



# Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

## Morning Situation Report

Saturday, May 18, 2024



# State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



# SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Taylor Cheney	(850) 545-4047	<a href="mailto:Taylor.Cheney@em.myflorida.com">Taylor.Cheney@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	Ben Mauro	(850) 566-4904	<a href="mailto:Benjamin.Mauro@em.myflorida.com">Benjamin.Mauro@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	Cassi Farestvedt	(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	In Region	On Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On Call Status
Region 4: James Carter	Lake, In Region	On Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	Hurricane Expo / On Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On Call Status
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	In Region	On Call Status
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	In Region	On Call Status



Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 1  
 Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 5  
 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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	On Call Coverage for Region 8
RRCT Manager	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	In Region	On Call Coverage for Region 9
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	In Region	Off & Monitoring

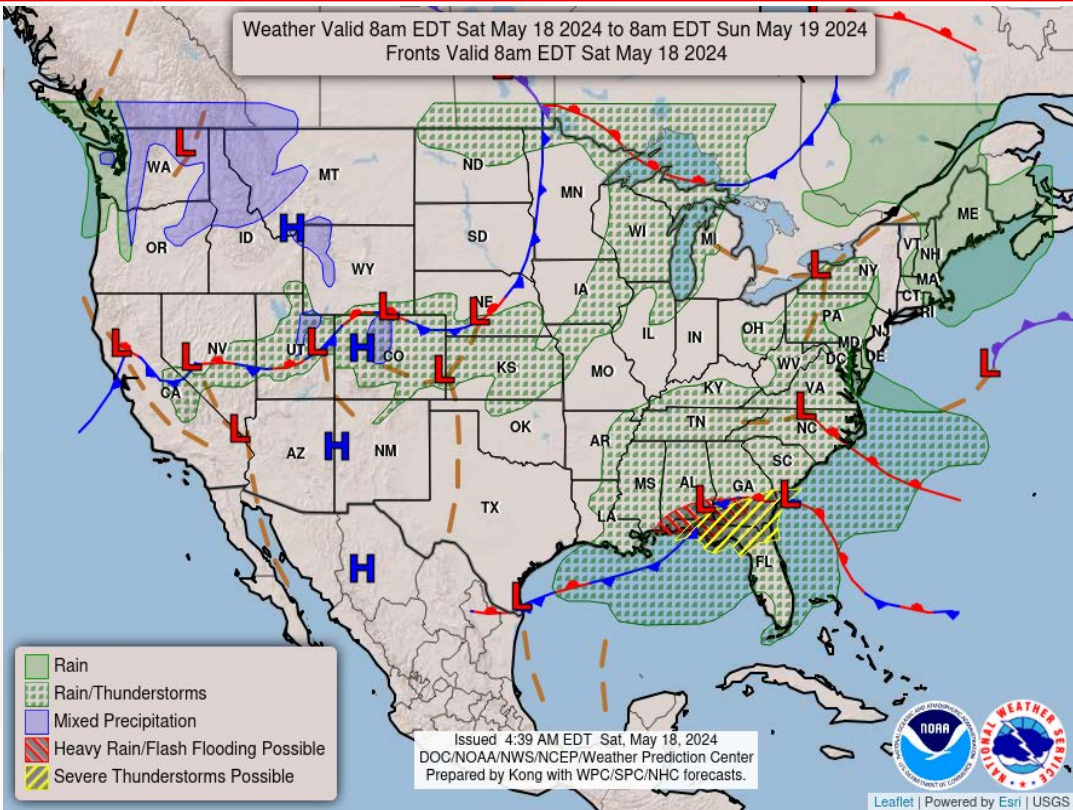
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 6

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



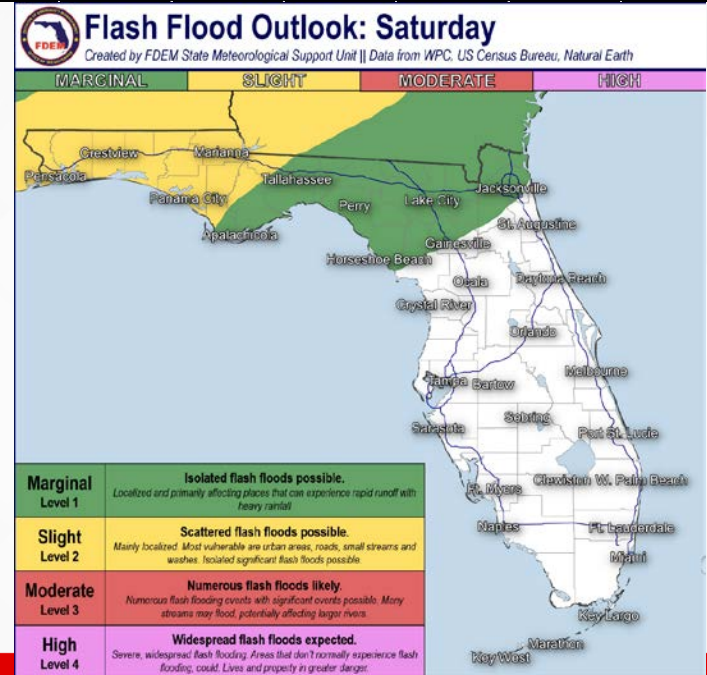
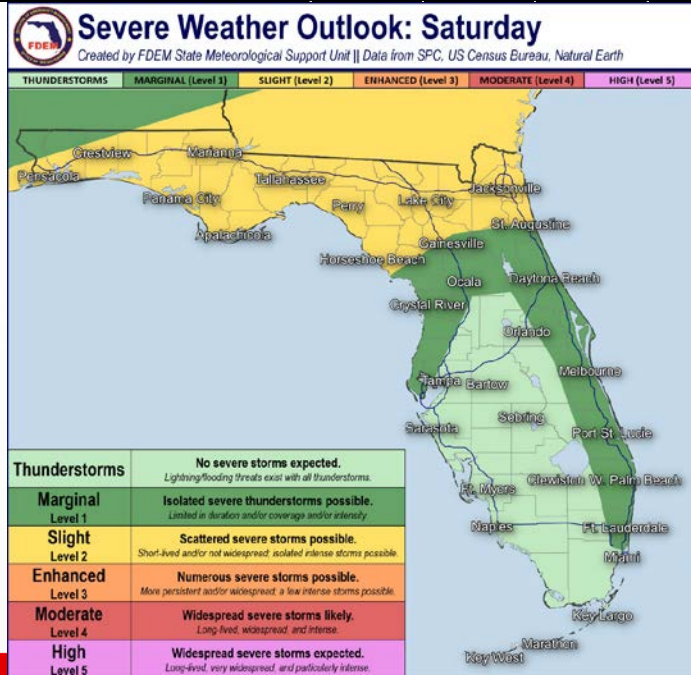


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	L	L
Tornado	L	L	L	L	L			L		L
Damaging Wind	M	M	M	M	L	L		L		L
Hail	L	L	L	L	L			L		L
Excessive Heat			L	L	L	L	L	M	L	M
Flash Flooding	M	M	L	L						
Wildfire						L	L		L	
River Flooding	L	L								
Rip Currents	H	H	L	L	L	M		L	M	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.61 ft. (0.34 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	310 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									







# Meteorology Summary

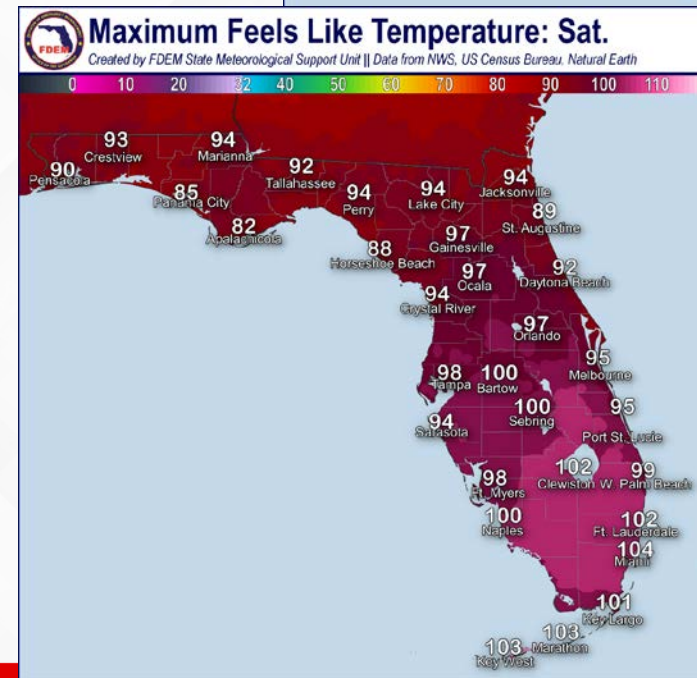
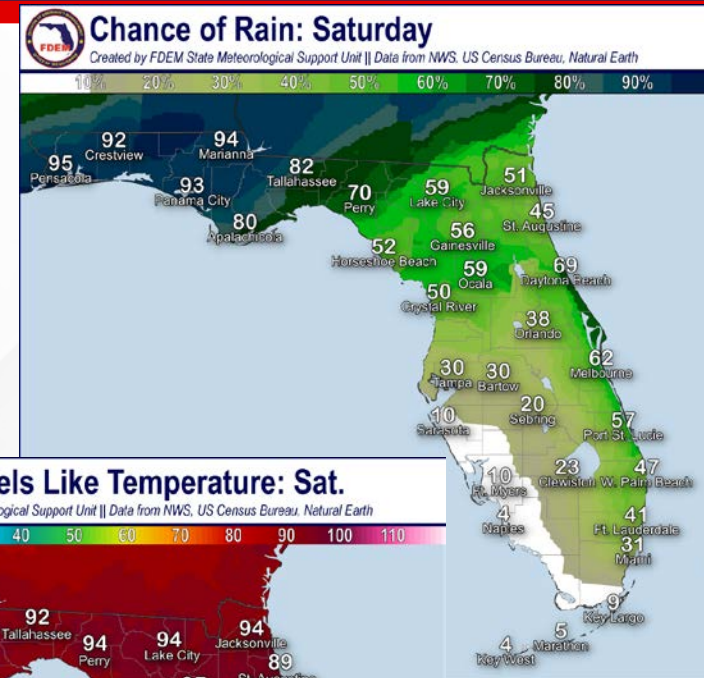
## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

One more potential round of strong to severe thunderstorms is possible this morning and afternoon. Showers and thunderstorms are already developing and tracking eastward through the Panhandle. This line of showers and thunderstorms will continue to track eastward into the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula this morning and afternoon (60-95% chance of rain). Strong to severe thunderstorms producing damaging wind gusts (45-65 mph), instances of hail, isolated tornadoes, and heavy downpours will be possible. Additional storms should form along the Florida Atlantic Coast sea breeze this afternoon with an isolated severe threat possible (45-70% chance of rain).

The Storm Prediction Center is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across much of North Florida today with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** along the Nature Coast and East Coast. **Flood Watches** remain in effect along portions of the Florida Panhandle through this evening as instances of flooding and ponding of water will continue to be possible with additional heavy rainfall over already saturated grounds, urban areas, and low-lying/poor drainage areas today. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending across the Big Bend and into the Northern Peninsula.

High temperatures will remain in the upper 70s to middle 80s across the Florida Panhandle and along the Suwannee Valley thanks to cloudy skies and widespread rainfall. The rest of the state will continue to rise into the **90s** with **heat indices** nearing or reaching **triple digits (97-105)** through the Peninsula and Keys. **Heat Advisories** have been issued for South Florida, the Keys, and the Central-East Coast this afternoon as heat indices reach **triple digits (106-110)** today. *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.* Despite returning moisture, **sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible over areas that continue to see short-term rainfall deficits and ongoing drought conditions due to drier pockets **near critical thresholds (40-45%)** expected along portions of the interior Peninsula this afternoon. Numerous additional rivers and waterways across North Florida have begun to rise into Action Stage in response to heavy rainfall across the basins over the past week. **River Flood Warnings** have been issued for multiple Florida Panhandle rivers and waterway as **minor flooding** is occurring or forecast to occur this weekend and into next week.

Scattered showers will linger into the overnight and into Sunday along the Big Bend and Peninsula (30-75% chance of rain) while the rest of the state begins to dry out as high pressure builds back in along the Eastern U.S. (15-35% chance of rain). Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 60s along the Florida Panhandle, 70s along the Peninsula, and low 80s along the Keys. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** will be possible across portions of the state overnight and early Sunday morning.



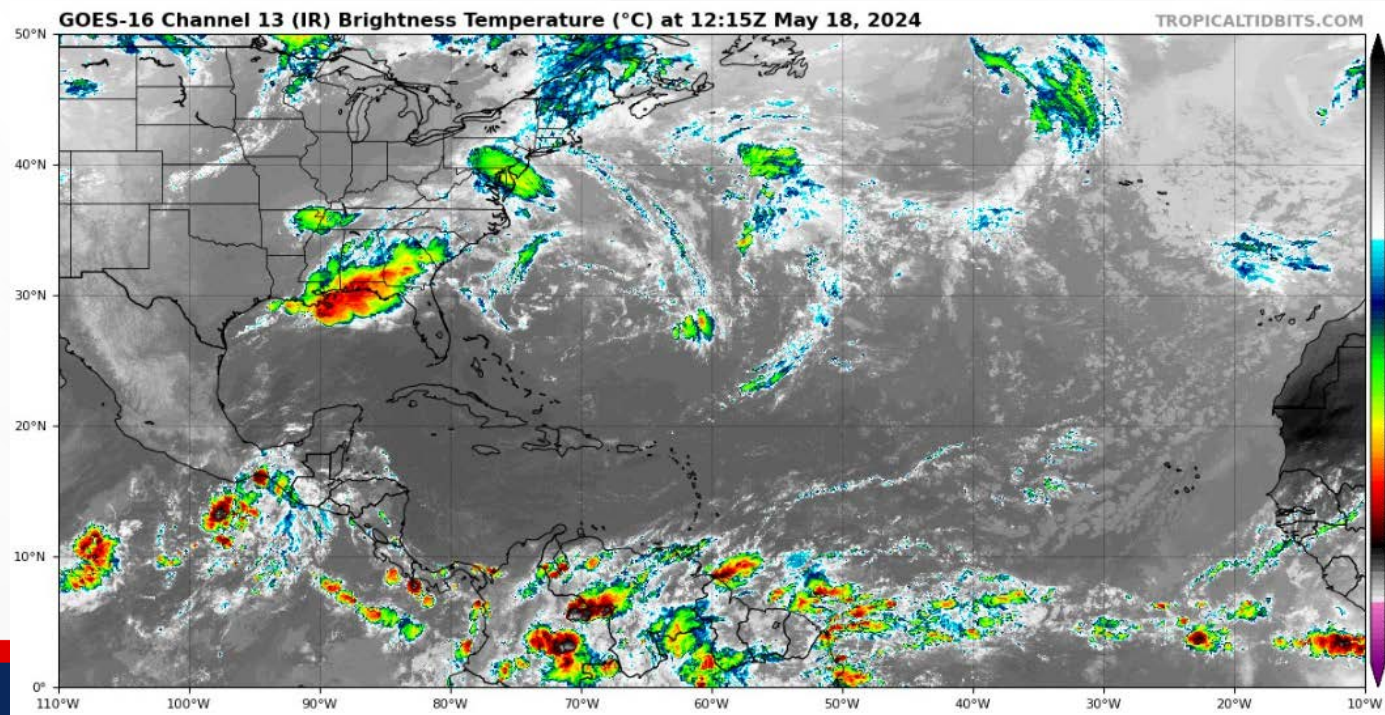
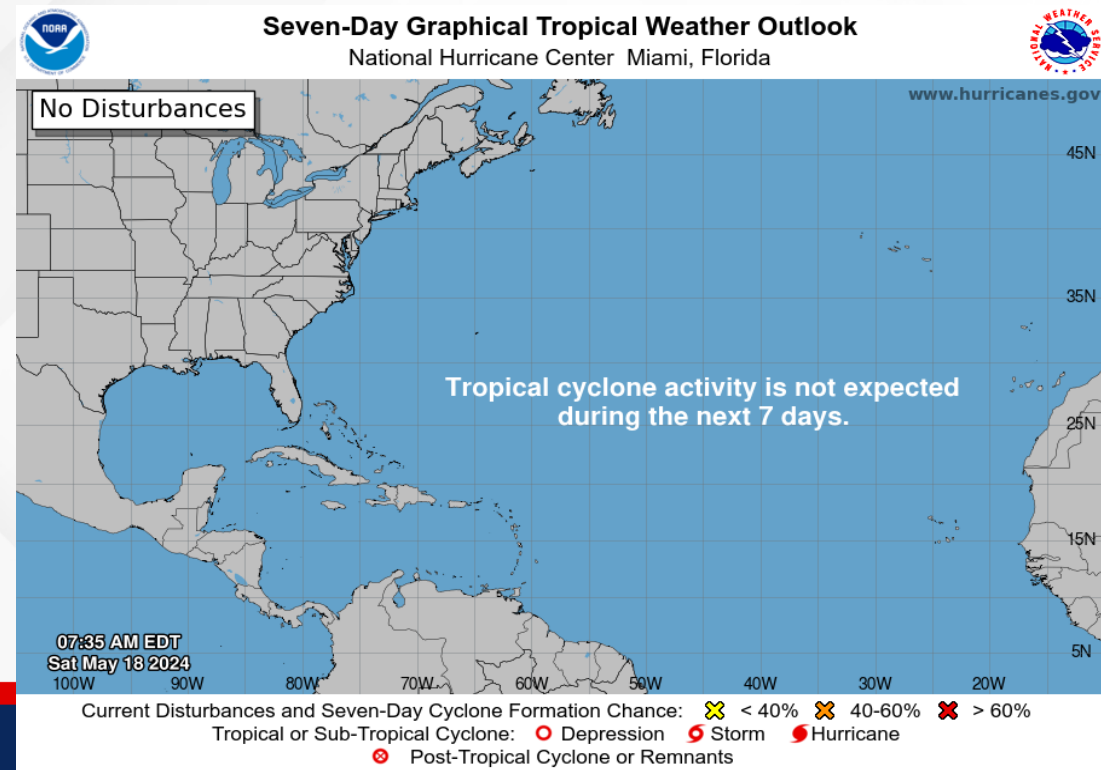


# Tropical Weather

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 **high risk for rip currents** persists along the Florida Panhandle today with a **moderate risk** along the West-Central Coast. A low risk persists along all other beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://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 maintain swells in the Gulf of Mexico, creating **wave heights** of 1-4' along the West Coast and Florida Panhandle.

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

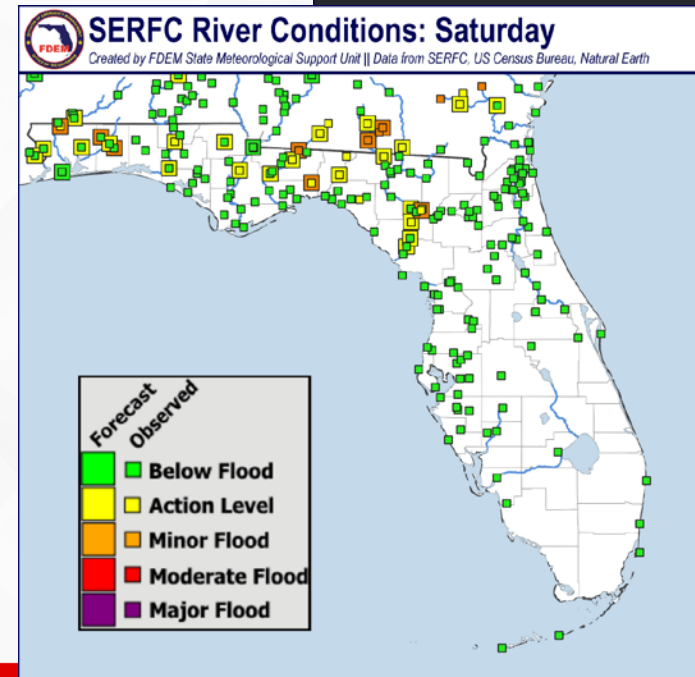
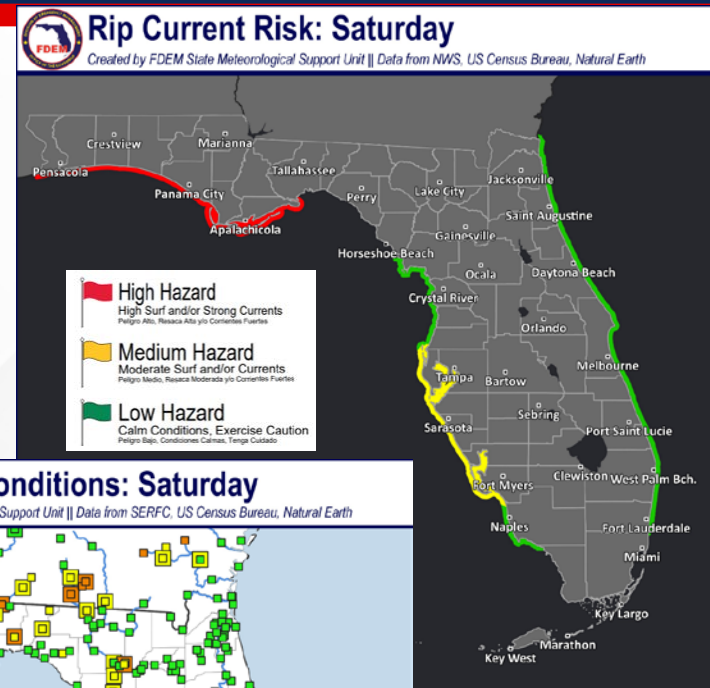
**Coastal Flooding:** Coastal flooding is not expected today; however, **elevated tides** (0.5-0.75' above normal) may be possible along the Forgotten and Nature Coasts at times as breezy winds persist.

**Flash Flooding:** The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** for **Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending across the Big Bend and into the Northern Peninsula. 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. **Flood Watches** remain in effect along portions of the Florida Panhandle through this evening as instances as another round of heavy rainfall moves through the region today. Widespread rainfall totals of 1-3" are anticipated along the Florida Panhandle with **locally higher totals** in excess of 3-5" 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 over the past week.

**River Flood Warning** have been issued for the [Ochlocknee River near Concord \(CR-12\)](#), [Escambia River near Century](#), [Blackwater River near Baker](#), [Shoal River near Crestview](#), and [St. Marks River near Newport on Old Magnolia Rd](#) as **minor flooding** is occurring or forecast this weekend and into next week. Additional heavy rainfall across the Florida Panhandle this morning and afternoon may lead to further water level rises and additional River Flood Warnings may be issued. 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 13.61 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.34 feet **above** normal for this time of year.





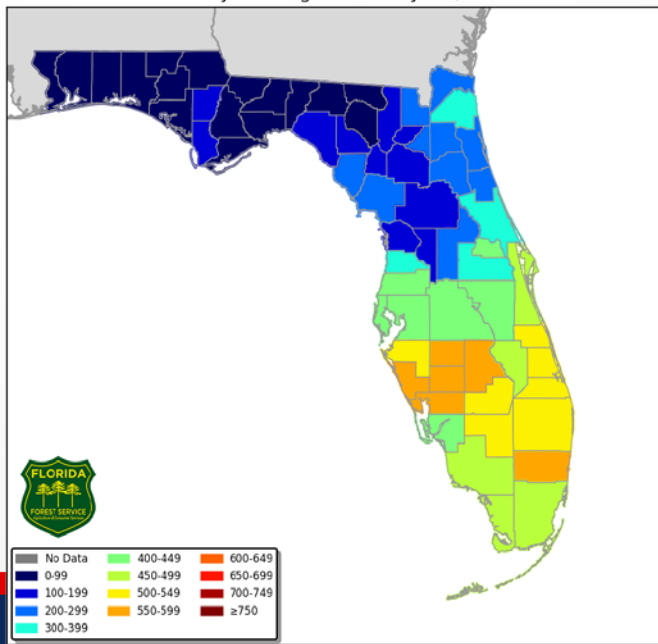
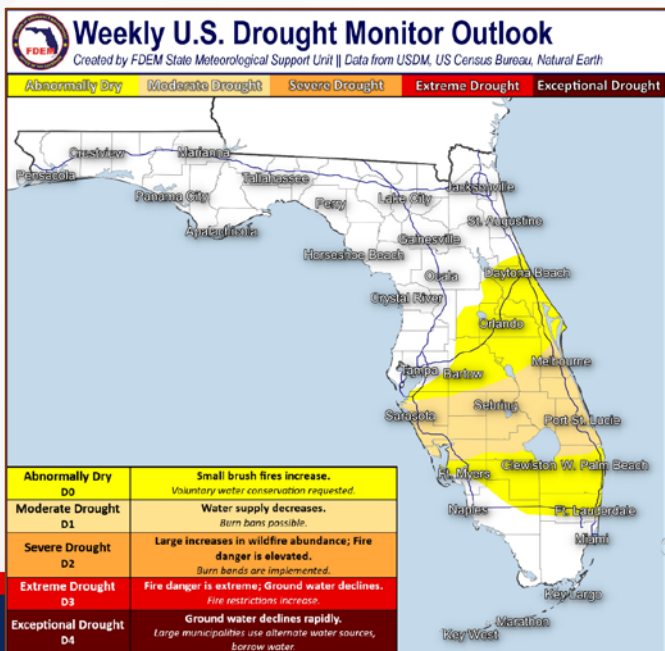
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** One more potential round of strong to severe thunderstorms is possible this morning and afternoon. Showers and thunderstorms are already developing and tracking eastward through the Panhandle. Additional storms should form along the Florida Atlantic Coast sea breeze this afternoon with an isolated severe threat possible. *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 at times outside of thunderstorms with 10-20 mph gusts elsewhere. Returning moisture will generally keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds with drier pockets **near critical thresholds (40-45%)** along portions of the interior Peninsula this afternoon. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible over areas that continue to see short-term rainfall deficits and ongoing drought conditions in the Peninsula this afternoon. **Heat Advisories** have been issued for South Florida, the Keys, and the Central-East Coast this afternoon as heat indices reach **triple digits (106-110)** today. **Heat indices** will approach or reach **triple digits (97-105)** elsewhere across the Peninsula. Areas of patchy to locally dense fog will be possible overnight and early Sunday morning. *Fog may further reduce visibilities in areas with ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 39 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2081 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 **310 (+6)** 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).

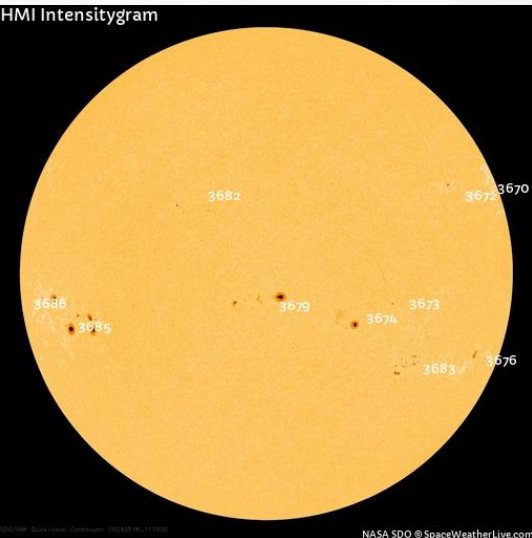
Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)  
County Averages for May 17, 2024



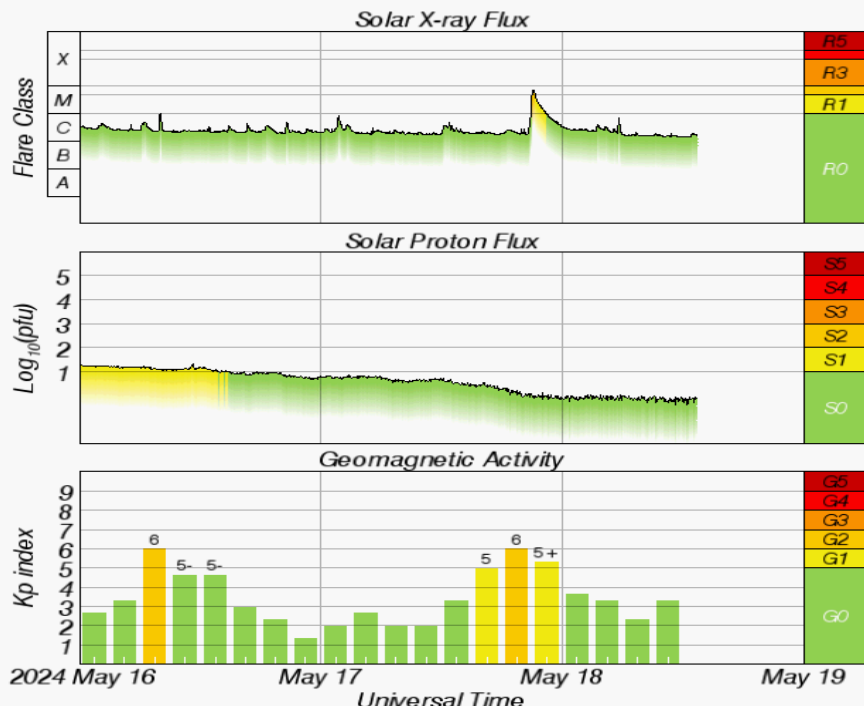
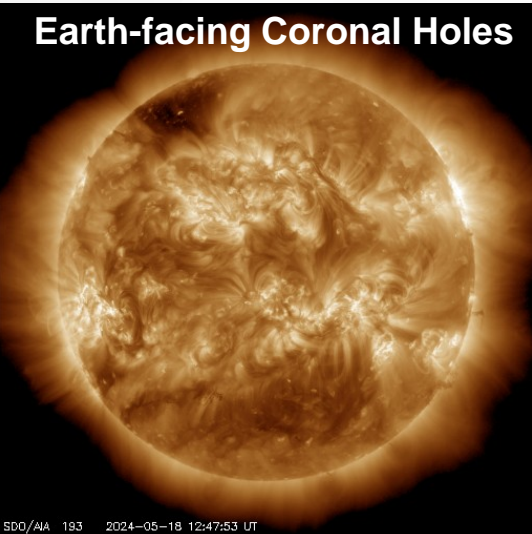




# Space Weather



## Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M7 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
5/18	5/19
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity be at low levels with a chance for further strong (M-class) solar flares and a slight chance for a significant (X-class) flare over the next few days. Sunspots #3685 poses a growing threat for strong Earth-directed solar 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. There is a slight chance for minor (S1) solar radiation storms due to the flare potential of region #3685. Solar wind parameters should continue to decrease through the rest of today. Further enhancements to solar wind conditions are likely Sunday and Monday due to glancing influences of additional Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions should return later today as CME effects diminish. By Sunday and Monday, conditions are forecast to increase back to unsettled to active levels with a chance for minor (G1) geomagnetic storming due to glancing CME effects from the 5/15 and 5/17 CMEs. The overall space threat to Florida is very 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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