



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

## **Morning Situation Report**

Saturday, December 28, 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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	<a href="mailto:Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com">Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Jay Griffin	(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	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7733	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Tony Harris	850-273-0954	<a href="mailto:Tony.Harris@em.myflorida.com">Tony.Harris@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	In Region	On- Call Status
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On- Call Status
Region 4: James Carter	In Region	On- Call Status
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	In Region	On- Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On- Call Status



Region 2 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 3  
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 4  
Region 6 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9  
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7  
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
RRCT Manager	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)

R2 coverage provided by Recovery RC 3

R5 and R6 coverage provided by Recovery RC 4

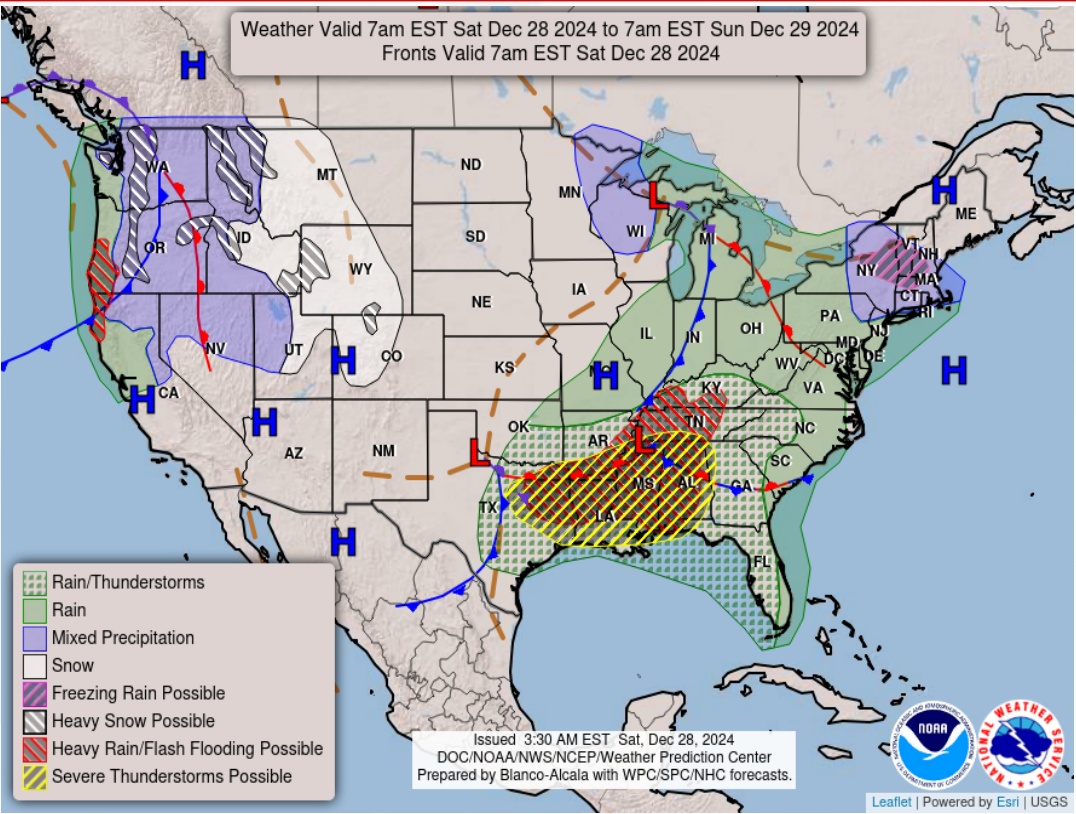
R9 and R10 coverage provided by Recovery RC 8

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



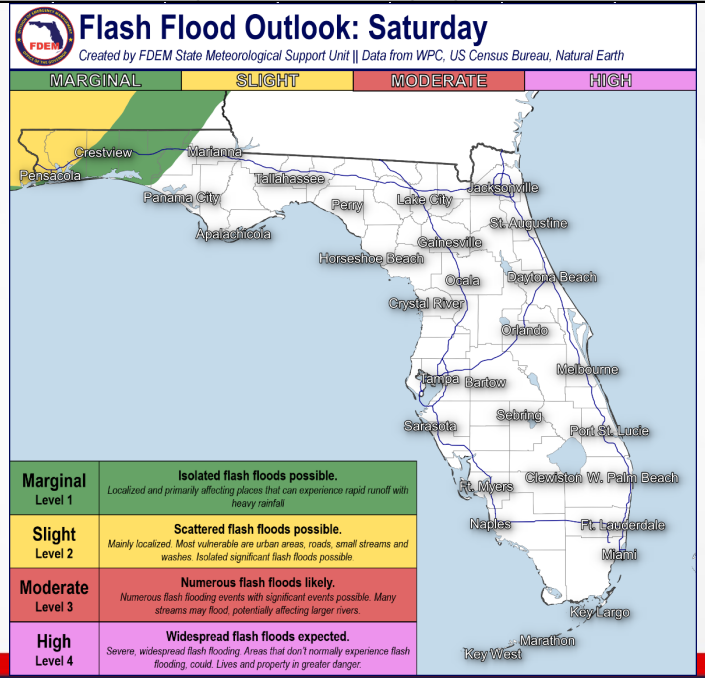
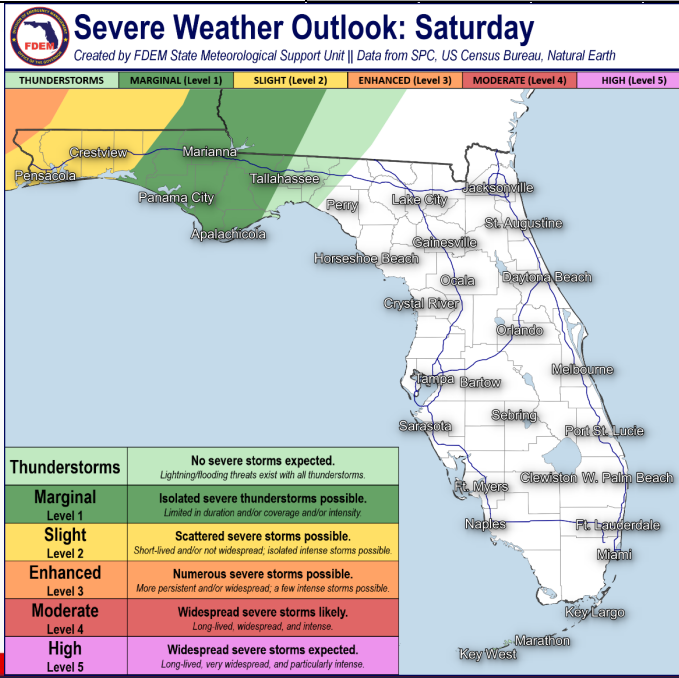


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	L	L							
Tornado	M	L								
Damaging Wind	M	L								
Hail	L									
Flash Flooding	M	L								
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	L	L	L				
Freeze (Overnight)										
Fire Weather										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.14 ft. (0.49 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	396 (+3) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





# Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

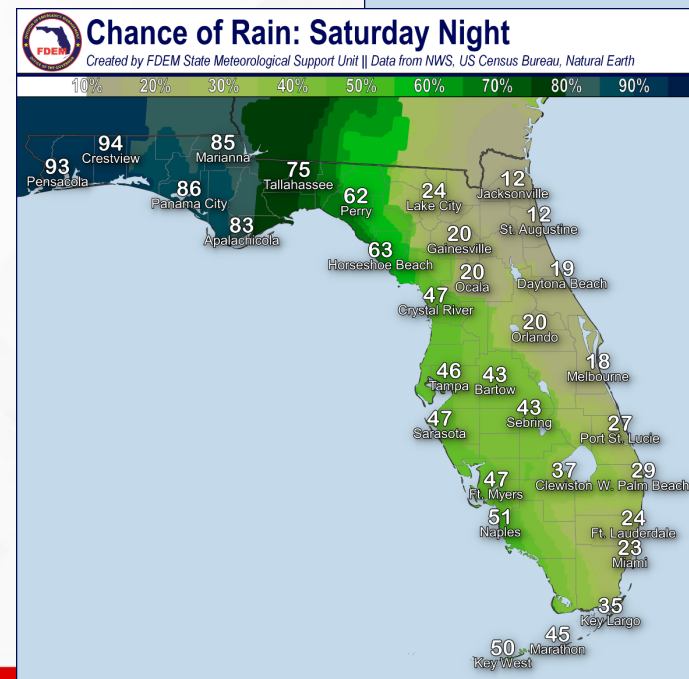
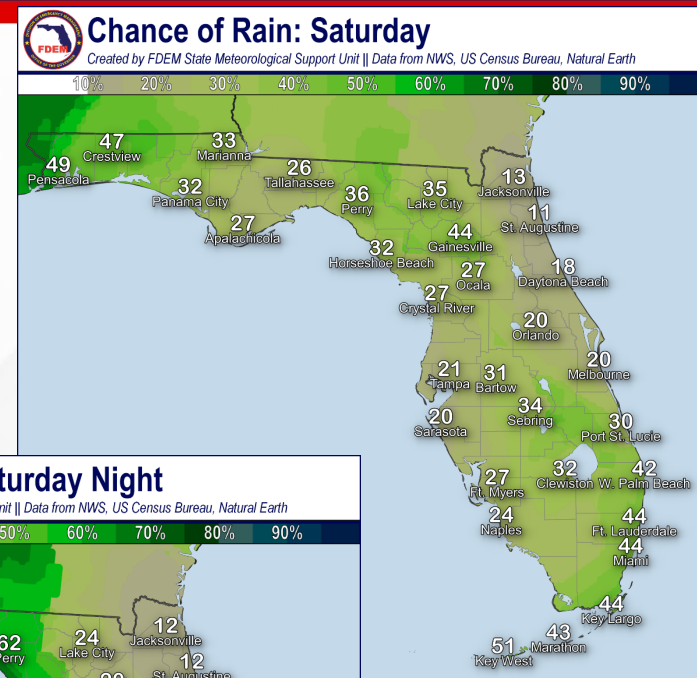
Areas of **patchy to dense fog** have developed across much of North Florida this morning. **Dense Fog Advisories** are in effect across much of North Florida as **areas of dense fog** are expected to **reduce visibilities to ¼ mile or less** through the mid morning hours, creating **hazardous driving conditions**. *Remember to use caution when driving through foggy areas; use low beams and keep plenty of distance between vehicles.*

High pressure over the Eastern U.S. will continue to slide eastward over the western Atlantic today, creating onshore winds along Florida's Atlantic Coast and pulling in moisture over the state. This setup will continue to allow isolated to scattered showers to develop along the Atlantic waters and move inland across the state throughout the day and continuing overnight (20-50% chance of rain).

An active weather pattern is expected to take shape later today and into Sunday as a cold front approaches from the west and moves through the state. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected move into the Panhandle this afternoon and into the early overnight hours (30-50% chance of rain), with a more organized, broken line of numerous thunderstorms pushing eastward through the Florida Panhandle overnight (65-95% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Enhanced Risk (level 3 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the far Northwestern Panhandle with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5)** stretching eastward through the Central Panhandle as there is increasing potential for **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing damaging wind gusts (up to 60 mph), tornadoes, and isolated large hail ahead of the cold front, primarily later this afternoon through the overnight and early Sunday morning hours. A **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** extends through the Eastern Panhandle and Western Big Bend. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Western Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending along the Eastern Panhandle as multiple rounds of heavy rainfall may give way to instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water**.

High temperatures will be slightly warmer today relative to yesterday under mostly cloudy skies with middle 70s to low 80s across the state this afternoon. Southeasterly winds will remain near 5-15 mph this afternoon with **gusts reaching upwards of 10-20 mph**.

Low temperatures will remain in the 60s to middle 70s across the state overnight. Areas of **patchy fog** will be possible across the state overnight into Sunday morning.







# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast today. A low risk can be expected elsewhere. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** **Poor to hazardous beach and boating conditions** can be expected to continue along the Panhandle and Florida's Atlantic Coast today as ocean swells linger, maintaining **wave heights near 3-6'** in the surf. **High Surf Advisories** have been issued along the Western Panhandle for this evening through Sunday afternoon. **1-3' waves** can be expected along the Big Bend throughout the day while West Coast beaches will likely see wave heights remain near or below 1-2'.

**Red Tide** has been observed in **35** samples collected Southwest Florida over the past week (as of 12/27). Background to **low concentrations** were observed in and offshore of Pinellas County, with background **concentrations** in Hillsborough County, background to **medium concentrations** in Manatee County, background to **low concentrations** Sarasota County, background to **very low concentrations** in Charlotte County, **low to medium concentrations** in and offshore of Lee County, background to **very low concentrations** in Collier County, and background concentrations offshore of Monroe County. **Fish kills** suspected of being related to red tide were reported offshore of Pinellas County and along Sarasota and Lee Counties and **respiratory irritation** suspected to be related to red tide was reported in Sarasota and Lee Counties.

**Coastal Flooding:** Coastal flooding is not expected today; however, **elevated tides (0.25-1.25' above normally dry ground)** will be possible and **isolated instances of minor coastal flooding** cannot be ruled out near and at times of high tide across the state due to the upcoming New Moon on 12/30.

**Flash Flooding:** The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Western Panhandle with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4)** extending along the Eastern Panhandle as a swath of heavy rainfall is likely across portions of the Southeast today and into tonight. While ongoing drought conditions across the state will make initial rainfall very beneficial, localized instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** will be possible over vulnerable urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas that see **locally higher rainfall totals** within a shorter period of time. Any training or multiple rounds of activity may also contribute to a localized potential for **flash flooding**, especially any slow-moving showers and thunderstorms. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms will also persist along the Peninsula and Keys today as high pressure shifts further eastward over the Western Atlantic. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain near 1-2" with **locally higher totals near 2-4"** possible.

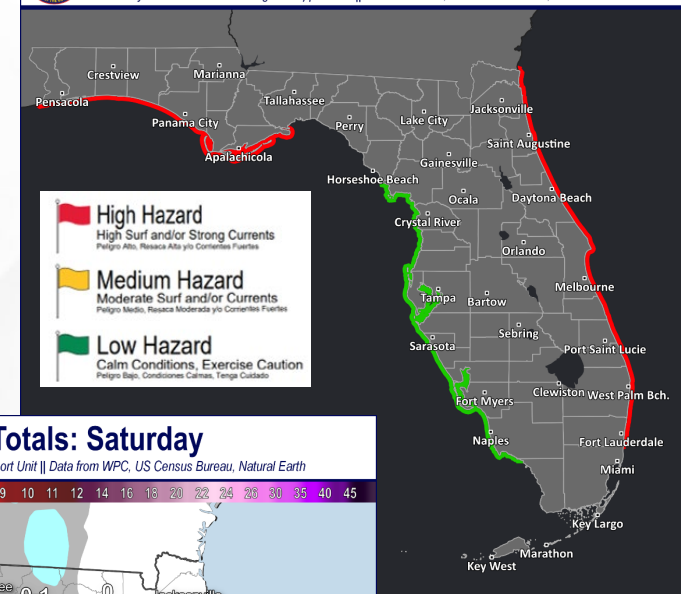
**Riverine Flooding:** Water levels along the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) have risen into Action Stage (bank-full) as a result of trapped tides in the basin struggling to discharge due to onshore winds and swells along the coastline. Water levels are forecast to remain relatively steady over the next few days. Water levels rises are likely along Panhandle rivers and waterways in the next few days in response to an active weather pattern expected to develop ahead of the next cold front. Portions of Big Coldwater Creek, Escambia River, and Shoal River are currently forecast to rise into Action Stage (bank-full) in response to this forecasted heavy rainfall; however, riverine flooding is not currently forecast. **Localized instances of minor riverine flooding** cannot be ruled out should locally higher rainfall totals be realized across the basins of quicker-response rivers and waterways in the Panhandle. There are no additional riverine flooding concerns across Florida at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

**Lake Okeechobee's** average elevation is 15.14 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.49 feet **above** normal for this time of year.



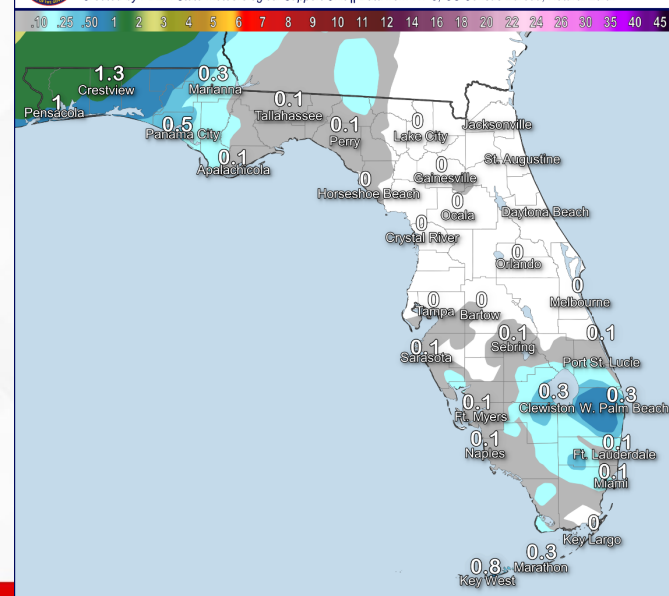
## Rip Current Risk: Saturday

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



## 24-Hour Rainfall Totals: Saturday

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







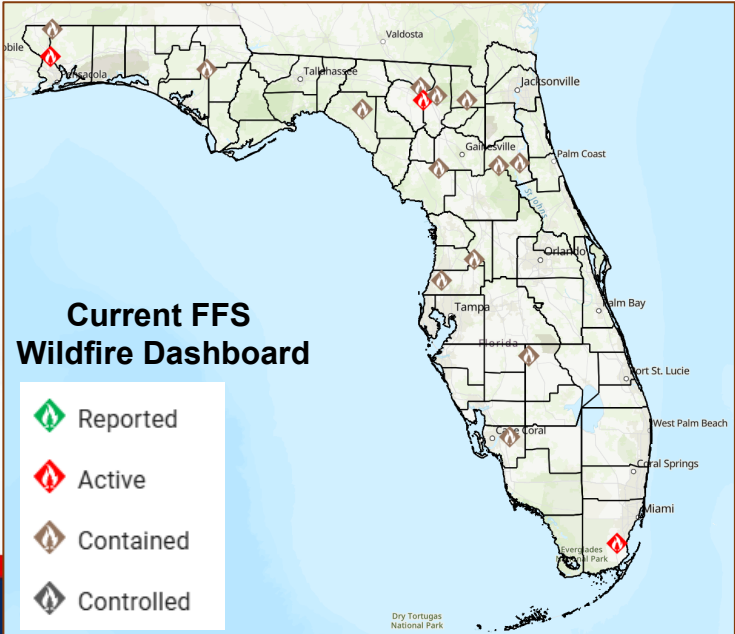
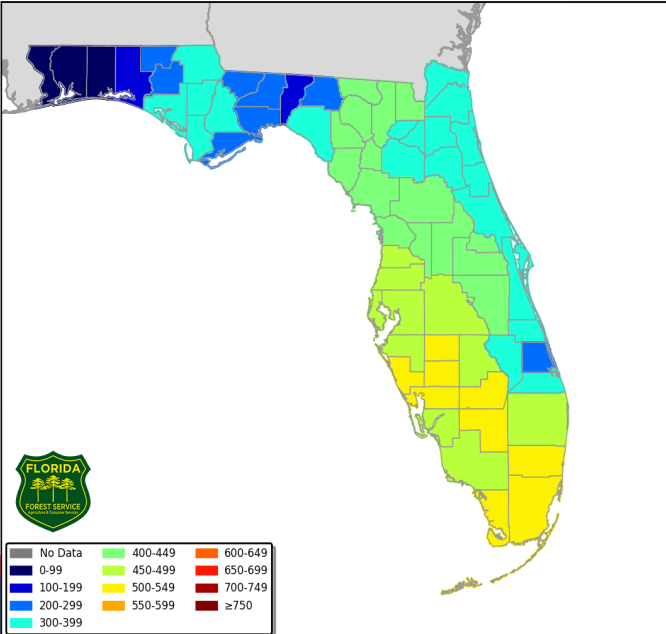
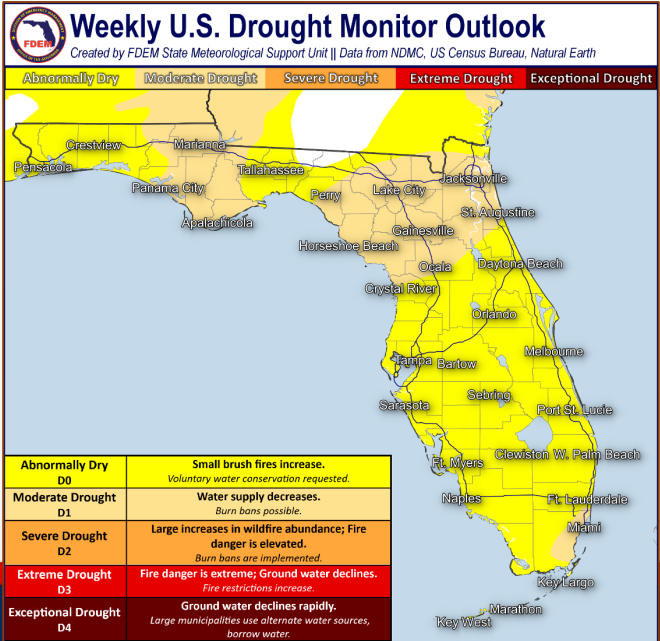
# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Fire weather concerns will remain minimal today as relative humidity values are forecast to remain well above critical thresholds statewide. Isolated to widely scattered showers will develop along Atlantic waters and move inland over the state throughout the day as high pressure over the Eastern U.S. shifts further eastward over the western Atlantic. An active weather pattern is expected to take shape later today and into Sunday as a cold front approaches from the west and moves through the state. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected move into the Panhandle this afternoon and into the early overnight hours, with a more organized, broken line of numerous thunderstorms pushing eastward through the Florida Panhandle overnight. Southeasterly winds will remain near 5-15 mph this afternoon with **gusts reaching upwards of 10-20 mph**. Areas of **patchy fog** will be possible across the state overnight into Sunday morning. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 17 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 35.07 acres.

**Drought:** Increasing 60-day rainfall deficits of more than 4" has led to the addition of short-term **Moderate Drought** to portions of South Florida on this week's Drought Monitor update (as of 12/25). In addition, soil moisture and 28-day stream flows are beginning to fall below the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile across the Atlantic coastal areas of South Florida. **Moderate Drought conditions** remain in place across the Northern Peninsula and portions of the Central Florida Panhandle as mostly dry conditions have persisted over the past week. *Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)* conditions continue to spread across the rest of the Sunshine State. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking near to below normal temperatures and below normal rainfall nearly statewide over the next week or so which may cause drought conditions to further deteriorate.

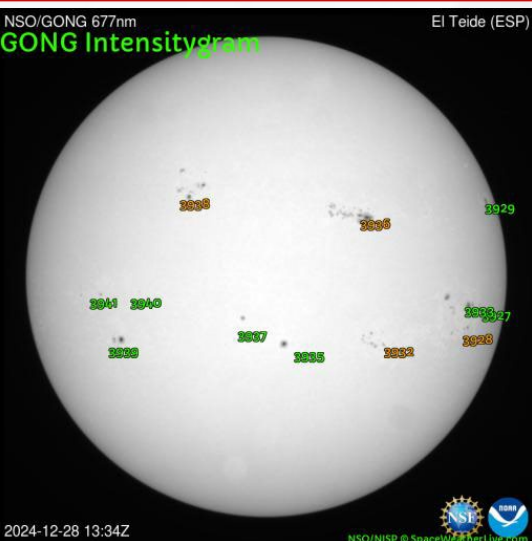
**The Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **396 (+3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **9** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Sarasota) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

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

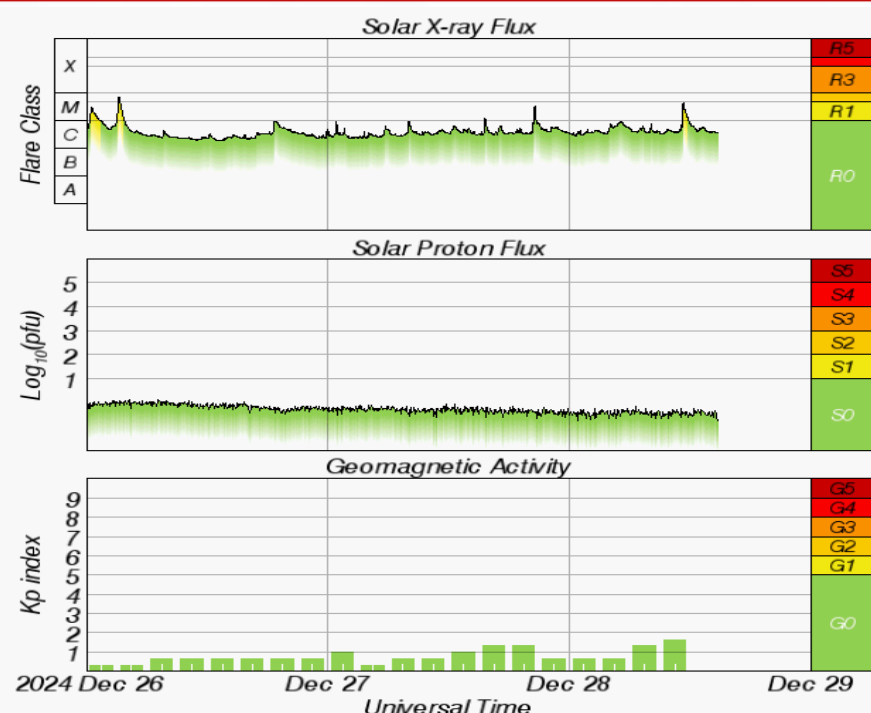




# Space Weather

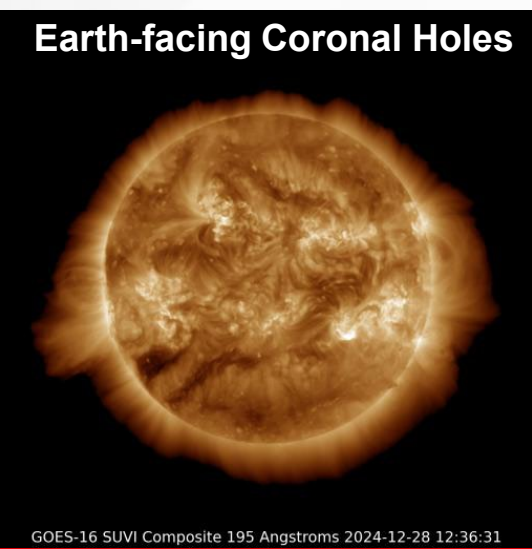


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 75%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M4 Solar Flare
X-class: 20%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
12/28	12/29
Max Kp= 3 (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 forecast to remain at low to moderate levels with strong (M-class) solar flares likely and a slight chance for an isolated significant (X-class) solar flare through the weekend. Levels will likely increase to moderate to high levels Monday with M-class solar flares expected and a chance for an isolated X-class solar flare as a complex of regions approaches the western limb. Sunspots #3932 and #3938 have magnetic fields that pose a threat for X-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will likely accompany M-class solar flare activity and strong (R3) radio blackouts will be possible in the event of any X-class solar flares. A slight chance for a minor (S1) solar radiation storm event will persist through the next few days given the current total disk potential. An outside chance for weak enhancements from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 12/24 remains for today. Additional disturbances are anticipated Sunday and Monday due to weak Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) influences. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions with a chance for isolated active periods are expected today due to any glancing effects from the 12/24 CME. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions with a chance for isolated active periods are expected again Sunday and Monday due to weak CH HSS effects. 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:	<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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