



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, March 8, 2025



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

| Position | Personnel | Phone | Email |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Operations Chief | Sam Walters | (850) 519-8638 | Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com |
| Watch Officer | Sam Walters | (850) 519-8638 | Sam.Walters@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 | Kaya Dungey | (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 | 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) 591-7732 | 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 | In Region | On-Call Status |
| Region 2: Willie Bouie | In Region | On-Call Status |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers | In Region | On-Call Status |
| Region 4: Vacant | N/A | N/A |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | In Region | On-Call Status |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall | In Region | On-Call Status |
| Region 7: Vacant | N/A | N/A |
| Region 8: Mason Kozac | In Region | On-Call Status |
| Region 9: Theresa Hendry | Out of Service | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker | Out of Service | Leave (See Coverage) |



Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8
Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

| Status |
|------------------------------|
| Normal Operations |
| Out of Service / Unavailable |



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

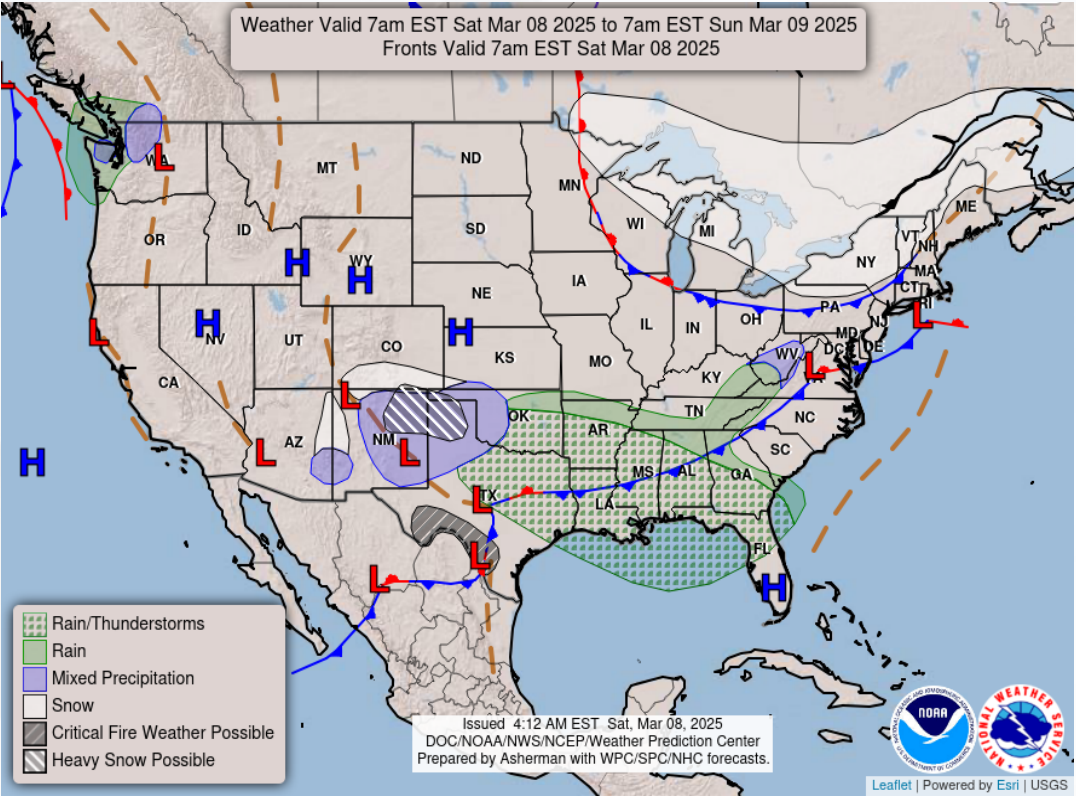
| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Region 1: Allison Blevins | Out of Region | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara | Out of Region | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 3: Patrick James | Out of Region | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders | In Region | |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | In Region | Off & Monitoring |
| RRCT Manager | In Region | Off & Monitoring |
| Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell | | |
| Region 7: Antonio Zapata | In Region | |
| Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller | In Region | Off & Monitoring |
| Region 9: Vacant | N/A | See Coverage |
| Region 10: Dana McGeehan | In Region | Off & Monitoring |
| | | |

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
 Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
 Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
 Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

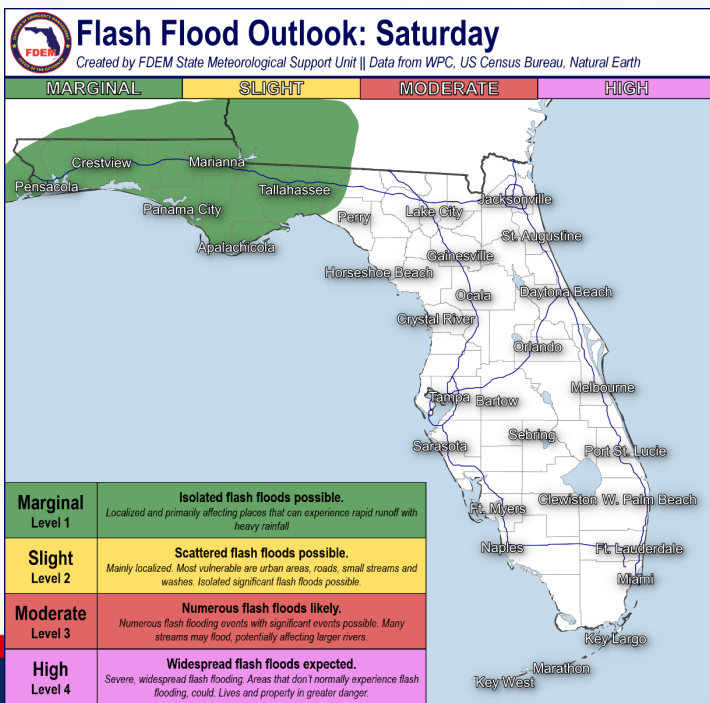
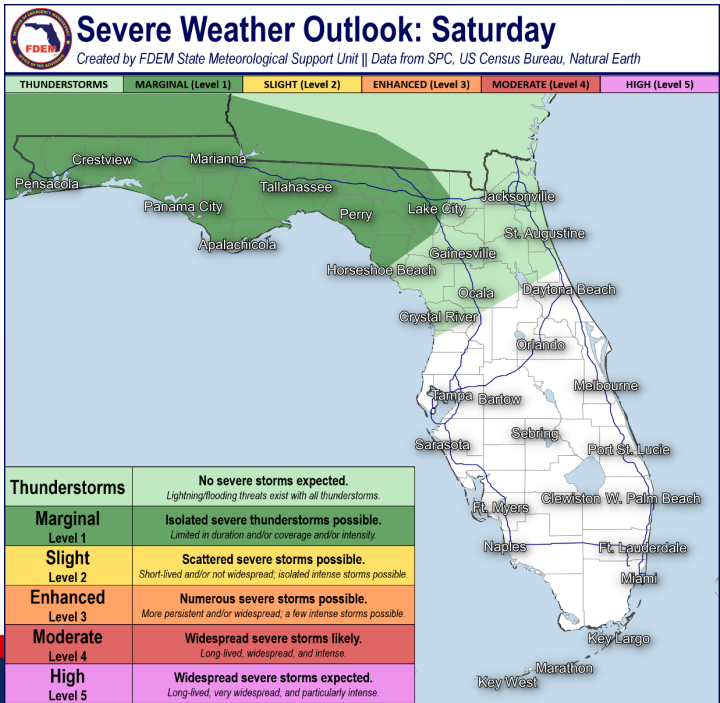


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

| Threat | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|-----------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning | M | M | M | L | | L | | | | |
| Tornado | L | L | | | | | | | | |
| Damaging Wind | L | L | L | | | | | | | |
| Hail | L | | | | | | | | | |
| Flash Flooding | L | L | L | | | | | | | |
| Fire Weather | | | | | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Freezing (Overnight) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fog (Overnight) | M | H | M | L | L | M | M | L | H | M |
| Rip Currents | H | M | L | L | M | L | | M | L | L |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation: | 13.49 ft. (1.00 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal) | | | | | | | | | |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index: | 315 (+3) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) | | | | | | | | | |





Meteorology Summary

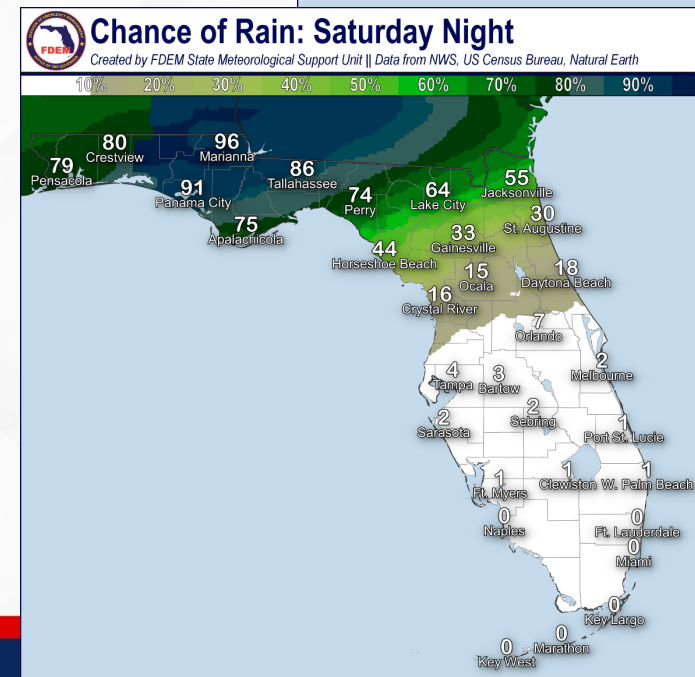
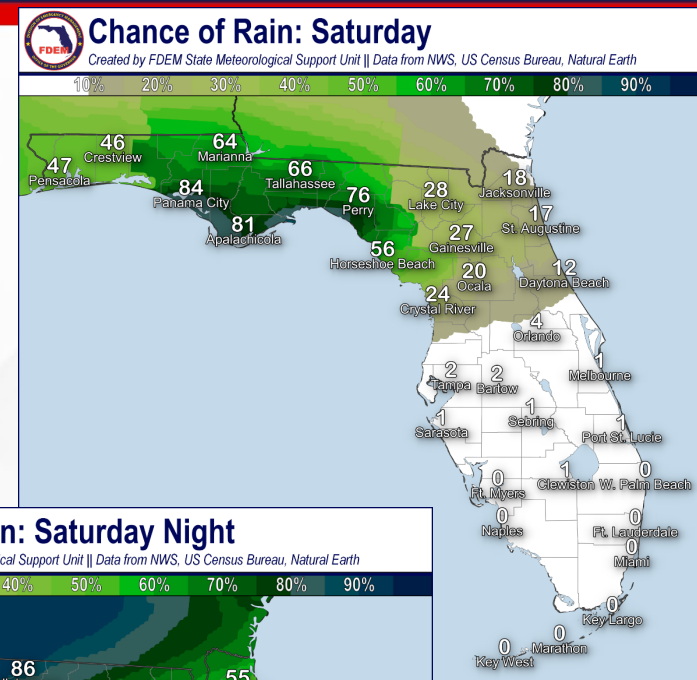
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms have already begun across the Florida Panhandle this morning. Increasing moisture ahead of a cold front sagging southward into the state will continue to generate a few rounds of scattered showers and thunderstorms across the Florida Panhandle and into the Western Suwannee Valley throughout the day today (45-85% chance of rain). Rounds of shower and thunderstorm activity will continue to develop through the overnight hours as an area of low pressure moves eastward along the cold front towards Florida tonight, becoming more scattered to numerous to numerous along the Florida Panhandle and spreading eastward along the I-10 corridor (55-95% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the Florida Panhandle and into the Suwannee Valley as **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing frequent lightning, strong to damaging wind gusts (40-60 mph), a brief tornado or two, instances of hail, and heavy downpours will be possible. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Florida Panhandle as heavy downpours may give way to instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** at times. *There remains some uncertainty in the forecast as where the potential for severe weather and heavy rainfall will set up is dependent on where the frontal boundary sets up this weekend.* Mostly dry conditions will persist elsewhere under the peripheral influence of an area of high pressure drifting eastward over the Western Atlantic (near 0-30% chance of rain).

Overcast skies and rounds of showers and thunderstorms will keep high temperatures in the 70s across North Florida this afternoon. Mostly sunny skies across the rest of the state will allow high temperatures to continue to rise into the upper 70s to middle 80s today. Winds will remain near 5-10 mph throughout the day with gusts reaching near 10-15 mph. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will persist along interior and eastern portions of Central and South Florida this afternoon and evening as lingering dry air **lowers relative humidity values to near 30-50%**.

Rounds of shower and thunderstorm activity will continue to develop through the overnight hours as an area of low pressure moves eastward along the cold front towards Florida tonight, becoming more scattered to numerous to numerous along the Florida Panhandle and spreading eastward along the I-10 corridor (55-95% chance of rain). The threat for **strong to severe thunderstorms** and **instances of flooding** will continue through the overnight hours and into Sunday with this activity. Mostly dry conditions will persist elsewhere through the overnight hours (near 0-15% chance of rain) with a slight uptick and shower and thunderstorm activity south of the I-10 corridor in the Northern Peninsula (15-45% chance of rain).

Low temperatures will remain in the upper 50s to middle 60s nearly statewide tonight. Warmer temperatures in the low 70s can be expected along the Keys overnight. Areas of **patchy to dense fog** can be expected statewide overnight into Sunday morning, with areas of **dense fog** most likely developing across the Florida Panhandle and Southwest Florida.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** persists along numerous Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches today. A **locally high risk** continues along several Eastern Panhandle beaches today. A low risk can be expected elsewhere. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Calm marine conditions can be expected throughout the day today with **wave heights near 1-3'** statewide. Breezy winds and ocean swells will begin to redevelop overnight into Sunday as the next frontal system approaches, raising **wave heights to near 2-5'** along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast.

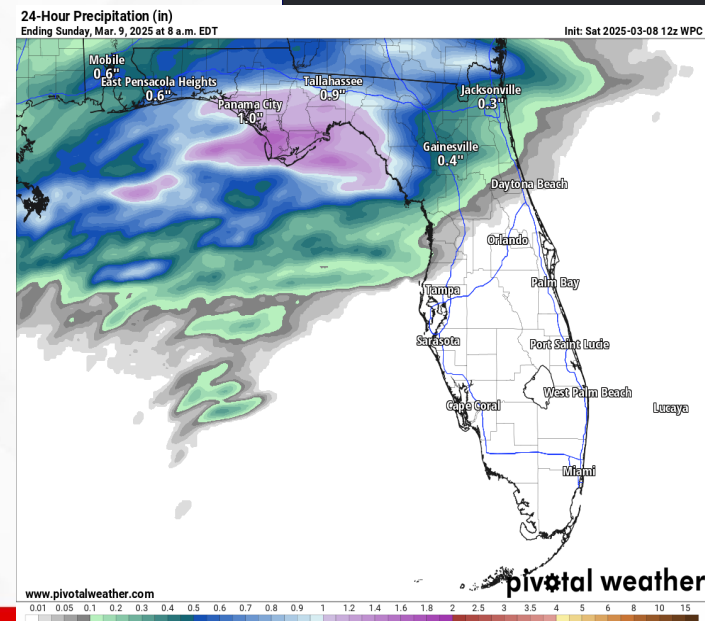
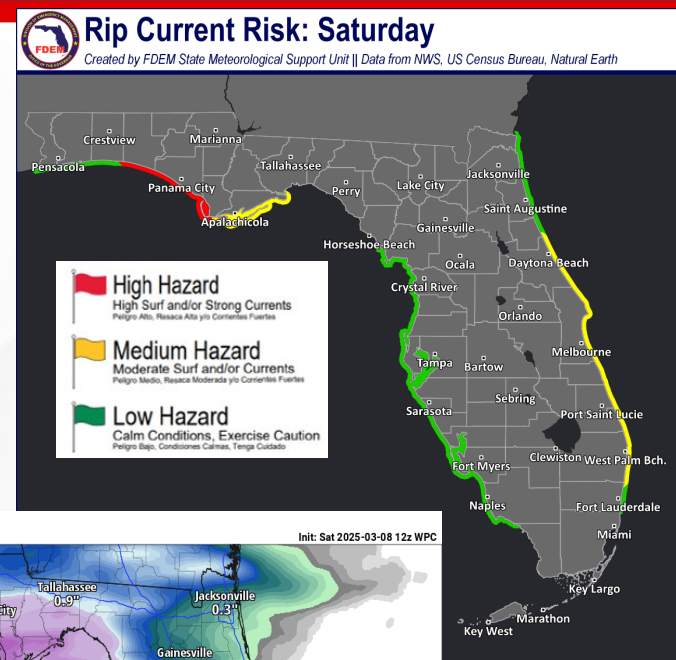
Red Tide has been observed in **16** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (valid 3/7). Background to **low concentrations** have been observed in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Charlotte Counties. A *fish kill suspected to be related to red tide was reported in Sarasota County at Turtle Beach on 2/27. There have been no reports of respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide over the past week.*

Coastal Flooding: While coastal flooding is not expected today, **elevated water levels (0.25-0.75' above normally dry ground)** cannot be ruled out near and at times of high tide along the Florida Panhandle, West Coast, and Keys as breezy winds and ocean swells dissipate.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across the Florida Panhandle today. A few rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop and move across the region today and tonight as a frontal boundary sags southward and an area of low pressure moves along the front from west to east this weekend. Heavy downpours may give way to instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** at times, especially over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Widespread rainfall totals near 1-2" are forecast along the Florida Panhandle and into the Suwannee Valley through early Sunday morning with **locally higher totals** upwards of 2-4" possible. *There remains some uncertainty in the forecast as where the potential for severe weather and heavy rainfall will set up is dependent on where the frontal boundary sets up this weekend.*

Riverine Flooding: Riverine flooding is not expected today. 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 later in the next few days. Water level rises will likely be observed along rivers and waterways across North Florida this weekend and into next week with locally heavy rainfall forecast with shower and thunderstorm activity along and ahead of the next cold front. Water levels are currently expected to remain below flood stage; however, isolated instances of **minor riverine flooding** cannot be ruled out in the event heavy rainfall is observed over already elevated rivers or waterways. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#). For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.49 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.00 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



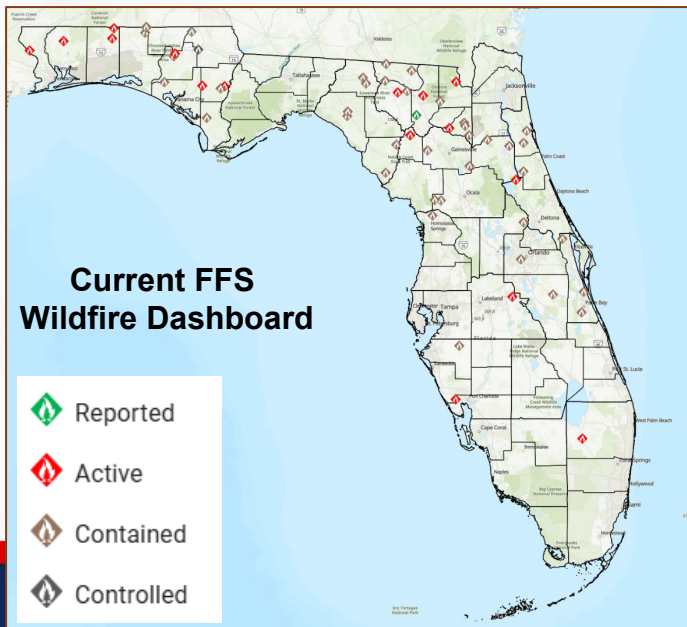
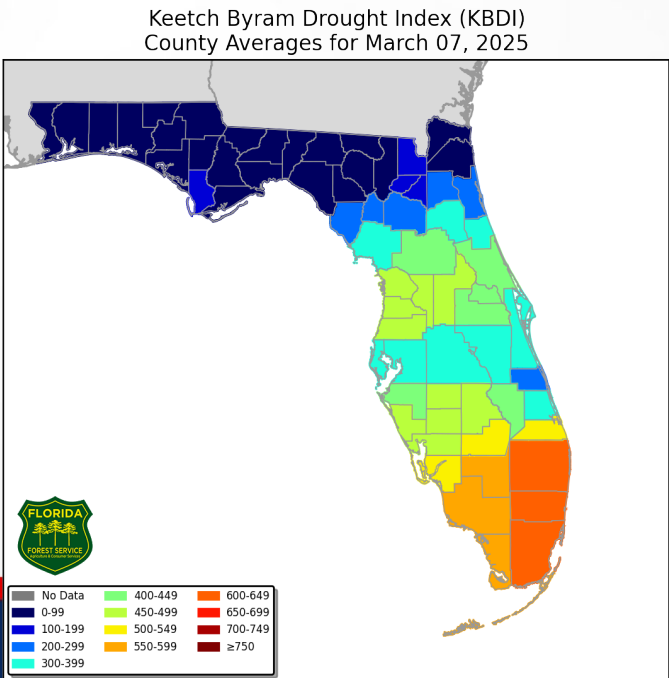
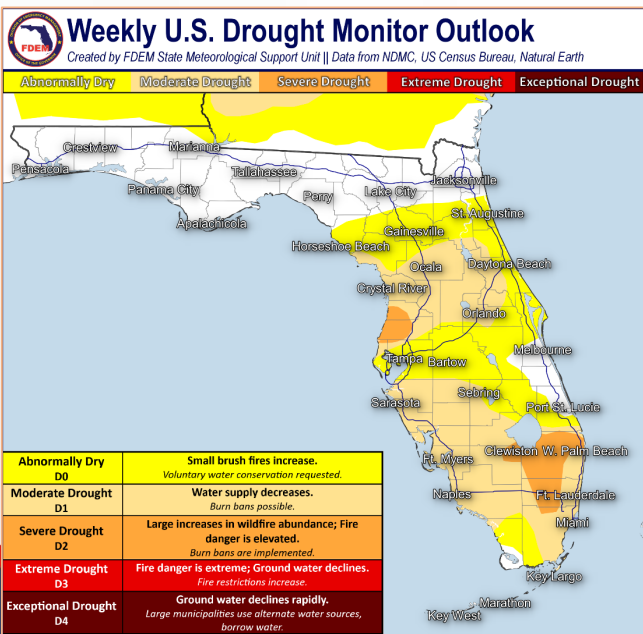


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: A few rounds of showers and thunderstorms, **some strong to severe**, will develop and move across the Florida Panhandle and eastern I-10 corridor today and tonight as a cold front sags southward and an area of low pressure moves eastward along the cold front, approaching Florida tonight. *Thunderstorms may be capable of producing erratic, gusty winds and frequent lightning.* Mostly dry conditions will persist elsewhere across the state under the influence of high pressure to the east. Winds will remain near 5-10 mph throughout the day with gusts reaching near 10-15 mph. **Sensitive wildfire conditions** will persist along interior and eastern portions of Central and South Florida this afternoon and evening as lingering dry air **lowers relative humidity values to near 30-50%**. Areas of **patchy to dense fog** can be expected statewide overnight into Sunday morning, with areas of **dense fog** most likely developing across the Florida Panhandle and Southwest Florida. *Fog may further reduce visibilities in areas with ongoing wildfire conditions.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 59 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,464.60 acres.

Drought: Temperatures across the Southeast U.S. this week (as of 3/6) were mostly within 5-degrees of normal. Most areas in the region also saw dry conditions. Short-term **Moderate and Severe Drought** expanded slightly in South Florida on this week's Drought Monitor updates (valid 3/6) where fire danger indices have increased recently. Some improvements to short-term **Moderate Drought** occurred in Central Florida following heavy rainfall that feel near last week's Tuesday morning cutoff. Otherwise, **Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)** to **Moderate Drought** conditions remain relatively unchanged elsewhere through the Peninsula with pockets of **Severe Drought** in place in the Northern Tampa Bay Area and south of Lake Okeechobee in Southeast Florida. 60-day rainfall deficits have now reached near 1-3" nearly statewide with higher pockets of 3-5" north of the I-4 corridor into the Northern Peninsula, across the Eastern Panhandle, and in Southeast Florida. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal temperatures and near to slightly above normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so which may allow for worsening of drought conditions.

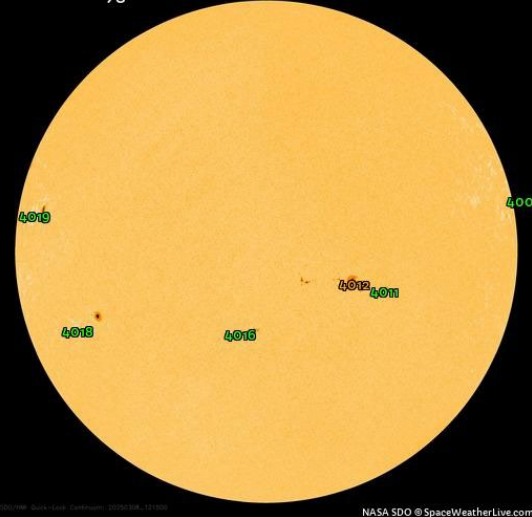
The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **315 (+3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **9** Florida counties (Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).



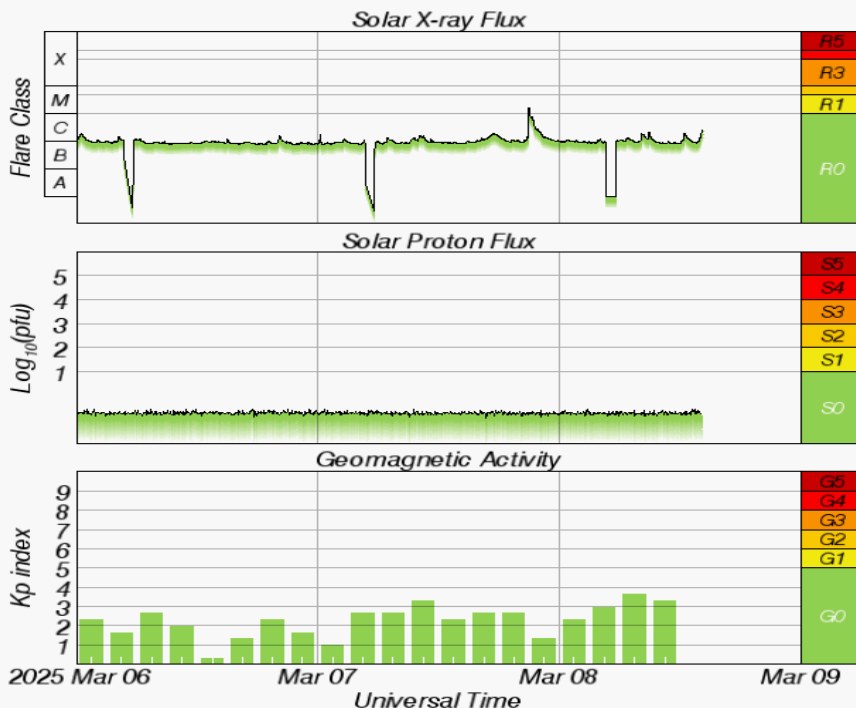


Space Weather

HMI Intensitygram



Current Sunspots

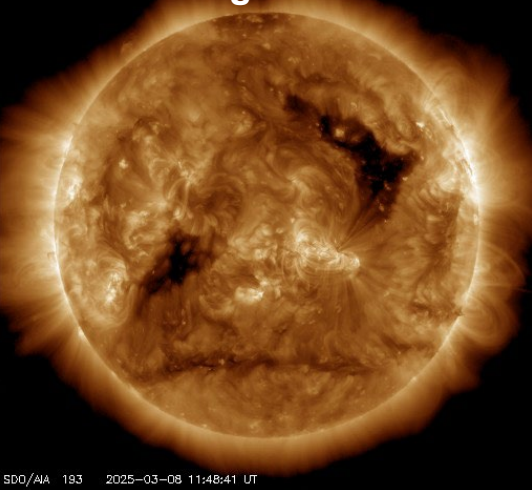


| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| M-class: 40% | Geomagnetic Storm: None | M1 Solar Flare |
| X-class: 5% | Radiation Storm: None | R1 Radio Blackout |

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

| 3/8 | 3/9 |
|---|--|
| Max Kp= 4 (G0) | Max Kp= 5 (G1) |
| Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 25% severe activity = 5% |

Earth-facing Coronal Holes



Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to remain at low to moderate levels with a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares over the next few days primarily due to the flare potential of region #4012. Sunspots #4012 and #4016 contains a magnetic field that harbors energy for strong (M-class) solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will likely accompany M-class solar flare activity. A gradual decline of solar wind conditions is anticipated through midday today. Corotating Interaction Region (CIR) influences ahead of a recurrent Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) are expected by late today through Sunday and beyond. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions are expected to continue through the beginning of the day. The geomagnetic field will become unsettled to active late today, followed by unsettled levels to **minor (G1) geomagnetic storm** conditions on Sunday and Monday, as CIR effects ahead of the recurrent CH HSS become geoeffective. 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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