



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, September 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	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	Austin Johnson	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Zachary Remante	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Jim Lawhon	(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	Paige Lay	(850) 591-9933	paige.lay@em.myflorida.com
ESF 8 On-Call	Hunter Stafford	(866) 786-4673	DLDOHDutyOfficers@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer	Stephanie Hartman	(850) 570-3053	Stephanie.Hartman@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	Bay	Support Services Meeting / Region 1 Quarterly Meeting
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Leon	Support Services Meeting / LEPC Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Columbia	Support Services Meeting / Quarterly Meeting Prep
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Clay	Support Services Meeting / EM Meeting
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Seminole	Support Services Meeting
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hillsborough	Tampa International Airport Triennial Exercise
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Polk	Region 7 IPPW
Region 8: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 9: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Monroe	REP Training



Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8
Region 9 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 9

Status
Normal Operations
Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

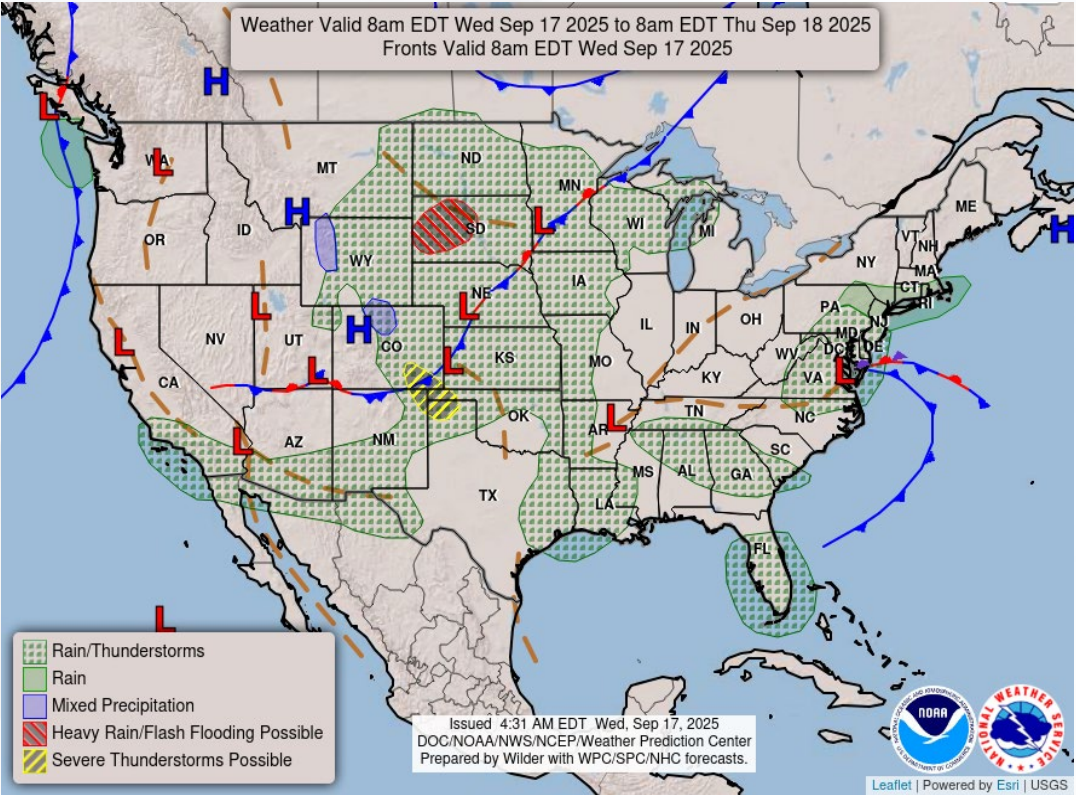
Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Bay	Regional Quarterly Meeting
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Leon	LEPC Quarterly Meeting
Region 3: Amber Durden	Suwannee	LTR Community Planning Meeting
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Suwannee	LTR Community Planning Meeting
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Lake	FROC Training Tour
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Hillsborough	Tampa Int'l Airport Exercise
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Lake	FROC Training Tour
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Lake	FROC Training Tour
Region 9: Jacob Ginsberg	Collier	County EM Meetings
Region 10: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

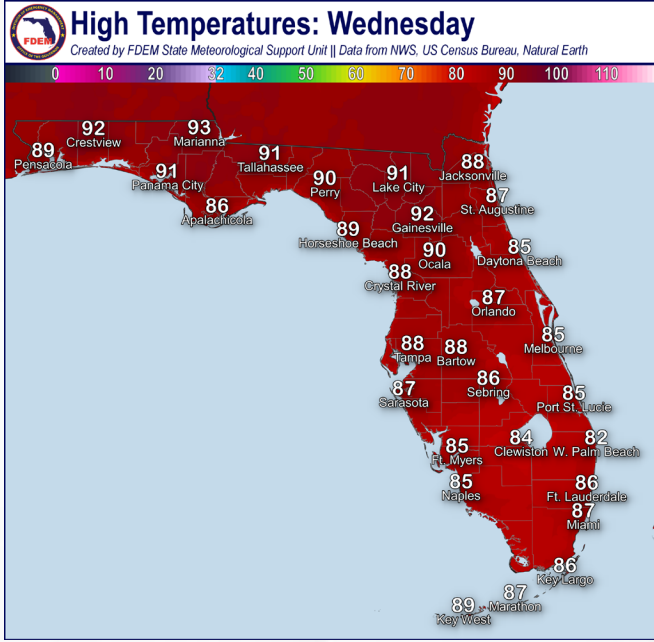
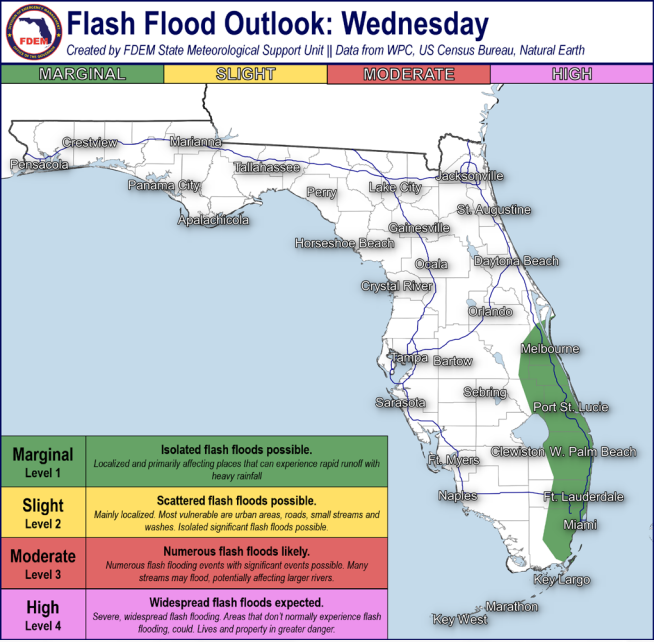


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

T threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning			L	L	M	M	M	H	H	H
Tornado										
Damaging Wind					L	L	L	L	L	L
Hail										
Flash Flooding					L			L		L
Excessive Heat	L	L	L			L				
Wildfire	L	L								
Fog (Overnight)		L	L	L						
Rip Currents	M	M	L	M	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.05 ft. (1.52 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	304 (+13) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





Meteorology Summary

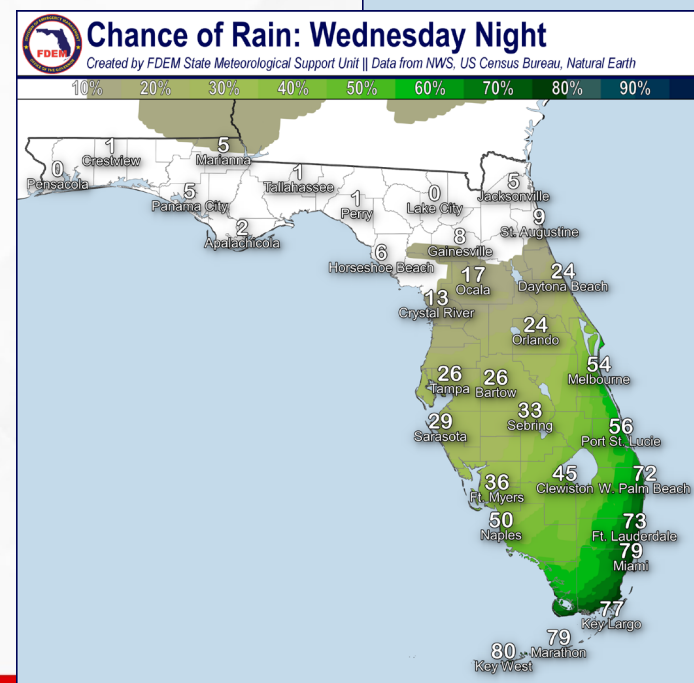
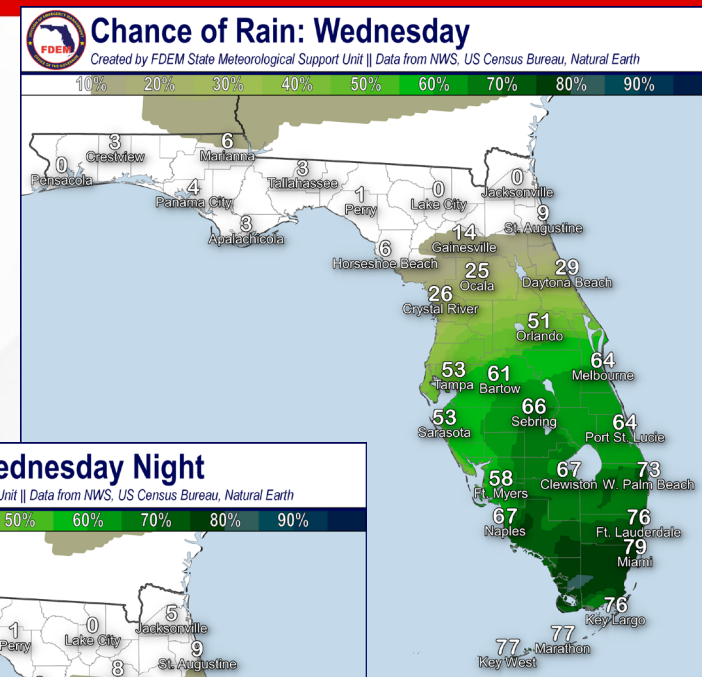
Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Little to no change can be expected across North Florida today; however, rain chances are slightly higher than the last couple of days for portions of the Panhandle and lower Suwannee Valley. Moisture slowing creeping northward will allow for a slight chance of brief sprinkles or showers this afternoon (less than 15% chance of rain). Otherwise, mostly sunny and dry conditions can be expected throughout the day.

Wet and active weather will return across the Peninsula, especially South Florida and the Keys, with the stalled front slowly moving northward back towards the Peninsula. Scattered showers and thunderstorms have already begun to move northward over the Florida Keys and the southern Peninsula this morning, and this will continue throughout the day. Tropical moisture surging northward will allow for additional scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms to develop, especially this afternoon and evening during peak heating hours (50-80% chance of rain). Repeated rounds of heavy rainfall could lead to instances of **localized flash flooding and ponding of water**, especially along the Treasure and Southeast Florida coasts, and there is a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding**. **Embedded locally strong to severe thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out as well, bringing frequent lightning, gusty winds and heavy downpours.

Cloud cover and higher rain chances will keep high temperatures in the middle to upper 80s across Central and South Florida. More sunshine and dry conditions over North Florida will allow for high temperatures to reach the upper 80s to lower 90s. Moisture slowly returning from south to north will allow for **heat index values** across portions of the Panhandle, Suwannee Valley and West-Central Florida to reach the **middle 90s** this afternoon.

Showers and thunderstorms will continue into the evening hours across South Florida as activity generally pushes from southwest to northeast. Most of the heavy rainfall should push offshore and over the coastal waters near and around midnight; however, coastal showers and thunderstorms will linger, especially along the East Coast, into the overnight hours. By sunrise Thursday, shower and thunderstorm activity will begin to push northward over the Florida Keys and the southern Peninsula. Throughout the rest of the state, mostly dry conditions can be expected overnight. With increasing moisture and calm conditions, **instances of patchy to locally dense fog** may be possible within the Suwannee Valley early Thursday morning. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 60s across North Florida, lower to middle 70s across Central Florida and middle to upper 70s across South Florida overnight.





Tropical Weather

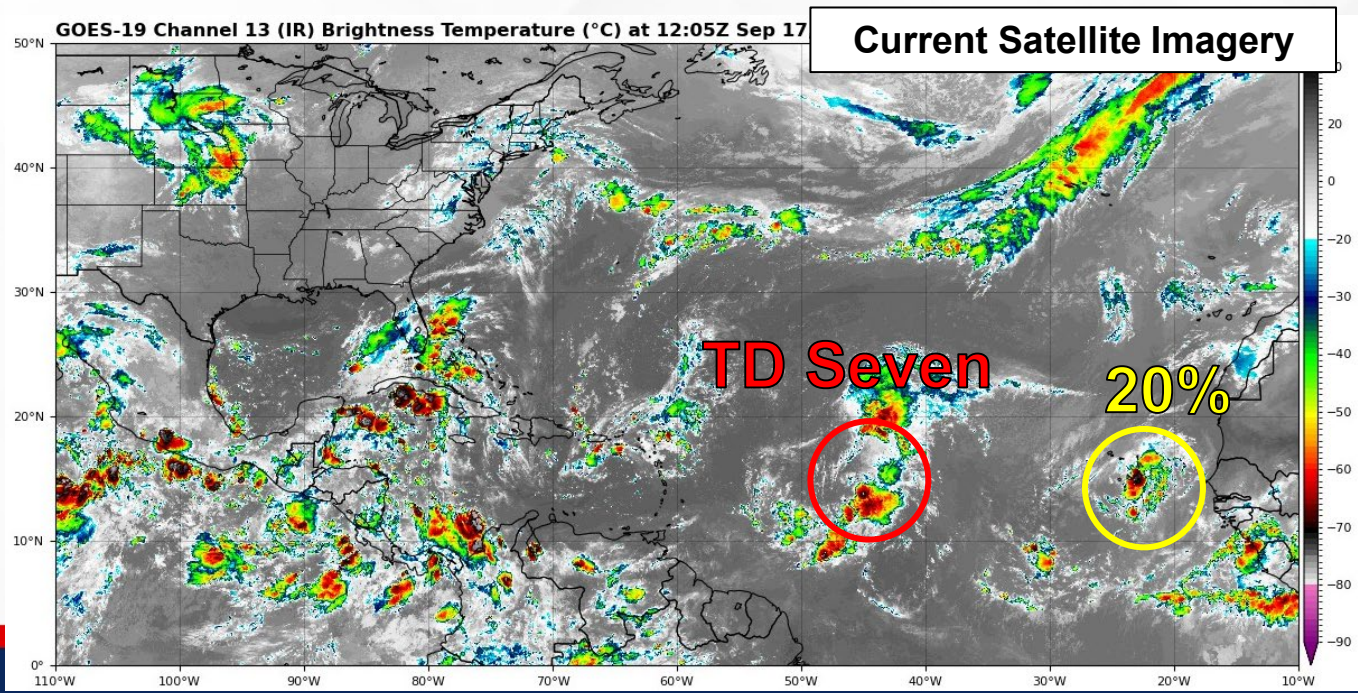
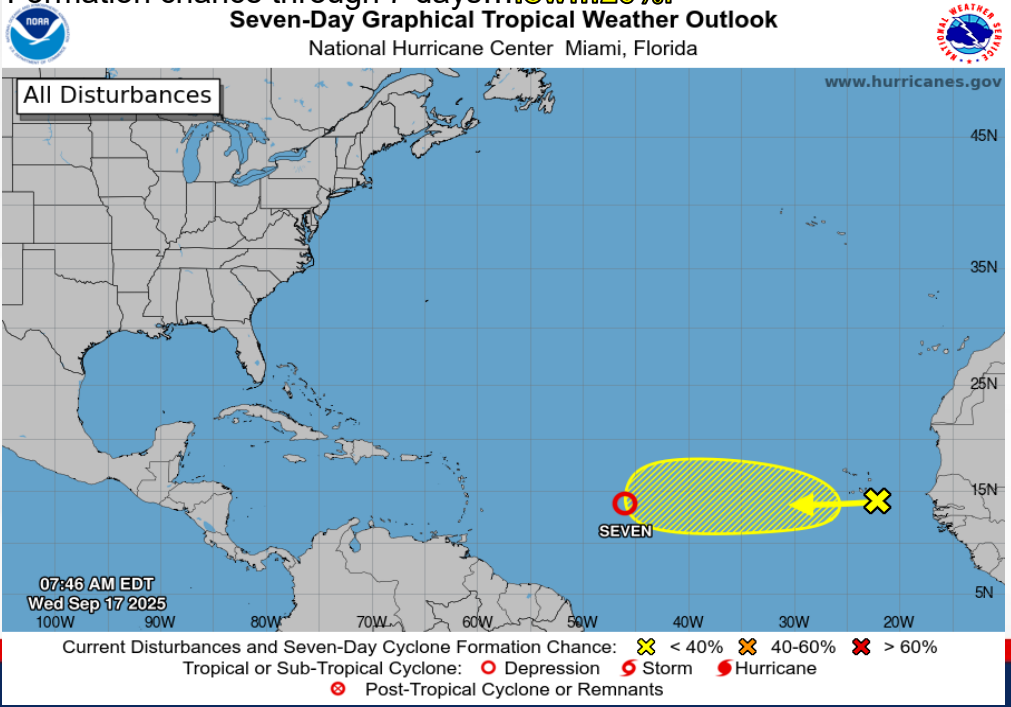
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Tropical Depression Seven: With the 5:00 AM EDT advisory, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) has begun issuing advisories for Tropical Depression Seven over the central tropical Atlantic. As of 5:00 AM EDT, the system is located about 1,185 miles east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands and moving westward at 13 mph. A west-northwestward to northwestward motion across the tropical Atlantic and subtropical Atlantic is expected during the next few days. Maximum sustained winds are near 35 mph with higher gusts. Some slow strengthening is expected, and the system could become a tropical storm later today or tonight. *Tropical Depression Seven poses no threat to Florida at this time.*

Eastern Tropical Atlantic: A tropical wave located just east and southeast of the Cabo Verde Islands is producing an area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Environmental conditions are only marginally conducive, and any development of this system should be slow to occur while it moves westward at 15-20 mph across the eastern and central portion of the tropical Atlantic. Regardless of development, this system will likely bring areas of heavy rain across the Cabo Verde Islands later today and Thursday. *This system poses no threat to Florida at this time.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...10%.**

*Formation chance through 7 days...**low...20%.**





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **moderate risk for rip currents** can be expected for all East Coast beaches and several Panhandle beaches. There is a **high risk for rip currents** along Palm Beach County. A low risk for rip currents can be expected for West Coast beaches. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: An ocean swell off the Southeast U.S. coast will create **elevated surf of 3-4'** for the Florida East Coast throughout the day. Panhandle and West Coast beaches will see wave heights of 1-2'.

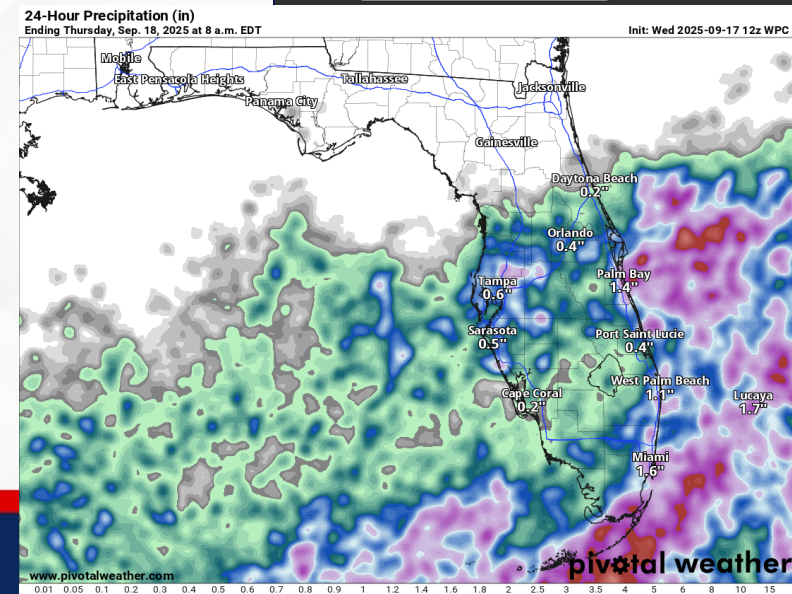
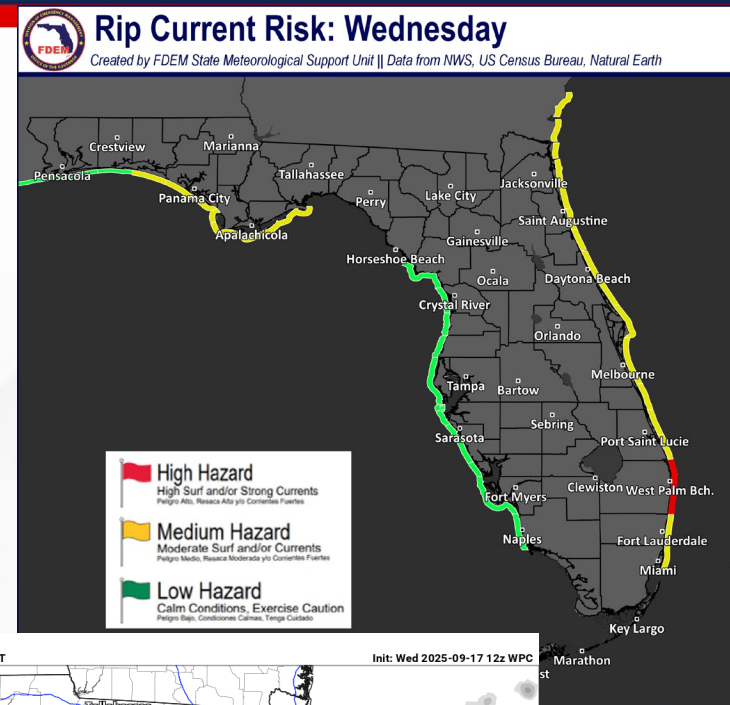
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Bay County in Northwest Florida and offshore Flagler County along the East Coast. It was not observed in any samples collected across Southwest Florida or the East Coast (9/12).

Coastal Flooding: Elevated high tides and elevated surf will continue to produce **minor coastal and tidal flooding** for the Florida Upper Keys near and during times of high tide, and **Coastal Flood Statements** remain in effect. Growing ocean swells and onshore winds will trap elevated tides within tidal portions of the St. Johns River, leading to instances of **nuisance coastal and tidal flooding** near and during times of high tide.

Flash Flooding: There is a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Treasure and Southeast Florida coast where several rounds of heavy rainfall can be expected throughout the day, mostly this afternoon and evening. Wet and active weather will return across South Florida bringing scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms throughout the day with the help of tropical moisture gradually returning each day. Repeated rounds of heavy downpours and any slow-moving thunderstorms will be capable of producing intense downpours that could lead to **localized flash flooding and ponding of water**, especially along urban corridors along the coastline. Elevated coastal flooding may slow the rainfall runoff along portions of the Keys, which could lead to additional **instances of localized flooding**. Rainfall totals of 1-3" can be expected across portions of South Florida and the Keys, with **locally higher totals** upwards of 3-5" possible.

Riverine Flooding: A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) as water levels have fallen back into **minor flood stage** as onshore winds have relaxed and allowed for water levels to discharge. The upstream gauge at the [St. Johns River near Deland](#) is currently below flood stage but is forecast to rise into Action Stage (bank-full) later this week as tides continue to backfill the St. Johns River. The [Fisheating Creek at Palmdale](#) is also at Action Stage (bank-full) and is expected to remain so through the end of the week with some additional heavy rainfall. There are no other riverine concerns. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.05 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.52 feet below normal for this time of year.



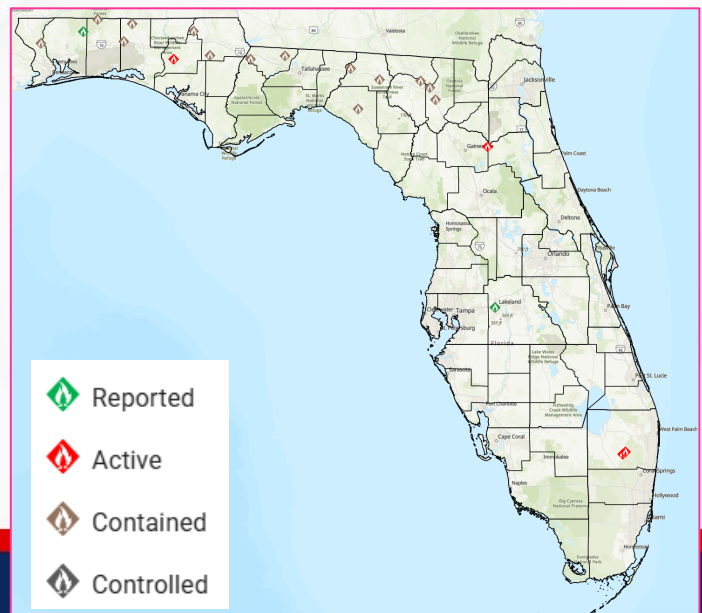
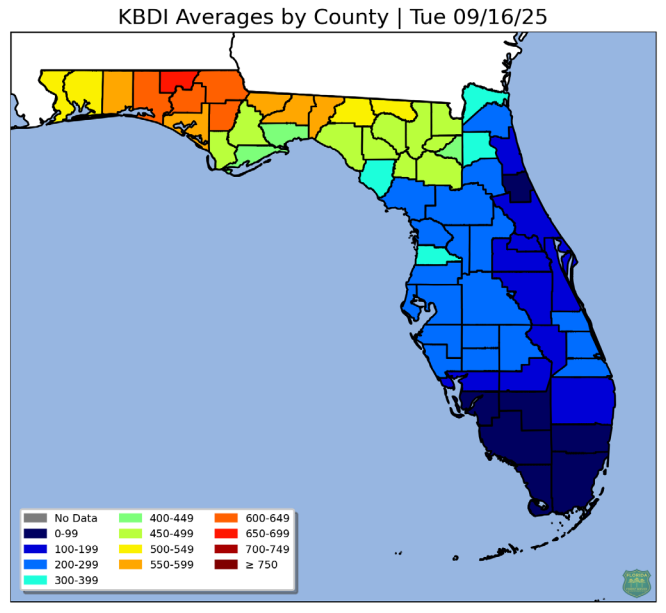
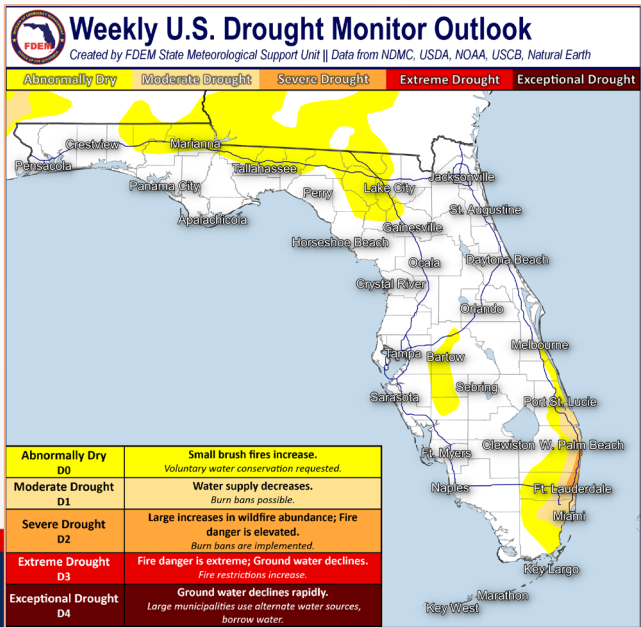


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dry conditions persist across North Florida and much of Central Florida courtesy of high pressure over the eastern U.S. Northeasterly winds will continue today, with gusts reaching upwards of 10-15 mph along the Northeast Florida coastline this afternoon. These drier conditions will continue to suppress shower and thunderstorm activity north of I-4 corridor; however increasing showers and thunderstorm activity can be expected along the I-4 corridor. Relative humidity values should remain above critical thresholds for North and Central Florida, but will dip **near critical thresholds (35-40%)** across the Panhandle leading to a **localized low wildfire risk** given recent lack of rainfall. Moisture gradually increasing across South-Central and South Florida will bring back scattered to numerous showers and thunderstorms later in the daytime hours and into the evening. *Thunderstorms will be capable of producing frequent lightning and erratic winds.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 20 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 504 acres.

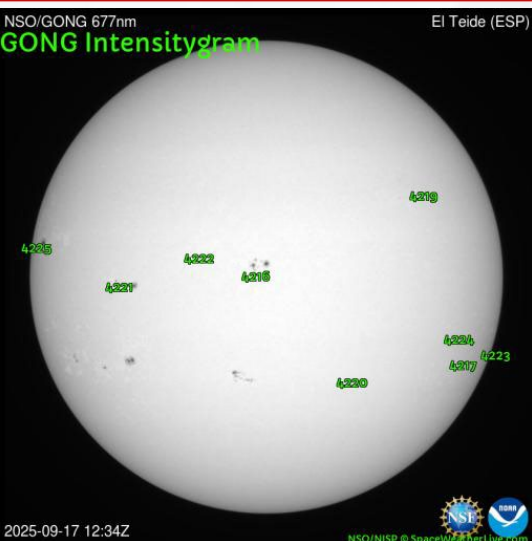
Drought: Much of the drought across Southeast Florida continues to diminish with recent heavy rainfall and as reflected in the most recent drought outlook. The extreme drought across coastal Palm Beach and Broward counties has been reduced to a **Severe Drought (level 2 of 4)**, while much of the previous severe drought area was reduced to **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)**. In general, a one category reduction was made in all locations in Southeast Florida where most locations have seen rainfall departures 2" to upwards of 8" above normal in the past two weeks. Portions of coastal Martin County remain in a **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** where most heavy rainfall has missed. While wet conditions persisted across South Florida, very dry conditions were found across the Panhandle. Much of the northern Panhandle saw additional introduction to the abnormally dry (emerging drought) category where rainfall deficits have neared 2-3" over the last two weeks. These dry conditions will likely persist through the next week, leading to a possible categorical increase in the drought outlook next week. Elsewhere across the state, no additional changes were made. Abnormally dry (emerging drought) remains across inland Polk, Hardee, and DeSoto counties.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **304 (+13)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **14** Florida counties in the Florida Panhandle (Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gadsden, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington County) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

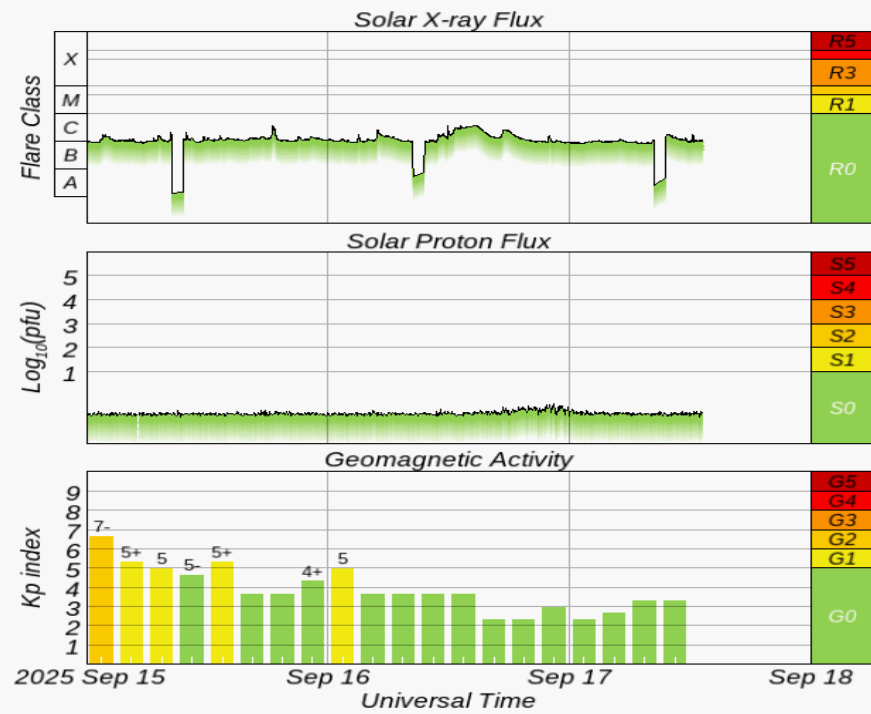




Space Weather

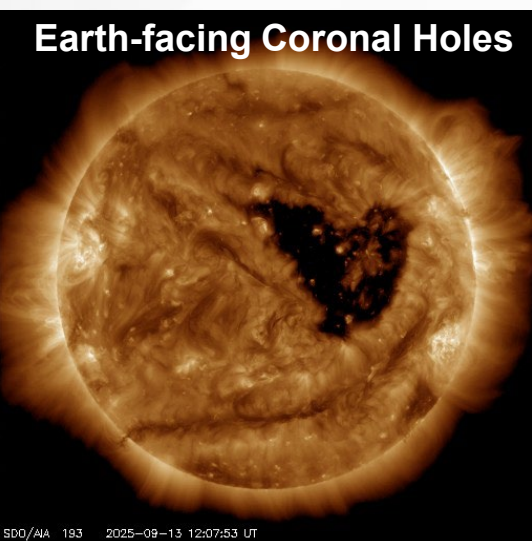


Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 30%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C3 Solar Flare
X-class: 5%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackouts

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
9/17	9/18
Max Kp= 4 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1%



Space Weather: Solar activity is expected to be low with a chance for isolated strong (M-class) solar flares through the end of the week as all current sunspots are quiet and stable. Any M-class solar flare that does develop will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds will continue to linger through today leading to an enhanced solar wind environment. Nominal conditions will return by Friday. Unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions are expected, with instances of minor (G1) geomagnetic storming possible through today. Unsettled to active conditions are likely to continue through Thursday as CH HSS conditions wane. Mostly quiet conditions will return on Friday as calmer conditions return. The overall space 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	

Users wishing to subscribe (approval pending) to this distribution list, register at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=Morning_SITREP