



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Saturday, March 29, 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	Caitlyn Gillespie	(850) 688-2119	Caitlyn.Gillespie@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jay Griffin	(850) 524-4094	Kellen.Griffin-Jay@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Matthew Peloso	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Zachary Remante	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Meteorologist	Melissa James	(850) 566-6422	Melissa.James@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	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 2: Willie Bouie	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 4: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 6: Paul Siddall	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	In Region	On-Call Status
Region 8: Mason Kozac	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 9: Theresa Hendry	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)

Region 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 3

Region 4 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 10

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

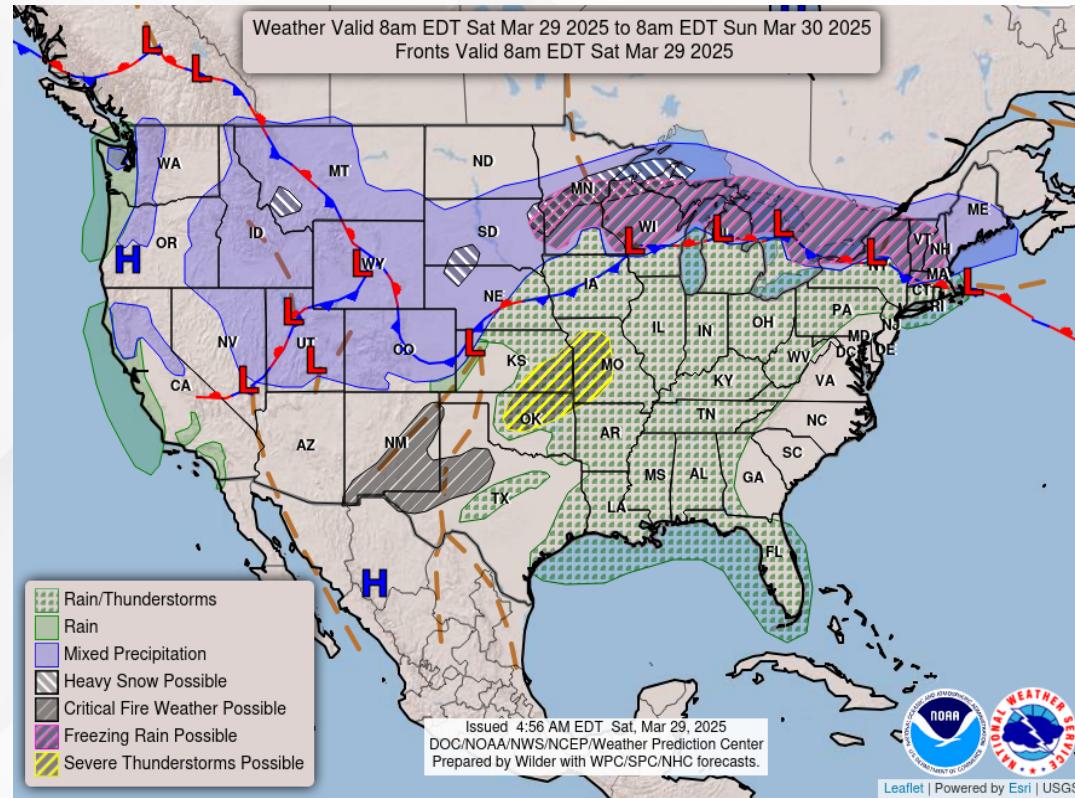
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R2
Region 3: Patrick James	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R3
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	On-Call Coverage for R4
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
RRCT Manager	In Region	Off
Region 6: Jeremy O'Dell		
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Region 9	On-Call Coverage for R9
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 10: Dana McGeehan	In Region	Off & Monitoring

Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

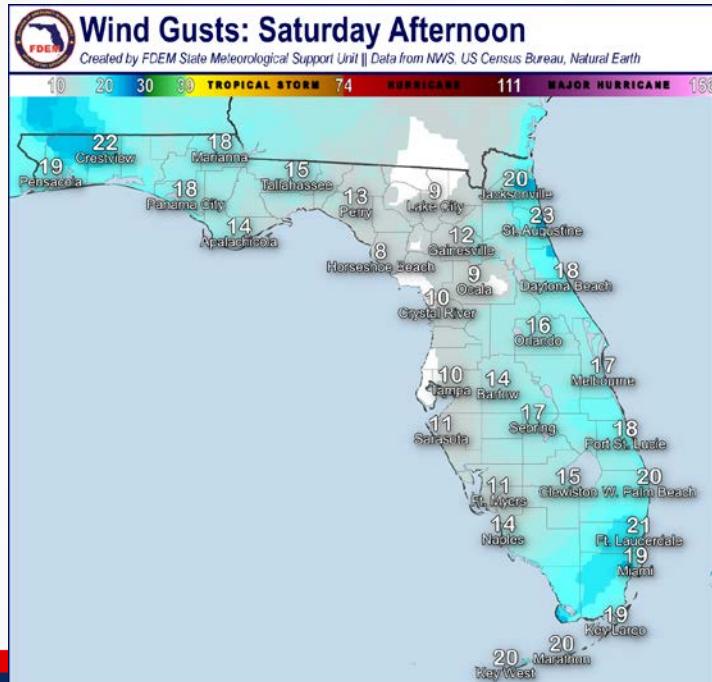
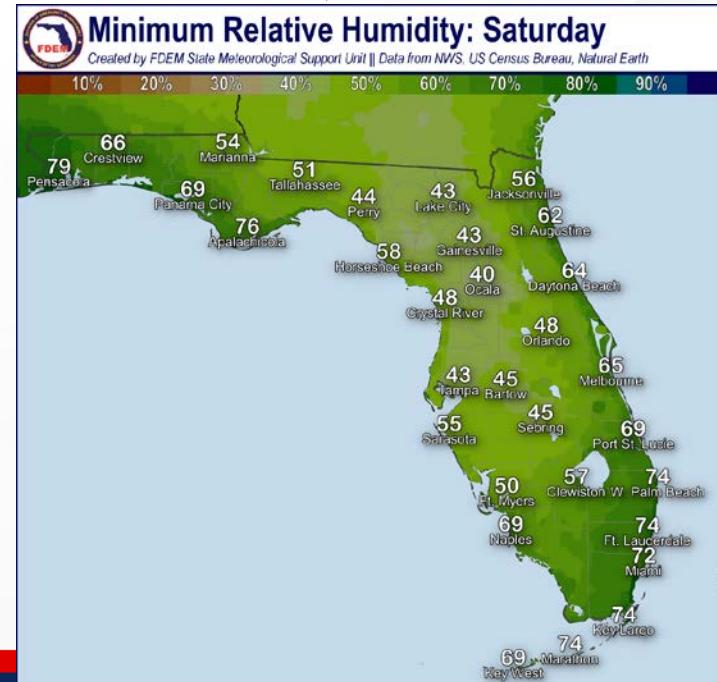


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	L	L			M	L	L	M	L	M
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										
Hail										
Flash Flooding										
Fire Weather			L	L		L	L		L	
River Flooding										
Fog (Overnight)	L	L	L	L	L	L				
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L	H	L	H	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation:	12.62 ft. (1.71 ft. <u>Below Normal</u>)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index:	347 (+8) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

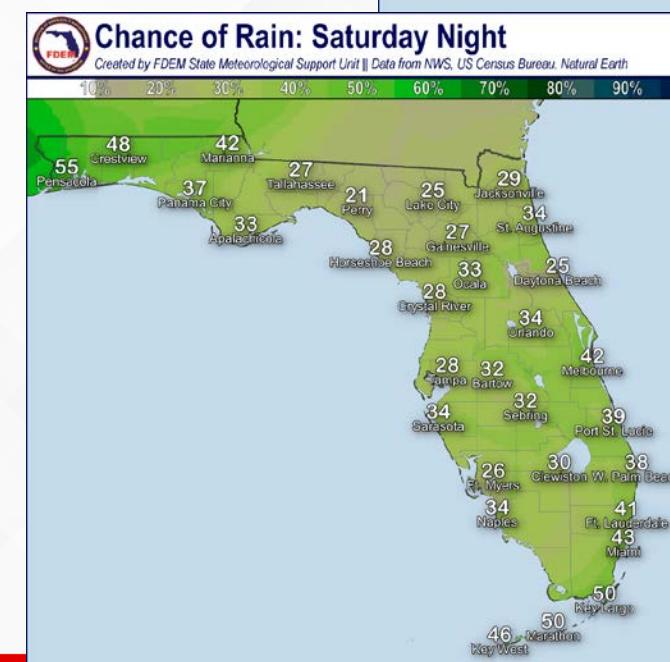
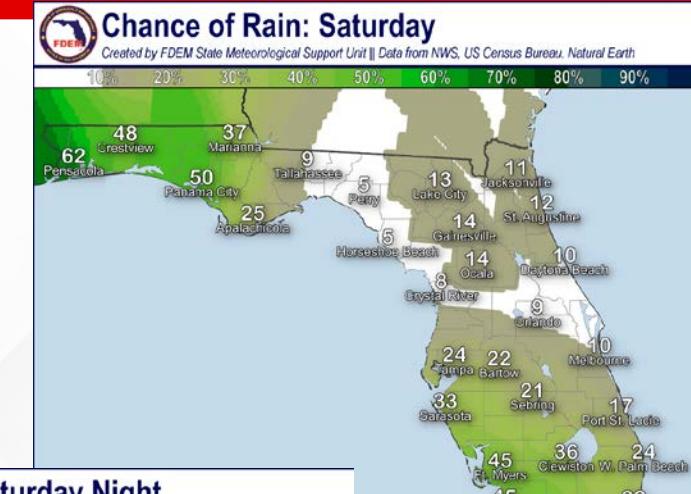
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

The area of high pressure that has maintained mostly dry conditions across the state over the last few days will push further eastward over the Western Atlantic today. An unsettled weather pattern will begin to develop statewide today as southerly flow increases moisture across the state and an upper-level disturbance approaches from the west, allowing isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms to develop nearly statewide throughout the day (30-60% chance of rain). **Isolated strong to severe thunderstorms** capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds, and heavy downpours may be possible at times, primarily during the peak heating hours of the day with the help of the sea breeze collisions. Despite no organized risk for flash flooding, localized instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out with locally heavy downpours, especially over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. A swath of drier air lingering across the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula will work to suppress shower and thunderstorm activity today with only isolated showers possible (10-30% chance of rain).

High temperatures will rise into the middle 70s to middle 80s nearly statewide this afternoon with portions of the Western Peninsula reaching into the upper 80s. Breezy southeasterly winds near 10-15 mph with **gusts near 15-25 mph** will persist statewide today. Lingering dry air will continue to create **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** across portions of North and Central Florida this afternoon.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue into the overnight hours across the state, spreading into the Big Bend and Northern Peninsula as well as moisture continues to increase (25-55% chance of rain). A **locally strong to severe thunderstorm or two** and isolated instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out overnight.

Low temperatures will remain in the middle 60s across North Florida, upper 60s to low 70s across Central and South Florida, and low to middle 70s along the Southeast Coast and Keys tonight. Breezy southeasterly winds will persist tonight, remaining near 5-10 mph with **gusts near 10-20 mph**. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** will be possible across North and Central Florida overnight into early Sunday morning.





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy onshore winds and ocean swells along the East Coast and Florida Panhandle will give way to **high risk for rip currents** today. A low risk persists along the West Coast; however, a **locally moderate risk** cannot be ruled out as ocean swells shift southward and begin to impact the coastline. With spring break season is full-swing, messaging regarding **rip currents and dangerous surf** conditions should be maintained for visitors and tourists. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Breezy winds and ocean swells will maintain **hazardous beach and boating conditions** nearly statewide today. **Large breaking waves near 4-7'** can be expected to persist along the Panhandle Florida's Atlantic Coast today. **High Surf Advisories** have been issued for the Western Panhandle from 1 PM EDT this afternoon until 1 AM EDT Sunday morning for **large breaking waves of 4-6'** expected in the surf. Additional **High Surf Advisories** may be issued as conditions warrant. **2-4' waves** can be expected along the Big Bend and West Coast.

Red Tide has been observed at background levels in **1** samples collected from Northwest Florida (Gulf County) over the past week (valid 3/29). *There have been no reports of respiratory irritation or fish kills suspected to be related to red tide.*

Coastal Flooding: **Astronomically high tides** with the upcoming New Moon combined with breezy winds and ocean swells along Florida's coastlines may result in instances of **elevated tides (0.25-1' above normally dry ground)** near and at times of high tide today. Localized instances of **minor coastal flooding** cannot be ruled out.

Flash Flooding: An unsettled weather pattern will begin to return statewide today as high pressure drifts further eastward into the Western Atlantic and an upper-level wave approaches from the west. Despite no organized risk for flash flooding, localized instances of **flooding** and **ponding of water** cannot be ruled out with locally heavy downpours, especially over urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas. Widespread rainfall totals are expected to remain near or below 1"; however, stronger shower and thunderstorm activity will be capable of producing **locally higher rainfall totals** near 1-3" in a relatively short period of time.

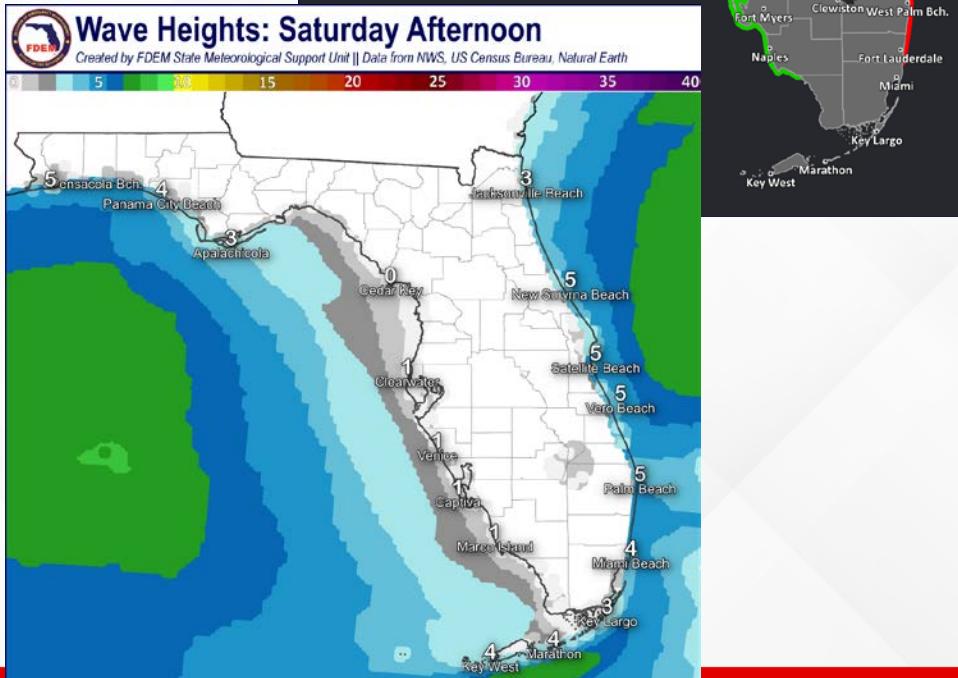
Riverine Flooding: Portions of the Aucilla and Santa Fe rivers remain within Action Stage (bank-full) as water levels continue to slowly decline following rises from recent heavy rainfall. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.62 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.71 feet below normal for this time of year.

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



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



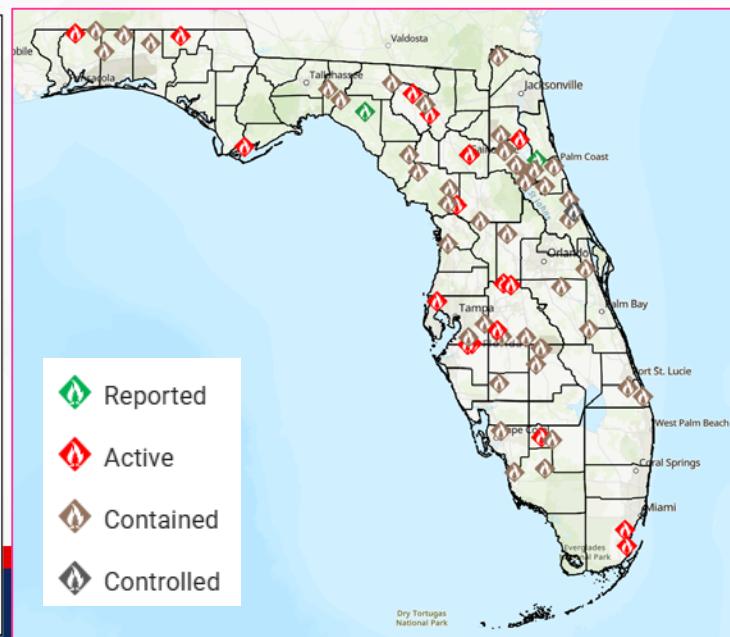
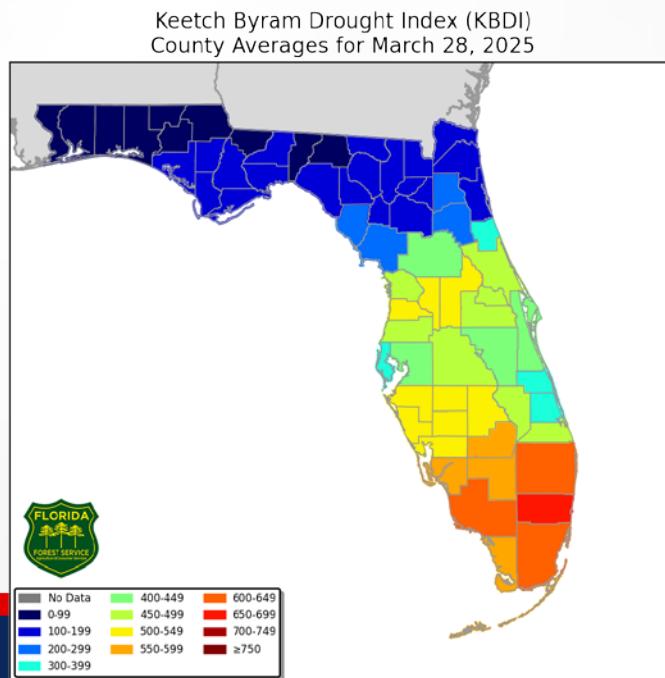
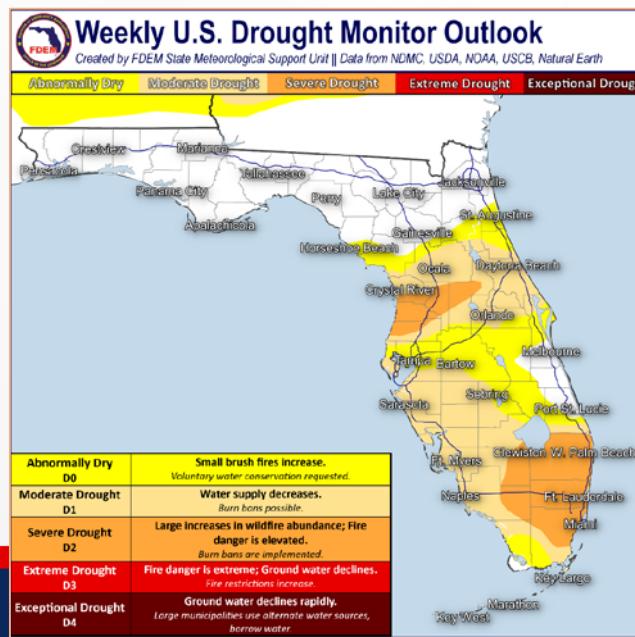


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: An unsettled weather pattern will begin to develop statewide today and tonight as high pressure drifts further eastward into the Western Atlantic and an upper-level wave approaches from the west. **Isolated strong to severe thunderstorms** may be possible, primarily during the peak heating hours of the day. *Thunderstorms may be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic gusty winds.* Breezy southeasterly winds near 10-15 mph with **gusts near 15-25 mph** will persist statewide today. Lingering dry air will continue to create **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** across portions of North and Central Florida this afternoon. **Red Flag Warnings** criteria is not expected at this time. Breezy southeasterly winds will persist tonight, remaining near 5-10 mph with **gusts near 10-20 mph**. Areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** will be possible across North and Central Florida overnight into early Sunday morning. *Fog may further reduce visibilities in areas with ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 66 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 28,507.61 acres.

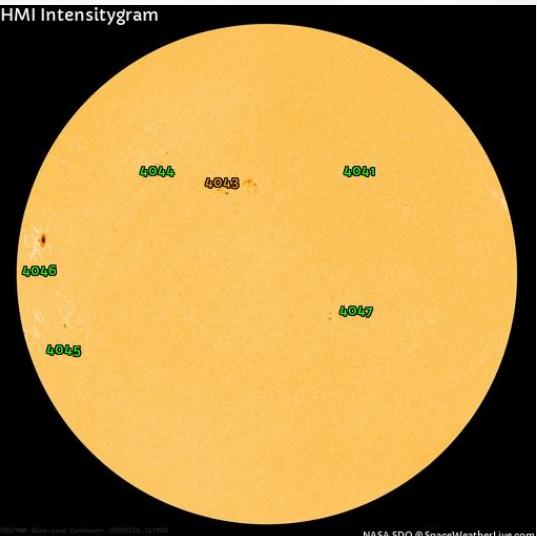
Drought: Most of the Southeast U.S. experienced a dry, breezy week, leading to a rash of wildfires and general increases in the coverage of *Abnormally Dry (emerging drought)* and **Moderate to Severe Drought** conditions on this week's Drought Monitor update (valid 3/27). **Severe Drought** condition also persists across much of South Florida and north of the I-4 corridor across portions of the Nature Coast. *Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought* conditions expand elsewhere across the Peninsula from a line from Horseshoe Beach to Gainesville to St. Augustine and southward through the far southern Peninsula. In Southern Florida, the 344 Fire near Homestead grew to nearly 27,000 acres, with containment reaching 80% by 3/25. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is outlooking above normal temperatures and slightly above normal rainfall across the Peninsula over the next week or so which may allow drought conditions to hold steady.

[The Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **347 (+8)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **17** Florida counties (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and Sumter) with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

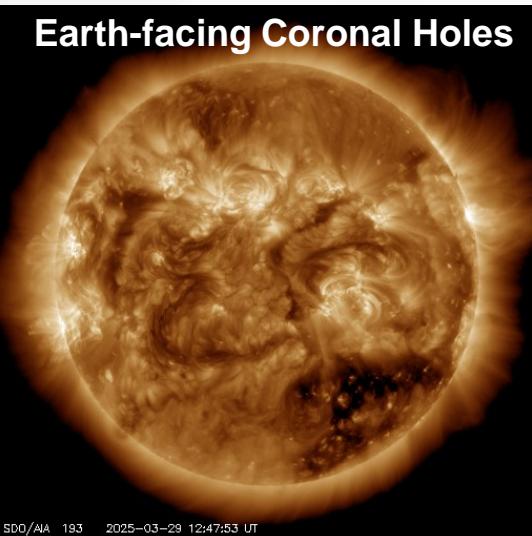




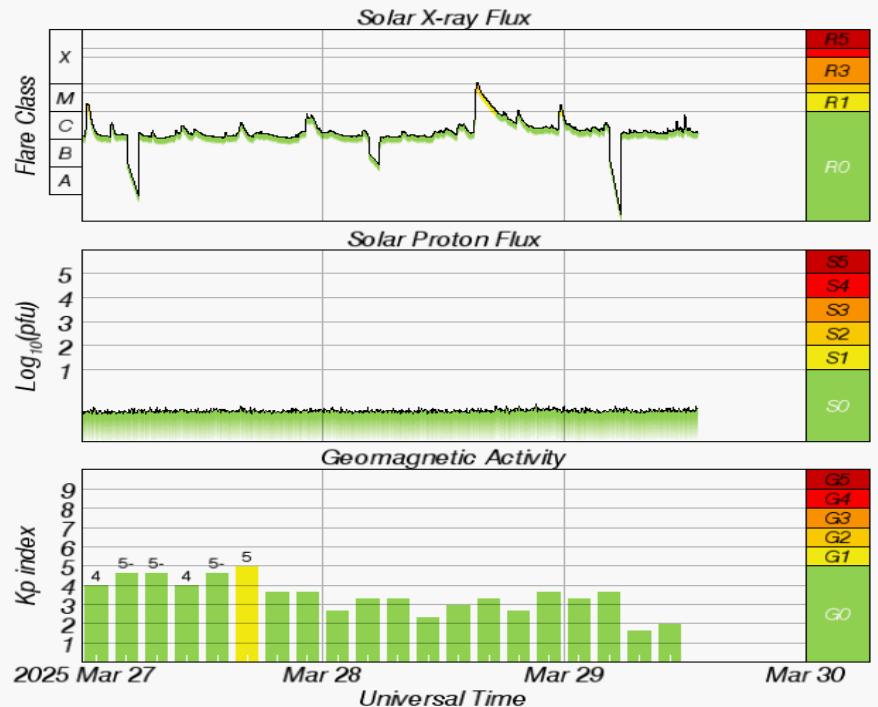
Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Earth-facing Coronal Holes



Space Weather: New sunspot 4046 produced a significant X1.1-class solar flare on 3/28. Solar activity is expected to be moderate with a high chance (50%) for isolated M-class solar flare activity and a slight chance (20%) for significant (X-class) solar flare activity through Monday. Minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts will likely accompany M-class solar flare activity, and strong (R3) radio blackouts cannot be ruled out in the event of an isolated X-class solar flare. Solar wind parameters are expected to continue a waning through the weekend, with a return to a more nominal solar wind environment by Monday. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic conditions are expected through today, with a chance for an isolated active period. Unsettled to active conditions are expected primarily early on Sunday with any shock arrival from the Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the Sun on 3/28. Quiet conditions are expected on Monday as Coronal Hole High Speed Stream (CH HSS) effects diminish. The overall space threat to Florida is very low.

Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 50%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	X1 Solar Flare
X-class: 20%	Radiation Storm: None	R3 Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

3/29	3/30
Max K _p = 4 (G0)	Max K _p = 4 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 1% 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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