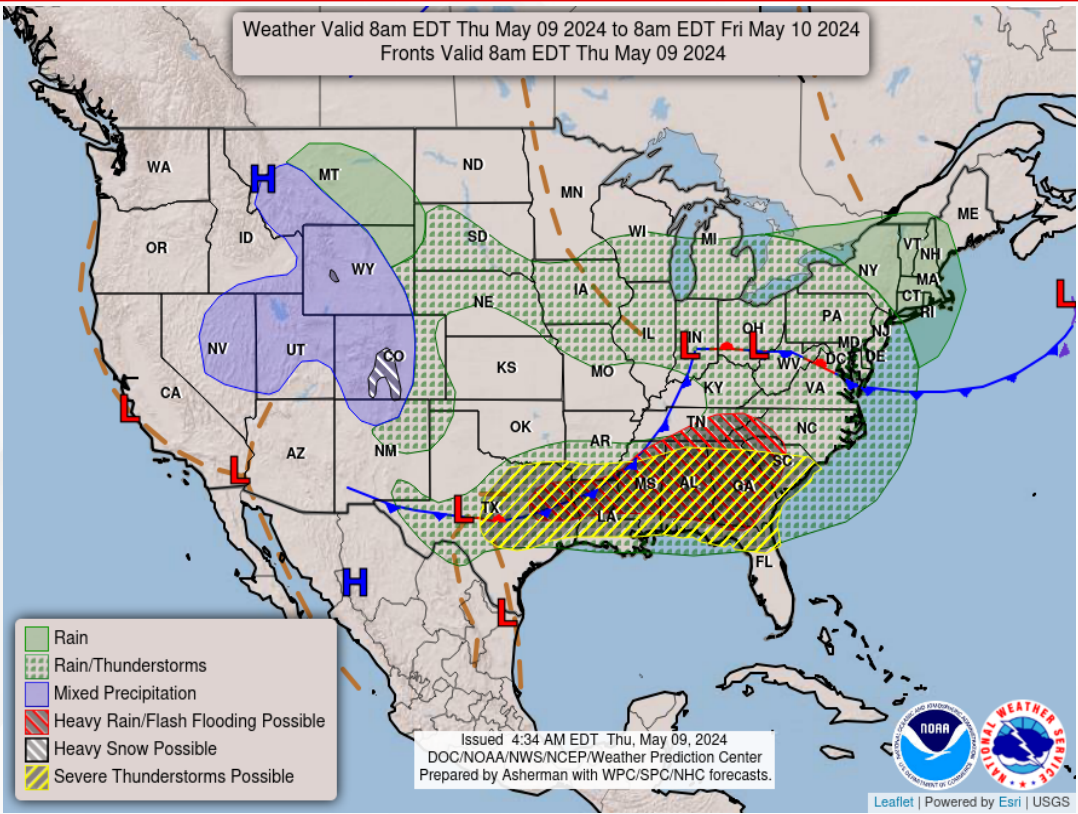
Region 2 Coverage Provided by RRC 1  
 Region 7 Coverage Provided by RRC 6

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



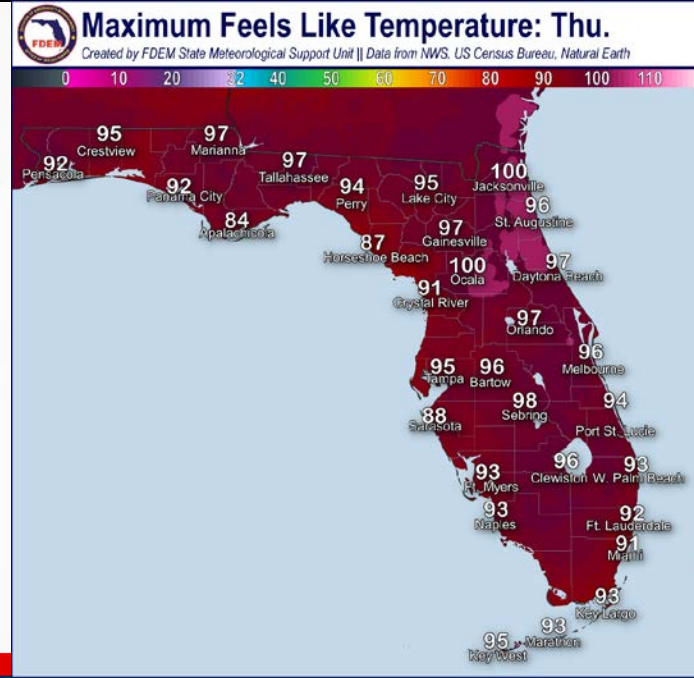
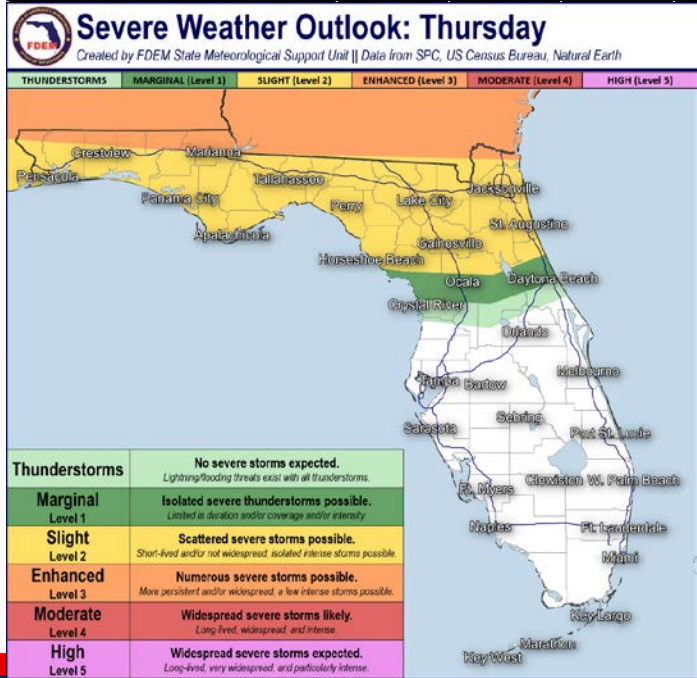


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	L					
Tornado	M	L	L	L						
Damaging Wind	M	M	M	M	L					
Hail	M	M	L	L	L					
Excessive Heat	L	L	L	L	L	L	L			
Fog (Overnight)					L	L	L		L	
Wildfire					L		L	L	L	
River Flooding			L							
Rip Currents	H	H	L	M	M	M		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.93 ft. (0.50 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	384 (+14) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



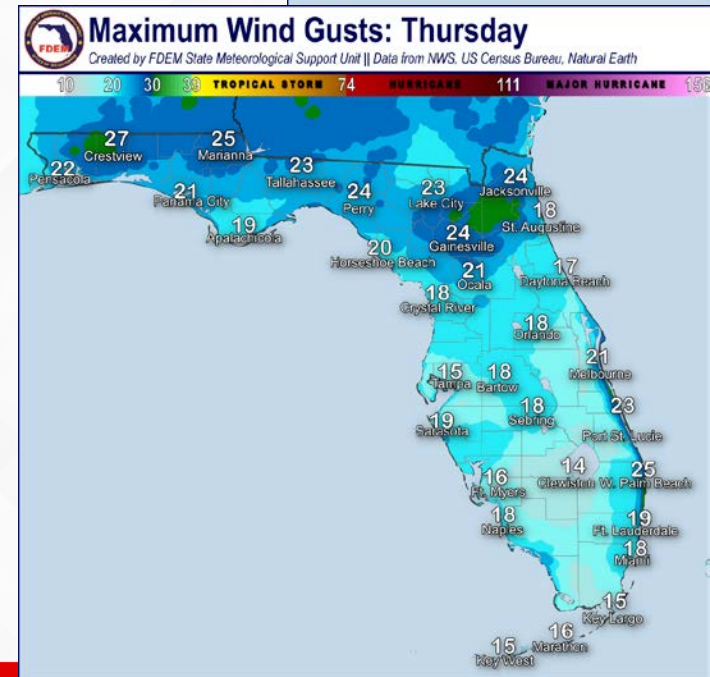
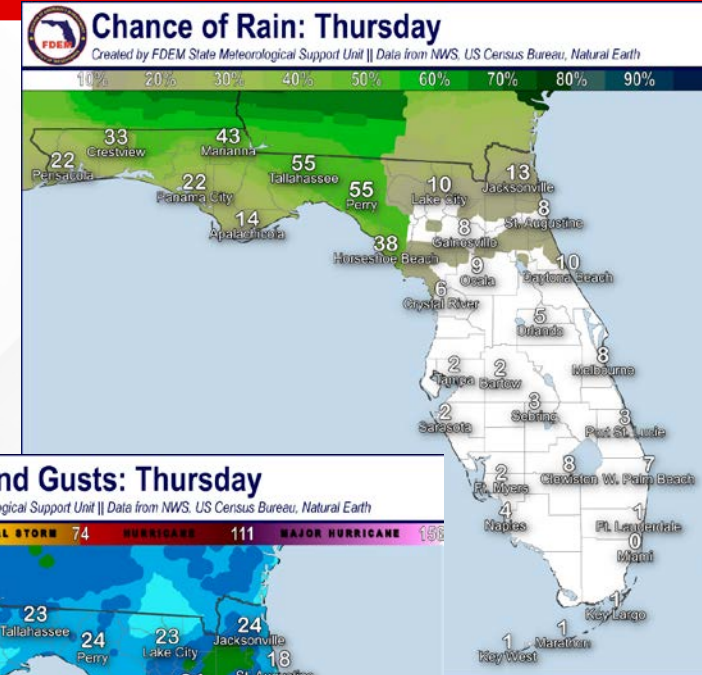


# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A low-pressure system moving across the Midwest U.S. will move over the top of an area of high pressure and drag a frontal boundary through the Southeast U.S., giving way to multiple rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms today and Friday. The first line of strong to severe thunderstorms is expected to move southward through North Florida ahead of the frontal boundary this afternoon and evening (20-55% chance of rain) before dissipating and moving offshore overnight. The second round of strong to severe thunderstorms will make its way into the Panhandle with system overnight and early Friday morning (20-55% chance of rain), moving eastward through North Florida Friday morning and afternoon. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Enhanced Risk for Severe Weather (level 3 of 5)** along far Northern portions of Florida with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5)** expanding across North Florida as **strong to severe thunderstorms** producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (in excess of 50-70 mph), large hail, brief tornadoes, and heavy downpours are likely with both rounds of thunderstorms. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk for Flash Flooding (level 2 of 4)** along far northern portions of the Florida Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** across much of North Florida as heavy downpours could give way to **localized flooding and ponding of water** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. The rest of the state will remain dry and mostly clear under high pressure today and tonight (near 0-10% chance of rain).

High temperatures will reach the upper 80s to **low 90s** along the Florida Panhandle and South Florida, **low to middle 90s** across the Northern Peninsula, and **middle to upper 90s** across Central Florida. **Heat indices** will **approach or reach triple digits (97-101)** nearly statewide this afternoon. Breezy winds can be expected at times across North Florida and along the East Coastline outside of thunderstorms with **gusts near 20-30 mph**. Conditions will remain warm overnight with lows in the 70s through the state and low 80s along the Keys. Localized areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** cannot be ruled out statewide overnight.







# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** persists along the Panhandle and East Coast today. An **elevated risk** can be expected along West-Central Florida beaches with a low risk persisting elsewhere. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Wave heights of 1-2' can be expected along Florida Key and West Coast beaches today. **3-4' waves** are anticipated along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast as breezy winds develop.

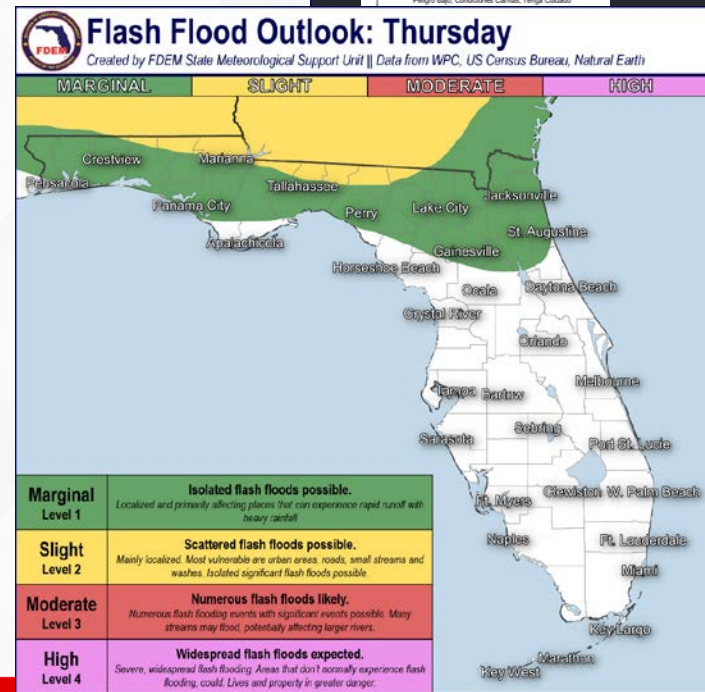
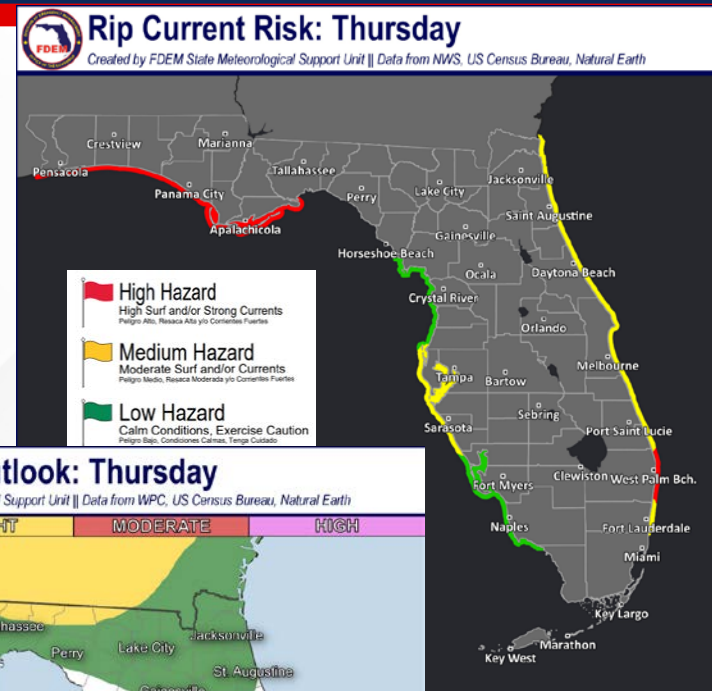
**Red Tide** has not been observed at or above background levels over the past week.

**Coastal Flooding:** Coastal flooding is not anticipated today; however, onshore winds may be breezy at times along the vulnerable Forgotten and Nature Coasts and will likely result in **elevated water levels (0.5-1.5' above normal)** at times of high tides.

**Flash Flooding:** The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk for Flash Flooding (level 2 of 4)** along far northern portions of the Florida Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** across much of North Florida today. A line of scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will make their way into North Florida this afternoon and evening ahead of a frontal boundary. Another round of strong to severe thunderstorms will begin to move into the Panhandle overnight and early Friday morning. With abundant moisture across the Florida Panhandle, heavy downpours will be possible within any thunderstorm activity. Localized instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain near 1-2" with **locally higher totals** in excess of 2-4" possible.

**Riverine Flooding:** A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect along the [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#) as **minor flooding** is occurring and is forecast to continue over the next day or so. Portions of several Big Bend and Suwannee Valley rivers (including several portions of the Suwannee River) remain in Action Stage (bank-full); however, water levels are continuing to fall. While heavy rainfall may lead to local rises in water levels today, riverine flooding is not anticipated. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 13.93 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.50 feet **above normal** for this time of year.







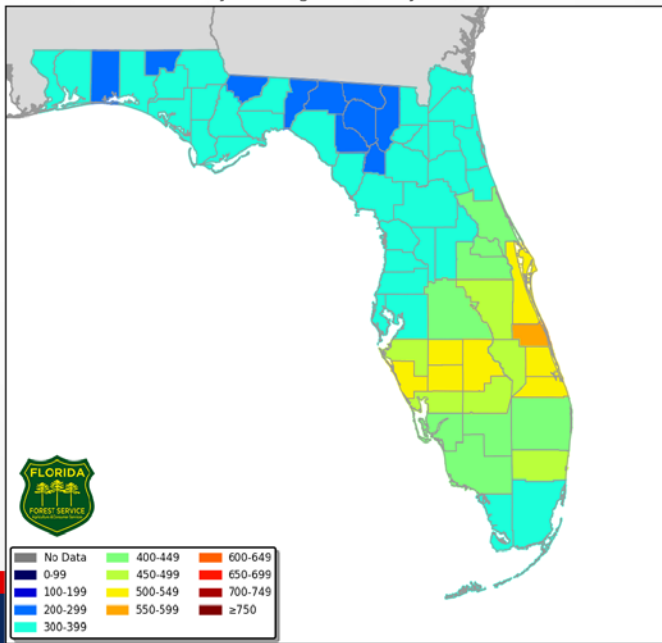
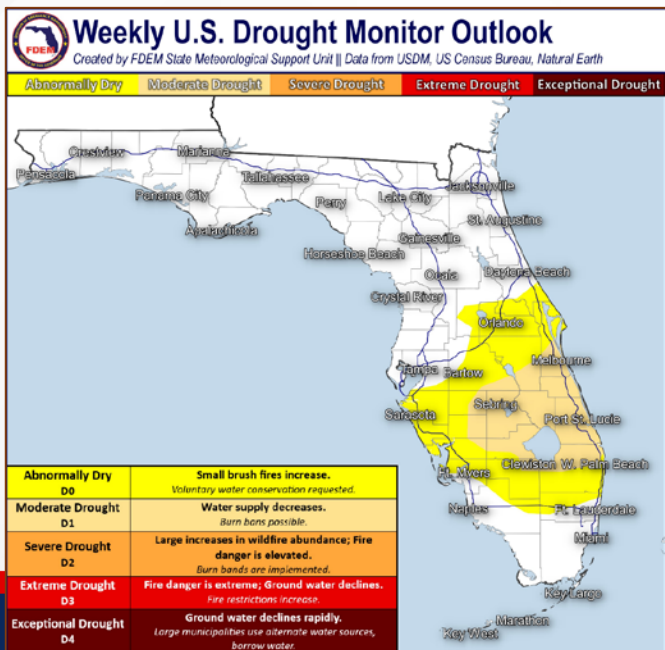
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Warm and dry conditions will persist along Central and South Florida as high pressure continues to promote mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies. The first round of strong to severe thunderstorms associated with an approaching system will move through North Florida this afternoon and this evening, moving offshore tonight. The second round of strong to severe thunderstorms will make its way into the Panhandle tonight and early Friday morning, pushing eastward through North Florida Friday morning and afternoon. *Lightning and gusty winds from thunderstorms may result in the ignition or further spreading of wildfires.* **Near or below critical relative humidity values (30-40%)** can be expected this afternoon along interior Central Florida. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** are anticipated, especially where short-term drought conditions have emerged. Winds will remain below Red Flag conditions across the Peninsula with wind gusts near 15-20 mph. Locally stronger **wind gusts near 15-25 mph** will be possible along coastlines and the Keys with afternoon sea breezes. **Breezy wind gusts near 20-30 mph** can be expected across North Florida at times outside of thunderstorms today. There is potential for localized areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** statewide early Friday morning, but confidence is low. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 43 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1173 acres.

**Drought:** Dry conditions and above normal temperatures have generally persisted statewide over the last week under the influence of high pressure, leading to further decreases in streamflows and soil moisture. **Abnormally dry (emerging drought)** conditions have expanded further northward and southward across Central and Southern portions of the Peninsula on this week's drought monitor update and now stretch from just north of the I-4 southward to the I-75 and from the West to the East Coast. **Moderate Drought** conditions have also expanded and are now present north of Lake Okeechobee to Sebring and Melbourne, east of the lake to the East Coast, West of the lake to Hardee and DeSoto County, and along southern portions of the lake as short-term rainfall deficits continue to increase. Widespread rainfall expected across the state over the next 5 days may help to improve short-term rainfall deficits and provide some relief from drought conditions.

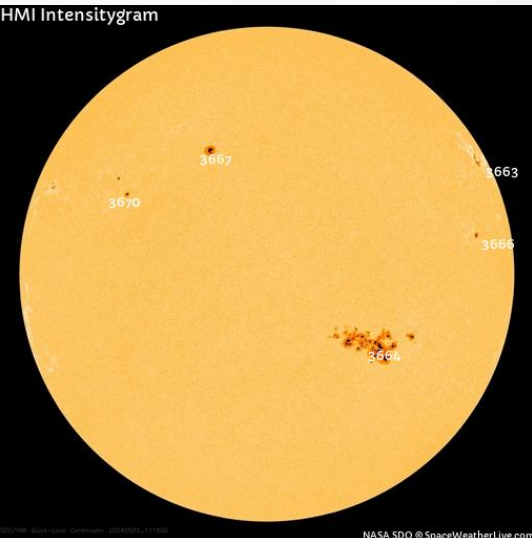
**The Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **384 (+14)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **eight** Florida counties (Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Sarasota and St. Lucie) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)  
County Averages for May 08, 2024

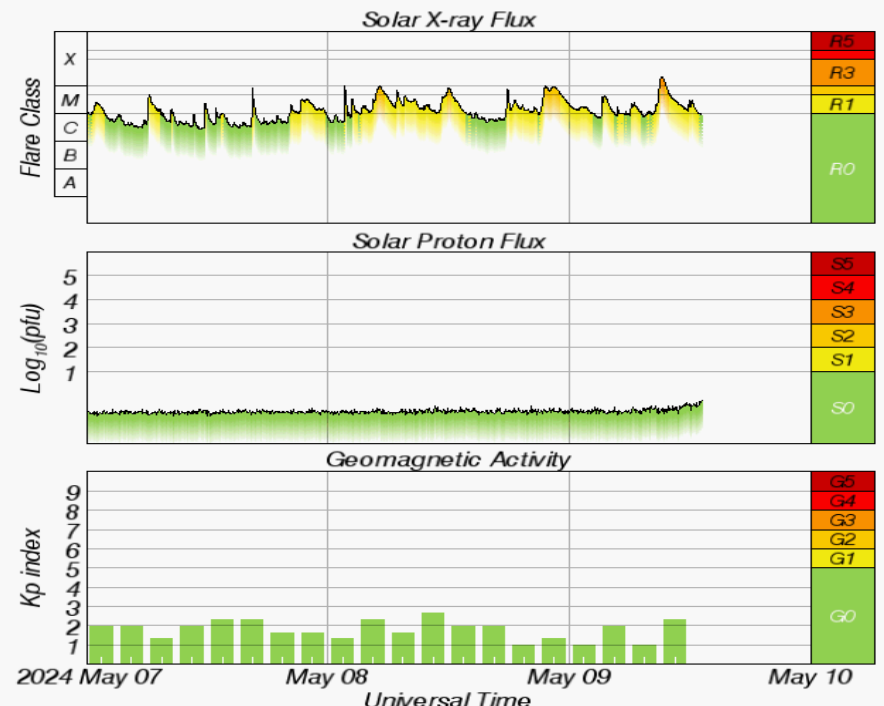
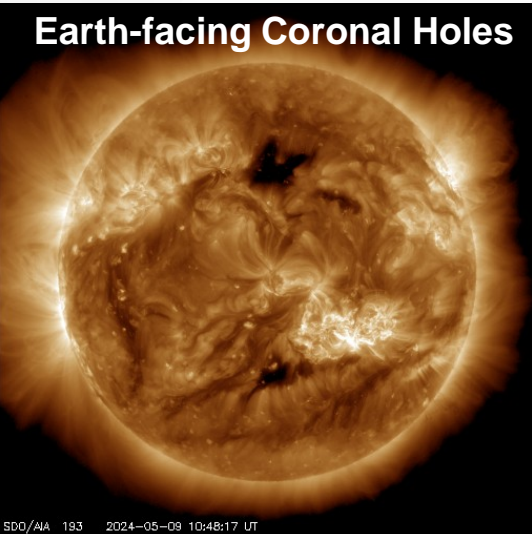




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 95%	Geomagnetic Storm: <b>G3 Watch (5/11)</b>	X2 Solar Flare
X-class: 60%	Radiation Storm: None	R3 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/9	5/10
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to persist at high to very high levels through the rest of this work week and into the weekend with strong (M-class) solar flares expected and significant (X-class) solar flares likely due to the continued flare potential of sunspots #3663 and #3664. Both these sunspots contain magnetic fields that harbor energy for X-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected with any M-class solar flare with strong (R3) radio blackouts accompanying X-class solar flares. The flare potential of #3663 and #3664 will also create a chance for minor (S1) solar radiation storms over the next few days. Possible enhancements in the solar wind environment are likely today following the anticipated glancing effects of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 5/6. These possible glancing effects will also give way to unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions as they influence Earth. Stronger enhancements to the solar wind environment and minor (G1) geomagnetic storms are likely Friday and Saturday as two halo CMEs that left the Sun on 5/8 are anticipated to arrive at Earth. A **Strong (G3) Geomagnetic Storm Watch** is in effect for Saturday as conditions will likely reach G3 storm levels as the bulk of the CMEs move past Earth. The overall space threat to Florida remains low.



# SWO Communications Systems & Contact Information

Equipment	Contact	Status	Comments
<b>Phone:</b>	800-320-0519, 850-815-4001, 850-591-0071 (Backup Cell)	Operational	
<b>Backup Landline:</b>	850-487-3234, 850-487-3228	Operational	
<b>Fax:</b>	850-815-4979	Operational	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
<b>SWO Tracker:</b>	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	Operational	
<b>SLERS:</b>	DEM Statewide	Operational	
<b>FNARS:</b>	WGY974	Operational	
<b>Federal NAWAS:</b>	State Watch Office	Operational	
<b>EMnet Message:</b>	FL.000- State Watch Office	Operational	
<b>EMnet Voice:</b>	FL SWP- State Watch Office	Operational	
<b>IPAWS:</b>	LP.1 Stations via Emnet	Operational	
<b>FIN:</b>	SOFEOC	Operational	
<b>Satellite Phones:</b>	888-890-5178 or 480-263-8838	Operational	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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