



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Friday, May 17, 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	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Peloso	(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	County Coordination Call / Vehicle Maintenance
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Madison	Severe Weather Monitoring
Region 4: James Carter	Out of State (TN)	MCV Logistics Support
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Palm Beach, Seminole	GHC / Return to R5 Travel
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Emergency Fuels Logs Meeting
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Palm Beach, Polk	GHC / Return to R7 Travel
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, Miami Dade	GHC / Return to R10 Travel



Region 1 Coverage Provided by Response RC 3
 Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 4
 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

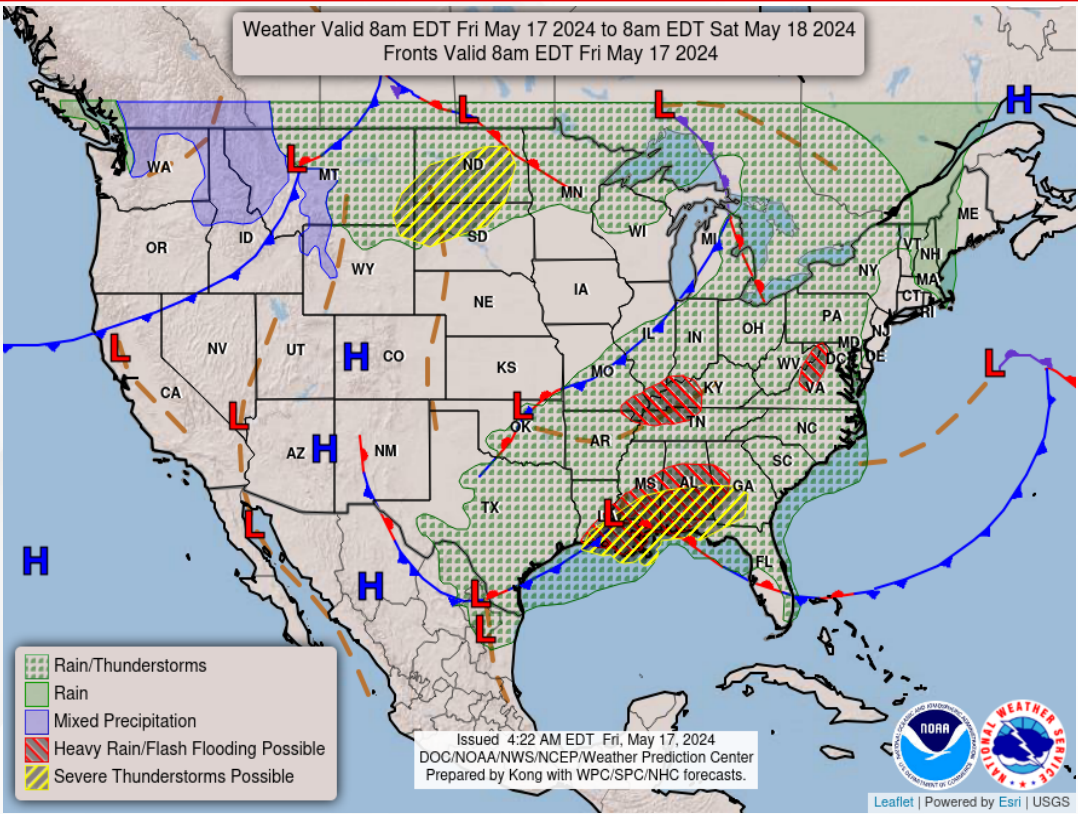
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Palm Beach / Washington	Governor's Hurricane Conference / Return Travel
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Storm Recovery
Region 3: Patrick James	Suwannee	JPDA's
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Leon	JPDA's
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Leon	Storm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

Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 6

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

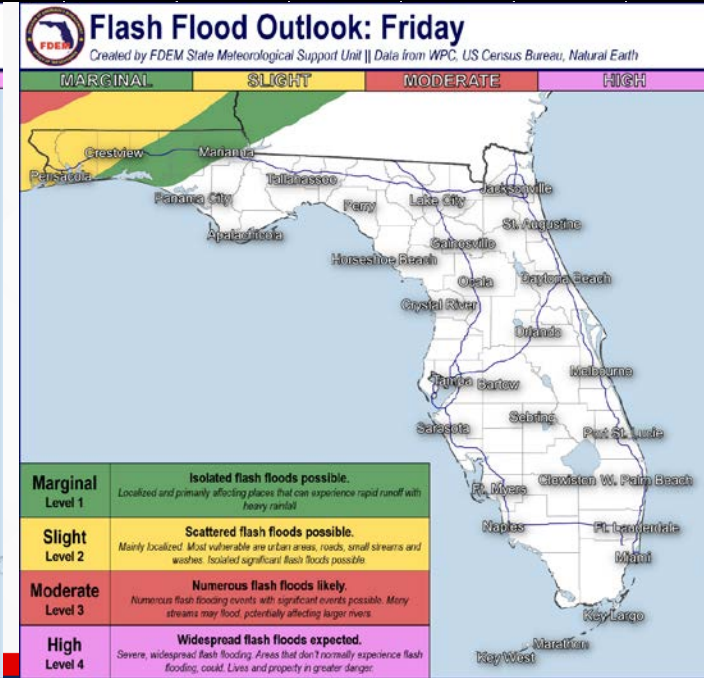
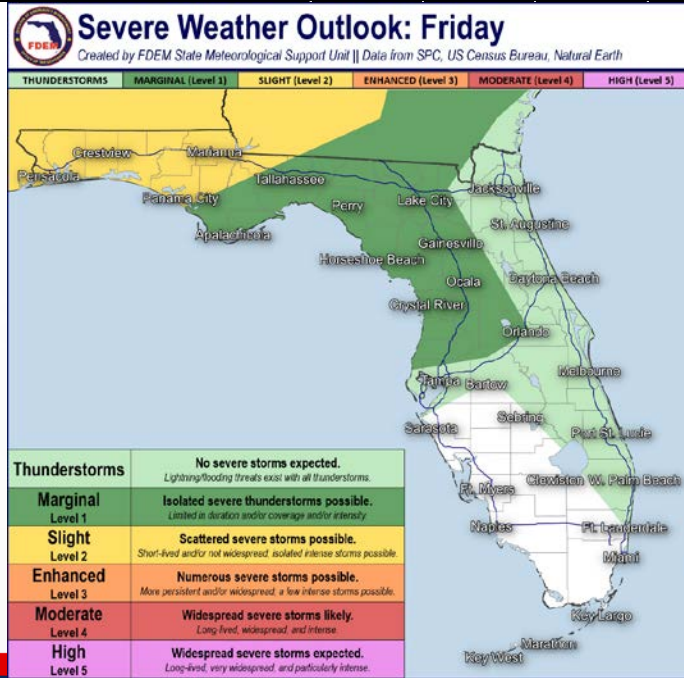


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	L	L	L				
Tornado	M	L								
Damaging Wind	M	M	L	L	L	L				
Hail	M	L	L	L						
Excessive Heat			L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M
Flash Flooding	M	L								
Wildfire					L	L	L			
River Flooding		L								
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	L	M		L	M	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.65 ft. (0.36 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	305 (-3) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

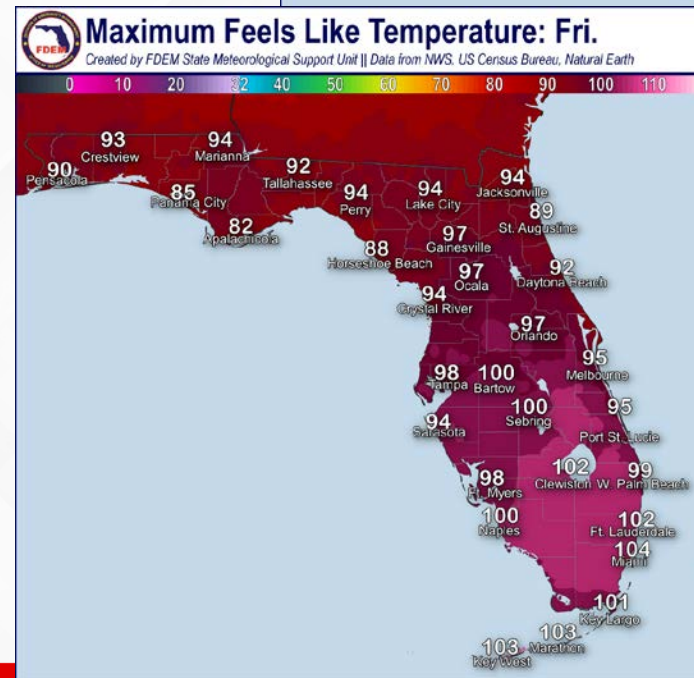
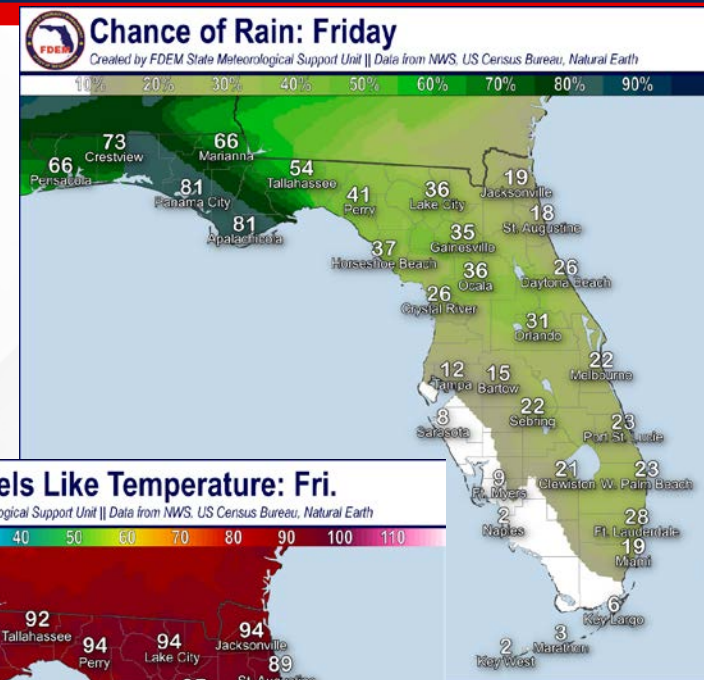
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Multiple rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible today and into Saturday. The first cluster of showers and thunderstorms moved through the Florida Panhandle this morning and is currently making its way through the Northern Peninsula. A few severe thunderstorms producing damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph), instances of hail, and a brief isolated tornado or two cannot be ruled out as storms track eastward into the Northern Peninsula this morning before gradually dissipating. New development is generally expected to develop later this afternoon and evening (40-80% chance of rain) into the early overnight hours (30-50% chance of rain) before dissipating.

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** for the Panhandle and into the Western Big Bend with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending across the Big Bend, into the Suwannee Valley, and across the Nature Coast today. Damaging wind gusts (in excess of 45-65 mph), isolated large hail, an isolated brief tornado or two, frequent lightning, and heavy rainfall will be possible with strong to severe thunderstorm activity. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** extending along the Western Panhandle and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** along the rest of the Panhandle today. A **Flood Watch** is in effect along the western Panhandle as **flooding** and **ponding water** over already saturated grounds, low-lying/poor drainage areas, and urban areas will be possible.

Breezy, and at times gusty, winds (**20-30 mph gusts**) could develop behind the first round of activity along the Florida Panhandle should an area of low-pressure develop in its wake. Wind gusts near 15-20 mph can be anticipated elsewhere. High temperatures will rise into the middle 80s to **low 90s** across North Florida and **low to middle 90s** elsewhere this afternoon. **Heat indices** will climb near or into the **triple digit (97-104)** across the Peninsula this afternoon. **Heat Advisories** have been issued for Miami-Dade County as heat indices are forecast to reach **103-107-degrees** this afternoon. *Remember to take extra precautions when outside, wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing, try to limit strenuous activities to early morning or evening, and take action when you see symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.* Additional **Heat Advisories** cannot be ruled out this afternoon across South Florida and the Keys. Returning moisture will keep relative humidity values **near or above critical thresholds (40-45%)** this afternoon; however, **sensitive wildfire conditions** may still be possible, especially over areas that continue to see short-term rainfall deficits and ongoing drought conditions.

Low temperatures will remain in the 70s to low 80s statewide overnight. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** may develop across the state overnight and early Saturday morning. A third line of strong to severe thunderstorms may begin to make its way into the Panhandle Saturday just before daybreak ahead of another frontal boundary associated with the low-pressure system.



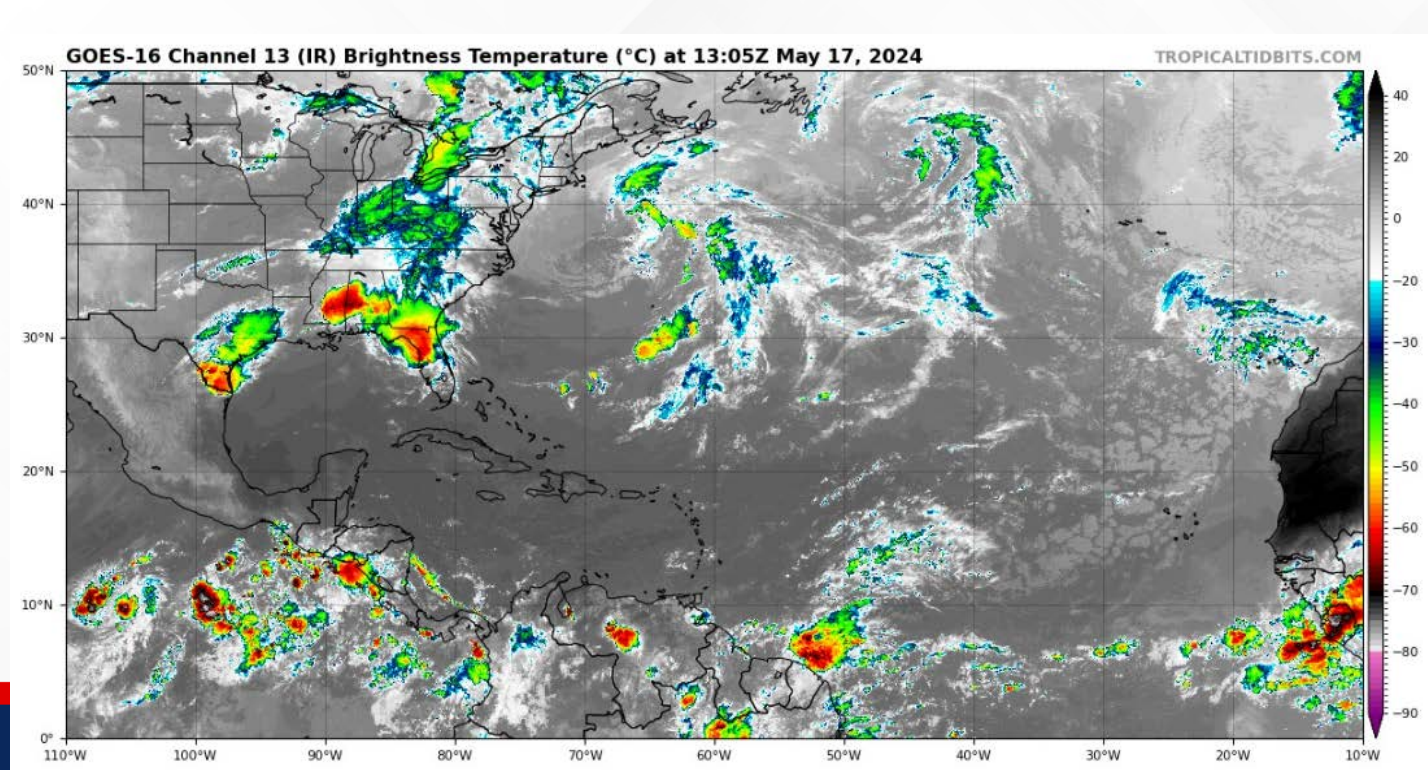
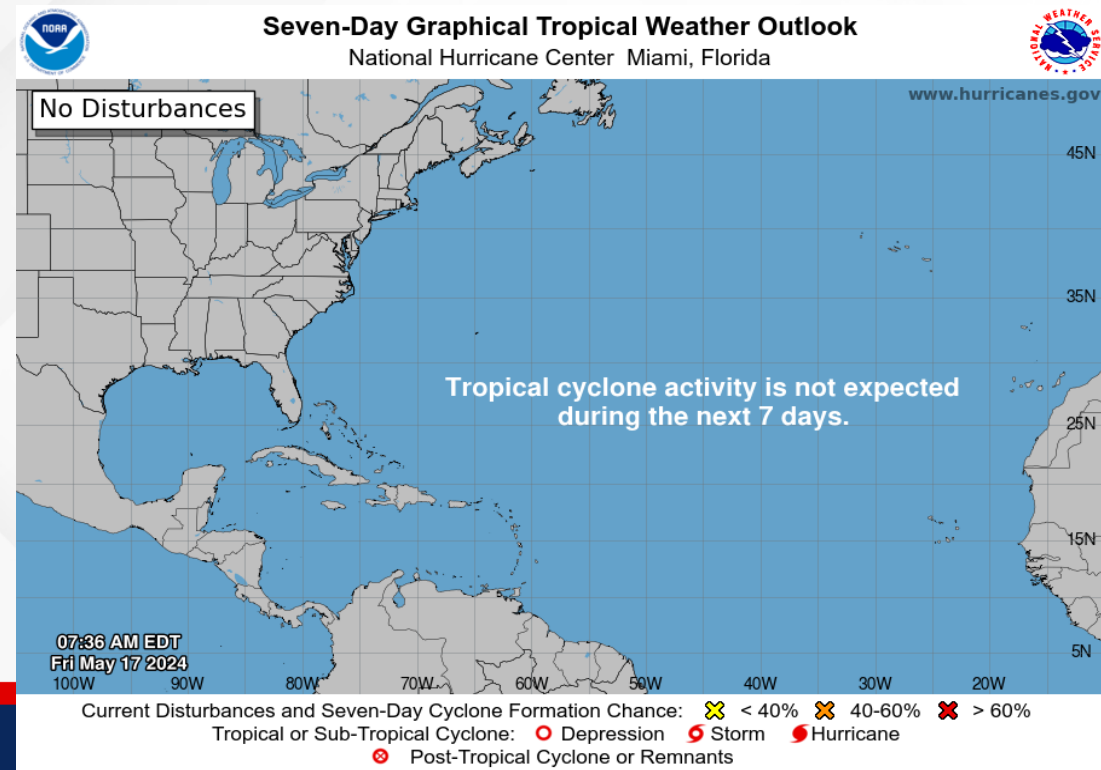


Tropical Weather

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 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 **high risk for rip currents** persists along the Florida Panhandle today with a **moderate risk** along the West-Central Coast. A low risk returns along all other beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: 1-2' wave heights can continue to be expected along the East Coast and Keys this afternoon. Breezy winds developing with the next system will build swells in the Gulf of Mexico, creating wave heights of 1-3' along the West Coast and Florida Panhandle.

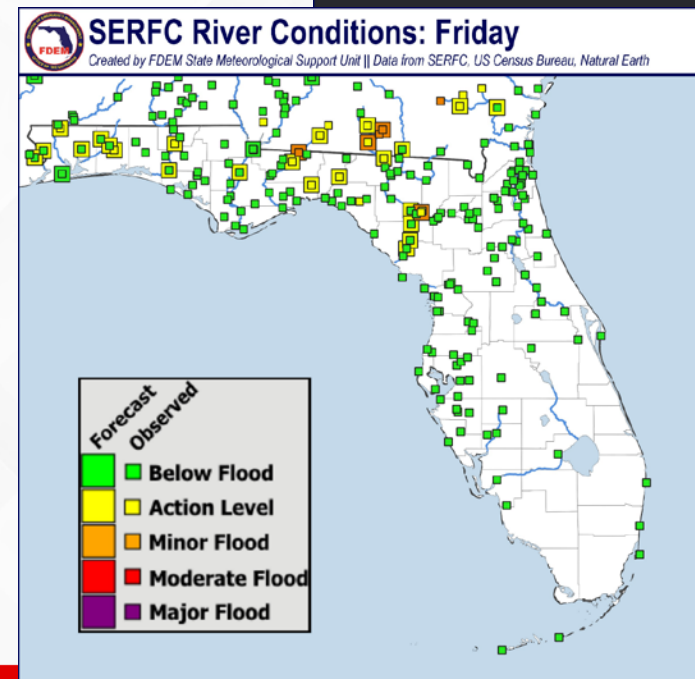
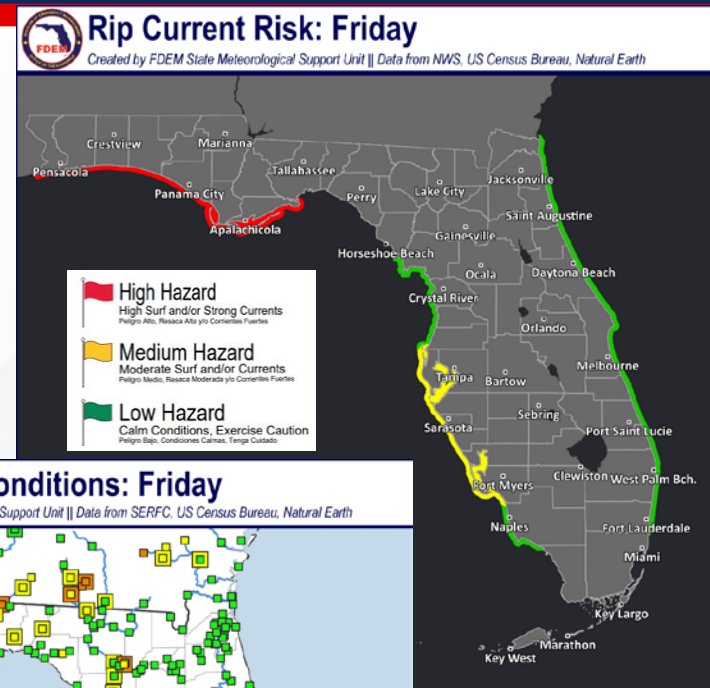
Red Tide has not been observed at or above background levels over the past week.

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not expected today.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** for **Flash Flooding** extending along the Western Panhandle and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** along the rest of the Panhandle as abundant Gulf moisture allows thunderstorms to produce heavy rainfall rates. Instances of **flooding and ponding water** will be possible through the Panhandle, especially for locations that remain saturated from heavy rainfall earlier in the week or that experience multiple rounds of heavy rain and thunderstorm activity. Widespread rainfall totals of 1-3" are anticipated along the Florida Panhandle with **locally higher totals** of 3-6" 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. 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 the [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#). A **River Flood Warning** is in effect along the [Ochlockonee River near Concord \(CR-12\)](#) as water levels have risen into **minor flood stage** in response to heavy rainfall over the past week. There are no addition riverine flood concerns at this time. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.65 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.36 feet **above** normal for this time of year.





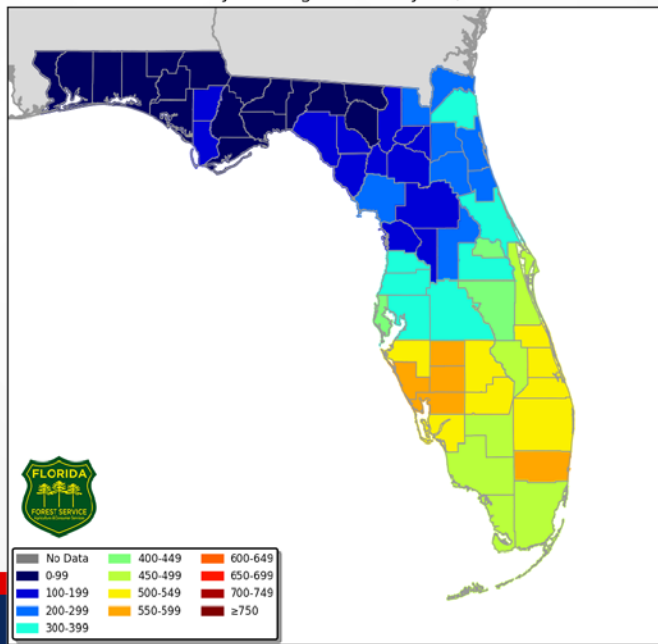
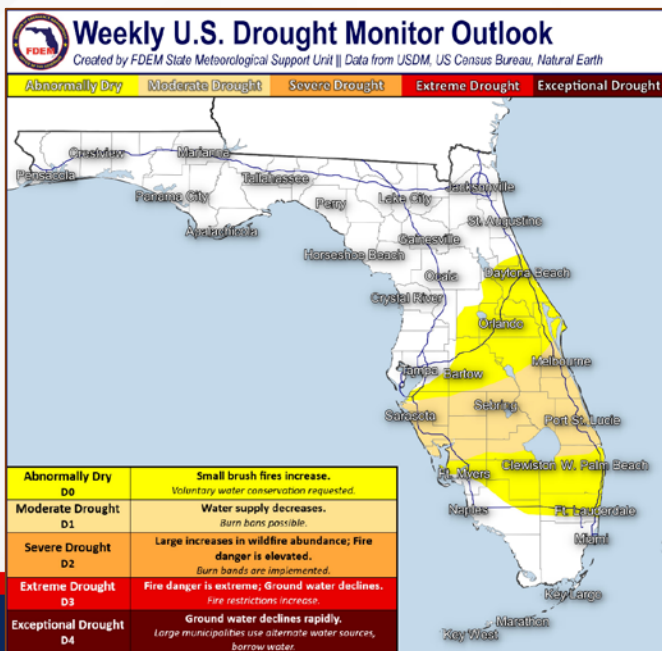
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Showers and thunderstorms moving through North Florida this morning will dissipate this afternoon before another round of strong to severe thunderstorms develops later today. *Erratic, gusty winds and lightning within thunderstorms may be capable of spreading existing fires or igniting new fires.* **Wind gusts near 20-30 mph** can be expected along the Florida Panhandle behind the first round of showers and thunderstorms this morning with 15-20 mph gusts elsewhere. Returning moisture will keep relative humidity values **near or above critical thresholds (40-45%)** this afternoon; however, **sensitive wildfire conditions** may still be possible, especially over areas that continue to see short-term rainfall deficits and ongoing drought conditions. **Heat Advisories** have been issued for Miami-Dade county this afternoon as heat indices reach **triple digits (97-105)** across much of the Peninsula today. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 46 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2472 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.

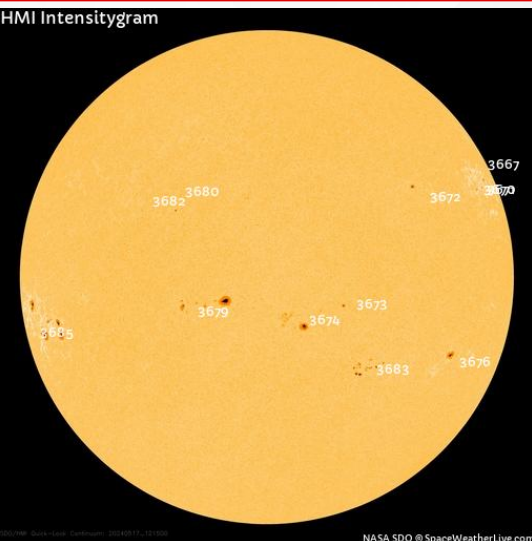
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **305 (-3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **13** Florida counties (Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Manatee, Martin, Palm Beach, Sarasota and St. Lucie) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for May 16, 2024

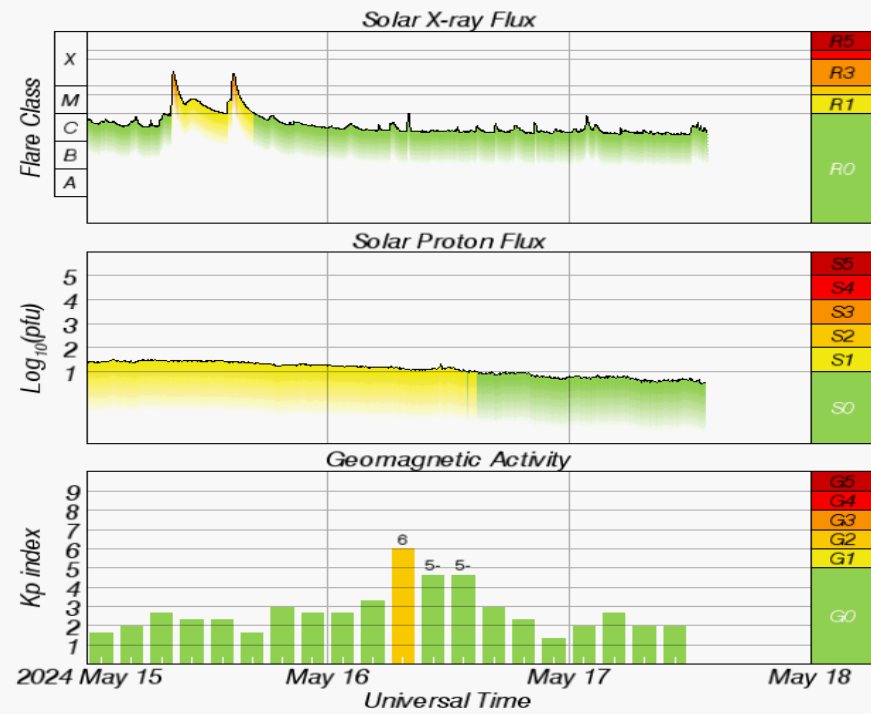




Space Weather

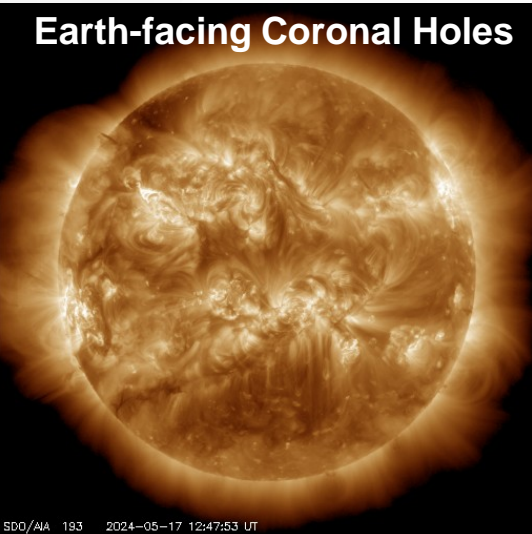


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C8 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/17	5/18
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity be at moderate levels with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flare activity and a slight chance for an isolated significant (X-class) flare. Sunspots #3685 emitted an X-class fare two days ago, but has been quiet since. 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. Additional enhancements in the solar wind environment are likely today due to the arrival of glancing influences from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 5/14. These glancing influences will also lead to unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions today. Conditions are forecast to improve slightly Saturday. 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	

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