



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, December 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	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	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Kaya Dungey	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Hunter Stafford	(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	In Region	On- Call Status
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Mason Kozac	In Region	On- Call Status
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 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7



Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Holiday
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Holiday
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Holiday
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	Holiday
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	Holiday
Region 9: Kathryn Thompson	In Region	Holiday
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)

R2 coverage provided by Recovery RC 3

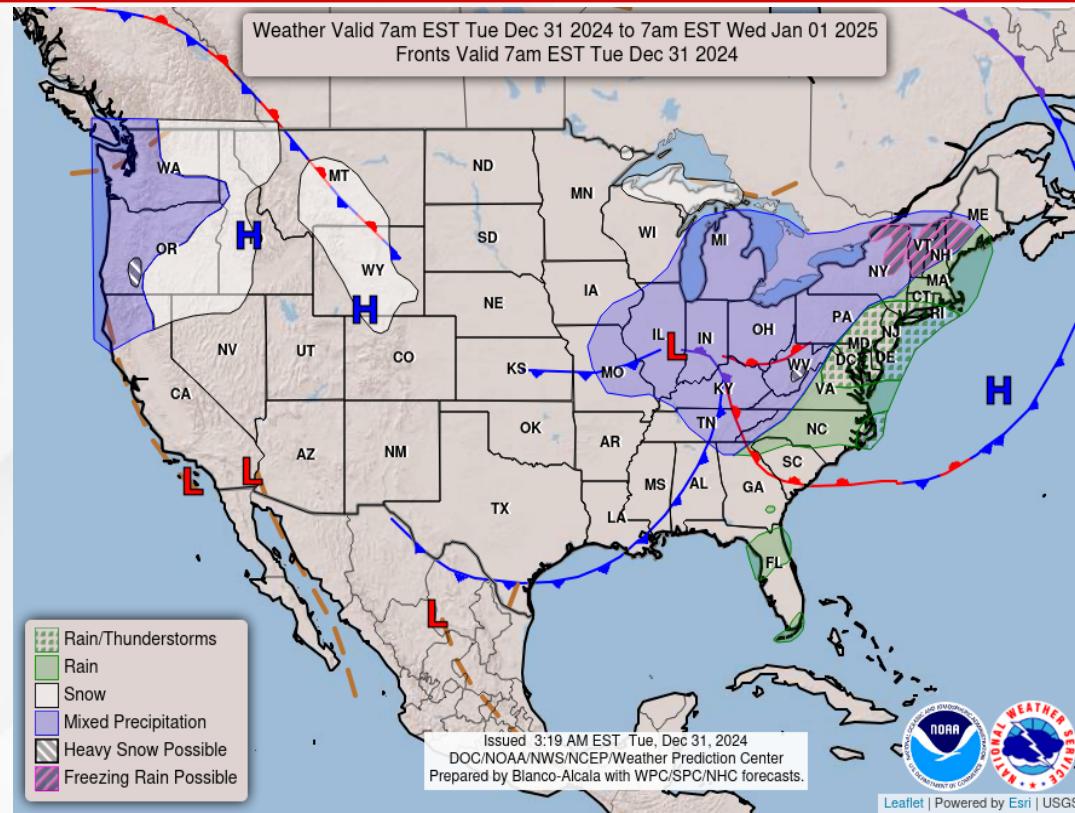
R5 and R6 coverage provided by Recovery RC 4

R10 coverage provided by Recovery RC 8

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



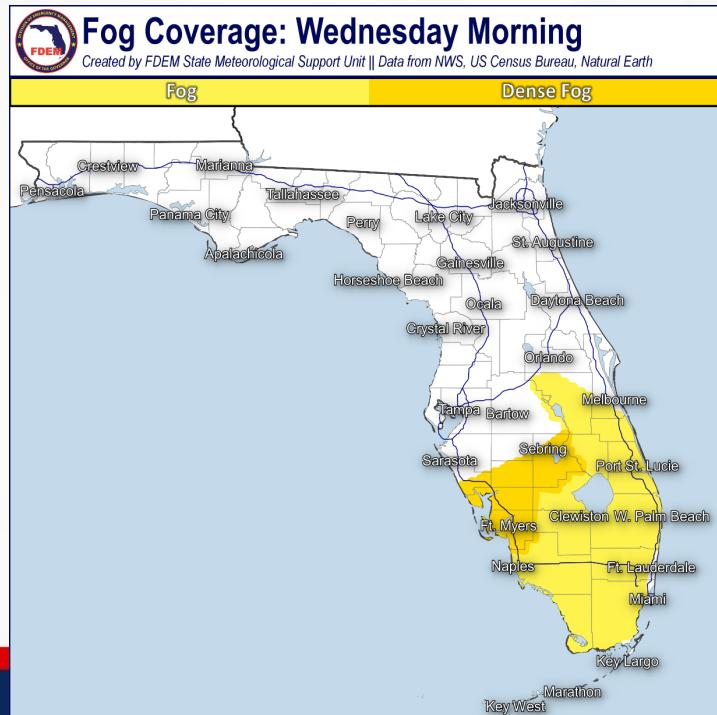
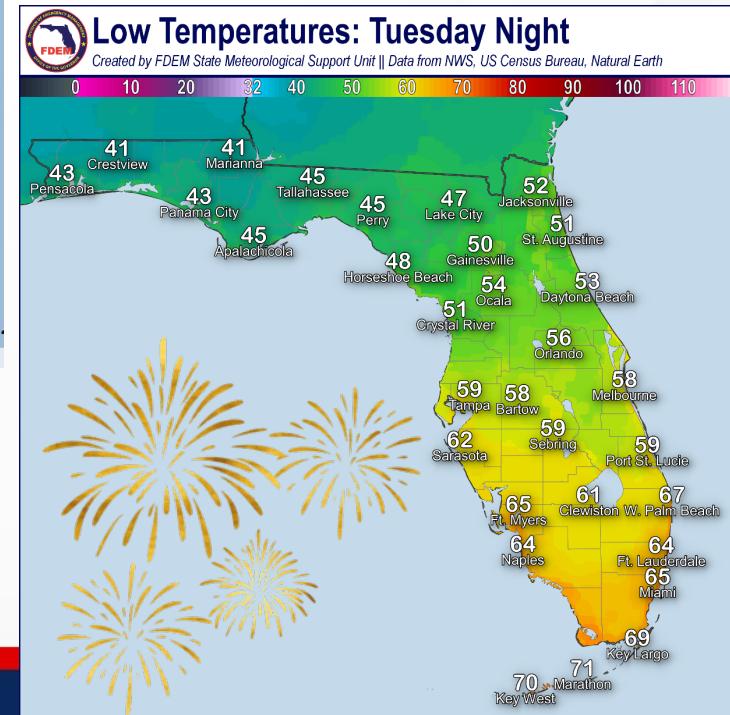
Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Happy New Year

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Fog (Overnight)					L					
Freeze (Overnight)							L	H	M	H
Fire Weather										
Rip Currents	M	H	L	L	M	M	M	L	L	L
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	15.15 ft. (0.50 ft. Above Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	339 (-33) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





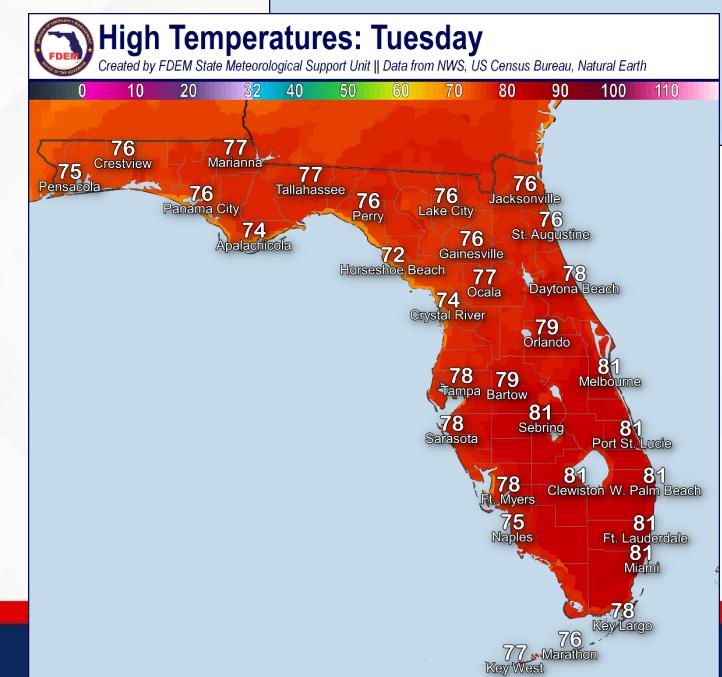
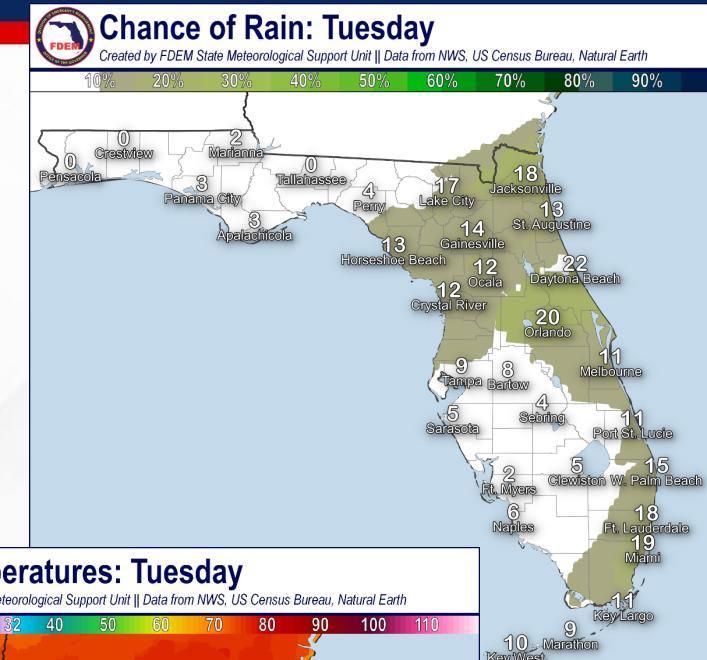
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Widespread fog and low clouds continue across Florida, with **Dense Fog Advisories** remaining in effect through mid-morning. Areas of **fog and low clouds** become the largest forecast challenge today, especially along the coastlines and adjacent coastal waters of the Florida Big Bend, West-Central, and Southwest Florida where **sea fog** may linger well into the afternoon hours.

A reinforcing cold front will advance eastward across the Deep South today, with drier air and more sunshine on the horizon! Breezy winds out of the southwest can be expected to build ahead of the frontal boundary, with **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** possible throughout portions of North and Central Florida during the daytime hours. By the afternoon, the cold front will be entering the western Florida Panhandle and will be approaching the Florida Nature Coast and Northeast Florida this evening. Higher cloud coverage and available moisture will lead to widely isolated rain showers developing along portions of the Florida East Coast today, with the greatest chance of rain residing over East-Central Florida (10-25% chance of rain). Generally, rain-free conditions can be expected elsewhere across the state. Temperatures will trend above normal this afternoon to close out 2024, with highs in the middle 70s to lower 80s statewide.

Rain chances will gradually recede to the coastal waters this evening, giving way to partly to mostly cloudy conditions throughout the Florida Peninsula overnight. The frontal boundary will divide the state north to south, with North Florida's weather looking ideal to welcome the New Year. Low temperatures will reach the lower to middle 40s across the Florida Panhandle and the upper 40s to lower 50s through the Suwannee River Valley. With the cold front not quite through the Florida Peninsula, areas of **dense fog and low clouds** will be possible mainly south of the I-4 corridor to ring in 2025. *Smoke from New Year's fireworks may further reduce visibilities overnight in areas that are already seeing fog and low cloud activity; if driving, please slow down, use your low beam headlights, and leave plenty of distance ahead of you.* **Dense Fog Advisories** will likely be issued later today. Fog and low clouds will keep overnight mild in the 60s and 70s throughout Central and South Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk of rip currents** continues along the Florida Panhandle coastline today, with southwesterly (onshore) winds bringing **moderate risk** conditions to the West-Central Florida Coast. A **moderate risk of rip currents** continues for the Space and Treasure Coasts, with a low risk returning to the remainder of Atlantic beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Wave heights of 2-3' can be expected along many Florida beaches today, with seas remaining near 1-2' along Southwest and Southeast Florida coastlines.

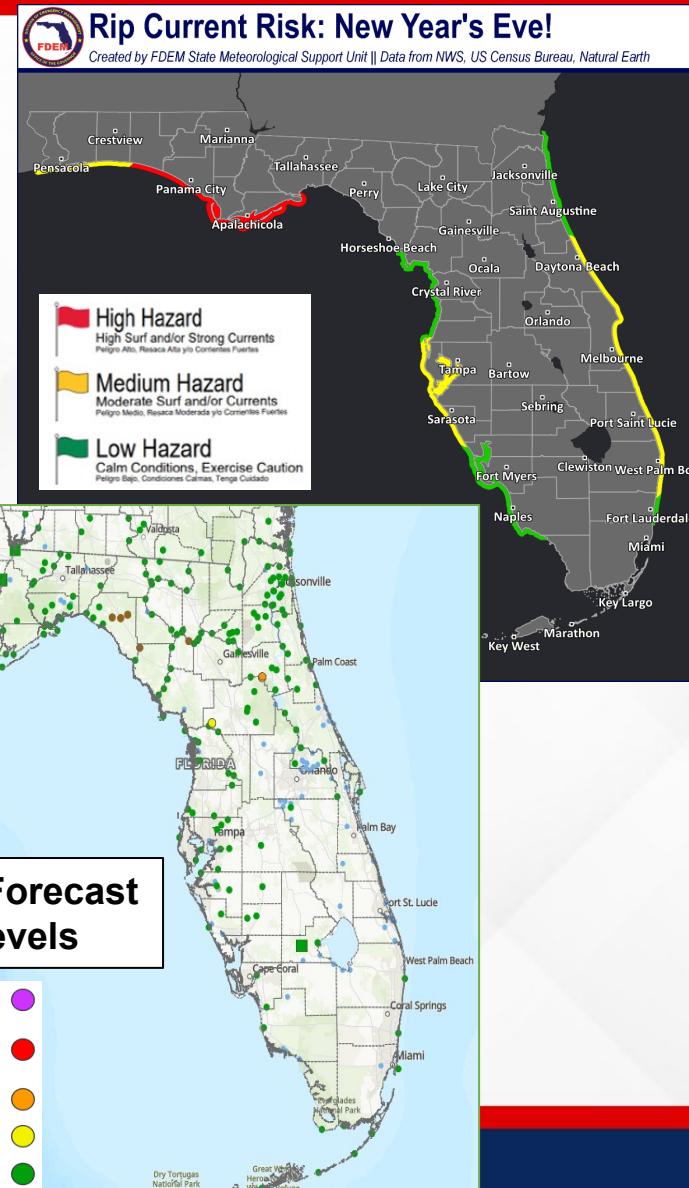
Red Tide has been observed in **35** samples collected Southwest Florida over the past week (as of 12/27). Background to **low concentrations** were observed in and offshore of Pinellas County, with background **concentrations** in Hillsborough County, background to **medium concentrations** in Manatee 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.

Flash Flooding: Flash flooding is not expected today.

Riverine Flooding: There are no River Flood Warnings in effect across Florida. Water levels continue to run in Action Stage (bank-full) along the quicker-response basins of the western Florida Panhandle including: the [Perdido River near Barrineau Park](#), the [Escambia River near Century](#), [Big Coldwater Creek near Milton](#), and the [Shoal River near Crestview](#). No additional river flooding is expected as water levels have crested or will crest later today and gradually recede. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 15.15 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.50 feet above normal for this time of year.



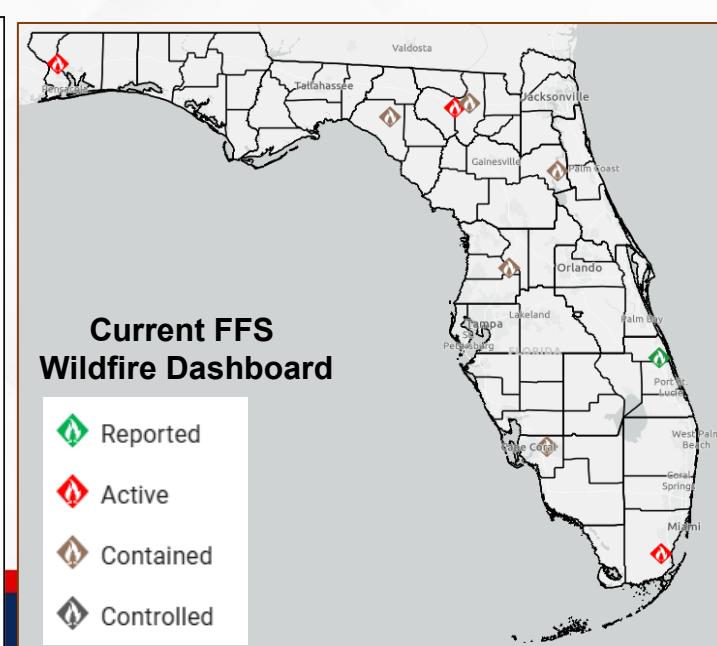
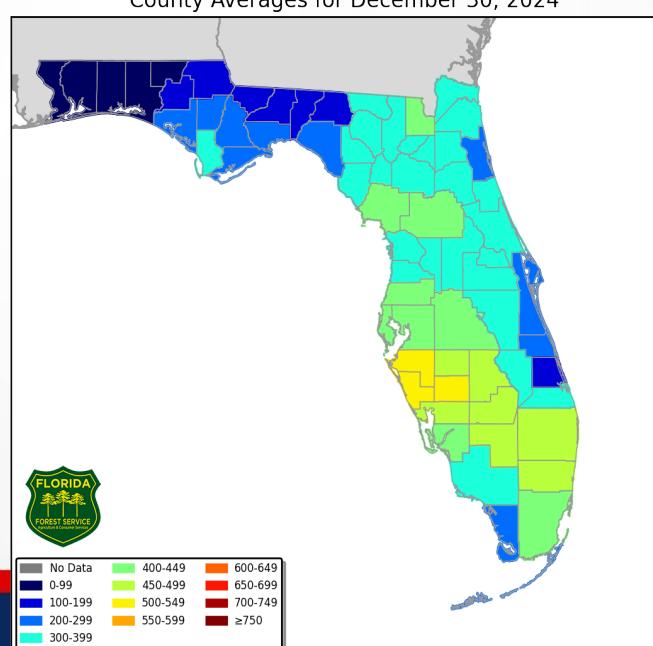
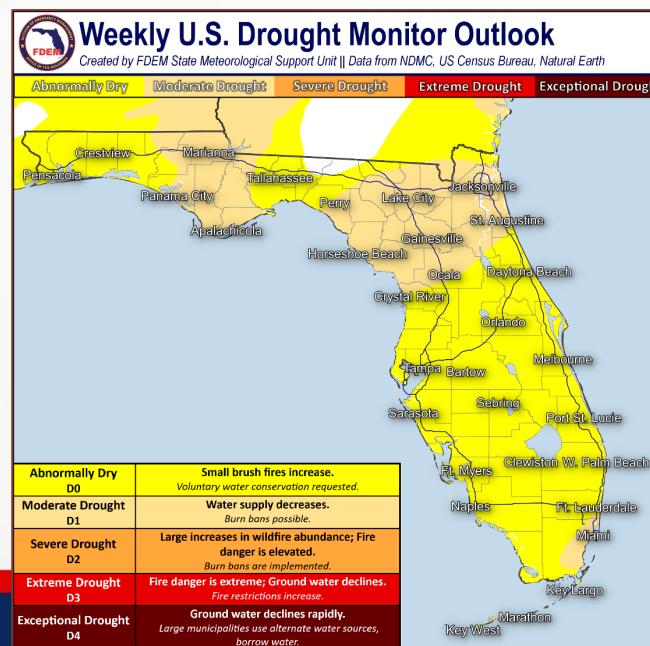


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Areas of dense fog and low clouds will largely persist this morning statewide, with fog lingering near and along the immediate Florida Gulf Coast through the afternoon hours. Foggy conditions coupled with ongoing wildfires or burns may produce locally lower visibilities. Relative humidity values today remain well above critical thresholds statewide, with widely isolated rain chances along the East-Central and Southeast Florida Coasts (10-25% chance of rain). Winds out of the southwest today will reach 10-15 mph throughout much of the Sunshine State, with wind gusts 15-25 mph possible. Areas of patchy to locally dense fog are expected once again tonight, mainly south of the I-4 corridor. The overall wildfire threat is low. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 9 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 23 acres.

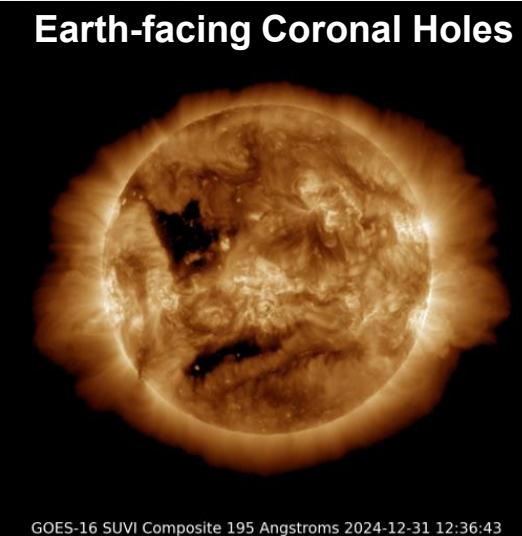
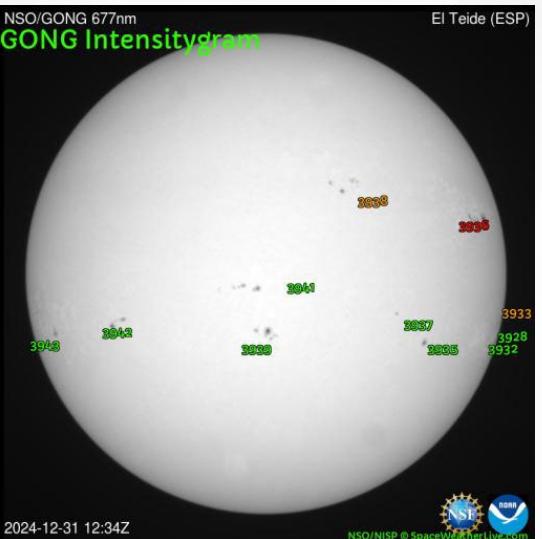
Drought: Increasing 60-day rainfall deficits of more than 4" has led to the addition of short-term **moderate drought** to portions of South Florida on the recent Drought Monitor update (as of 12/25). In addition, soil moisture and 28-day stream flows are beginning to fall below the 20th percentile across the Atlantic coastal areas of South Florida. **Moderate drought conditions** remain in place across the northern Florida 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 slightly above 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 **339 (-33)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **3** Florida counties (DeSoto, Manatee, 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: 80%	Geomagnetic Storm: G3 Watch – 12/31 G1 Watch – 1/1	M5 Solar Flare
X-class: 30%	Radiation Storm: None	R2 Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
12/31	1/1	
Max K _p = 7 (G3)	Max K _p = 5 (G1)	
Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 50%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 5%	

Space Weather: Active solar flare levels over the past 24-48 hours produced several Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), courtesy of unstable sunspot groups and sunspot #3936. Solar activity is forecast to continue at moderate to high levels today, with a chance for additional significant solar flares (X-class). Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected over the next 24 hours, with strong (R3) radio blackout possible with the more organized flare activity. Enhancements to the solar wind environment are likely by midday, due to the arrival for the CME from 12/29. Additional, yet weaker enhancements are possible into the New Year as we monitor the likely arrival of the second CME. A **G3 (strong) Geomagnetic Storm Watch** is in effect today as isolated periods of geomagnetic storming are likely this afternoon; the aurora may become visible over many of the northern states and some of the lower Midwest to Oregon. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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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