



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Tuesday, October 28, 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 | Woody Harvey | (850) 591-7939 | Woodham.Harvey@em.myflorida.com |
| Duty Officer | Jeremy Whitt | (850) 755-8521 | Jeremy.Whitt@em.myflorida.com |
| Operations Officer- Day | Matthew Peloso | (850) 815-4001 | SWP@em.myflorida.com |
| Operations Officer- Swing | Caleb Pitts | (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 | Severe Weather Survey with NWS |
| Region 2: Enrique Gaston | Gulf | EM Meeting |
| Region 3: Glen Hammers | Columbia | County EM Visit |
| Region 4: Tara Kostich | Leon | Equipment Exchange |
| Region 5: Austin Beeghly | Orange, Lake | Partner Evening Meeting / Flood Response / Executive Director Support |
| Region 6: Paul Siddall | Lee | Meeting with R9 Response Coordinator |
| Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck | DeSoto | EM Visit |
| Region 8: Amber Durden | Leon | Response Coordinator Onboarding |
| Region 9: Brittany Bremer | Lee | Office Admin / Meeting with R6 Response Coordinator |
| Region 10: Claudia Baker | Broward | SERDSTF Meeting |

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6

Region 8 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 | Leave | See Coverage |
| Region 2: Justin Lazzara | Leave | See Coverage |
| Region 3: Vacant | N/A | See Coverage |
| Region 4: Joshua Saunders | Monroe | Travel to R10 |
| Region 5: Elizabeth Caison | Seminole | Travel to R5 |
| Region 6: Rick Rogers | Citrus | Personal Safety Training |
| Region 7: Antonio Zapata | Polk | Internal Stakeholder Meeting |
| Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller | Broward | RDSTF Meeting |
| Region 9: Jacob Ginsberg | Sarasota | Off and Monitoring |
| Region 10: Vacant | N/A | See Coverage |

Region 1 & 2 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 5

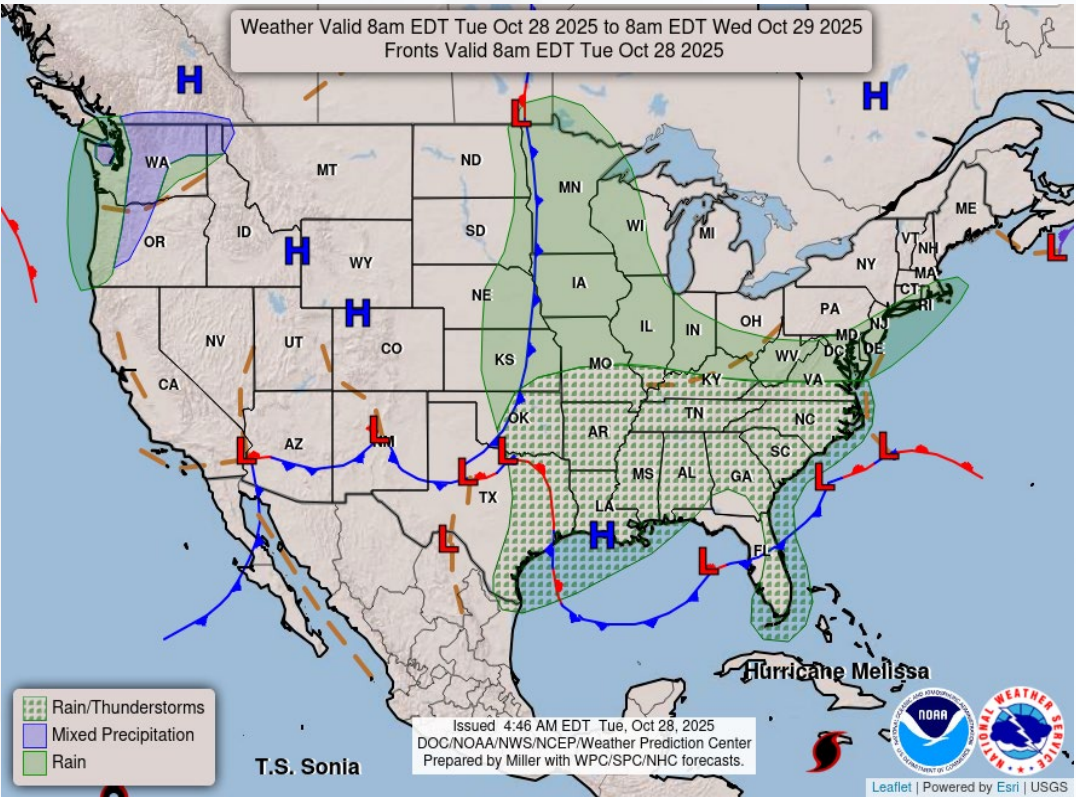
Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinators 2 & 4

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

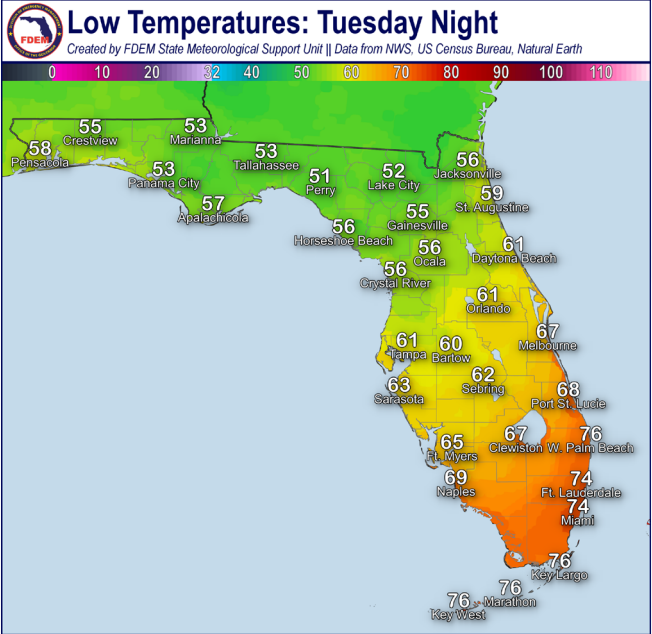
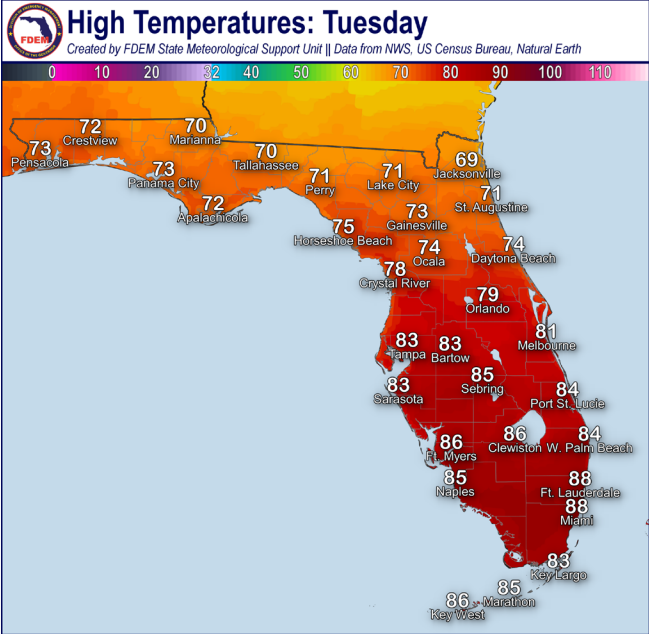


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

| Threat | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|----------------------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lightning | | | | | | | | | L | L |
| Tornado | | | | | | | | | | |
| Damaging Wind | | | | | | | | | | L |
| Hail | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flash Flooding | | | | | | | | | | L |
| Wildfire | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fog (Overnight) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coastal Flooding | | | L | L | | | | | | L |
| Rip Currents | M | M | L | H | M | L | | M | L | M |
| Lake Okeechobee Elevation | 13.93 ft. (1.12 ft. <u>Below</u> Normal) | | | | | | | | | |
| Keetch-Byram Drought Index | 392 (-35) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry) | | | | | | | | | |





Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

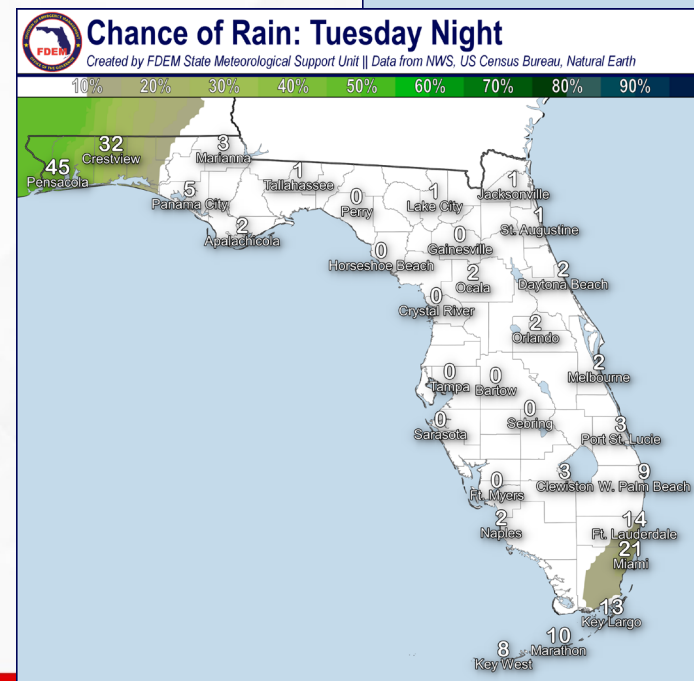
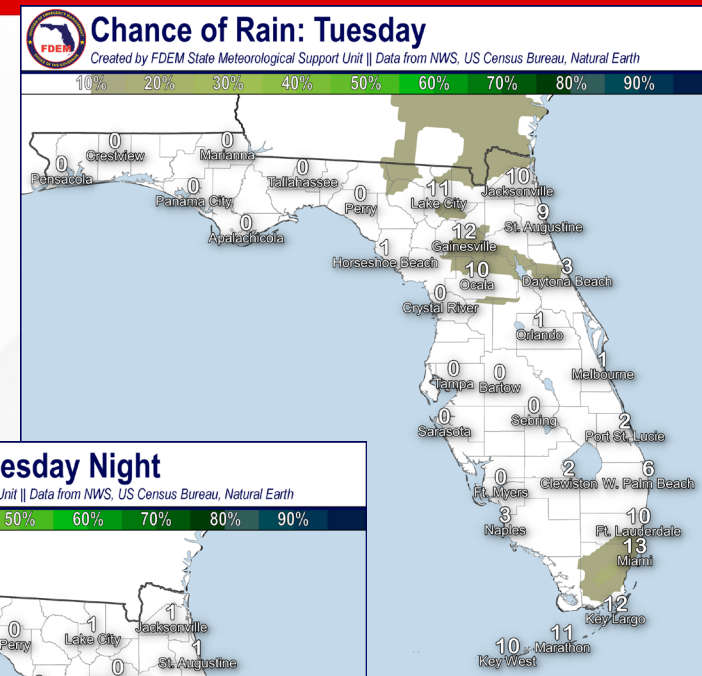
Instances of fog this morning have been observed throughout portions of Northeast and Central Florida but should gradually lift through the next few hours. What is left of yesterday's cold front will continue to push through South Florida today bringing a chance of scattered showers, mainly along and south of Alligator Alley this afternoon and evening (20-30% chance of rain). With the timing of this front, daytime heating may allow for isolated embedded thunderstorms to develop within shower activity later in the daytime hours. Organized severe weather is not anticipated; however, **any thunderstorm could become locally strong** and produce frequent lightning, gusty winds and locally heavy downpours.

Mostly dry conditions can be expected for the rest of the state as northerly winds help to usher drier air southward behind the cold front. Enough lingering moisture from the associated frontal system off the Carolina coastline may spark spotty sprinkles or very brief showers throughout the day. Breezy wind **gusts upwards of 20-25 mph** along portions of the Northeast Florida coastline later today.

High temperatures will reach the low 70s across North Florida, upper 70s to lower 80s across Central Florida and middle to upper 80s across South Florida.

The front over South Florida should finally push offshore from the Keys tonight; however, it could bring some spotty showers into the early overnight hours as the thunderstorm activity pushes offshore (15-25% chance of rain). Mostly dry conditions can be expected throughout the overnight across the state, but the next cold front will approach the western Panhandle near sunrise on Wednesday morning. There may be just enough moisture ahead of the front to produce isolated to scattered showers, maybe an embedded rumble of thunder, during the early morning hours (30-40% chance of rain). Elsewhere, mostly dry conditions can be expected to persist overnight. **Instances of patchy to scattered fog** may develop early Wednesday morning along the Suwannee Valley and into Central Florida.

Low temperatures will fall into the 50s across North Florida, lower 60s across Central Florida and lower to middle 70s across South Florida.

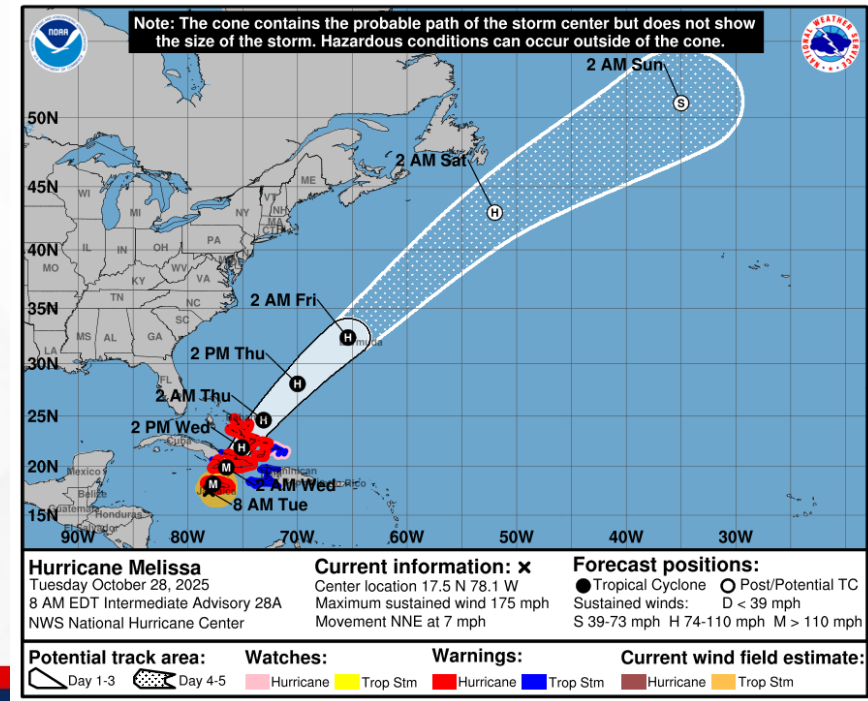
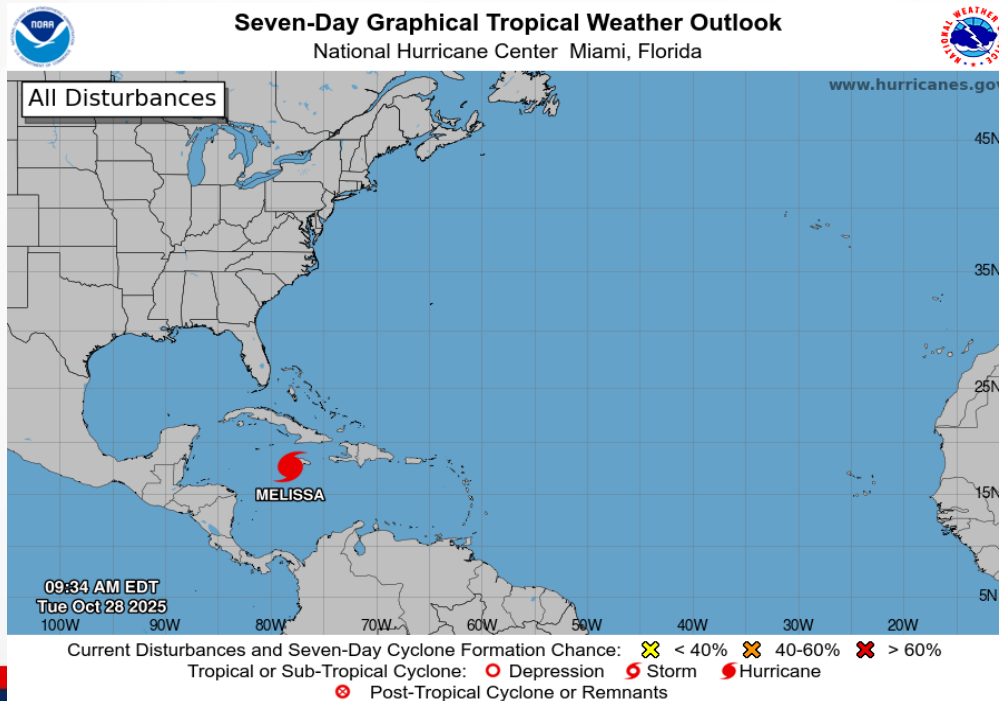




Tropical Weather

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 remains a powerful Category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph. Melissa is currently about 55 miles south-southeast of Negril, Jamaica, and is moving north-northeastward at 7 mph. A turn toward the northeast with an increase in forward speed is expected later today, followed by a faster northeastward motion on Wednesday and Thursday. *On the forecast track, the core of Melissa is expected to make landfall on Jamaica during the next several hours, move across southeastern Cuba Wednesday morning and move across the southeastern or central Bahamas later on Wednesday.* Little change in strength is expected before Melissa makes landfall on Jamaica. Melissa is expected to reach Jamaica and southeastern Cuba as an extremely dangerous major hurricane, and it will be at hurricane strength when it moves across the southeastern Bahamas. ***Melissa poses no direct threat to Florida; however, this system continues to be closely monitored.***





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezier northerly winds will create a **high risk for rip currents** along the First Coast. Panhandle and the rest of the East Coast can expect a **moderate risk for rip currents**. Elsewhere, a low risk can be expected. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: An ocean swell off the Southeast U.S. coastline will create **wave heights of 6-7'** along the First Coast, with the rest of the East Coast seeing **wave heights of 2-5'**. Panhandle and West Coast can expect to see wave heights near 1-2'.

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: **Coastal Flood Advisories** have been reintroduced along tidal portions of the St. Johns River where water levels have risen to **1-1.5' above normally dry ground** near and during times of high tide leading to instances of **minor tidal and coastal flooding**. These conditions can be anticipated to continue through the week ahead of the next full moon cycle early next week. **Coastal Flood Statements** have been issued along the Florida Keys for **minor tidal flooding**.

Flash Flooding: There is no organized risk for flash flooding. Locally heavy rainfall within shower and thunderstorm activity cannot be ruled out along South Florida, especially closer towards the southeast coastline, with the approaching cold front moving through. Rainfall totals of 1-2" will be possible; however, locally higher totals upwards of 3-4" cannot be ruled out with any repeated downpours and slow-moving activity. Ponding of water for urban and low-lying/poor drainage areas cannot be ruled out with any locally heavier downpours.

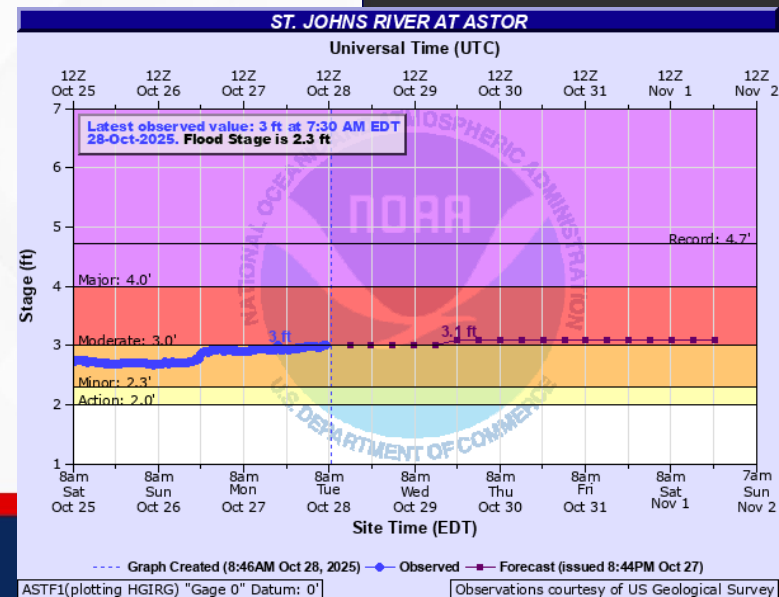
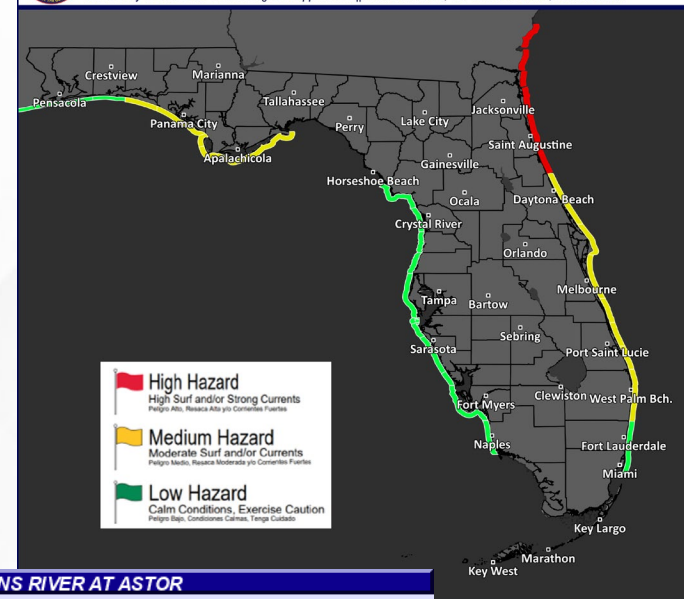
Riverine Flooding: Following the recent heavy rainfall on Sunday, water levels for the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) have risen back into **moderate flood stage**. Additional points along the headwaters of the St. Johns River including [Deland](#), [Sanford](#) and [Lake Harney](#) are all forecast to rise into **minor flood stage** over the next few days. A **River Flood Warning** has been issued for the St. Johns River above Lake Harney as water levels are forecast to reach **minor flood stage** midweek. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

[Lake Okeechobee's](#) average elevation is 13.93 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.12 feet below normal for this time of year.



Rip Current Risk: Tuesday

Created by FDEM State Meteorological Support Unit || Data from NWS, US Census Bureau, Natural Earth



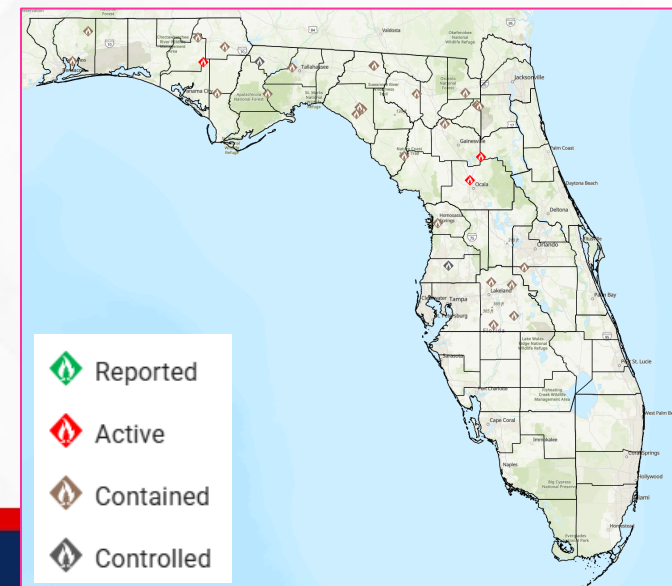
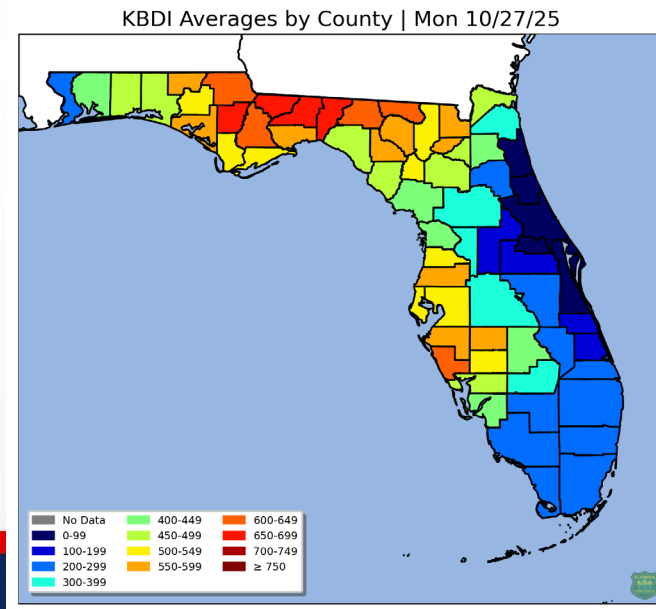
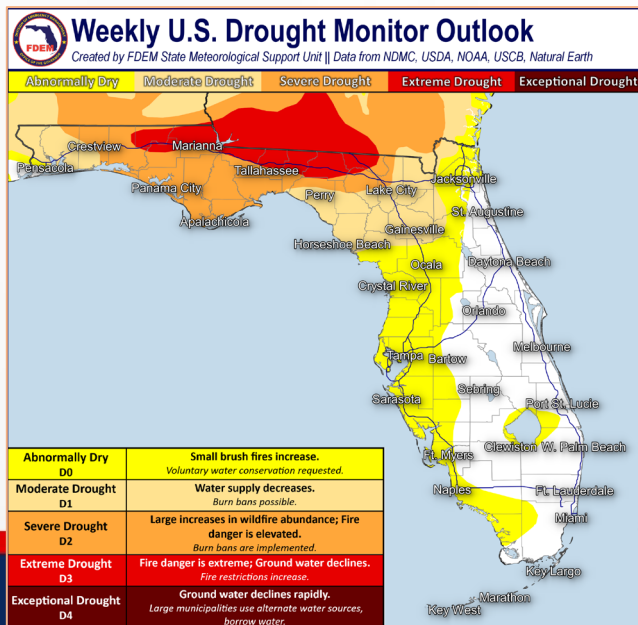


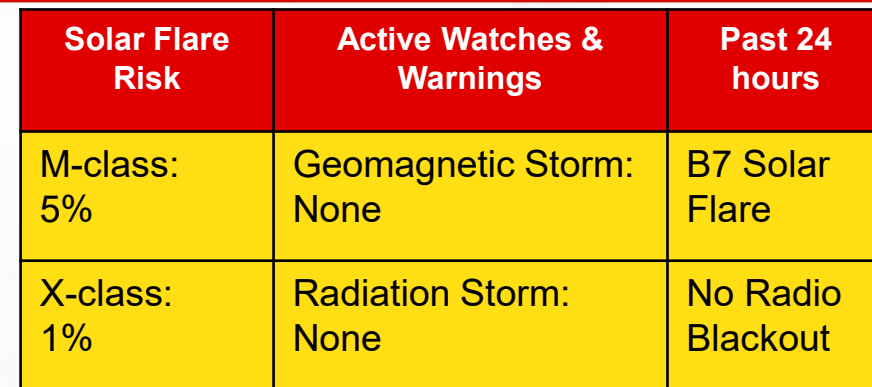
Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Drier conditions will return throughout much of the state in the wake of a passing cold front; however, relative humidity values will remain above critical thresholds this afternoon. Northerly winds will help to usher drier conditions southward behind the front. Enough moisture ahead of the front, combined with daytime heating, will allow for showers and some embedded thunderstorms across Southeast and South Florida (20-30% chance of rain). Instances of fog may be possible throughout the Suwannee Valley and into Central Florida early Wednesday morning. *Foggy conditions may further reduce visibility with ongoing wildfires.* According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 29 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 144 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 last 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.

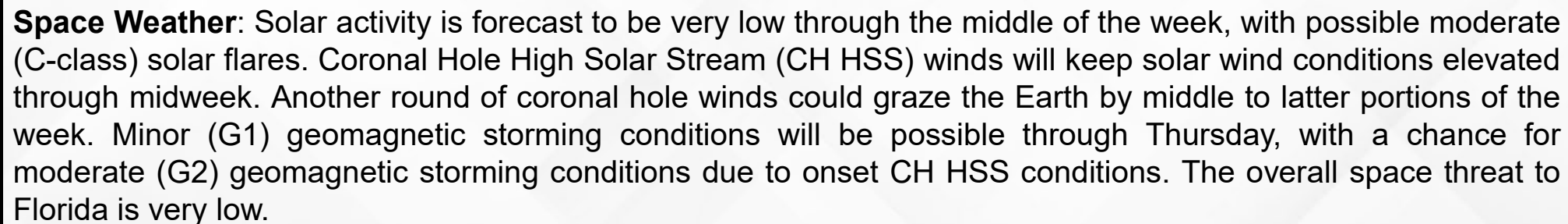
The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **392 (-35)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **30** Florida counties (Baker, Bay, Calhoun, Columbia, DeSoto, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast

| 10/28 | 10/29 |
|--|--|
| Max Kp= 5 (G1) | Max Kp= 5 (G1) |
| Chance of minor activity = 35% severe activity = 15% | Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 15% |





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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