





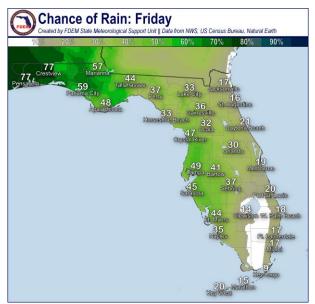
...Lingering Tropical Moisture Remains Over Western Panhandle Friday and Saturday...

Localized Flash Flooding Possible With Any Repeated Rounds of Thunderstorms... Significant
Heat and Humidity Builds in This Weekend and Next Week... Heat Index Values Reach Well
Into the 110s Sunday and Monday Across North Florida... Heat Advisories Likely to be Issued
This Weekend for North and Central Florida... Extreme Heat Warnings May Be Issued if
Warranted... An Upper-level Disturbance Moves in on Tuesday Bringing a Return of Wet and
Unsettled Weather...

#### Friday:

The weak low-pressure system that trekked across the Florida Peninsula on Wednesday this week and brought widespread rainfall now sits near the Louisiana coastline. As this system continues to move westward over the northern Gulf towards Texas, high-pressure will build in behind it and set the stage for a rather hot and dry upcoming forecast period. However, Friday will be a "transition" day as residual tropical moisture remains over the West Coast and Panhandle of Florida. Deep southerly flow will be present over the western portion of the state, allowing for scattered to widespread shower and thunderstorm activity to persist (55-80% chance of rain). Showers and embedded thunderstorms are currently moving onshore this morning across the western Panhandle where the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding. Here, localized areas of ponding of water and flash flooding is possible, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations and wherever any prolonged or repeated rounds of thunderstorms occur. Some of these embedded thunderstorms could be locally strong to severe and capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds, and heavy downpours.

Dry and dusty air from the Saharan Desert of Africa has been transported across the Atlantic Ocean and will begin to push into East Florida infiltrating the middle and upper levels of the atmosphere, keeping rain chances much more modest (15-30% chance of rain). The daily sea breeze will still allow for isolated showers and thunderstorms to develop, of which some could be **locally strong to severe**, however much lower in coverage. This drier air will continue moving westward throughout the day, promoting the dissipation of showers and thunderstorms, along with the loss of daytime heating, by the evening and overnight hours. Some lingering moisture will remain across the western Panhandle coastlines where some isolated showers and thunderstorms may continue overnight (15-30% chance of rain).



Hot and humid conditions can be expected Friday as high temperatures continue to reach the 90s nearly statewide. Heat index values across the Peninsula will reach into the triple digits (100-107-degrees), while remaining in the upper 90s to lower 100s across the Panhandle where greater cloud coverage and rainfall is expected. Low temperatures will continue to fall into the middle to upper 70s and lower 80s throughout the state. Unfortunately, Friday looks to be the "coolest" day in this forecast period as high-pressure begins to build in for the weekend.

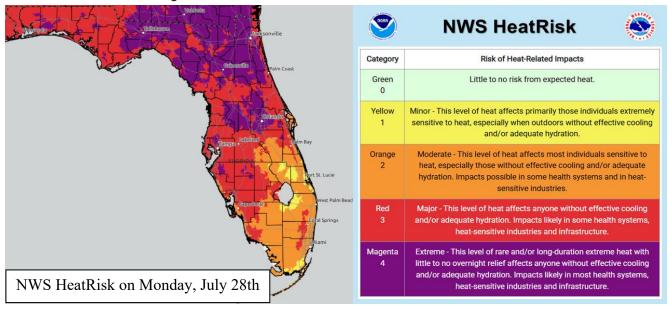




#### Saturday - Monday:

Perhaps the most significant heat wave yet this summer is expected this weekend and into the start of the next work week. A strong high-pressure system will move over Florida and much of the Southeastern U.S., keeping conditions dry and hot. Daily rainfall chances will be low (10-30% chance of rain), with the highest chances for isolated afternoon showers and thunderstorms over the western Peninsula and Panhandle due to a predominate Atlantic Sea breeze. The very far western Panhandle will be an outlier on Saturday with still elevated rain chances (40-60% chance of rain) with a bit of lingering tropical moisture. There is a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** for Escambia and western Santa Rosa counties outlooked on Saturday to account for this.

High temperatures will get hotter each day throughout the weekend and into Monday. Saturday will feature high temperatures in the middle to upper 90s for much of the state, building into the **upper 90s and lower 100s** by Monday. The hottest temperatures will be across the northern Panhandle and northeastern portion of the state with closer proximity to the large high-pressure system. The National Weather Service (NWS) has designated much of this area under an **Extreme Heat Risk** for Monday and Tuesday. There will be little nighttime relief from the heat as low temperatures only dip into the upper 70s and lower 80s. As a result, impacts are likely for everyone, especially those without air conditioning or those working outdoors. **Heat Advisories** will be issued this weekend for much of Central and North Florida with **feels like temperatures reaching well into the 100s (108-115-degrees)**. Some areas may see an upgrade to Extreme Heat Warnings if conditions warrant. Although South Florida will remain more modest with the heat, feels like temperatures will still reach the **lower to middle 100s** necessitating heat advisories where needed.

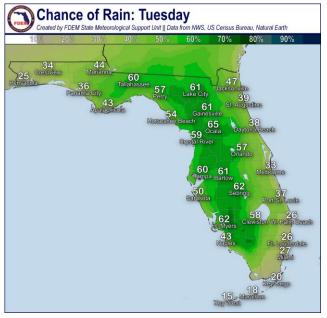


#### Tuesday

Another upper-level disturbance will move off the Southeast U.S. coast on Monday and approach Florida on Tuesday. This will bring a return of more widespread wet weather across the state, especially west of the I-95 corridor over the Florida Peninsula (40-60% chance of rain). The heat and humidity will still be around, especially over North and Central Florida where feels like temperatures will reach the middle 100s to lower 110s (105-112-degrees). However, cloud cover and rainfall may limit the overall magnitude of the heat compared to Monday. Heat Advisories may remain issued across North and Central Florida to account for the heat.







## **Tropical Weather:**

Tropical cyclone activity is **not expected** within the next 7 days. Please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) website for the latest on the tropics.

#### **Hydrology & Flooding:**

Lingering tropical moisture will remain over the far western Florida Panhandle Friday and Saturday where shower and thunderstorm activity will be the highest across the state. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding across this region where repeated rounds of heavy rainfall and thunderstorms will be capable of producing localized flash flooding and ponding of water, especially in urban and poor-drainage locations. Rainfall totals of 1-2", with upwards of 3-5", may occur in any locations that receive repeated rounds

of heavy rainfall. More widespread rainfall chances will return on Tuesday next week after a drier weekend. Although an organized flash flood risk has not been outlooked for Tuesday, model guidance will be monitored for potentially heavy rainfall over parts of the North-Central Florida Peninsula. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) website.

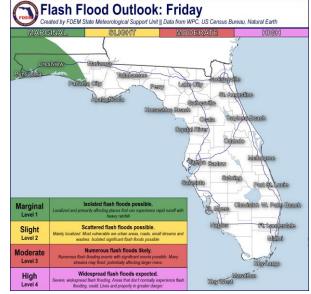
Florida rivers, creeks and waterways remain within good standing and are not forecast to reach minor flood stage over the next 5 days. <u>Fisheating Creek at Palmdale</u> remains within Action Stage (bank-full) and looks to remain steady through the weekend. The Big Coldwater Creek near Milton is

forecast to reach Action Stage (bank-full) this weekend with repeated rounds of showers and thunderstorms. Although no other riverine responses are expected, quick response rivers and waterways could see local rises depending on where any localized heavy rainfall occurs. With streamflows remaining slightly below to below normal for this time of year nearly statewide, there are no riverine concerns at this time. For more information, visit the River Forecast Center.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.01 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.68 feet below normal for this time of year.

#### **Drought & Fire Weather:**

Significant improvements were made over Marion County with the recent active weather pattern that brought plentiful rainfall over the past two weeks of 8-14" of rain. A Moderate drought (level 1 of 4) was

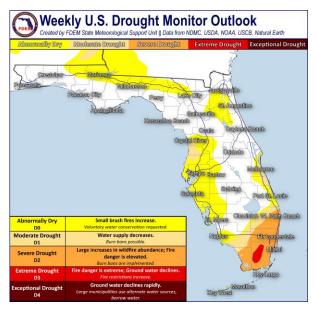


completely removed within this region near the Ocala National Forest. Otherwise, there were no changes statewide for the drought outlook from the previous outlook (7/17). A Severe drought (level 2 of 4) persists across Southeast Florida where monthly rainfall deficits remain 2-4" for many locations and an Extreme drought (level 3 of 4) persists over western Miami-Dade County where there has been a local increase in fire weather and lack of necessary rainfall. Portions of the Nature Coast remain in Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4) where monthly rainfall totals similarly remain below average the





past month. Although not in an official drought category yet, portions of the northern Panhandle may see further upgrades to abnormally dry (emerging drought) or Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4) if dry conditions persist through the next week. Here, drier and warmer conditions leading up to the increased wet and active pattern across the Panhandle led to some abnormally dry conditions to be introduced.



The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 238 on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are <u>no</u> Florida counties with an average KBDI over 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

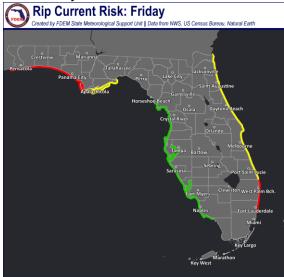
A relatively hot and dry weekend and start to next week will keep rainfall low throughout the forecast period. Isolated showers and thunderstorms from the daily sea breeze will be possible across the Peninsula each day, especially over western Florida. However, widespread rainfall is not expected. Despite the drier conditions overall, relative humidities are still expected to remain above critical thresholds each day (45-60% RH values). Any isolated thunderstorms that do develop will be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic winds and could ignite new fires, especially any that occur over ongoing drought areas. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are currently 17 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 277 acres.

### **Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:**

Elevated onshore winds over the Gulf will lead to a **moderate to high risk for rip currents** for Panhandle beaches on Friday and Saturday. However, winds will shift more from the east this weekend and the start of next week which will lower the rip current threat overall. This easterly onshore flow will result in a **moderate risk for rip currents** for East Coast beaches through the forecast period. Some Gold Coast beaches in South Florida may see a **high risk for rip currents** introduced. West Coast beaches will likely continue to see a low risk for rip currents as winds blow offshore; however, a locally **moderate risk** cannot be ruled out Tuesday as an upper level disturbance passes over Florida and into the Gulf of America. *Isolated thunderstorms may lead to choppy waters and rough beach conditions.* For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit <a href="https://www.weather.gov/beach">www.weather.gov/beach</a>.

Wave heights will remain near 1-3' throughout the next 5 days as weather conditions remain relatively calm.

The latest Blue-Green Algae report shows algal bloom conditions were observed at nine sites out of the 16 site visits conducted from 7/11 to 7/17. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows moderate bloom potential on approximately 25% of the lake with the highest potential in the northern portion of the lake. bloom potential was also observed Moderate throughout visible portions of Lake George and the mainstem of the St. Johns River downstream to Palatka. Scattered low to moderate bloom potential was also observed down to Doctors Lake from the satellite imagery over the St. Johns River. No significant bloom potential was observed for the Caloosahatchee or St. Lucie Estuaries.







NWS Mobile Daily Hazards
NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards
NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards

NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Key West Daily Hazards

# For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

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Orlando Tampa Fort Myers West Palm Beach Miami Key West
Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service
For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click here.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather



