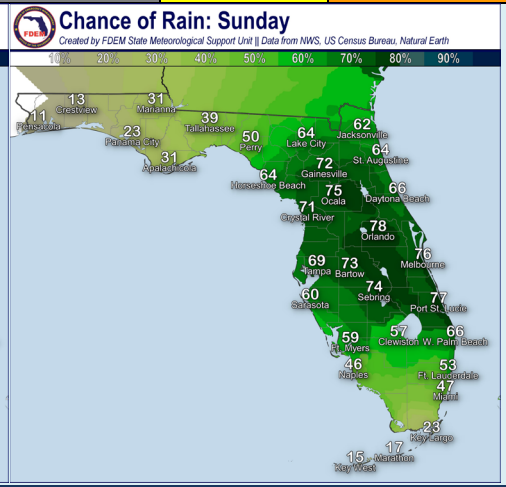
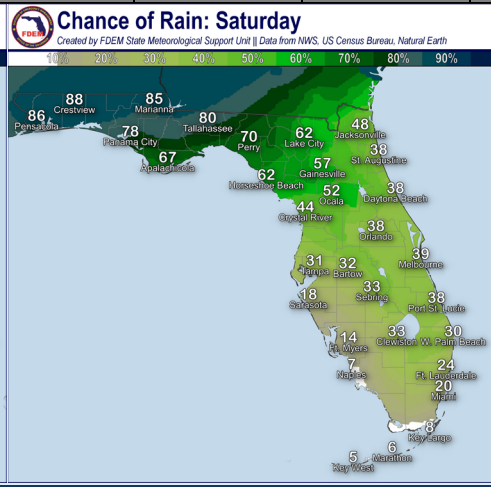
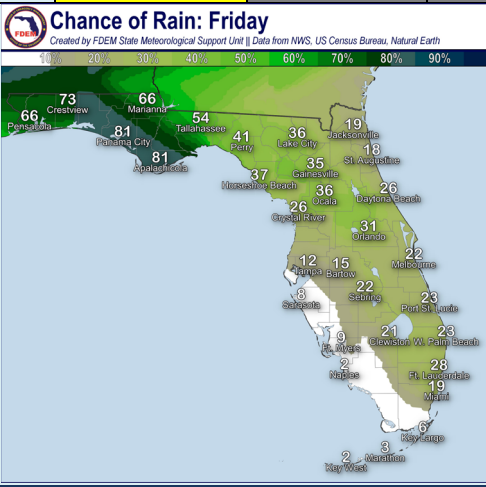


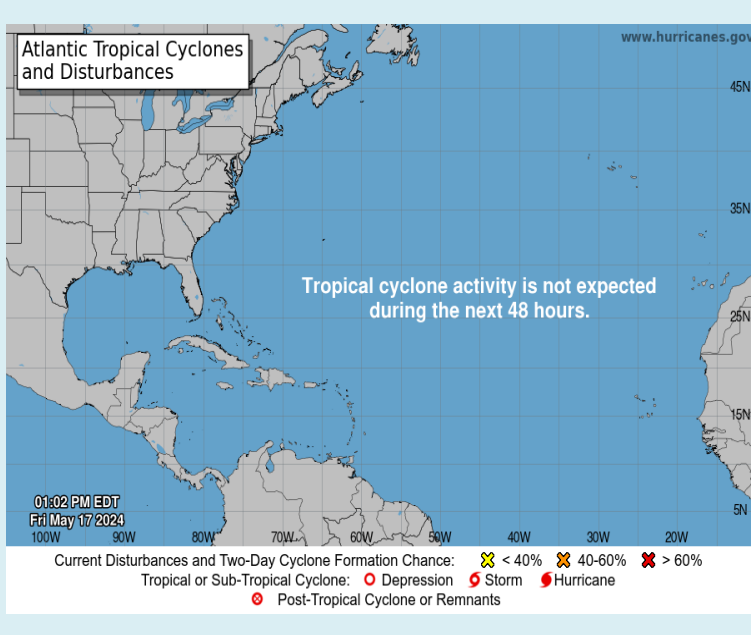
Friday, May 17, 2024

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

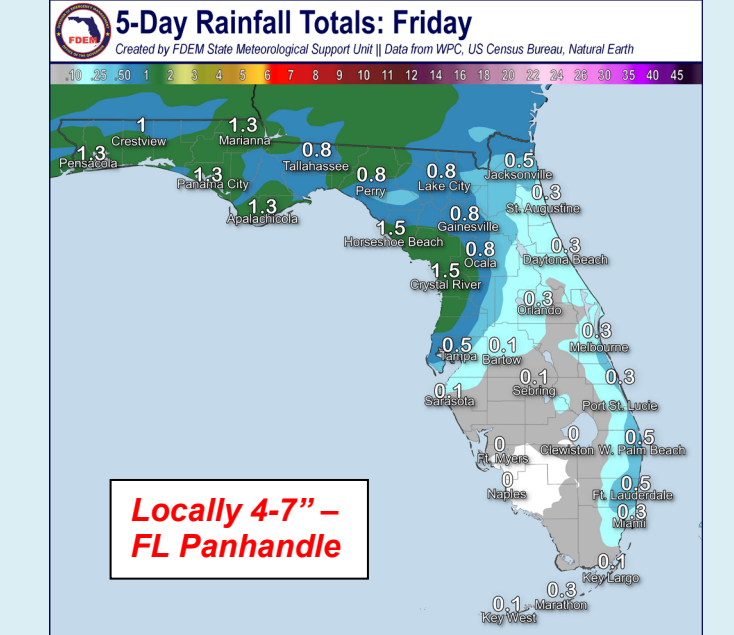
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Flash Flooding	Excessive Heat	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Locally FL Panhandle N & Central FL	Panhandle W-Big Bend	Panhandle & W-Big Bend N & Central FL	Panhandle North Florida	Panhandle W-Big Bend	SE FL & Keys Peninsula	Locally Iso. Central Florida	Panhandle West Coast East Coast
Sat	Locally North Florida Statewide	North Florida	E-Panhandle & Big Bend North Florida	North Florida	Panhandle Big Bend	Locally Big Bend & Peninsula	Locally Int. Central Florida	Panhandle West Coast East Coast
Sun	Locally Statewide	Iso. Peninsula	Locally Iso. Peninsula	Iso. Peninsula	Locally Iso. Peninsula	Keys S & Central FL	Locally Iso. Central Florida	Panhandle & Locally Statewide
Mon	Locally Peninsula		Locally Iso. Peninsula	Iso. Peninsula			Int. Central Florida	Panhandle & Locally Statewide
Tue	Locally Peninsula		Iso. Peninsula	Iso. Peninsula			Locally Int. Central Florida	Panhandle East Coast West Coast



Chance of Rain: Friday, Saturday, Sunday



Tropical Weather Outlook: Next 7 Days



Forecast Rainfall Totals Through Tuesday Night

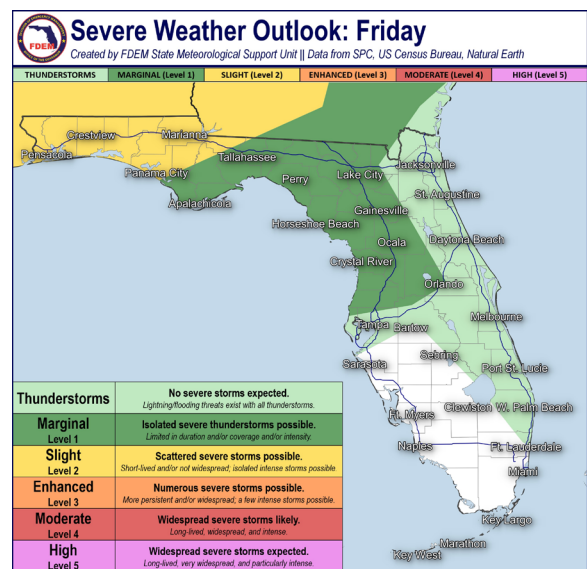


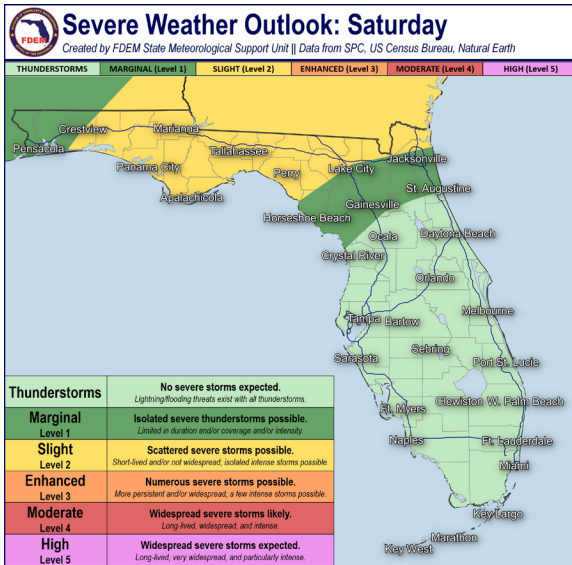
...Multiple Rounds of Severe Weather Anticipated This Afternoon/Evening and Saturday Morning...Slight Risk For Severe Weather Along The Panhandle Today and Across Much of North Florida Saturday...Damaging Wind Gusts (50-70+ MPH), Instances of Hail, And Isolated Tornadoes Possible...Slight Risk for Flash Flooding Along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend Today and Saturday...Flood Watch In Effect For the Western Panhandle Through Saturday; Instances of Flooding and Ponding of Water Possible...Scattered to Numerous Showers and Thunderstorms Persist Along the Peninsula Sunday...Isolated Strong to Severe Thunderstorms and Instances of Flooding May Be Possible...Rain Chances Gradually Drop Off Early Next Week As High Pressure Builds...Heat Indices Near or At Triple Digits Persists Along the Peninsula and Keys Over the Next 5 Days; Heat Advisories In Effect For Miami-Dade County and The Keys This Afternoon...Breezy Conditions Possible At Times Outside of Thunderstorms...Sensitive Wildfire Conditions Along Interior Portions of the Peninsula At Times...Moderate to High Risk For Rip Currents Statewide Over the Next 5 Days...River Flood Warning In Effect For the Ochlockonee River Near Concord for Minor Flooding; Additional River Flood Warnings May Be Needed In The Coming Days Depending On Where the Heaviest Rainfall Occurs Today and Saturday...

Friday-Saturday:

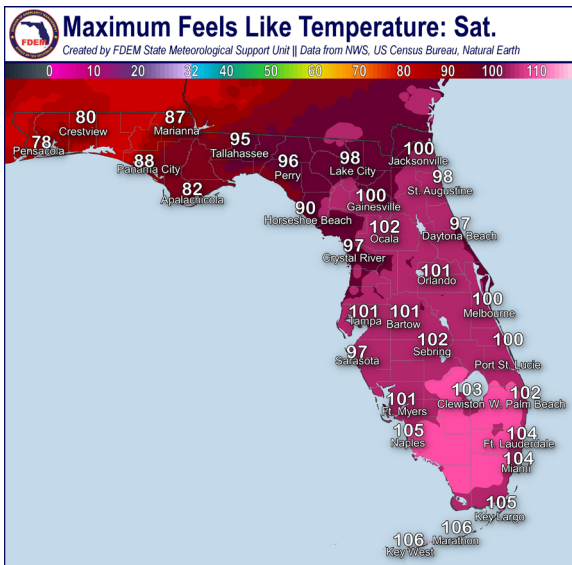
Multiple rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms will be possible today and into Saturday. The first cluster of showers and thunderstorms moved through the Florida Panhandle this morning and is currently making its way through the Northern Peninsula. A few severe thunderstorms producing damaging wind gusts (in excess of 50-70 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. Another line of strong to severe thunderstorms will likely begin to make its way into the Panhandle Saturday before daybreak ahead of another frontal boundary associated with the low-pressure system, moving through North Florida throughout the morning (50-85% chance of rain). The line will likely break apart in the afternoon; however, scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will persist through the overnight hours across North and West-Central Florida (35-70% chance of rain). Additional forecast details will become clearer in the coming days as the development and evolution of this line of thunderstorms will depend on how this afternoon's weather event unfolds. The rest of the state will remain dry today (near 0-10% chance of rain) with isolated to scattered showers developing through the rest of the period (15-45% chance of rain).

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 50-70 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. SPC is also outlooking a **Slight Risk for Severe Weather** across the Eastern





Panhandle, Big Bend, and into the Northern Peninsula with a **Marginal Risk** along the Western Panhandle and south of I-10 in the Northern Peninsula; Damaging wind gusts (in excess of 45-65 mph), instances of hail, an isolated brief tornado or two, and heavy downpours will continue to be possible with any activity that develops. WPC maintains a **Slight Risk for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend Saturday with a **Marginal Risk** extending along the Eastern Big Bend and into the Suwannee Valley. Instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible. Already saturated grounds through the region will give way to a faster onset of **flood** conditions. A **Flood Watch** is in effect for portions of the western Florida Panhandle through Saturday afternoon as widespread 2-4" of rainfall are forecast, with **locally higher totals** in excess of 4-7" possible.



High temperatures will remain in the middle to upper 80s along the Florida Panhandle today and Saturday thanks to widespread rainfall and cloud cover. The rest of the state will generally continue to rise into the 90s. Heat indices will climb near or into **triple digits** across the Big Bend, Peninsula, and Keys today (**97-105**) and across the Big Bend, Peninsula, and Keys Saturday (**97-107**). **Heat Advisories** are in effect for Miami-Dade County and along the Keys 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.* **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible across portions of Central Florida as relative humidity values fall **near critical thresholds (35-45%)**,

above-normal temperatures persist, and breezy winds linger statewide (**15-25 mph gusts**).

Low temperatures will generally remain in the 70s to low 80s overnight with North Florida remaining in the middle 60s to low 70s Saturday night. Areas of patchy to locally dense fog will be possible across the state overnight and into the early morning hours Friday and Saturday.

Sunday – Tuesday:

Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will persist along the Peninsula Sunday as the frontal boundary forecast to move through North Florida Saturday sinks further southward into the Peninsula (45-80% chance of rain). Despite no organized risk for severe weather, **isolated strong to severe thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out during the peak heating hours of the day as daytime heating and afternoon sea breezes support activity. High pressure will begin to slide back in along the Eastern U.S. early next week, allowing mostly dry and quieter conditions to return. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will persist along the Peninsula Monday (30-65% chance of rain) and Tuesday (25-55% chance of rain) as the frontal boundary continues to track southward and off the coast of the Southern Peninsula and afternoon sea breezes develop.

High temperatures will continue to rise into the middle 80s to **middle 90s** across the state. Heat indices will approach or reach the **triple digits (97-108)** across South and Central Florida in the



afternoons with some areas nearing or reaching **Heat Advisory** criteria. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** are anticipated at times across portions of the interior Peninsula as relative humidity values fall **near critical thresholds (35-45%)**.

Low temperatures will remain in the middle 60s to low 70s across North Florida and interior Central Florida and low 70s to low 80s elsewhere Sunday through Tuesday. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** are anticipated across the state overnight and into the early morning hours Sunday and may be possible early next week.

Tropical Weather:

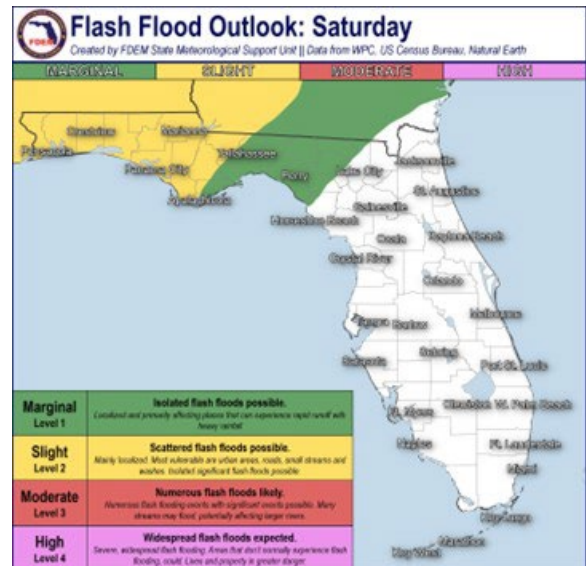
Wednesday, May 15th marked the first day of routine issuance of the Atlantic Basin Tropical Weather Outlook in 2024. This product describes significant areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation during the next seven days.

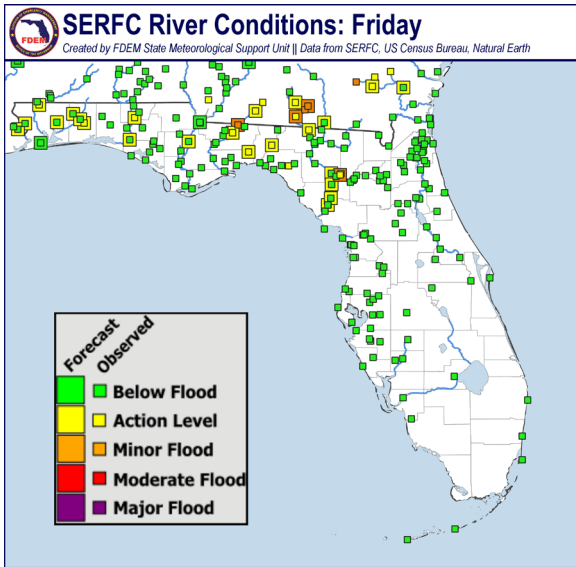
The Tropical Weather Outlook is issued from May 15th through November 30th each year. The issuance times of this product are 2:00 AM EDT, 8:00 AM EDT, 2:00 PM EDT, and 8:00 PM EDT. After the time changes to standard time in November, the issuance times are 1:00 AM EST, 7:00 AM EST, 1:00 PM EST, and 7:00 PM EST. A Special Tropical Weather Outlook will be issued to provide updates, as necessary, in between the regularly scheduled issuances of the Tropical Weather Outlook. The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1st and runs until November 30th.

Hydrology & Flooding:

Another round of strong to severe thunderstorms is generally expected to develop this afternoon and evening, tracking eastward through the Florida Panhandle and into North Florida through evening and early overnight hours before moving offshore and dissipating. 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. WPC maintains a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle and Western Big Bend Saturday with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending through the Big Bend and into the Suwannee Vally as a third line of strong to severe thunderstorms may begin to make its way into the Panhandle just before

daybreak ahead of another frontal boundary associated with the low-pressure system. Instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible with both rounds of active weather, especially over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Heavy rainfall earlier in the week has led to water level increases along already elevated North Florida rivers, waterways, creek/streams. 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. A **Flood Watch** is in effect for portions of the western Florida Panhandle through Saturday afternoon as widespread 2-4" of rainfall are forecast, with **locally higher totals** in excess of 4-7" possible. Scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms will persist across the state Sunday, gradually dissipating overnight with isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms remaining possible along the Eastern and Southern Peninsula with sea breeze activity early next week. While there is no organized risk for flash flooding, locally heavy rainfall over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas may give way to isolated instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water**. For the latest Excessive Rainfall Outlook, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](#).





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. Northern portions of both the Withlacoochee and Ochlockonee Rivers continue to trend into **minor flood stage**, with more rainfall headed into the area for the end of this week and weekend. A **River Flood Warning** is in effect along the [Ochlockonee River near Concord \(CR-12\)](#) as water levels have risen into **minor flood stage**. 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](#). Additional water level

risers and riverine flooding over the next 5 days will be dependent upon where the heaviest rainfall axis sets up, and if rainfall occurs in already elevated/vulnerable riverine basins across North Florida and the Big Bend. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

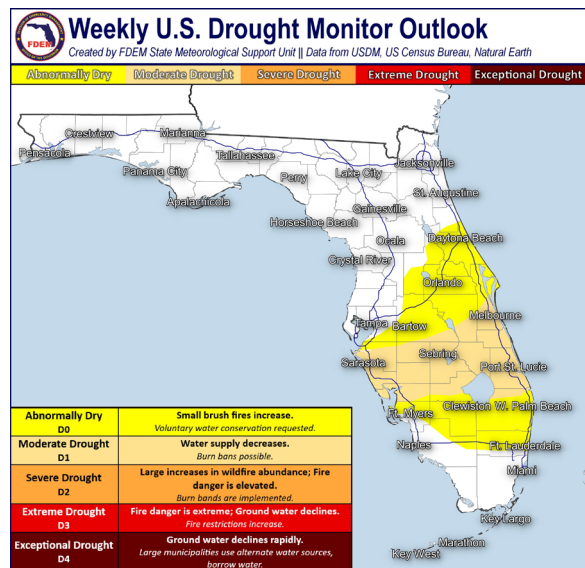
Lake Okeechobee’s average elevation is 13.65’, which is within the operational band and 0.36’ above normal. Lake elevations have fallen approximately 0.25’ over the past week and approximately 1.14’ over the past 30 days. Near to above normal temperatures and limited rainfall across South and Central Florida over the next 5 days will likely allow water levels to continue falling.

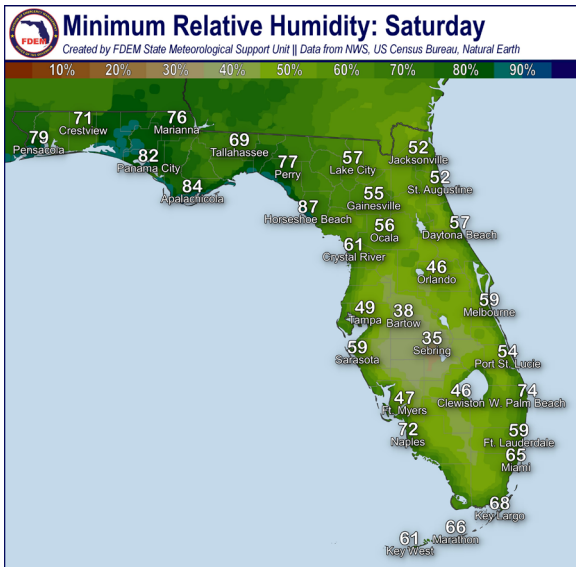
Drought & Fire Weather:

The Florida Peninsula largely missed out on the widespread precipitation and experienced temperatures 2 to 4-degrees above normal for this time of year. Rainfall deficits continue to grow throughout the Florida Peninsula, with widespread rainfall totals reaching 3-4” below normal for this time of year. Pockets of rainfall deficits reaching 5-8” below normal are observed along portions of interior West Florida and along the Space and Treasure Coasts. Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) conditions have been expanded northward along the Atlantic Coast through Volusia County and into southern Flagler County on this week’s [Drought Monitor](#) update.

Moderate drought now spreads to the western Florida Peninsula, including Manatee, Charlotte, and Lee Counties to account for the recent uptick in wildfire activity. Rainfall totals look to remain scarce south of the I-4 corridor over the next 5 days, and additional expansion or worsening of drought may be warranted on next week’s Drought Monitor update.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida **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).





The Sunshine State will remain in a generally moist airmass for the duration of the forecast period; however, interior Peninsula locations may see relative humidity values dip into the 35-50% range each afternoon. Winds will largely remain below concern levels, but wind in and around developing thunderstorms may be gusty and erratic. Lightning within thunderstorms could ignite new wildfires. Areas of patchy to locally dense fog will be possible across the state overnight and into the early morning hours through the next 3 days, at least. *Fog developing near, and ongoing wildfires or burns may lead to localized reductions in visibility.* Locally **sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible through the Florida Peninsula, and especially over locations that are experiencing drought/dry soils and vegetation.

According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#),

there are 38 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,095 acres (as of 1:53 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

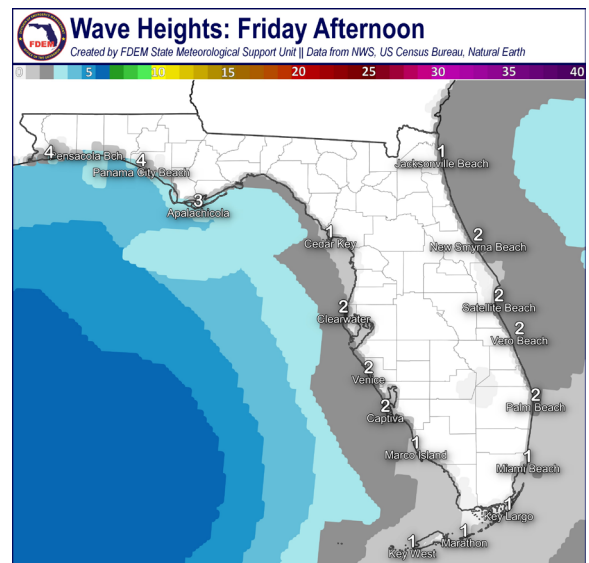
The ongoing active weather pattern will maintain an **elevated rip current** risk for many Florida Gulf Coast beaches through the forecast period, with beach conditions becoming increasingly unfavorable along the Florida Atlantic Coast through the weekend and into early next week. A **high risk of rip currents** can be expected for much of the Florida Panhandle through the work week; a **moderate risk** with periods of **high-risk** conditions will reside along the Panhandle with a **high risk** continuing along the Big Bend by early next week. A **moderate to high risk of rip currents** can be expected along the West Florida Coast through Monday, with low-risk conditions returning Tuesday. Winds will largely be driven by the afternoon sea breeze along the Florida East Coast, with low risk for rip current conditions expected into Saturday; however, winds will gradually build over the next 5 days, giving way to a **moderate risk of rip currents** for all Atlantic Coast beaches by Sunday. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit

www.weather.gov/beach.

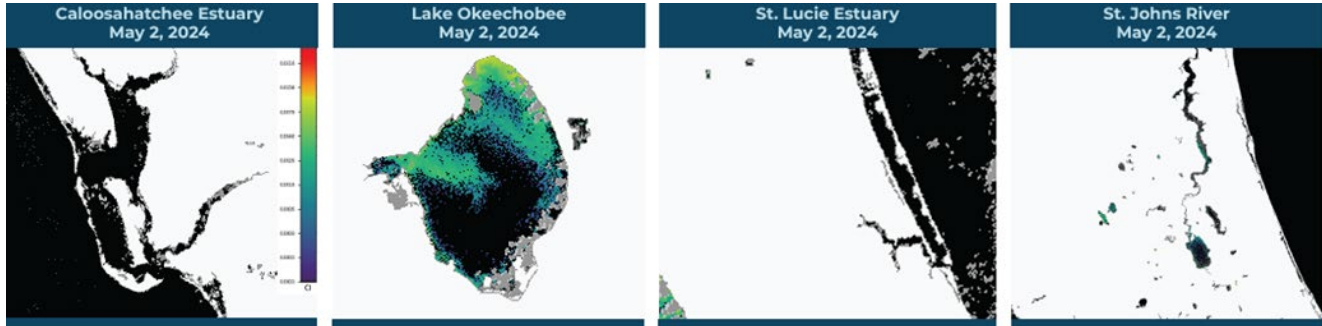
Wave heights of 2-3' over the Gulf waters will build through the forecast period ahead of our next approaching weather system. **Wave heights** of 3-4' can be expected through the weekend for several Florida Gulf Coast beaches, especially along the Florida Panhandle. As winds subside in the wake of the thunderstorm activity, wave heights will gradually recede to 1-3' for the remainder of the forecast period. Breakers in the surf zone will remain near 1-3' along the Florida Atlantic Coast; however, localized enhancements in the wave heights cannot be ruled out near and around any maritime thunderstorms/sea breezes. **Wave heights** will become slightly enhanced along portions of the Space and Treasure Coasts by Tuesday, with breakers reaching 2-4' on Tuesday.

Coastal flooding is not anticipated over the next 5 days.

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 5/2, although slightly obscured by cloud cover, at low to **moderate bloom potential** on approximately 45% of Lake Okeechobee, mostly in the northern half of the lake. Satellite imagery of the St. Johns River from 5/2 showed scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** from Lake George downstream to Orange Park. Satellite imagery also obtained on 5/2 and partially obscured by cloud cover showed no visible bloom potential along the Caloosahatchee Estuary or St. Lucie Estuary.



[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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[Orlando](#) • [Tampa](#) • [Fort Myers](#) • [West Palm Beach](#) • [Miami](#) • [Key West](#)

[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!

Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

