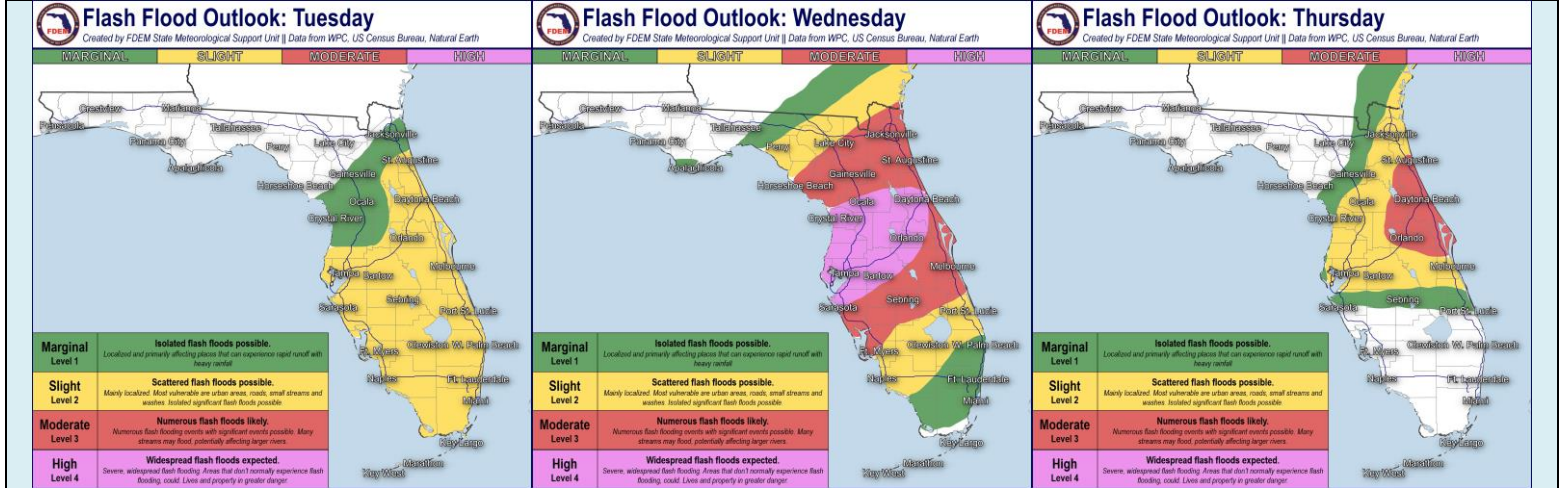


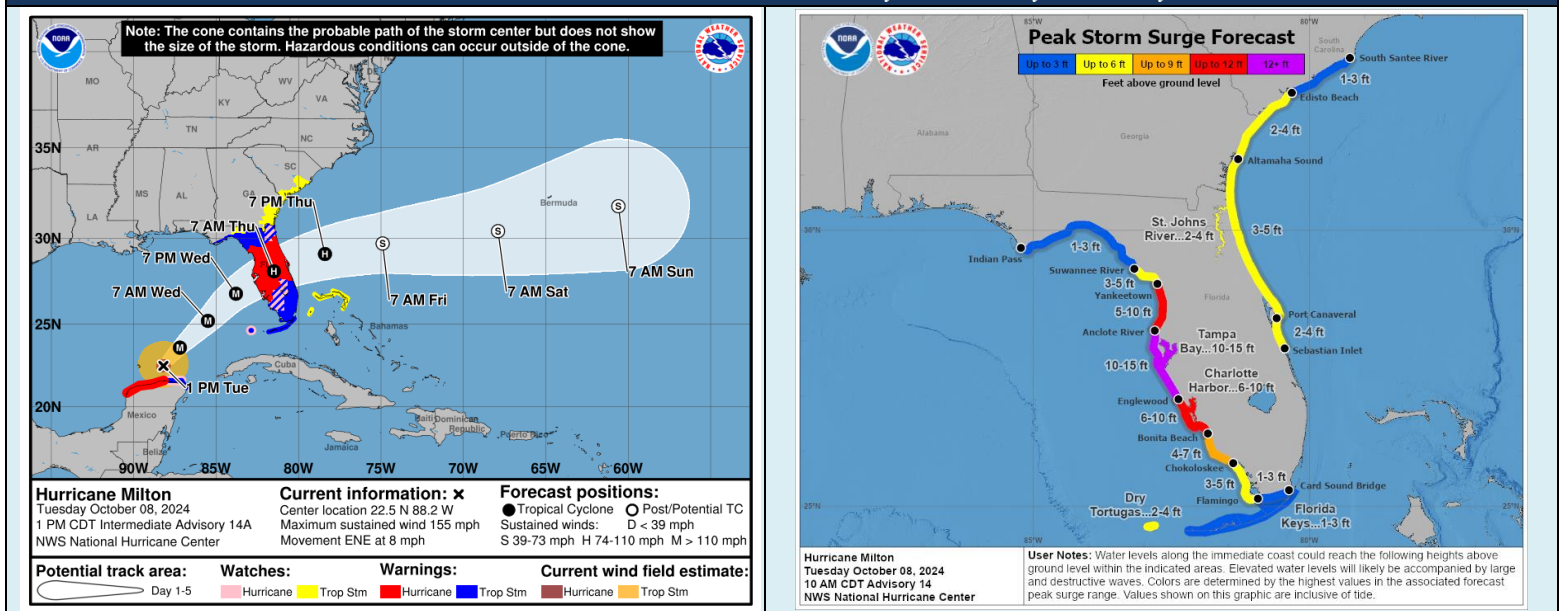
Tuesday, October 8, 2024

## 5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

No Threat			Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Flash Flooding	Excessive Heat	Coastal Flooding	River Flooding	Rip Currents
Tue	South FL N-Peninsula	S & W-Central FL (Overnight) Iso. N & E Peninsula	Locally Iso. Peninsula	Locally Peninsula Suwannee Valley	Far S Peninsula & Keys	Locally (Overnight) W Coast, St. Johns River Basin, & Keys	Locally Big Bend, N & Central Peninsula	Statewide Gulf Coast
Wed	Peninsula & Keys Big Bend	S & Central FL Iso. N-Peninsula	W-Central FL Central FL Peninsula Keys	I-4 Corridor & Nature Coast N & Cntrl Peninsula Peninsula S-Peninsula	Far S Peninsula & Keys	W-Central FL SW FL Forgotten Coast East Coast & Keys	Locally Big Bend, N & Central Peninsula	Statewide
Thu	NE FL Big Bend & Peninsula	Southern Peninsula	E-Central & Central FL Peninsula Big Bend & Keys	E I-10 Corridor N of Lake Okeechobee to NE FL	Far S Peninsula & Keys	Northeast & E-Central FL West Coast Big Bend	West-Central Florida Central Florida, St. Johns & Big Bend	Statewide
Fri	Locally Iso. E & S FL				Locally Iso. Keys	East Coast & St. Johns River West Coast	Central Florida Northeast Florida Big Bend	Statewide
Sat	Locally Iso. E & S FL				Locally Iso. Keys	St. Johns River Basin Peninsula	Central Florida Northeast Florida Big Bend	Statewide



## WPC Excessive Rainfall Outlook: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday



**...Major Hurricane Milton to Approach West-Central Florida Coast on Wednesday...Forecast to Bring Life-Threatening Storm Surge and Destructive Winds Across West Coast and through Peninsula...Milton Forecast to Make Landfall as Destructive Major Hurricane Then Continue Moving Inland Across Peninsula as a Hurricane Through Thursday...Tropical Storm and Hurricane Warnings in Effect Throughout the Peninsula and Northeast Florida...Storm Surge Warnings Along West Coast and Most of East Coast...Drier and Slightly Cooler Conditions Return Late this Week and Weekend In Wake of Milton...Widespread Rainfall to from I-4 Corridor and Northward...Rare High Risk for Flash Flooding on Wednesday...Moderate to Major Riverine Flooding...**

**Tuesday:**

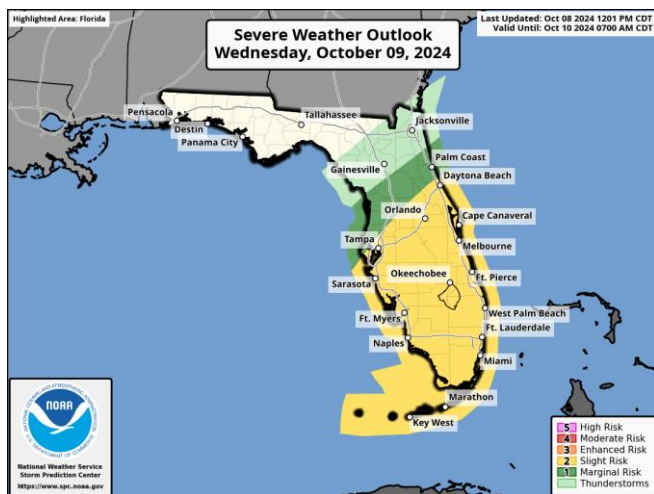
An upper-level disturbance offshore the Southeast Coast will, separate from Hurricane Milton, will continue to shift off to the east today; however, an associated frontal boundary draped across South Florida will maintain a relatively wet and active weather pattern through South and Central Florida (50-85% chance of rain). Another frontal boundary moving into North Florida today will create isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms across Northeast Florida and the Nature Coast (15-45% chance of rain). The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** throughout much of the Peninsula and towards Northeast Florida today with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending into southern portions of the Suwannee Valley and farther into Northeast Florida due to additional heavy downpours over saturated grounds increasing the **risk for localized flash flooding**. **Flood Watches** are in effect along much of the Peninsula due to anticipated heavy rainfall. Drier conditions can be anticipated along the Florida Panhandle and into the Suwannee Valley thanks to the incoming frontal boundary (near 0-15% chance of rain).

High pressure to the north and Milton to the south will produce breezy winds with **gusts upwards of 15-30 mph** today into tonight. High temperatures will remain in the 80s across the state. **Tropical Storm** and **Hurricane Watches and Warnings** have been issued through the Peninsula, Keys, and Forgotten Coast ahead of Milton with **Storm Surge Warnings** issued along the West Coast and **Storm Surge Watches** along portions of the Northeast and Central-East Coasts as conditions are expected to begin deteriorating across portions of the state late today and Wednesday.

Drier conditions can be expected along the Florida Panhandle and portions of the Suwannee Valley overnight (near 0-15% chance of rain). Isolated to scattered showers and rumbles of thunder can be expected to continue overnight across the Northern Peninsula (15-35% chance of rain). Shower and thunderstorm activity will likely drop off in the early overnight hours; however, increases in rain chances are possible late tonight as outer bands from Milton may begin to affect the Florida Peninsula and Keys (40-70% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** across South and West-Central Florida as isolated tropical tornadoes will be possible within any of Milton's outer bands that move across the state overnight.



Drier air and clearer skies will allow low temperatures to fall back into the middle 60s to low 70s along the Florida Panhandle and across the Suwannee Valley overnight. The rest of the Peninsula will remain in the 70s through the overnight hours with low 80s along the Keys. Areas of **patchy fog** and **low clouds** may develop tonight and early Wednesday morning along portions of the Peninsula.



### Wednesday-Thursday:

The upper-level disturbance ahead of Major Hurricane Milton will move across the southern Peninsula and reach the western Atlantic waters allowing for scattered showers and thunderstorms ahead of Milton's arrival. Outer rainbands from Milton will continue to move towards the Florida Peninsula and onshore, bringing scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms. As well, **isolated tropical tornadoes** will be possible within these outer bands and the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is

outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across the Florida Peninsula from the I-4 corridor through the Florida Keys, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending just north of the I-4 corridor on Wednesday. Major Hurricane Milton will continue to approach the Florida West-Central coast through Wednesday evening and overnight, making landfall somewhere along the West-Central coast late Wednesday evening. **Hurricane and Tropical Storm Warnings** remain in effect from Northeast Florida and portions of the Big Bend and throughout the Peninsula. **Storm Surge Warnings** remain in effect along the West Coast and the Northeast and Space Coast, with a **Storm Surge Watch** along portions of the Space Coast as well. Milton will continue to maintain hurricane strength as it crosses the Florida Peninsula and moves along the I-4 corridor through overnight Wednesday and into Thursday. Widespread rainfall can be expected with Milton, with the highest rainfall totals forecast to be along the northern and western side of the system. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **rare High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the I-4 corridor and into Nature Coast, with the **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4)** extending from Northeast Florida and just north of Lake Okeechobee on Wednesday due to the potential for flash and areal flooding due to rainfall from Milton.

Milton will then move along the eastern Peninsula and then re-emerge off the East Coast Thursday afternoon before gaining forward speed and moving away from the coast Thursday evening and overnight. Lingering outer bands on the backside of Milton will create the potential for additional **isolated tropical tornadoes** on Thursday. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is maintaining a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the Treasure Coast through South Florida on Thursday. On the backside of the system, drier conditions will filter in and move in from west to east as the system continues to move northeastward. A **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is being outlooked along the East-Central Florida coast and along the eastern I-4 corridor on Thursday, with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along Northeast Florida through West-Central Florida and the I-4 corridor.

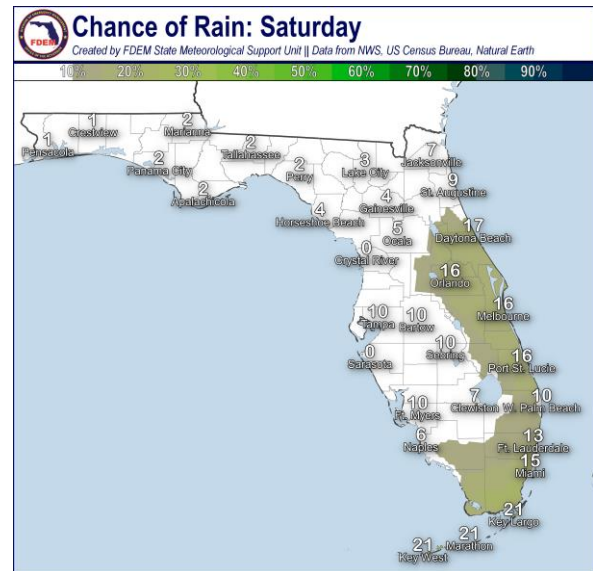
High temperatures will remain in the upper 70s to low 80s across North Florida and into Central Florida towards the I-4 corridor, with high temperatures in the middle to upper 80s south of the I-4 corridor. Low temperatures will be in the middle to upper 60s and low 70s across North Florida, middle 70s across Central Florida and upper 70s to low 80s across South Florida and the Keys. The drier air beginning to filter into the Milton on the backside and through the Panhandle Thursday evening. Low temperatures will fall into the upper 50s to low 60s across North Florida, middle 60s to low 70s across Central Florida and low to middle 70s across South Florida and the Keys.





## Friday – Saturday:

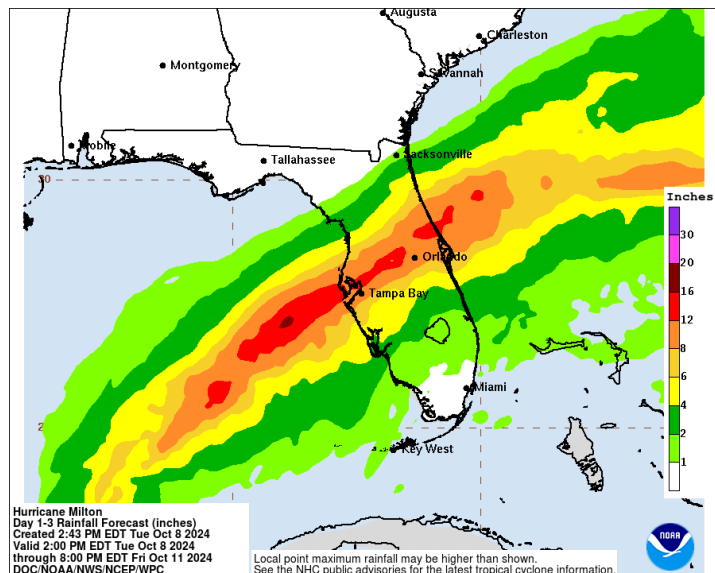
In the wake Major Hurricane Milton, drier conditions will develop across the Southeast U.S. and extend into Florida at the end of the week and heading into the weekend. High pressure will develop and sink into the Southeast U.S. from the Northeast U.S. bringing much drier conditions throughout the state. A few trailing showers may linger along portions of the East Coast on Friday morning, but any rainfall will remain light and brief (20-25% chance of rain). By Saturday, mostly dry conditions return statewide (5-15% chance of rain). **Breezy wind gusts of 15-20 mph** will continue to persist throughout the state on Friday, with **stronger wind gusts upwards of 25 mph** along East-Central Florida. Wind gusts will then decrease to **15-20 mph** across the Peninsula as calmer conditions begin to return across the Panhandle.



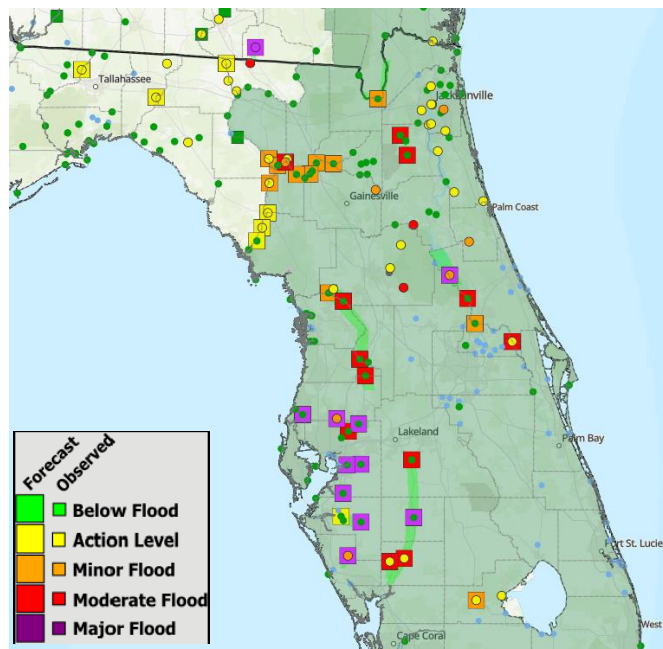
High temperatures will reach the middle 70s to low 80s across North and Central Florida, while high temperatures in the middle 80s can be expected across South Florida on Friday. High temperatures will gradually return to the low to middle 80s across the state on Saturday. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 50s across North Florida, middle to upper 60s across Central Florida and low 70s across South Florida Friday night. Similar conditions can be expected overnight Saturday with slightly warmer conditions in the low to middle 70s across South Florida.

## Hydrology & Flooding:

Widespread heavy rainfall can be expected to continue today ahead of the outer bands of Milton, and the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** throughout much of the Peninsula and Keys and into Northeast Florida today with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending into Nature Coast and farther into Northeast Florida. **Flood Watches** also extend throughout the Peninsula as periods of heavy rainfall ahead of Milton will be likely through the middle of the week, then additional heavy rainfall associated with Milton can be expected. Already saturated grounds will continue to see additional rainfall throughout the day, especially across large metropolitan areas, which will increase the potential for **localized flash flooding** concerns. Heavy and intense downpours will lead to instances of **localized flooding** at times, especially those with any ponding effects. Any training or multiple rounds of shower and thunderstorm activity over the same areas will also increase the potential for **localized flash flooding**. Saturated grounds from the pre-rainfall event ahead of Milton will increase the potential for additional **areal and flash flooding** as the system moves toward and across the Florida West Coast. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has issued a rare **High Risk (level 4 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the I-4 corridor and northward through the Nature Coast for Wednesday



as Milton approaches the west coast of Florida and moves onshore. A **Moderate Risk (level 3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** spreads across much of North and Central Florida Wednesday with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** extending into portions of the Northwestern Peninsula and into South Florida. A **Slight to Moderate Risk (level 2-3 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is maintained north of Lake Okeechobee through Central Florida and into Northeast Florida Thursday as Milton makes its way off the Florida East Coast. Widespread rainfall totals near 5-10" with **locally higher totals in excess of 15"** are possible across portions of the Peninsula; *however, rainfall totals heavily tied to the eventual track and forward speed of the system.* There is no organized risk for flash flooding Friday or Saturday as dry conditions are expected to return with only a few isolated showers and thunderstorms along the Eastern Peninsula and Keys; however, any locally heavy rainfall over already saturated grounds across the Peninsula could give way to additional instances of **flooding** or **exacerbate existing flood conditions**. For the latest Flash Flood Outlooks, please visit the [Weather Prediction Center](#).



A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect along the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) as water levels will remain within **Minor Flood Stage** over the next several days, rising into **Moderate Flood Stage** later this week as heavy rainfall occurs over trapped water levels within the basin. As flood waters from the Georgie headwaters continue to travel down the basins, additional **minor riverine flooding** will be possible along lower portions of the Suwannee River by late this week or this weekend. Backwater flooding is forecast along lower portions of the Santa Fe with the [Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates](#) already experiencing **minor flooding** and expected to reach **Moderate Flood Stage** by next weekend. Numerous **River Flood Warnings** have been issued for **minor to moderate flooding** along North and West-Central Florida rivers, creeks, and waterways (including portions of the [Manatee River](#), [Myakka River](#), [Hillsborough River](#), Peace

River [at SR-60 Bartow](#) and [at SR-70 Arcadia](#), [Horse Creek](#), [Fisheating Creek](#), and [North Fork](#) and [South Fork Black Creek](#)) with widespread rainfall anticipated over the next few days. The [Alafia River at Riverview near US-301](#) and [at Lithia Pinecrest](#), [Peace River at Zolfo Springs](#), [Cypress Creek at SR-54](#), and [Little Manatee River near Wimauma at US-301](#) is forecast to reach **Major Flood Stage** by mid-to-late this week. Additional **River Flood Warnings** will likely be issued over the next few days with numerous other rivers, creeks, and waterways forecast to reach **minor to moderate flood stage**. For more details, please visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.57 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.58 feet above normal.

### Tropical Outlook:

**Major Hurricane Milton:** As of 2:00 PM EDT, Major Hurricane Milton is located about 520 miles southwest of Tampa, Florida and moving east-northeastward at 8 mph. A turn toward the northeast with an increase in forward speed is expected to begin later today and continue through Thursday. On the forecast track, the center of Milton will move across the eastern Gulf of Mexico and approach the west-central coast of Florida through Wednesday. The center is likely to make landfall along the west-central coast of Florida on Wednesday night, and move east-northeastward across central Florida through Thursday. Aircraft reconnaissance data and satellite images indicate that maximum sustained



winds have increased to near 155 mph with higher gusts, making Milton and extremely dangerous category 4 hurricane. While fluctuations in intensity are expected, Milton is forecast to remain an extremely dangerous hurricane through landfall. *Devastating hurricane-force winds are expected along portions of the west coast of Florida. Milton is forecast to remain a hurricane as it crosses the Florida Peninsula and life-threatening hurricane-force winds, especially in gusts, are expected to spread inland across the Peninsula. Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for West-Central Florida.*

**Tropical Storm Leslie:** As of 11:00 AM EDT, Leslie is located about 1435 miles west-northwest of the southernmost Cabo Verde Islands and moving northwestward near 13 mph. This general motion is expected today, followed by a turn toward the north late Wednesday and to the northeast by Friday. Maximum sustained winds remain near 70 mph with higher gusts. Little significant change in strength is forecast during the next 48 hours. *Leslie poses no direct threat to Florida.*

**Southwestern Atlantic:** A broad area of low pressure has formed near the Bahamas and is expected to move northeastward into the southwestern Atlantic later today. Some additional development of this system is possible during the next day or so while the low moves northeastward to east-northeastward around 15 mph. Upper-level winds are likely to increase later in the week, which should limit further development. The NHC is outlooking a **low (20%) chance of development** over the next 48 hours, and a **low (20%) chance of development** over the next 7 days.

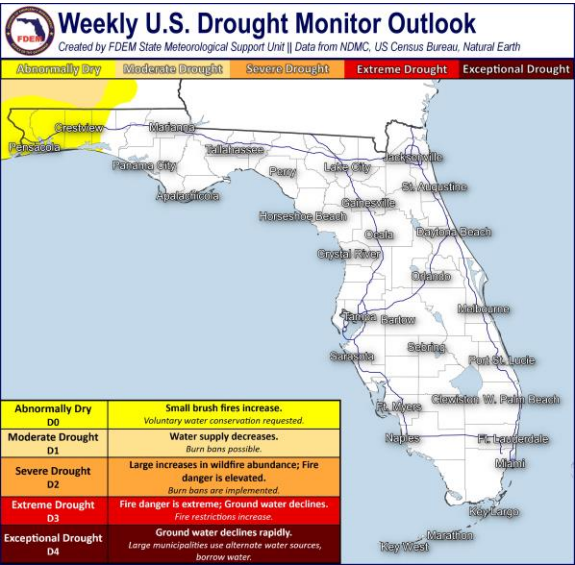
**Eastern Tropical Atlantic:** A tropical wave is expected to move off the west coast of Africa in a couple days. Afterward, environmental conditions appear only marginally favorable for some limited development of this system while it moves westward or west-northwestward across the eastern tropical Atlantic, moving near the Cabo Verde Islands on Thursday or early Friday. The NHC is outlooking a **low (near 0%) chance of development** over the next 48 hours, and a **low (20%) chance of development** over the next 7 days. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida through the next 7-10 days at least.*

For more details, please visit the [National Hurricane Center](#).

**Drought & Fire Weather:**

Major Hurricane Helene brought widespread heavy rainfall totals across the state, largely eliminating drought and dry conditions. Improvements were made to this week's [drought monitor](#) (10/3) as moderate drought conditions were removed completely along the western Florida Panhandle. Abnormally dry conditions (*emerging drought*) persist through western Walton County as long-term drought conditions still linger from drier conditions during the late summer months. While computer forecast models this morning show much of the tropically-induced rainfall residing along and south of the I-4 corridor through the forecast period, the continued wet and unsettled weather pattern will continue to reduce the level of soil/vegetative dryness throughout the western Florida Panhandle.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **99 (-38)** 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).





Tropical moisture will continue to allow for relative humidity values to remain above critical thresholds across the Peninsula and Keys over the next 5 days. Drier air along the Florida Panhandle will allow minimum relative humidity values to dip into the **40-60%** range in the afternoons. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** may be possible along the Panhandle where abnormally dry conditions persist. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 2 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 0.00 acres (as of 6:06 AM EDT).

### Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast today as ocean swells and breezy winds continue to develop. An **elevated risk for rip currents** can be expected to develop along West Coast beaches throughout the day as conditions gradually deteriorate. A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected statewide Wednesday and Thursday. A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** will likely return along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast Friday and Saturday as wave heights and breezy winds dissipate with a low to **moderate risk** along the West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Dangerous beach and boating conditions** will develop statewide throughout the day today and into Wednesday as breezy winds will continue to build ocean swells along the Florida East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico and Milton approaches. **High Surf Advisories** have been issued for numerous East Coast beaches as **large breaking waves of 7-13'** are expected this evening through Thursday afternoon, at least. Ocean swells will likely begin to dissipate by late this week or early this weekend; however, dangerously large breaking waves can continue to be expected. Florida Panhandle and West Coast beaches can expect afternoon **wave heights of 3-5'** to build to **4-7'** by early Wednesday morning with **higher breaking waves upwards of 8-12'** further offshore in the surf and along the Lower Keys. Dangerous surf and beach conditions can be expected across the Florida West Coast, including the Panhandle and Big Bend, as Major Hurricane Milton continues to move towards the West Coast on Wednesday and into Wednesday night. **Wave heights of 8-12'** can be expected for Panhandle and Big Bend beaches, with larger **breaking waves upwards of 10-20'** can be expected further offshore. West Coast beaches can expect to see widespread **wave heights of 10-20'** along the coast, with locally higher waves of 25-35' along the West-Central and Southwest coastlines as Milton approaches. Strong onshore winds along the East Coast will allow for large and dangerous **ocean swells of 8-12'** for the Florida East Coast. Once Milton crosses over the Florida Peninsula and re-emerges along the Florida East Coast and western Atlantic waters will allow for dangerous **ocean swells of 9-15'** to develop, with **locally higher totals upwards of 15-25'** possible for the First and Space Coast. Elevated ocean swells on both coasts. Ocean swells will continue to linger through the end of the week and heading into the weekend as they slowly decline in the wake of Milton. Drier conditions and high pressure over the Southeast U.S. will allow for wave heights to slowly decline through the end of the week and into the weekend, but elevated surf will continue. **Wave heights of 3-5'** can be expected to linger along the Florida West and Gulf Coast, while **wave heights of 7-10'** continue for numerous East Coast beaches.

The combination of persistent onshore flow and the approach of the King Tide cycle mid-October will continue to elevate Northeast Florida water levels for tidal locations this weekend and next week. **Minor coastal flooding** will be possible around times of high tide along the St. Johns River basin today thanks to breezy winds and ocean swells. Additional instances of **elevated tides** and localized **minor coastal flooding** cannot be ruled out elsewhere with breezy winds and ocean swells developing. Heading into the next week, increased tides can be expected to develop due to King Tides along much of South Florida and the East Coast. **Coastal Flood Watches** have been issued along the Florida Keys due to the potential for **major saltwater flooding of 1-3'** above normally dry ground Wednesday morning through Thursday afternoon due to Milton approaching the Florida West Coast. **Storm Surge Warnings** have been issued along the Florida West Coast ahead of Milton as a large area of destructive storm surge will occur along parts of the west coast of Florida on Wednesday. **Storm Surge Watches** are in effect along the Northeast and Central-East Coasts. **10-15' of peak storm surge** is forecast from the Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County Line) to Englewood (Sarasota/Charlotte County Line),



including Tampa Bay with **6-10'** forecast from Englewood (Sarasota/Charlotte County Line) to Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County Line), including Charlotte Harbor. Given the forecast angle of approach and size and strength of Milton at landfall, higher storm surge totals cannot be ruled out within Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor as water is funneled into the basin and trapped by strong onshore winds. Yankeetown (Levy/Citrus County Line) to Anclote River (Pasco/Pinellas County Line) is forecast to see **5-10' of peak storm surge** while Bonita Beach (Lee/Collier County Line) to Chokoloskee (Collier/Monroe County Line) is anticipated to see **4-7' of storm surge**. Suwannee River to Yankeetown and Chokoloskee to Flamingo is forecast to see **3-5' peak storm surge**. *Surge values will be dependent on the future path of Milton and its approach to the Florida West Coast, and updates to the forecast can be expected.* **Moderate to major coastal impacts/erosion** along both the West and East Coast of Florida can be anticipated with Milton as it approaches the coast and moves across the Peninsula Wednesday and Thursday due to dangerous surf, onshore winds and storm surge.

**Red Tide** has been observed in **22** samples collected from Southwest Florida over the past week (as of 10/4). Background to **high concentrations** were observed in and offshore of Pinellas County and background concentrations were observed in Sarasota County. Respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide was reported in Southwest Florida over the last week.

As of 10/3, **Blue-Green Algae** was observed on satellite imagery, although partially obscured by cloud cover, at scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** concentrated along the western shore of Lake Okeechobee. Partially obscured satellite imagery of the St. Johns River showed **moderate bloom potential** on northern Lake George, with scattered low to moderate bloom potential on the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Shands Bridge. Satellite imagery showed no bloom potential in visible portions of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

[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](#)

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For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful rest of the week!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

