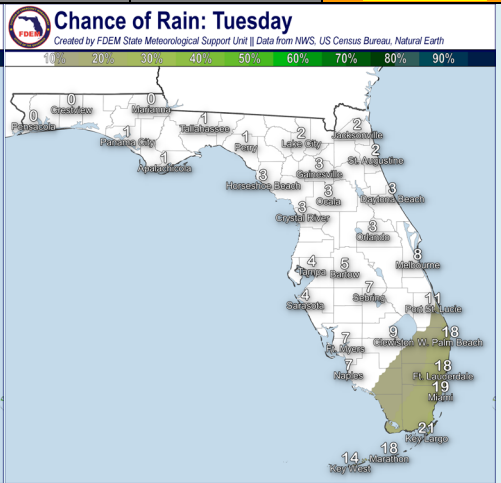
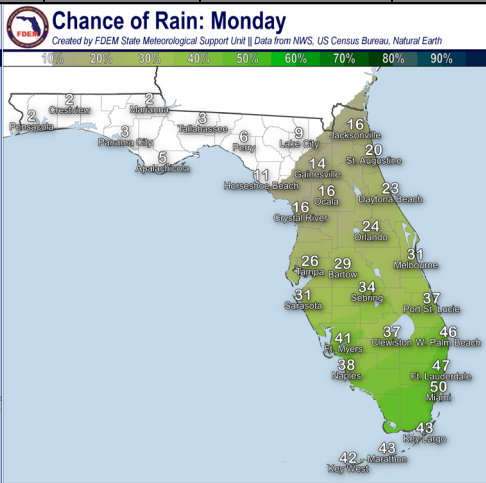
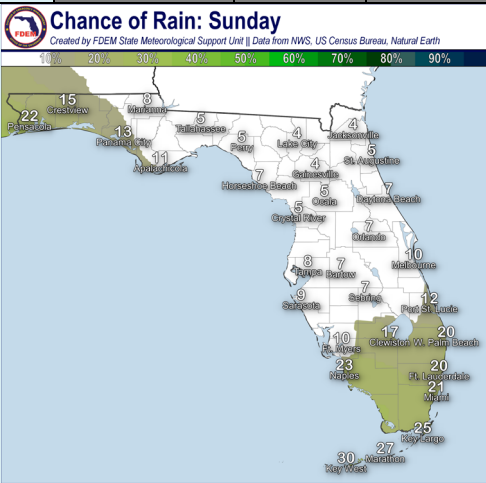


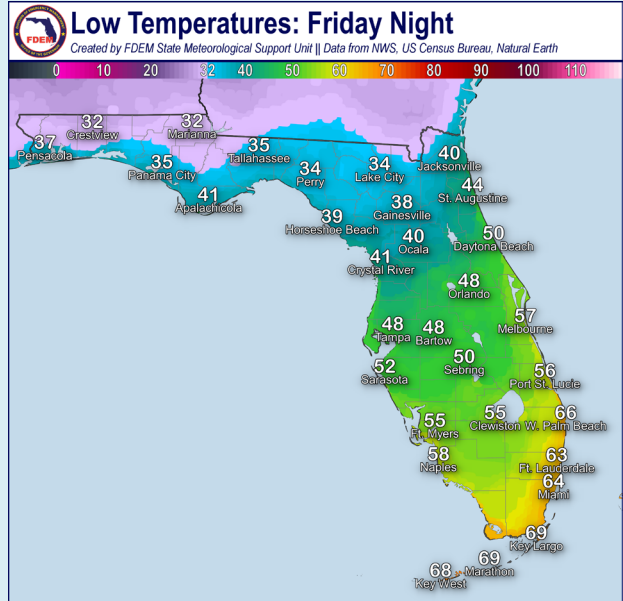
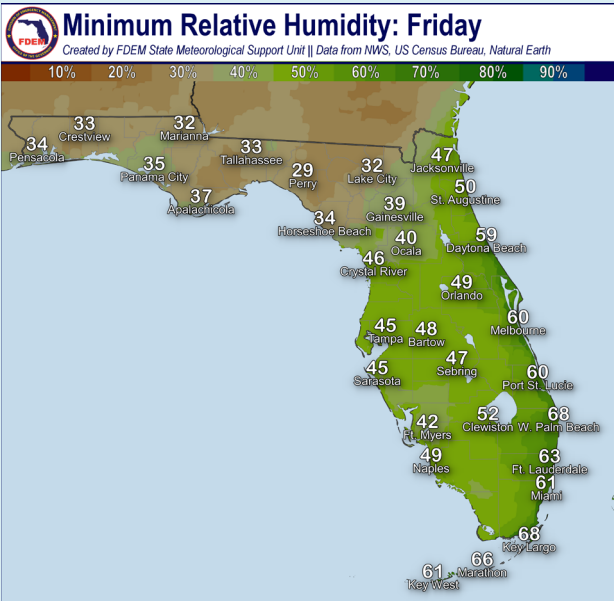
Friday, February 21, 2025

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						FL Panhandle & Suwannee Valley Iso. W-Peninsula	Locally North FL	East & West Coasts FL Panhandle
Sat						Locally Iso. FL Panhandle & Interior Peninsula	FL Panhandle Iso. N-Peninsula	East Coast FL Panhandle West Coast
Sun	Locally Iso. Peninsula (Overnight)					Locally Iso. N FL & Interior Peninsula	Iso. Panhandle	Locally Statewide West Coast
Mon	Locally South Florida Iso. Peninsula		Locally Iso. S FL	Locally Iso. S FL	Locally Iso. South FL	Locally Iso. North FL		Locally Statewide NE & W Coast
Tue						Locally Iso. North FL		FL Panhandle East Coast West Coast



Chance of Rain: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday



Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity: Friday

Forecast Low Temperatures: Friday Night



**...Mostly Dry Conditions Statewide Through Much of the Forecast Period...Scattered Showers and Thunderstorms Return Statewide Sunday Along the Peninsula and Keys Monday...Some Strong to Severe Thunderstorms Producing Gusty Winds, Frequent Lightning, Heavy Downpours, and Hail May be Possible...Isolated Instances of Flooding and Ponding of Water Cannot Be Ruled Out Over Urban and Low-Lying/Poor Drainage Areas...Cool Conditions Persist Across North Florida and Into Central Florida Today and Into the Weekend, Gradually Warming Through the Forecast Period...Winds to Remain Near 5-15 MPH with Gusts Near 10-25 MPH...Locally Sensitive Wildfire Conditions Possible Across North Florida and Portions of the Peninsula...Poor to Hazardous Beach and Boating Conditions Persist Nearly Statewide Today, But Will Gradually Improve This Weekend Into Early Next Week...Moderate to High Risk for Rip Currents Statewide Today and Along the East Coast Through Early Next Week; Low to Moderate Risk to Return Along the Florida Panhandle and West Coast...**

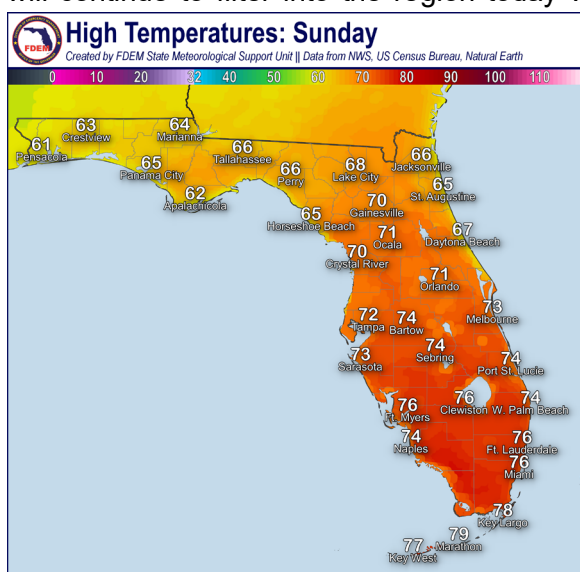
### Friday – Sunday:

Mostly dry conditions will persist statewide today and Saturday under the influence of a large area of high pressure over the Central and Eastern U.S. (near 0-30% chance of rain). An isolated shower or two possible will be possible along Florida's Atlantic Coast at times with onshore winds. Isolated to widely scattered showers return across the Panhandle and South Florida Sunday (5-30% chance of rain) and statewide Sunday night (20-40% chance of rain) as an upper-level disturbance swings through the Gulf Coast states and a wave of low pressure moves towards South Florida.

High temperatures across North Florida will remain in the 50s today, rising back into the 60s to low 70s this weekend. Central Florida can expect high temperatures to remain in the middle 60s to middle 70s with middle to upper 70s continuing across South Florida and the Keys. Breezy northeasterly winds near 10-15 mph with **gusts upwards of 15-20 mph** today will turn more easterly Saturday and northerly Sunday but remain near 5-10 mph with **gusts up to 10-15 mph** through the weekend. Dry air will continue to filter into the region today will pull **relative humidity values down to near 25-45%**

across the Florida Panhandle and Suwannee Valley and **near 40-55%** across Western and Interior portions of the Peninsula in the afternoons. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible over areas with ongoing drought conditions and little to no rainfall recently.

Low temperatures across North Florida will fall back into the **30s** to low 40s tonight, **middle 30s** to middle 40s Saturday night, and **upper 40s** to low 50s Sunday night. Areas of **frost** will be possible across North Florida overnight into Saturday morning. Lingering breezy winds may cause **temperatures** in localized portions of North Florida **to feel like they are near freezing** overnight into Saturday morning. Low temperatures will remain in the upper 40s and 50s across Central Florida, upper 50s to middle 60s across South Florida, and upper 60s to low 70s along the Keys throughout the forecast period.



### Monday – Tuesday:

Late this weekend, an upper-level disturbance will form in the Gulf and move eastward into South Florida early next week. The moisture from this low could start to impact South Florida on Sunday and continue to affect the region early next week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are forecast to develop across the Peninsula Keys Monday (20-50% chance of rain) and continue along and south of the I-4 corridor through Monday night (20-40% chance of rain); however, there remains a lot of uncertainty in both timing and rainfall amounts. **Some strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of



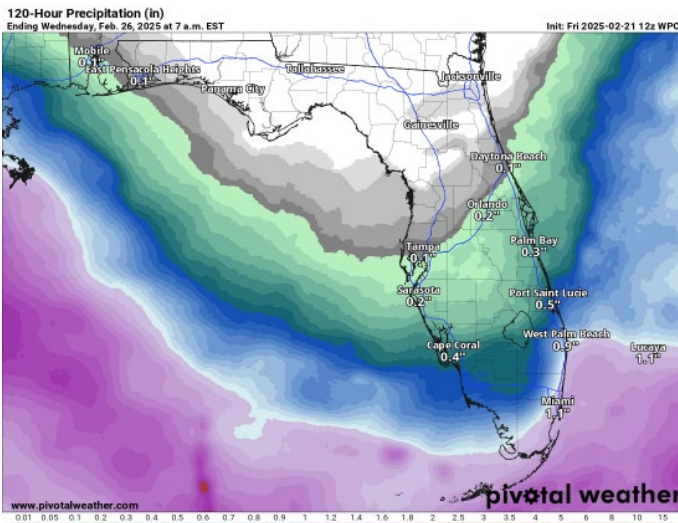
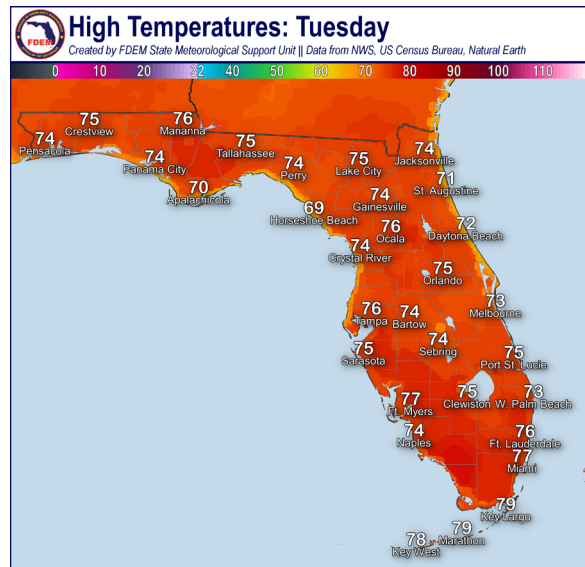
producing gusty winds, frequent lightning, heavy rainfall, and hail may be possible Monday into Monday night. Locally heavy downpours that occur over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas may result in instances of localized **flooding** and **ponding of water** at times. Mostly dry conditions can be expected elsewhere Monday (near 0-15% chance of rain). High pressure will rebuild early next week as the disturbance moves off to the east and cold front shifts southward off the coast of the Southern Peninsula, allowing mostly dry conditions to return across the state Tuesday (near 0-20% chance of rain). Isolated to widely scattered showers will remain possible across South Florida Tuesday as the cold front moves offshore.

High temperatures will remain in the upper 60s to low 70s across North and Central Florida and 70s across South Florida and the Keys Monday afternoon. Tuesday, high temperatures will reach back into the 70s statewide. Northerly to northwesterly winds Monday will turn more westerly to northwesterly Tuesday but remain near 5-10 mph with gusts near 10-15 mph. Dry air filtering into the region will pull **relative humidity values down to near 35-45%** across North Florida and interior portions of the Peninsula in the afternoons. **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.

Low temperatures in the 40s across North Florida, 50s across Central Florida, and upper 50s and 60s across South Florida and the Keys are anticipated Monday and Tuesday night.

### Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next 5 days. Mostly dry conditions will persist statewide today and Saturday under the influence of a large area of high pressure over the Central and Eastern U.S. An isolated shower or two possible will be possible along Florida's Atlantic Coast at times with onshore winds. Late this weekend, an upper-level disturbance will form in the Gulf and move eastward into South Florida early next week. The moisture from this low could start to impact South Florida on Sunday and continue to affect the region early next week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are forecast to develop across the Peninsula Keys Monday and continue along and south of the I-4 corridor through Monday night; however, there remains a lot of uncertainty in both timing and rainfall amounts. Locally heavy downpours that occur over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas may result in instances of localized **flooding** and **ponding of water** at times. High pressure will rebuild early next week as the disturbance moves off to the east and cold front shifts southward off the coast of the Southern Peninsula, allowing mostly dry conditions to return across the state Tuesday. Isolated to widely scattered showers will remain possible across South Florida Tuesday as the cold front moves offshore. Widespread rainfall totals are forecast to remain near or below 1" along and south of the I-4 corridor with **locally higher totals** upwards of 1-2" possible along the





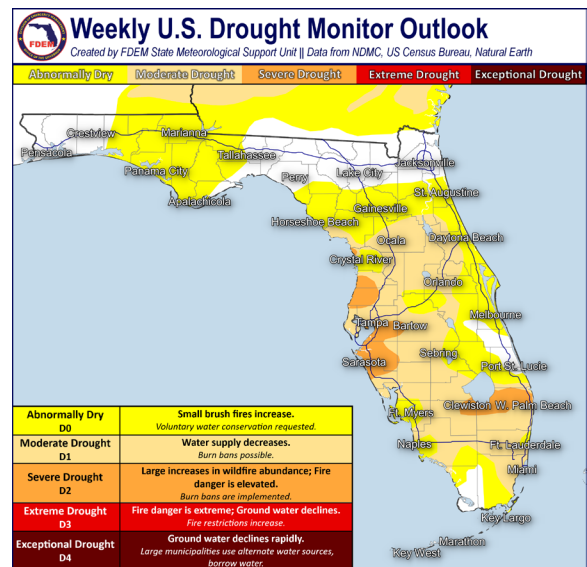
Southeast Coast and Keys. *Given the uncertainty in the forecast, higher rainfall totals may be possible along and south of the I-4 corridor and a flash flood risk may be introduced as details become more certain.* For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center [website](#).

Several rivers along the Panhandle and Big Bend have reached or are forecast to rise into Action Stage (bank-full) over the next 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 13.85 feet, which is within the operational band and 0.70 feet below normal. Lake elevations have fallen by about 0.20 feet over the past week and about 0.71 feet over the past 30 days. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking near to below normal temperatures and below normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so, which will likely allow water levels to continue falling.

**Fire Weather:**

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. 60-day rainfall deficits remain near 2-4" across much of the state with locally higher deficits near 4-5' east and southeast of Lake Okeechobee. 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 **335 (+1)** 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).

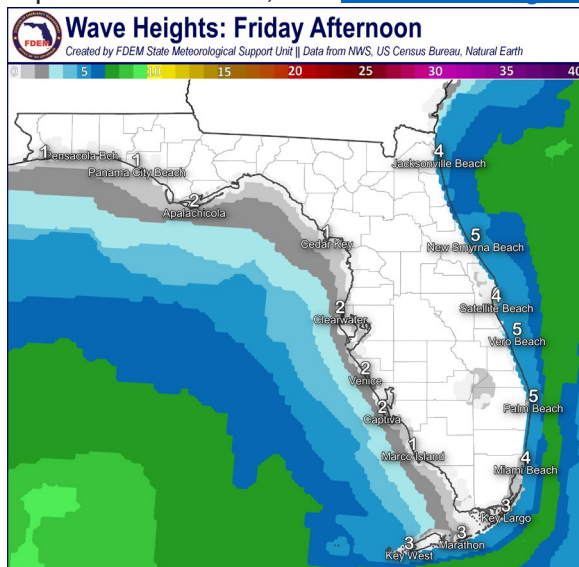
Mostly dry conditions will persist statewide today and Saturday under the influence of a large area of high pressure over the Central and Eastern U.S. An isolated shower or two possible will be possible along Florida's Atlantic Coast at times with onshore winds. Late this weekend, an upper-level disturbance will form in the Gulf and move eastward into South Florida early next week. The moisture from this low could start to impact South Florida on Sunday and continue to affect the region early next week. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are forecast to develop across the Peninsula Keys Monday and continue along and south of the I-4 corridor through Monday night; however, there remains a lot of uncertainty in both timing and rainfall amounts. High pressure will rebuild early next week as the disturbance moves off to the east and cold front shifts southward off the coast of the Southern Peninsula, allowing mostly dry conditions to return across the state Tuesday. Isolated to widely scattered showers will remain possible across South Florida Tuesday as the cold front moves offshore. Breezy northeasterly winds near 10-15 mph with **gusts near 15-25 mph** today will turn more easterly



Saturday and northerly Sunday but remain near 5-10 mph with **gusts up to 10-15 mph** through the weekend. Northerly to northwesterly winds Monday will turn more westerly to northwesterly Tuesday but remain near 5-10 mph with gusts near 10-15 mph. Dry air will continue to filter into the region today, lingering through the weekend into early next week and pulling **relative humidity values down to near 25-45%** across the Florida Panhandle and Suwannee Valley and **near 40-55%** across much of the Peninsula in the afternoons. **Locally sensitive wildfire conditions** will be possible over areas with ongoing drought conditions and in areas that have seen little to no rainfall recently. According to the [Florida Forest Service fire dashboard](#), there are 14 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 323.03 acres (as of 2:30 PM EST).

### Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected along the East Coast and Sun Coast today due to breezy winds and ocean swells impacting the coastlines. A **moderate risk** can be expected along the Florida Panhandle with a low risk elsewhere. A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** will persist along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast throughout the forecast period. A low risk for rip currents will return along the West Coast Saturday and likely continue through early next week. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit [www.weather.gov/beach](http://www.weather.gov/beach).



**Hazardous beach and boating conditions** will persist nearly statewide today as breezy winds and ocean swells but begin to improve through the weekend. **Large breaking waves near 4-8'** will continue along Florida's Atlantic Coast today and into tonight before gradually dissipating. **High Surf Advisories** may be issued as conditions warrant. Similarly, **large breaking waves near 3-6'** can be expected along the West Coast this morning, returning to **near 2-5'** later today and tonight as swells begin to gradually dissipate. **1-3' waves** can be expected to persist along the Florida Panhandle throughout the day. As winds weaken this weekend, ocean swells will quickly begin to dissipate. **3-6' breaking waves** will persist along Florida's Atlantic Coast Saturday with **locally higher 7-8'** breaking waves possible further offshore along the Atlantic-facing Keys, returning to **near 1-3'** through the rest of the forecast

period with **locally 4' waves** possible. All other Florida beaches can expect **wave heights near or below 1-3'** to return Saturday and continue through early next week.

Coastal flooding is not expected over the next 5 days. Localized instances of **elevated tides** and **nuisance flooding** cannot be ruled out near and at times of high tide today as ocean swells continue to impact numerous coastlines. Additional instances of **elevated tide** and **nuisance flooding** cannot be ruled out near and at times of high tide early next week as an upper-level disturbance develops in the Gulf and crosses the Southern Peninsula.

**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.* Based on satellite imagery from 2/17, the clearly delineated offshore patches of elevated chlorophyll described for the past couple of weeks appear to have been spread northward along the coasts by currents and lessened in intensity. A slightly elevated chlorophyll feature now extends from off of the mouth of the Tampa Bay down to Lee County and up to about 15 miles offshore. A smaller patch of elevated chlorophyll was also observed near the border of Collier and Monroe



counties. Variable movement of surface waters and net southeastern transport of subsurface waters is forecast in most areas from Pinellas County to northern Monroe County over the next 3-4 days.

As of 2/13, [Blue-Green Algae](#) was observed on partially obscured satellite imagery of Lake Okeechobee with widely scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on the visible western, northern and eastern shores of the lake. Partially obscured satellite imagery of the St. Johns River from 2/12 showed scattered low to **moderate bloom potential** on Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Jacksonville, Florida. Satellite imagery from 2/13 is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows no visible bloom potential throughout the Caloosahatchee Estuary and in the south fork of the St. Lucie River.

[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](#)

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Have a wonderful weekend!

Melissa James, Assistant State Meteorologist  
Florida Division of Emergency Management

[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

