



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Sunday, October 26, 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	Sam Walters	(850) 519-8638	Sam.Walters@em.myflorida.com
Duty Officer	Jeremy Whitt	(850) 755-8521	Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Day	Lauren Warfield	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Caleb Pitts	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Night	Austin Johnson	(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	Brandon Gore	(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	In Region	On - Call Status
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	In Region	On - Call Status
Region 3: Glen Hammers	In Region	On - Call Status
Region 4: Tara Kostich	In Region	On - Call Status
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: Vacant	N/A	N/A
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	In Region	On - Call Status
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)

Region 8 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

Status

Normal Operations

Out of Service / Unavailable



Recovery Regional Coordination Team

Team	County Location	Status / Activities
Region 1: Allison Blevins	Out of Region	Off
Region 2: Justin Lazzara	Out of Region	Off
Region 3: Amber Durden	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Out of Region	Off
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	In Region	On Call Coverage for R8 & R10
Region 9: Jacob Ginsberg	In Region	Off & Monitoring
Region 10: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage

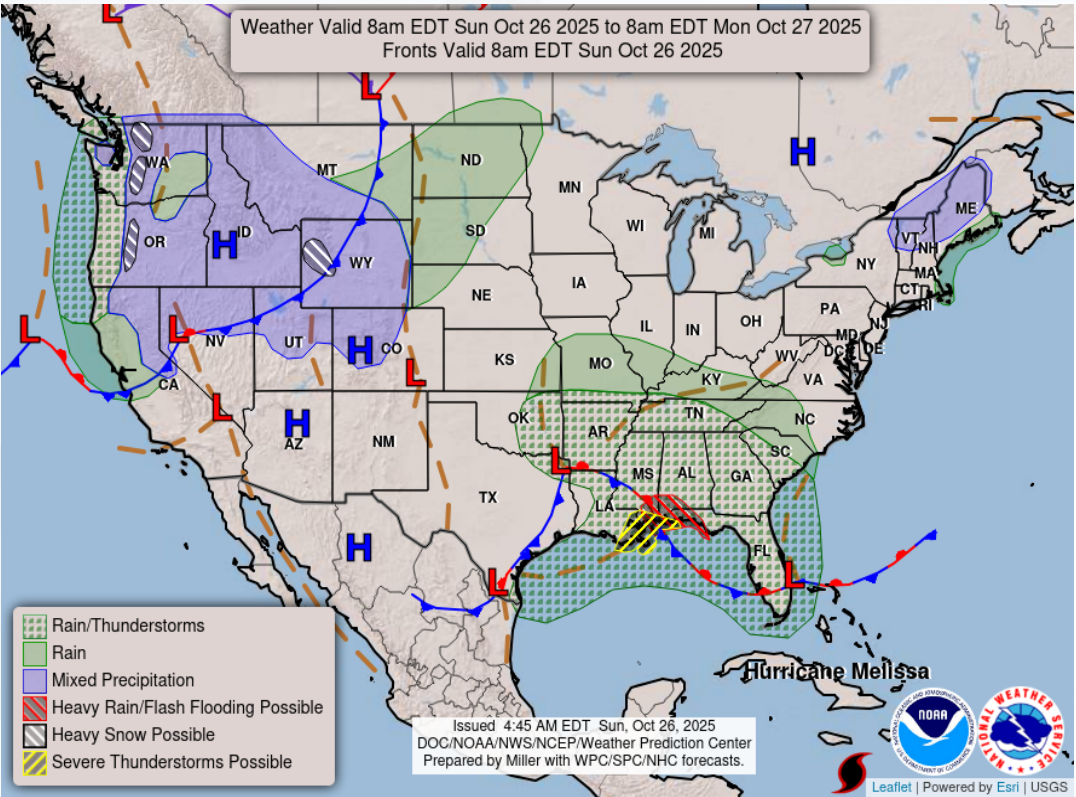
Region 1 & 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 4

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

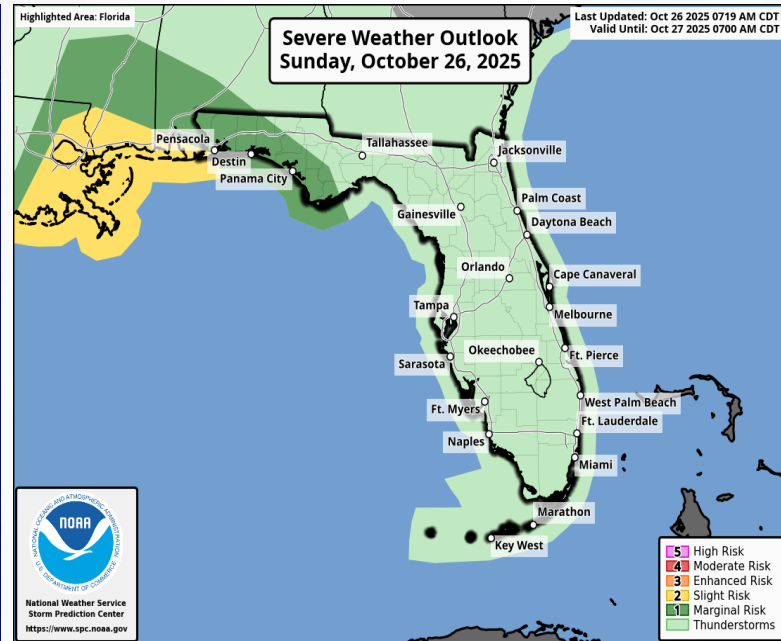
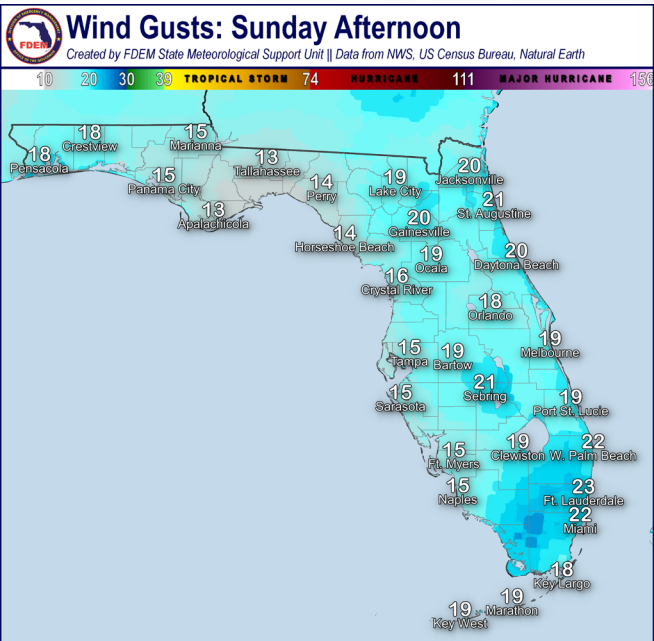


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Tornado	L									
Damaging Wind	L									
Hail	L									
Flash Flooding	M	L								
Wildfire	L	L	L	L						
Fog (Overnight)										
Coastal Flooding										
Rip Currents	H	H	L	H	H	L		H	L	H
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.84 ft. (1.23 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	420 (+6) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									



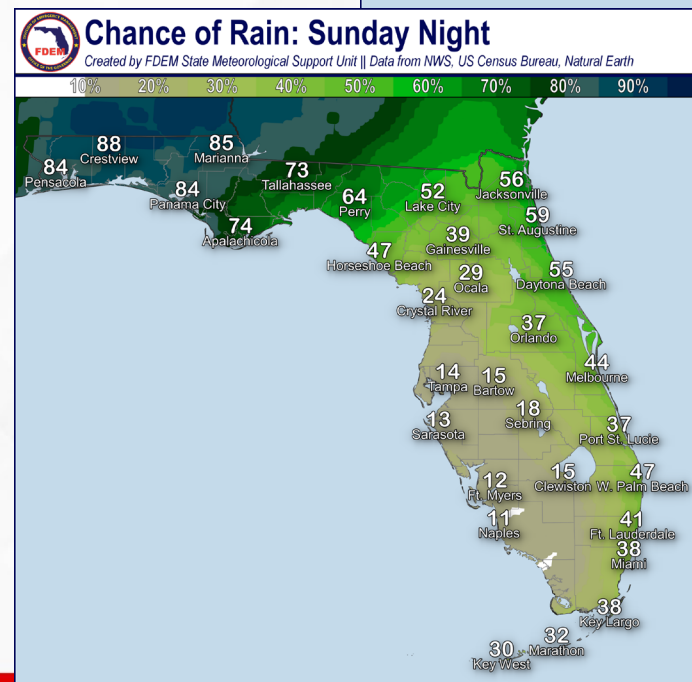
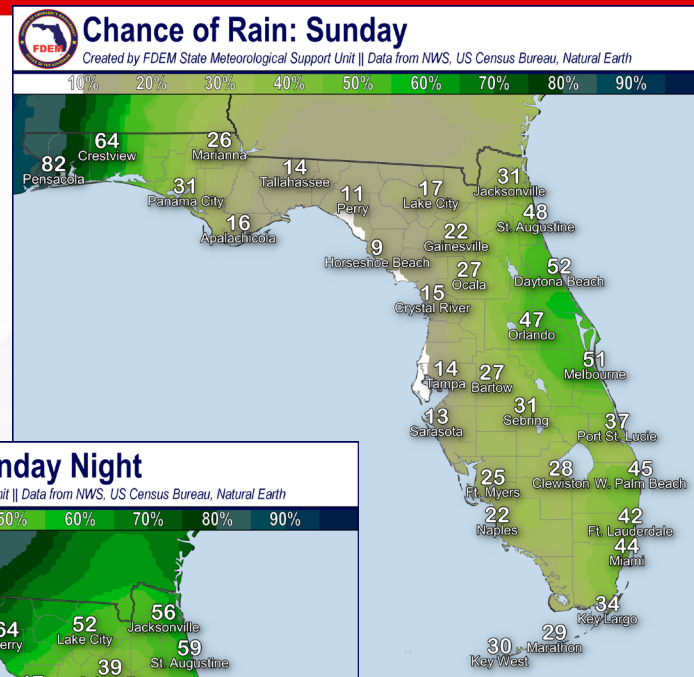


Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Panhandle: A frontal system remains situated to the west over the Ark-La-Tex region and is gradually moving westward into the Southeast U.S. A line of scattered showers and thunderstorms associated with the frontal system remains just on the doorsteps of the western Panhandle and this activity will continue to approach the Panhandle throughout the day. There is some computer model guidance uncertainty when it comes to this pre-frontal rain. Some of the computer model guidance has shower and thunderstorm activity nearly dissipating once it reaches the Panhandle, while other computer model guidance keeps the activity intact through the Panhandle before the US-321 corridor (30-65% chance of rain). Behind this first wave of activity, is a second round of showers and thunderstorms associated with a stronger cold front that will move into the Panhandle later this evening and more so overnight, bringing the better chance for rain (50-90% chance of rain). This round of showers and thunderstorms overnight will continue to progress eastward during the overnight hours reaching the Big Bend near sunrise Monday morning, and this second line also seems to be the best chance for some stronger thunderstorm activity. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is outlooking a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Weather** along the Panhandle through tonight as **embedded strong to severe thunderstorms** may be possible. Any strong to severe thunderstorm that develops will be capable of producing frequent lightning, damaging wind gusts (up to 60 mph), an isolated tornado or two, instances of large hail and heavy downpours. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is also outlooking a **Marginal to Slight Risk (level 1-2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle where locally heavy downpours could bring instances of **flash flooding and ponding of water**. Cloud cover and elevated rain chances will keep high temperatures in the upper 70s to lower 80s across North Florida this afternoon. Low temperatures will fall into the middle to upper 60s overnight.

Peninsula: An upper-level feature off the Florida East Coast will continue to bring breezy conditions across the Peninsula today, especially along the eastern half of the state. Breezy wind gusts upwards of 15-20 mph will develop throughout the day, with stronger **wind gusts upwards of 25 mph** closer towards the eastern coastline late this afternoon. Breezy onshore winds will help to bring moisture across the Peninsula ahead of a warm front draped across the central regions, increasing the chance for isolated to widely scattered showers and possibly thunderstorms (25-45% chance of rain). Any thunderstorm that develops may be capable of producing frequent lightning, gusty winds and heavy downpours at times. As a cold front approaches from the west this evening and overnight, lingering moisture and the upper-level feature off the eastern coastline will allow for additional rounds of scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms to continue mainly along the I-95 corridor (30-55% chance of rain). High temperatures will remain in the middle to upper 80s this afternoon. Portions of West-Central and Southwest Florida will see heat index values in the middle to upper 90s this afternoon. Low temperatures will remain in the 70s overnight.

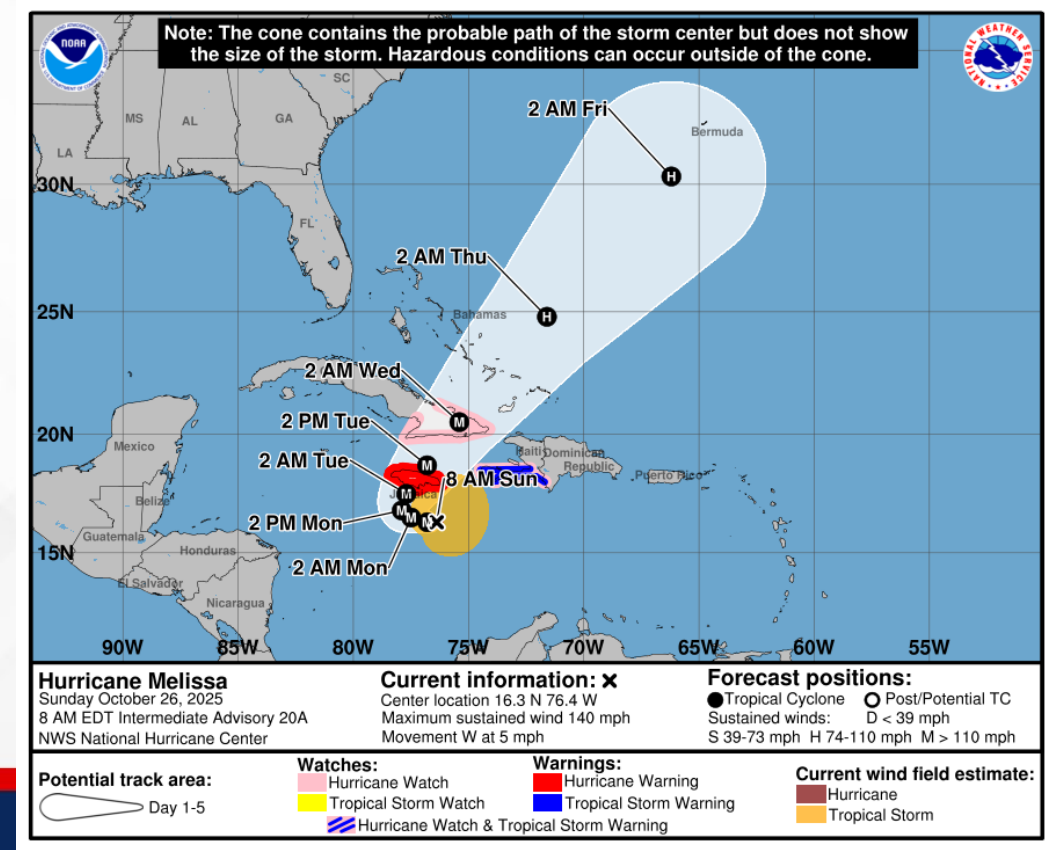
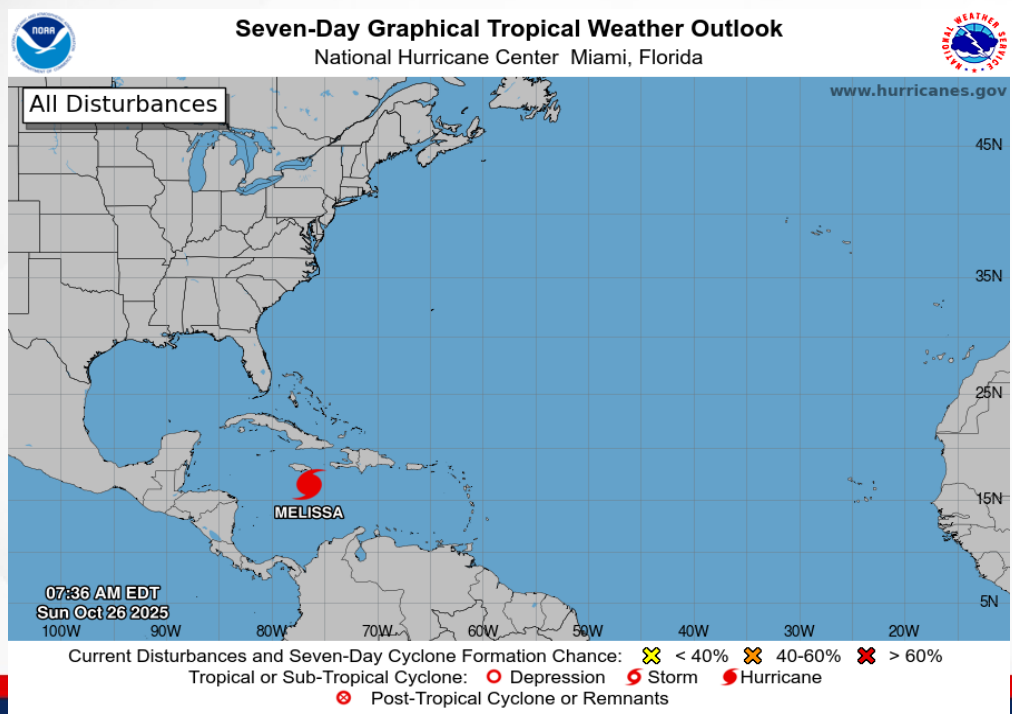




Tropical Weather

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

Major Hurricane Melissa: As of 8:00 AM EDT, Melissa is located about 120 miles south-southeast of Kingston Jamaica or about 280 miles south-southwest of Guantanamo, Cuba and moving westward at 5 mph. A slow westward motion is expected today, followed by a turn to the north and northeast of Monday and Tuesday. On the forecast track, the center of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica through Tuesday, across southeastern Cuba Tuesday night and across the southeastern Bahamas on Wednesday. Maximum sustained winds are near 140 mph with higher gusts making Melissa a category 4 hurricane. Further rapid intensification is expected through tonight, followed by fluctuations in intensity. Melissa is expected to be a major hurricane when making landfall in Jamaica Monday night or Tuesday morning and southeastern Cuba late Today. *Melissa poses no direct threat to Florida; however, the distant system will likely bring hazardous beach and surf conditions along portions of the East Coast through early to middle portions of next week.*





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: A **high risk for rip currents** is expected for all East Coast and Panhandle beaches today as breezy onshore winds and surf increase throughout the day, leading to dangerous beach and boating conditions. A low risk continues for the West Coast. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: All Atlantic Coast beaches, including the Atlantic-facing Key beaches, can expect elevated surf conditions with **wave heights upwards of 5-8'** throughout the day. **High Surf Advisories** remain in place from the Space Coast through Southeast Florida beaches through this evening and into early Monday morning given **dangerous beach and boating conditions** along the coast. Instances of **localized minor beach and dune erosion** cannot be ruled out. Panhandle beaches will see elevated **surf near 4-7'** due to a localized ocean swell, also leading to **dangerous beach and boating conditions** for the far western Panhandle where a **High Surf Advisory** is in place through late tonight. The rest of the Gulf and West Coasts will see **surf near 2-4'** throughout the day.

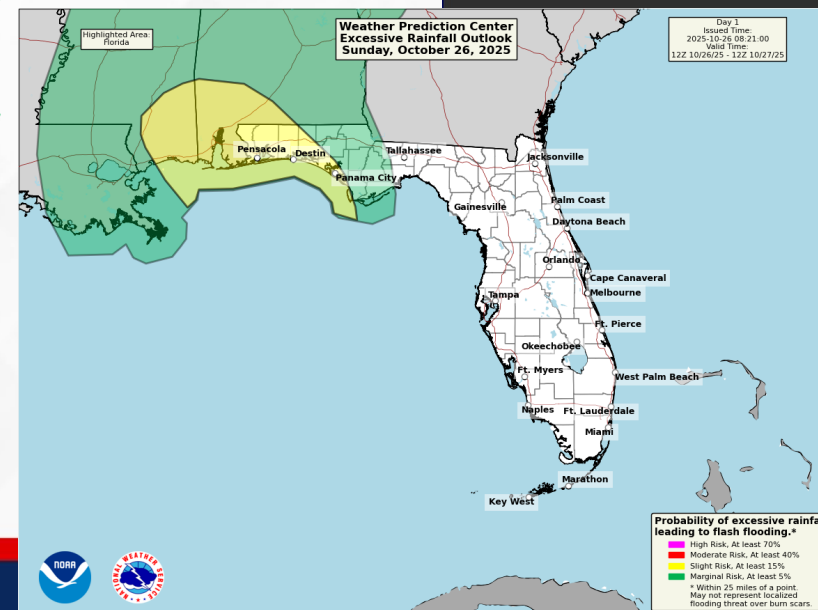
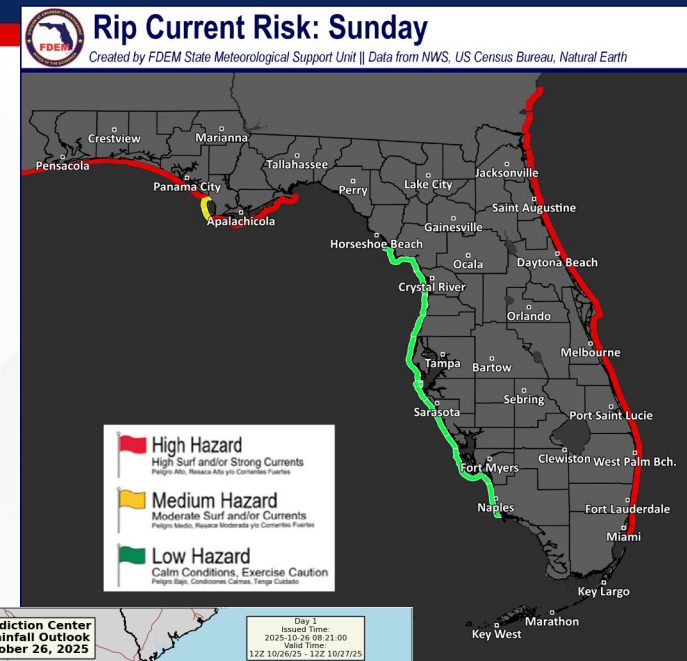
Red Tide was observed at background concentrations offshore Sarasota County in Southwest Florida. It was also observed at medium to high concentrations from Gulf County in Northwest Florida. Red tide was not observed along the Florida East Coast (10/24).

Coastal Flooding: There is no risk for coastal flooding today.

Flash Flooding: The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is outlooking a **Marginal to Slight Risk (level 1-2 of 4) for Flash Flooding** along the Panhandle today as active weather returns with the next frontal system moving through. There will be **two rounds of rainfall**, one that occurs during the afternoon hours then a second one that occurs late this evening and overnight. Scattered to widespread showers and embedded thunderstorms ahead of and along the frontal boundaries will lead to locally heavy rainfall, especially closer towards the coast where there is abundant moisture available for shower and thunderstorm activity to pull from. Urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas that see locally heavy downpours could see **localized flash flooding and ponding of water** at times. Any slow-moving rounds of rainfall or thunderstorms could also lead to ponding of water in the same places. With ongoing drought conditions across the Panhandle, widespread flash flooding is not anticipated as this **rainfall is much needed and will be beneficial**. Rainfall totals of 1-3" will be possible through tomorrow morning, with **locally higher totals** upwards of 3-5" possible with repeated downpours.

Riverine Flooding: A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) as water levels remain steady in **minor flood stage**. Water levels will continue to very slowly decline through **minor flood stage** as water discharges from the basin; however, a return a breezier onshore winds and elevated surf this weekend could lead to a stall in discharge rates. The St. Johns River [near Deland](#), [Sanford](#) and [Lake Harney](#) all remain within Action Stage (bank-full) due to the cascading back up of water levels from further downstream. Conditions are forecast to remain near stagnant or very slowly decline for the next several days. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time, For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.84 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.23 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



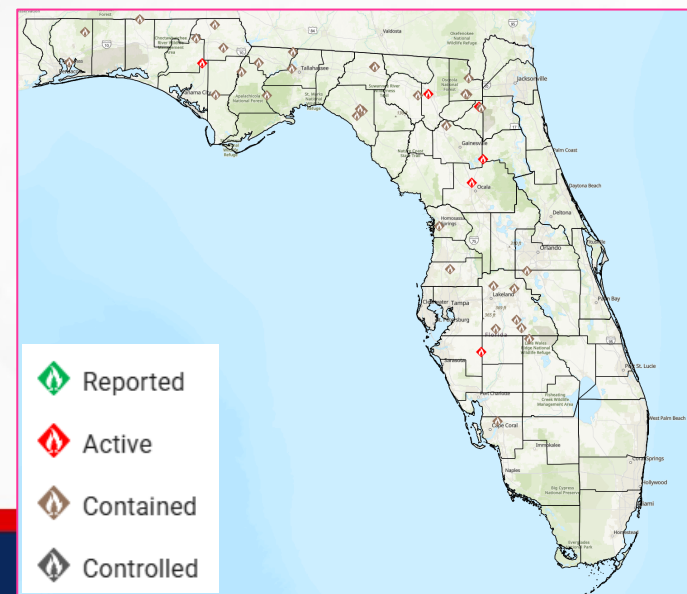
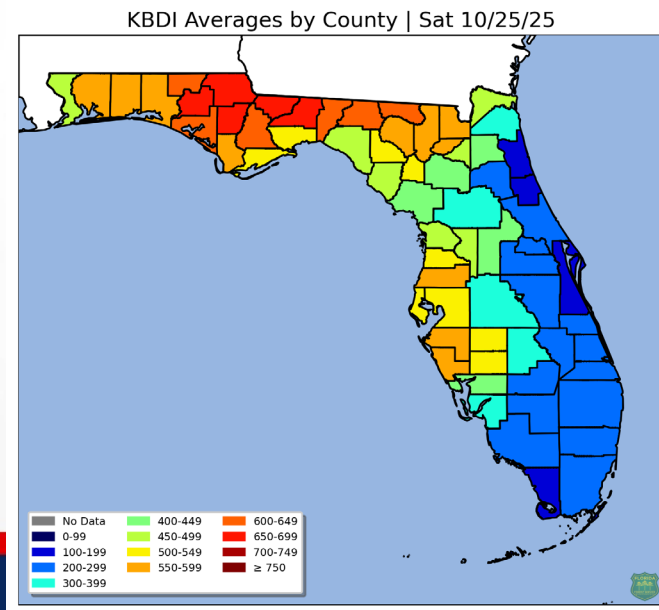
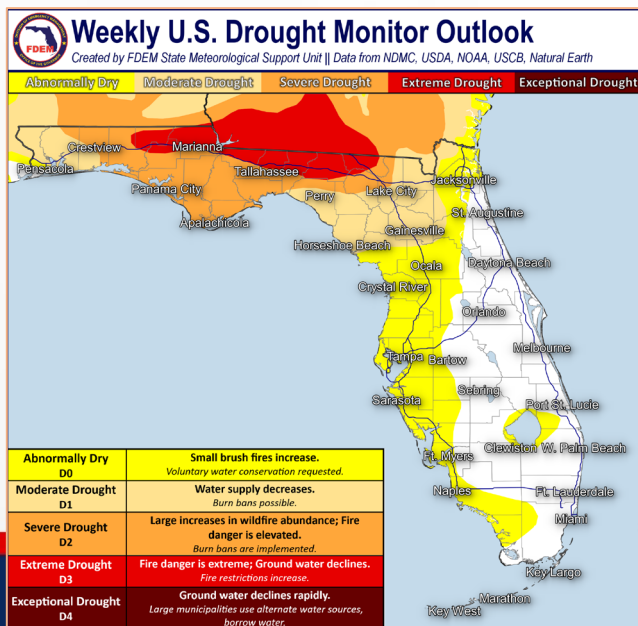


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Winds will gradually become more southerly this afternoon and evening across the Panhandle ahead of an approaching frontal system moving westward. These southerly winds will help to keep relative humidity values above critical thresholds this afternoon, especially as the front approaches and moves into the western Panhandle later in the day. This front will help to bring much needed rainfall across the western Panhandle late today and into tonight. Sensitive wildfire conditions will prevail across the Panhandle, and locally elevated wildfire conditions will continue for the Big Bend due to ongoing drought conditions and dry weather from the last few days. **Dry vegetation and grounds will provide fires with fuel** for ignition and spreading. Relative humidities will also remain above critical thresholds elsewhere across the state, though breezy wind gusts of 15-20 mph are expected along the Florida East Coast, with some gusts **upwards of 25 mph** across coastal Southeast Florida. A Burn Ban is currently in effect for Calhoun and Sarasota County. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 39 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 180 acres.

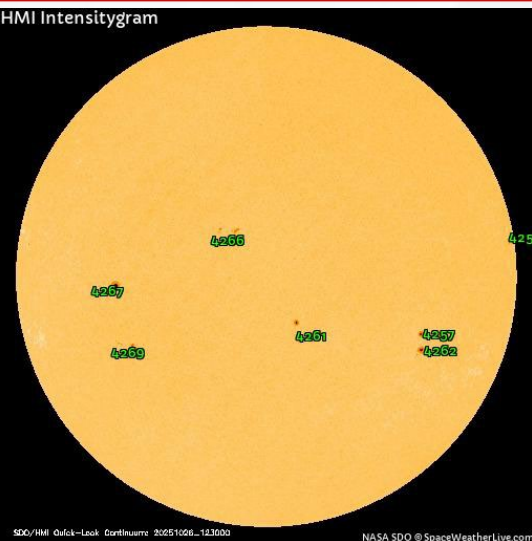
Drought: Although rainfall chances have generally been very low the past week, very wet soils from a rather wet early October has kept any drought in check across much of the Florida East Coast. However, a different story is unfolding across the western Peninsula and I-75 corridor where some slight expansion of the abnormally dry (emerging drought) has been added to this week's drought monitor outlook across interior Hillsborough, Charlotte, Collier, and Monroe counties. The cold frontal passage on Sunday brought some beneficial rainfall to the western Peninsula, however with amounts generally below 1", there was no significant dent made in the emerging drought. Longer term (60-90 day) rainfall departures remain around 4-6" below normal for much of West-Central Florida and worsening drought conditions are expected as rainfall chances remain low through the next week or so. Further north, there was some slight expansion southward of the **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** into northern Levy County and southern Dixie county across the Big Bend region. **Severe (level 2 of 4)** to **Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place across much of the Panhandle where a lack of rainfall and very low soil moisture prevails. Like the western Peninsula, the cold frontal passage from this past Sunday (10/19) brought a bit of beneficial rainfall, but not nearly enough to make a dent in the drought. In fact, some expansion eastward of the **Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4)** into Madison and Hamilton counties was added on this week's drought monitor outlook. No significant changes were made elsewhere across the Panhandle with **Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)** conditions persisting for interior Northeast Florida and the Suwannee Valley. The next chance of rain for portions of the Panhandle may come on Sunday this weekend with another cold front, though widespread heavy rainfall is not anticipated at this time and drought conditions will continue to deteriorate.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **420 (+6)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **31** Florida counties (Baker, Bay, Calhoun, Columbia, DeSoto, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hernando, Holmes, Hillsborough, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Suwannee, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

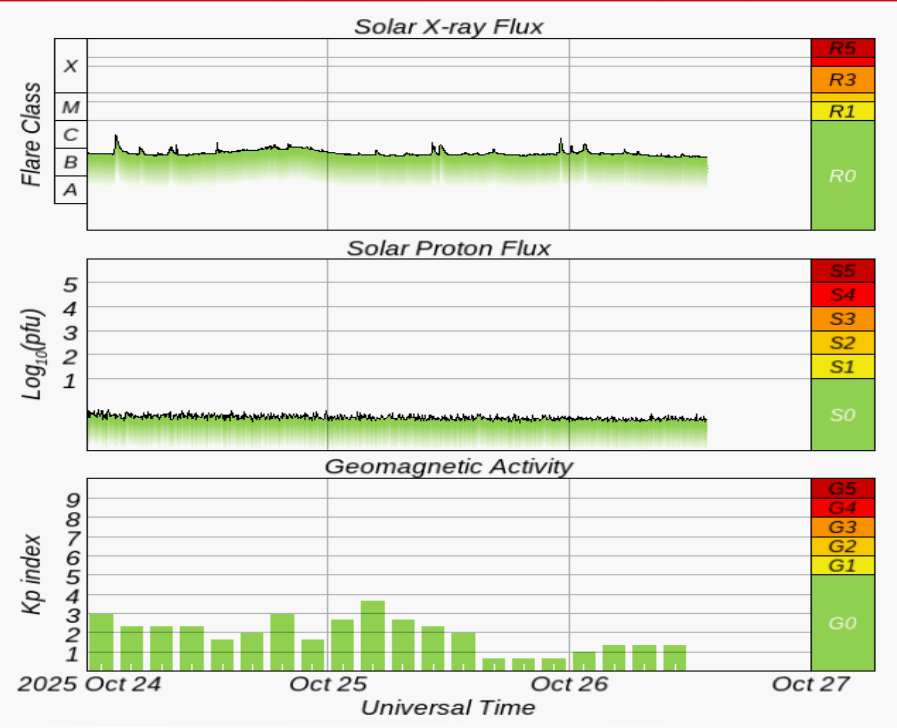
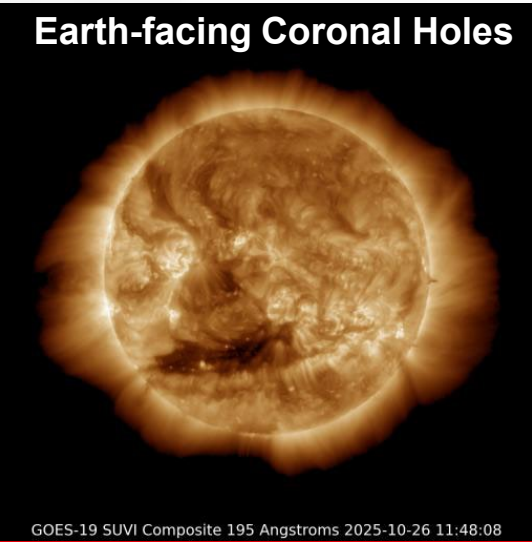




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 10%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C2 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
10/26	10/27
Max Kp= 3 (G0)	Max Kp= 3 (G0)
Chance of minor activity = 1% severe activity = 1%	Chance of minor activity = 15% severe activity = 1%

Space Weather: Solar activity will remain low through the end of the weekend and into early next week as all current sunspots pose little threat for solar flares. An isolated strong (M-class) solar flare cannot be completely ruled, and may bring minor to moderate (R1-R2) radio blackouts should one develop. Solar wind conditions will continue to trend towards nominal levels through today. Enhancements are likely to the solar wind field beginning Monday from a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that left the sun on the 10/23. The Earth's geomagnetic field will remain at quiet to unsettled levels through today before increasing to active conditions on Monday. There is a chance for minor (G1) geomagnetic storming to develop on Monday. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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