



# **Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office**

## **Morning Situation Report**

**Thursday, March 20, 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	<a href="mailto:Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com">Amy.Godsey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Watch Officer	Woody Harvey	(850) 591-7939	<a href="mailto:Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com">Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com</a>
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	<a href="mailto:Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com">Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Day	Kaya Dungey	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Swing	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(850) 815-4001	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>
Meteorologist	Melissa James	(850) 566-6422	<a href="mailto:Melissa.James@em.myflorida.com">Melissa.James@em.myflorida.com</a>
Plans Chief	Claudia Riddle	(850) 755-2924	<a href="mailto:Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com">Plans_Command@em.myflorida.com</a>
Logistics Chief	Christina Goetzman	(850) 519-8581	<a href="mailto:Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com">Christina.Goetzman@em.myflorida.com</a>
Human Services Director	Pam Hughes	(850) 528-5638	<a href="mailto:Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com">Pamela.Hughes@em.myflorida.com</a>
Emergency Services	Tim Kenyon	(850) 591-7732	<a href="mailto:Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com">Tim.Kenyon@em.myflorida.com</a>
Infrastructure Branch Director	Karen Kozac	(850) 759-6226	<a href="mailto:Karen.Kozac@em.myflorida.com">Karen.Kozac@em.myflorida.com</a>
ESF 8 On-Call	Brandon Gore	(866) 786-4673	<a href="mailto:DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov">DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov</a>
Public Information Officer	Marnie Villanueva	(850) 591-9544	<a href="mailto:Marnie.Villanueva@em.myflorida.com">Marnie.Villanueva@em.myflorida.com</a>
DEM Finance and Admin	Jeremy Smith	(850) 273-1273	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com">Jeremy.Smith@em.myflorida.com</a>



# Response Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Visits
Region 1: Jim Roberts	Okaloosa	Region 1 RDSTF Meeting / Response Coordination Meeting
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Leon	Response Meetings
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Madison, Hamilton, Columbia	SERT Disaster Needs Assessment Meetings
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Pinellas, Hillsborough	Exercise Planning Meetings / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Sarasota, Polk	R7/R9 Response Coord Mtg / EM Meeting / Response Coordinators Mtg
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Indian River	LMS Meeting / Response Coordinators Meeting
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Sarasota	R7/R9 Response Coord Mtg / Waterway Debris Removal / Response Coord
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	Wildfire Response / Executive Team Support



Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3  
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Response Coordinator 6

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



# Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Okaloosa	RDSTF Quaterly Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	Instruction prep / Admin Duties
Region 3: Patrick James	Bradford	LMS Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
RRCT Manager	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Miami-Dade	FIU Event
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Indian River	Adminstrative Duties
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	Miami-Dade	FIU Event

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

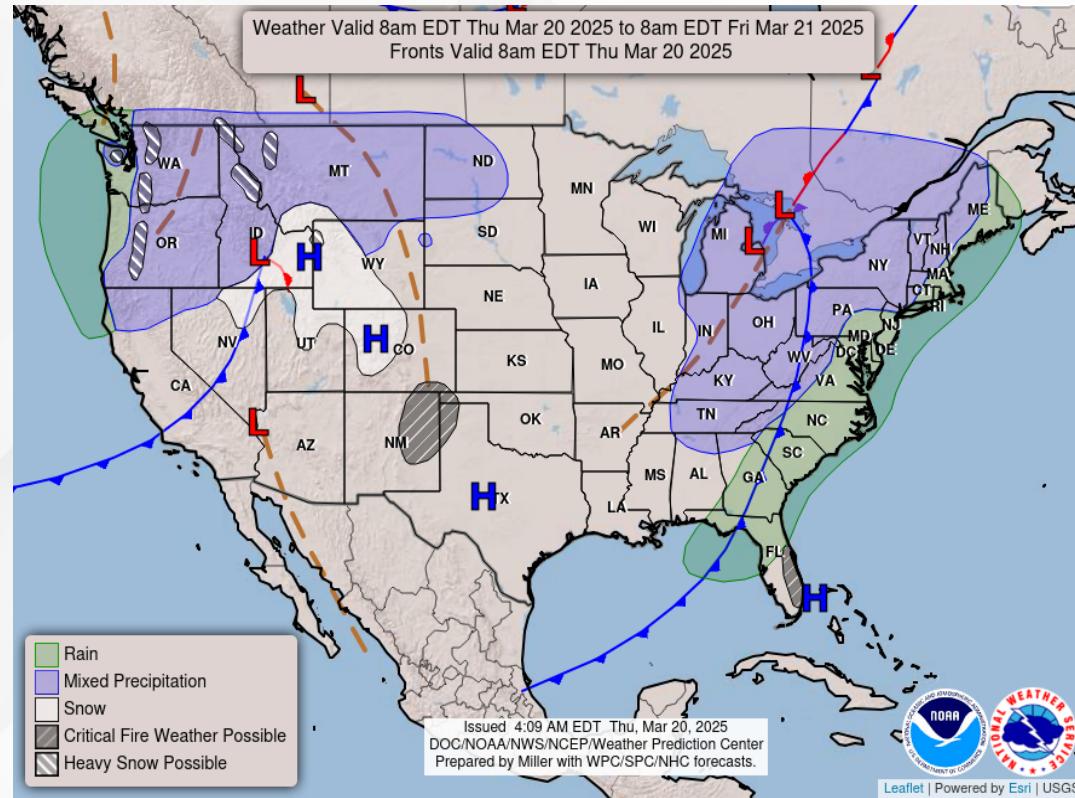
Region 5 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

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

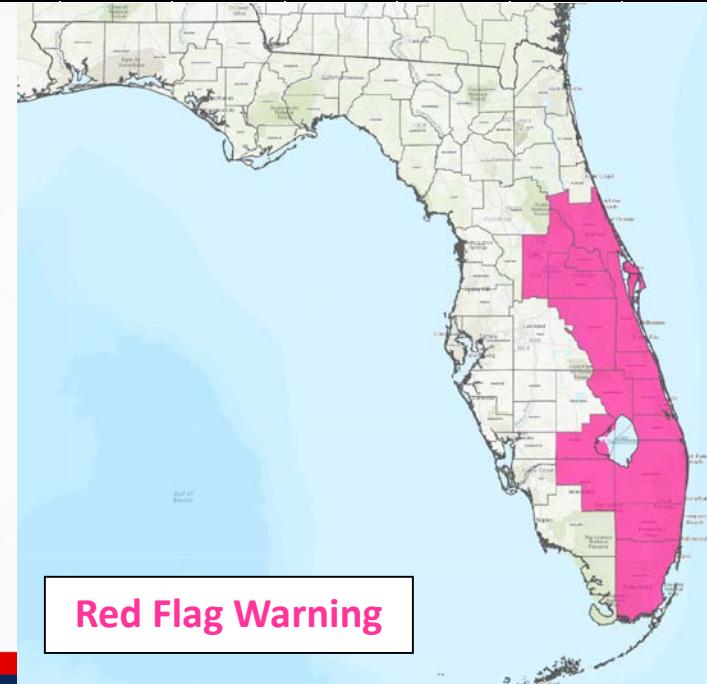
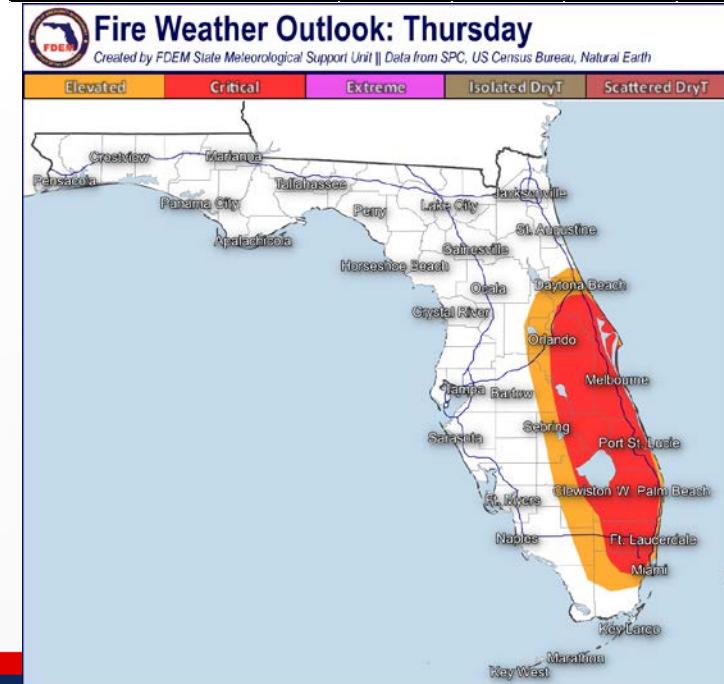


# Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
<b>Lightning</b>										
<b>Tornado</b>										
<b>Damaging Wind</b>										
<b>Hail</b>										
<b>Flash Flooding</b>										
<b>Fire Weather</b>	M	L	L	L	H		M	H	M	H
<b>River Flooding</b>		L	L							
<b>Freezing (Overnight)</b>	L	L								
<b>Rip Currents</b>	H	H	L	H	H	M	H	M	H	
<b>Lake Okeechobee Elevation:</b>	13.01 ft. (1.41 ft. <u>Below Normal</u> )									
<b>Keetch-Byram Drought Index:</b>	310 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





# Meteorology Summary

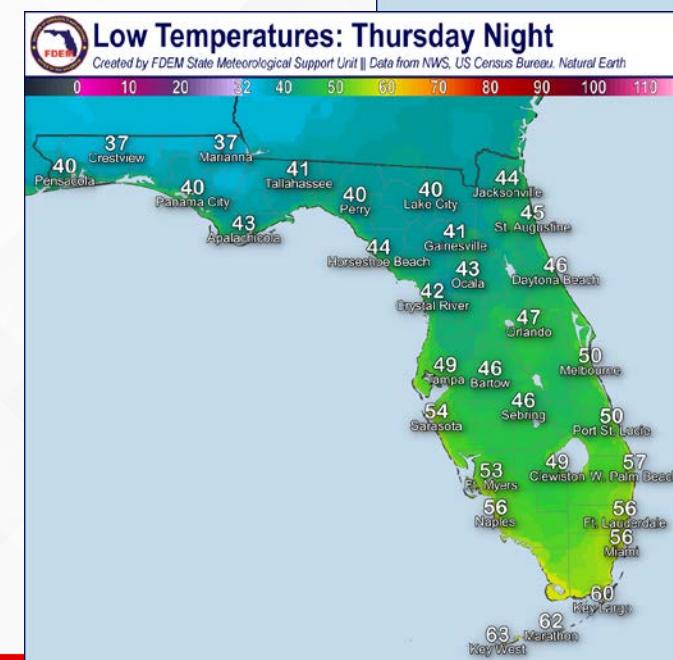
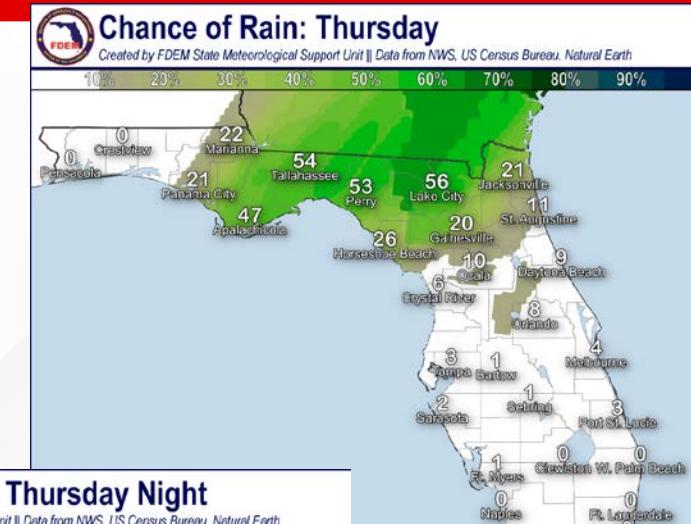
## Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

A weak line of showers and embedded thunderstorms making its way through the Eastern Panhandle will continue to push eastward through the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula this morning into this afternoon ahead of a cold front (20-60% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions can be expected elsewhere and in the wake of the cold front (near 0-5% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions return statewide tonight as the cold front moves through South Florida and pushes off the coast (near 0-10% chance of rain).

High temperatures will remain in the middle 60s to low 70s across the Florida Panhandle this afternoon with the help of a cooler and drier air mass building in in the wake of the cold front. High temperatures elsewhere will continue to rise into the middle 70s to middle 80s. Breezy winds near 10-15 mph can be expected statewide today with **gusts reaching upwards of 15-25 mph**. Lingering dry air along the Florida Panhandle and portions of the Peninsula will continue to pull **relative humidity values down to near 25-40%** this afternoon, creating increased wildfire concerns.

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Elevated to Critical Fire Weather Conditions** along the Central-East and Southeast Peninsula today as dry conditions are expected to persist across much of Central and Southern Florida ahead of the frontal passage later in the afternoon with breezy pre-frontal winds forecast to increase. **Red Flag Warnings** have been issued for portions of East-Central and South Florida from 11:00 AM EDT this morning until 8:00 PM EDT this evening as critically low relative humidity values, breezy winds, rapidly drying fuels, and ongoing drought conditions are expected to create **critical wildfire conditions** today. *Any fires that develop could spread rapidly. Outdoor burning is not recommended. Remember to avoid open flames, keep vehicles off dry grass, and properly discard cigarettes.*

Low temperatures will fall into the **middle 30s** to low 40s along the Florida Panhandle, low to middle 40s across the Northern Peninsula, middle 40s to middle 50s across Central Florida, middle to upper 50s across South Florida, and low to middle 60s along the Keys. Breezy winds will cause temperatures to feel like they are in the **middle to upper 30s** across North Florida and low 40s to low 50s across Central Florida overnight into early Friday morning. Areas of **patchy frost** may be possible across portions of North Florida that see weaker winds tonight. **Frost Advisories** have been issued for inland portions of the Western Panhandle from 3:00 AM CDT until 8:00 AM CDT Friday morning as temperatures as low as 35 will result in **frost formation**.





# Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

**Rip Currents:** A **moderate to high risk for rip currents** can be along the East Coast and Florida Panhandle today with a low to **moderate risk** along the West Coast as breezy winds and ocean swells develop along 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](http://www.weather.gov/beach).

**Marine Hazards:** Hazardous beach and boating conditions can be expected to develop statewide today and tonight as a cold front approaches and moves through the state, creating breezy winds and ocean swells. Large breaking waves near 3-6' can be expected to develop along the Florida Panhandle and the East Coast by this afternoon with locally higher 7' breaking waves possible. Ocean swells will continue to build through the overnight hours, reaching 4-7' along the East Coast with locally higher breaking waves upwards of 7' possible further offshore. West Coast beaches can expect wave heights to remain near 1-4' this afternoon, building to 4-7' with locally higher breaking waves upwards of 7' further offshore by early Friday morning. High Surf Advisories may be issued as conditions warrant. Atlantic-facing Key beaches can expect wave heights to remain near 1-4' today.

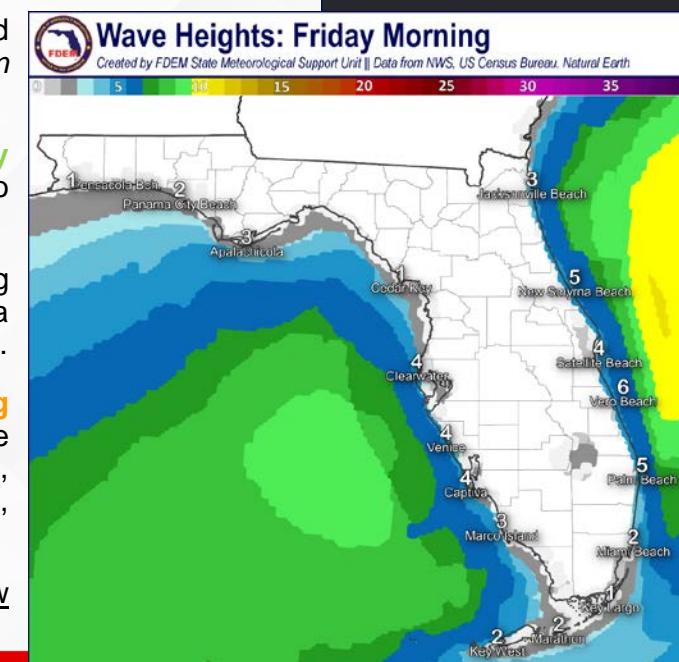
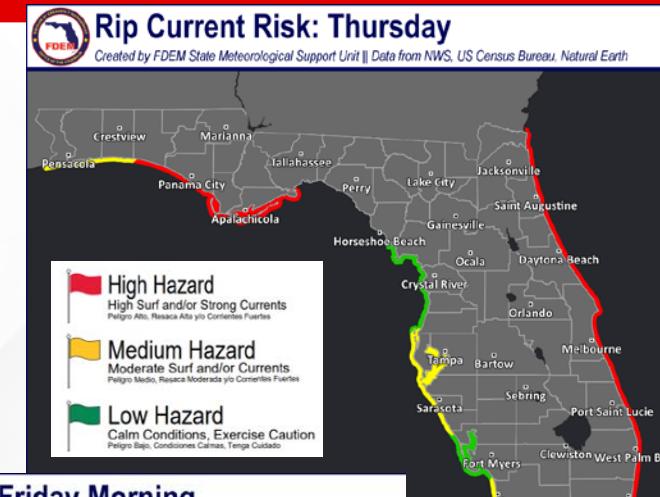
**Red Tide** has been observed at background levels in **2** samples collected from Florida's Gulf Coast (Pinellas and Gulf Counties) over the past week (valid 3/14). *Fish kills suspected to be related to red tide were reported in Sarasota County. There have been no reports of respiratory irritation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

**Coastal Flooding:** Coastal flooding is not expected today; however, **elevated tides (0.25'-0.75' above normally dry ground)** may be possible at times of high tide along portions of the Forgotten, Nature, and Sun Coasts due to breezy onshore winds and developing ocean swells impacting the coastline.

**Flash Flooding:** Flash flooding is not expected today. A weak line of showers and embedded thunderstorms making its way through the Eastern Panhandle will continue to push eastward through the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula this morning into this afternoon ahead of a cold front. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain well below 1".

**Riverine Flooding:** A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the [Aucilla River at Lamont](#) as **minor flooding** persist. Water levels are expected to continue slowly falling over the next few days, falling back into Action Stage (bank-full) this weekend. Additional river basins, including portions of the Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, St. Marks, Withlacoochee, St. Mary's, and Santa Fe rivers, have risen into Action Stage in response to recent rainfall; however, riverine flooding is not expected at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.01 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.41 feet below normal for this time of year.



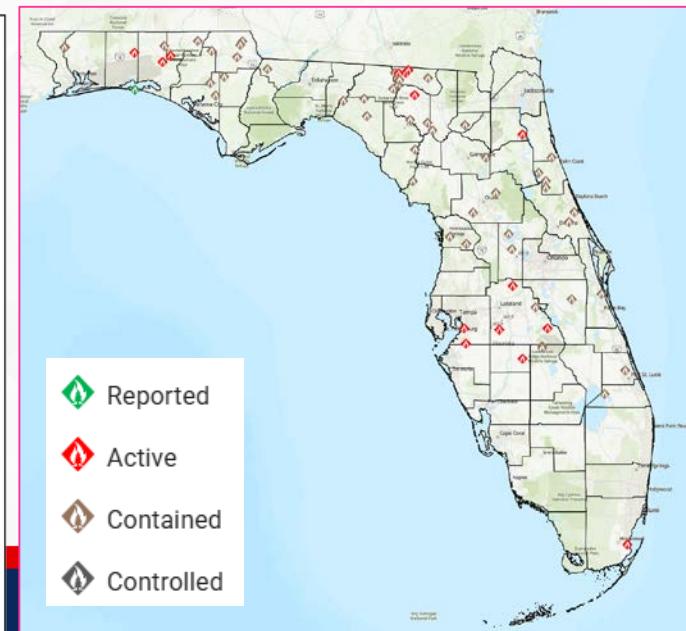
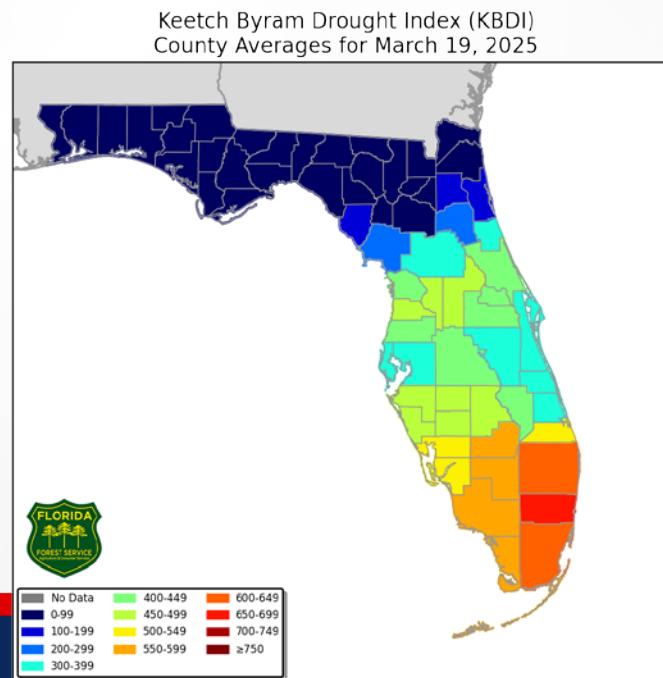
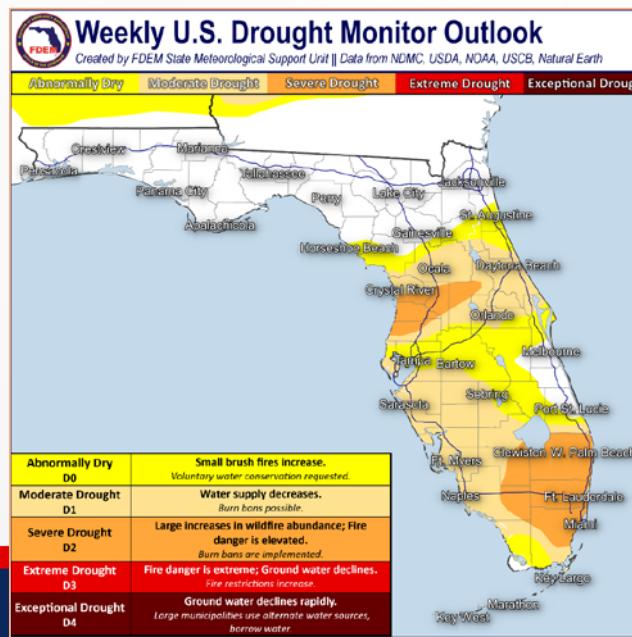


# Drought & Fire Weather

**Fire Weather:** Isolated to widely scattered shower activity ongoing across the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula will gradually dissipate throughout the day as a cold front sinks further southward through the Peninsula. Mostly dry conditions can be expected elsewhere throughout the day and statewide by tonight. Breezy winds near 10-15 mph can be expected statewide today with **gusts reaching upwards of 15-25 mph**. Lingering dry air along the Florida Panhandle and portions of the Peninsula will continue to pull **relative humidity values down to near 25-40%** this afternoon, creating increased wildfire concerns. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking an **Elevated to Critical Fire Weather Conditions** along the Central-East and Southeast Peninsula today as dry conditions are expected to persist across much of Central and Southern Florida ahead of the frontal passage later in the afternoon with breezy pre-frontal winds forecast to increase. **Red Flag Warnings** have been issued for portions of East-Central and South Florida from 11:00 AM EDT this morning until 8:00 PM EDT this evening as critically low relative humidity values, breezy winds, rapidly drying fuels, and ongoing drought conditions are expected to create **critical wildfire conditions** today. *Any fires that develop could spread rapidly. Outdoor burning is not recommended. Remember to avoid open flames, keep vehicles off dry grass, and properly discard cigarettes.* The wildfire over southern Miami-Dade County may continue to create **hazy conditions** due to smoke. Areas of **patchy frost** may be possible across portions of North Florida that see weaker winds overnight. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 62 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 14,588.15 acres.

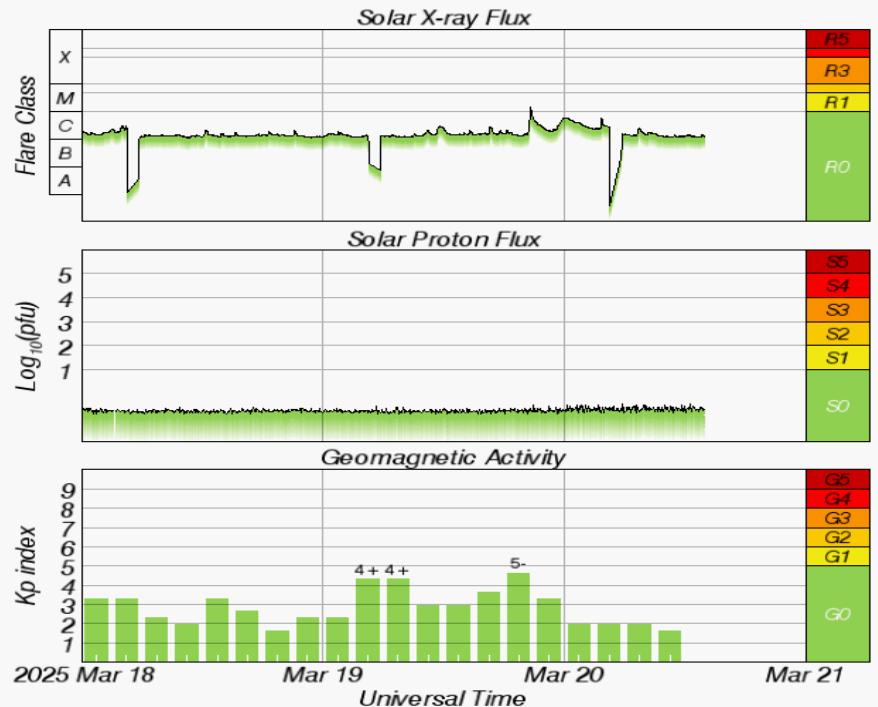
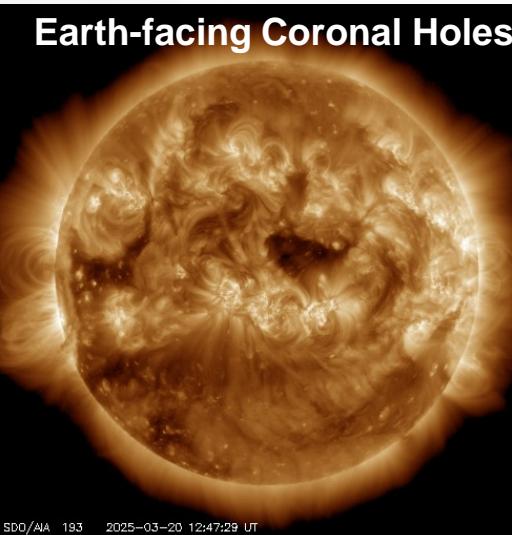
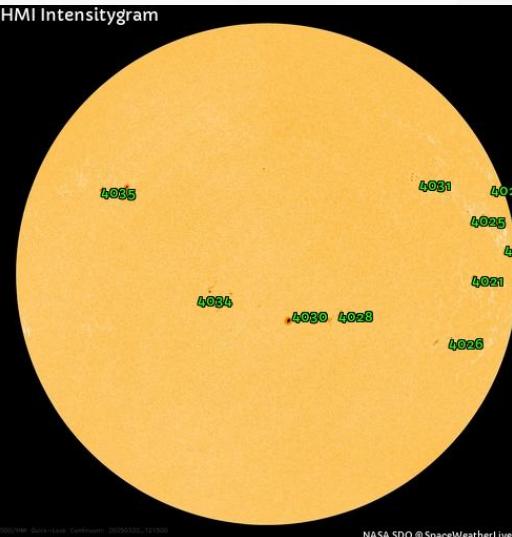
**Drought:** The March 15-16 severe weather event brought much needed rainfall to portions of the Southeast U.S. this past week (as of 3/20). However, little rainfall was observed across the Florida Peninsula, where several new wildfires burned thousands of acres in typically swampy areas. As a result, **Severe Drought** conditions were expanded in Southern Florida on this week's Drought Monitor update (valid 3/20). **Severe Drought** condition also persist north of the I-4 corridor across portions of the Nature Coast. **Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)** to **Moderate Drought** conditions expand elsewhere across the Peninsula south of the I-10 corridor from a line from Horseshoe Beach to Gainesville to St. Augustine and southward through the far southern Peninsula. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking near to above normal temperatures and slightly below to slightly above normal rainfall across the Peninsula over the next week or so which may allow drought conditions to hold steady or continue worsening.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **310 (+8)** 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



**Space Weather:** Solar activity is expected to remain at low levels with continued moderate (C-class) solar flares and a chance for strong (M-class) solar flares over the next few days. Sunspots #4031 has a magnetic field that harbors energy for M-class solar flares. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will likely accompany any M-class solar flares that occur. Disturbances in the solar winds environment are anticipated through today in response to persistent transient Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) effects as well as possible flanking influences of a nearby Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) passage that departed the Sun on 3/17. Solar wind parameters are expected to slowly diminish on Friday. Another enhancement to the solar wind environment is expected late Saturday due to the arrival of a Corotating Interaction Region (CIR) preceding a CH HSS. Unsettled geomagnetic conditions to minor (G1) geomagnetic storm levels are expected to continue into today as CME/CH HSS conditions persist. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions are expected Friday as conditions wane. By late on Saturday, unsettled to active geomagnetic levels are likely due to the CIR arrival. The overall space threat to Florida is very low.

Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	M1 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	R1 Radio Blackout

## 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

3/20	3/21
Max K <sub>p</sub> = 5 (G1)	Max K <sub>p</sub> = 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%	Chance of minor activity = 10% 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:	<a href="mailto:SWP@em.myflorida.com">SWP@em.myflorida.com</a>	Operational	
SWO Tracker:	<a href="https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/">https://apps.floridadisaster.org/SWO/</a>	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:	<a href="http://www.floridadisaster.org">http://www.floridadisaster.org</a>	Operational	

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