



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, March 4, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@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	Kaya Dungey	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Kennedy Tartt	(850) 567-6368	Kennedy.Tartt@em.myflorida.com
Plans Chief	Kaylynn Perry	(850) 254-5657	Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com
Logistics Chief	Timothy Conroy	(850) 524-8699	timothy.conroy@em.myflorida.com
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com
Emergency Services	Tim Kenyon	(850) 567-0190	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	DLDOHDDutyOfficers@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	Jefferson (AL)	Southern Nuclear EM Summit
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Jefferson	Region 2 Quarterly EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Office Admin
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Full Scale Exercise
Region 7: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 8: Mason Kozac	St. Lucie	L-958 Course
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Sarasota	South Florida REP Task Force Meeting
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Turkey Point TF Meeting / EOM Admin



Region 1 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 2
Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3
Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

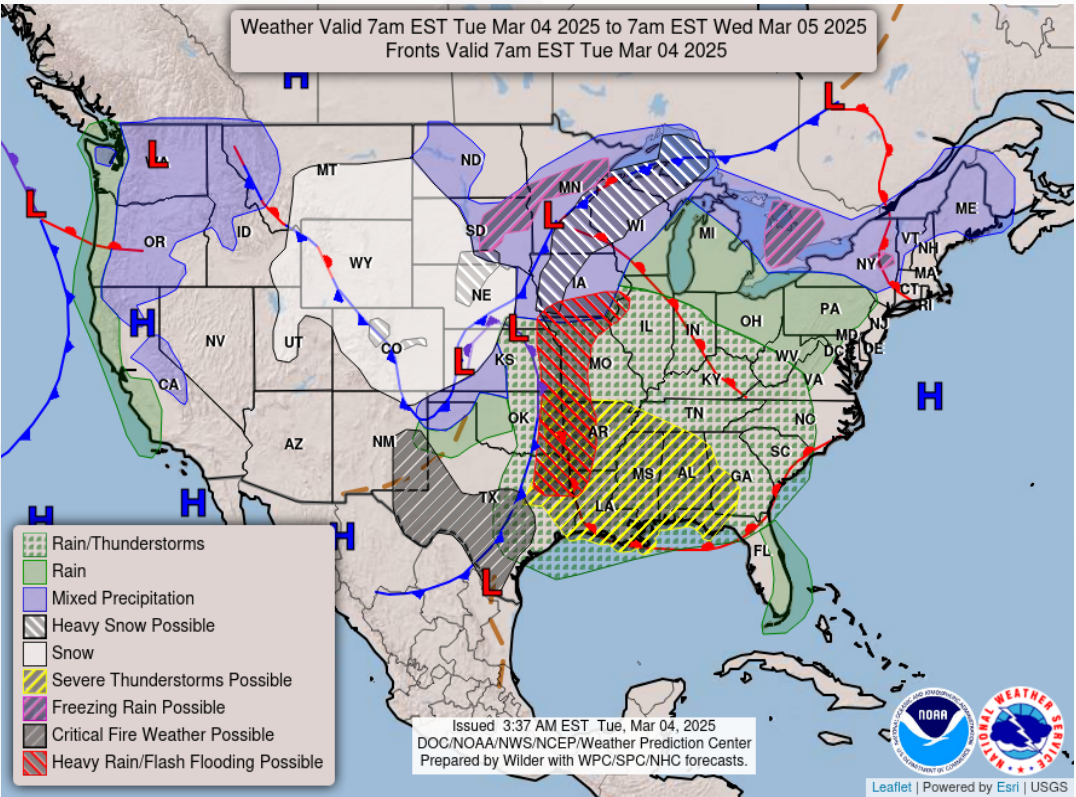
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Out of Region	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Jefferson	Regional Quarterly Meeting
Region 3: Patrick James	Columbia	Instructing FL Courses
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Columbia	Instructing FL Courses
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	RRC / Recovery Bureau Meeting
RRCT Manager	Hernando	RRC / Recovery Bureau Meeting
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Polk	RRC / Recovery Bureau Meeting
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	RRC / Recovery Bureau Meeting
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Broward	RRC / Recovery Bureau Meeting

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

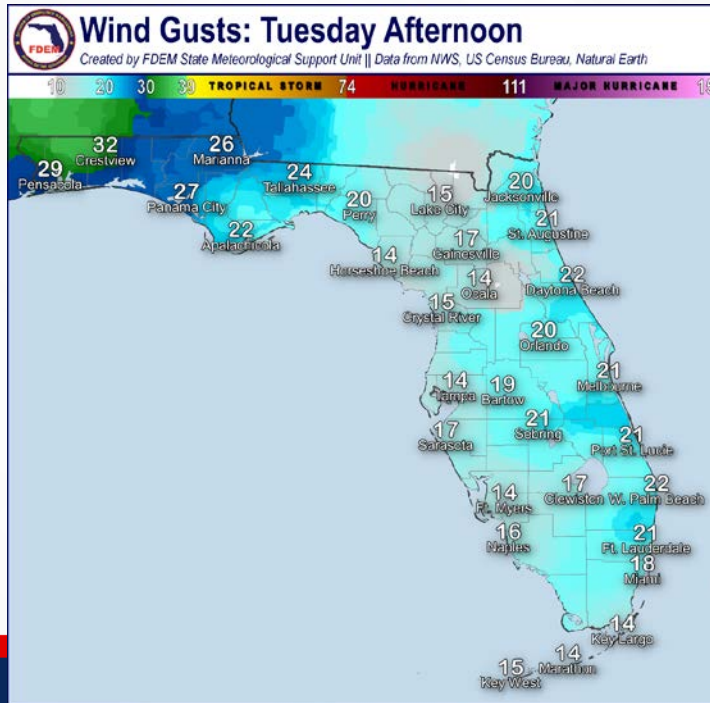
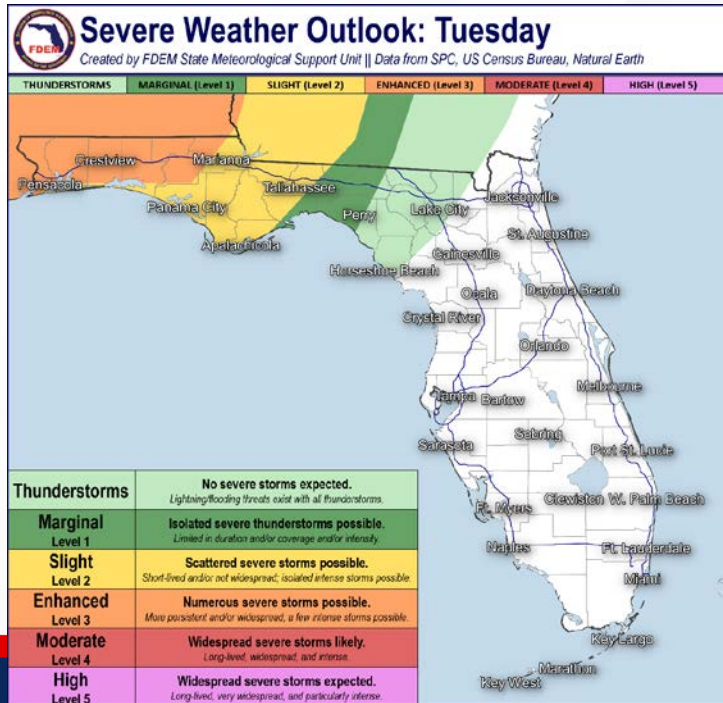


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning (Overnight)	M	M	L							
Tornado (Overnight)	M	M	L							
Damaging Wind (Overnight)	M	M	L							
Hail (Overnight)	L									
Flash Flooding	L	L								
Fire Weather										
Freezing (Overnight)										
Fog (Overnight)										
Rip Currents	H	H	M	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.66 ft. (0.85 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	312 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



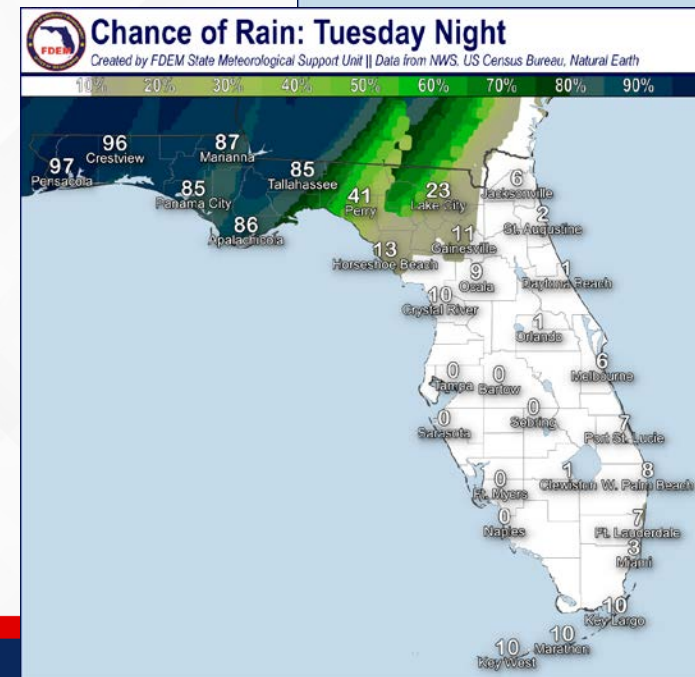
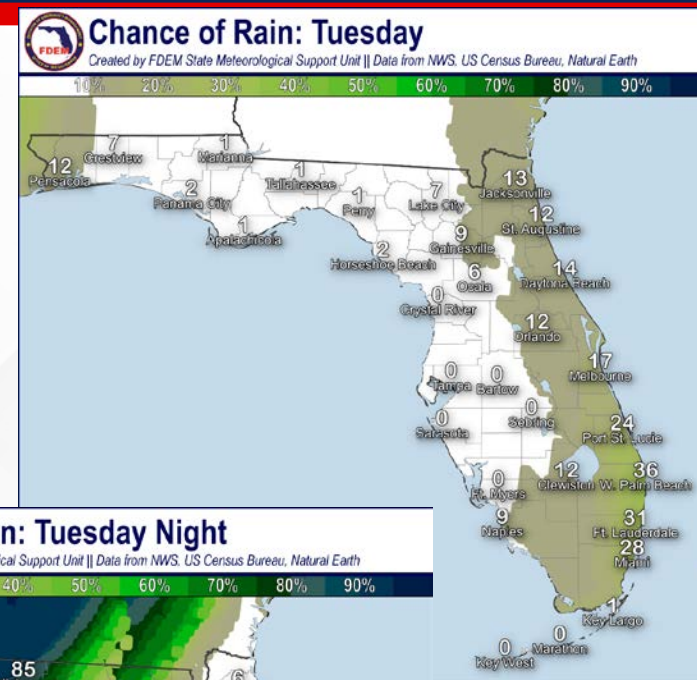


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Panhandle: Mostly dry conditions can be expected throughout the daytime hours as high pressure from the Atlantic coastline continues to gradually shift eastward towards the open waters. Increasing cloud cover will develop throughout the day as a low pressure system develops over the Central Plains and begins to move northeastward. With this, the pressure difference between the high and the low will create gusty winds later this morning that will continue into the afternoon and evening hours. Southerly to southeasterly winds of 15-25 mph can be expected, with **wind gusts upwards of 30-40 mph** across the Panhandle and into the western Big Bend. **Wind Advisories** have been issued and will go into effect across the Panhandle near midday due to these gusty winds developing. Across the rest of the Big Bend and into Northeast Florida lighter winds near 10-15 mph and **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** will likely develop. High temperatures across the region will reach the middle to upper 70s and possibly near 80-degrees this afternoon as a warm front ahead of the low pressure system moves northward. A strong cold front also associated with the low pressure system will sweep across the Gulf Coast states this afternoon and evening before reaching the Panhandle late this evening and overnight. Increasing rain chances can be expected across the Panhandle this evening as the cold front approaches bringing a line of scattered showers and thunderstorms into the overnight hours (85-near 100% chance of rain). Within this line of scattered showers and thunderstorms, embedded **strong to severe thunderstorms** will be possible. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Enhanced Risk (level 3 of 5) for Severe Weather** across the Panhandle, with a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5)** extending through the Capital City and a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** towards the I-75 corridor due to the potential for **isolated strong to severe thunderstorms**. Any of these strong to severe thunderstorms may be capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (50-60 mph), embedded tornadoes, large hail (upwards of 1" or quarter-size) and heavy downpours. A strong tornado (EF-2 or greater) cannot be ruled out along the far western Panhandle (Escambia and Santa Rosa counties). While the line of showers and thunderstorms ahead of the cold front will quickly move across the Panhandle along the I-10 corridor through the overnight and early morning hours on Wednesday, instances of locally heavy downpours within stronger activity could lead to instances of **nuisance or localized flash flooding** across urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle through tonight and into the predawn hours on Wednesday. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 50s and lower 60s overnight.

Peninsula: High pressure along the Atlantic Coast will shift eastward towards the western Atlantic throughout the day. Breezy **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** will develop throughout the Peninsula this afternoon due to a pressure difference from the high pressure and a low pressure system over the Central Plains. The strongest of these wind gusts will be along portions of the immediate east coast. These onshore winds flowing from the adjacent Atlantic waters may also bring isolated to widely scattered showers along the eastern Peninsula, mainly through the I-95 corridor throughout the day (15-35% chance of rain). High temperatures will reach the middle to upper 70s to lower 80s this afternoon. Lingering showers this evening will dissipate and allow for mostly dry conditions to return overnight. Increasing cloud cover can be expected as a cold front moves into the Panhandle overnight. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 60s and lower 70s overnight.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected across all Panhandle and East Coast beaches due to breezy onshore winds and increasing surf. A low risk for rip currents continues for the West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Strong onshore winds ahead of an approaching cold front will increase **wave heights** along Panhandle beaches to **4-6'** by the afternoon hours, with deteriorating beach and boating conditions expected to continue into the evening and overnight hours. A **High Surf Warning** has been issued along the western Panhandle as **dangerous surf of 7-11'** is expected through this afternoon and into Wednesday. **High Surf Advisories** will also go into effect later today along the rest of the Panhandle for **wave heights upwards of 6-8'** possible this evening and into Wednesday. The rest of the Gulf and West Coast will likely see increased surf conditions upwards of 1-3'. East Coast beaches can also expect increasing **hazardous surf conditions upwards of 4-7'** by this afternoon.

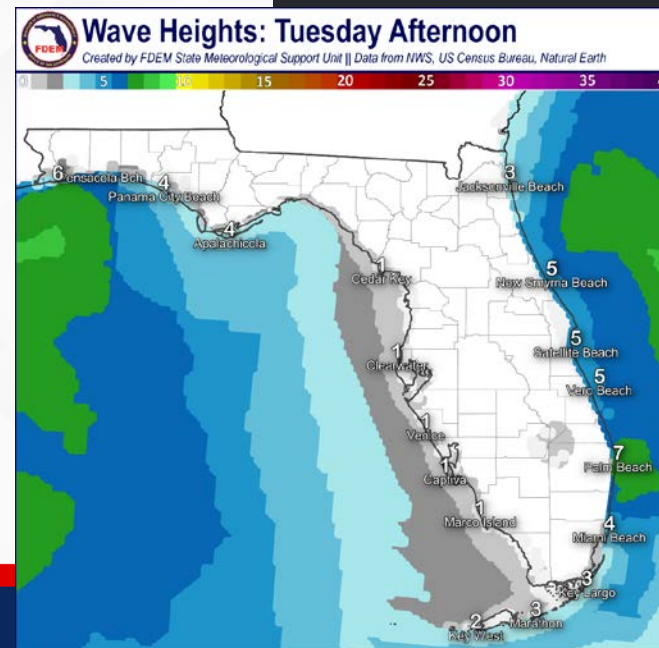
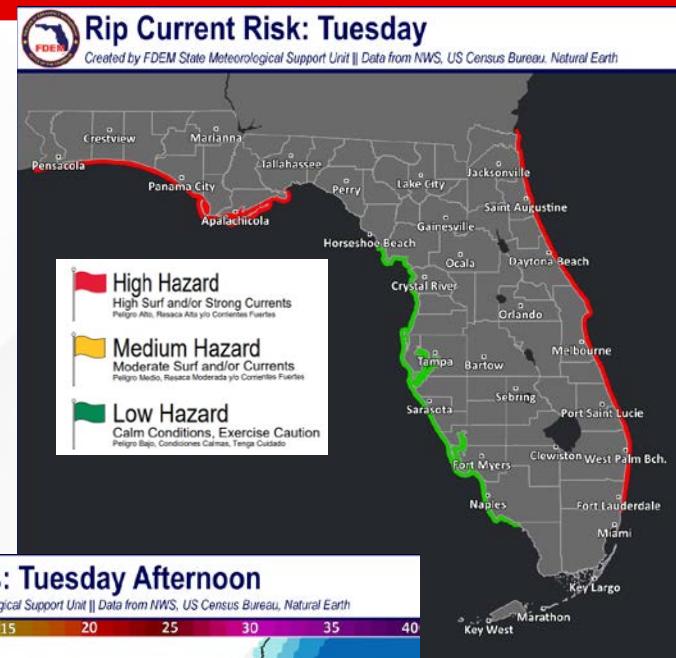
Red Tide has been observed in **46** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (valid 2/28). Background to **low concentrations** have been observed in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Monroe, and Bay Counties. *Fish kills and respiratory irritation have been reported from and/or offshore of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Collier, and Monroe Counties.*

Coastal Flooding: There is no organized risk for coastal flooding today; however, strong onshore winds and elevated surf along the Panhandle and Big Bend, especially within Apalachee Bay, may lead to **instances of minor coastal flooding and beach erosion** near and during times of high tide. As of right now, the strongest onshore winds look to occur with the lower of the two high tide cycles early Wednesday morning, which could lower to potential for coastal flooding.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle due to scattered showers and thunderstorms, some which may be strong to severe, being capable of producing locally heavy downpours. Strong winds will pull moisture northward ahead of the main line of shower and thunderstorm activity, which may aid development of locally heavy downpours. The line of showers and thunderstorms looks to move rather quickly across the Panhandle, which would limit overall flooding concerns; however, any of those stronger thunderstorms could create heavy rainfall rates that lead to **nuisance and localized flash flooding** for urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Rainfall totals will generally remain near 0.5-1" across the Panhandle, with locally higher totals upwards of 2" possible with the heaviest downpours.

Riverine Flooding: The [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) remains within Action Stage (bank-full) as water levels continue to gradually decline following rises with recent heavy rainfall. The river is forecast to fall below flood stage within the next few days, and river flooding is not expected. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.66 feet, which is within the operational band and is 0.85 feet below normal for this time of year.



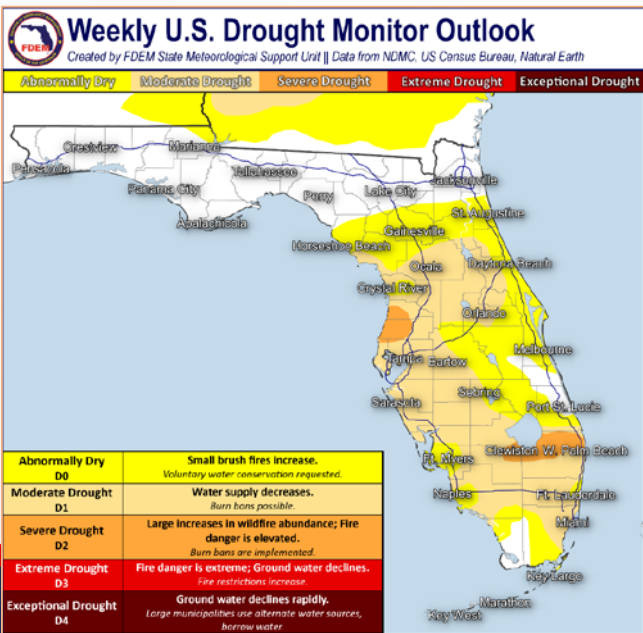


Drought & Fire Weather

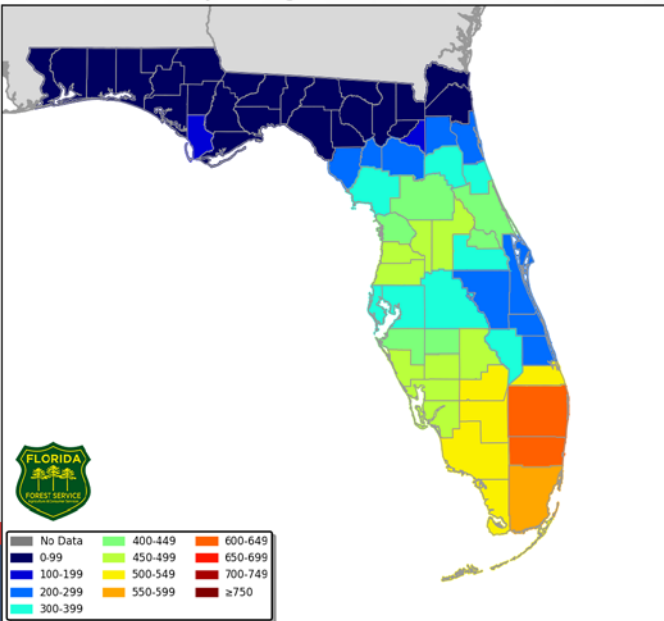
Fire Weather: While mostly dry conditions will persist throughout the daytime hours across most of the state, relative humidity values will recover to be above critical thresholds this afternoon. Breezy and gusty winds will develop across the state due to a strong difference in pressure from a low pressure system developing over the Central Plains and high pressure moving towards the western Atlantic waters. Southerly to southeasterly winds of 10-20 mph can be expected to develop, with **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** throughout Northeast Florida and the Peninsula and **wind gusts upwards of 30-40 mph** across the Panhandle. **Wind Advisories** have been issued across the Panhandle and will go into effect midday for gusty conditions through this evening and into the early morning hours. Rain chances will increase overnight with a line of scattered showers and thunderstorms expected to move eastward into the Panhandle late this evening and overnight. *Thunderstorms may produce lightning and erratic winds.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 48 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,508 acres.

Drought: Some needed precipitation was observed across much of Florida this week, accompanied by cooler-than-normal weather. *Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)* conditions were removed from the Panhandle of Florida on this week's Drought Monitor update (valid 2/27) while **severe and moderate drought** were improved in Central Florida. However, **moderate drought** expanded slightly in South Florida despite heavy rainfall observed in some areas earlier in the week. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so. Further improvements in drought conditions may be possible over the next week if sufficient rainfall is observed over drought-stricken areas.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **312 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **8** Florida counties (Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



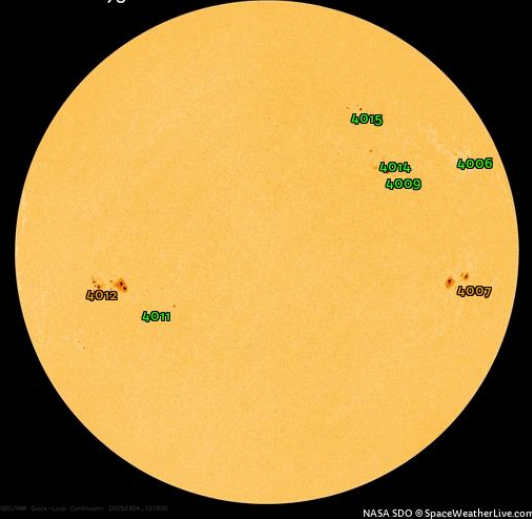
Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 03, 2025





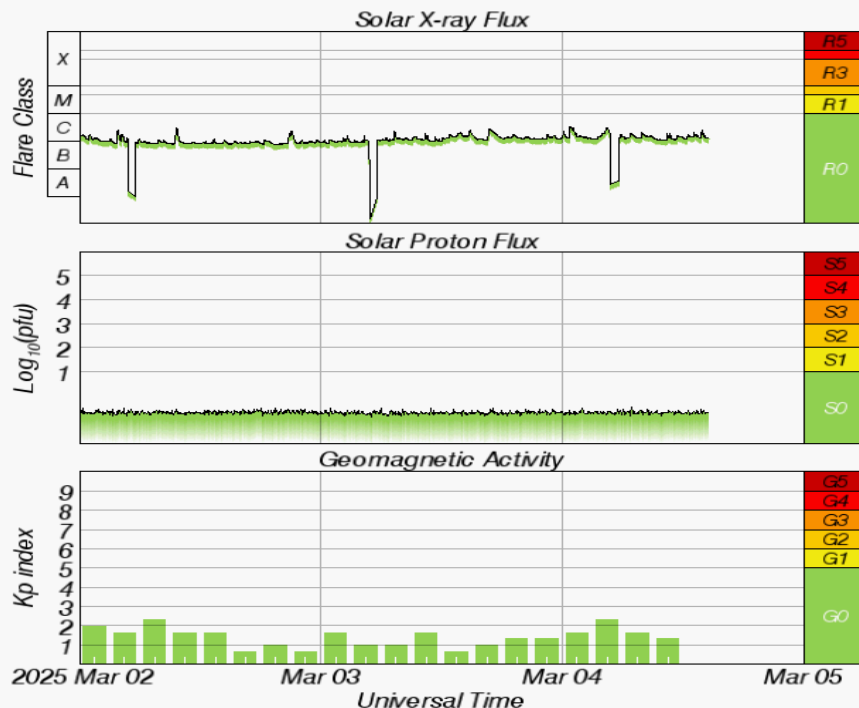
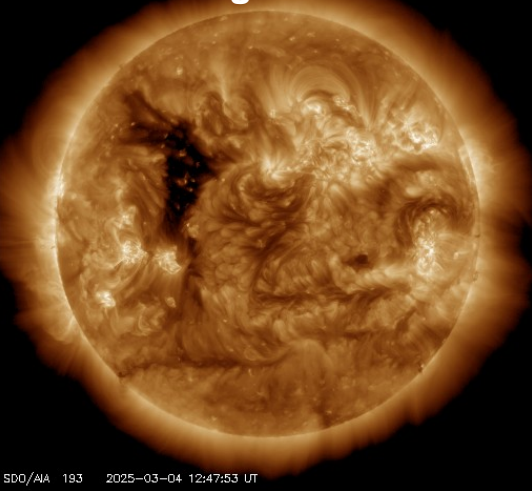
Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram



Current Sunspots

Earth-facing Coronal Holes



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/4	3/5
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%	Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 10%

Space Weather: Solar activity will continue to remain low with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares through the next couple of days. Active sunspots #4007 and #4012 are showing signs of growth, and if they continue to grow in size and complexity then forecast probabilities will likely increase. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will accompany any M-class solar flares that develop. An enhancement to solar wind conditions is likely by mid to late today and through tomorrow due to the arrival of an anticipated Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the sun on 3/1. No minor (S1) or greater solar radiation storms are expected. The Earth's geomagnetic field will remain at quiet to unsettled levels through most of today. Late today and into tomorrow (3/5), periods of minor (G1) geomagnetic storming are likely with a chance for moderate (G2) geomagnetic storming due to anticipated CME. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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