



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Monday, March 17, 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 | Zachary Remante | (850) 815-4001 | SWP@em.myflorida.com |
| Meteorologist | Caitlyn Gillespie | (850) 688-2119 | Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com |
| Plans Chief | Claudia Riddle | (850) 755-2924 | 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 | Gadsden | Regional Meeting Prep / Office Admin |
| Region 2: Willie Bouie | Leon | R4 Position Admin / Mid-Level Leadership Development Program Intro |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers | Alachua, Levy, Taylor | SERT Disaster Needs Assessment Mtgs / Community Event |
| Region 4: Vacant | N/A | N/A |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | Orange | Special Event Prep (SLRC) |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall | Pinellas | Hospital Logistics Meeting |
| Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck | Pinellas | Hospital Logistics Meeting |
| Region 8: Mason Kozac | Indian River | Vehicle Maintenance / FTEM Meeting |
| Region 9: Theresa Hendry | Sarasota | NWS Ruskin Meeting |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker | Miami-Dade | G-300 Instruciton Prep |



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 | Washington | Internal Stakeholders Meeting |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara | Leon | Internal Stakeholders Meeting |
| Region 3: Patrick James | Madison | HSEEP Training |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders | Out of Service | Leave (See Coverage) |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | Out of Service | Leave (See Coverage) |
| RRCT Manager | Hernando | Internal Stakeholders Meeting |
| Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell | | |
| Region 7: Antonio Zapata | Highlands | County EM Meeting |
| Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller | Indian River | Internal Stakeholders Meeting |
| Region 9: Vacant | N/A | See Coverage |
| Region 10: Dana McGeehan | Broward | Internal Stakeholders Meeting |

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

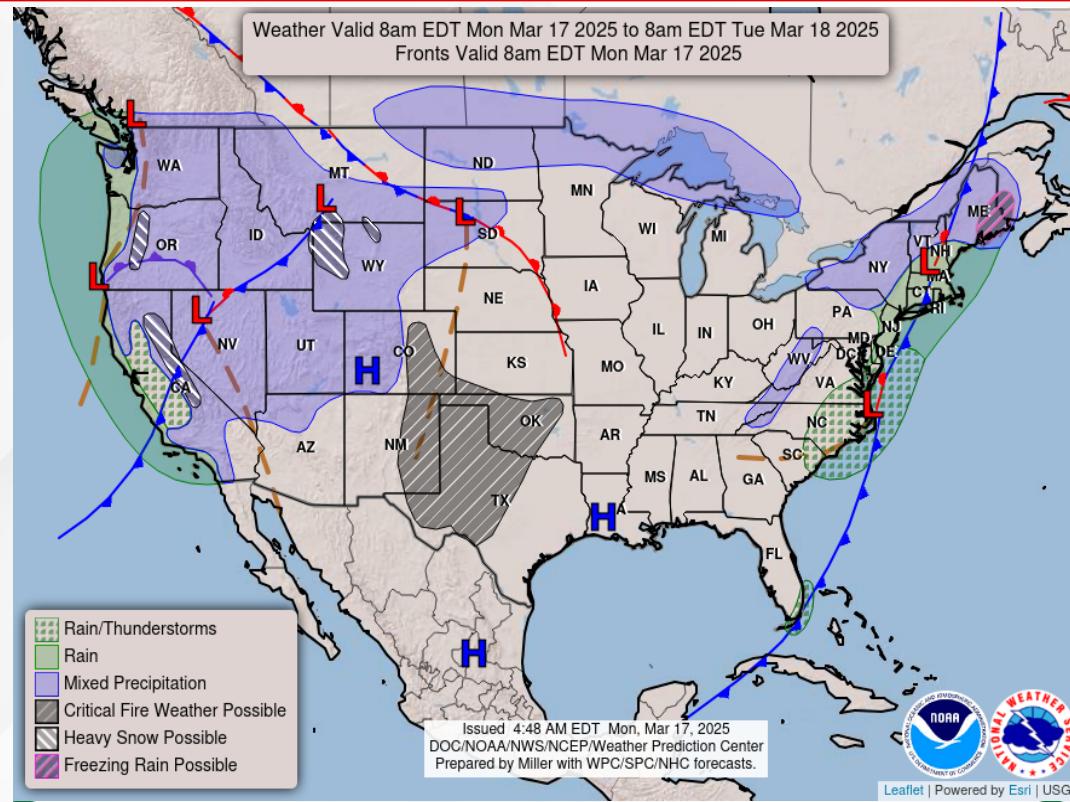
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

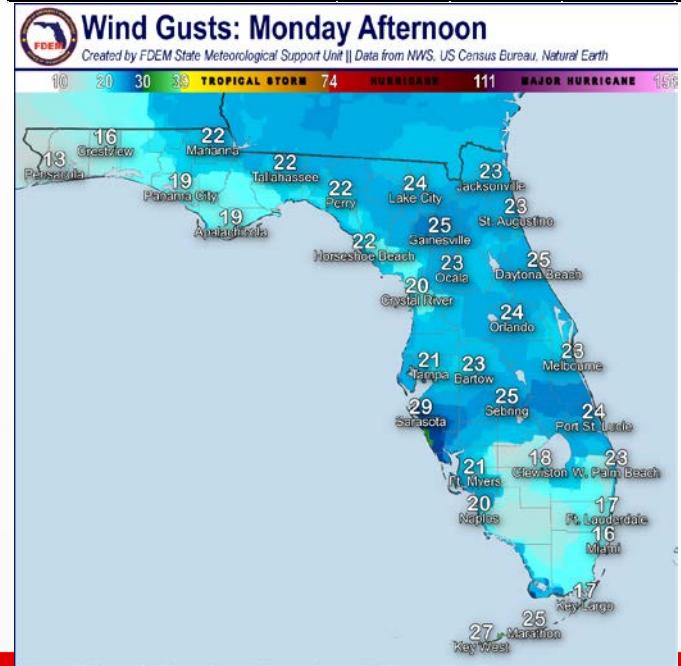
| Status |
|------------------------------|
| Normal Operations |
| In Region / Delayed Response |
| Deployed / Delayed Response |
| Out of Service / Unavailable |



Meteorology Summary



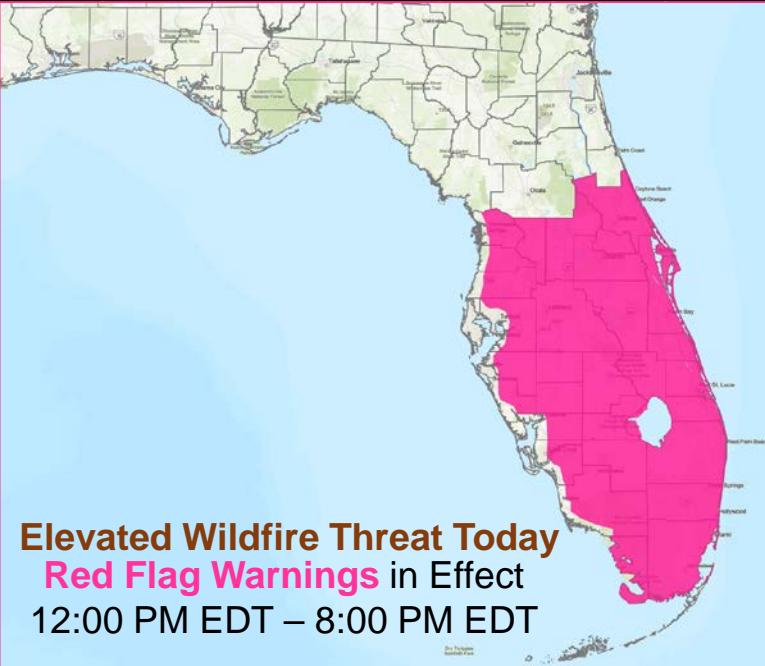
Today's Weather Map



Elevated Wildfire Threat Today

Red Flag Warnings in Effect

12:00 PM EDT – 8:00 PM EDT





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

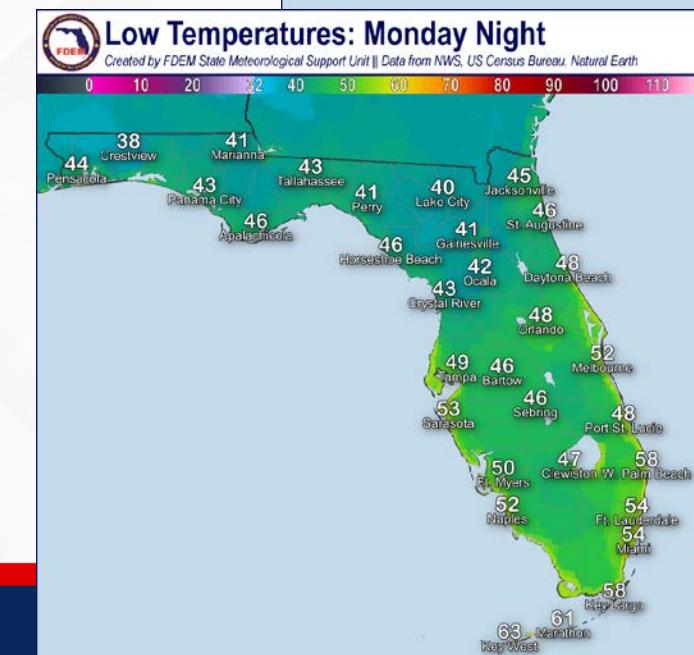
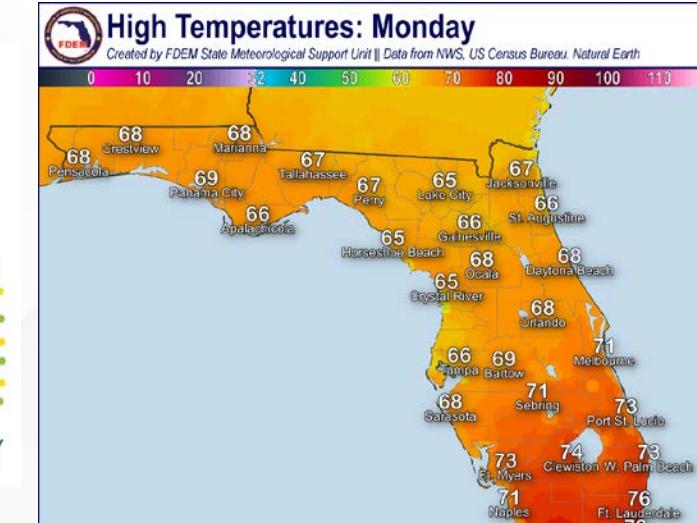
On current radar (9:00 AM EDT), the final showers and embedded thunderstorms along the recent springtime cold front have moved off the Southeast Florida coastline this morning with clearing skies anticipated through the day. Near-zero rain chances and ample sunshine anticipated to begin the work week.

Breezy northwesterly winds will filter a cooler and drier airmass across the state, with sustained winds of 10-20 mph developing statewide. **Moderate to strong wind gusts** frequently reaching **25-30 mph** can be expected during the daytime hours. Windy conditions coupled with **critically low relative humidity values (20s and 30s)** will give way to **elevated wildfire conditions** nearly statewide; **Red Flag Warnings** will go into effect midday across the Florida Peninsula until 8:00 PM EDT this evening as **enhanced wildfire danger and behavior** can be expected for locations experiencing longer-term drought and dry soil/vegetation.

Afternoon high temperatures will remain in the upper 60s across much of North and Central Florida and reach the lower to middle 70s throughout the southern Florida Peninsula and Keys. Clear skies overnight will allow for temperatures to drop into the lower 40s across North Florida, with some interior locations seeing brief periods in the **upper 30s**. Elsewhere, low temperatures tonight in the upper 40s to lower 50s can be expected across Central Florida and the 50s to 60s through South Florida and the Keys.



HAPPY ST.PATRICK'S DAY





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: **Moderate to high, life-threatening, rip current** conditions persist statewide today as breezy winds and continued ocean swells impact the coastlines. Messaging the **dangerous and life-threatening** risk of rip currents is imperative for tourists and out-of-town Spring Break vacationers. The **greatest rip current risk** resides along Florida Panhandle, West Florida, and Southeast Florida beaches today. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: **Hazardous beach and boating conditions** continue along many Florida coastlines today, courtesy of breezy northerly to northwesterly post-frontal winds. **Wave heights** of **2-4'** can be expected along Florida Panhandle and East Coast beaches, with **locally higher breakers** reaching **5'** possible. **Wave heights** of **4-7'** will be possible along the Florida West Coast through the afternoon hours.

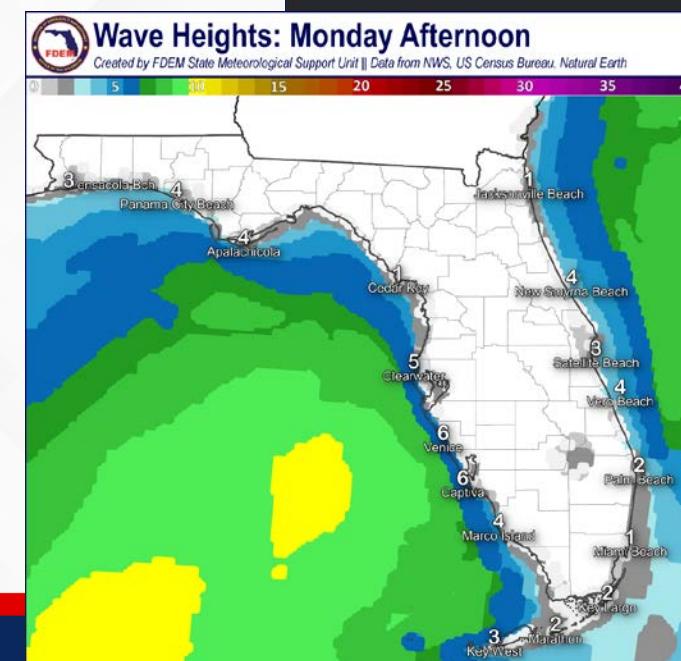
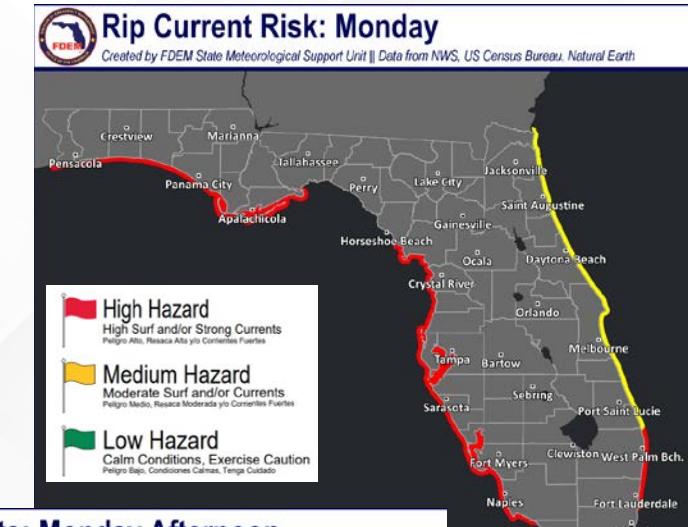
Red Tide has been observed at background levels in **2** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (Pinellas and Gulf Counties) over the past week (valid 3/14). *Fish kills suspected to be related to red tide were reported in Sarasota County. There have been no reports of respiratory irritation suspected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

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding is not anticipated.

Flash Flooding: There is no risk of flash flooding across Florida today.

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). For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.13 feet, which is within the operational band and is **1.29 feet below** normal for this time of year.



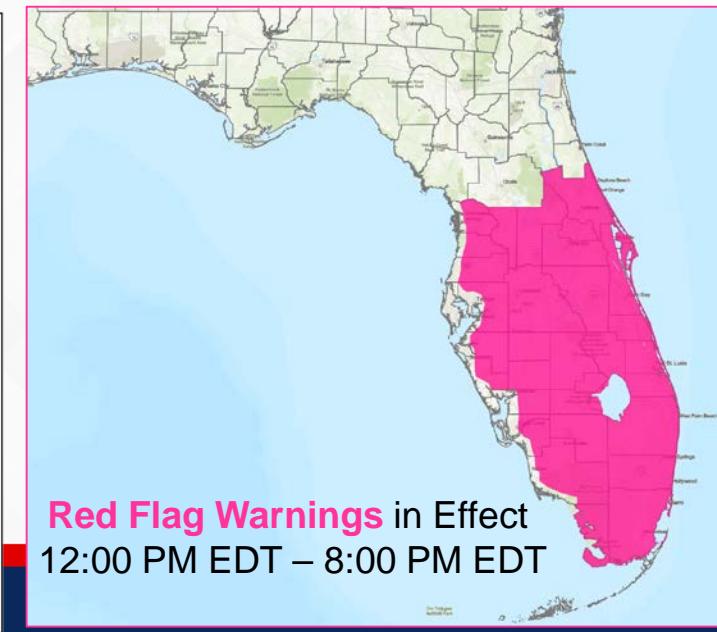
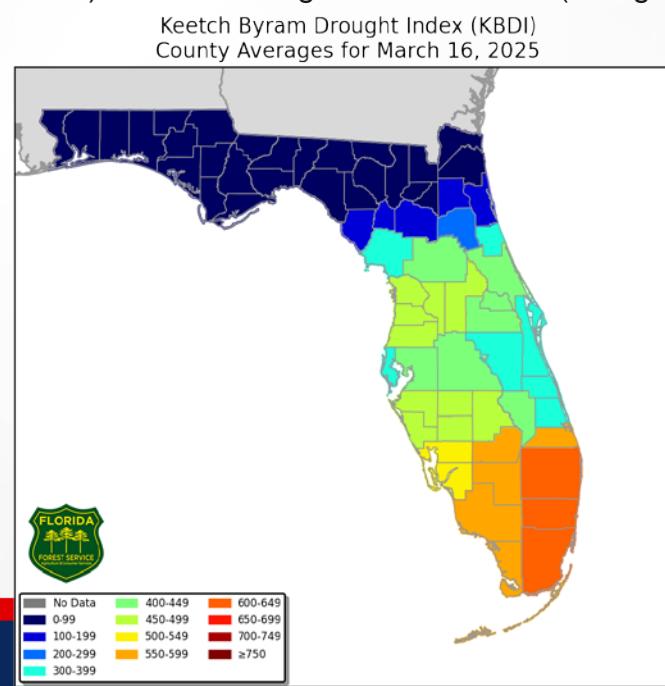
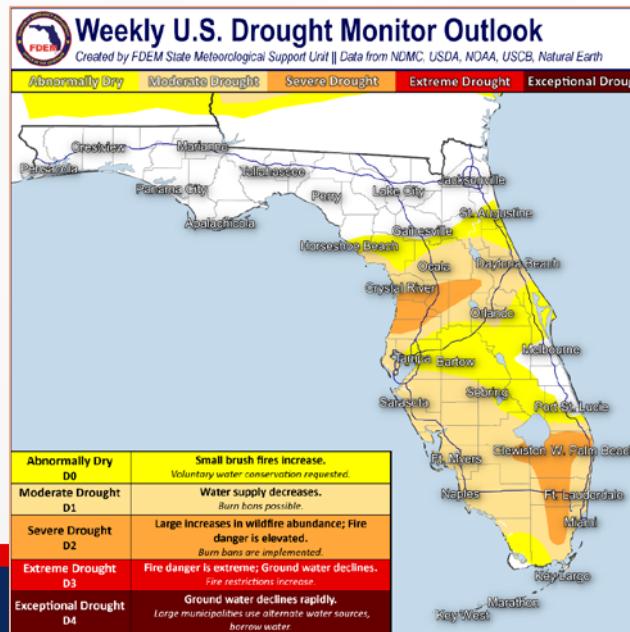


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dry air and breezy conditions will give way to **elevated wildfire concerns** throughout much of the Florida Peninsula today, with **Red Flag Warnings** forecast to go into effect midday through the evening (8:00 PM EDT for most locations). Sustained northerly to northwesterly winds of 10-20 mph will influence dry air and ample sunshine, with **wind gusts** reaching **25-30 mph** during the daytime heating hours. **Critically low relative humidity values (20s and 30s)** will lead to **enhanced fire danger and behavior**, especially for locations that are experiencing long-term drought and dry soils/vegetation. Any fires that develop or are ongoing could spread rapidly and not be easily contained; outdoor burning is not recommended. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 29 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 1,607 acres.

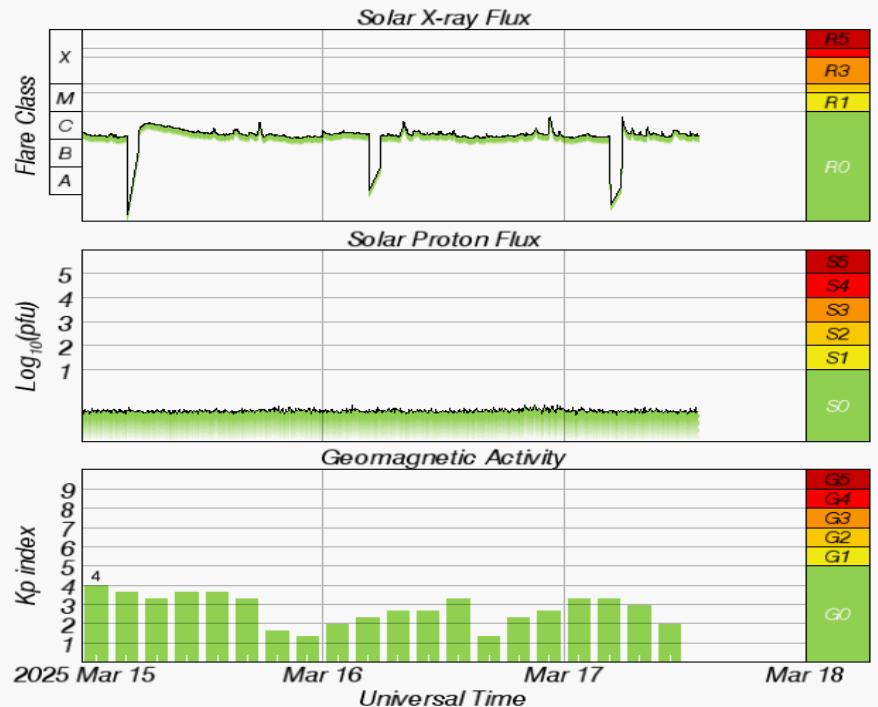
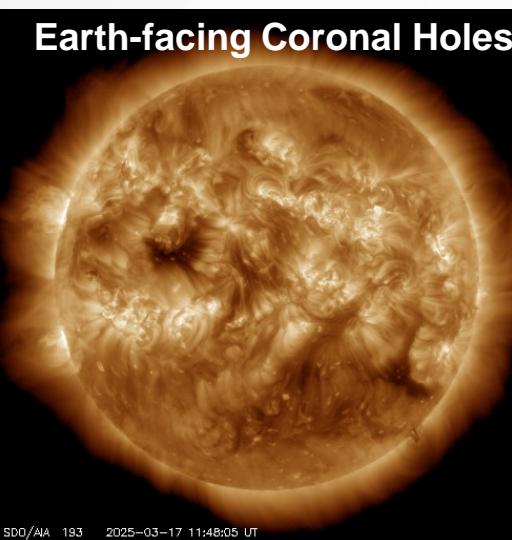
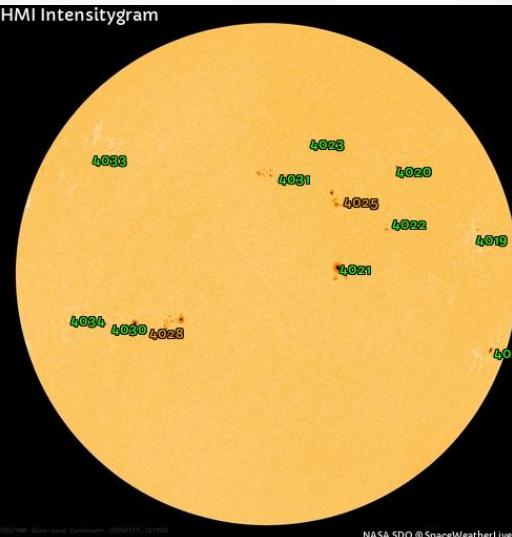
Drought: Near to above-normal rainfall was observed in most areas in the Southeast U.S. over the past week (as of 3/13), although the heaviest totals along and adjacent to North Florida were outside the areas affected by dryness. Dry conditions along the Central and Southern Florida Peninsula have led to some degradations on last 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 **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **315 (+2)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **10** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Space Weather



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours |
|--|--|-------------------|
| M-class: 40% | Geomagnetic Storm: None | C7 Solar Flare |
| X-class: 10% | Radiation Storm: None | No Radio Blackout |
| 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast | | |
| 3/17 | 3/18 | |
| Max Kp= 4 (G0) | Max Kp= 3 (G0) | |
| Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1% | |

Space Weather: Solar flare activity is expected to be low with a chance for stronger (M-class) solar flares and a slight chance for significant (X-class) solar flares. While the Sun's disk is peppered with several sunspot areas, all remain unactive at this time. 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 today, courtesy of some coronal hole influences; however, widespread and organized geomagnetic storming is not anticipated. The overall space weather threat to Florida remains 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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