



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, March 16, 2025



State Emergency Operations Center Activation Level

Level 2 Activation



SERT On-Call Personnel

Position	Personnel	Phone	Email
Operations Chief	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Watch Officer	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@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	Zachary Remante	(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	(850) 273-1273	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 / Severe Weather Monitoring
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status / Severe Weather Monitoring (R4)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Mason Kozac	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	In Region	On-Call Status



Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

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	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	Off & Monitoring
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

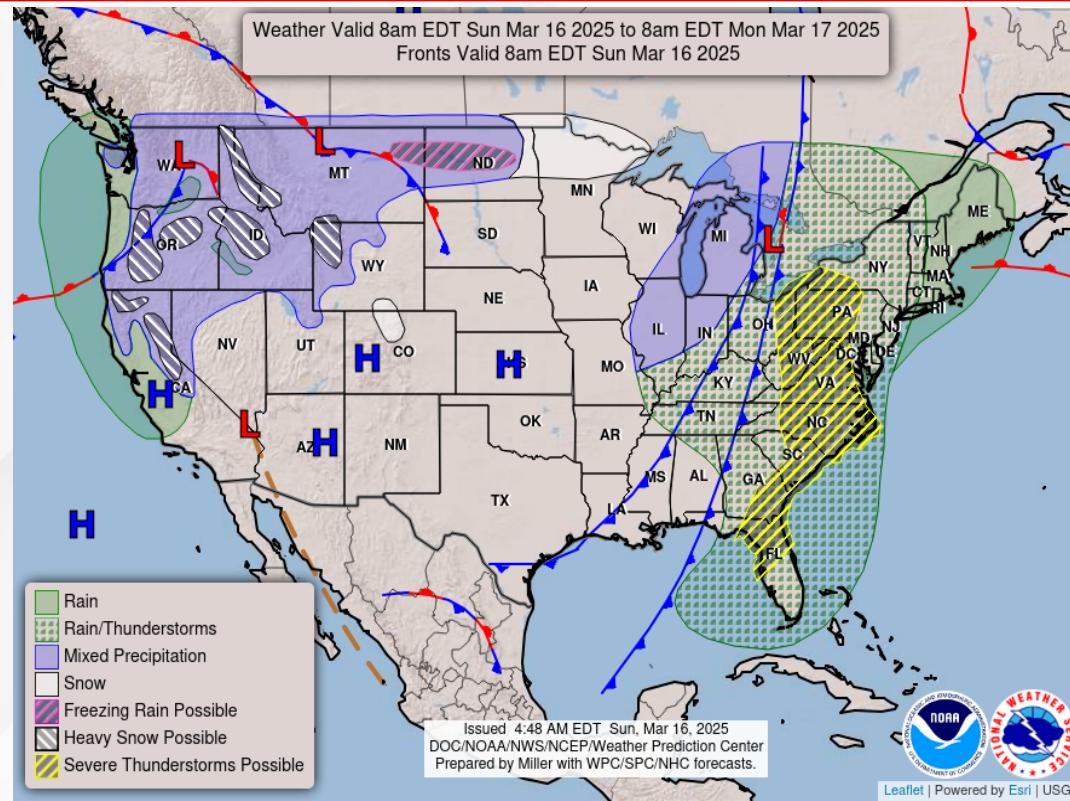
Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

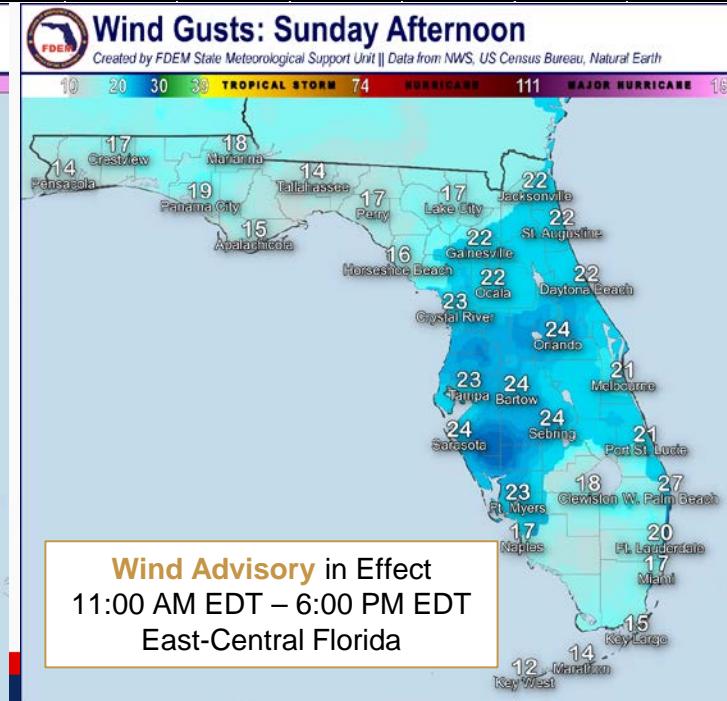
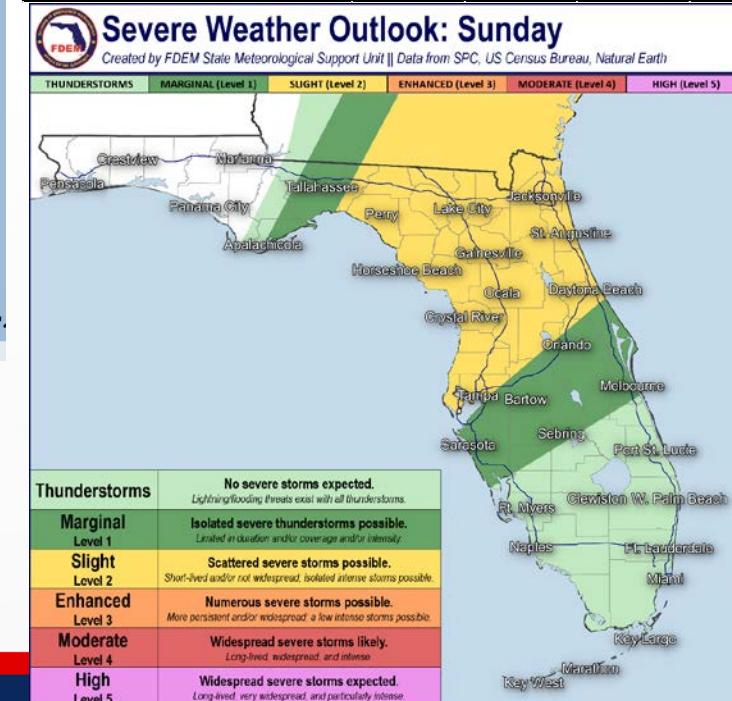


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning		L	H	H	M	M	L	L	L	L
Tornado			L	L	L	L				
Damaging Wind		L	M	M	M	L	L			
Hail			L	L	L	L				
Flash Flooding										
Fire Weather										
River Flooding		L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)						L		L		
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	M	H	M	H	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	13.16 ft. (1.28 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	313 (+9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

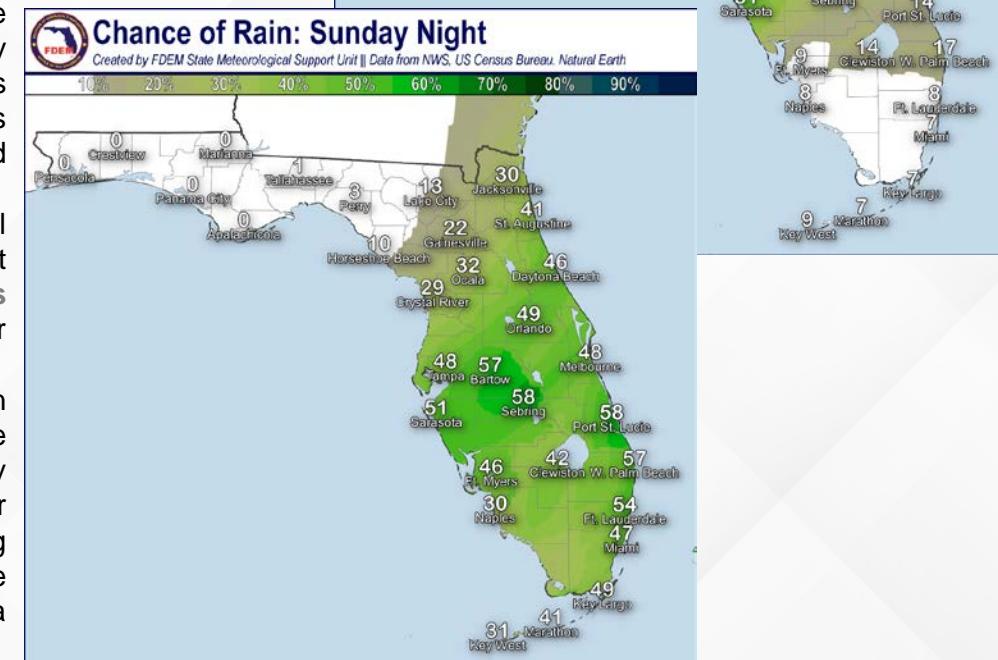
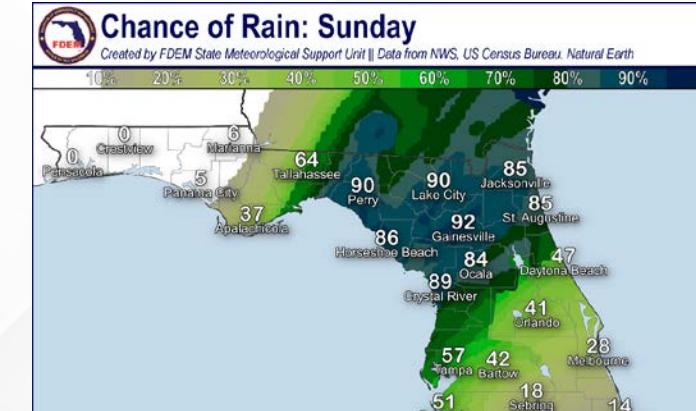
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Tornado Watch #50 remains in effect for portions of the Florida Big Bend until 10:00 AM EDT this morning, and **Tornado Watch #52** has been issued for the Florida Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley, and Northeast Florida until 3:00 PM EDT this afternoon.

The broken line of showers and thunderstorms will continue to advance eastward along and ahead of a cold front. The greatest rain chances will reside across the Florida Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley, and Northeast Florida through the morning hours (80-near100%), gradually spreading southeastward to the I-4 corridor this afternoon and evening (60-80% chance of rain). Thunderstorms may become **strong to severe** at times, especially with the assistance of daytime heating, and the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) maintains a **Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the I-10 corridor and northern Florida Peninsula. Wind gusts of 50-70 mph, an isolated tornado, frequent lightning, heavy downpours, and instances of 1" in diameter (quarter-size) hail will all be possible within the stronger and more organized thunderstorms. As the line becomes increasingly disorganized through the afternoon and evening, a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5)** remains in place along and south of the I-4 corridor for any thunderstorm capable of producing isolated damaging wind gusts (45-60 mph) and a brief tornado. Breezy conditions can be expected to build through the day across the Florida Peninsula, with southerly to southwesterly wind gusts reaching 25-35 mph; **Wind Advisories** will go into effect across East-Central Florida midday until 6:00 PM EDT, and additional Wind Advisories may be issued as conditions warrant.

As the cold front progresses southeastward into the Florida Peninsula, scattered showers and thunderstorms will spread southward this evening and tonight (40-60% chance of rain). A few gusty thunderstorms cannot be ruled out after sunset around Lake Okeechobee and the Southeast Florida corridor. Instances of coastal **fog and low clouds** will be possible along portions of the Florida West Coast tonight into Monday morning; however, it appears the better ingredients for more dense fog will remain over the adjacent coastal waters.

Westerly post-frontal winds will allow for temperatures to remain in the lower to middle 70s across the western Florida Panhandle. A warm day can be expected elsewhere across the Sunshine State, with afternoon highs in the middle to upper 80s largely statewide. A few interior locations throughout the southern Florida Peninsula will likely eclipse the **90-degree** mark prior to the onset of rain and thunderstorm activity; muggy conditions may allow for temperatures to **feel like the middle 90s**. Cooler temperatures will begin to filter across the I-10 corridor and along the Florida Big Bend tonight, with lows dipping into the middle to upper 40s. Temperatures tonight will remain in the 50s across Northeast and inland Central Florida, with 60s to 70s anticipated across South Florida and the Florida Keys.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate to high risk for life-threatening rip currents** persist statewide today as breezy winds and continued ocean swells begin to impact the coastlines. Messaging the **dangerous and life-threatening** risk of rip currents is imperative for tourists and out-of-town Spring Break vacationers. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** continue along many Florida coastline today, courtesy of the advancing cold front. **High Surf Advisories** remain in effect along portions of the Emerald and Forgotten Coasts through the afternoon as breakers could continue to reach **4-7'** at times. Increasing swells look to expand eastward along the Gulf Coast and into the Atlantic, with **wave heights** reaching **3-5'** by this afternoon.

Red Tide has been observed at background levels in **2** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (Pinellas and Gulf Counties) over the past week (valid 3/14). *Fish kills suspected to be related to red tide were reported in Sarasota County. There have been no reports of respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide.*

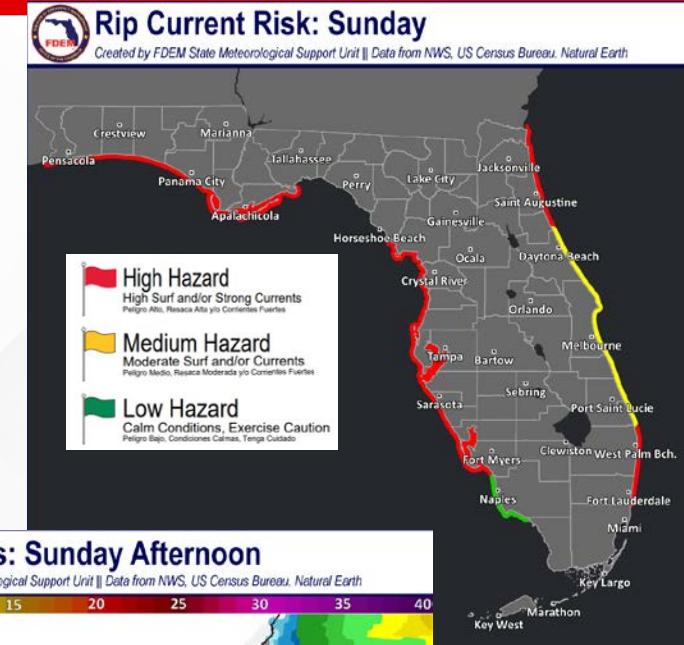
Coastal Flooding: There is no organized risk for coastal flooding; however, lingering breezy winds through the morning hours may create instances of **elevated coastal waters** along Apalachee Bay near and during times of high tide.

Flash Flooding: Rainfall totals associated with today's progressive cold front will largely limit totals to around an inch; however, heavy downpours accompanying shower and thunderstorm activity could produce a localized 2-2.5" across the Suwannee River Valley, Northeast Florida, and toward the I-4 corridor. There is no organized risk for flash flooding, only **nuisance flooding** and **ponding water** on roadways and usual trouble spots cannot be ruled out.

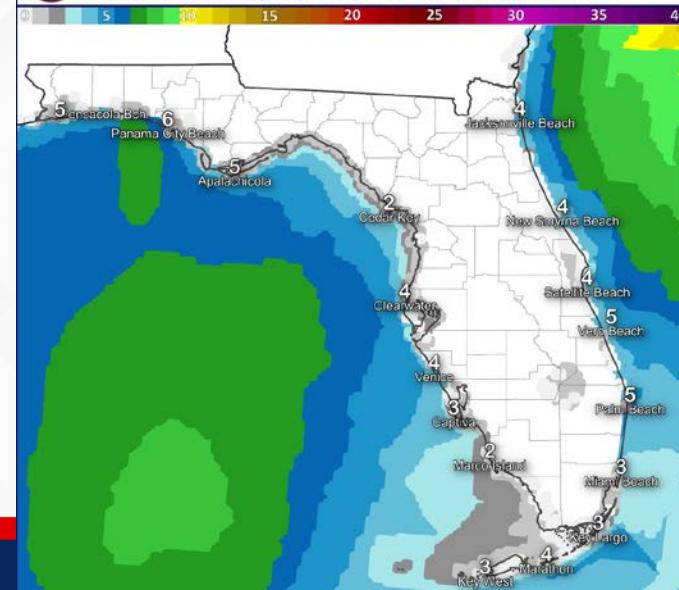
Riverine Flooding: **Minor flooding** continues along portions of the [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) and [St. Mary's River at Macclenny](#), with **River Flood Warnings** remaining in effect until further notice and until Tuesday (3/18) evening, respectively. Additional river basins, such as the Ochlockonee, Sopchoppy, Withlacoochee and Santa Fe, are all forecast or have already risen into Action Stage (bank-full). Additional rounds of widespread rainfall are expected along the eastern Panhandle this morning and across North Florida through the daytime hours; however, given the quick-moving nature of the system, widespread rainfall totals will remain limited and new riverine flooding is not expected at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.16 feet, which is within the operational band and is **1.28 feet below** normal for this time of year.

Rip Current Risk: Sunday
Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth



Wave Heights: Sunday Afternoon
Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth



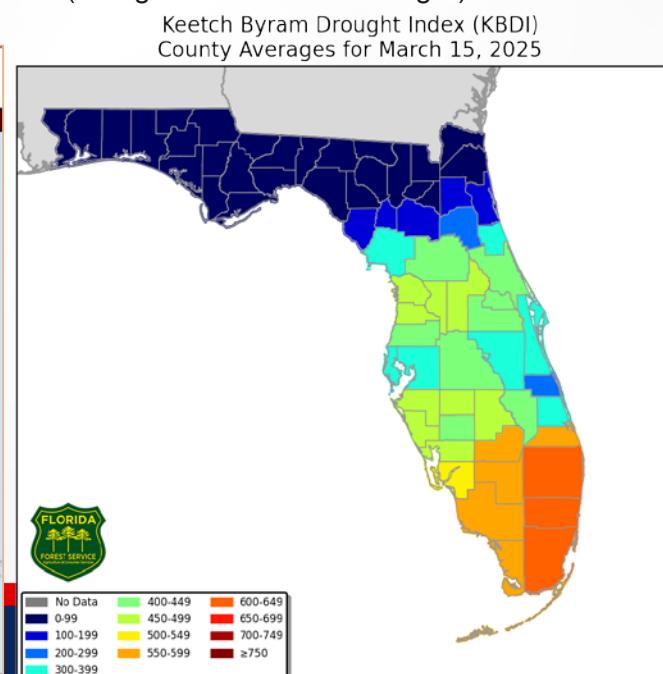
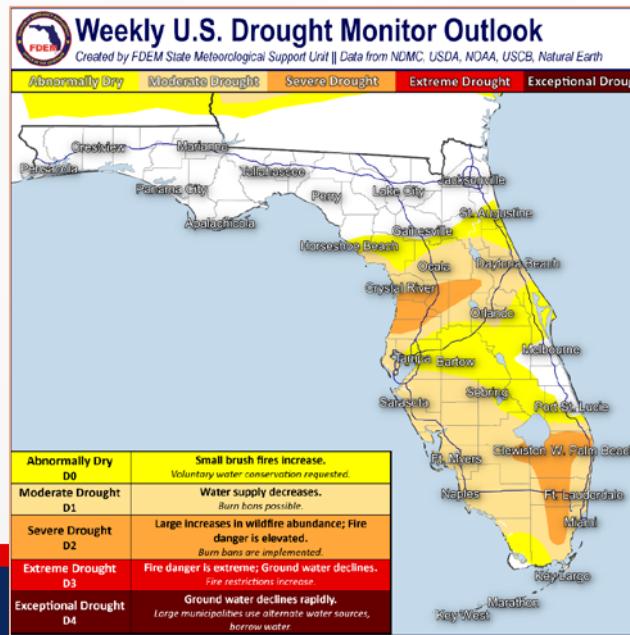


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dry air will make its return to the Florida Panhandle this afternoon in the wake of the morning cold front, with relative humidity values dropping to 30-40% through the eastern Florida Panhandle. Westerly winds of 10-15 mph can be expected, with wind gusts reaching upwards of 20-25 mph possible through the daytime hours. The overall wildfire threat is forecast to remain low, courtesy of recent rainfall. Further south in the Florida Peninsula, winds ahead of the cold front will be breezy at times with wind gusts of **20-30 mph** possible. Relative humidity values will be well above critical thresholds; however, any lightning strike that accompany today's thunderstorm activity could ignite new wildfires for Peninsula locations that are experiencing long-term drought/dryness. Wind gusts near and in thunderstorms can be gusty and erratic. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 33 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,675 acres.

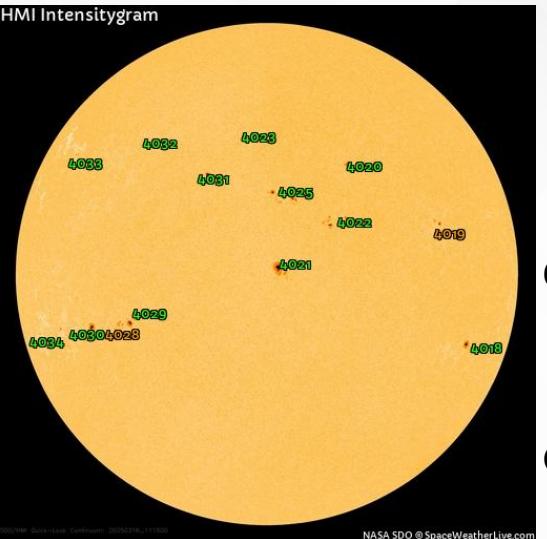
Drought: Near to above-normal rainfall was observed in most areas in the Southeast U.S. over the past week (as of 3/13), although the swath of heaviest totals along and adjacent to North Florida were outside the areas affected by dryness. Dry conditions along the Central and Southern Florida Peninsula have led to some degradations on this week's Drought Monitor update (valid 3/13). *Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)* to **Moderate Drought** conditions remain 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 **313 (+9)** 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).

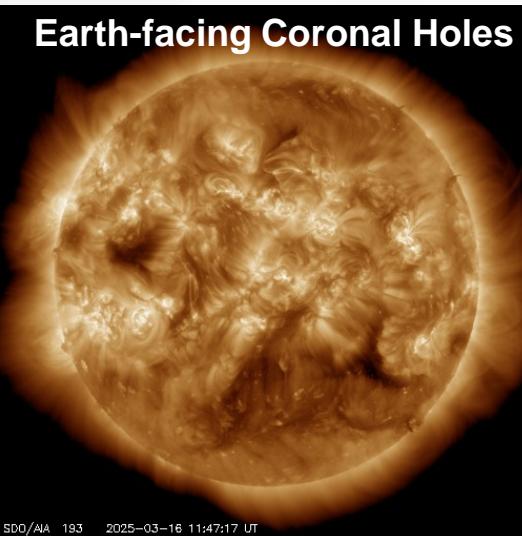




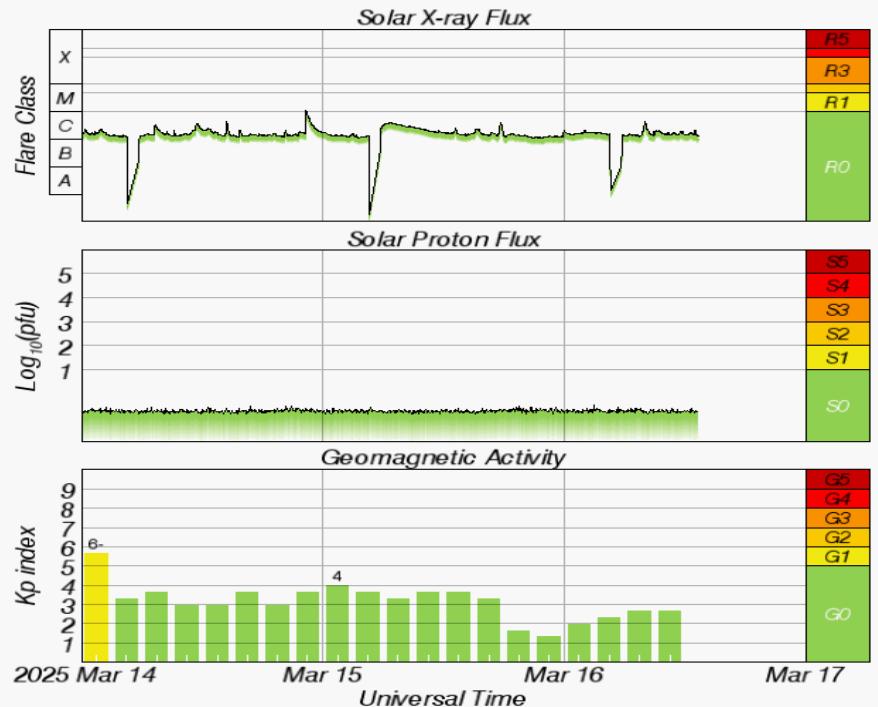
Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Earth-facing Coronal Holes



Space Weather: Solar flare activity is expected to be generally low with a chance for stronger (M-class) solar flares and a slight chance for significant (X-class) solar flares, particularly from sunspot #4028. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts may accompany the stronger and more organized flare activity. Enhanced solar wind parameters can be expected to continue into early next week; however, widespread geomagnetic storming is not anticipated. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains very low.

Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 45%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C4 Solar Flare
X-class: 10%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout
48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast		
3/16	3/17	
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)	
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	



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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