



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, September 28, 2024



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 1 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Cassi Farestvedt	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Karen Kozac	(850) 759-6226	Karen.Kozac@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer	Lauren Maheu	(448) 229-9425	lauren.maheu@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	Leon	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Wakulla, Leon	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Lafay, Suwan, Gilch, Lew	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 4: James Carter	Lafayette	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Lew	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Citrus	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Taylor	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Madison	Hurricane Helene Response
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Leon	Hurricane Helene Response



Region 9 coverage provided by Recovery Coordinator 9

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

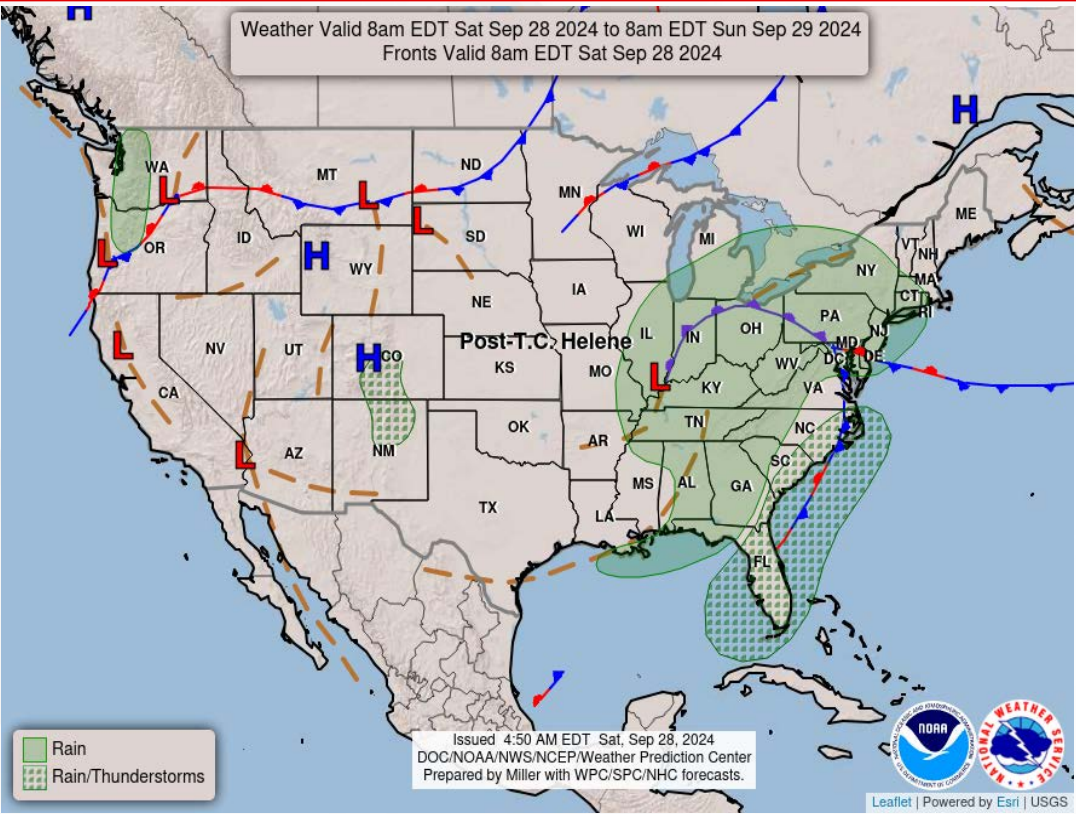
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Out of Region	Leave
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Suwannee	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Pinellas	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
RRCT Manager	In Region	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Taylor	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Leon	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Sarasota	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Hillsborough	Hurricane Helene Response / Recovery

Region 1 coverage provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

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

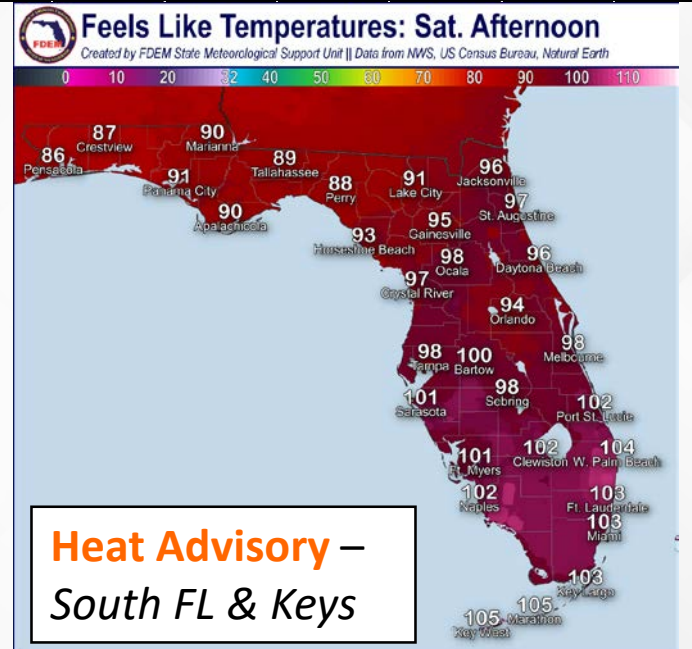
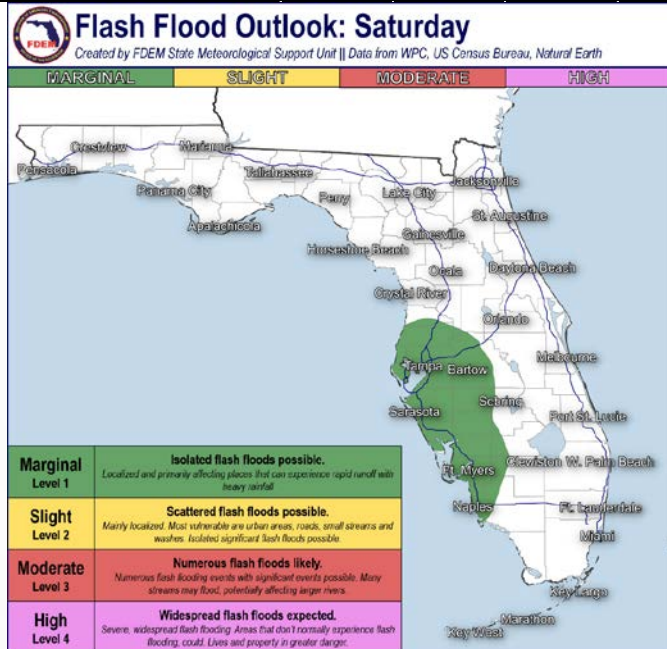


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning			L	L	M	M	M	M	M	L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Excessive Heat					L	L	L	M	M	M
Flash Flooding			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	
Riverine Flooding	L	M		L	L	L				
Coastal Flooding										
Rip Currents	H	H	H	M	M	H		H	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.28 ft. (0.48 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	82 (-68) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





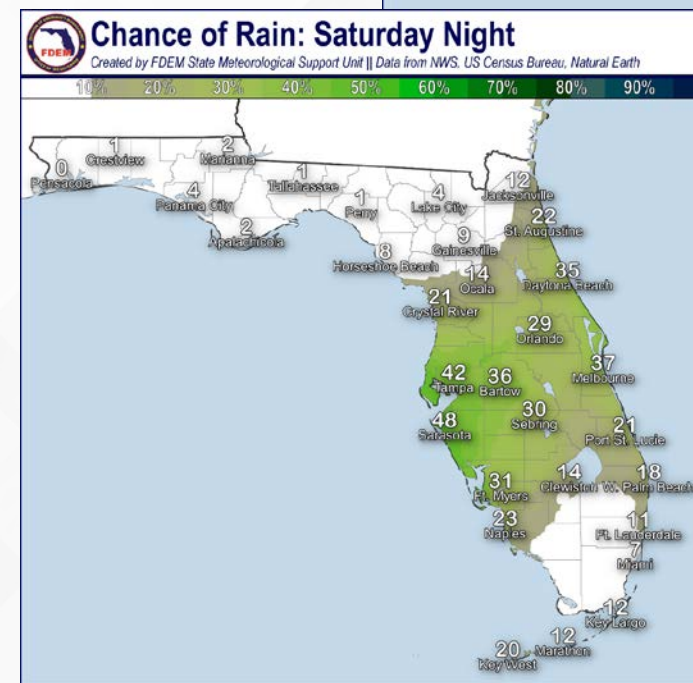
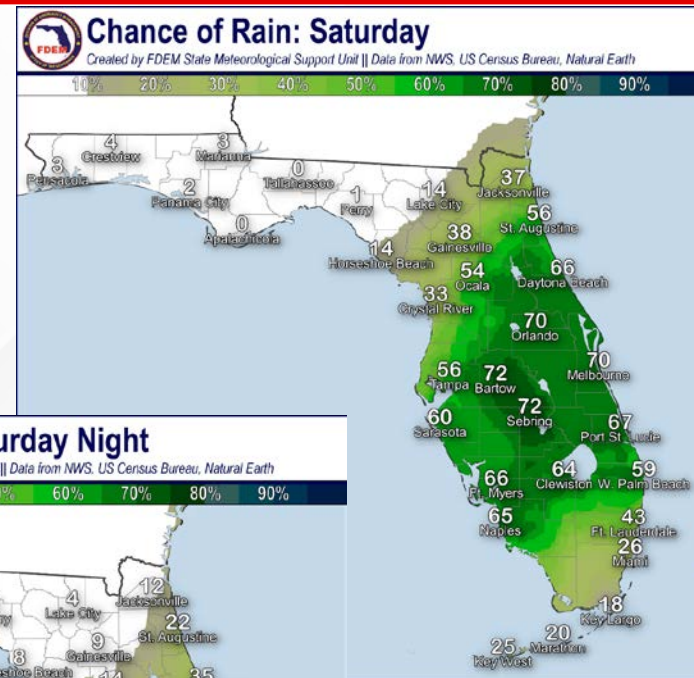
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Westerly to southwesterly flow across the state will pull in drier air into the Florida Panhandle and Western Suwannee Valley today, creating warm and sunny conditions with near-zero rain chances. Remnants of Helene will linger over Tennessee and Kentucky through the weekend and finally move into the Atlantic by Tuesday or Wednesday next week. A frontal boundary extends from these remnants and across the Northern Florida Peninsula near the I-4 corridor, where it will likely linger through the weekend. This frontal boundary will increase moisture across the region, combating the drier air filtering in and allowing for isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms today with the sea breezes (25-45% chance of rain). A moisture tail from the remnants of Helene remains draped across Central Florida and will give way to scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms this afternoon and evening (65-75% chance of rain). The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across portions of Southwest and West-Central Florida as additional rounds of heavy rainfall may be possible over saturated grounds. Drier air will also filter into South Florida and the Keys today; however, there is enough available moisture to allow for a few showers and thunderstorms this afternoon (25-45% chance of rain). **Locally strong thunderstorms** producing frequent lightning, gusty winds, and heavy downpours cannot be ruled out through the Peninsula during peak heating hours of the day.

High temperatures in the middle 80s to middle 90s can be expected across the Sunshine State today. Lingering moisture will allow **heat indices** to rise into the **upper 90s and triple digits (100-110)** through the Peninsula and Keys this afternoon. **Heat Advisories** will go into effect later this morning along Southeast Florida for **heat indices of 105-110** this afternoon. Breezy winds with **gusts near 15-25 mph** can be expected throughout the day, calming to 5-10 mph overnight.

Shower and thunderstorm activity will gradually dissipate through the evening and early overnight hours along the Peninsula (15-35% chance of rain) with a few lingering showers and embedded thunderstorms possible along coastlines into the overnight hours (35-50% chance of rain). Low temperatures will return to the upper 60s to middle 70s across North Florida, middle to upper 70s across Central Florida, and upper 70s to middle 80s across South Florida and the Keys overnight. With calm conditions developing overnight, areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** will be possible along the Peninsula overnight and early Sunday morning.





Tropical Weather

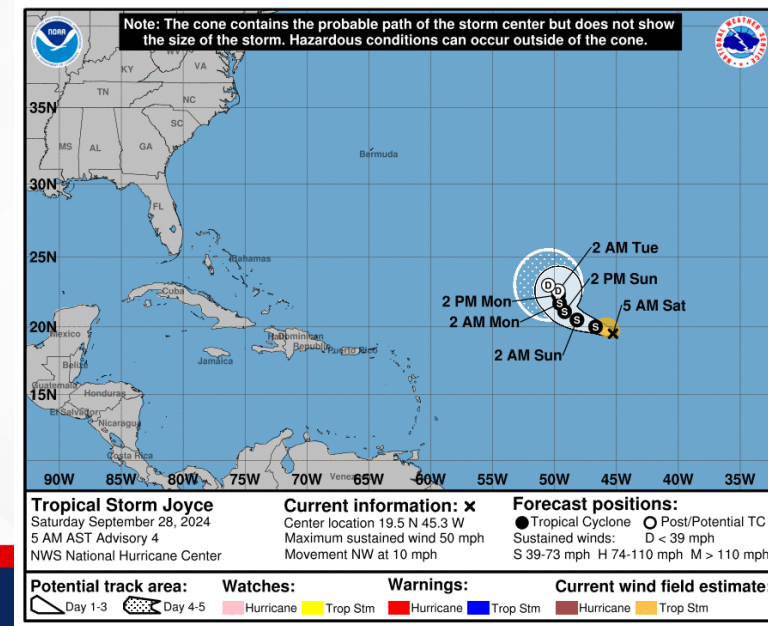
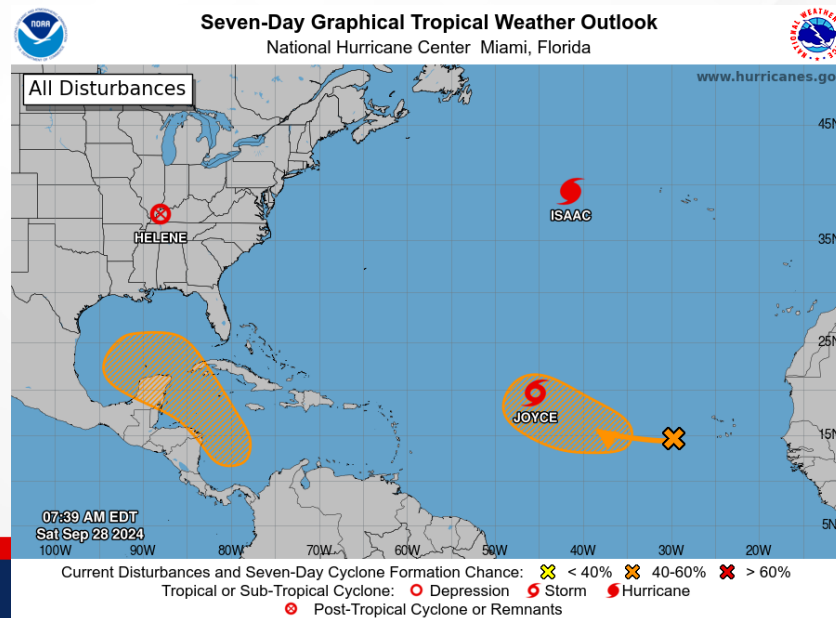
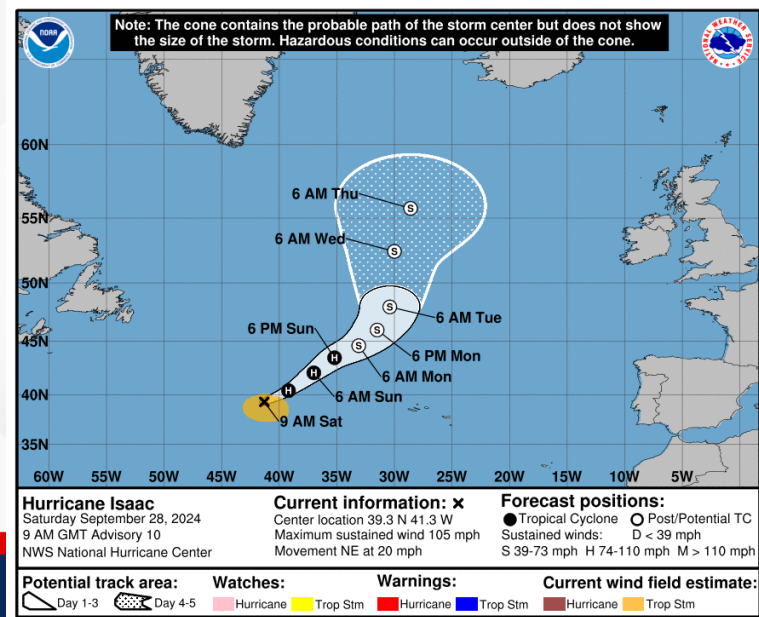
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Hurricane Isaac: As of 5:00 AM EDT, Hurricane Isaac is located about 785 miles west of the Azores and moving northeastward at 20 mph. This general motion should continue through Monday followed by a turn toward the north-northeast on Tuesday. Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 105 mph, making Issac a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Little change in strength is expected through mid-day, followed by gradual weakening through the remainder of the forecast period. Isaac is expected to be a post-tropical cyclone on Monday. *Isaac poses no threat to Florida.*

Tropical Storm Joyce: As of 5:00 AM EDT, Tropical Storm Joyce is located about 1165 miles east of the Northern Leeward Islands and moving northwestward at 10 mph. A west-northwestward to northwestward motion is expected through Sunday. A slow turn toward the northwest and north is forecast Sunday night and Monday. Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected today. Weakening is forecast to begin tonight or on Sunday, and Joyce could degenerate into a remnant low by early Tuesday. *Joyce poses no threat to Florida.*

Eastern and Central Tropical Atlantic: A broad and elongated area of low pressure, associated with a tropical wave, is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms near and to the west of the Cabo Verde Islands. Environmental conditions appear conducive for gradual development of this system, and a tropical depression could form during the early to middle part of next week while the system moves toward the west and then northwest across the eastern and central tropical Atlantic. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 7-10 days at least.* The NHC is outlooking a **low (20%) chance of development** over the next 48 hours, and a **medium (60%) chance of development** over the next 7 days.

Western Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico: An area of low pressure could form over the western Caribbean Sea in a few days. Environmental conditions are expected to be conducive for additional development thereafter while the system moves generally northwestward, and a tropical depression could form during the middle to latter part of next week as the system enters the Gulf of Mexico. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 5-7 days at least but will continue to be monitored.* The NHC is outlooking a **low (near 0%) chance of development** over the next 48 hours, and a **medium (40%) chance of development** over the next 7 days.



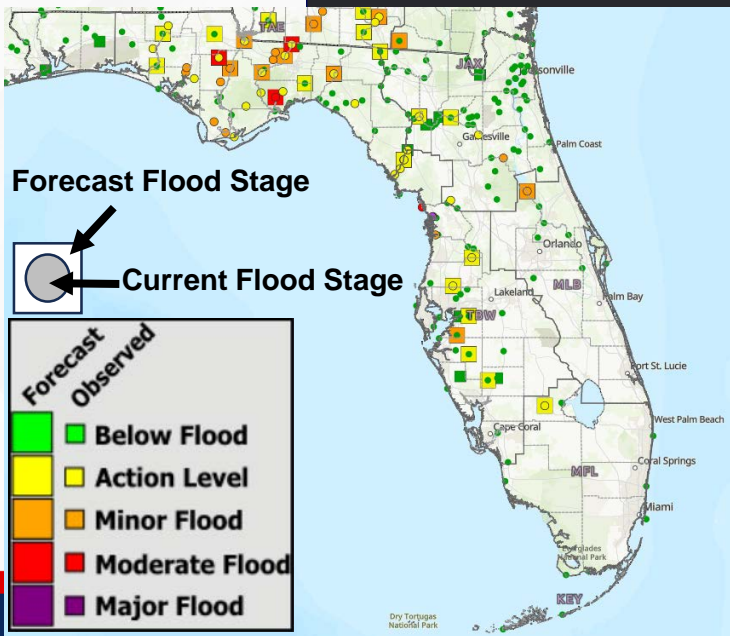
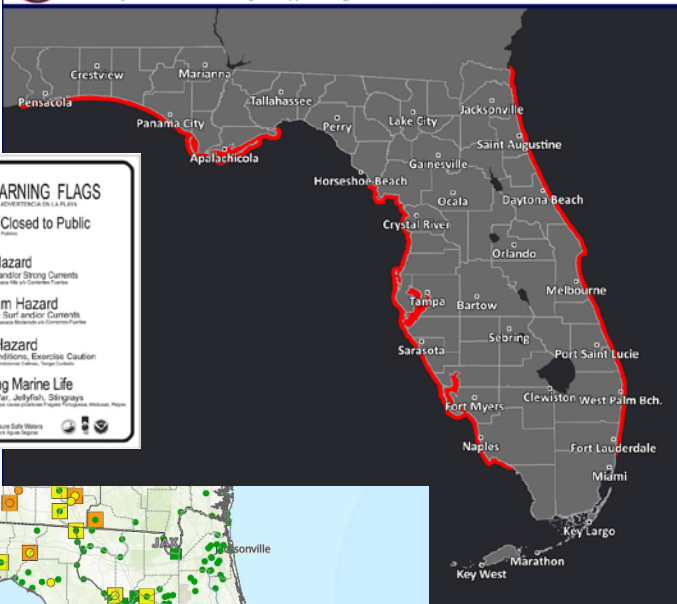


Coastal Hazards & Hydrology



Rip Current Risk: Saturday

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



Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** persists along beaches statewide today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: **High Surf Advisories** are in effect along portions of West-Central Florida until early this afternoon as lingering ocean swells allow **large breaking waves near 4-6'** to persist in the surf zone. **Wave heights** near 2-4' can be expected statewide this afternoon.

Red Tide has been observed at background to low concentrations in **11** samples collected from Southwest Florida (5 samples from Sarasota County, 3 sample from Pinellas County, 2 samples from Charlotte County, and 1 sample from Manatee County) over the past week (as of 9/20).

Coastal Flooding: Water levels along Florida Gulf Coast beaches and the Keys continue to gradually subside following impacts from Hurricane Helene. While coastal flooding is not anticipated elsewhere today, **elevated water levels** may linger near and during times of high tide along Florida Gulf Coast beaches as breezy winds and ocean swells linger in the wake of Helene.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across portions of Southwest and West-Central Florida today. A band of abundant moisture will yield scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms across Central Florida, some of which may be capable of producing locally heavy rainfall throughout the day. Locally heavy downpours along urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas and over saturated grounds may give way to localized instances of **flooding**. Coastal and low-lying areas along Florida's Gulf Coast will remain vulnerable to additional rounds of rainfall thanks to recent and lingering flooding and saturated grounds. Rainfall totals of 1-3" can be expected, and locally higher amounts upwards 4-7" cannot be ruled out, primarily in Southwest Florida.

Riverine Flooding: **River Flood Warnings** remain in effect along the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) as water levels very slowly decline but remain within **minor flood stage** due to trapped tides within the river basin. Tidal portions of the lower St. Johns River could fluctuate in between Action and **minor flood stage** due tide fluctuations. A **River Flood Warning** is in effect for the [Little Manatee River near Wimauma at US-301](#) with **minor flooding** forecast later this weekend due to recent heavy rainfall from Hurricane Helene. Numerous **River Flood Warnings** have also been issued across the Big Bend as water level rises have begun to rise from widespread heavy rainfall observed before and from Hurricane Helene. **Moderate flooding** is ongoing along the [Sopchoppy River near Sopchoppy](#) as water levels have recently crested and begun to gradually decline. Along the [Apalachicola River near Blountstown](#), water levels have reached **Minor Flood Stage** are expected to continue gradually rising into next week. Water levels along the [Chipola River near Altha \(CR-274\)](#) and the [Ochlockonee River near Concord \(CR-12\)](#) have risen into Action Stage (bank-full) and are forecast to continue gradually rising, reaching **Moderate Flood Stage** late this weekend or early next week. Water levels have risen into Action Stage along the [Chattahoochee River at George W. Andres Lock and Dam](#), [Aucilla River at Lamont \(US-27\)](#), [Apalachicola River at Woodruff Dam](#), and portions of the Ochlockonee River ([near Havana](#) and [near Bloxham](#)) and water levels are forecast to continue rising, reaching **Minor Flood Stage** later this weekend and into next week. Numerous other local river creeks, and waterways have seen water level rises in response to locally heavy rainfall and widespread rainfall from Hurricane Helene, with many within Action Stage to **Minor Flood Stage**. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.28 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.48 feet above normal for this time of year.



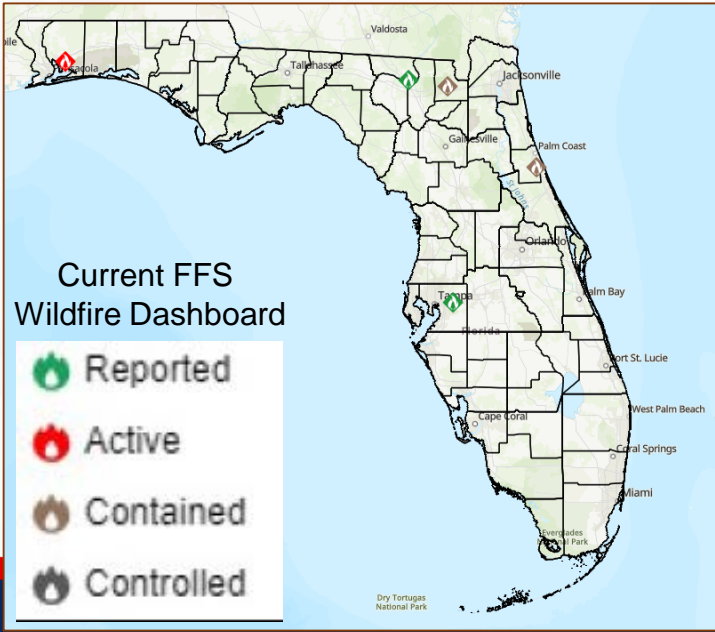
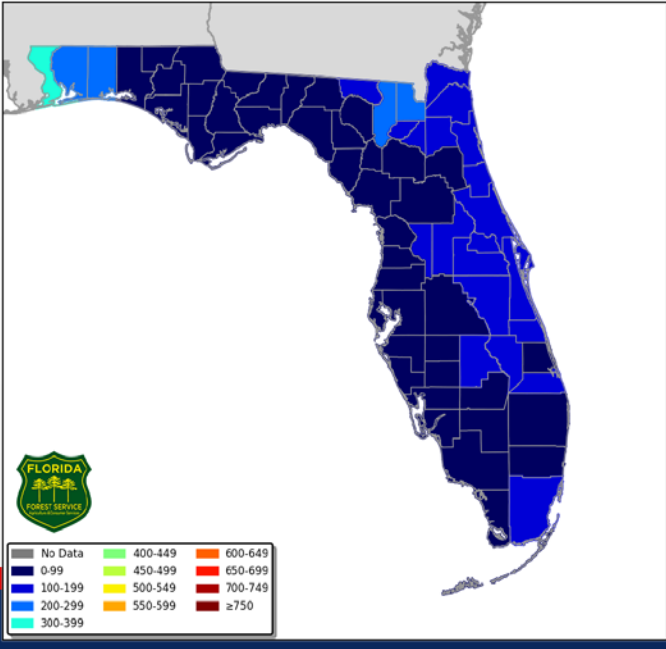
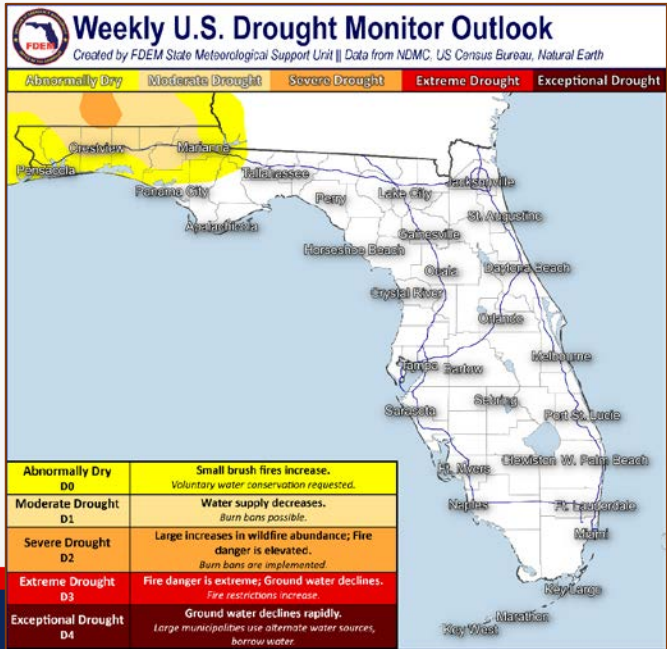
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: The overall wildfire threat remains low across the state thanks to recent widespread rainfall. Breezy westerly to southwesterly winds with **gusts near 15-25 mph** can be expected statewide throughout the day today. These winds will filter in drier air across North and South Florida throughout the day. Relative humidity values will generally remain above critical thresholds throughout the day. However, relative humidity values in the **45-60%** range along the Florida Panhandle may allow for **localized areas of sensitive wildfire conditions** where **moderate drought** conditions persist, and little rainfall has been observed recently. A band of moisture across Central Florida will allow for scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms this afternoon and evening. With calm conditions developing overnight, areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** and **low clouds** will be possible along the Peninsula overnight and early Sunday morning. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 5 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 4.75 acres.

Drought: Little change in drought conditions is shown on this week's Drought Monitor update (9/26). **Moderate Drought** conditions remain in place along and north of the I-10 corridor through the Panhandle with Abnormally Dry (emerging drought) conditions extending southward to the coast and along the I-10 corridor into the Big Bend. On the other hand, limited rainfall along the Florida East Coast has allowed Abnormally Dry conditions to remain in place along the I-95 corridor through Brevard County. Above normal temperatures and rainfall are expected over the next week.

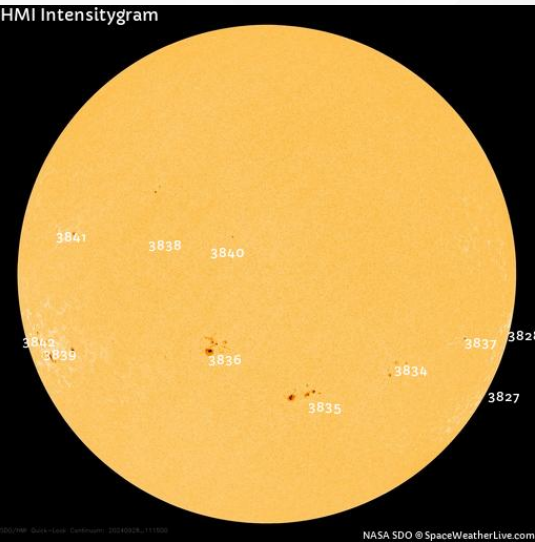
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **82 (-68)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **no** Florida Counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for September 27, 2024

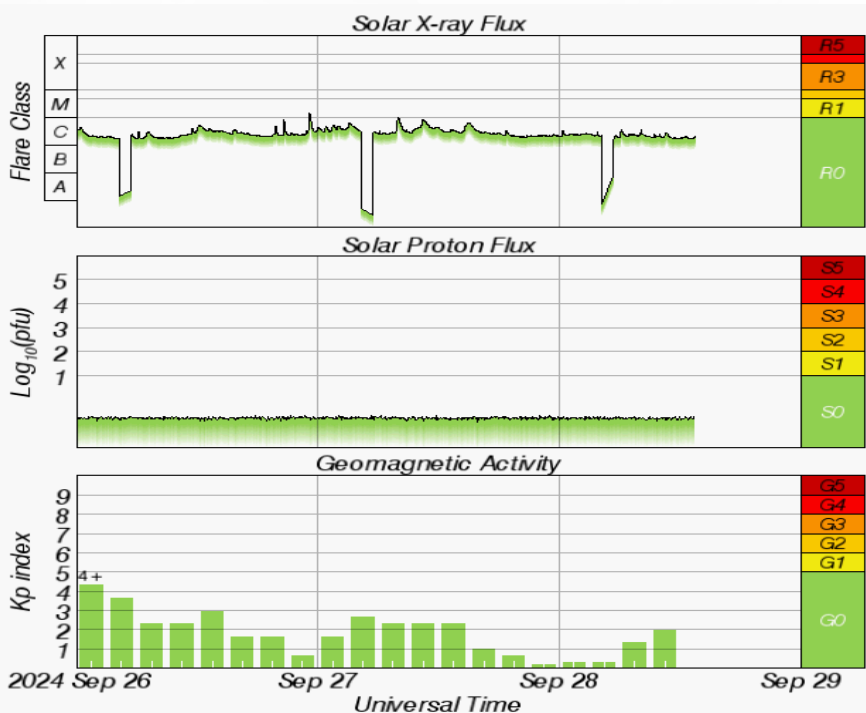
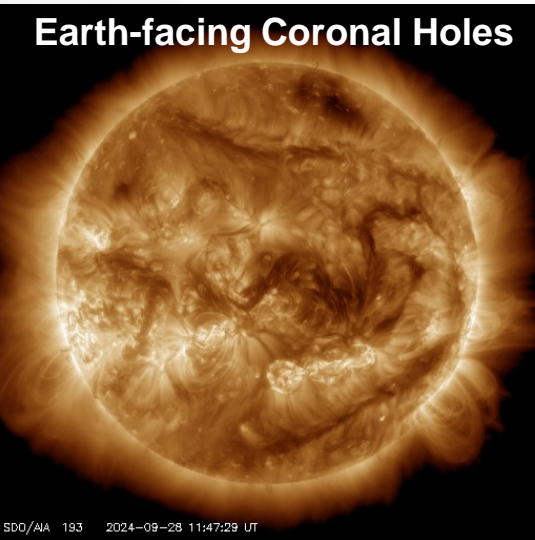




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 55%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C9 Solar Flare
X-class: 15%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
9/28	9/29
Max Kp= 2 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be low with strong (M-class) solar flares likely and a slight chance for significant (X-class) solar flares through the weekend. Sunspot #3836 contains a magnetic field that harbors energy for M-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will likely accompany M-class flare activity, and strong (R3) radio blackouts cannot be ruled out in the event of any X-class flares. Solar radiation storms are not anticipated over the next few days. Solar winds conditions will likely remain at or near background levels today with increases in magnetic field strength and wind speeds possible Sunday with a likely Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS). Mostly quiet geomagnetic conditions are expected today with active conditions forecast Sunday due to the anticipated influences of the CH HSS. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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:	MSAT 888-890-5178 or Iridium 480-263-8838	Operational	
Website:	http://www.floridadisaster.org	Operational	

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