



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Thursday, September 18, 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 | Ahnaya Benjamin | (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 | Evan Newman | (850)-241-5606 | Evan.Newman@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 | Okaloosa | RDSTF Meeting / RC Meeting |
| Region 2: Enrique Gaston | Leon | Tallahassee Airport FSE IPM / RC Meeting |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers | Madison | Region 3 Quarterly Meeting / RC Meeting |
| Region 4: Tara Kostich | Baker | County EM Meeting / RC Meeting |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | Orange, Seminole | County Resilient Florida Vulnerability Assessment / RC Meeting |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall | Hillsborough | RC Meeting |
| Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck | Polk | RC Meeting |
| Region 8: Vacant | N/A | N/A |
| Region 9: Vacant | N/A | N/A |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker | Monroe | REP Training / RC Meeting |



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

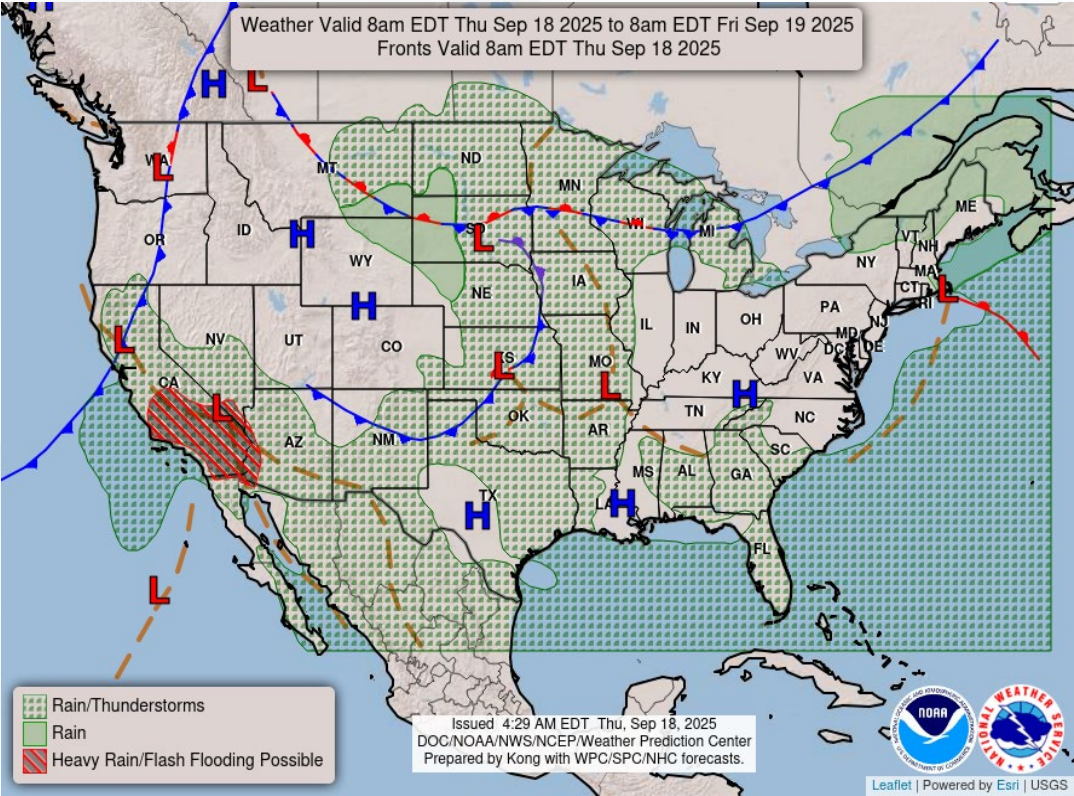
| Team | County Location | Status / Activities |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Region 1: Allison Blevins | Okaloosa | RDSTF Meeting |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara | Leon | External Stakeholders Meeting |
| Region 3: Amber Durden | Madison / Hamilton | Regional Quarterly Mtg / LTR Community Planning Mtg |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders | Clay | LMS Meeting |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | Osceola | FROC Training Tour |
| Region 6: Rick Rogers | Citrus | Vehicle Maintenance |
| Region 7: Antonio Zapata | Okeechobee | FROC Training Tour |
| Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller | Okeechobee | FROC Training Tour |
| Region 9: Jacob Ginsberg | Glades | County EM Meeting |
| 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 |

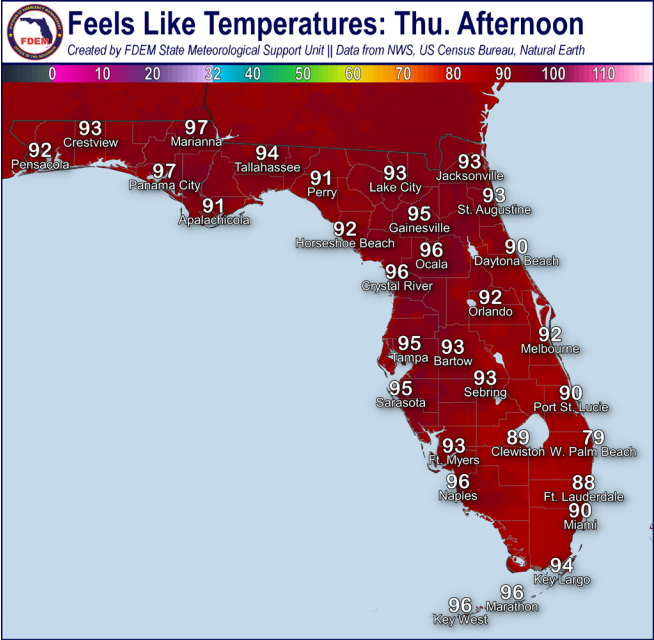
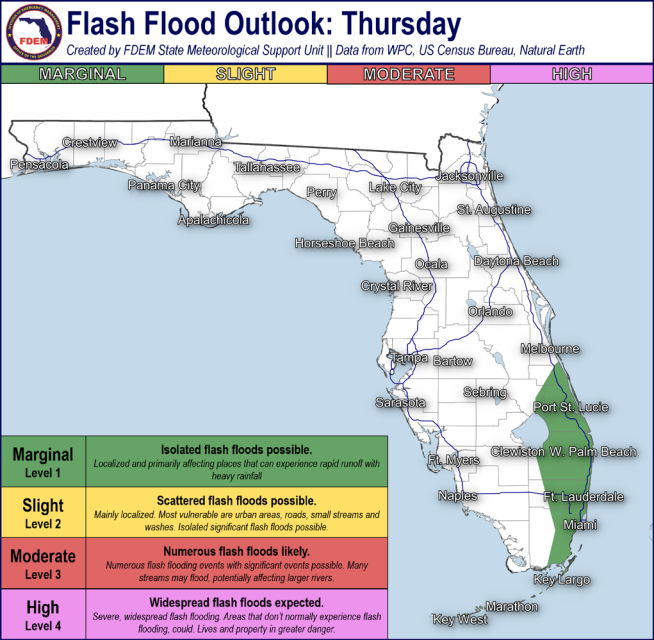


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

| Threat | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning | | | | L | M | M | M | H | H | H |
| Tornado | | | | | | | | | | |
| Damaging Wind | | | | | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Hail | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flash Flooding | | | | | | | | L | | L |
| Excessive Heat | L | L | L | | | L | | | | |
| Wildfire | L | L | | | | | | | | |
| Fog (Overnight) | | L | L | L | | | | | | |
| Rip Currents | M | M | L | M | M | L | | H | L | M |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation | 13.07 ft. (1.52 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal) | | | | | | | | | |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index | 309 (+5) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) | | | | | | | | | |





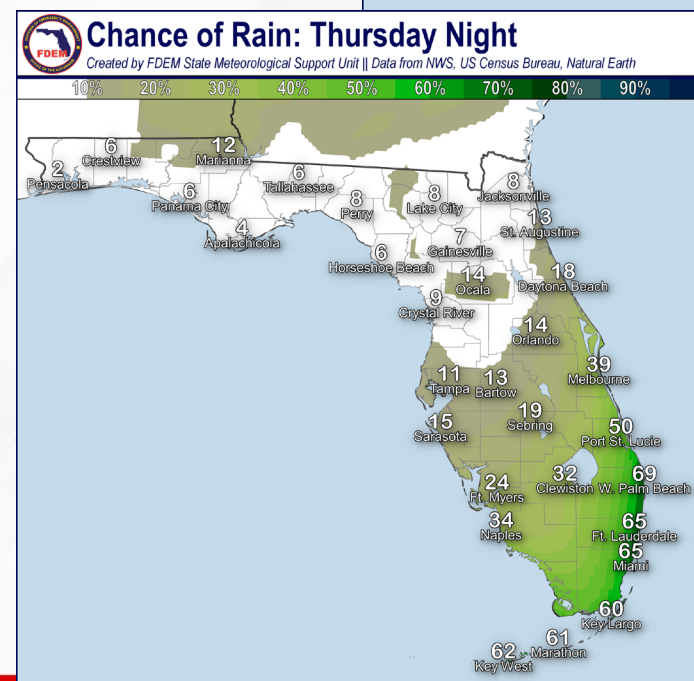
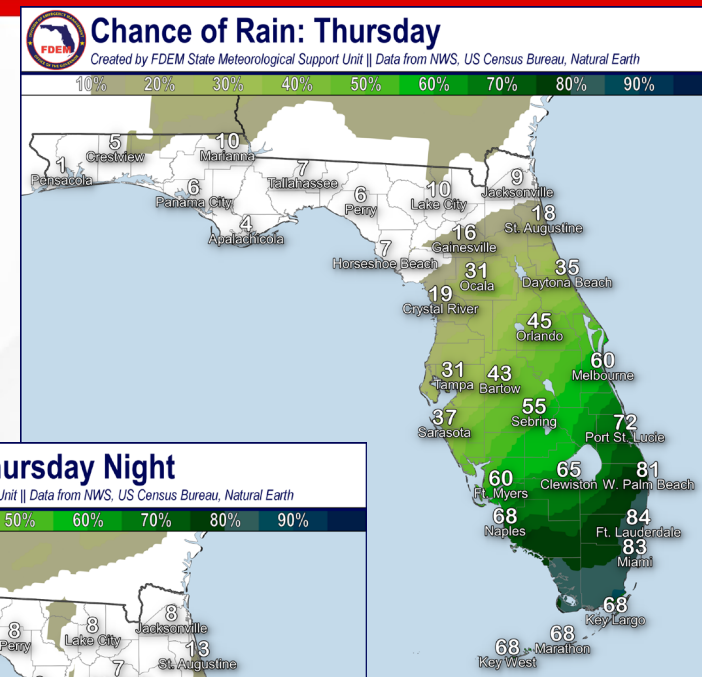
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Another wet and active weather day is expected across the central and southern Peninsula today as deep tropical moisture remains in place across the region. Showers and embedded thunderstorms are moving onshore across coastal South Florida this morning, and additional scattered to widespread activity is expected to develop this afternoon with a few upper-level disturbances passing over the Peninsula and the daily sea breeze boundaries (60-85% chance of rain). Moisture will also spread further northward, promoting scattered showers and thunderstorms this afternoon across Central Florida along the sea breeze boundaries (30-55% chance of rain). The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked another **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** across coastal Southeast Florida where **localized flash flooding** is possible with numerous rounds of heavy showers and thunderstorms. Heavy rainfall in recent days may lead to an **earlier onset to flooding**, especially in urban areas and over saturated soils. Some **locally strong to severe thunderstorms** across South Florida will be capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds, and heavy downpours. Across North Florida and the Panhandle, dry conditions will continue to prevail, though an isolated shower cannot be ruled out along the coastlines.

High temperatures will reach the middle 80s to middle 90s across the state this afternoon with **heat index values** reaching the **lower to upper 90s**. The warmest temperatures are expected across North Florida where ample sunshine is expected, while cloud cover in South and Central Florida will keep the heat in check.

Lingering showers and thunderstorms will dissipate with loss of daytime heating across much of Central Florida, however scattered rainfall is expected to continue into the overnight and early morning hours across Southeast Florida, especially the Gold and Treasure Coast (40-65% chance of rain). 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. Instances of **patchy dense fog** may develop towards daybreak across the Suwannee River Valley.





Tropical Weather

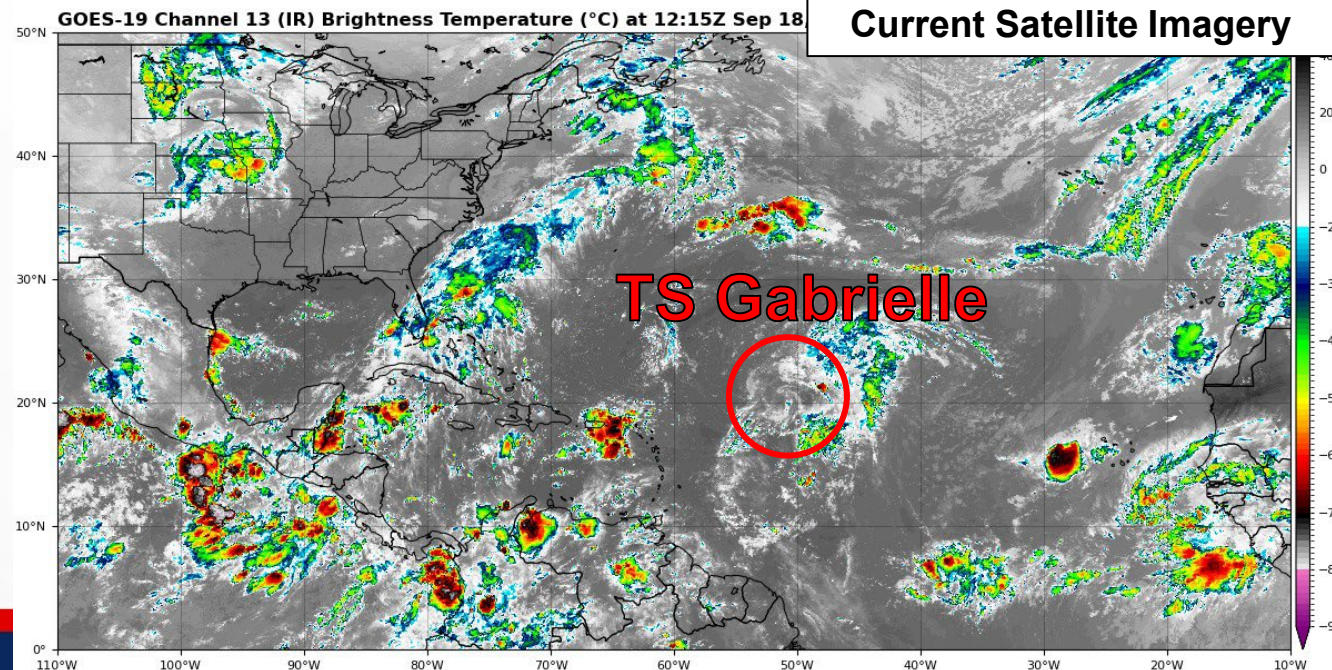
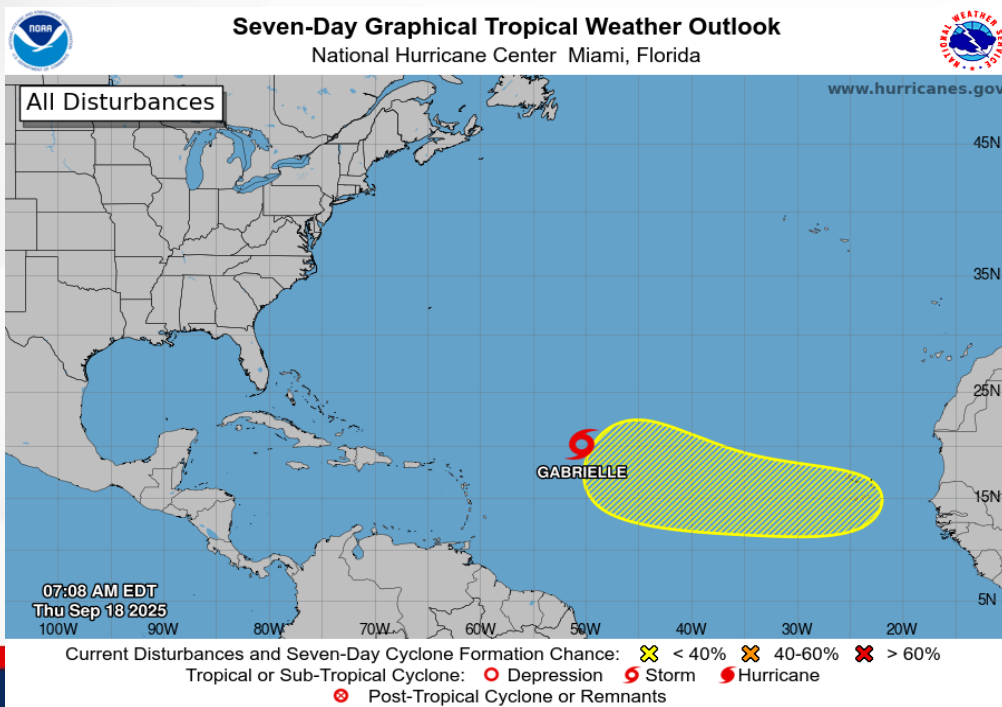
For the latest on the tropics, please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) at www.hurricanes.gov.

Tropical Storm Gabrielle: As of 5:00 AM EDT, Tropical Storm Gabrielle has maximum sustained winds of 50 mph and is located about 845 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands moving west-northwestward at 15 mph. A similar forward motion across the tropical and subtropical central Atlantic is expected during the next few days. Little change in strength is expected during the next 48 hours, but some gradual strengthening is forecast later in the weekend. *Tropical Storm Gabrielle poses no threat to Florida.*

Eastern Tropical Atlantic: A tropical wave is forecast to move off the west coast of Africa by Friday morning. Some slow development of this system is possible over the weekend through the middle of next week while it moves west-northwestward across the eastern and central tropical Atlantic. *This system poses no threat to Florida at this time.*

*Formation chance through 48 hours...**low...near-0%**.

*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, Martin, and St. Lucie 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 around 1'.

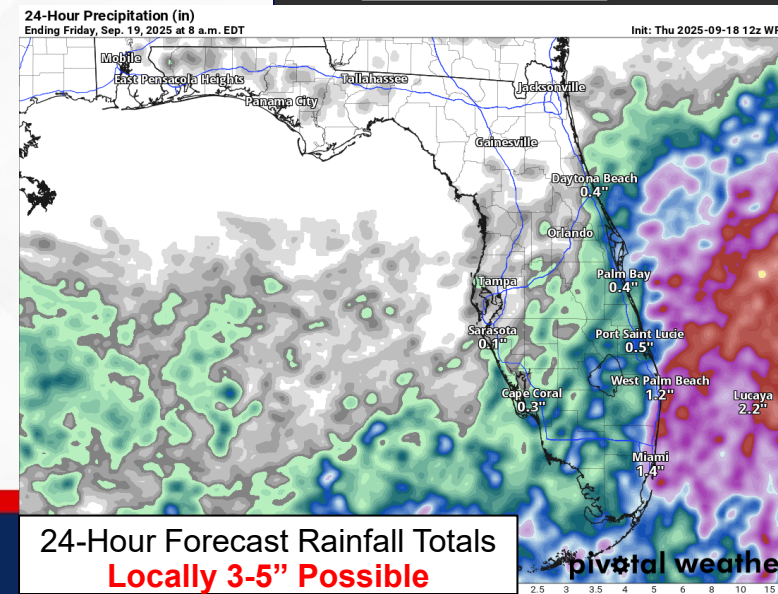
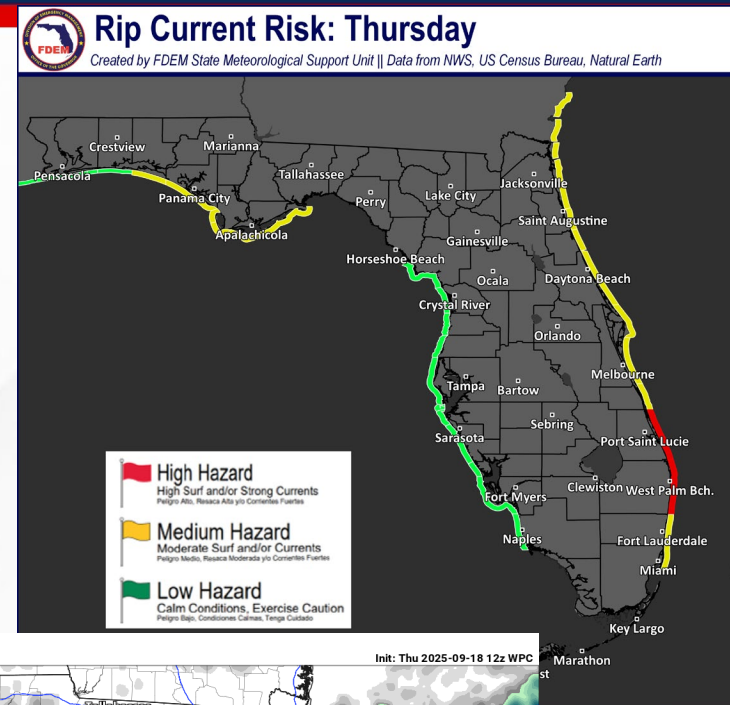
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Bay County in Northwest Florida and offshore Flagler County along the East Coast. It was not observed in any samples collected across Southwest Florida or the East Coast (9/12).

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. Localized **nuisance coastal flooding** is possible along portions of coastal Miami-Dade and Broward County. 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** across the Florida Keys and the Southeast Florida coast where several rounds of heavy rainfall can be expected throughout the day, mostly this afternoon and evening. Repeated rounds of heavy downpours and 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. Saturated soils from recent heavy rainfall, as well as elevated coastal flooding, may slow the rainfall runoff along portions of Southeast Florida and 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 [Fisheating Creek at Palmdale](#) is 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 expected statewide, however additional heavy rainfall across South Florida may lead to localized riverine responses. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.07 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.52 feet below normal for this time of year.



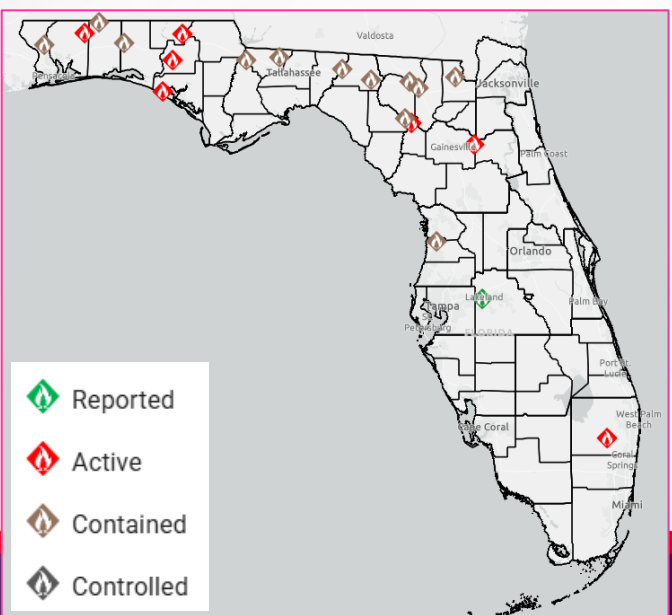
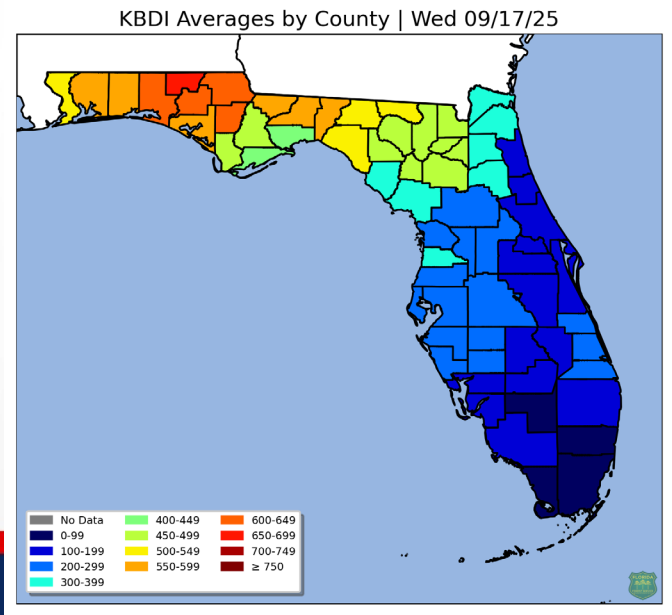
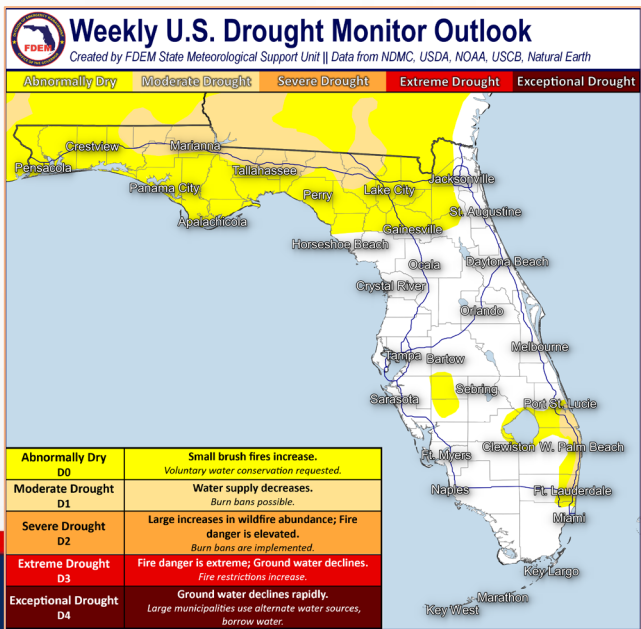


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Dry conditions will persist across North Florida with dry northeasterly winds continuing today. These drier conditions will continue to suppress shower and thunderstorm activity north of the I-4 corridor; however, scattered shower 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. Deep tropical moisture across South-Central and South Florida will promote 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 981 acres.

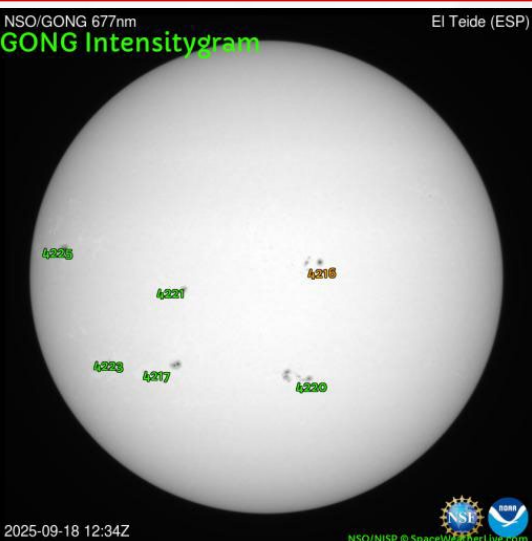
Drought: The rather persistent wet and active weather pattern across the southern Peninsula has significantly reduced drought conditions across coastal Southeast Florida. The severe drought that was found along coastal Broward and Palm Beach counties has been reduced to a **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** where rainfall in the past two weeks has been 4-6" above normal. Similarly, all categorical drought was removed across Miami-Dade County with ample rainfall and saturated vegetation and soils. Further north along coastal Martin and St. Lucie counties, a **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** remains in place where the heaviest rainfall has missed in recent weeks. The biggest change in this week's drought monitor outlook is across the northern Panhandle. Widespread abnormally dry (emerging drought) conditions were added across the Panhandle and into Northeast Florida where many locations have seen zero rainfall the entire month of September. Rainfall departures across the northern Panhandle counties are the most severe, with 30-day deficits of 3-5" in most locations. As such, a **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** has been outlooked across this region. Additional categorical enhancements are likely in the coming week as rainfall remains sparse across the Panhandle.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **309 (+5)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **15** Florida counties in the Florida Panhandle (Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gadsden, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Walton, and Washington County) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

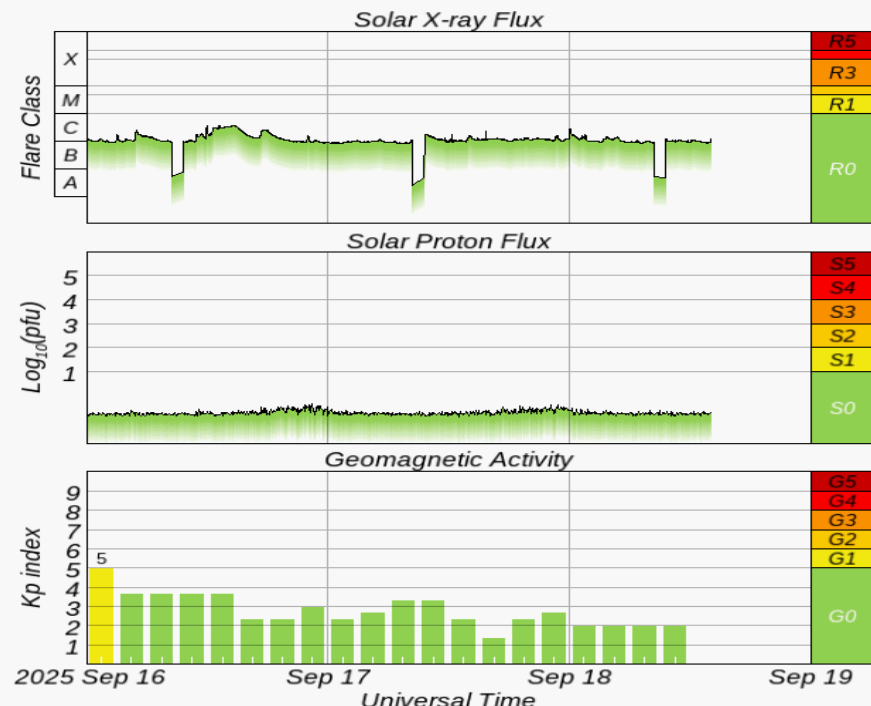




Space Weather

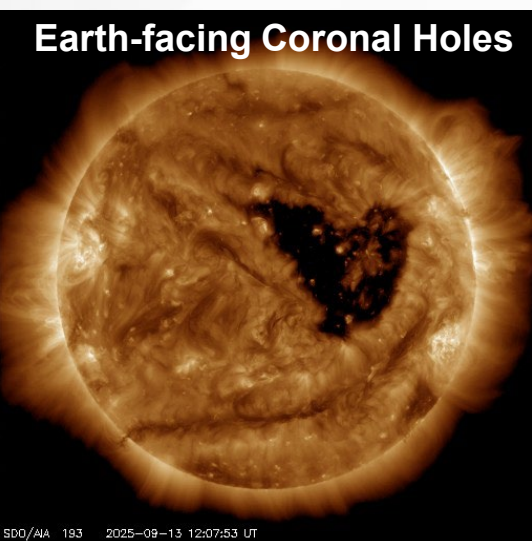


Current Sunspots



| Solar Flare Risk | Active Watches & Warnings | Past 24 hours |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| M-class: 35% | Geomagnetic Storm: None | C2 Solar Flare |
| X-class: 1% | Radiation Storm: None | No Radio Blackouts |

| 48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 9/18 | 9/19 |
| Max Kp= 3 (G0) | Max Kp= 2 (G0) |
| Chance of minor activity = 5% severe activity = 1% | Chance of minor activity = 1% 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 flares that develop will be capable of producing minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts. Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds will continue to diminish today with a return to nominal conditions by Friday. Quiet to unsettled geomagnetic activity is expected as CH HSS winds wane, with a return to mostly quiet conditions by Friday. 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 | |

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