



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, March 13, 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	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(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) 591-7732	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	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	Gadsden, Washington	NWS Weekly Mtg (V) / County EM Visit / Response Coordination Team Mtg
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Response Meetings / DEMES Course / R4 Position Admin
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Response Coordination Team Meeting
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Volusia	DAB Airport Full Scale Exercise
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	LTRG Mtg (V) / Response Coordination Team Mtg / Office Admin
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Martin	LEPC Meeting
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Sarasota	SWFL Exercise / Response Coordination Team Mtg
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Broward	Crisis Track Training / Regional Higher Ed Meeting

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4
Region 6 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 9

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

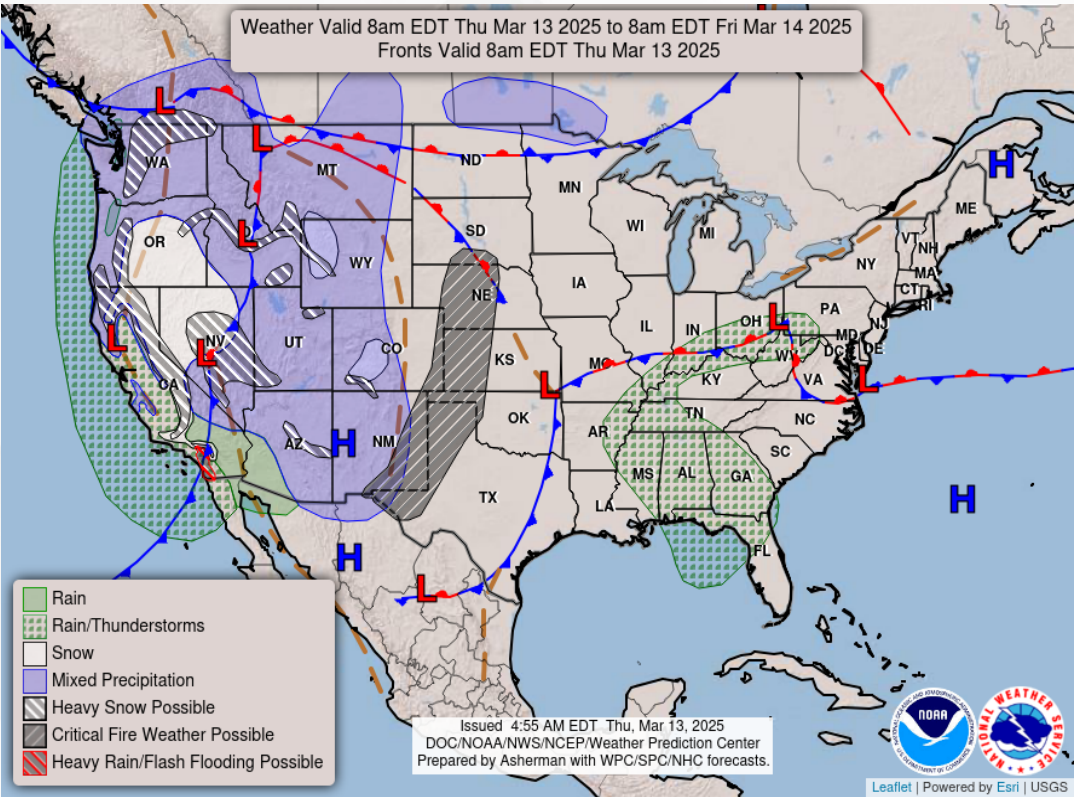
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Patrick James	Alachua	COAD Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Baker	COAD Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Orange	Vehicle Maintenance
RRCT Manager	Hernando	Administrative duties
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Okeechobee	LTRG Meeting
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Administrative duties
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 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7
Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

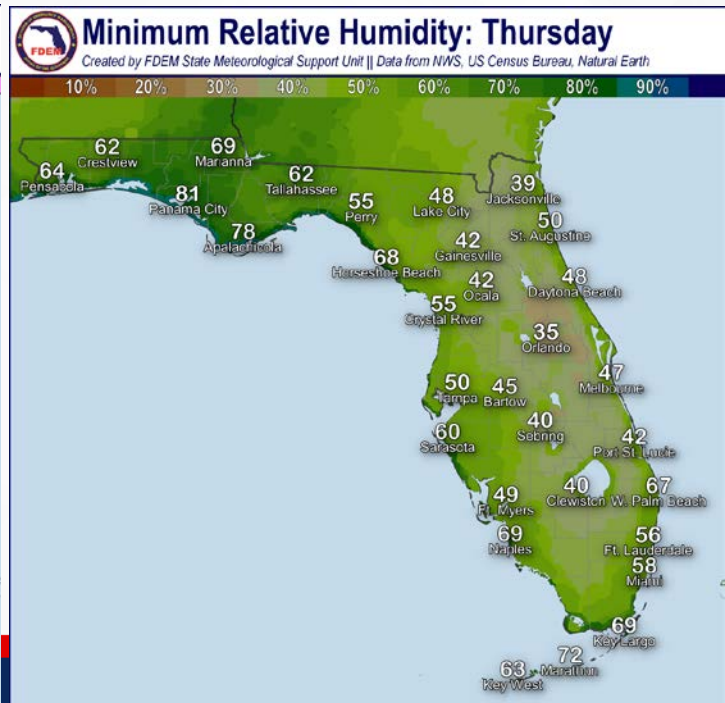
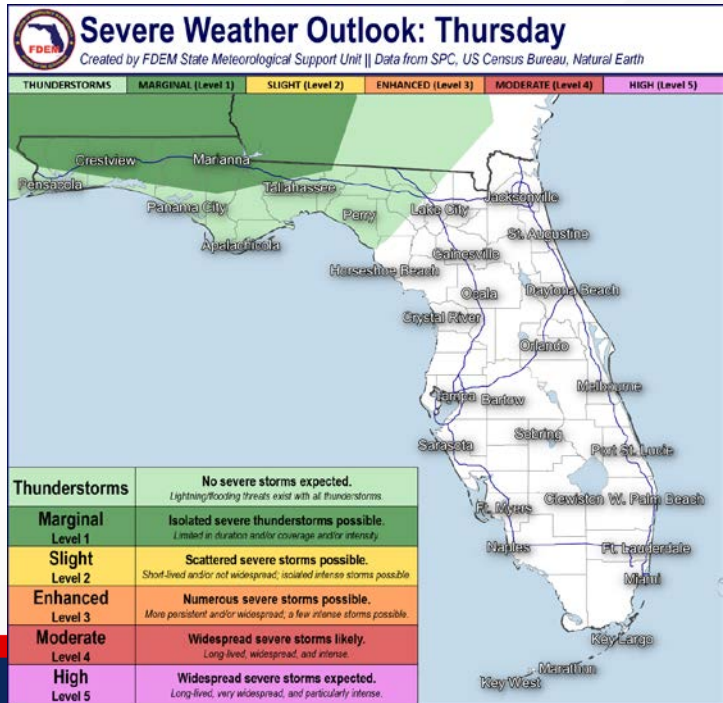


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	L							
Tornado	L									
Damaging Wind	L	L								
Hail	L	L								
Flash Flooding										
Fire Weather				L	L		L	L		L
River Flooding		L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)	H	H	M	L	L	M	M	L	M	M
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.29 ft. (1.18 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	293 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

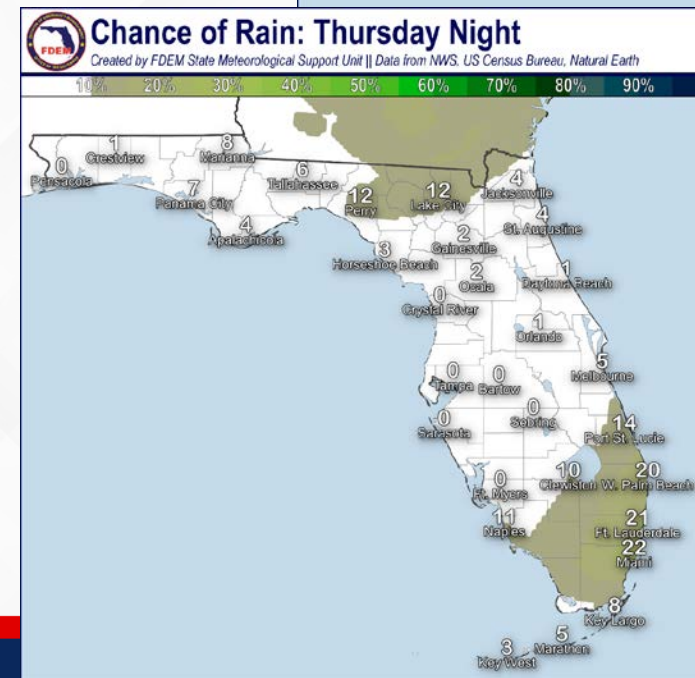
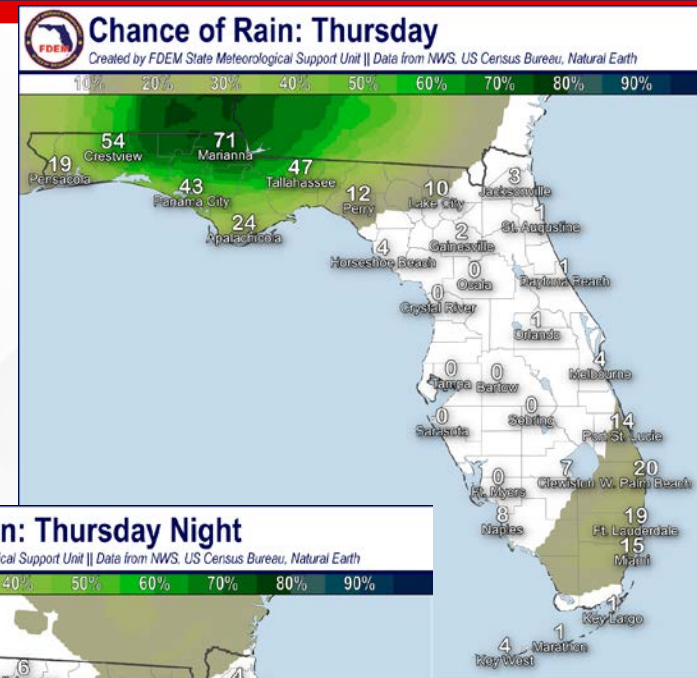
Dense Fog Advisories remain in effect across portions of the Suwannee Valley until 10:00 AM EDT this morning as areas of **dense fog** reduce visibilities to **¼ mile or less**, creating **hazardous driving conditions**.

A mid-level disturbance will move from the Mid-South this morning, through the Florida Panhandle today, and then east towards Florida's East Coast tonight. With the help of southerly flow bringing in increased moisture, scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop and move eastward along the Florida Panhandle this afternoon (30-70% chance of rain). The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** across the interior Panhandle and Northwestern Big Bend as a few **strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-60 mph), and hail (up to quarter-size), and locally heavy downpours will be possible. An isolated brief tornado or two also cannot be ruled out. While widespread heavy rainfall is not anticipated, **flooding** and **ponding of water** over vulnerable urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas cannot be ruled out with any stronger activity producing locally heavy downpours. Shower and thunderstorm activity and the threat of severe weather along the Florida Panhandle will begin to decrease after sunset tonight (near 0-15% chance of rain).

Mostly dry conditions can be expected elsewhere across the state today and tonight under the periphery of an area of high pressure to the east (near 0-15% chance of rain). Sea breezes and increase moisture across South Florida may allow for some isolated to widely scattered showers and an isolated rumble of thunder or two developing during the peak heating hours of the day and lingering into the early overnight hours (near 0-25% chance of rain).

High temperatures will rise into the 70s to middle 80s statewide this afternoon. Winds will remain near 5-10 mph with **gusts near 10-20 mph**. Lingering dry air along portions of the Peninsula will continue to create **sensitive wildfire conditions** this afternoon.

Low temperatures will return to the middle to upper 50s across the Northern and Central Peninsula, upper 50s to low 60s across the Florida Panhandle, 60s across South Florida, and low 70s along the Keys tonight. Areas of **patchy to dense fog** will be possible statewide overnight into Friday morning.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** persist along the Florida Panhandle and East Coast today with **locally high risk** along the Southeast Coast. A low risk can be expected along the West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Calm marine conditions with **1-3' wave heights** can be expected statewide today.

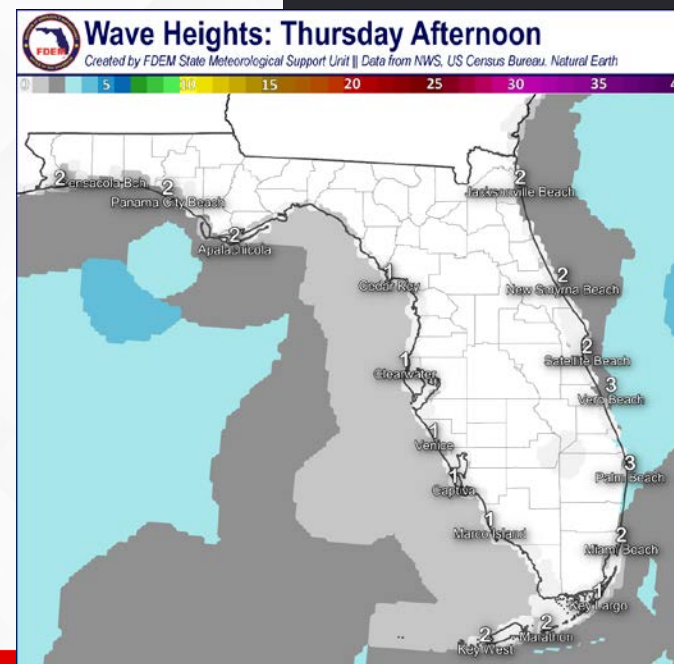
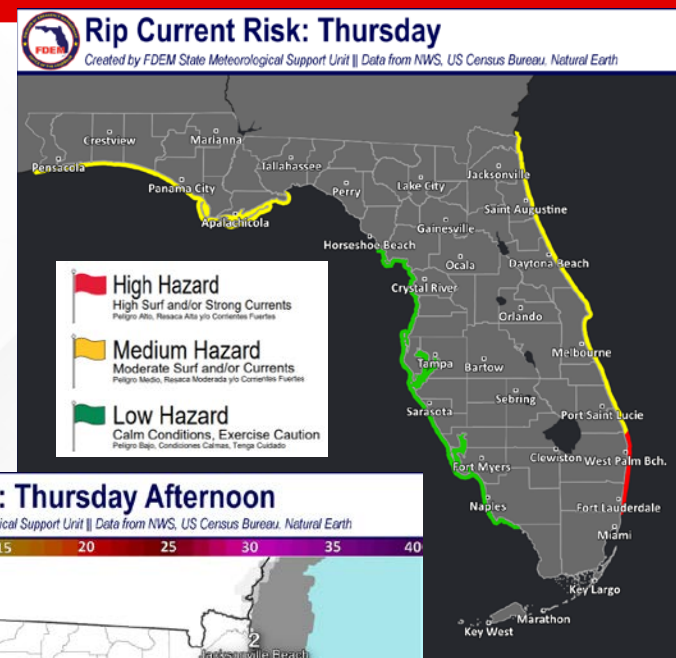
Red Tide has been observed at background levels in **1** samples collected from Pinellas County over the past week (valid 3/12). *There have been no reports of fish kills or respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide.*

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not expected today.

Flash Flooding: Flash flooding is not expected today. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain below 1" across the Florida Panhandle today with locally higher totals near 1" possible. While widespread heavy rainfall is not anticipated, **flooding** and **ponding of water** over vulnerable urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas cannot be ruled out with any stronger activity producing locally heavy downpours.

Riverine Flooding: Repeated rounds of widespread rainfall over the weekend has led to water level rises within river basins across the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula. **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 crested and are forecast to see water levels slowly decline over the coming days, 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 13.29 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.18 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



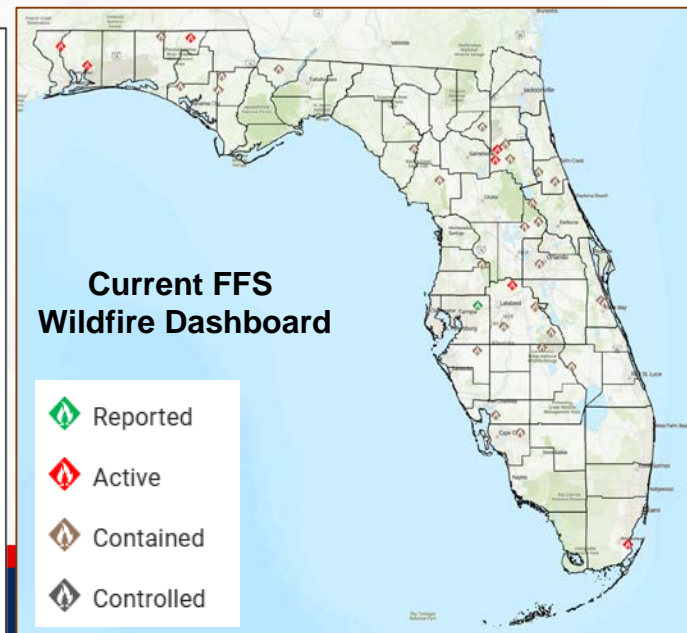
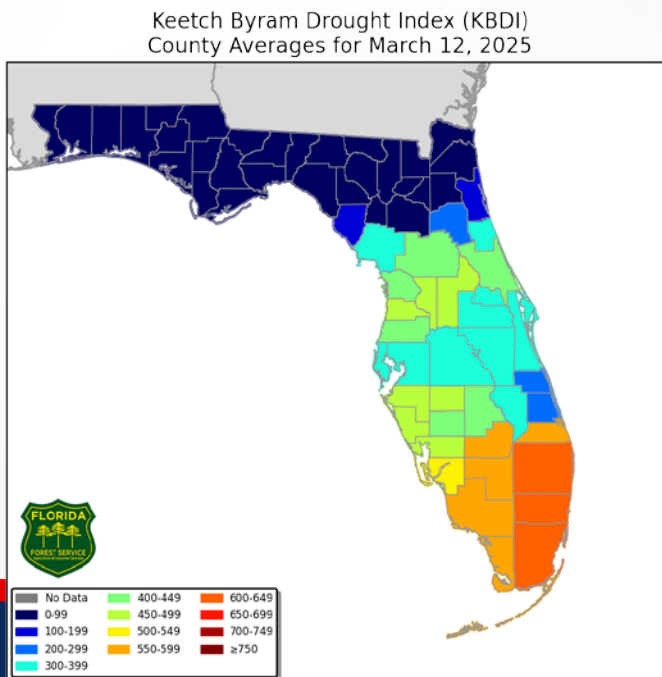
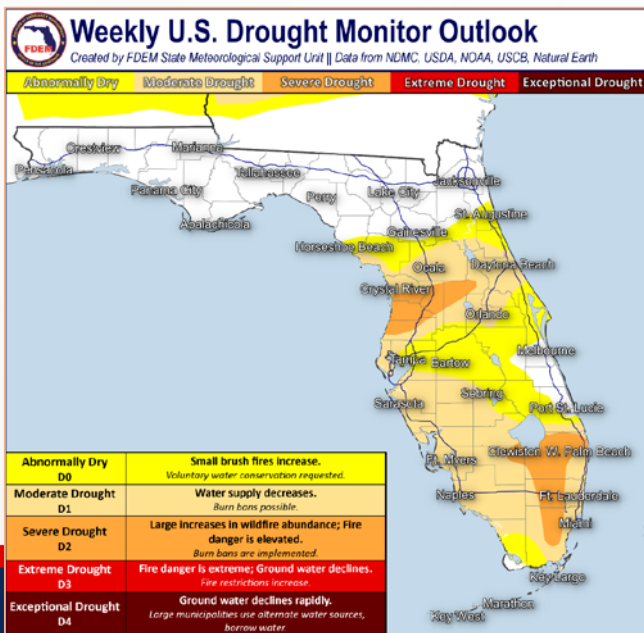


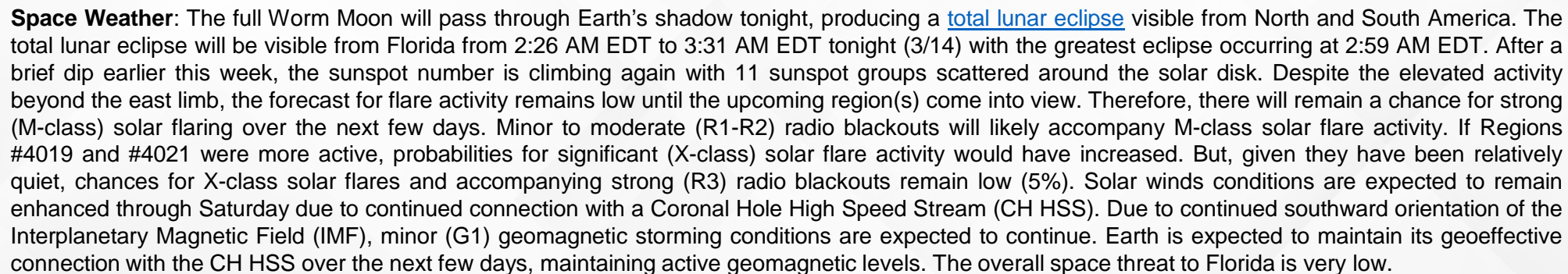
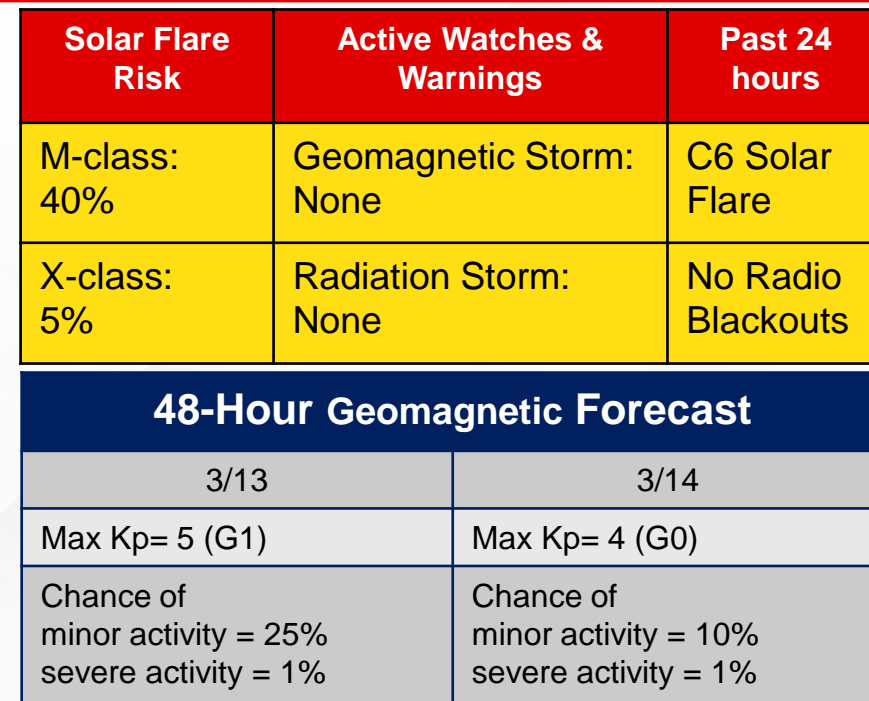
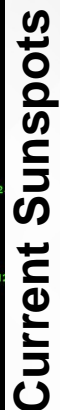
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dense Fog Advisories remain in effect across portions of the Suwannee Valley until 10:00 AM EDT this morning as areas of **dense fog reduce visibilities to ¼ mile or less**. With the help of southerly flow bringing in increased moisture and a mid-level disturbance, scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop and move eastward along the Florida Panhandle this afternoon. *Thunderstorms may be capable of producing erratic, gusty winds and frequent lightning.* Shower and thunderstorm activity will begin to decrease after sunset tonight. Mostly dry conditions can be expected elsewhere across the state today and tonight with scattered showers possible across South Florida. Winds will remain near 5-10 mph with **gusts near 10-20 mph**. Linger dry air along the Peninsula will continue to pull **relative humidity values down to near 35-45%** this afternoon, creating **sensitive wildfire conditions**. Areas of **patchy to dense fog** will be possible nearly statewide overnight into Friday morning, with areas of **dense fog** most likely to develop along the Florida Panhandle and West-Central Florida. *Fog may further reduce visibilities in areas with ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 35 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 956.89 acres.

Drought: Near to above-normal rainfall was observed in most areas in the Southeast U.S. over the past week (as of 3/13), although the swath of heaviest totals along and adjacent to Northern Florida were outside the areas affected by dryness. Dry conditions along the Central and Southern Florida Peninsula have led to some degradations on this week's Drought Monitor update (valid 3/13). **Abnormally Dry** (emerging drought) to **Moderate Drought** conditions remain in place across South and Central Florida northward to a line from Horseshoe Beach to Gainesville to St. Augustine. Expanding pockets of **Severe Drought** persisting across the Nature Coast and extending northeastward towards Daytona Beach and in the Southern Lake Okeechobee region stretching southward to Miami-Dade County. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking near normal temperatures and near to below normal rainfall statewide over the next week or so which will likely allow for further worsening of drought conditions.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is **293 (+6)** 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).







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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