



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, March 12, 2025



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(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	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) 591-7732	Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com
Infrastructure Branch Director	Karen Kozac	(850) 759-6226	Karen.Kozac@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(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	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	R7 Onboarding / Fleet Build Working Session / Procurement/Fleet Inventory
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Hamilton	EM Visist
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Leon, Seminole	Return to R5 Travel
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Leon, Polk	Response Coordinator Onboarding Orientation / Return to R7 Travel
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Leon, Martin	Return to R8 Travel / SLNPPTF Meeting / REP Training
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Charlotte	Crisis Track Administrator Training
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami- Dade	Hazmat Exercise

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 2
Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 3
Region 6 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

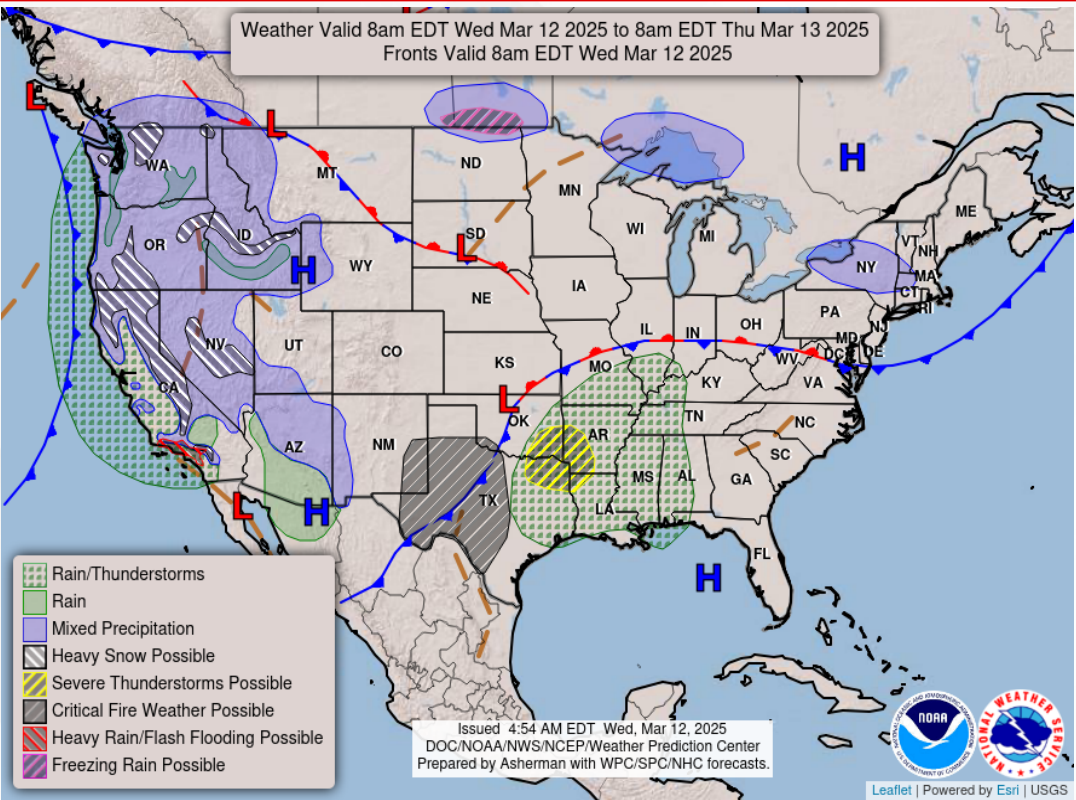
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Patrick James	Columbia	Instructing
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Columbia	Instructing
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	Training
RRCT Manager	Pasco	Tabletop Exercise
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Polk	Internal Stakeholder Meeting
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7
Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7

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

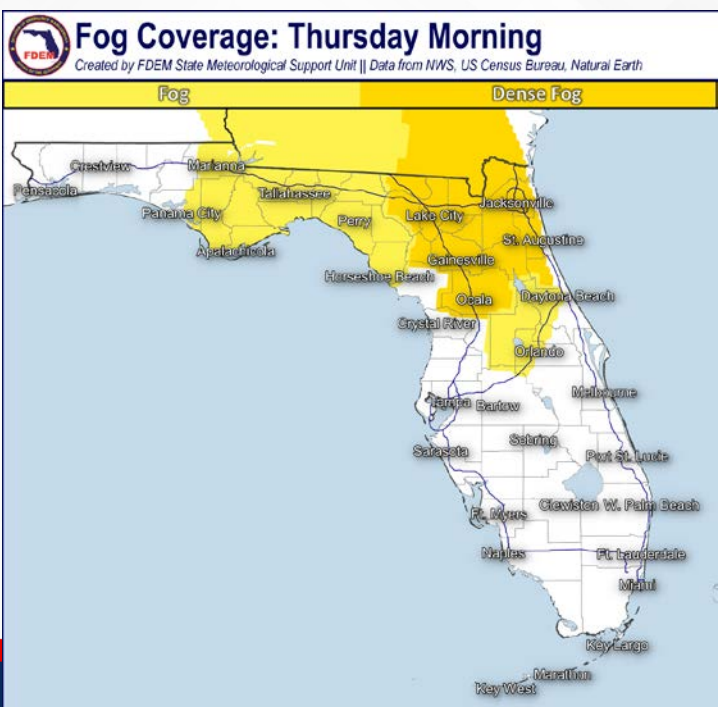
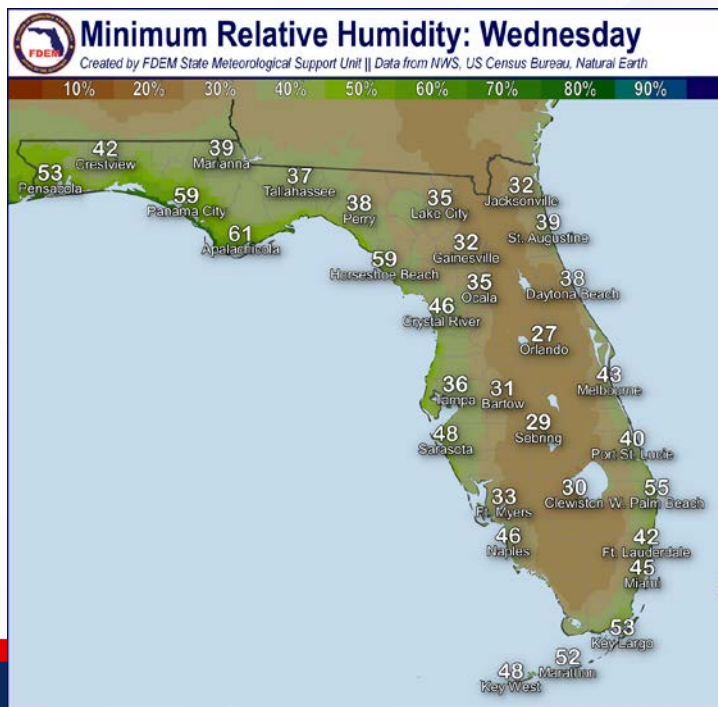


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Fire Weather					M	L	M	M	L	M
River Flooding		L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)	L	M	H	H	M	L	L			
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.35 ft. (1.13 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	288 (-5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

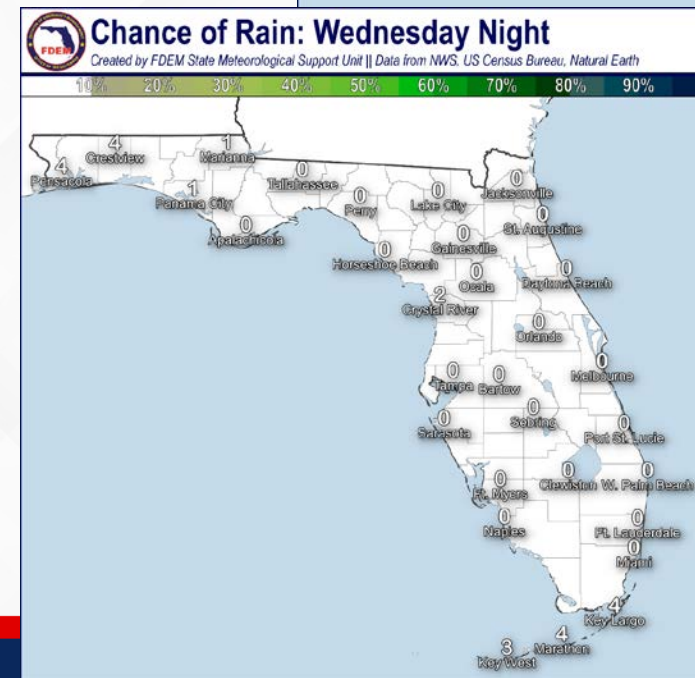
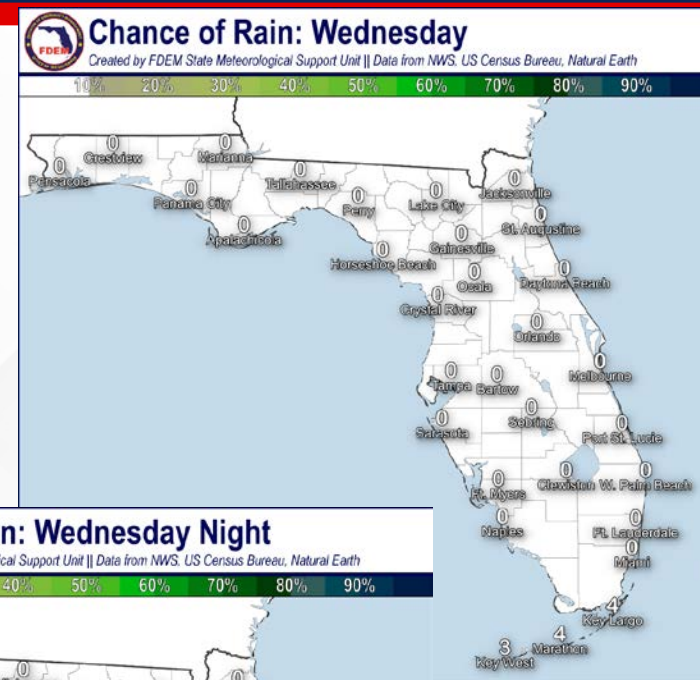
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Patchy fog this morning will continue to lift and dissipate as the sun rises along portions of the Gulf Coast. High pressure will continue to persist over the Sunshine State bringing mostly sunny and dry conditions throughout the day (near 0% chance of rain). Mostly sunny skies and pleasant conditions can be expected throughout the day. Ongoing dry conditions will allow for relative humidity values across the interior Peninsula to fall **near and below critical thresholds (25-40%)** this afternoon leading to **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. Compared to yesterday winds will be much lighter, which will help to limit Red Flag Warning concerns.

High temperatures will warm up into the 70s and lower 80s across the state this afternoon.

Dry conditions will persist through the overnight hours as high pressure remains situated (less than 5% chance of rain). Calm conditions and light onshore winds will allow for **patchy to locally dense fog** to develop across North Florida and the northern Peninsula late overnight and into early Thursday morning. A few isolated showers and thunderstorms will drift into the western Panhandle by sunrise Thursday morning due to a disturbance over the lower Mississippi Valley.

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





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** can be expected across several South Florida beaches throughout the day as ocean swells linger near the coasts. Numerous Panhandle and East Coast beaches can expect a **moderate risk**. Most West Coast beaches have returned to a low risk. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Calm marine conditions will return for Panhandle and West Coast beaches as wave heights of 1-2' can be expected throughout the day. **Elevated surf of 3-5'** continues across East Coast beaches, with greater **wave heights upwards of 6-7'** along Southeast Florida beaches.

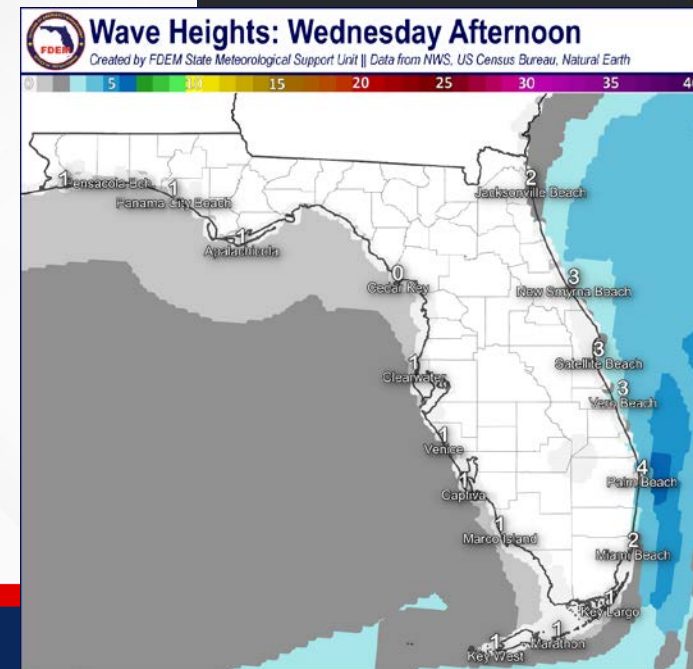
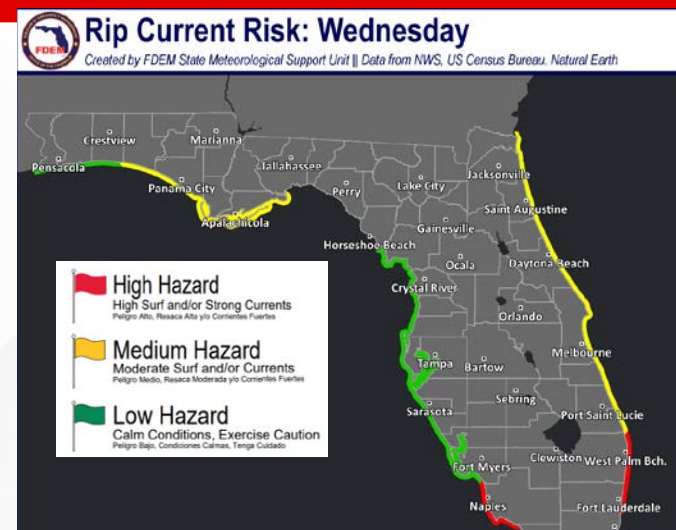
Red Tide has been observed in **16** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (valid 3/7). Background to **low concentrations** have been observed in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Charlotte Counties. A *fish kill suspected to be related to red tide was reported in Sarasota County at Turtle 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: There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

Flash Flooding: There is no risk for flash flooding today.

Riverine Flooding: Repeated rounds of widespread rainfall over the weekend has led to water level rises within river basins across the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley. **River Flood Warnings** have been issued for the [Aucilla River at Lamont](#), [St. Mary's River at Macclenny](#) and [St. Marks River near Newport](#) as water levels have risen into **minor flood stage**. All three of the rivers have begun to crest and will likely reach their peak within the next day. Through the rest of the week water levels will continue to decline likely falling below flood stage by the weekend. Additional river basins, such as the Ochlockonee, Sopchoppy, Withlacoochee and Santa Fe, are all forecast or have already risen into Action Stage (bank-full). Rises within the Santa Fe River basin may lead to backwater flooding within lower portions of the basin as elevated waters meet. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#). For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.35 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.13 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



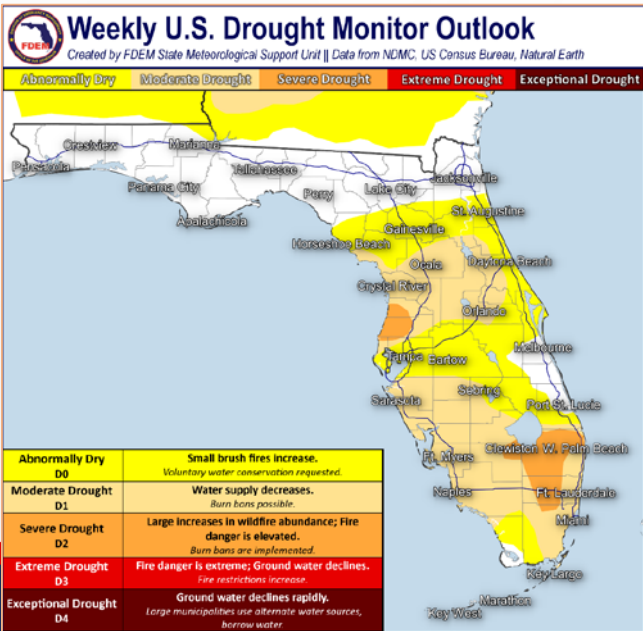


Drought & Fire Weather

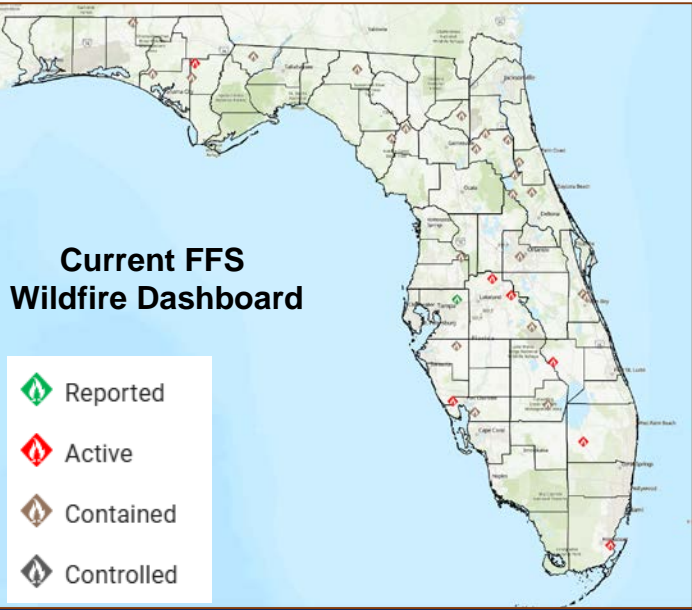
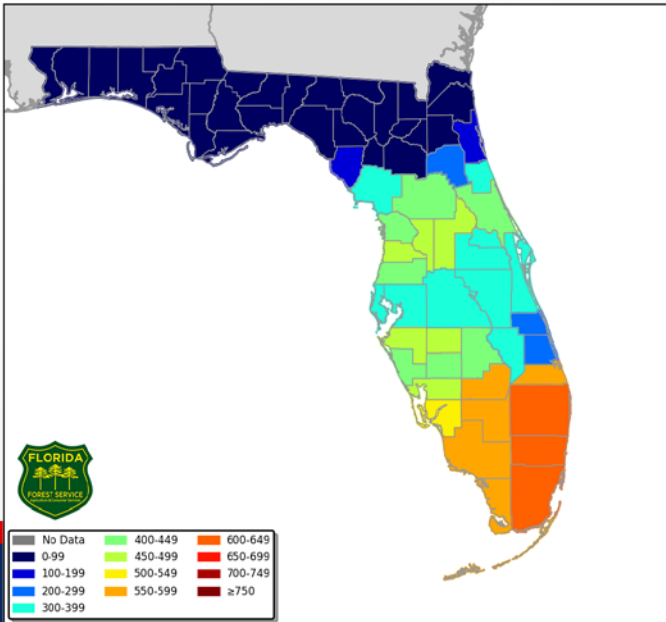
Fire Weather: Patchy fog this morning will lift dissipate and lift giving way to mostly dry conditions across the state. High pressure remains in place over the Sunshine State allowing for mostly dry conditions to persist. Relative humidity values throughout the interior regions of the Florida Peninsula will fall **near and below critical thresholds (25-40%)** this afternoon, keeping **sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions** in place. Compared to yesterday, a lighter winds regime can be expected as wind gusts will remain below 10 mph throughout the day. Ongoing drought conditions and little rainfall from the last few weather systems will also contribute to a more elevated wildfire risk. While drier conditions can also be expected across the Panhandle, recent heavy and widespread rainfall will limit the overall wildfire threat this afternoon. Another round of **patchy fog** will be possible overnight and into Thursday morning with calm winds and moisture gradually returning. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 31 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,182 acres.

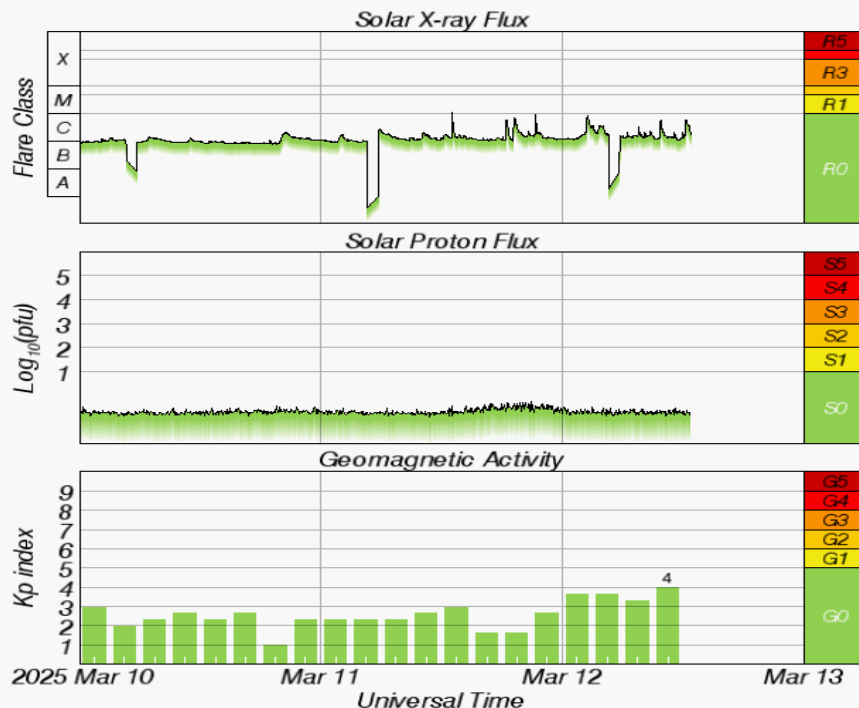
Drought: Temperatures across the Southeast U.S. this week (as of 3/6) were mostly within 5-degrees of normal. Most areas in the region also saw dry conditions. Short-term **Moderate and Severe Drought** expanded slightly in South Florida on this week's Drought Monitor updates (valid 3/6) where fire danger 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 **288 (-5)** 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).



Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
County Averages for March 11, 2025





Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 35%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
3/12	3/13
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 10% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity will be slightly more elevated compared to the last few days as chances for strong (M-class) solar flares from sunspot #4019 have increased. Additional growing sunspots on the eastern limb of the sun are also responsible for increasing solar activity. While the chances for an X-class solar flare remain low, it cannot be ruled out. Any M-class flare that develops will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts, and any X-class flare that develops will be capable of producing strong (R3) radio blackouts. Solar wind conditions will return towards nominal levels through today. Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds will return tomorrow and Friday creating an enhanced solar wind field through the end of the week. Unsettles to active geomagnetic conditions will continue as the Earth's magnetic field transitions between winds from coronal holes. Unsettled to isolated active geomagnetic conditions are expected through the end of the week. 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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