



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, May 15, 2024



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@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	Zachary Remante	(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	Megan Hill	(850) 591-2496	Megan.Hill@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	Jeremy Smith	(561) 662-8028	Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com



Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Severe Weather Response
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia, Taylor	Severe Weather Response
Region 4: James Carter	Out of State (OK)	EMAC Deployment / Not Available
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Palm Beach	GHC
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Highlands	Wildfire Response
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Palm Beach	GHC
Region 8: Karen Kozac	Out of State (OK)	EMAC Deployment / Not Available
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Palm Beach	GHC



Region 1 Coverage Provided by Response RC 3
 Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 4
 Region 5/7 Coverage Provided by Response RC 6
 Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 10
 Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 9

RC Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

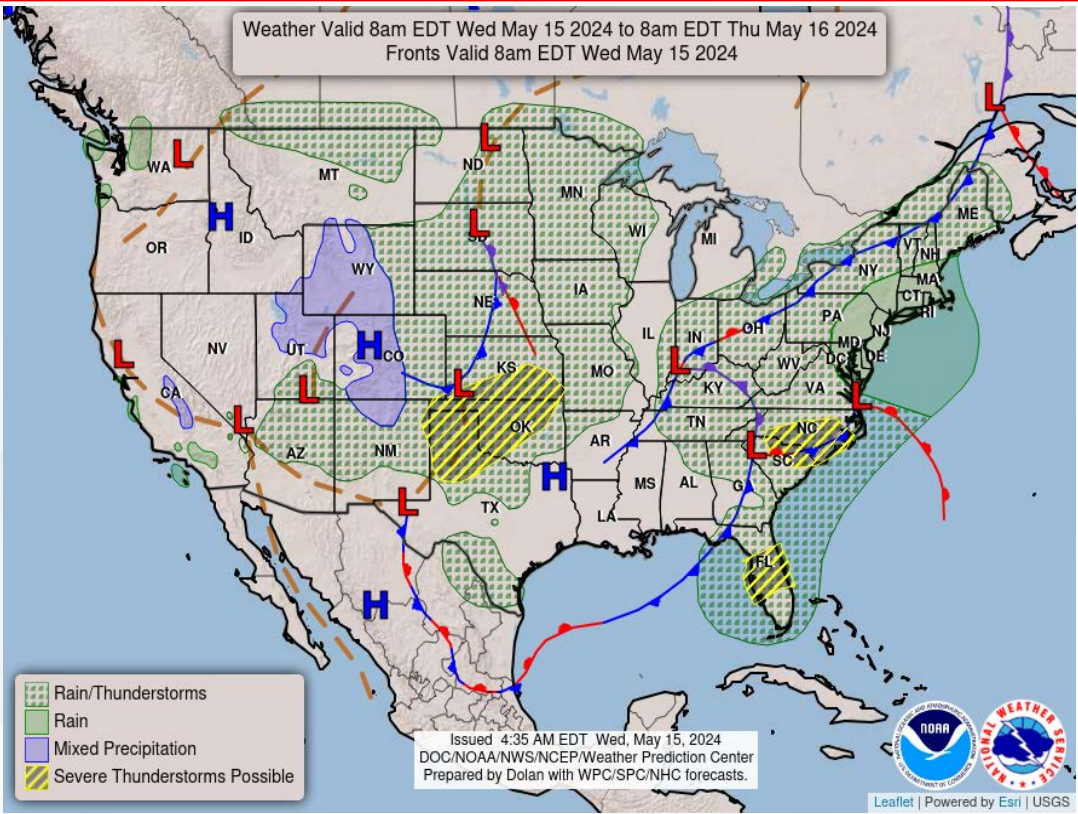
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Palm Beach	Governor's Hurricane Conference
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Storm Recovery
Region 3: Patrick James	Leon	Storm Recovery
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Leon	Storm Recovery
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Leon	Storm Recovery
RRCT Manager	Palm Beach	Governor's Hurricane Conference
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Palm Beach	Governor's Hurricane Conference
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Palm Beach	Governor's Hurricane Conference
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Palm Beach	Governor's Hurricane Conference

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 6

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

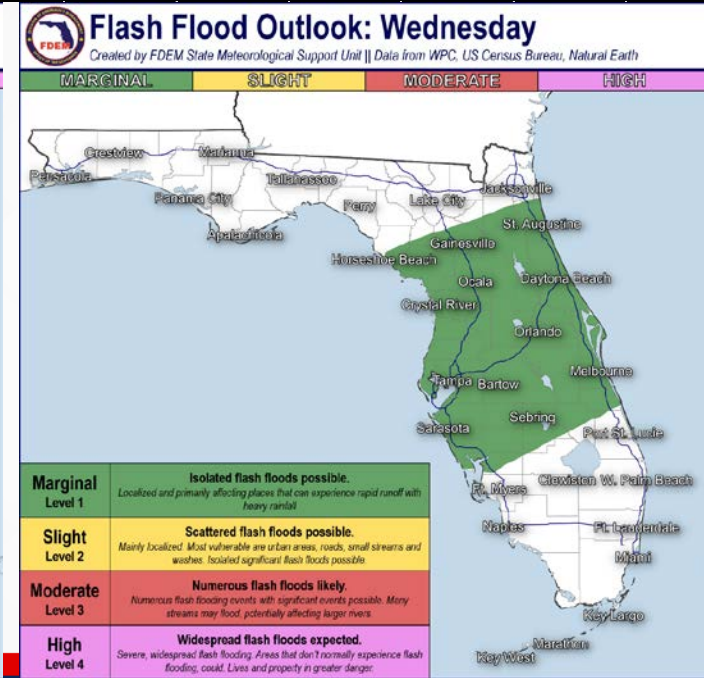
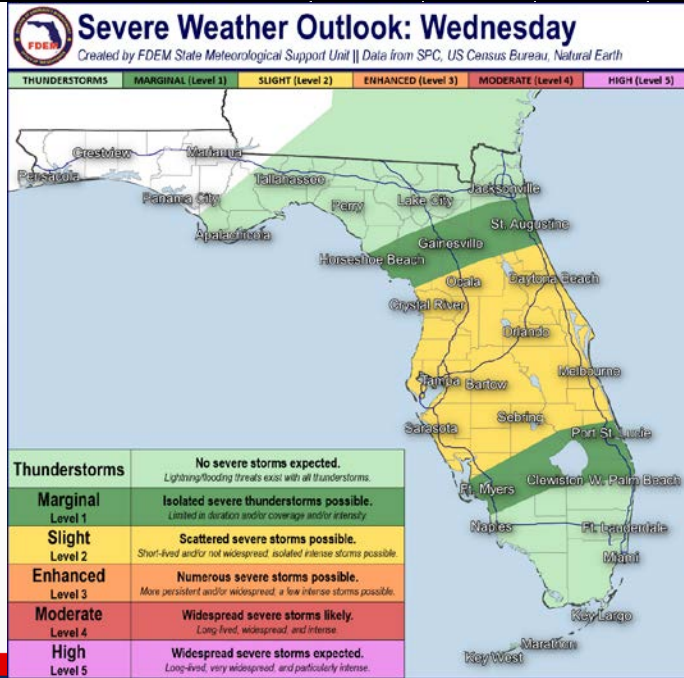


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning		L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L
Tornado			L	L	M	M	M	L	L	
Damaging Wind			L	L	M	M	M	M	L	
Hail			L	L	M	M	M	L	L	
Excessive Heat						L	L	L	L	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire										
River Flooding										
Rip Currents	H	H	M	M	M	H		M	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.73 ft. (0.42 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	316 (-76) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

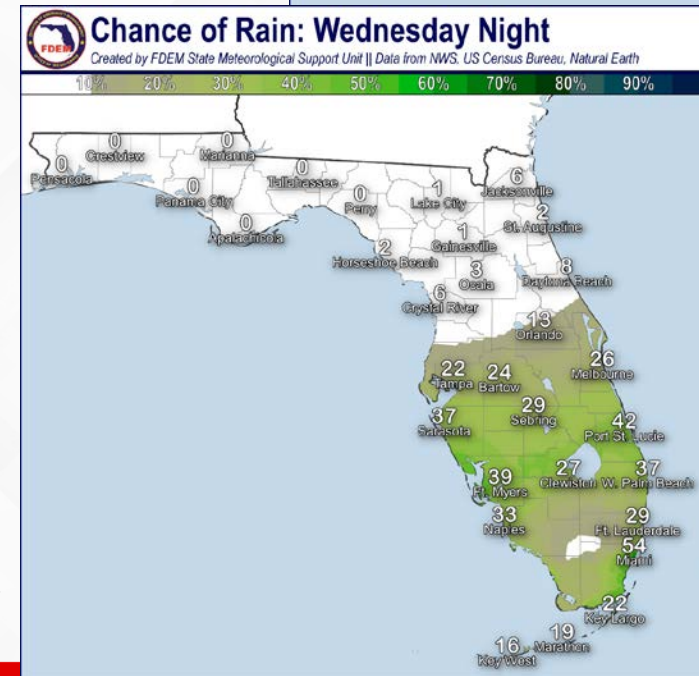
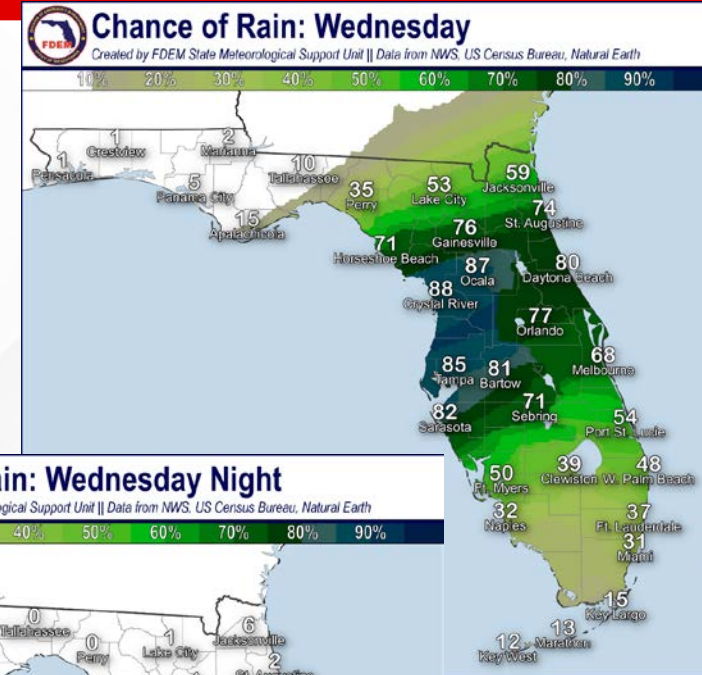
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

As the frontal system nudges along the Florida Panhandle this morning, additional showers and thunderstorms have begun to redevelop along and ahead of the frontal boundary, allowing drier conditions to filter in along the I-10 corridor (near 0-35% chance of rain). Early morning showers will be ongoing across portions of the Northern Florida Peninsula today, setting the stage for more widespread coverage of shower and thunderstorm activity through the day. Thunderstorms developing along and ahead of the frontal boundary can be expected through the daytime hours, with the highest rain chances expected from the Northern Peninsula and through the I-4 corridor to north of Lake Okeechobee (65-90% chance of rain).

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across Central Florida with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** stretching to south of I-10 and to south of Lake Okeechobee. **Tornado Watch #243** is in effect across portions of the Northern and Central Peninsula as a couple tornadoes, isolated damaging wind gusts (50-70 mph), isolated large hail (quarter to golf ball sized), frequent lightning, and heavy downpours will be possible with stronger, more organized thunderstorm activity today. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across much of the Northern and Central Peninsula as instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible in locally heavy downpours, especially over already saturated grounds, and urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas.

High temperatures will rise into the middle 80s to upper 80s across North Florida and upper 80s to middle 90s across Central and South Florida with **heat indices approaching and reaching triple digits (97-105)** across South Florida and into Central Florida. Feels like temperatures approaching or reaching **Heat Advisory criteria (105-108)** are anticipated along the Florida Keys. Breezy winds will persist across the Peninsula today with **gusts upwards of 20-30 mph** at times. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** may be possible at times along the Southern Peninsula and around Lake Okeechobee as relative humidity values **fall near critical thresholds (45-50%)** this afternoon.

Conditions will begin to dry out overnight with only isolated to scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms lingering across the Central and Southern Peninsula (15-45% chance of rain). Low temperatures will remain in the 60s across North Florida and 70s to low 80s elsewhere overnight.



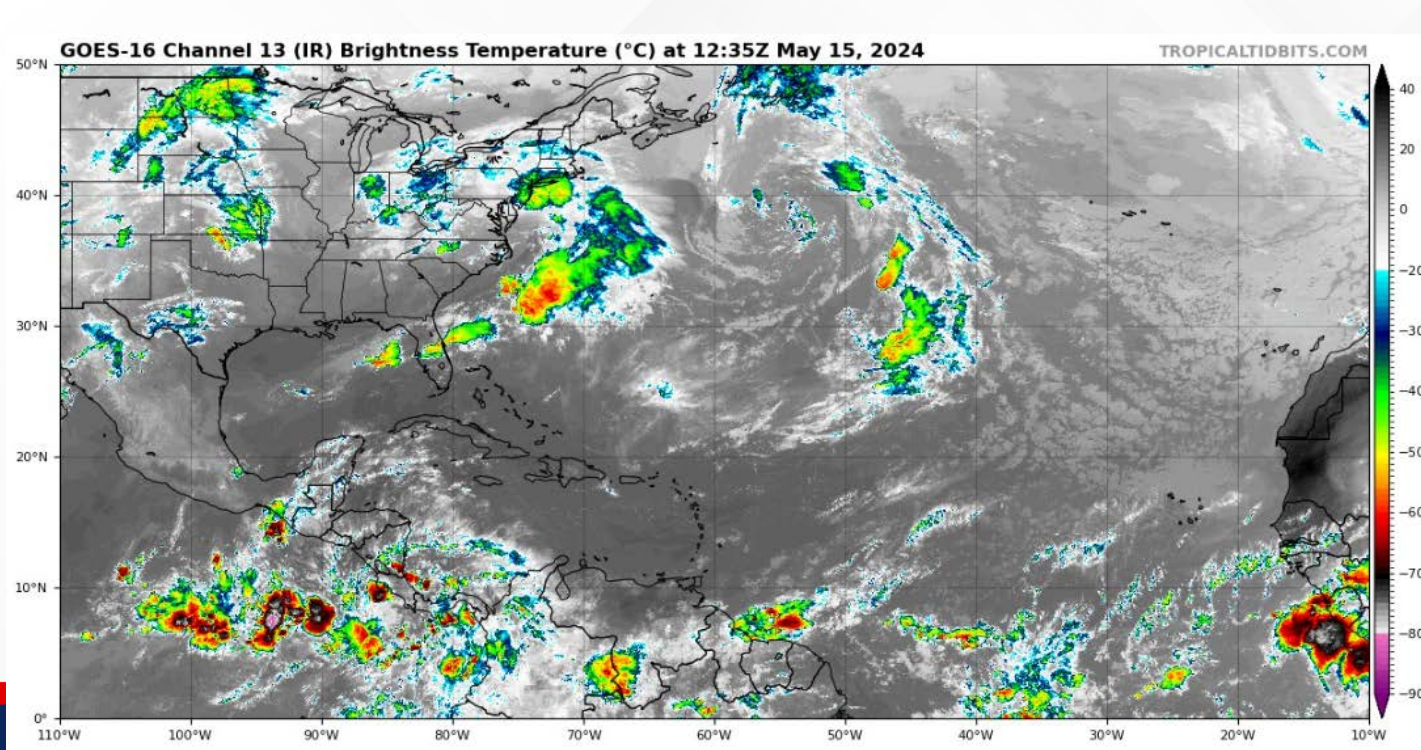
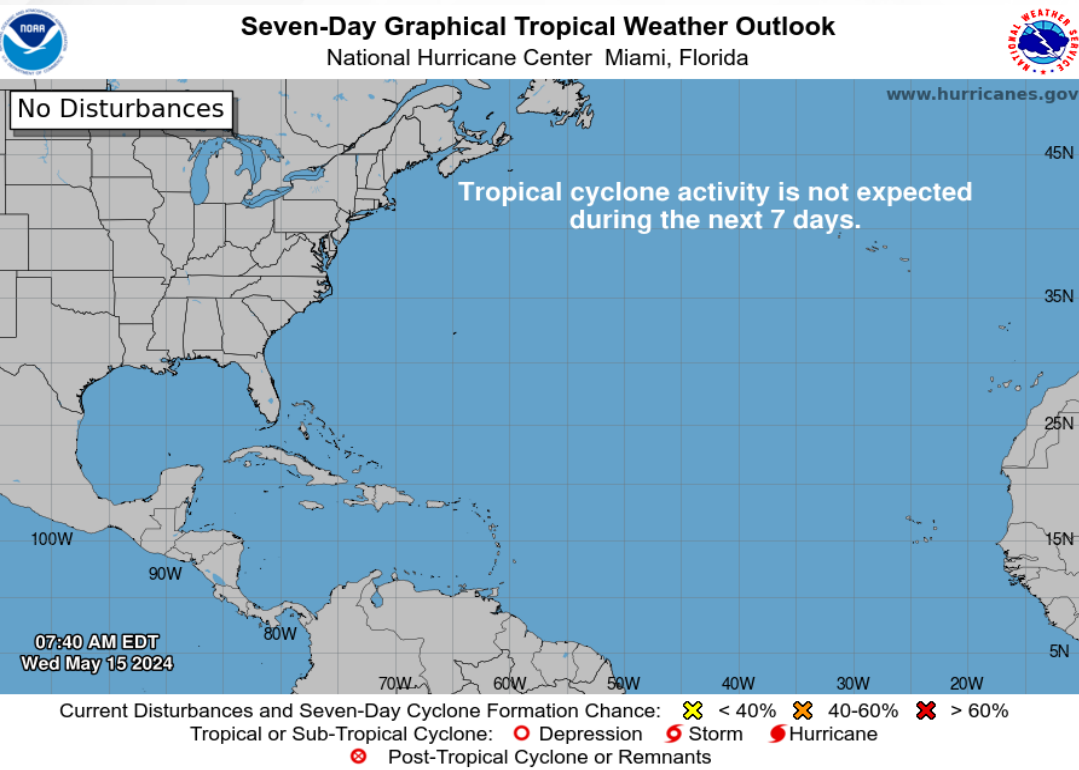


Tropical Weather

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Tropical cyclone formation is **not expected** during the next 7 days in the Atlantic Basin.

The National Hurricane Center has begun issuing regular Tropical Weather Outlooks for the 2024 hurricane season. These outlooks show areas of possible tropical cyclone development in the next 48 hours and next 7 days. Outlooks are issued every 6 hours at 8am, 2pm, 8pm, and 2am eastern time, or as conditions warrant. The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins June 1.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** can be expected statewide today as breezy winds and elevated surf impacts coastlines. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Breezy winds will create **breaking waves near 3-5'** in the surf along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast today with 2-4' **wave heights** elsewhere across the state.

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

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not expected today.

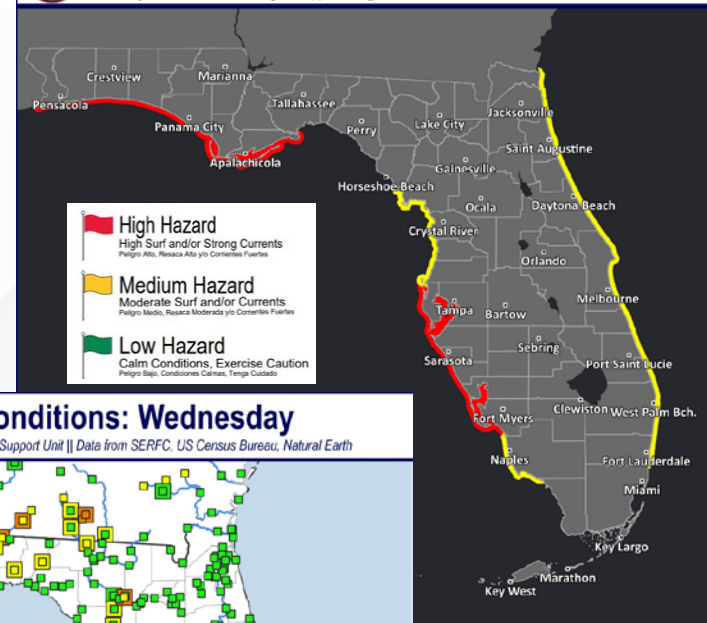
Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across much of the Northern and Central Peninsula. Showers and thunderstorms redeveloping along and ahead of a frontal boundary across the Peninsula will be capable of producing heavy downpours and may be training in nature. Instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible in locally heavy downpours, especially over already saturated grounds, and urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Widespread rainfall of 1-2" are expected across Central Florida and portions of North and South Florida with **locally higher totals** near 2-4" possible.

Riverine Flooding: Portions of several Big Bend and Suwannee Valley rivers (including several portions of the Suwannee River) remain in Action Stage (bank-full). Numerous additional rivers and waterways across North Florida have begun to rise into Action Stage in response to heavy rainfall across the basins yesterday and today. Already elevated rivers and waterways along the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley may see water levels rise into **Minor Flood Stage** late this week or this weekend, including the Ochlocknee River **near Concord** and the **Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates**. There are no additional riverine flood concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.73 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.42 feet **above** normal for this time of year.

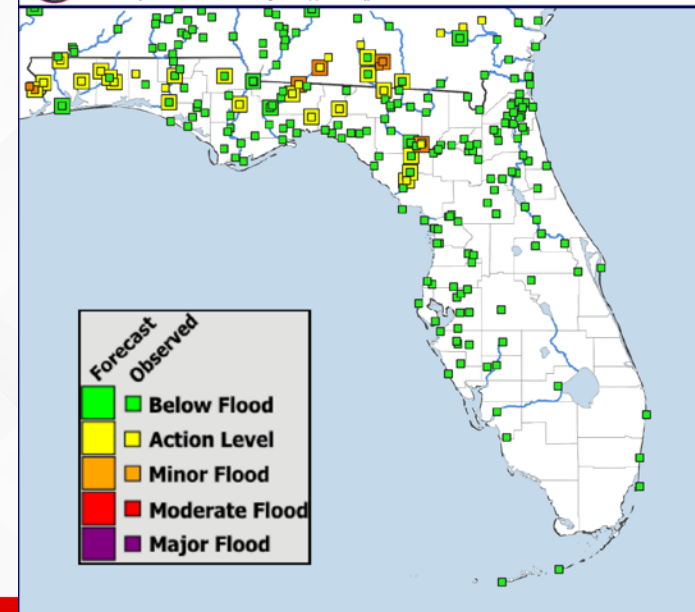
Rip Current Risk: Wednesday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth



SERFC River Conditions: Wednesday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from SERFC, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth





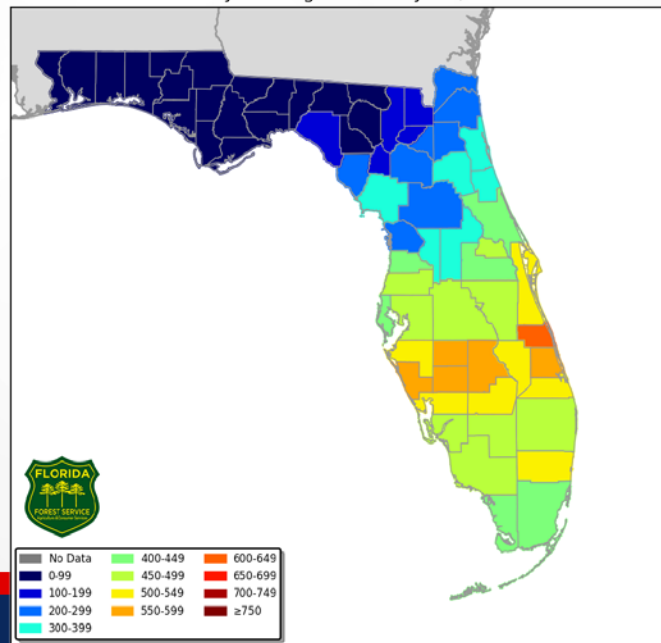
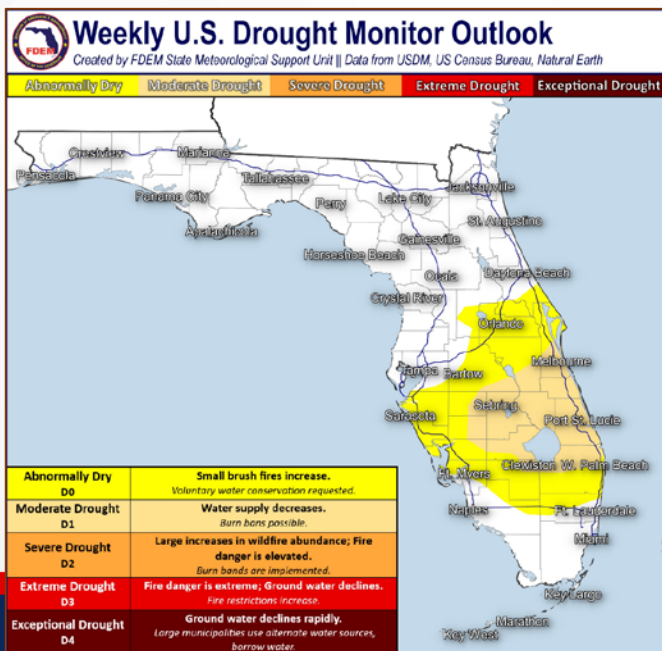
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Early morning showers will be ongoing across portions of the Northern Florida Peninsula today, setting the stage for more widespread coverage of shower and thunderstorm activity through the day. Thunderstorms developing along and ahead of the frontal boundary can be expected through the daytime hours, with the highest rain chances expected from the Northern Peninsula and through the I-4 corridor to north of Lake Okeechobee. *Erratic, gusty winds and lightning within thunderstorms may be capable of spreading existing fires or igniting new fires.* Breezy southerly to southeasterly winds can be expected across the Peninsula today with **gusts upwards of 20-30 mph** at times. Relative humidity values are expected to remain above critical thresholds statewide today as winds bring in adequate moisture, minimizing the overall wildfire threat; however, values are forecast to **fall near or below critical thresholds (35-45%) Thursday** across portions of North and Central Florida which will likely reintroduce **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** in some areas. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 55 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2594 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.

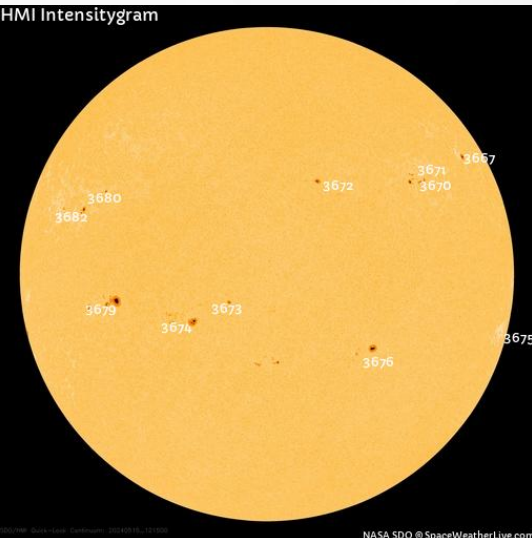
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **316 (-76)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **13** Florida counties (Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Manatee, Martin, Okeechobee, Sarasota and St. Lucie) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for May 14, 2024

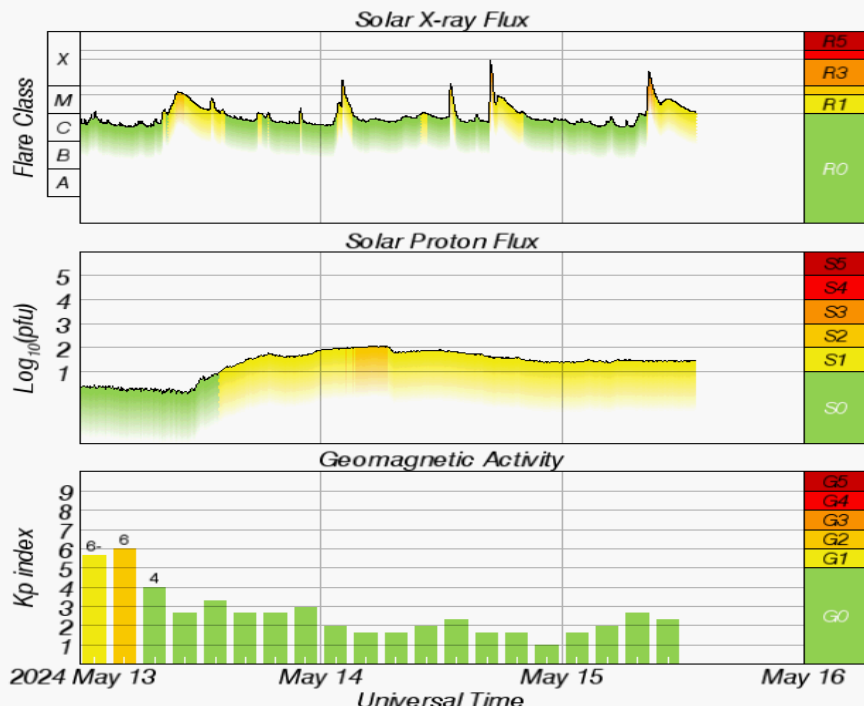




Space Weather

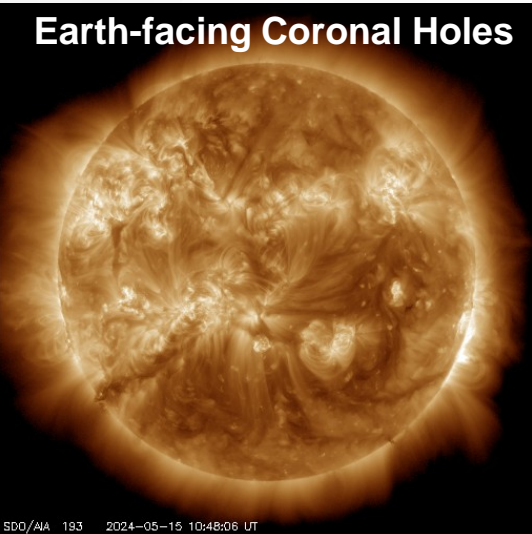


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	X8 Solar Flare
X-class: 40%	Radiation Storm: None	R3 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/15	5/16
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity remains at high levels due to strong (M-class) solar flare activity with a hance for significant (X-class) flares. Five sunspots (#3670, 75, 76, 79, 82) contain magnetic fields that harbor energy for M-class flares. Minor to Moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany M-class flare activity with strong (R3) radio blackouts possible in the event of an X-class solar flare. Minor (S1) radiation storm levels persist today with a chance for moderate (S2) radiation storms. An enhanced solar wind environment with Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) influences from a filament eruption from 5/12, another CME from 5/12, and a weak Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) are anticipated today. A return to quieter conditions is anticipated Thursday. Minor (G1) geomagnetic storming is likely to persist today due to the CH HSS and possible CME effects. Quiet to unsettled conditions are forecast to return Thursday as CME effects wane. 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	

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP