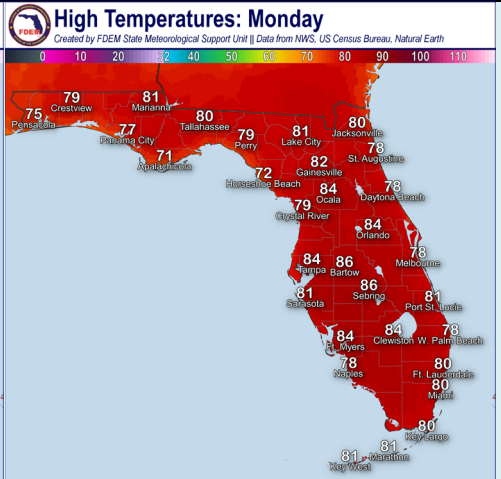
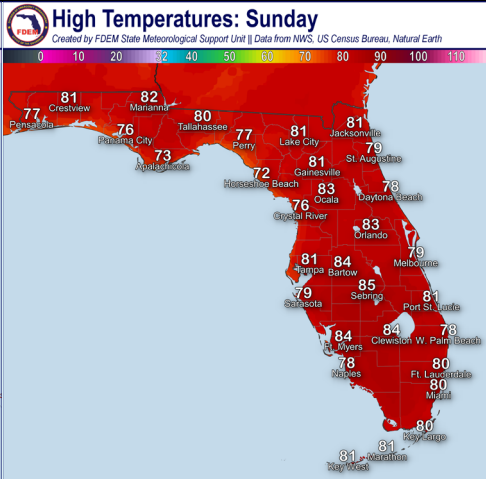
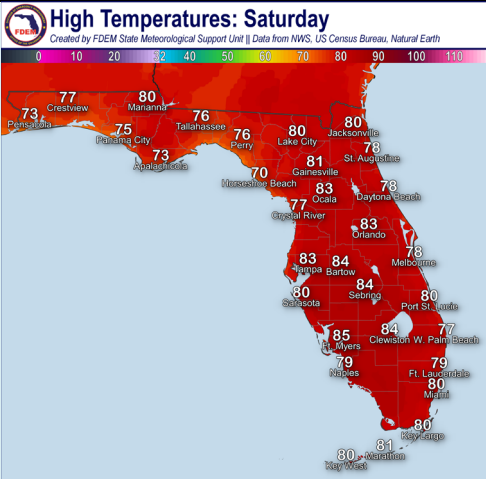


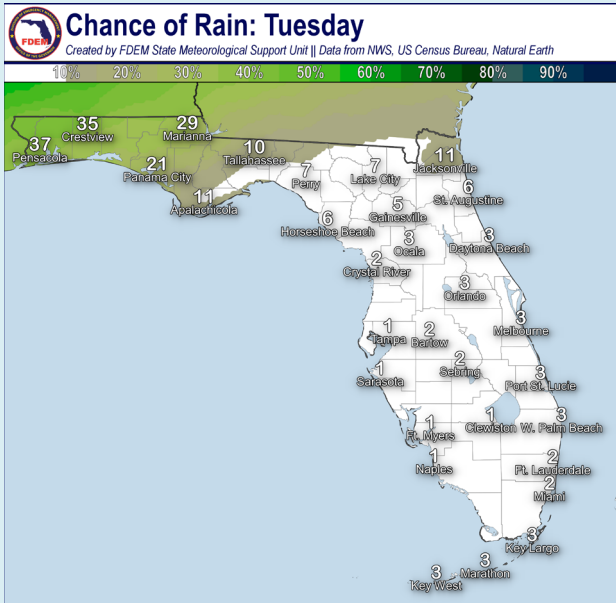
Friday, February 7, 2025

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

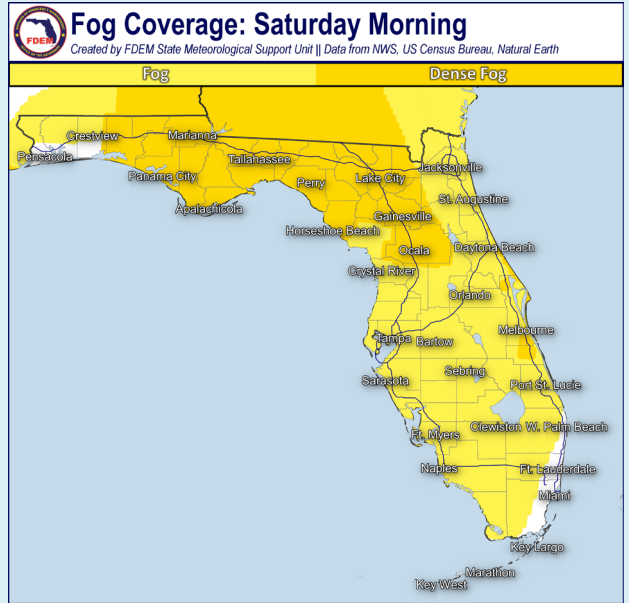
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind	Hail	Flash Flooding	Fire Weather	Freezing (Overnight)	Rip Currents
Fri						Iso. Interior Peninsula		Statewide West Coast
Sat						Iso. Interior Peninsula		Statewide West Coast
Sun						Iso. Interior Peninsula		Statewide West Coast
Mon						Locally Iso. Interior Peninsula		Statewide West Coast
Tue	Iso. Panhandle				Iso. W-Panhandle	Locally Iso. Interior Peninsula		Statewide West Coast



High Temperatures: Saturday, Sunday, Monday



Forecast Rain Chances: Tuesday



Forecast Fog Coverage: Saturday Morning



...Mostly Dry Conditions to Persist Statewide Through the Weekend...Chances For Showers Begin to Increase Early Next Week As A Cold Front Sinks Southward Towards North Florida...Above Normal Temperatures Expected to Continue Throughout the Forecast Period...Locally Sensitive Wildfire Conditions Possible At Times Across Interior Portions of the Florida Peninsula...Low to Moderate Risk for Rip Currents Expected to Persist Statewide...Widespread Patchy to Dense Fog To Continue Developing Across the State Overnight Into the Following Morning Hours Over the Next Few Days; Dense Fog Advisories Will Be Issued As Conditions Warrant...Sea Fog Will Linger Along Coastlines and Over Coastal Waters Through the Daytime Hours Over the Next Few Days...Today Is the Last Day of Severe Weather Awareness Week; Today's Topic Is Extreme Temperatures and Wildfires...



Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week – February 3-7, 2025:

Florida Severe Awareness Week provides an opportunity for Floridians to learn about the various weather hazards that frequently impact the state and how they can prepare for natural disasters. Each day focuses on a specific weather hazard.

Monday – Lightning: Lightning is one of nature's deadliest and most unpredictable weather phenomena and continues to be one of the top weather-related killers. While meteorologists can forecast the general conditions that cause lightning, no one can forecast the exact location or time of the next strike of lightning. Florida averages 6 fatalities a year due to lightning and often leads the nation in lightning fatalities, which was true in 2024 as 5 of the total 12 fatalities came from Florida. One characteristic of lightning that makes it dangerous is its extensive range. Lightning can strike 10 miles or more from a thunderstorm core and once lightning strikes the ground it can travel up to 60 feet outward from the point of contact. A "Bolt from the Blue" is a lightning bolt that travels a relatively large distance in clear air away from the parent thunderstorm and then strikes the ground. These events can be especially dangerous, as they appear to come from "clear blue sky." *Always remember that when thunder roars, go indoors!* It is never safe to be outside during a thunderstorm.

Tuesday – Marine & Rip Currents: Much like lightning, Florida often leads the nation in reported rip current drownings each year. A rip current is a strong channel of water moving away from the shore at beaches, and are quite common, occurring at many beaches every day on both the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of Florida. Rip currents are dangerous because they can pull unprepared or even the strongest swimmers away from shore and into deeper offshore waters and can become even more dangerous when swimmers panic and struggle against the current. A visible channel of churning, choppy water; a narrow channel where there is a difference in water color; a line of seaward moving



foam; or an offshore area of murky water are all indicators of possible rip currents. If you find yourself caught in a rip current, don't panic, and don't fight the current. Swim in a direction parallel to the shoreline either toward your left or right. Just remembering the simple phrase "*Don't fight... swim left or right*" could save your life. Before venturing out onto the waters, it is important for boaters to check the weather. What may seem like a tranquil start to the day can quickly turn violent with hazards such as severe thunderstorms, strong winds, rough seas, lightning and waterspouts.

Wednesday – Thunderstorms & Tornadoes: Florida has the greatest number of thunderstorms in the United States, averaging over 70 thunderstorm days per year with much of the Gulf Coast experiencing over 80 to 105 days a year. Severe thunderstorms are categorized by a thunderstorm detected by radar producing or capable of producing straight-line winds in excess of 58 mph and/or hail larger than 1" in diameter (quarter-size or greater). Tornadoes are not usually associated with the "Sunshine State", but Florida ranks **5th nationally in the annual average number of tornadoes** (from 1994-2023) and 10th in tornado fatalities with an annual average of 3 fatalities per year. History shows tornadoes are just as likely to form after midnight as they do during the afternoon and early evening in Florida. *Always have multiple ways to receive alerts, both during daytime hours and overnight, especially if the power is to go out.*

Thursday – Hurricanes & Flooding: The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially starts June 1 and runs through November 30; however, tropical systems can form outside of those months. Florida has a long history of hurricanes. Records indicate that 125 hurricanes and 157 tropical storms have impacted the State since 1851. No other state in the country has more hurricane landfalls per year on average than Florida does. Nearly 40% of all hurricanes that strike the United States make landfall in Florida. While hurricanes are known and feared for their ferocious winds, historically it is the water that causes the most deaths in hurricane seasons. About 90% of the fatalities of all hurricane fatalities occur from drowning in either storm surge or freshwater flooding. Even outside of tropical systems, flooding is a serious concern in Florida since it can happen anywhere and any time of year. Because it is difficult to determine the depth of water or the condition of the road under the water, if you come to a flooded road, remember the phrase "*Turn Around, Don't Drown*".

Friday – Extreme Temperatures & Wildfires: Florida is known as the "Sunshine State" but it could also quantify as the "Hot State." Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf, the state is always influenced by tropical moisture, especially in the summer. The combination of hot temperatures and increased moisture during the summertime can create heat index values or feels-like temperatures that can be dangerous for humans and pets. For example, in 2010, a heat index of 124 degrees was observed at the Apalachicola Airport. *Remember during the summertime, especially during very humid days, to wear loose-fitting clothing, drink plenty of water and avoid being outdoors for long periods of time.* Though it's not as common, Florida is no stranger to cold outbreaks and even winter precipitation. Below freezing temperatures, dangerous wind chills, snow, sleet and ice have all occurred in Florida during the wintertime. *Remember the 5P's of Cold Weather Preparedness: Protect People, Plants, Pets, Pipes and Practice Fire Safety.* Not only should practicing fire safety be considered when trying to heat your home during the winter, but residents and visitors should practice fire safety outdoors since wildfire season in Florida is 12 months long. Most wildfires are started by humans, intentionally like arson or unintentionally by yard waste burns that get out of control. Wildfires often begin unnoticed, but they can spread quickly igniting trees, grasses and homes.

Friday – Sunday:

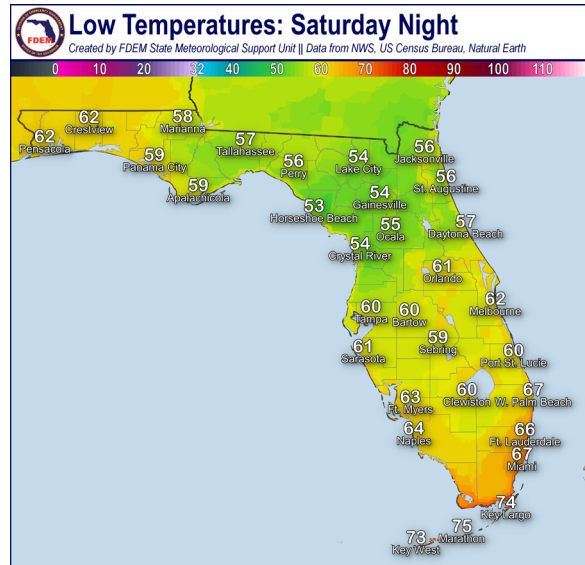
Areas of sea fog may linger throughout the day near and along the coastal waters and immediate coastlines. Partly to mostly sunny skies and mostly dry conditions can be anticipated across the Sunshine State once the fog lifts and dissipates each morning as high pressure remains in place



(near 0-15% chance of rain). A few isolated showers will be possible at times along the Panhandle; however, activity is expected to remain light and brief.

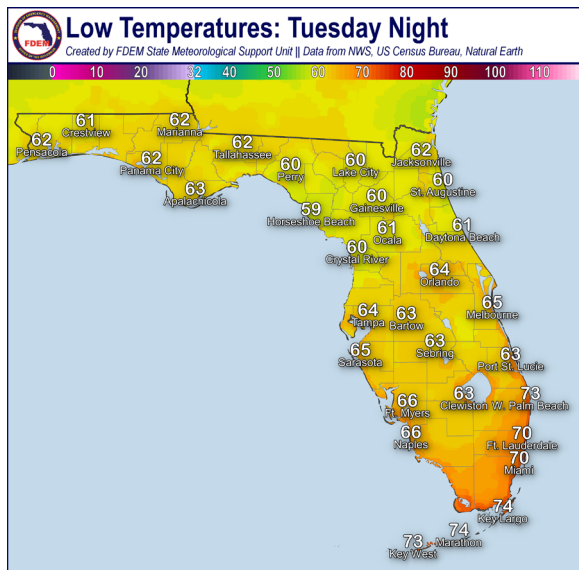
Above normal temperatures can be expected to continue statewide throughout the forecast period as high temperatures rise into the middle 70s to middle 80s in the afternoons. Winds can be expected to remain near 5-10 mph with gusts up to 10-15 mph.

Low temperatures will remain in the middle 50s to low 60s across North Florida, low to middle 60s across Central and Southwest Florida, and middle to upper 60s across South Florida, and upper 60s to middle 70s along the Southeast Coast and Keys. The fog pattern will likely continue through the weekend with **patchy to dense fog** spreading inland overnight into the following morning hours before gradually lifting and dissipating by the mid-morning hours. *Remember to use low beams when driving and keep plenty of space between the cars ahead.* Sea fog will linger along coastlines and over coastal waters throughout the daytime hours.



Monday – Tuesday:

Rain chances begin to return to the state early next week as the area of high pressure retreats off to the south and east and a cold front sinks southward towards North Florida and stalls. Increasing moisture interacting with the cold front will bring an increasing chance of showers along the Florida Panhandle Monday (5-25% chance of rain) and Tuesday (15-45% chance of rain). Isolated rumbles of thunder may be possible on Tuesday, especially if the cold front can get far enough south. Mostly dry conditions will persist elsewhere across the state under the lingering periphery of the area of high pressure (near 0-15% chance of rain). A few isolated showers may be possible at times; however, activity is expected to remain light and brief.



High temperatures will continue to soar **above normal** into the 70s to low 80s along the Florida Panhandle and middle 70s to middle 80s along the Peninsula and Keys in the afternoons. Portions of the interior Peninsula may see high temperatures approach the upper 80s. Winds near 5-10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph Monday will strengthen to 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-20 mph** Tuesday as the cold front approaches.

Low temperatures will remain in the upper 50s to low 60s across North Florida, low to middle 60s across Central and Southwest Florida, and upper 60s to middle 70s across South Florida and the Keys.

Hydrology & Flooding:

Flash flooding is not expected over the next 5 days. Mostly dry conditions will generally persist across the Sunshine State through the weekend. Rain chances begin to return to the state early next week as the area of high pressure retreats off to the south and east and a cold front sinks southward towards North Florida and stalls. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain near or below 1" across North Florida over the next 5 days with **locally higher rainfall totals** near 1-2" possible along



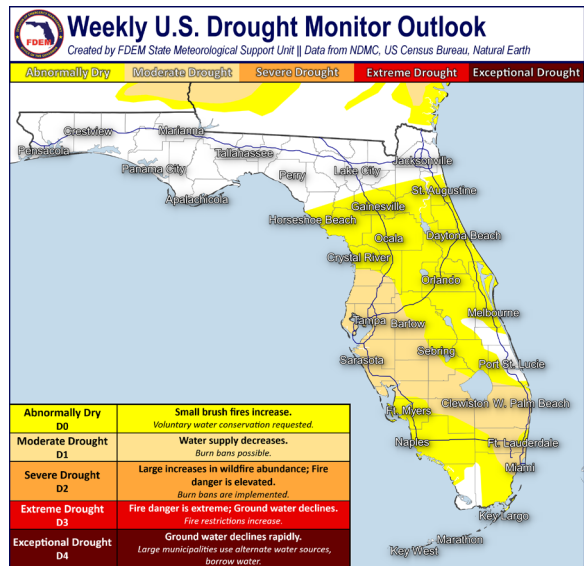
the Panhandle. Isolated instances of **localized flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out in vulnerable urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas in the Western Panhandle that see locally higher rainfall totals in a relatively short period of time Tuesday. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center [website](#).

There are no riverine flood concerns across Florida at this time. Isolated to scattered shower activity across North Florida early next week may lead to some slight rises in quicker-response rivers and waterways that see locally higher rainfall totals; however, riverine flooding is not expected. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 14.26 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.36 feet **below** normal. Lake elevations have fallen by about 0.17 feet over the past week and about 0.67 feet over the past 30 days. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal temperatures and near normal rainfall across the Lake Okeechobee region over the next week or so which will likely allow water levels to hold steady or continue falling.

Fire Weather:

Florida continued to see degradations in conditions over the past week that are reflected in this week's [Drought Monitor](#) update (as of 2/6). Warmer-than-normal temperatures and a lack of rainfall over the past week have led to expansion of **Moderate Drought** conditions into the Tampa Bay and Miami-Dade areas. **Moderate Drought** conditions remain in place across portions of West-Central Florida and southeastward to Southeast Florida with **Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)** conditions stretching across much of the rest of the Peninsula. Widespread 60-day rainfall deficits are now near 1-3" across much of the Peninsula with locally higher deficits near 3-5" across portions of West-Central and Southeast Florida. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking near to above normal rainfall and above normal temperature across the state over the next week or so which may allow drought conditions to continue degrading.



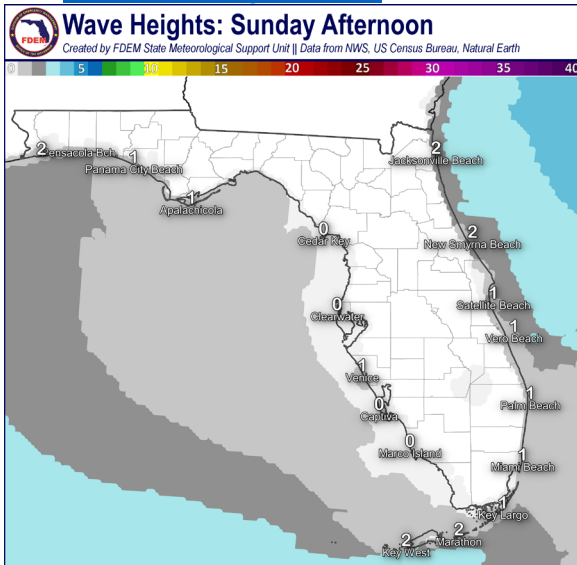
[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **344 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **15** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Pasco, and Sarasota) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Areas of sea fog may linger throughout the day near and along the coastal waters and immediate coastlines. Mostly dry conditions will generally persist across the Sunshine State through the weekend. Rain chances begin to return to the state early next week as the area of high pressure retreats off to the south and east and a cold front sinks southward towards North Florida and stalls. Winds near 5-10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph through the weekend and into early next week will strengthen to 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-20 mph** Tuesday as the cold front approaches. **Relative humidity values** will remain above critical thresholds throughout the forecast period with interior portions of the Peninsula seeing **values near 40-55%** in the afternoons. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out across interior portions of the Peninsula with ongoing drought conditions. **Additional rounds of patchy to dense fog** can be expected nearly statewide overnight into the following morning hours over the next few days. *Foggy conditions will further reduce visibility where there are ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 31 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 369.18 acres (as of 1:54 PM EST).



Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A low to **moderate risk for rip currents** will generally persist along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast over the next 5 days with a low risk along the West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.



Calm marine conditions will generally persist across the state over the next 5 days with wave heights near or below 1-2' expected along the Florida Panhandle and West Coast and near 1-3' expected along Florida's Atlantic Coast. **Locally higher 4' waves** may be possible at times further offshore along Florida's Atlantic Coast.

Coastal flooding is not expected over the next 5 days.

Red Tide has been observed in **111** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (valid 2/5). Background to **low concentrations** have been observed in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, and Levy Counties. Background to **medium concentrations** have been observed in and offshore of Charlotte and Monroe Counties. Background to **high concentrations** have been observed in and offshore of

Lee and Collier Counties *Fish kills and respiratory irritation have been reported in Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties.* Satellite imagery from 2/4 revealed persisting chlorophyll patches in areas along and offshore of Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Monroe counties. Sampling conducted during a recent research survey helped confirm the presence of Red Tide in these areas of high chlorophyll signatures. Variable movement of surface and subsurface waters is forecast from Pinellas County to northern Monroe County over the next 3-4 days.

As of 1/28, **Blue-Green Algae** was observed on partially obscured satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee with scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** throughout the Lake. Partially obscured satellite imagery of the St. Johns River from 1/29 showed scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River down to Jacksonville, Florida. Satellite imagery from 1/28 is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows sparsely scattered low bloom potential throughout the upper half of the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Partially obscured satellite imagery of the St. Lucie Estuary from 1/27 shows no bloom potential.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

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[Orlando](#) • [Tampa](#) • [Fort Myers](#) • [West Palm Beach](#) • [Miami](#) • [Key West](#)

[Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service](#)

For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

