



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, February 20, 2025



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	Taylor Cheney	(850) 545-4047	Taylor.Cheney@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Melissa James	(850) 566-6422	Melissa.James@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	Karen Kozac	(850) 759-6226	Karen.Kozac@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	Okaloosa	Division / Group Supervisor Training
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Response Mtgs / TLH Airport Emergency Response TTX / EMAC Training
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Gilchrist	LEPC Meeting
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Volusia	FDOT Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough, Polk	Response Coordination Team Meeting / EM Meeting
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Indian River	Response Coordination Team Meeting
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Sarasota	Waterway Debris Removal Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	EM Meeting



Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
 Region 7 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9
 Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

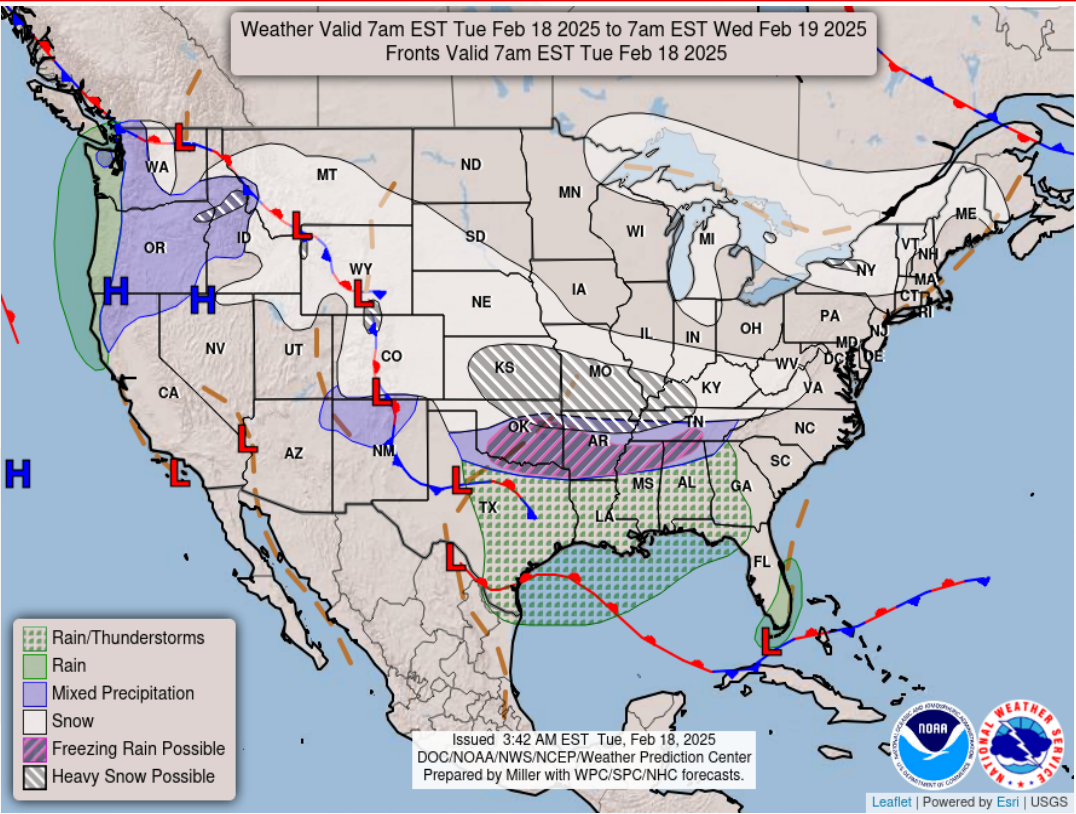
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Holmes	LMS meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Instructing FL Courses
Region 3: Patrick James	Alachua	AWR-136 Training
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Alachua	AWR-136 Training
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Sumter	State Commerce Meeting
RRCT Manager	Leon	Instructing FL Courses
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell	Leon	Instructing FL Courses
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Hardee	LTRG Meeting
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Administrative Duties
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Broward	External Stakeholders Meeting

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

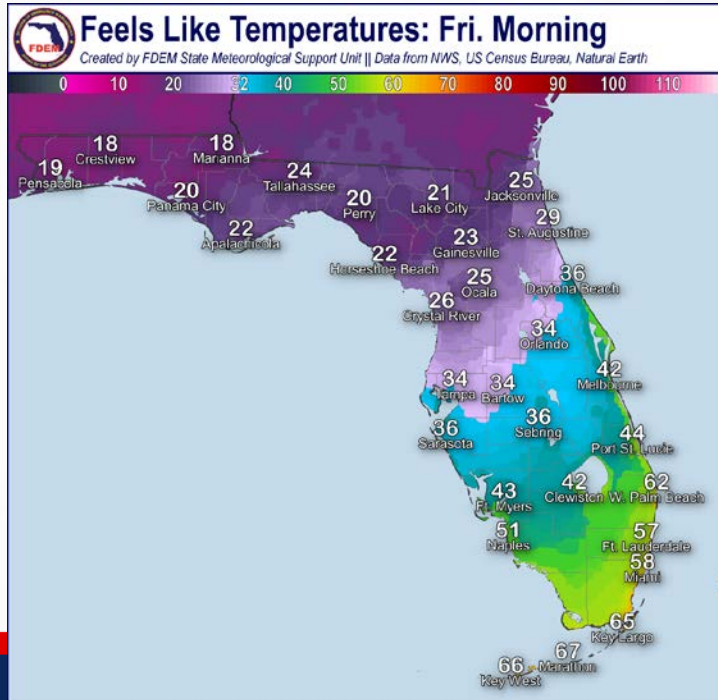
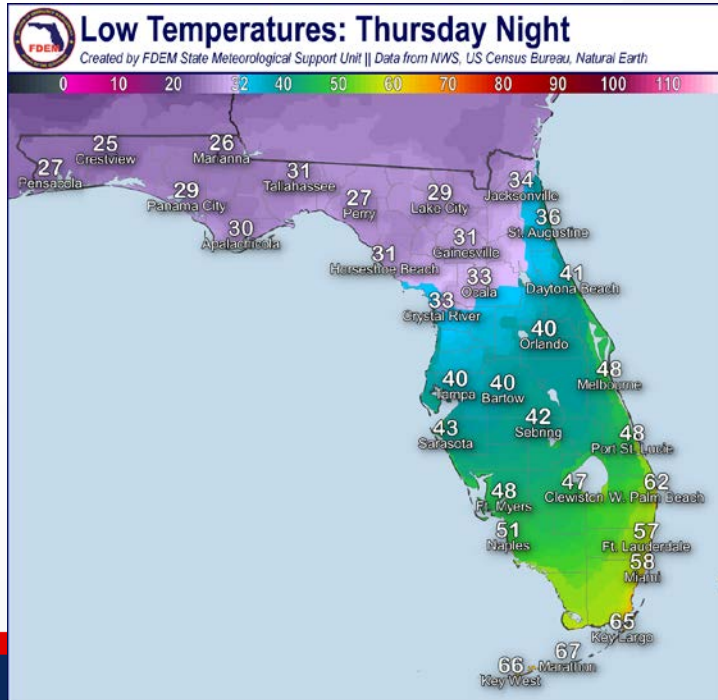


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind/Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Fire Weather	L									
Freezing (Overnight)	M	M	M	M	L	L				
Wind Chills (Overnight)	H	H	H	H	M	M	L		L	
Fog (Overnight)										
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	H		M	H	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.91 ft. (0.65 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	351 (-9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

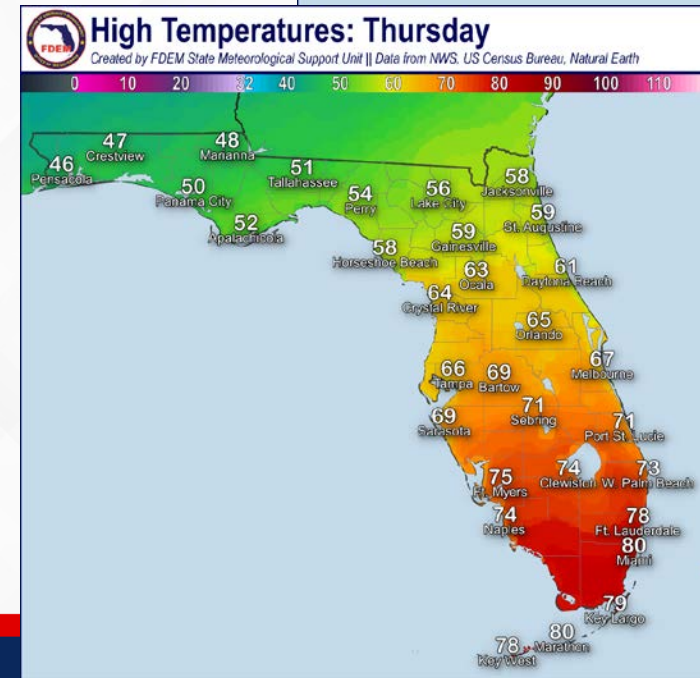
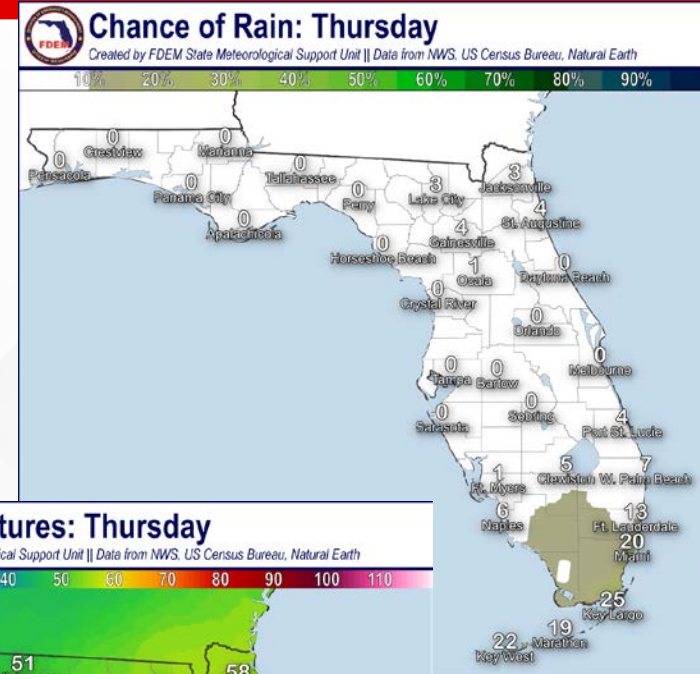
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A cold will continue to sink southward through South Florida this morning, making its way off the coast and away from Florida this afternoon. Mostly dry conditions can be expected across the state today and tonight as an area of high pressure builds in over the Eastern U.S. behind the cold front (near 0-5% chance of rain). A few isolated showers will remain possible across South Florida and the Keys today and tonight thanks to the nearby cold front (5-25% chance of rain).

High temperatures will remain in the middle 40s to middle 50s along the Florida Panhandle, middle 50s to middle 60s across the Northern Peninsula, and middle 60s to low 70s across Central Florida this afternoon but continue to soar into the middle 70s to low 80s across South Florida. Northerly to northwesterly winds near 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-20 mph** are expected statewide throughout the day. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out over areas with ongoing drought conditions and in areas that have seen little to no rainfall recently as winds filter dry air into the region.

Low temperatures will drop into the **middle to upper 20s** along the Panhandle, **upper 20s to low 30s** across the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley, **low to middle 30s** across Northeast Florida and the Nature Coast, low to middle 40s across Central Florida, upper 40s to middle 50s across Southwest Florida, 50s to low 60s across Southeast Florida, and middle to upper 60s along the Keys tonight. **Freeze Warnings** have been issued across interior portions of the Northern Peninsula for tonight into Friday morning as **sub-freezing temperatures as low as the upper 27-degrees** are expected.

Winds will remain breezy near 5-10 mph with **gusts near 10-20 mph** tonight. Breezy winds will create **wind chills** in the **middle teens to middle 20s** along the Florida Panhandle and across the Suwannee Valley, **middle to upper 20s** across Northeast Florida and through the Nature Coast, **upper 20s to middle 30s** southward through the I-4 corridor and towards Lake Okeechobee, and low to middle 40s across Southwest Florida overnight into Friday morning. **Cold Weather Advisories** have been issued across much of North Florida for tonight into Friday morning as **very cold wind chills as low as 11-20-degrees** can be expected.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** can be expected nearly statewide today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: **Poor to hazardous beach and boating conditions** will develop nearly statewide today into Friday as northerly winds build ocean swells in the Gulf and Western Atlantic. **Large breaking waves near 4-7'** are forecast to develop nearly statewide by tonight with **locally higher breaking waves near 8'** possible. **High Surf Advisories** may be issued as conditions warrant. Florida Panhandle beaches will also see deteriorating conditions; however, **wave heights** will likely remain **near 3-6'** with **locally higher breaking waves** possible further offshore today and tonight.

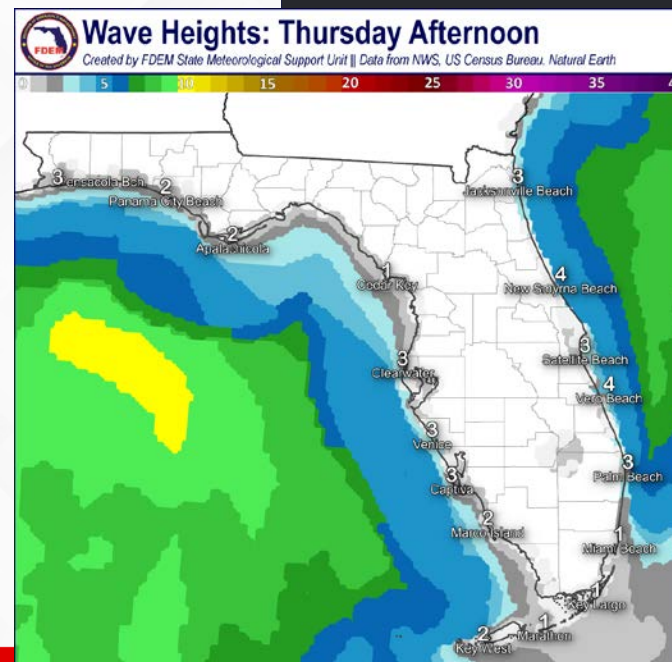
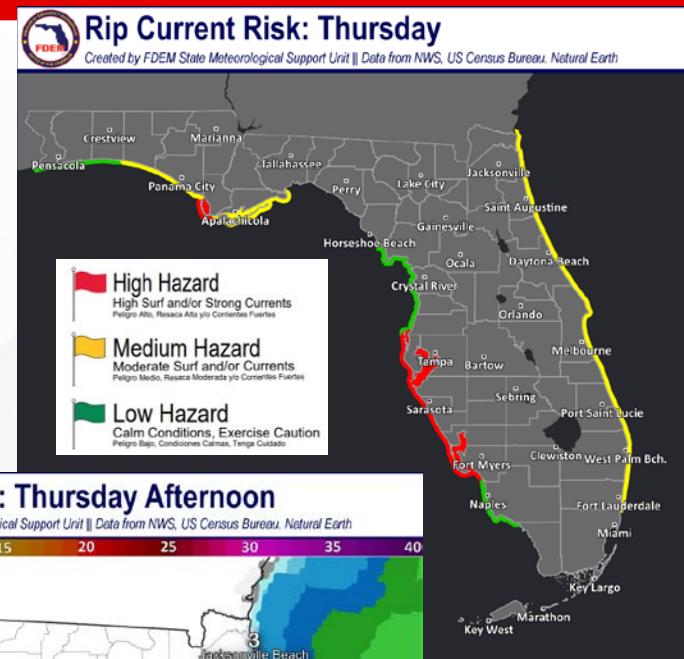
Red Tide has been observed in **34** samples collected from Southwest Florida (valid 2/19). Background to **low concentrations** have been observed in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties. Background to **medium concentrations** have been observed in Charlotte County. Background to **high concentrations** have been observed in Sarasota County. *Fish kills and respiratory irritation have been reported in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties.*

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not expected today.

Flash Flooding: Flash flooding is not expected today.

Riverine Flooding: The [Apalachicola River near Blountstown](#) has risen into **Minor Flood Stage** as a result of the active weather pattern over the last few days bringing heavy rainfall and elevated waters flowing downstream from Georgia and Alabama. The river has crested and is forecast to gradually decline over the next few days, returning to Action Stage (bank-full) within the next couple of days. Several rivers along the Panhandle and Big Bend have reached or are forecast to rise into Action Stage (bank-full) over the couple of days with widespread rainfall from mid this week; however, riverine flooding is not expected at this time. 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 13.91 feet, which is within the operational band and is 0.65 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



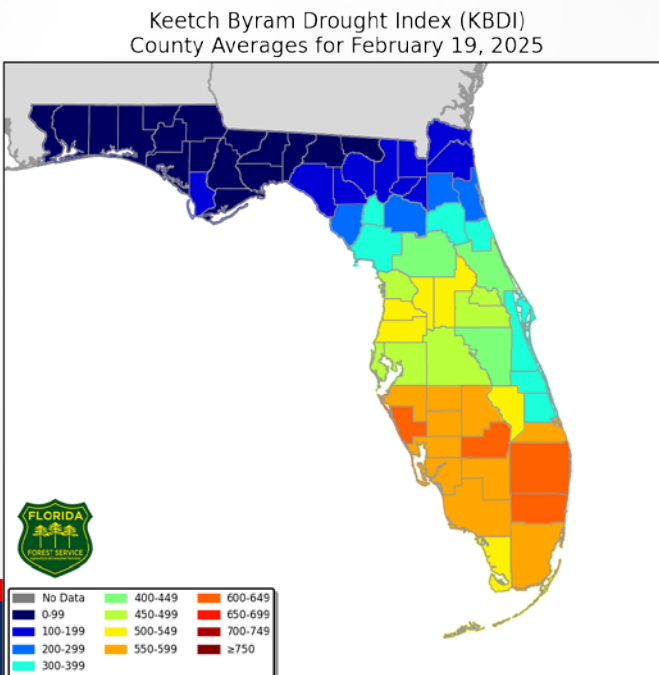
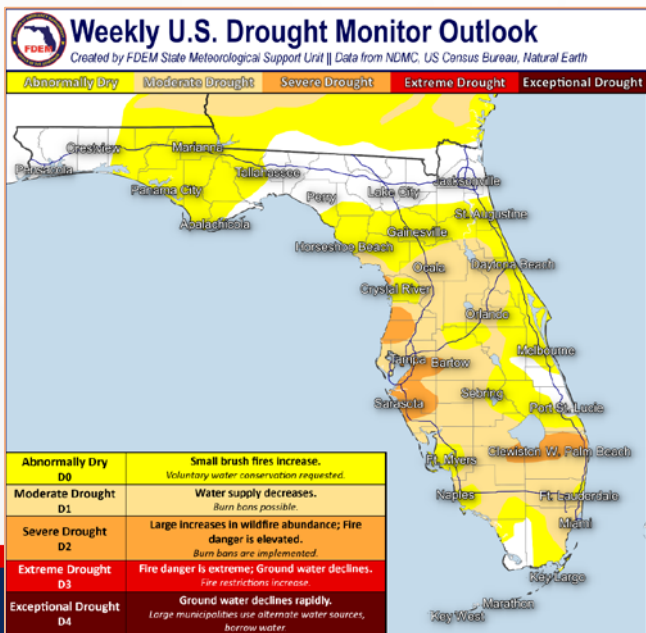


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Mostly dry conditions can be expected across the state today and tonight as an area of high pressure builds in over the Eastern U.S. behind a cold. A few isolated showers will remain possible across South Florida and the Keys today and tonight thanks to the nearby cold front. Northerly to northwesterly winds near 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-20 mph** are expected statewide throughout the day. Winds will remain breezy near 5-10 mph with **gusts near 10-20 mph** tonight. **Relative humidity values will fall to 30-35%** across North Florida and **near 45-55%** across interior portions of the Peninsula this afternoon as winds pull drier air into the region. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** cannot be ruled out over areas with ongoing drought conditions and in areas that have seen little to no rainfall recently. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 18 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 570.43 acres.

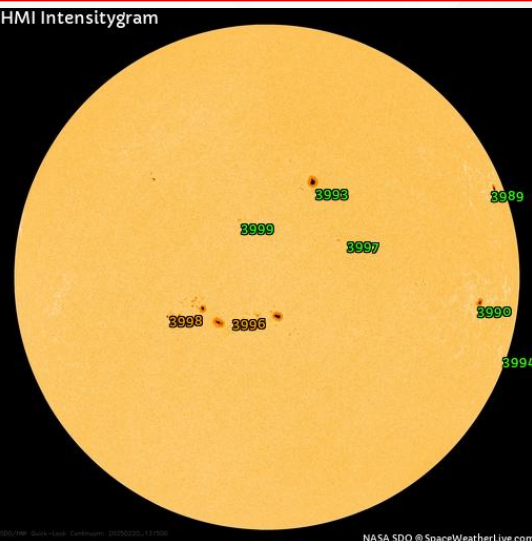
Drought: It was a very wet week (as of 2/20) for the Southeast U.S., except for the Florida Peninsula. Temperatures across most of the state continue to run about 6-9-degrees above normal. Along the west coast of Florida, where conditions have been the driest over the past week, the short-term drought indicators allowed for the introduction of **Severe Drought** in some areas on this week's Drought Monitor update (valid 2/20) in addition to the already existing area of **Severe Drought** remaining south of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach and Hendry Counties. **Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)** to **Moderate Drought** conditions remain in place across much of the rest of the Peninsula from the Keys northward towards the I-4 corridor. **Abnormally Dry** conditions also persist across the Eastern Panhandle and Western Big Bend, despite recent wetting rains. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking near to below normal temperatures and below normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so, which may allow for further worsening of drought conditions.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **351 (-9)** 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).

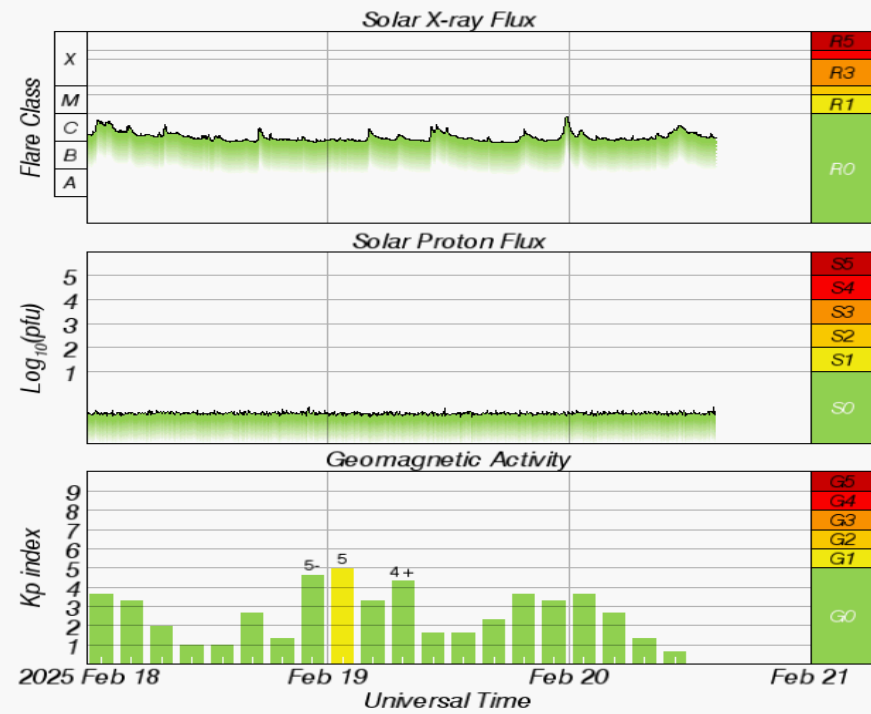
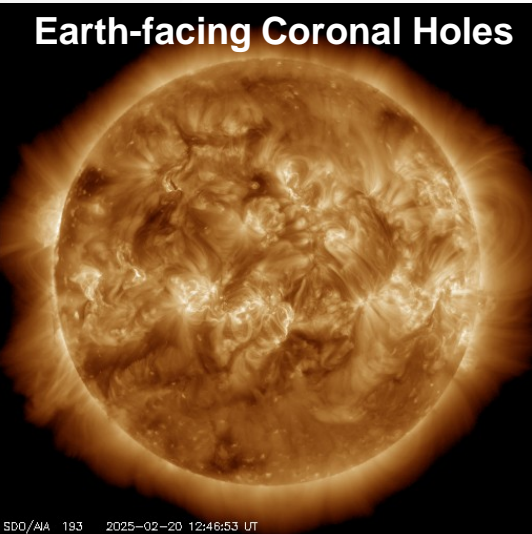




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 40%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C8 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
2/20	2/21
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 2 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for isolated strong (M-class) solar flare activity and a slight chance for significant (X-class) solar flares over the next few days. Sunspot #3996 contains a magnetic field that harbors energy for M-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts can be expected with M-class solar flare activity and strong (R3) radio blackouts will be possible with X-class solar flares that occur. A North Hemisphere Coronal Hole is expected to become geoeffective today with a slight enhancement possible at this time. Waning influences towards nominal conditions are expected Friday and Saturday. Active geomagnetic conditions are expected to continue into the early parts of today. The geomagnetic field is expected to trend towards quiet to unsettled conditions as effects from a Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) wane and there is a transition to a weak, northern hemispheric CH HSS late today. Based on the next coronal hole position, impacts are expected to be minimal. Quiet conditions are expected thereafter through Saturday. The overall space threat to Florida is 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:	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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