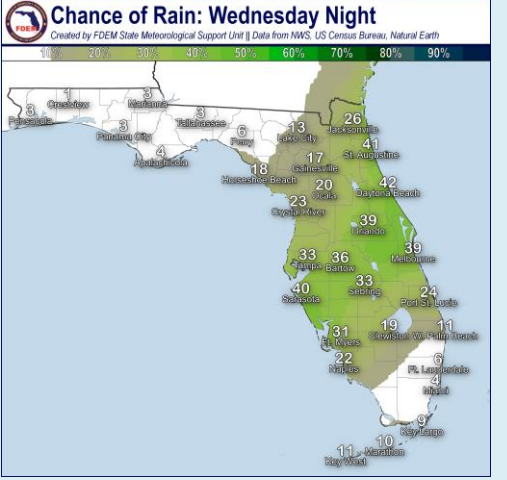
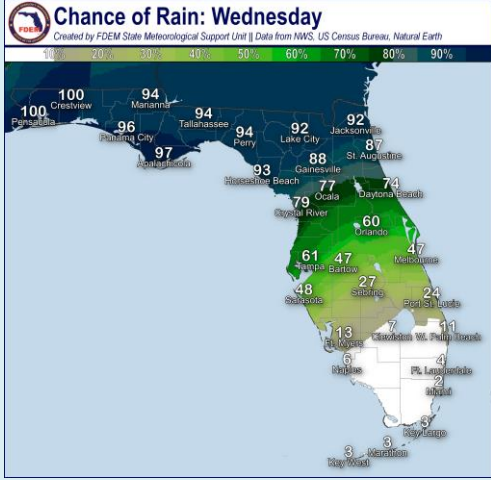
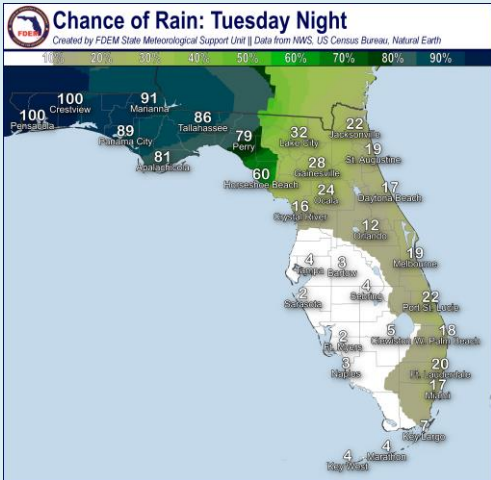


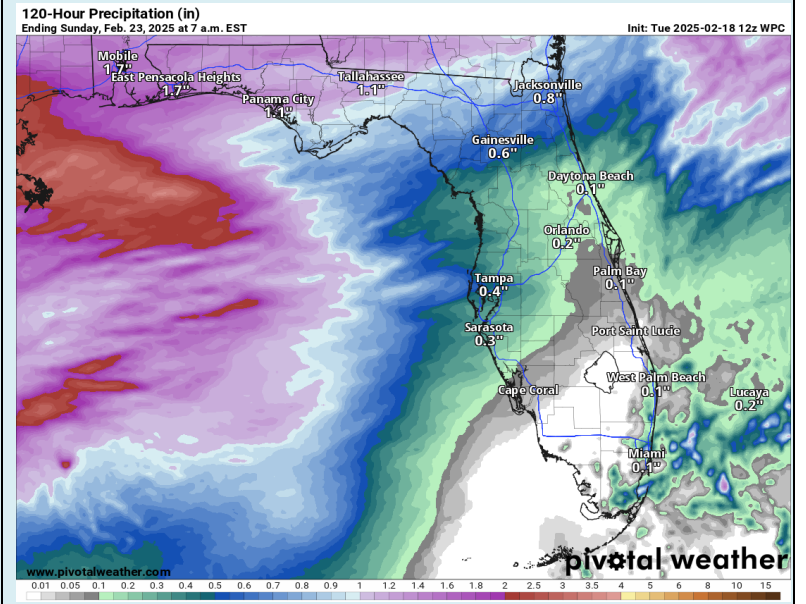
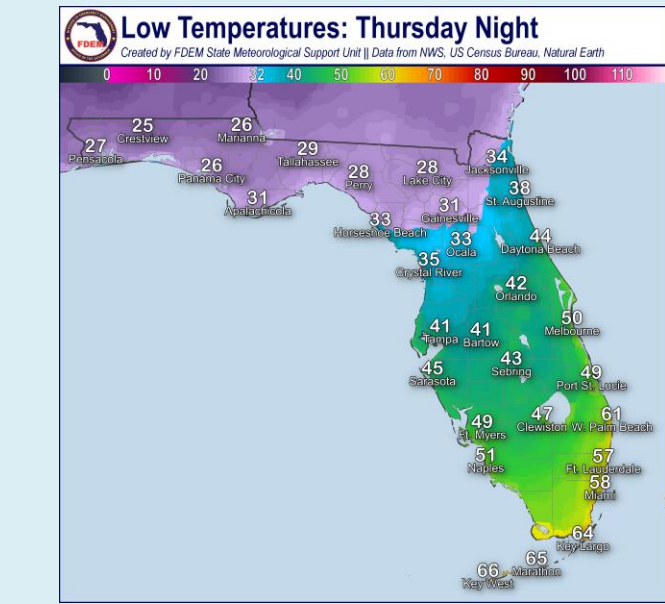
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Flash Flooding	Freeze (Overnight)	Wildfire	Coastal Flooding	Rip Currents
Tue	Locally Iso. Panhandle (Overnight)			Locally Iso. Panhandle		I-10 Corridor & Suwannee Valley		Palm Beach County Panhandle, East Coast & SW FL West Coast
Wed	N. Peninsula & Central FL Iso. Big Bend			Locally North FL & Nature Coast	W. Panhandle Panhandle	Iso. South FL	Locally Iso. Nature Coast	Southeast FL Statewide
Thu					Locally NW Panhandle I-10 Corridor & N. FL Nature Coast	Locally North & West Florida	Iso. St. Johns River (Tidal) & Gulf-facing Keys	Statewide
Fri					North of I-10 Int. North Florida	Statewide	Iso. St. Johns River (Tidal) & Gulf-facing Keys	East Coast Panhandle & Gulf Coast
Sat	Locally Iso. Nature Coast & West Coast					Panhandle	Iso. Nature Coast & West-Central Coast	East Coast Panhandle & Gulf Coast



Forecast Rain Chances: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday



...Dry Conditions to Start Off Forecast Period...Increasing Rain Chances Midweek with Widespread Rainfall Across North and Central Florida...Nuisance Flooding and Ponding of Water Possible With Locally Heavier Rainfall...Strong Arctic Air Moving in Wednesday and Thursday...Sub-Freezing Temperatures Expected Across North Florida Overnight Thursday...Drier Conditions Return at End of the Week...Apalachicola River within Minor Flood Stage...Drought Conditions Worsen Across Portions of Peninsula...Moderate to High Risk for Rip Currents Expected Statewide Midweek...

Tuesday:

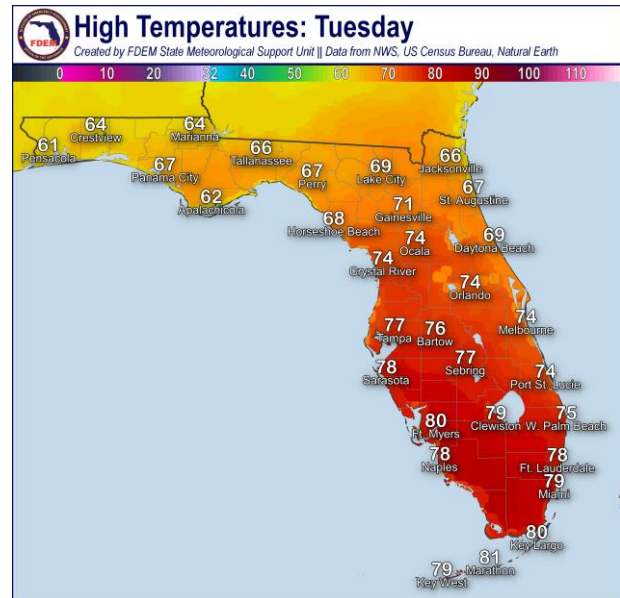
Brief isolated showers will be possible throughout the day across portions of East-Central and South Florida due to a stationary front just south of the Florida Keys (15-25% chance of rain). These showers should remain relatively light in nature and brief due to drier air within the upper-levels of the atmosphere. High pressure over the Mid-Atlantic states will extend over the rest of the Sunshine State throughout the day creating mostly dry conditions and a mixture of sunshine and cloud cover. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will develop along the I-10 corridor this afternoon with relative humidity values falling **near or below critical thresholds this afternoon (30-40%)**; however, recent rainfall should help to limit the overall wildfire threat.

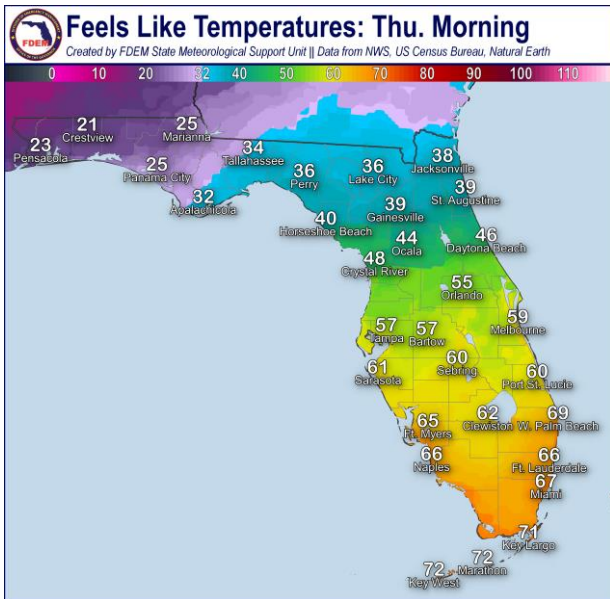
High temperatures will reach the 60s across North Florida, lower to middle 70s across Central Florida and upper 70s to lower 80s across South Florida and the Keys.

A Gulf Low will develop off the Texas coastline overnight and move over the open waters of the gulf parallel to the Gulf Coast states. Increasing cloud cover and rain chances can be expected overnight and into Wednesday morning from west to east across the Panhandle and western Big Bend. Widespread showers, with embedded rumbles of thunder, can be expected to spread across the Panhandle and inland overnight and into the predawn hours (80-near 100% chance of rain). While the flash flood risk remains to the west of the Panhandle, **instances of nuisance flooding and ponding of water** cannot be ruled out through the predawn hours with any heavy downpours or repeated shower activity. Calm winds and elevated moisture will give way to **instances of patchy fog** developing by sunrise across portions of South Florida.

Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 40s and lower 50s across North Florida, middle 50s to lower 60s across Central Florida and upper 60s to lower 70s across South Florida overnight.

Wednesday – Thursday:



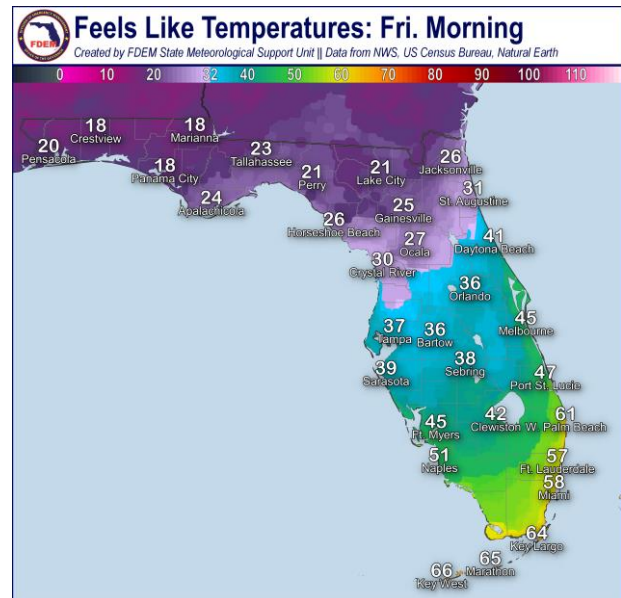


A surface low pressure system will develop and move along the Southern Plains and Mississippi Valley at the beginning of this forecast period. This will cause the chances of rain to increase in the early morning hours along the Florida Panhandle (85-near 100% chance of rain). These lines of showers are expected to remain below severe criteria due to the low-pressure system staying off the Florida Coast. While there is no organized risk for flash flooding, multiple rounds of moderate to heavy rain may lead to instances of **nuisance or localized ponding of water** on roadways, especially for low-lying or poor drainage areas along the Florida Panhandle.

Below normal high temperatures for this time of year can be expected to persist as temperatures reach the upper 50s and lower 60s in the Florida Panhandle and middle to upper 70s in Central and Southern Florida. The Peninsula of Florida will

remain dry in the Wednesday morning hours but have isolated showers approaching the region in the late afternoon/evening, with rain chances of (40-60%) mainly near and along I-4. A few thunderstorms cannot be ruled out during the daytime heating hours, any more **organized thunderstorm** may be capable of producing locally gusty winds, occasional lightning, and locally heavy downpours. The low-pressure system will quickly exit the Sunshine State and into the Atlantic Ocean leading to dry conditions overnight in the Florida Panhandle.

Low temperatures will fall into the **lower 30s** to low 40s across North Florida, with portions of the Panhandle falling below freezing Wednesday night. Feels-like temperatures will drop into the **upper teens to lower 20s** across the western Panhandle and **middle 20s to middle 30s** across the eastern Panhandle and into the western Big Bend by sunrise Thursday morning. By Thursday night **sub-freezing temperatures** in the **middle 20s to middle 30s** will expand across North Florida. Feels-like temperatures will fall into the **middle to upper teens** and **lower 20s** throughout North Florida, **middle to upper 20s** across the southern Suwannee Valley and **lower to middle 30s** from Nature Coast and north of the I-4 corridor. Central Florida will see lower temperatures in the upper 40s to upper 50s across Wednesday night before falling into the **upper 30s** to middle 40s Thursday night. South Florida will see low temperatures Wednesday night fall into the 60s to low 70s before falling into the upper 40s to upper 50s.



Friday – Saturday:

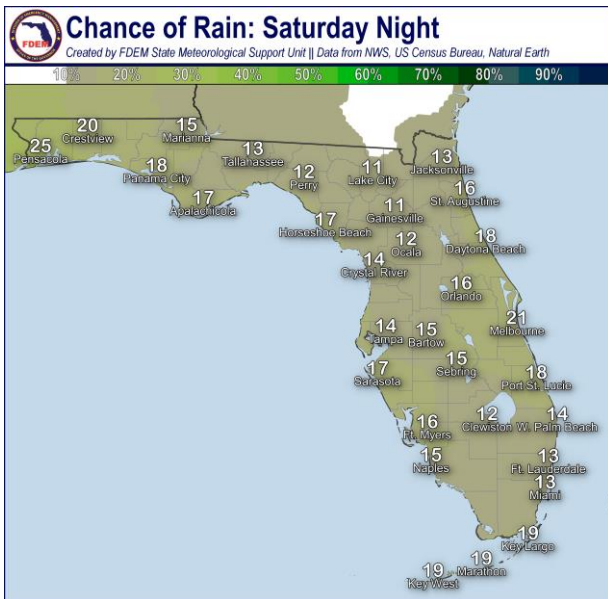
The strong arctic high pressure will shift over the Ohio Valley and the Appalachian Mountains and begin to weaken through the end of the week and into the weekend. Mostly sunny and dry conditions can be expected throughout the day on Friday and most of Saturday, with below normal temperatures for this time of year. Another Gulf low looks to develop over the central and southern gulf waters, then move westward towards the West Coast of Florida overnight on Saturday. This system will be weaker and much further south than the one a few days before, keeping shower activity much more



isolated to scattered in nature (15-25% chance of rain). There is disagreement within computer model guidance as the American model (GFS) is showing a more wet solution, which would bring a greater chance for rainfall, while the European model (ECMWF) is showing a drier solution keeping the overall system weak and dry. Regardless, an increase in cloud cover with a chance for showers will develop late Saturday evening and overnight spreading from west to east along the Panhandle then eventually to the West Coast.

Below normal temperatures will persist across North Florida will keep high temperatures in the lower to middle 50s on Friday, but temperatures will increase into the upper 50s to lower 60s on Saturday. Central and South Florida will continue to see high temperatures in the middle 60s to lower 70s both Friday and Saturday afternoons. Low temperatures will drop **near or just below freezing (31-**

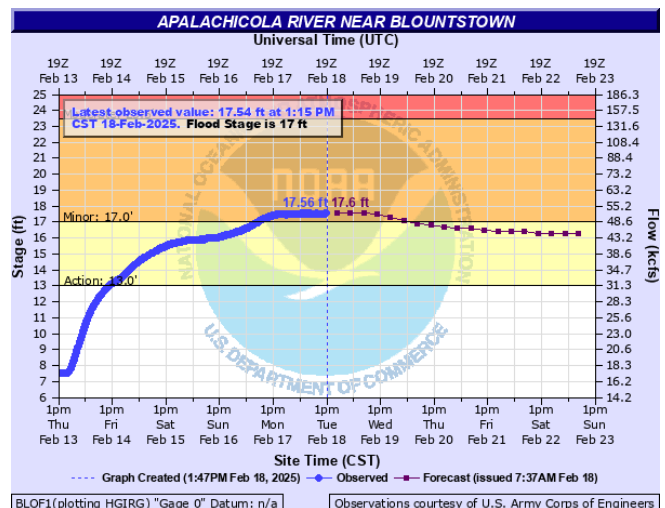
33-degrees) north of the I-10 corridor overnight Friday while the rest of North Florida can expect low temperatures in the **middle to upper 30s**. A **light freeze** may be possible across interior portions of North Florida, and **frost development** cannot be ruled out overnight Friday and into Saturday morning. Feels-like temperatures, also known as wind chills, will fall into the **upper 20s to low 30s** throughout most of interior North Florida by sunrise Saturday morning. By Saturday night, increasing cloud cover will keep low temperatures in the low to middle 40s throughout North Florida. Across Central Florida low temperatures Friday night will fall into the 40s and low 50s then increase to the 50s Saturday night. South Florida will continue to see low temperatures in the middle 50s to middle 60s, with the Southeast Florida coastline and Keys seeing low temperatures closer to the middle to upper 60s.



Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next 5 days. A Gulf low moving to the south of the Panhandle and Big Bend will bring widespread rainfall beginning overnight Tuesday and into Wednesday. Steady rainfall can be expected at times, with instances of heavy rainfall possible, which could create **localized instances of nuisance flooding and ponding of water** for low-lying/poor drainage areas. Rainfall totals of 0.5-1" will be possible through Wednesday, with **locally higher totals** upwards of 2-3" possible with any heavier downpours or persistent rainfall. Any training or multiple rounds of activity, especially any thunderstorms, could also lead to **instances of localized flooding** across urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas along the Nature and West Coasts. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

A **River Flood Warning** extends along the [Apalachicola River at Blountstown](#) as recent rainfall across the Florida Panhandle, as well as southern Alabama and Georgia, has led to water levels rising into **minor flood stage**. The river is forecast to slowly rise over the next couple of days before cresting around midweek. The [Escambia River near Century](#) and [Apalachicola River at Chattahoochee](#) are both within Action Stage (bank-



full) but are forecast to remain below flood stage. Conditions along the northern Panhandle, including the Escambia and Apalachicola Rivers, will continue to be monitored over the next few days with elevated headwaters flowing downstream through Alabama and Georgia. Several rivers along the Panhandle and Big Bend are forecast to rise into Action Stage (bank-full) over the couple of days with forecast widespread rainfall beginning overnight Tuesday and continuing into Wednesday. Heavy rainfall may allow for quick-response rivers along the Panhandle and Big Bend to see water levels rise faster than other larger river basins. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.97 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.60 feet below normal for this time of year.

Fire Weather:

Abnormally dry conditions (emerging drought) have returned along portions of the Panhandle and over the Apalachicola River basin on the most recent [Drought Monitor](#) (2/13) update due to above normal high temperatures and several days of dry conditions. **Moderate drought conditions** have expanded throughout much of the Florida Peninsula now extending from Nature Coast through Southeast Florida. An area of **severe drought** along southern Lake Okeechobee, northern Palm Beach County and eastern Glades County was introduced this week with the new update. Degrading soil moisture, streamflow and lack of precipitation have all shown quick-drying conditions over the last 1-3 months across the Southeast U.S. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Monitor Outlook for February 1 through April 30 was updated recently to show consistency adjustments made with the monthly drought outlook for the month of February. This map now shows drought development likely across the state of Florida, with drought persisting from West-Central Florida and southeastward into the Treasure Coast area.

[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **358** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **20** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Pasco, Sarasota and Sumter) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Drier conditions return throughout the state on Tuesday, with relative humidity values along the I-10 corridor and the Suwannee Valley falling **near or below critical thresholds (30-40%)** during the afternoon leading to **locally sensitive wildfire conditions**. Rainfall earlier from the weekend will help to preclude wildfire conditions, keeping it more isolated in drier areas. Widespread rainfall across North and Central Florida and **breezy wind gusts of 15-20 mph** developing across the state return midweek keeping wildfire conditions low. Isolated instances of **sensitive wildfire conditions** may be possible throughout South Florida where rainfall will remain to the north, but those breezy wind gusts extend southward. Much drier and cooler conditions return across the state through the rest of the week and into the weekend. Relative humidity values on Thursday and Friday will drop **near and below critical thresholds (25-45%)** across much of North and West Florida and **breezy wind gusts of 15-25 mph** will develop across the state, likely creating **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** with the greater risk for western Florida due to ongoing drought conditions. **Locally sensitive wildfire** conditions will likely continue into Saturday as dry conditions persist. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 23 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 395 acres.

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **moderate risk for rip currents** will continue for Florida Panhandle and West Coast beaches today and Wednesday ahead of our next weather system. With increasing onshore winds and elevated surf, a **high risk for rip currents** will develop on Thursday. These rip current conditions will continue through the rest of the week and diminish to a **moderate risk** by the start of the weekend. Numerous East Coast beaches can expect a **moderate risk for rip currents** to develop at the beginning of this forecast period due to northeasterly winds pushing waves onto the coast. Beginning Wednesday morning, a **high risk for rip currents** will also return to the East Coast continuing to the end of this forecast time criteria. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.



Ocean swells along the Florida Panhandle will remain calm 1-2' beginning Tuesday. The swells along the Panhandle will reach **2-4'** as early as Wednesday morning due to the surface low pressure system. These **swells** will extend along the Big Bend and West Coast into Thursday. **Locally greater surf of 5'** will be possible throughout the day on Thursday. Elevated surf conditions will linger through the rest of the week and into the weekend with persistent onshore winds due to the active weather pattern. Florida East Coast beaches can expect wave heights of **2-4'** that will continue through Thursday morning. The ocean swells strengthen Thursday afternoon and evening for all Atlantic beaches, which will increase **wave heights to 3-6'**. Portions of the Treasure Coast could see **heights upwards of 6'** and localized spots along the Gold Coast could see **upwards of 7'**. **High Surf Advisories** may be needed along the Treasure and Gold Coast, should conditions warrant.

No organized risk for coastal flooding has been outlooked over the next 5 days. As our area of low pressure advances east toward the Atlantic Coast, northerly to northeasterly winds will quickly filter in its wake across the state and coastal waters. Isolated instances of **nuisance to locally minor coastal flooding** cannot be ruled out along the Gulf-side of Florida Bay in the Keys as well as vulnerable portions of the Northeast Florida and the tidal St. Johns River. Instances of higher than normal water levels would likely occur at or near times of high tide; however, widespread coastal flooding impacts are not anticipated with this frontal system.

Red Tide has been observed in **50** samples collected from Southwest Florida as of 2/14. Chlorophyll satellite imagery continues to track offshore patches suspected to contain red tide. Recent imagery from 2/13 shows chlorophyll patches persisting along and offshore Charlotte, Lee, Collier and Monroe counties. Compared to other weeks, these patches have moved further northward and decreased somewhat in intensity. In Southwest Florida, red tide was observed at background to **low concentrations** in Pinellas, Manatee and Monroe counties. Background to **medium concentrations** have been observed in Sarasota, Charlotte, and Collier counties. Background to **high concentrations** have been observed in Lee County. Fish kills and respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide have been reported within Southwest Florida along Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Monroe counties. *There is likely a higher risk for respiratory irritation from red tide when winds are blowing onshore or alongshore.* Forecasts from Pinellas to northern Monroe counties predict net northern movement of surface waters and net northwestern transport of subsurface waters in most areas.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** report indicates algal bloom conditions were observed at 20 sites during the week of 2/7 to 2/13. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows widely scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on the visible western, northern and eastern shores of the lake. The St. Johns River satellite imagery also shows scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Jacksonville. Both the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries show no visible bloom potential within satellite imagery.

[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 rest of the week!

Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist
Jack Anderson, Meteorological Intern
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

