



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

Thursday, October 31, 2024



# State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



# SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Amy Godsey	(850) 519-8483	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	<a href="mailto:Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com">Sam.Walters@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	Daniel Leader	(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	Jim Lawhon	(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	Karen Kozac	(850) 759-6226	<a href="mailto:Karen.Kozac@em.myflorida.com">Karen.Kozac@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:Brandon.Gore@flhealth.gov">Brandon.Gore@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
<b>Region 1:</b> Jim Roberts	Gadsden	Aircraft Exercise Meeting / Response Coordinator Meeting (V)
<b>Region 2:</b> Willie Bouie	Jackson, Gadsden	EM Visits / Response Coordinator Meeting
<b>Region 3:</b> Glen Hammers	Taylor	EM Visits / Response Coordinator Meeting
<b>Region 4:</b> James Carter	Duval	End of Month Admin / Response Coordinator Meeting
<b>Region 5:</b> Austin Beeghly	Orange, Seminole	Milton Support / New Vehicles Handoff
<b>Region 6:</b> Paul Siddall	Orange, Pinellas	Milton Response / New Vehicle Pickup
<b>Region 7:</b> Cristian Rivera	Hillsborough	Executive Director Support
<b>Region 8:</b> Mason Kozac	Indian River	Milton Support
<b>Region 9:</b> Theresa Hendry	Lee, Hendry	Milton Response / Executive Director Support
<b>Region 10:</b> Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade, Orange	New Vehicle Pickup



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

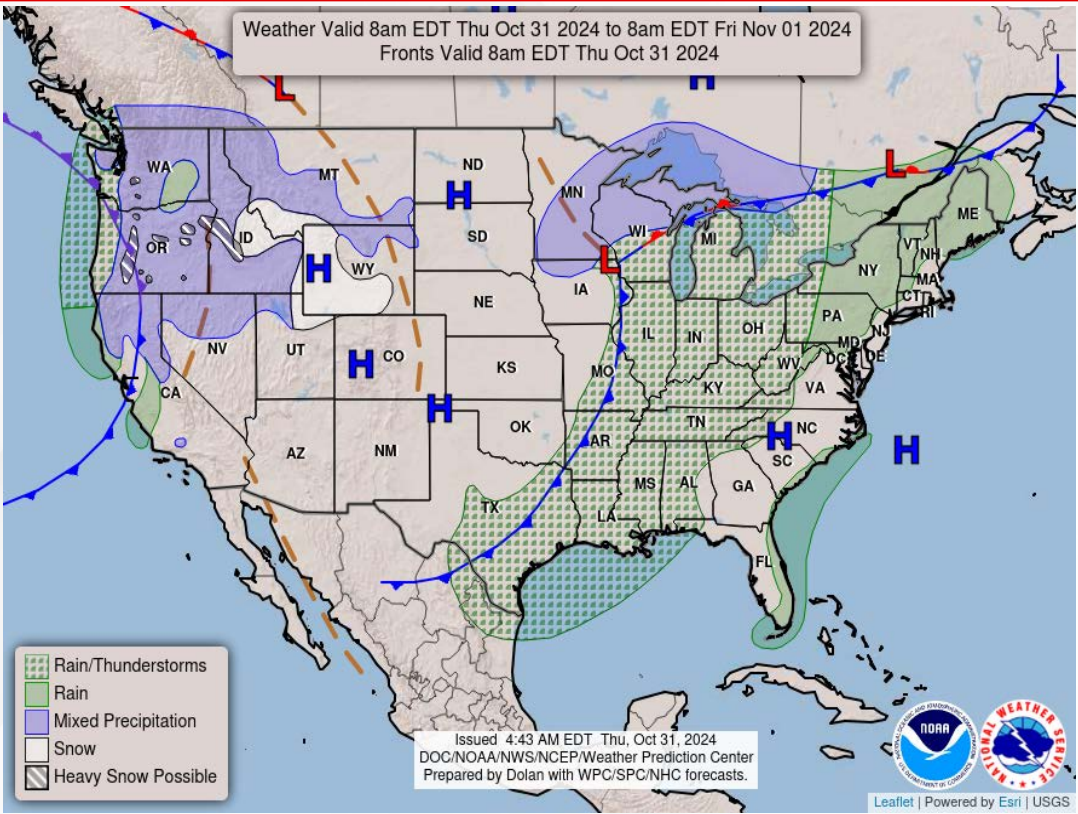
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Washington	Exercise Planning Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	Hurricane Helene/Milton Recovery
Region 3: Patrick James	Taylor	Hurricane Milton Mitigation / Recovery Road Show
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Sarasota	Hurricane Milton Mitigation / Recovery Road Show
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Brevard	NWS Melbourne Meeting
RRCT Manager	Sarasota	Hurricane Milton Mitigation / Recovery Road Show
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Polk	Hurricane Helene/Milton Recovery
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Hurricane Helene/Milton Recovery
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	In Region	Hurricane Helene/Milton Recovery
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Sarasota	Hurricane Milton Mitigation / Recovery Road Show

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



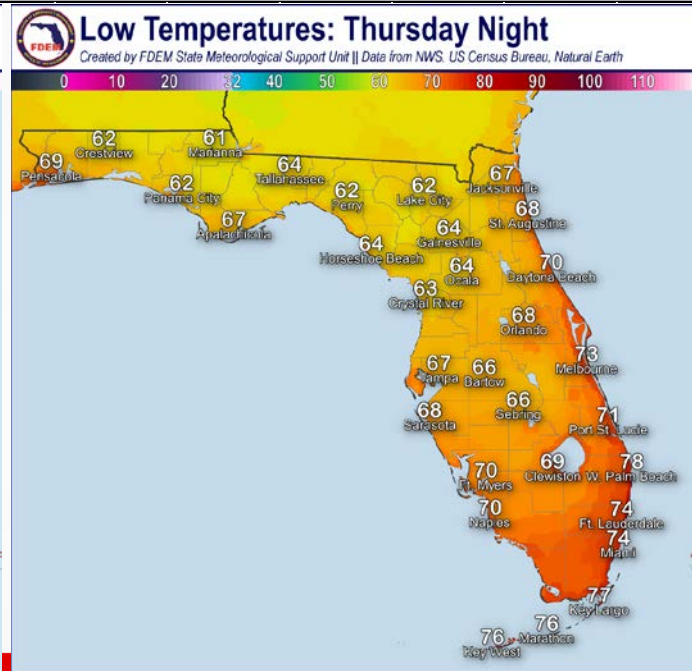
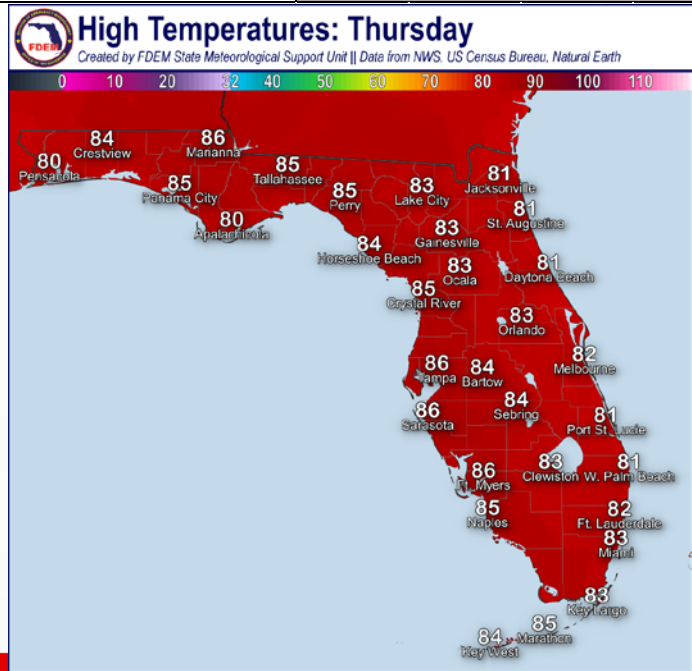


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Coastal Flooding				L						
Riverine Flooding				M	M	H	L			
Fog (Overnight)										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	16.10 ft. (1.07 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	267 (+10) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





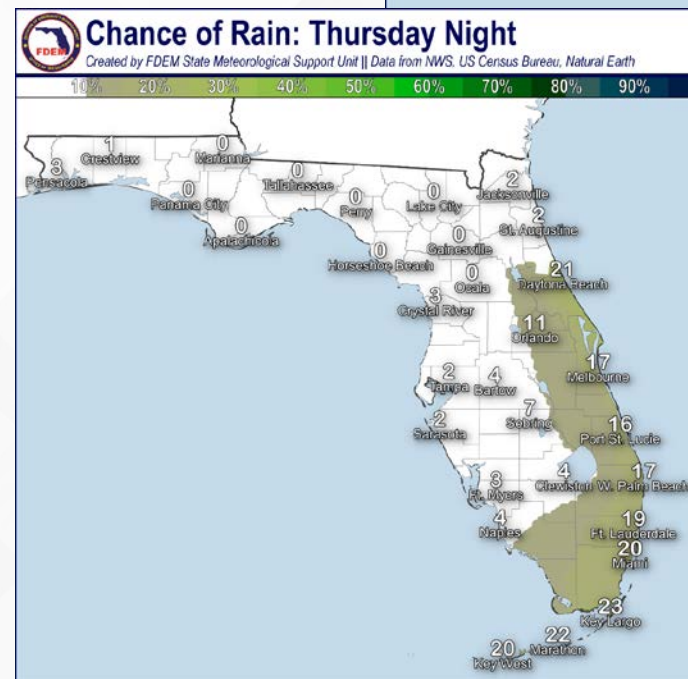
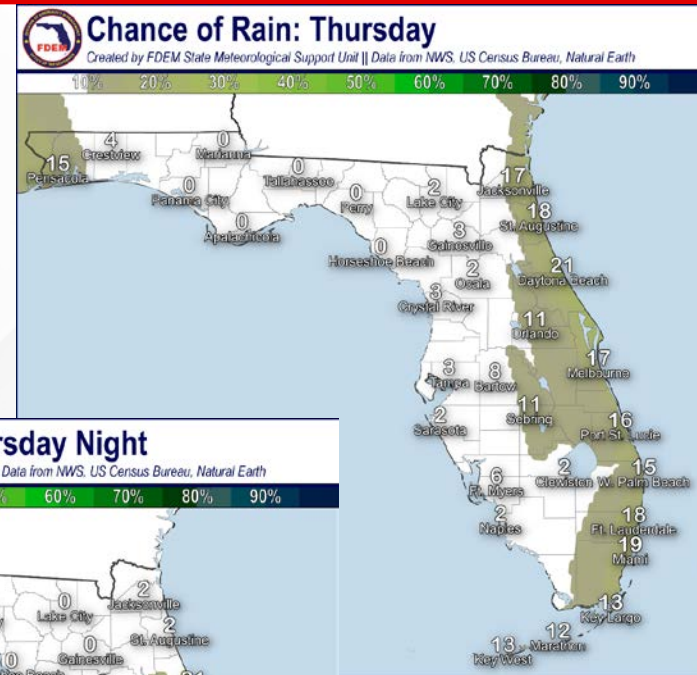
# Meteorology Summary

## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A cold front over the Central U.S. will push into the Eastern U.S. today before dissipating, weakening and pushing the area of high pressure extending across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast U.S. to the east over the Western Atlantic. Despite these influences from the cold front, mostly dry conditions are expected to persist across the state. Breezy onshore winds will bring isolated showers onshore along the Florida East Coast, moving inland throughout the day, but drier air aloft will keep activity light and brief (10-20% chance of rain). A few isolated showers and thunderstorms may manage to make their way into the Western Panhandle ahead of the approaching cold front before it begins to dissipate this evening (5-15% chance of rain). Although relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds along the Panhandle, **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will remain possible throughout the afternoon due to the lack of rainfall and dry grounds.

Easterly to southeasterly winds near 10-20 mph will persist across much of the state throughout the day with **wind gusts reaching upwards of 15-25 mph** along the Peninsula and Keys and **near 10-20 mph** elsewhere. High temperatures will remain **reasonable to above normal** for this time of year, reaching the low to middle 80s across the state. *Please keep in mind heat safety when out in the field by taking breaks from direct sunlight and drinking plenty of water.*

Mostly dry conditions can be expected overnight with isolated showers remaining possible along the East Coast throughout the overnight period (10-25% chance of rain). Low temperatures will fall into the 60s across North Florida, upper 60s to low 70s across Central Florida, low to middle 70s across South Florida, and middle to upper 70s along the Keys. **Localized areas of patchy fog** cannot be ruled out along portions of the North and West-Central Florida overnight or early Friday morning should winds remain calm.







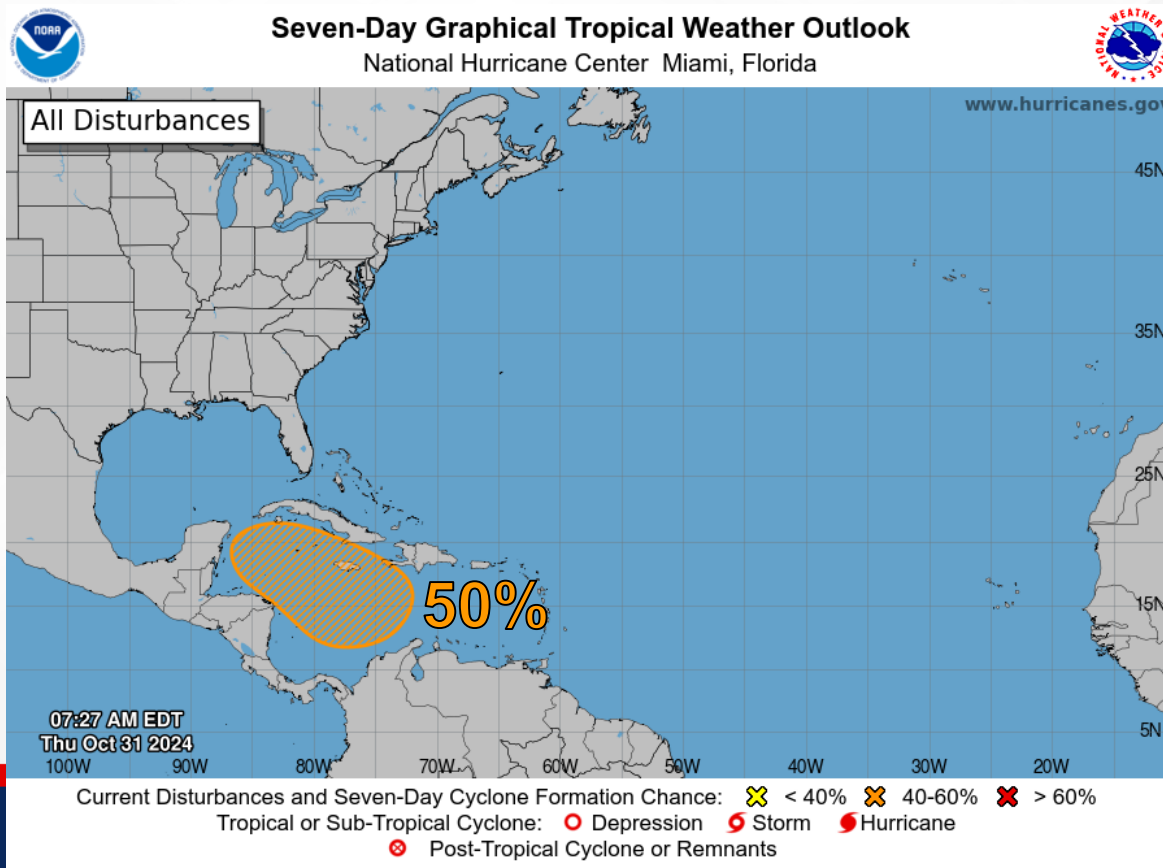
# Tropical Weather

For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).

**Southwestern Caribbean Sea:** A broad area of low pressure is likely to develop over the southwestern Caribbean Sea during the next couple of days. Gradual development is possible thereafter, and a tropical depression could form over the weekend or early next week while the system drifts generally northward to northwestward over the central or western Caribbean Sea. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 7-10 days at least but will continue to be closely monitored.*

\*Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...near 0%**.

\*Formation chance through 7 days...**medium...50%**.







# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **high risk for rip currents** is expected along the Florida East Coast today as breezy onshore winds persist and ocean swells develop. A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected along all Florida Panhandle beaches due to building surf. West Coast beaches can still expect a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** continue nearly statewide today. **High Surf Advisories** are in effect along the Space, Treasure, and Sun Coasts today as breezy onshore winds create **large breaking waves of 5-9'** in the surf zone throughout the day. Despite no High Surf Advisories in effect along the rest of Florida's Atlantic Coast at this time, **large breaking waves near 5-9'** are also anticipated along the Northeast Coast and Atlantic-facing Keys today. **High Surf Advisories** have been issued this morning for the Western Panhandle as **large breaking waves of 4-6'** are expected in the surf. The rest of the Florida Panhandle can expect **wave heights to remain near 3-5'** today with **1-3' waves** along Florida's West Coast.

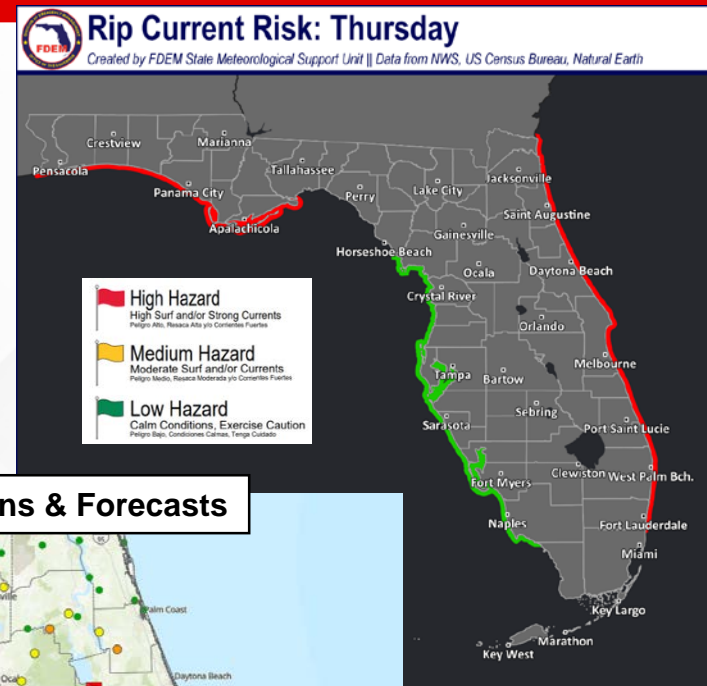
**Red Tide** has been observed in **85** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast over the past week (as of 10/30). Background to **medium concentrations** were observed in and offshore of Pinellas County with background to **low concentrations** in and offshore of Hillsborough County, **very low to medium concentrations** in and offshore of Manatee County, background to **high concentrations** in and offshore of Sarasota County, **medium to high concentrations** offshore of Charlotte County, **very low to medium concentrations** in and offshore of Lee County, and background to **medium concentrations** offshore of Collier County. **Fish kills and respiratory irritation** suspected to be related to red tide were reported in Pinellas, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Background concentrations of Red Tide were also observed in Franklin County.

**Coastal Flooding:** **King Tides** return with the upcoming New Moon allowing for instances of **minor coastal flooding** along the tidal St. Johns River. **Coastal Flood Advisories** have been issued due to trapped tides and the King Tides keeping water levels elevated.

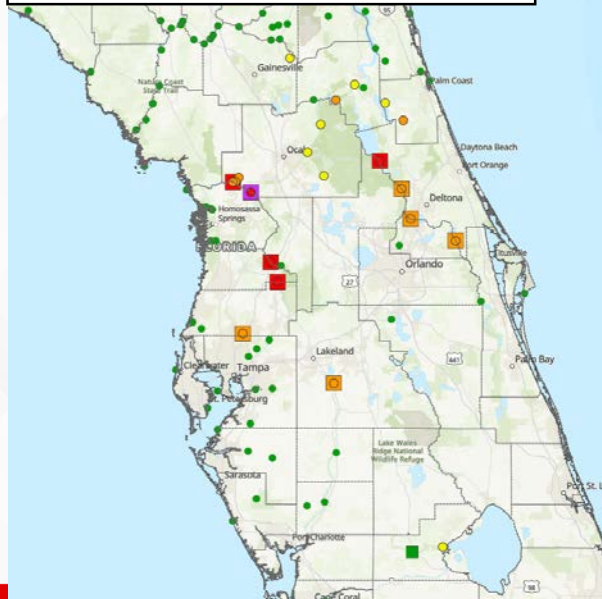
**Flash Flooding:** There is no risk for flash flooding today.

**Riverine Flooding:** **Moderate to major riverine flooding** continues along portions of the Withlacoochee River (in West-Central Florida) and St. Johns River in response to Hurricane Milton with several other Northeast, Central, and Southwest Florida rivers and waterways still seeing **minor flooding**. The **Withlacoochee River near Holder at SR-200** is within **Moderate Flood Stage** and is nearing **Major Flood Stage** as water levels continue to gradually rise, likely cresting and holding steady along the line of **Moderate/Major Flood Stage** later today. **Moderate flooding** is ongoing along the and the Withlacoochee River (**at Croom** and **at US-301 Trilby**) and **St. Johns River at Astor**. Water levels along upper portions of the Withlacoochee River at Croom and US-301 Trilby have crested and are seeing water levels gradually fall. The forecast point at Astor will remain steady or very slowly fall as onshore winds and trapped tides continue along the tidal St. Johns slowing discharge rates. **Minor Flooding** continues along the **Withlacoochee River at US-41 Dunnellon**, St. Johns River (**near Deland**, **near Sanford**, and **above Lake Harney**), **Cypress Creek at SR-54**, and **Peace River at SR-60 Bartow**. The lower portions of the Withlacoochee River continue to see water levels gradually increase as crest waves from further upstream continue to flow through the basin, and Dunnellon is forecast to reach **Moderate Flood Stage** late today or early tomorrow. Weaker onshore winds and dissipating ocean swells have allowed trapped tides in the St. Johns River basin to begin gradually discharging and water levels are expected to hold steady or continue slowly falling. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 16.10 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.07 feet **above** normal for this time of year.



## River Observations & Forecasts



Forecast Flood Stage

Current Flood Stage



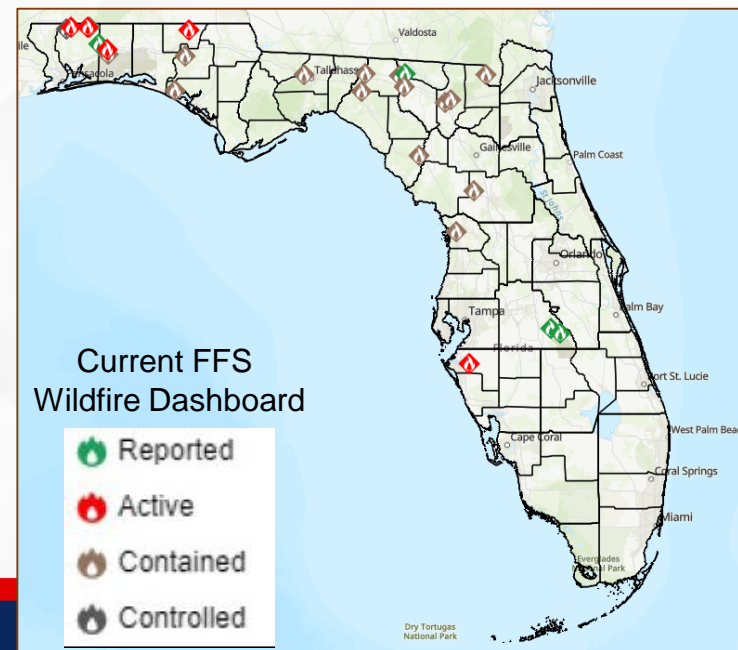
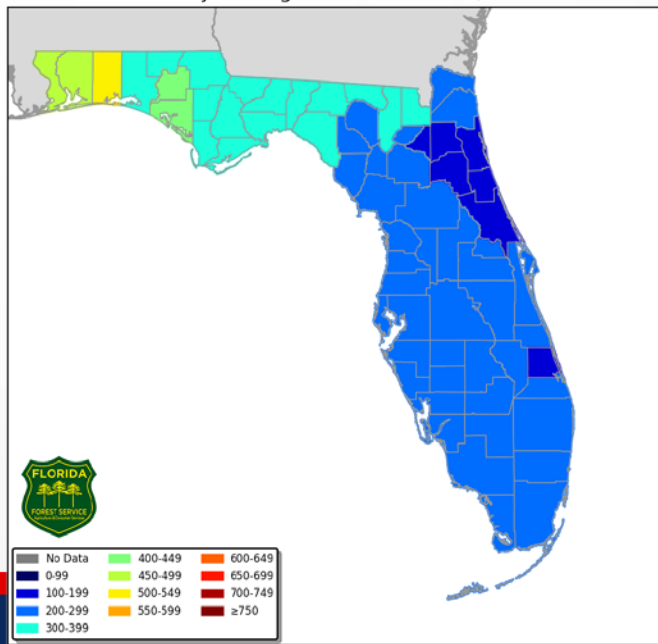
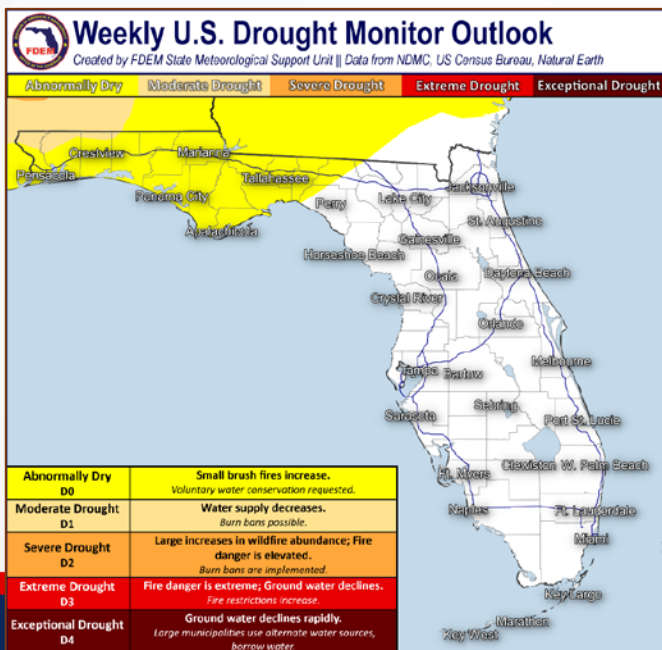
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Easterly to southeasterly winds near 10-20 mph will persist across much of the state throughout the day with **wind gusts reaching upwards of 15-25 mph** along the Peninsula and Keys and **near 10-20 mph** elsewhere. Breezy onshore winds will bring isolated showers onshore along the Florida East Coast, moving inland throughout the day, but drier air aloft will keep activity light and brief. A few isolated showers and thunderstorms may manage to make their way into the Western Panhandle ahead of the approaching cold front before it begins to dissipate this evening. Although relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds along the Panhandle, **locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will remain possible throughout the afternoon due to the lack of rainfall and dry grounds. **Localized areas of patchy fog** cannot be ruled out along portions of the North and West-Central Florida overnight or early Friday morning should winds remain calm. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 25 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 63.55 acres.

**Drought:** Warm and dry conditions have persisted along the Florida Panhandle over the last week or so, causing soil moisture through the region to deteriorate rather quickly. Rainfall deficits over the last 30-days have reached 2-4" across the region. Because of this, **moderate drought conditions** have emerged north of the I-10 corridor in the Western Panhandle of Florida on this week's Drought Monitor update (10/31) with *abnormally dry* (emerging drought) conditions now covering the rest of the Florida Panhandle towards the I-75 corridor. Above normal rainfall outlooked across Florida over the next week or so may help to improve or slow the developing drought conditions.

**The Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **257 (+10)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There is **one** Florida County (Okaloosa) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

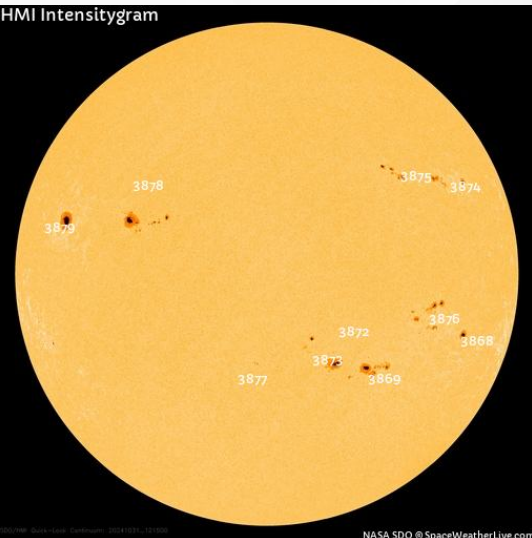
Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)  
County Averages for October 30, 2024



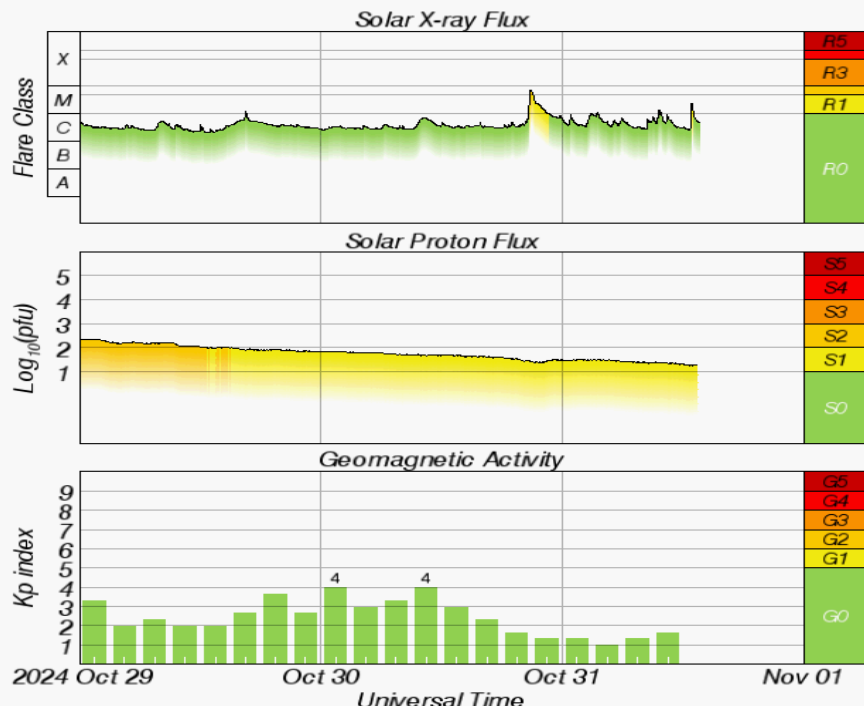




# Space Weather



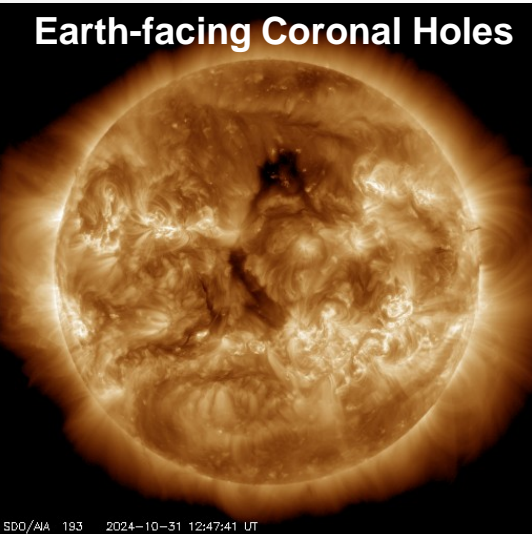
Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M7 Solar Flare
X-class: 25%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
10/31	11/1
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 moderate with strong (M-class) solar flares and a chance for significant (X-class) solar flares over the next few days. Sunspots #3869 and #3876 contain magnetic fields that harbor energy for X-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected with M-class solar flare activity and strong (R3) radio blackouts will be possible in the event of any X-class solar flares. Solar radiation levels are expected to slowly decline and drop below minor (S1) solar radiation storm threshold later today. A gradual return to nominal solar wind conditions is also anticipated today before possibly seeing new enhancements from an approaching Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) Friday. Mostly quiet conditions are expected today with unsettled levels returning with the onset of the CH HSS Friday. 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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