



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Wednesday, November 6, 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	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Whitt@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	Zachary Remante	(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	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	<a href="mailto:Kennedy.Tartt@em.myflorida.com">Kennedy.Tartt@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	Hunter Stafford	(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	Washington	Starlink Equipment Training
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon, Jefferson	USDA Meeting / EM Visit / DEMES EMPA/G Technical Assistance
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Lafayette, Gilchrist, Levy	EM Visit
Region 4: James Carter	Flagler	G-300 Co-Instruction
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Volusia, Seminole, Orange	Executive Director Support
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Marion, Manatee	Logistics Support
Region 7: Cristian Rivera	Okeechobee	FEMA JIT Training / County EM Call
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Palm Beach	Elections Support
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Lee	USDA Meeting / EM Visit
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	L-449 Course



## Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	Washington	County EM Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	TCWSD Meeting
Region 3: Patrick James	Taylor	TCWSD Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Clay	Vehicle Maintenance
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Sumter	Recovery Meetings
RRCT Manager	Citrus	Recovery Meetings
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Okeechobee	Internal Stakeholders Meeting
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Okeechobee	Internal Stakeholders Meeting
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Out of Region	Leave
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Okeechobee	Internal Stakeholders Meeting

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery RC 10

## Status

Normal Operations

In Region / Delayed Response

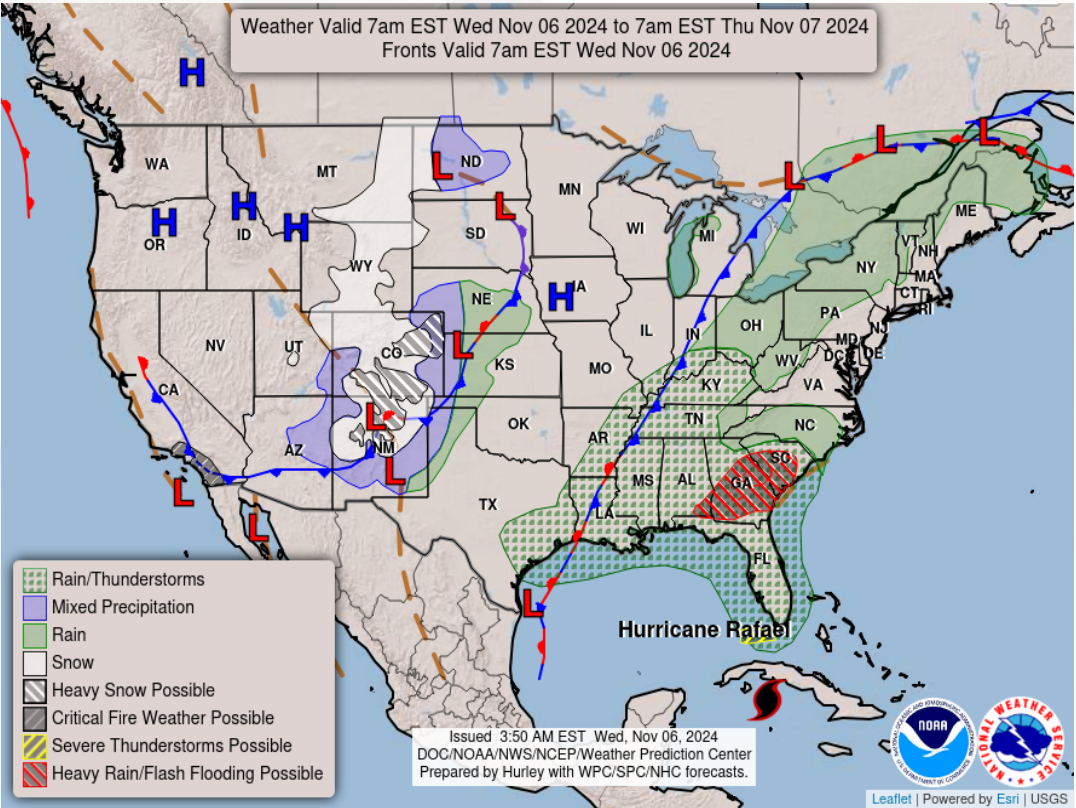
Deployed / Delayed Response

Out of Service / Unavailable



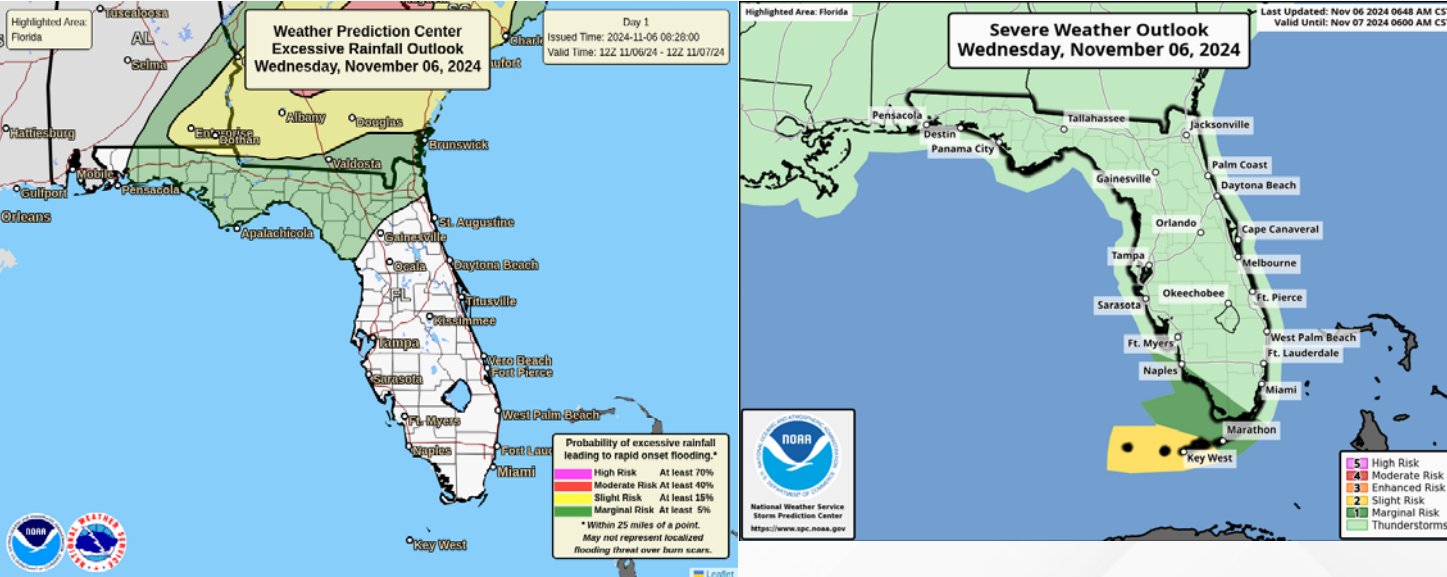


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado									L	M
Damaging Wind										M
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L	L						L
Coastal Flooding				L						L
Riverine Flooding				L	M	M	L			
Fog (Overnight)										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	M	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	16.08 ft. (1.03 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	315 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





# Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Much needed rainfall will return across the state, especially across North Florida, as tropical moisture ahead of Hurricane Rafael pushes northward from the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. Scattered showers with a few isolated thunderstorms have already developed this morning across Central Florida and the Big Bend, and additional scattered to widespread showers can be expected to develop throughout the day. The greatest chances for rain will remain across North Florida with tropical moisture pushing northward from the Gulf, as well as the Florida Keys due to the outermost rainbands of Hurricane Rafael (60-85% chance of rain). The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across North Florida, as well as the lower half of the Keys, due to tropical moisture bringing heavy downpours that could lead to instances of **localized flooding** at times. Multiple rounds of heavy rainfall, or training activity, could also increase the potential for localized flooding. With these outer bands of Rafael extending into portions of the Florida Keys and the adjacent coastal waters, **isolated waterspouts moving onshore or tropical tornadoes** will be possible throughout the day. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the Lower and Middle Keys, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending into the Upper Keys and the immediate Southwest Florida coast through early Thursday morning. Easterly to southeasterly winds of 15-20 mph will develop from the I-4 corridor and southward to the Keys, with stronger winds of 25-35 mph possible along the Southeast Florida coast to the Keys. Breezy wind gusts of 10-15 mph can be expected to develop across North Florida this afternoon, with **stronger wind gusts of 20-35 mph** from the I-4 corridor through the Keys. **Tropical Storm Warnings** remain in effect for the Florida Keys due to deteriorating conditions throughout the day and into tonight.

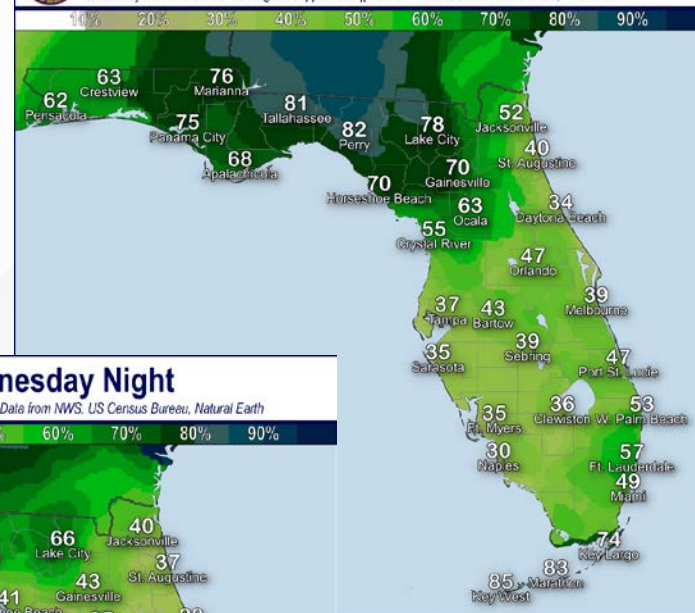
Scattered showers and thunderstorms can be expected to continue overnight across North Florida as they continue to push inland from the Gulf of Mexico waters (40-65% chance of rain). As Rafael moves into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico later this evening and overnight, its northwestward motion will continue to take the system away from Florida. Isolated showers and thunderstorms will remain possible across the Peninsula, with scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms continuing across the Florida Keys (50-85% chance of rain). **Breezy wind gusts of 20-30 mph** can still be expected to continue overnight across South Florida and the Keys, with possible stronger **gusts upwards of 35-40 mph** across the Lower and Middle Keys.

High temperatures will reach the upper 70s to low 80s across North Florida with the help of increased cloud cover and middle to upper 80s across Central and South Florida. Portions of West-Central Florida could see high temperatures **approach or reach 90-degrees** this afternoon. Low temperatures will fall into the upper 60s to low 70s across North Florida, middle to upper 70s across Central Florida and upper 70s to low 80s across South Florida.



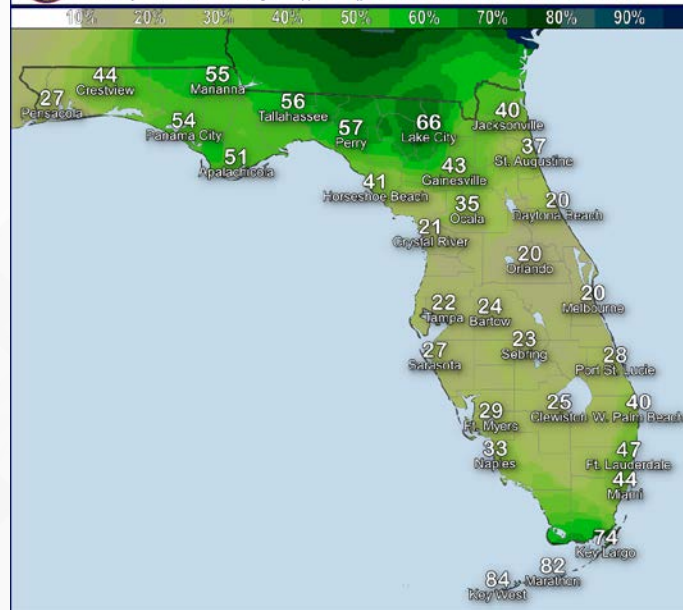
## Chance of Rain: Wednesday

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



## Chance of Rain: Wednesday Night

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







# Tropical Weather

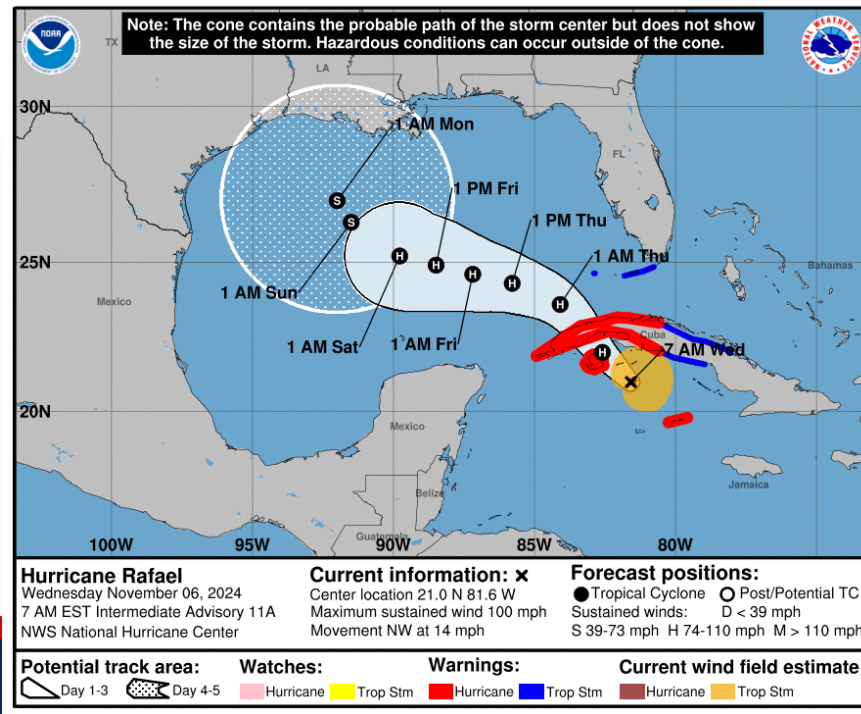
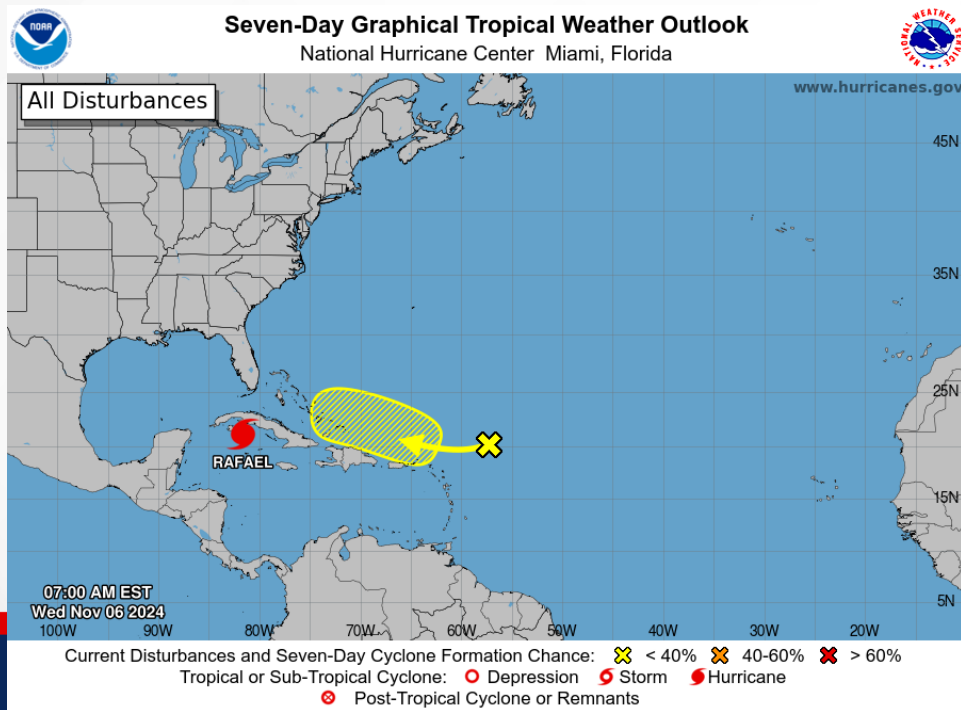
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).

**Hurricane Rafael:** As of 7:00 AM EST, Hurricane Rafael is located about 90 miles east-southeast of the Isle of Youth, or about 245 miles south-southwest of Key West, Florida, and moving northwestward at 14 mph. A general northwestward motion is anticipated over the next day or two, followed by a gradual west-northwestward turn in the Gulf of Mexico. On the forecast track, Rafael is expected to move near or over the Isle of Youth later this morning or early this afternoon, and make landfall in western Cuba later today. Rafael is forecast to move into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico tonight. Reports from NOAA Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicate that maximum sustained winds have increased to near 100 mph with higher gusts. Rapid strengthening is forecast, and Rafael could be near major hurricane intensity before it makes landfall in Cuba later today. Rafael is forecast to weaken over Cuba, but it is expected to emerge into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico as a hurricane. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida at this time; however, an increase in rain chances can be expected statewide today. Minor coastal flooding and gusty winds will extend along portions of the Florida Keys, as well as potential for isolated tropical tornadoes within far outer bands of the system. Tropical Storm Warnings continue for the Lower and Middle Keys.*

**Southwestern Atlantic:** An upper-level area of low pressure is producing an area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms several hundred miles east-northeast of the Leeward Islands. This system is expected to move generally westward during the next few days, and an area of low pressure could form near the northern Leeward Islands tonight or Thursday. Afterward, some gradual development of this system is possible toward the end of the week and into the early part of the weekend while it moves near or to the north of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and approaches the Southeast Bahamas. *This system poses no direct threat to Florida over the next 7-10 days but will continue to be monitored. Regardless of development, an increase in rain chances can be anticipated across portions of South Florida late in the weekend or early next week.*

\*Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...20%.**

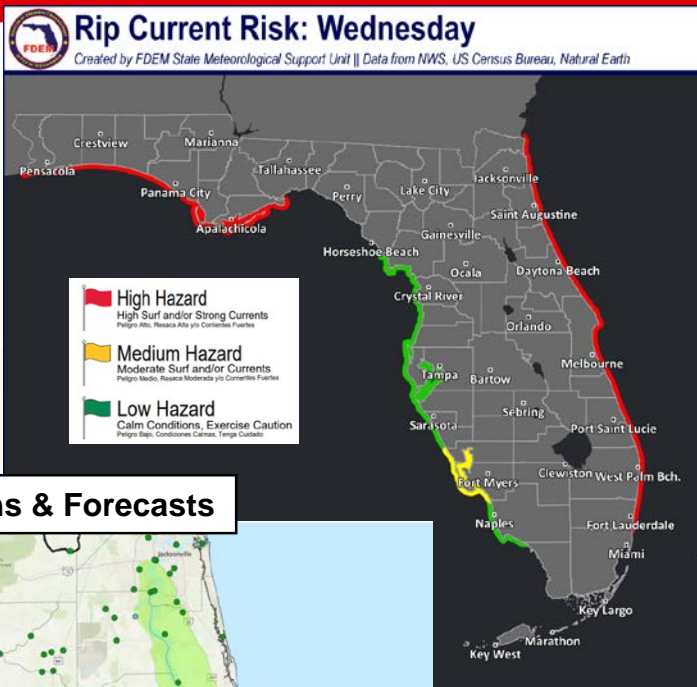
\*Formation chance through 7 days... **low...30%.**







# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology



**Rip Currents:** A **high risk for rip currents** is expected along all Panhandle and East Coast beaches due to easterly to southeasterly breezy winds and developing ocean swells. A low risk for rip currents continues for most of the West Coast, with a **moderate risk** along Charlotte and Lee Counties. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** can be expected to persist nearly statewide due to large and dangerous ocean swells. East Coast beaches can expect to see **wave heights of 5-9'** throughout the day, with larger breaking **waves upwards of 10'** in the surf zone along Southeast Florida beaches. **High Surf Advisories** continue along several Space and Treasure Coast beaches through this evening due to dangerous beach and boating conditions. Atlantic-facing Key beaches can expect to see dangerous **ocean swells of 8-12'** ahead of Hurricane Rafael moving towards Cuba. Panhandle and West Coast beaches can expect to see **wave heights of 2-5'** throughout the day.

**Red Tide** has been observed in **76** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast over the past week (as of 11/1). Background to **medium concentrations** were observed in and offshore of Pinellas County with **very low to low concentrations** in and offshore of Manatee County, background to **high concentrations** in and offshore of Sarasota County, background to **high concentrations** in and offshore of Charlotte County, **very low to medium concentrations** in and offshore of Lee County, and background to **medium concentrations** offshore of Collier County, and background concentrations offshore of Monroe 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.

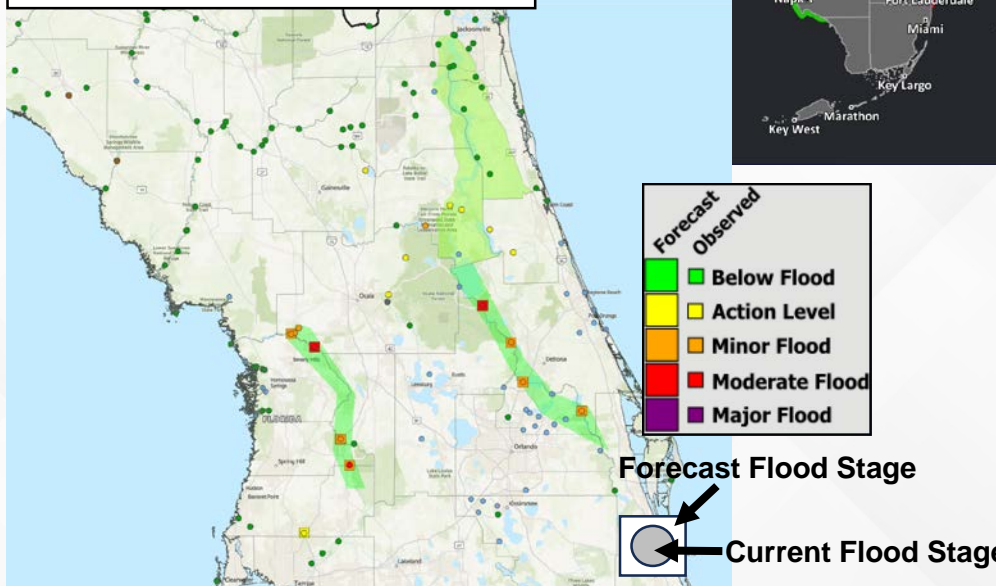
**Coastal Flooding:** Persistent onshore winds and large ocean swells will push elevated waters into tidal portions of the St. Johns River, limiting the chance for discharge of water. **Coastal Flood Advisories** continue along the tidal St. Johns River as instances of **minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide is anticipated. **Coastal Flood Statements** have been issued along the Florida Keys due to **minor saltwater and coastal flooding** upwards of 1-2' during high tide due to Hurricane Rafael moving towards the northern Caribbean and Cuba today.

**Flash Flooding:** The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across North Florida as tropical moisture moving northward from the Gulf of Mexico will bring scattered to widespread showers with embedded thunderstorms throughout the day. Some of these showers and thunderstorms will be capable of producing locally heavy downpours at times, which may lead to instances of localized flooding, especially for any urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Thankfully, dry grounds and soils will welcome the much-needed rainfall, but there is still potential for some locally heavier rainfall to create instances of **localized flooding** throughout the day and overnight. While the Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) remains just north/along the state line, portions of the northern Panhandle or Big Bend could see increased chances from heavy rainfall due to the training or multiple rounds of activity. The **Marginal Risk** also extends across portions of the Florida Keys where training showers and thunderstorms associated with the outermost bands of Hurricane Rafael could bring multiple rounds of heavy rainfall that lead to instances of **localized flooding**. Additional scattered showers and thunderstorms across the Peninsula may create locally heavy rainfall over sensitive grounds and soils recovering from Hurricane Milton. Rainfall totals of 1-3" can be expected across the state, with **locally higher totals** upwards of 4-6" possible for North Florida and the Keys.

**Riverine Flooding:** **Minor to moderate riverine flooding** is ongoing for portions of the Withlacoochee River (in West-Central Florida) and the St. Johns River in response to Hurricane Milton. **Moderate flooding** is ongoing along the and the Withlacoochee River (**at US-301 Trilby** and **near Holder at SR-200**) and **St. Johns River at Astor**. Water levels along upper portions of the Withlacoochee River have crested and are seeing water levels gradually fall and lower portions of the river have crested and are holding near steady. The Withlacoochee at trilby is forecast to fall below moderate flood stage later today. The St. Johns River will see water levels continue to slowly fall as weaker as trapped tides within the tidal portions of the river continue to discharge. With persistent onshore winds along the lower St. Johns River, discharge rates will slow down or possibly stall over the next couple of days. **Minor Flooding** continues along the Withlacoochee River (**at Croom** and **at US-41 Dunnellon**), St. Johns River (**near Deland**, **near Sanford**, and **above Lake Harney**). North Florida rivers and waterways are forecast to remain below flood stage with the additional rainfall forecast today due to recently dry conditions; however, locally heavier rainfall over areas could lead to streamlevel rises. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](http://River Forecast Center).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 16.08 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.03 feet **above** normal for this time of year.

## River Observations & Forecasts





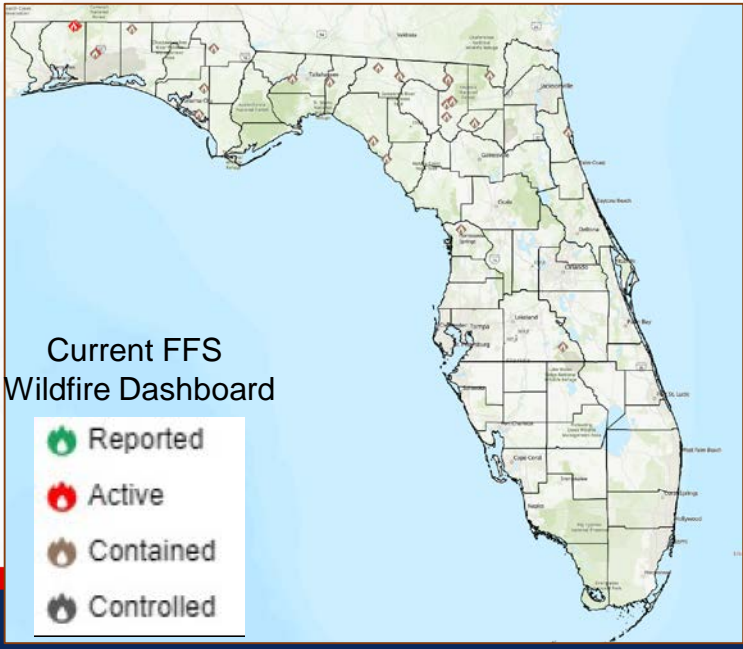
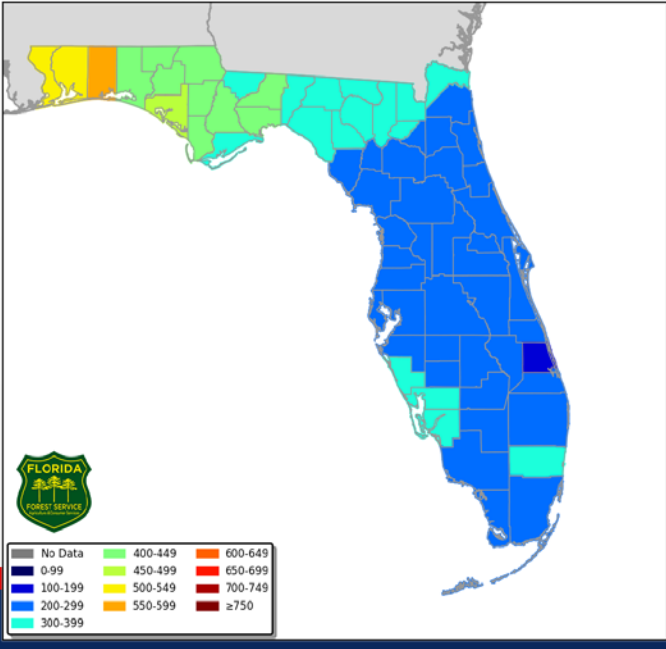
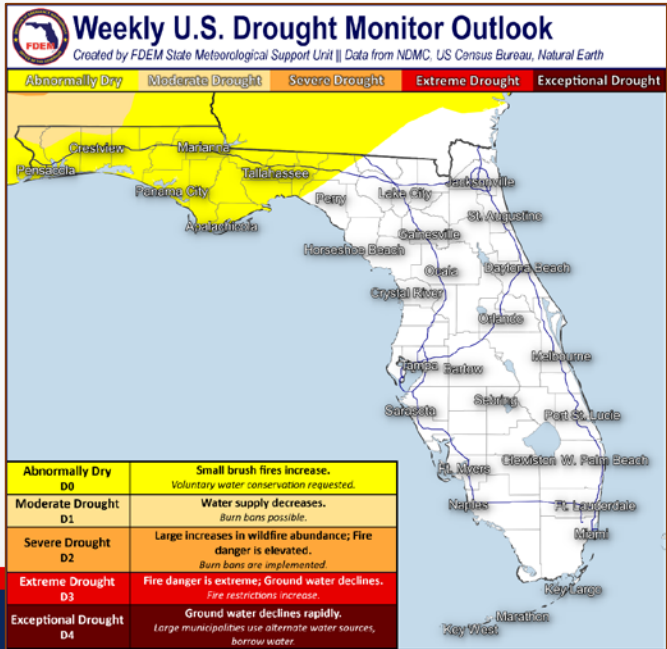
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Tropical moisture will move northward across the state ahead of Hurricane Rafael moving into the northern Caribbean and towards Cuba. Scattered to widespread showers with embedded thunderstorms can be expected to develop across North Florida, with more scattered activity across the Peninsula. Easterly to southeasterly winds of 15-20 mph will develop from the I-4 corridor and southward to the Keys, with stronger winds of 25-35 mph possible along the Southeast Florida coast to the Keys. Breezy wind gusts of 10-15 mph can be expected to develop across North Florida this afternoon, with stronger wind gusts of 20-35 mph from the I-4 corridor through the Keys. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 26 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 92 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 **315 (+9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **three** Florida Counties (Escambia, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

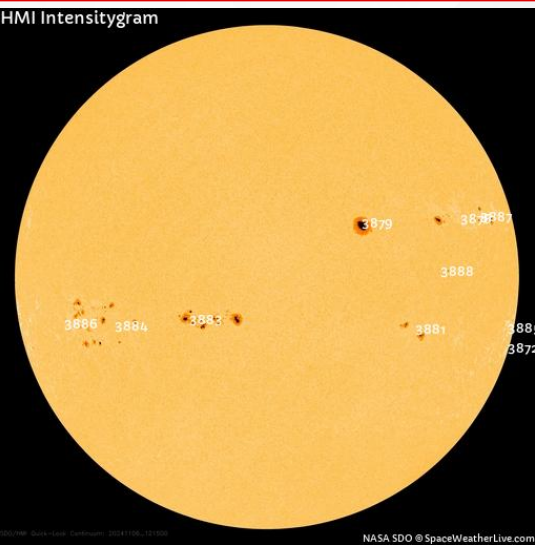
Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)  
County Averages for November 05, 2024



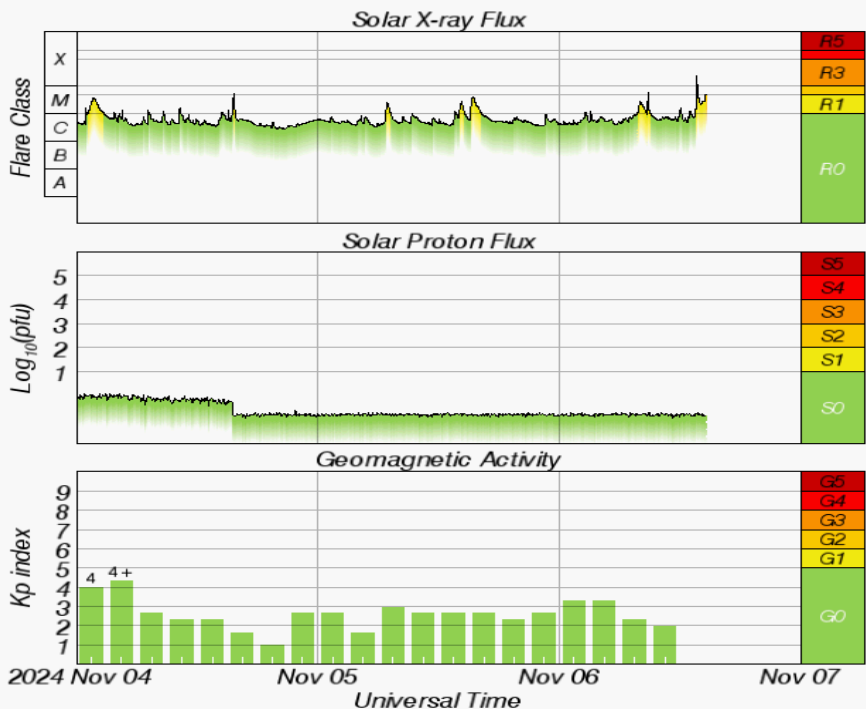
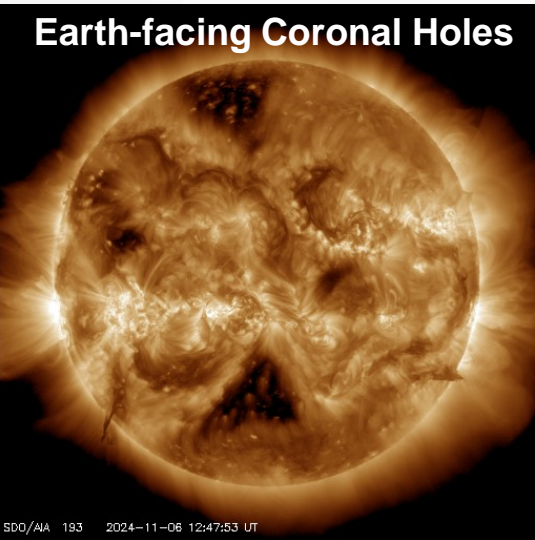




# Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 80%	Geomagnetic Storm: <b>G1 Watch – 11/7</b>	M5 Solar Flare
X-class: 35%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
11/6	11/7
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5%

**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to be moderate with continued strong (M-class) solar flares and a chance for significant (X-class) solar flares through the end of the week. Solar flare probabilities are being driven by a few active sunspots (#3883, #3886) due to their magnetic field complexities. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected to accompany M-class solar flares, while strong (R3) radio blackouts can be expected to accompany X-class solar flares. Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) influences are expected to wane today. A glancing blow from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) associated with an M-class solar flare from a few days ago is expected late today, with the bulk of exterior impacts arriving tomorrow. Solar wind conditions can be expected to become enhanced during this time. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions are likely to continue into today. The arrival of the glancing blow from the CME will continue to bring unsettled to active conditions, with minor (G1) geomagnetic storms likely on 11/7. The G1 Watch remains in effect through tomorrow. 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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