



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, December 29, 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	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	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Jay Griffin	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Kaya Dungey	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@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	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7733	Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com
Infrastructure Branch Director	Tony Harris	850-273-0954	Tony.Harris@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8 On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer	Marnie Villanueva	(850) 591-9544	Marnie.Villanueva@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	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

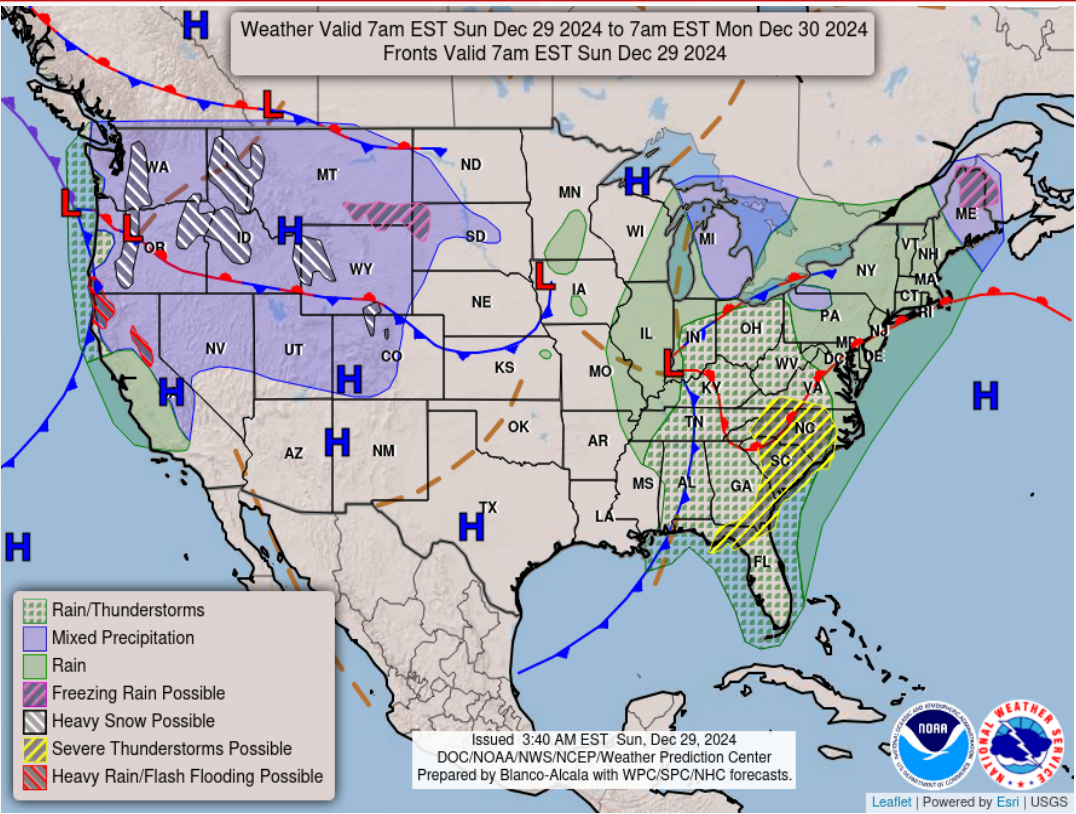
R5 and R6 coverage provided by Recovery RC 4

R9 and R10 coverage provided by Recovery RC 8

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

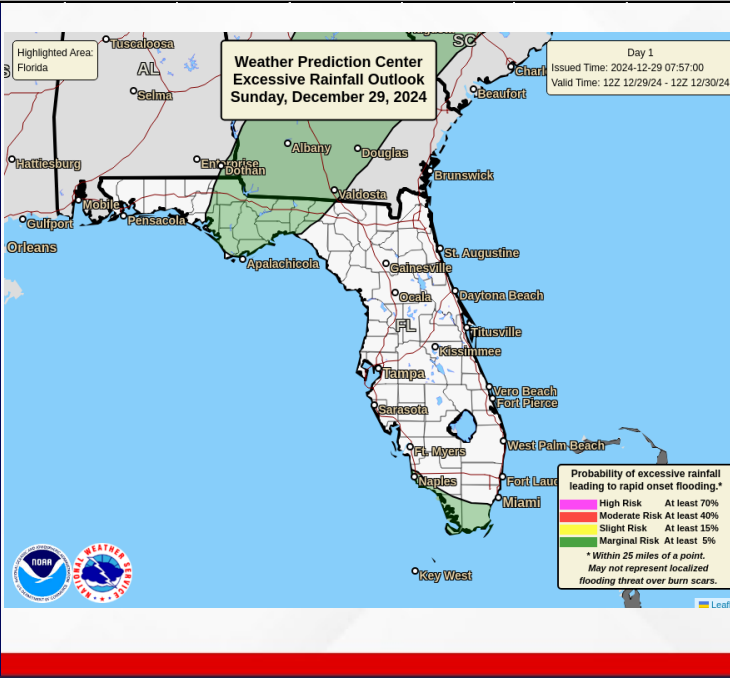
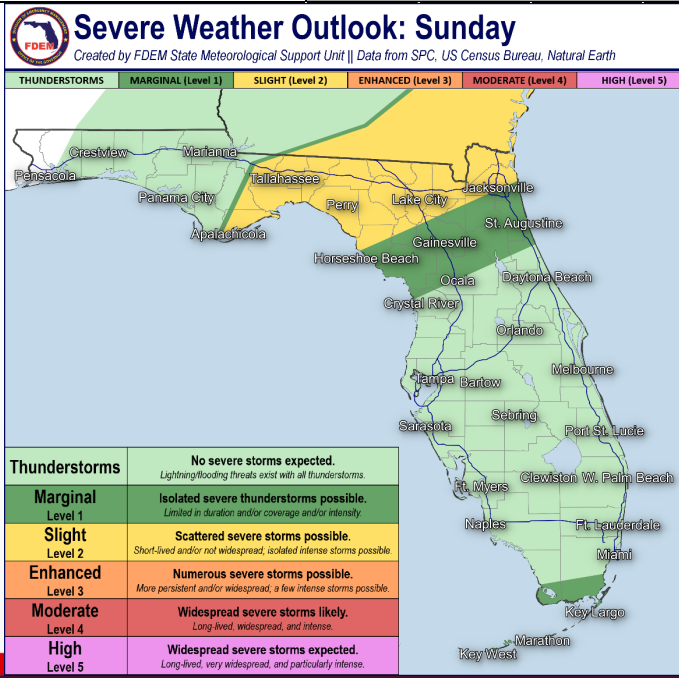


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	H	H	H	M	M	L	L	L	L
Tornado	L	M	M	M	L					L
Damaging Wind	L	L	L	L	L					
Hail										
Flash Flooding	L	L	L						L	L
Fog (Overnight)	L	M	M	M	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:	394 (-1) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

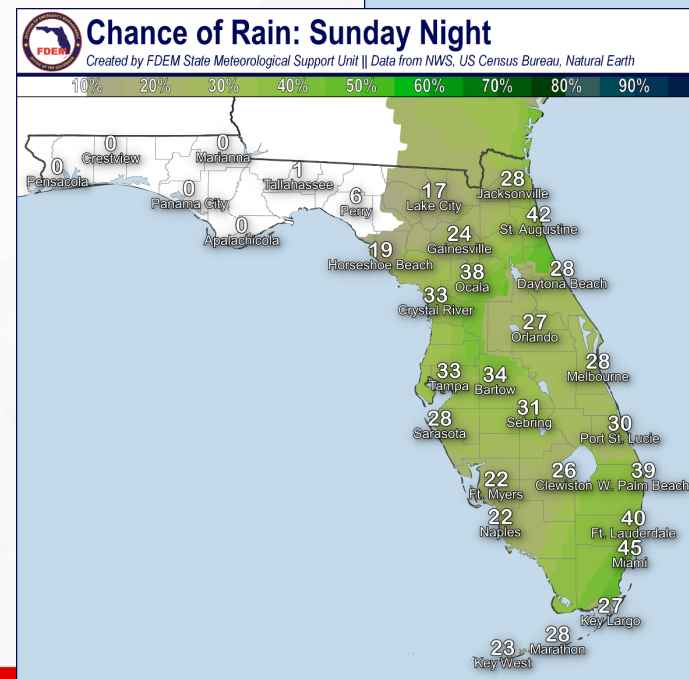
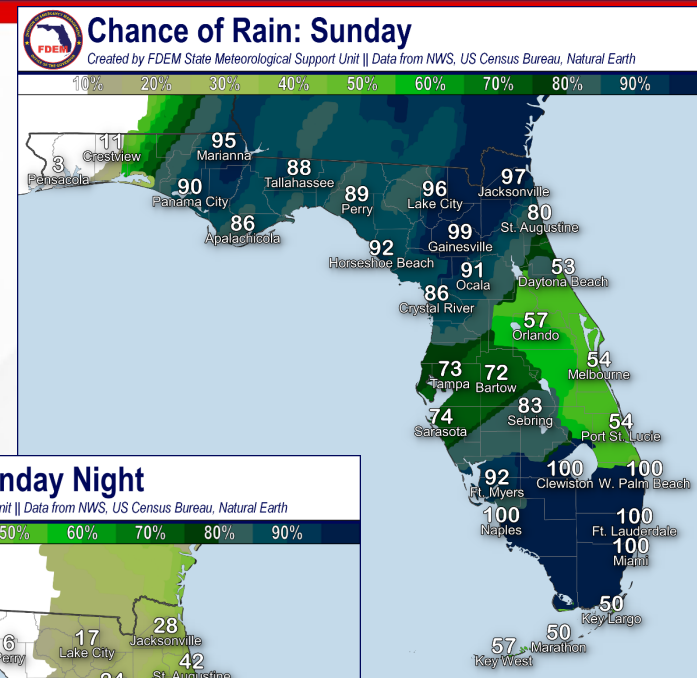
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

An active weather day can be expected across the Sunshine State as a strong cold front pushes eastward along the I-10 corridor this morning. A line of strong to severe thunderstorms has developed ahead of this cold front, and this front will continue to push eastward across North Florida and eventually southward into the Peninsula throughout the daytime hours (55-near 100% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** across much of North Florida, with a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** extending into the northern Peninsula, as strong to severe thunderstorms will be capable of producing multiple hazards. The hazards associated with these **strong to severe thunderstorms** include frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (60-70 mph), tornadoes, small hail and heavy downpours. A **Tornado Watch** remains in effect throughout portions of the Big Bend and Northeast Florida through the mid-afternoon hours for the potential for isolated tornadoes and damaging wind gusts. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across portions of the Panhandle and Big Bend as thunderstorms may be capable of producing heavy downpours that lead to **localized flash flooding**.

Heavy rainfall associated with this disturbance has already spread across South Florida as scattered to widespread showers and embedded thunderstorms move inland from the adjacent Gulf waters (50-near 100% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is now outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** across the southern Peninsula and the Keys as isolated **strong to severe thunderstorms** will be possible throughout the day. These strong to severe thunderstorms will be capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds (45-55 mph), an isolated tornado or two and heavy downpours as they move across the southern Peninsula and Keys throughout the day. Widespread showers and embedded thunderstorms will be capable of producing moderate to heavy rainfall at times, which could lead to **instances of flooding** across urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas across Southwest Florida and the Keys – **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding**.

Shower and thunderstorm activity will continue throughout the afternoon but will become more isolated to scattered in nature as the line of thunderstorms begins to break apart. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will linger into the evening and overnight hours throughout the Peninsula as they move eastward (25-45% chance of rain). Drier conditions should return statewide by the early morning hours. Areas of **patchy fog** may develop early Monday morning throughout the state where there is lingering moisture and saturated grounds from rainfall.

High temperatures across the state will reach the 70s and possibly near 80-degrees for portions of the Florida Keys. Cooler air moving in behind the cold front will allow for low temperatures to fall into the middle 40s to low 50s across North Florida. Throughout the peninsula, low temperatures in the upper 50s to upper 60s can be expected, with the Florida Keys seeing low temperatures in the low 70s.





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.

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. **High Surf Advisories** remain in effect through this afternoon along the far western Panhandle beaches due to **wave heights of 3-6'** expected within the surf zone creating **dangerous beach and boating conditions**. Along the Atlantic coast, **wave heights of 4-6'** can be expected to persist with larger **breaking waves upwards of 7'** within the surf zone. The rest of the Big Bend and West Coast can expect **wave heights near 2-4'** throughout the day.

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 along Lee County and **respiratory irritation** suspected to be related to red tide was reported in Sarasota County.

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not expected today; however onshore winds ahead of the approaching cold front may bring **isolated instances of minor coastal flooding** near and during times of high tide along portions of the Panhandle and Big Bend coastline.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Florida Panhandle and across portions of Southwest Florida, including the Keys due to the active weather pattern today. Across the Panhandle, a line of strong to severe thunderstorms moving eastward will be capable of producing instances of **localized flash flooding** due to abundant moisture being pulled northward from the Gulf waters. Heavy and intense downpours will be possible within shower and thunderstorm activity, which could lead to instances of **flash flooding and ponding of water** across urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Across Southwest Florida and the Keys, widespread showers and thunderstorms producing heavy rainfall are moving inland from the Gulf of Mexico and towards the southern Peninsula. Deep moisture will allow for heavy rainfall rates and downpours at times throughout the morning and into the early afternoon hours as it moves inland. **Instances of flash flooding and urban flooding** for portions of South Florida due to potentially heavy downpours within shower and thunderstorm activity. Training activity or multiple rounds of activity along portions of the coast could also lead to **instances of flash flooding and ponding of water**. A **Flood Watch** remains in effect for Collier County through this afternoon due to periods of moderate to heavy rainfall leading to localized flooding in flood-prone or low-lying areas. Throughout the state, widespread rainfall totals of 1-3' with **locally higher totals of 4-6'** possible across Southwest Florida and the Keys.

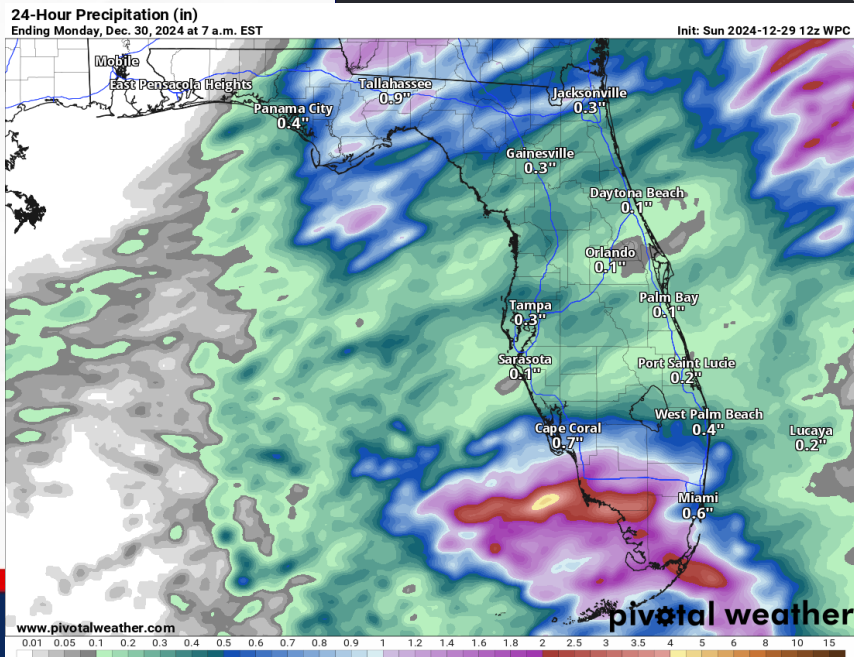
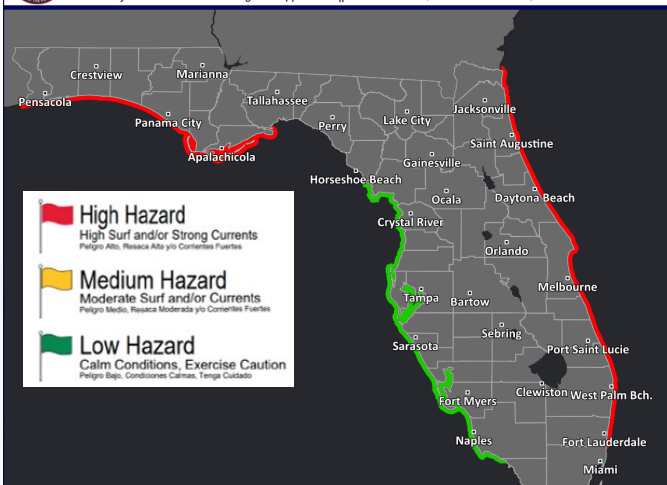
Riverine Flooding: Water levels along the **St. Johns River at Astor** have risen into Action Stage (bank-full) as a result of trapped tides in the basin struggling to discharge due to onshore winds and swells along the coastline. Water levels are forecast to remain relatively steady over the next few 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. A **River Flood Warning** has been issued for the **Perdido River near Barrineau Park** as **minor flooding** is forecast later tonight and into early Monday morning. The river is forecast to fall below flood stage by Monday evening. **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. River conditions will continue to be monitored across the Panhandle and Big Bend where elevated head waters from southern Alabama and Georgia may flow southward into the state. 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: Sunday

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



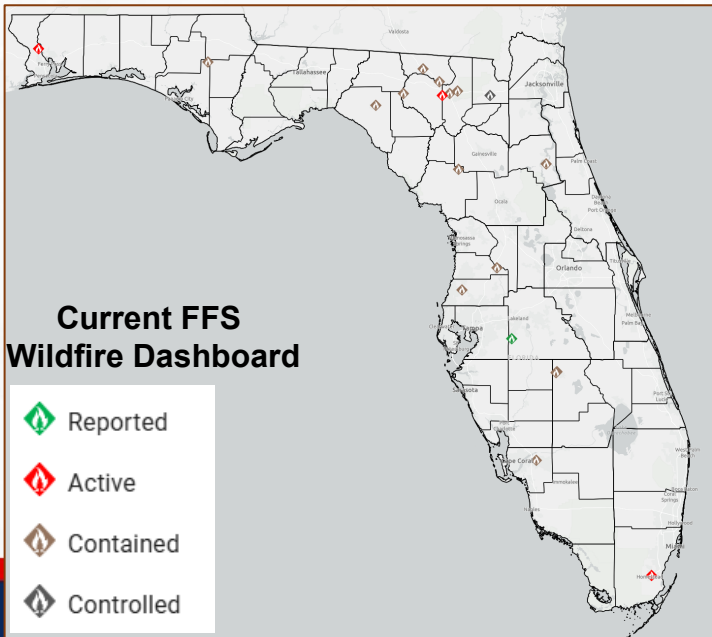
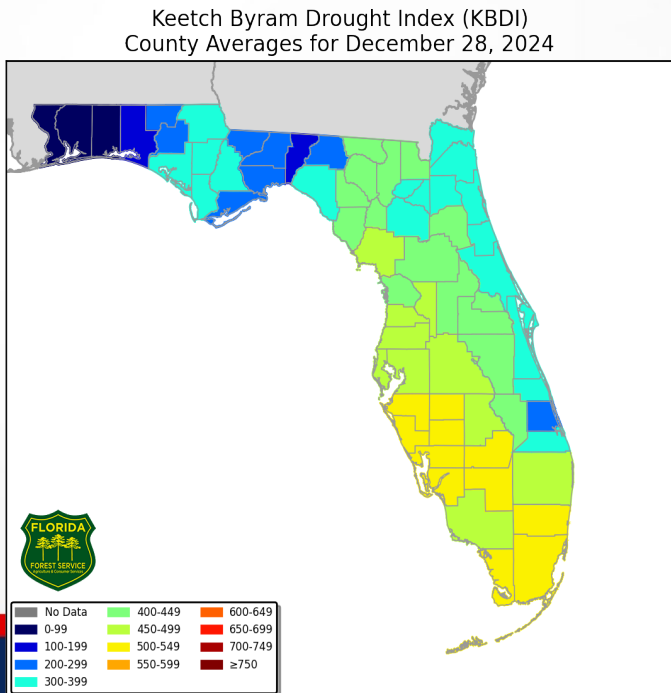
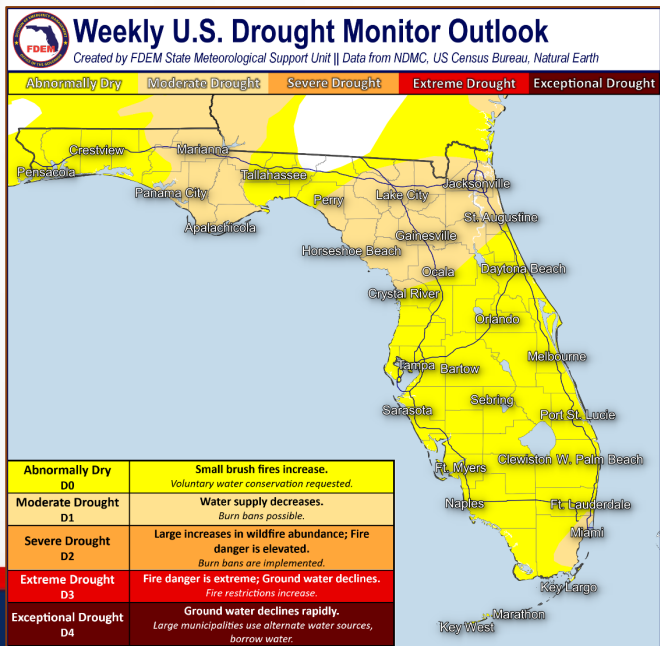


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Widespread shower and thunderstorm activity can be expected throughout much of the state today as the next cold front moves through. Relative humidity values will continue to remain well above critical thresholds today with the help of southerly to southwesterly winds of 5-10 mph pulling moisture northward. Breezy winds gusts outside of thunderstorms will reach upwards of **15-20 mph** across the state throughout the day. *Thunderstorms will be capable of producing erratic winds and frequent lightning.* Areas of **patchy fog** may develop overnight and early Monday morning throughout the state due to lingering moisture and calm winds. *Foggy conditions may further reduce visibility where there are ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 19 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 40 acres.

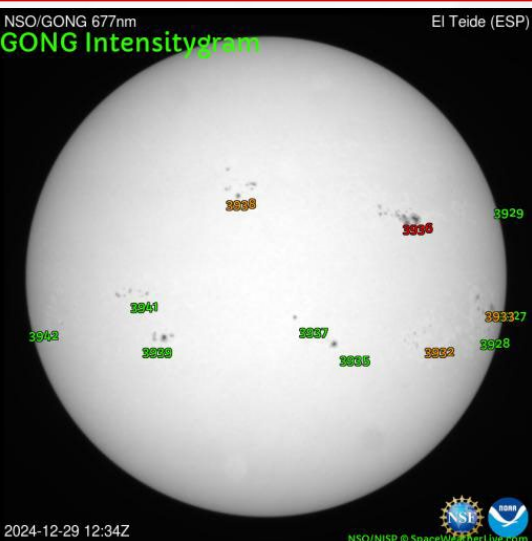
Drought: Increasing 60-day rainfall deficits of more than 4" has led to the addition of short-term **Moderate Drought** to portions of South Florida on this week's Drought Monitor update (as of 12/25). In addition, soil moisture and 28-day stream flows are beginning to fall below the 20th percentile 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 **394 (-1)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **11** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Sarasota) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

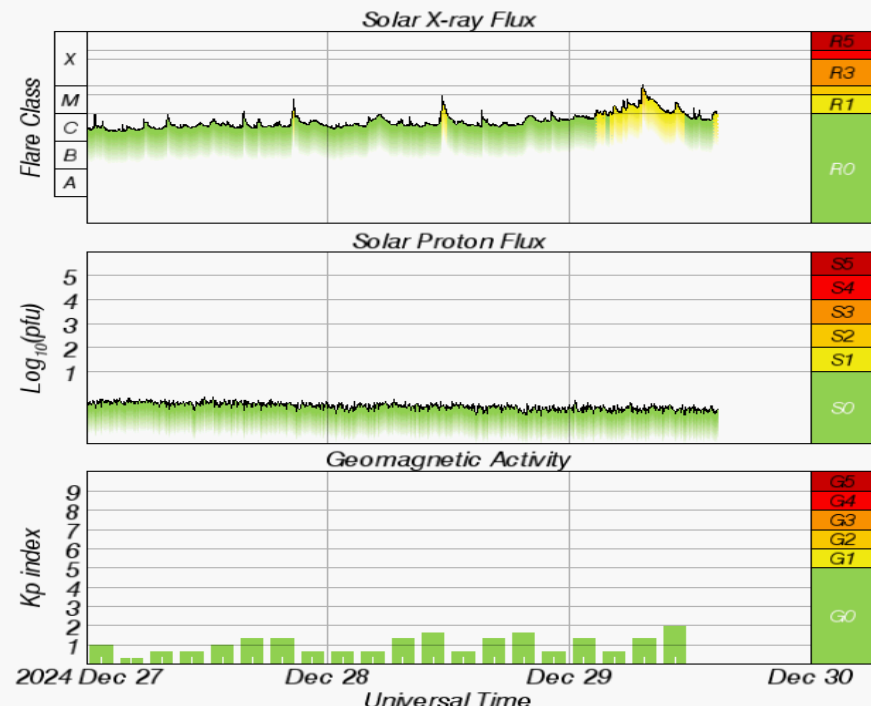
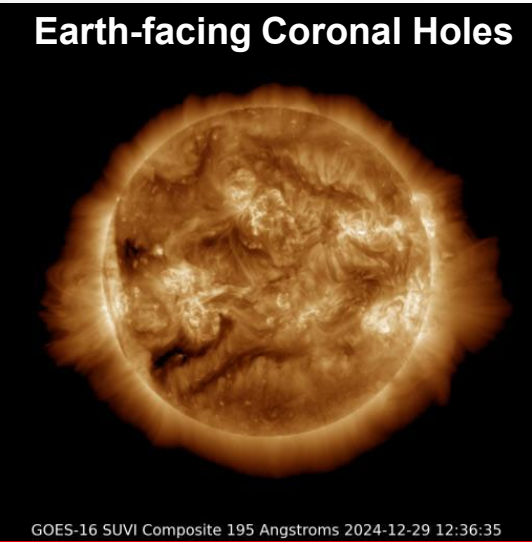




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 70%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	X1 Solar Flare
X-class: 20%	Radiation Storm: None	R3 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
12/29	12/30
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 will continue at low to moderate levels as strong (M-class) solar flares likely and there is a slight chance for isolated significant (X-class) solar flares through today. For the rest of the calendar year, M-class solar flares can be expected with an isolated chance for X-class solar flares as a complex of sunspots rotates along the western limb. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected with M-class solar flares and strong (R3) radio blackouts can be expected with X-class solar flares. Currently active sunspot #3936 contains a magnetic field that poses a threat for X-class solar flares. There is a chance for minor (R1) or greater solar radiation storms to persist through Monday given the number of active sunspots on the surface of the sun that are currently Earth-facing. Weak enhancements to the solar wind field are possible through Monday due to weak Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds. Mostly nominal conditions are expected to return by Tuesday (12/31). Quiet to unsettled conditions, with a chance for isolated active periods within the Earth's geomagnetic field, are expected today and tomorrow due to CH HSS conditions. Mostly quiet conditions will return by Tuesday (12/31). The overall space threat to Florida is 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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