



# Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

## Morning Situation Report

Thursday, May 16, 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	<a href="mailto:Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com">Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	<a href="mailto:Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com">Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(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	Brandon Gore	(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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	County Coord Call / Mass Care Call / Fleet Management Mtg
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Regional Coordination Meeting
Region 4: James Carter	Out of State (OK)	EMAC Deployment / Not Available
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Palm Beach	GHC
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Highlands, Hillsborough	Wildfire Monitoring / Office Admin
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

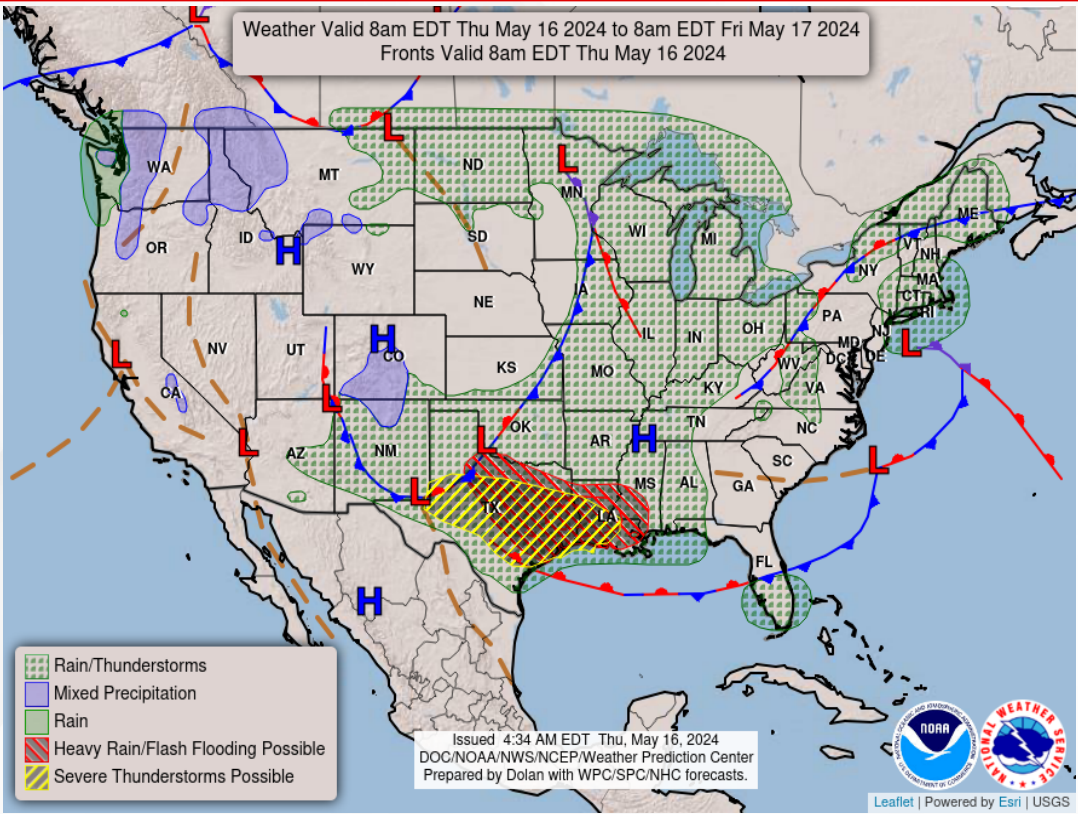
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Palm Beach	Governor's Hurricane Conference
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Storm Recovery
Region 3: Patrick James	Leon	Storm Recovery
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Leon	Storm Recovery
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Leon	Storm Recovery
RRCT 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

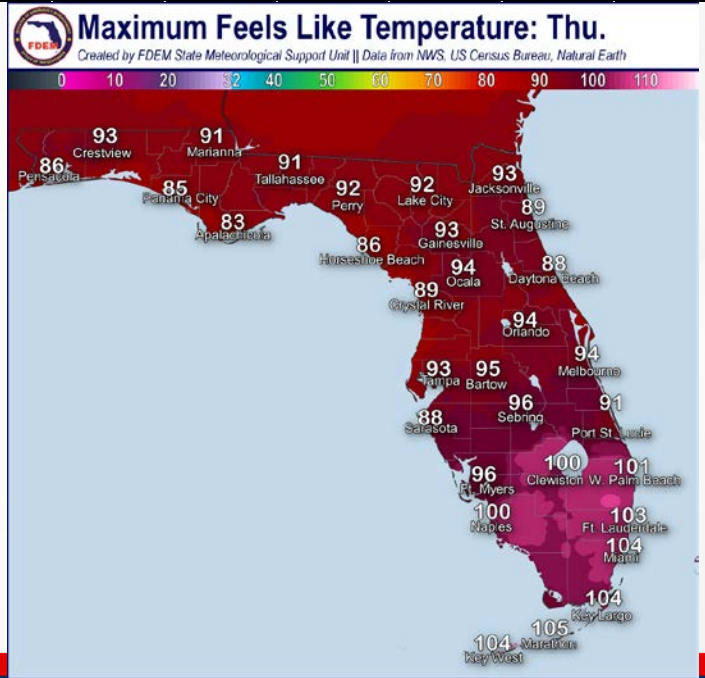
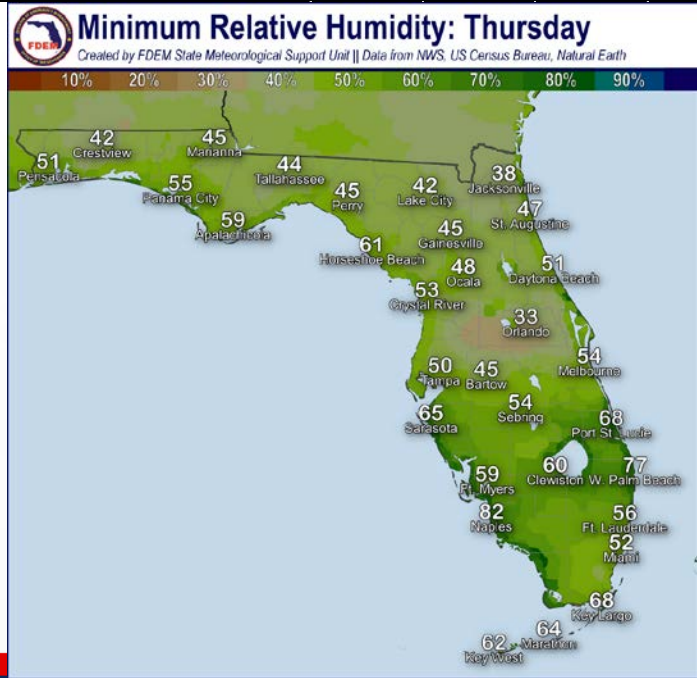


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L				L	L	L	M	M	M
Tornado										
Damaging Wind	L							L	L	L
Hail								L	L	L
Excessive Heat							L	L	L	M
Fog (Overnight)										
Wildfire	L			L	M	M	L			
River Flooding										
Rip Currents	H	H	M	L	L	H		L	M	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.69 ft. (0.39 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	308 (-8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





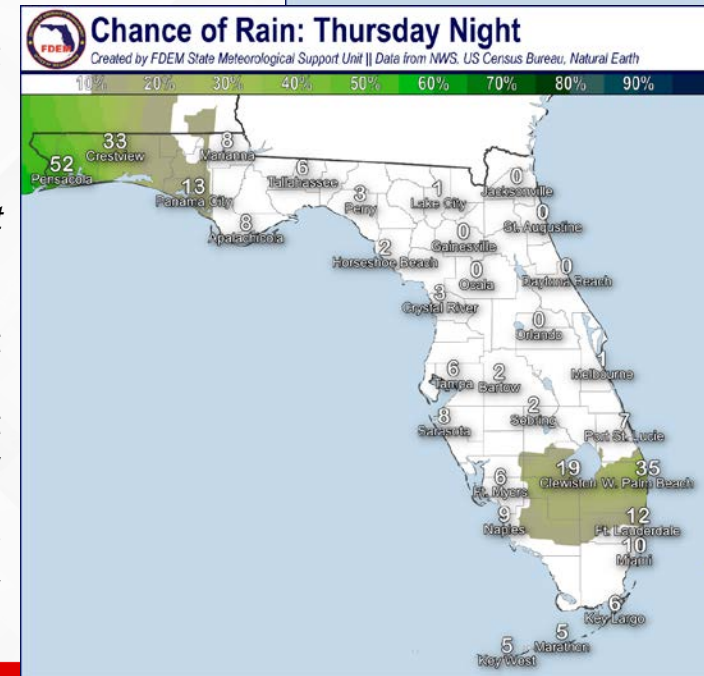
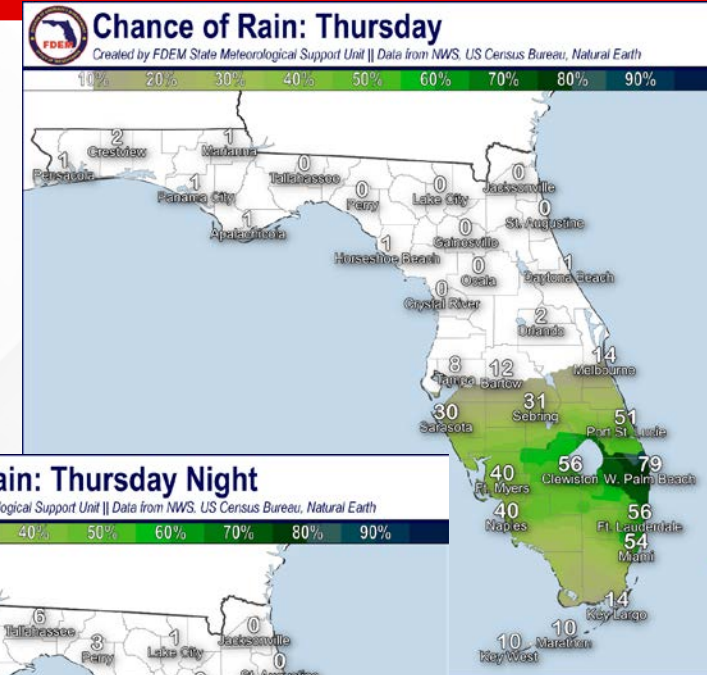
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Dry conditions return across much of the state today thanks to the brief return of higher pressure to the north behind the passage of frontal boundary that now resides over Central Florida (near 0-15% chance of rain). The frontal boundary will sink slightly further southward towards Lake Okeechobee this afternoon, continuing to produce isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms along and ahead of the boundary (40-70% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along Southeast Florida today as strong to severe thunderstorms capable of producing damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph) and isolated instances of hail may be possible. Despite no organized risk, locally heavy downpours over urban or low-lying/poor drainage areas may give way to isolated instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas.

High temperatures will reach the upper 80s to **middle 90s** statewide with **heat indices** approaching or reaching **triple digits (97-105)** along the Keys and across South Florida into Central Florida. A light breeze will continue along the Peninsula and Keys today with **wind gusts near 15-20 mph** at times. Drier air sinking southward with the area of higher pressure behind the frontal boundary will drag down relative humidity values to **near or below critical thresholds (30-45%)** along the I-4 corridor and north through North Florida, creating **sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions**. *Additional fire starts cannot be ruled out from Lake Okeechobee to the Treasure Coast due to a chance for lightning storms.*

Shower and thunderstorm activity across South Florida will dissipate this evening as the frontal boundary stalls across Lake Okeechobee, creating mostly clear skies and pleasant conditions overnight (near 0-35% chance of rain). Scattered showers and thunderstorms will begin to move into the Western Panhandle overnight as the next low-pressure system approaches the Southeast U.S. from the west (30-55% chance of rain). A few **strong to severe thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out early Friday morning. Low temperatures will fall into the middle 60s to low 70s across North and Central Florida with middle to upper 70s across South Florida and low 80s along the Keys. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** may be possible over recently saturated grounds statewide overnight and early Friday morning.



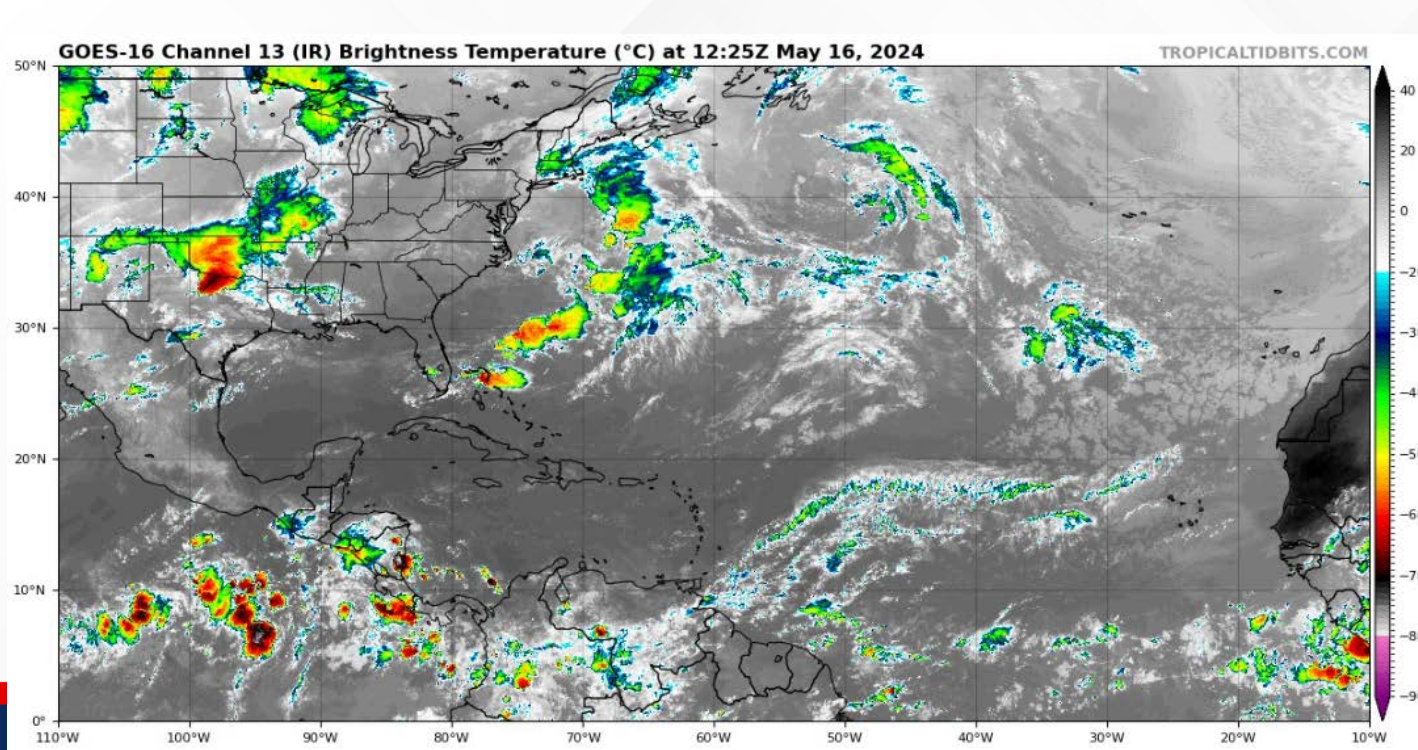
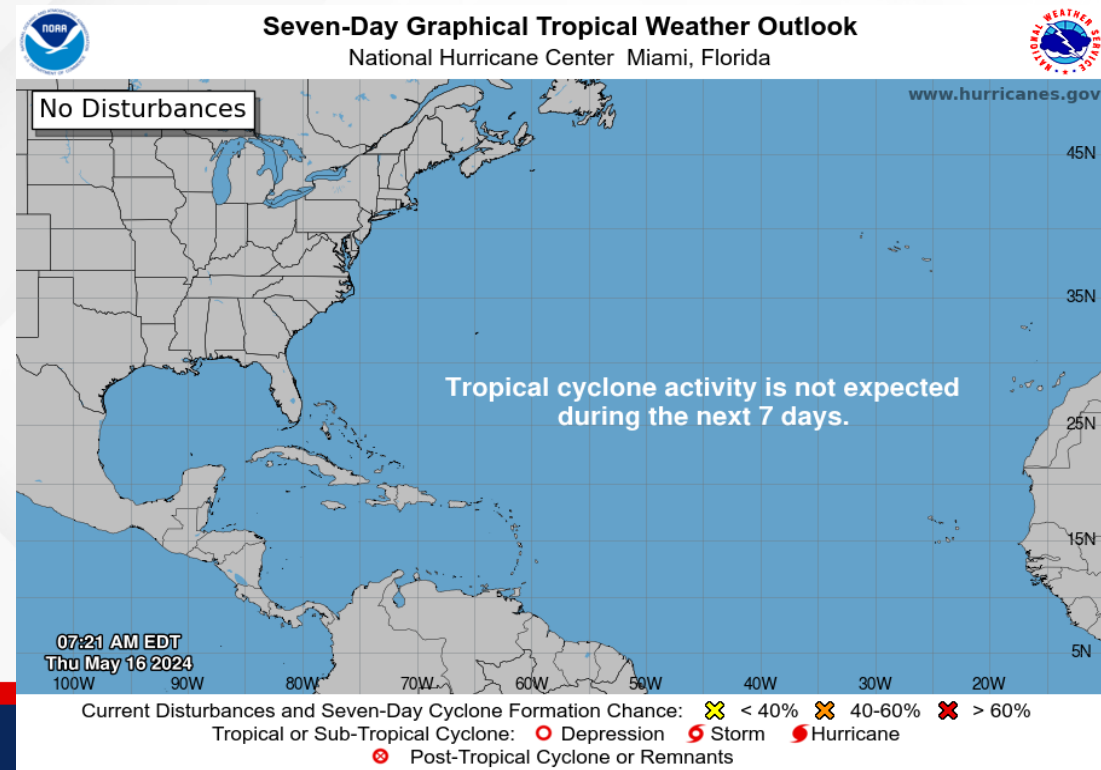


# Tropical Weather

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://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 as of May 15. 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 to persist along the Panhandle and West Coast. A low risk returns along East Coast beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** 1-3" wave heights can be expected statewide this afternoon as weakening winds allow ocean swells to dissipate.

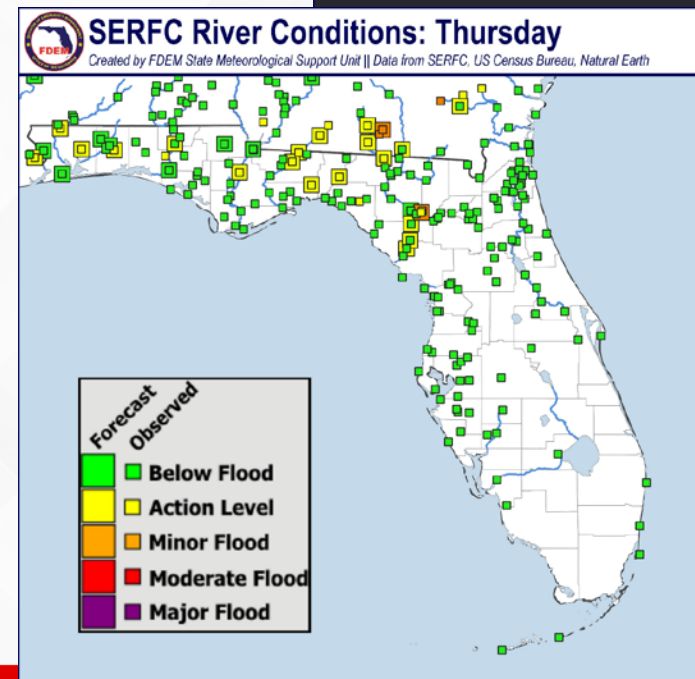
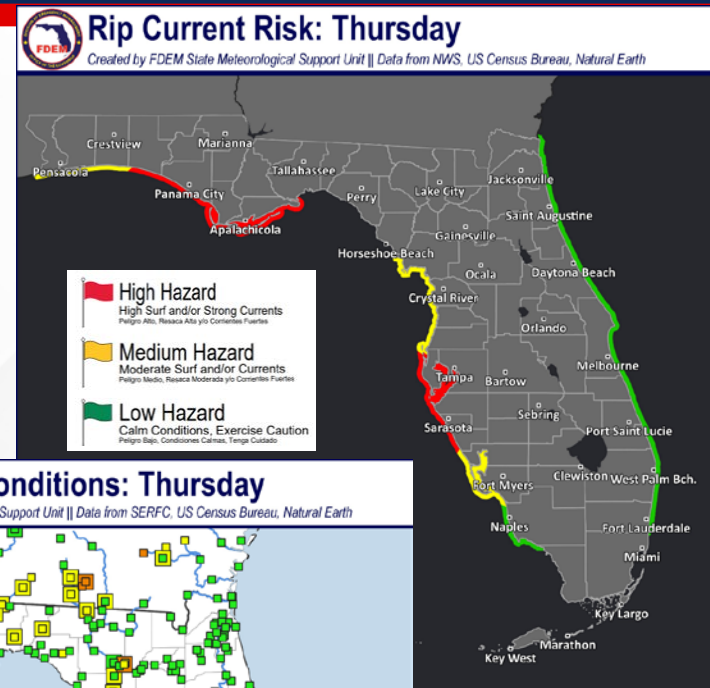
**Red Tide** has not been observed at or above background levels over the past week.

**Coastal Flooding:** Coastal flooding is not expected today.

**Flash Flooding:** There is no organized risk for flash flooding today. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will persist along Central and Southern portions of the Peninsula and Keys this afternoon, dissipating through the overnight hours. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain near or below 1"; however, a quick 1-3" will be possible in more robust showers and thunderstorms producing **locally heavy rainfall**. Isolated instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas in the event of **locally heavy rainfall**.

**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. Isolated instances of **minor flooding** along already elevated rivers and waterways across the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley cannot be ruled out late this week or this weekend, including along 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 13.69 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.39 feet above normal for this time of year.





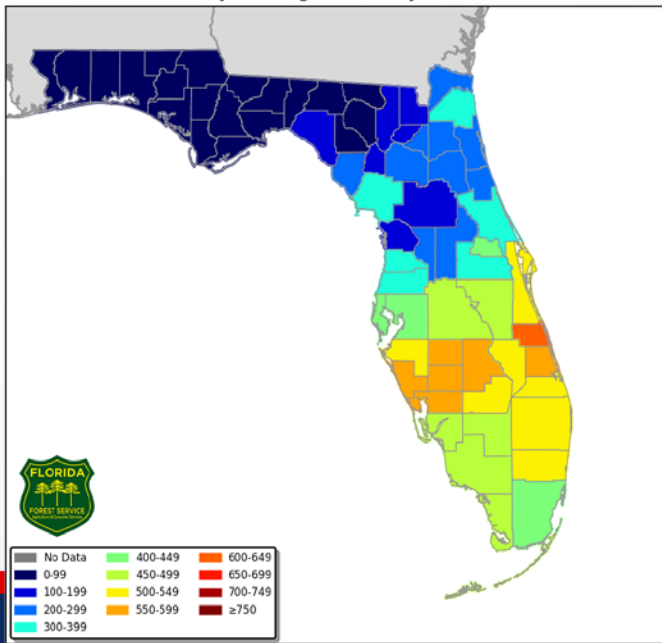
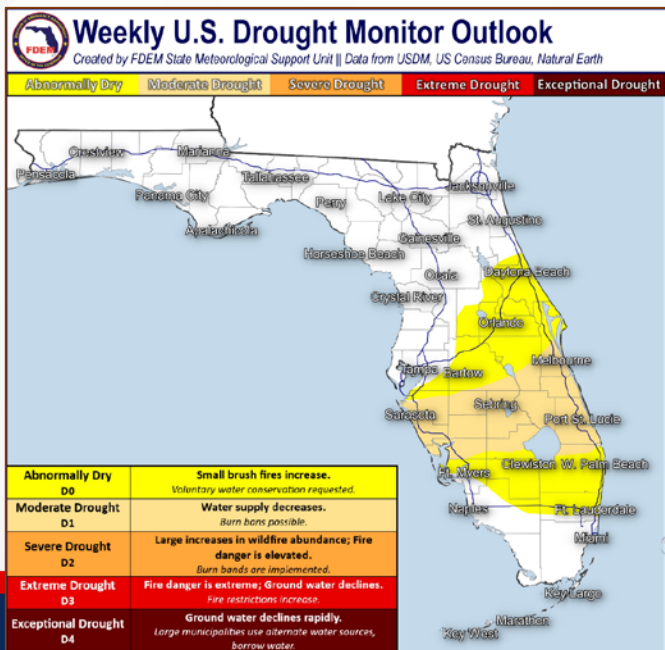
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms persist across South Florida and into Central Florida this afternoons before dissipating this evening. *Erratic, gusty winds and lightning within thunderstorms may be capable of spreading existing fires or igniting new fires.* A light breeze will continue along the Peninsula and Keys today with **wind gusts remaining near 15-20 mph** at times. Westerly to northwesterly winds will pull drier air into the state today, dragging down relative humidity values to **near or below critical thresholds (30-45%)** across North Florida and southward through the I-4 corridor this afternoon. **Sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions** are anticipated across Central Florida, especially over areas that continue to see short-term rainfall deficits and ongoing drought conditions. *Additional fire starts cannot be ruled out from Lake Okeechobee to the Treasure Coast due to a chance for lightning storms.* Recent rainfall and weakening winds should preclude Red Flag criteria this afternoon. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** may also be possible across portions of North Florida that have seen locally drier conditions over the past week. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 48 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2368 acres.

**Drought:** While heavy rainfall was observed across portions of the state over the past week, Central and South Florida continues to see very limited rainfall and above normal temperatures (2-4-degrees above normal), leading to additional expansions in drought conditions on this week's update as fire danger is high, and dryness continues to compound. **Moderate Drought** conditions now span from the West Coast to the East Coast from a line north of Fort Myers to north of West Palm Beach and northward to a line from Sarasota to Melbourne. Abnormally dry (*emerging drought*) conditions have expanded further along the I-4 corridor and south of Lake Okeechobee to Fort Lauderdale. Continued above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation over the next 6-10 days will likely continue to exacerbate drought conditions.

**The Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **308 (-8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **14** Florida counties (Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Manatee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Sarasota and St. Lucie) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

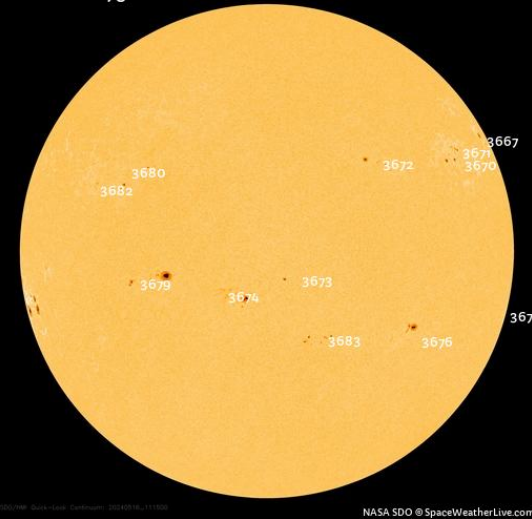
Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)  
County Averages for May 15, 2024





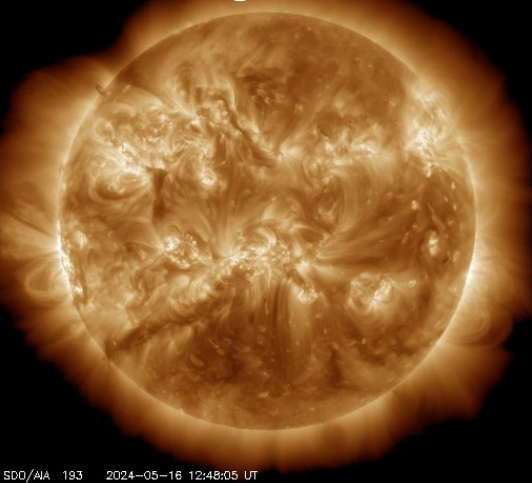
# Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram



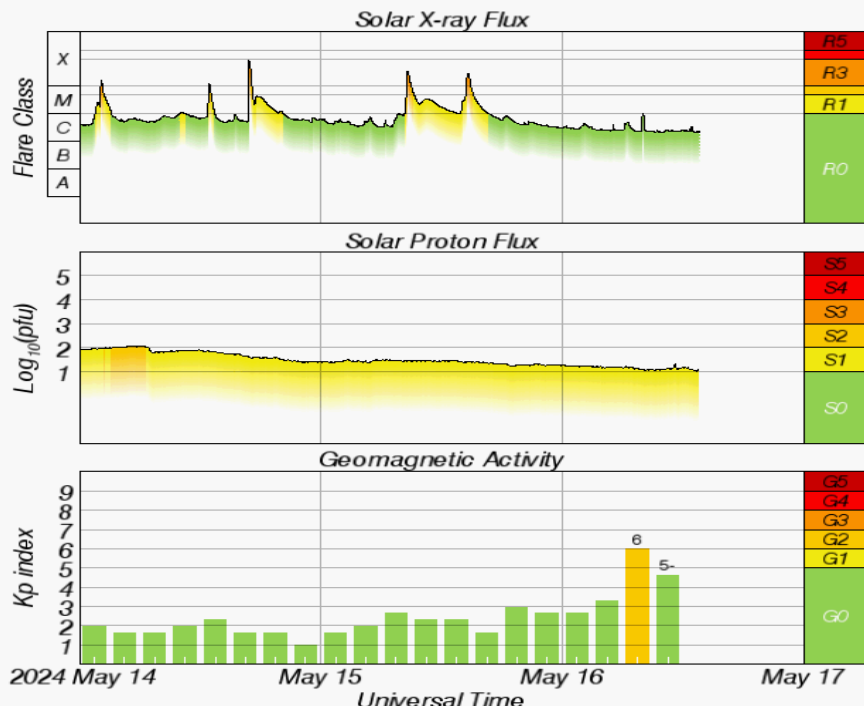
NASA SDO @ SpaceWeatherLive.com

Earth-facing Coronal Holes



SDO/AIA 193 2024-05-16 12:48:05 UT

## Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	X2 Solar Flare
X-class: 40%	Radiation Storm: None	R3 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/16	5/17
Max Kp= 6 (G2)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity remains at high levels due to strong (M-class) solar flare activity with a chance for significant (X-class) flares. Sunspots #3679 contains a magnetic field that harbors energy for X-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) solar radiation storms will remain possible through most of the day today. A secondary enhancement in solar wind conditions that occurred this morning that is likely due to glancing influences from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 5/13 will likely continue through the early parts of the day. Additional enhancements are possible Friday due effects from a filament eruption that left the Sun on 5/14. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions with isolated minor to moderate (G1-G2) geomagnetic storms are expected today and Friday due to weak CME 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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