



Florida Division of Emergency Management State Watch Office

Morning Situation Report

Wednesday, October 29, 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	Daniel Leader	(850) 815-4001	SWP@em.myflorida.com
Operations Officer- Swing	Ahnaya Benjamin	(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	Gadsden	Region 1 IPPW (V)
Region 2: Enrique Gaston	Calhoun	EM Meeting
Region 3: Glen Hammers	Hamilton	EM Visit
Region 4: Tara Kostich	Duval	Flood Control Systems Presentation
Region 5: Austin Beeghly	Lake	Flood Response / Executive Director Support
Region 6: Paul Siddall	Hendry, Glades	EM Visits
Region 7: Kathryn Hollenbeck	Out of Service	Leave (See Coverage)
Region 8: Amber Durden	Leon	Response Coordinator Onboarding
Region 9: Brittany Bremer	Hendry, Glades	EM Visit
Region 10: Claudia Baker	Miami-Dade	FEMA Airport Assessment

Region 6 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 6
Region 7 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 7
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	Jefferson	County EM Meeting
Region 3: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage
Region 4: Joshua Saunders	Monroe	Instructing FL-601 & 612
Region 5: Elizabeth Caison	Lake	Flood Response & Recovery
Region 6: Rick Rogers	Pinellas	Elevate Florida Meeting
Region 7: Antonio Zapata	Desoto	Directors Meeting
Region 8: Ja-Pheth Butler-Miller	Monroe	Instructing FL-601 & 612
Region 9: Jacob Ginsberg	Sarasota	FGCU EM Planning Meeting
Region 10: Vacant	N/A	See Coverage

Region 1 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 2

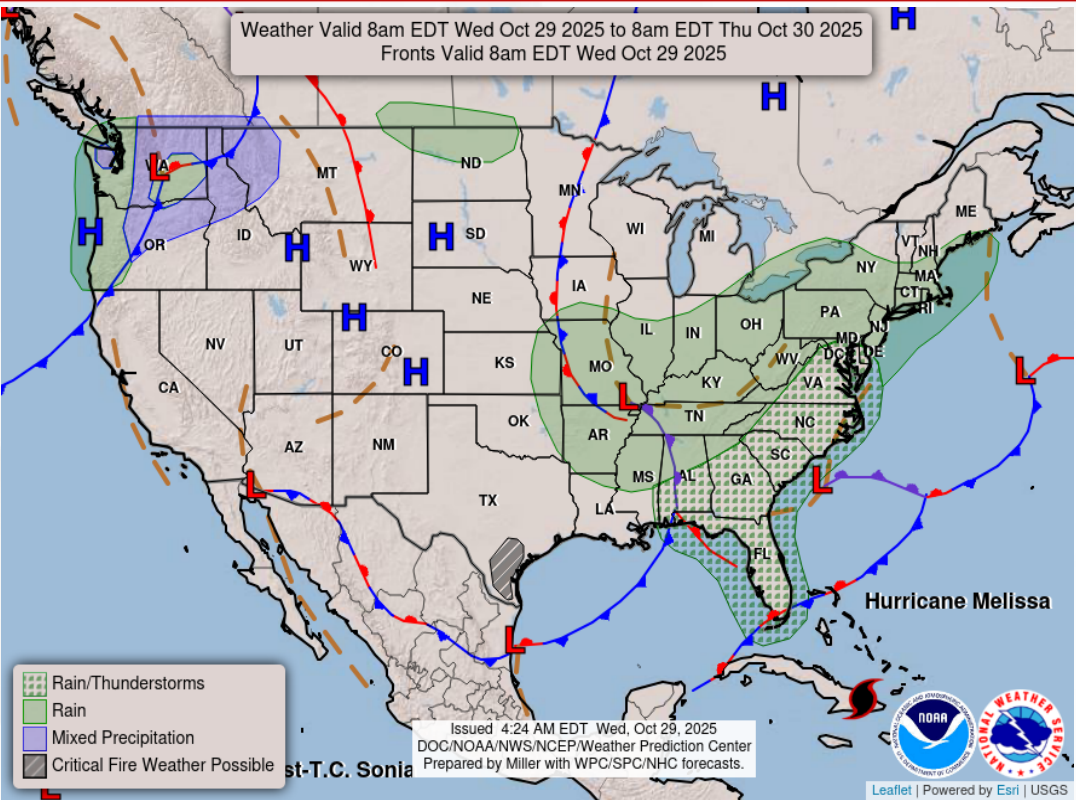
Region 3 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinators 2 & 4

Region 10 Coverage Provided by Recovery Coordinator 8

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

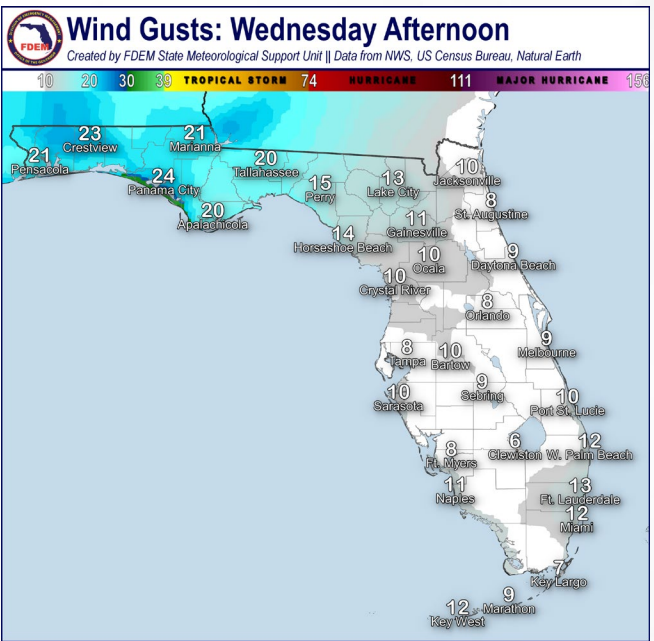


Meteorology Summary



Today's Weather Map

Threat	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Lightning										L
Tornado										
Damaging Wind										L
Hail										
Flash Flooding										L
Wildfire	L	L	L							
Fog (Overnight)										
Coastal Flooding			L	L						L
Rip Currents	M	M	L	H	M	L		M	L	M
Lake Okeechobee Elevation	13.95 ft. (1.09 ft. Below Normal)									
Keetch-Byram Drought Index	383 (-9) on a scale from 0 (very moist) to 800 (very dry)									





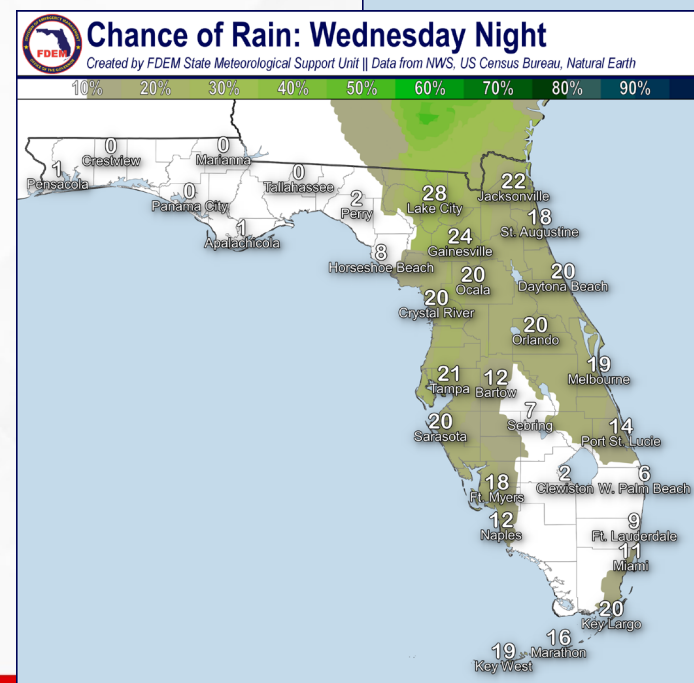
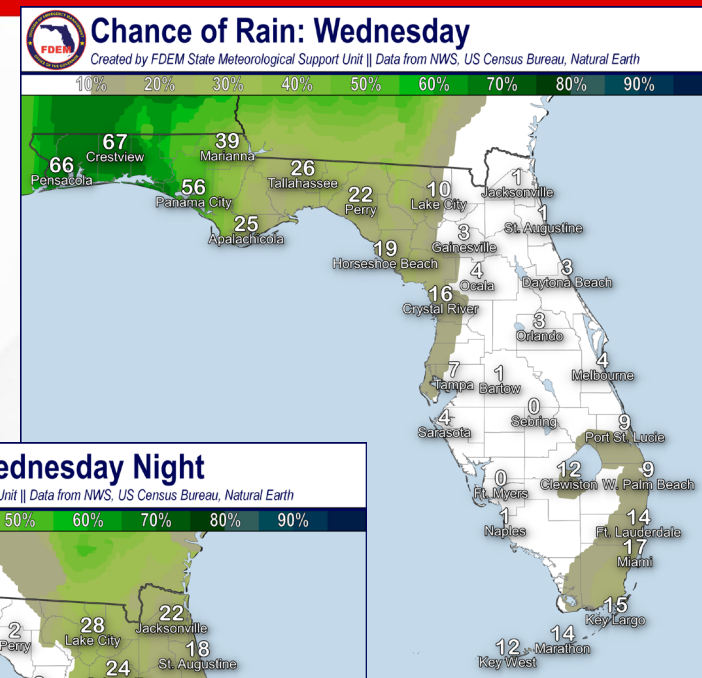
Meteorology Summary

Statewide Overview, Next 24 Hours:

Some **patchy fog** this morning along portions of Northeast and Central Florida should gradually lift and dissipate over the next couple of hours. Another cold front will approach the Panhandle this morning then sweep through North Florida during the daytime hours. Fortunately, moisture ahead of the cold front has not been able to recover enough to bring widespread rainfall and thunderstorm activity associated with the front. This front will have just enough moisture ahead of it to create scattered showers as it moves eastward throughout the day, with the best chance for activity along the Panhandle and western Big Bend (25-65% chance of rain). Behind this front, breezy conditions will develop with winds reaching upwards of 15-20 mph and **gusts reaching 20-30 mph**. Stronger wind gusts closer towards the Panhandle coast will reach **upwards of 35-40 mph**, and a **Wind Advisory** will go into effect along Gulf County this afternoon. As the front moves through Northeast Florida and Central Florida tonight it will still have enough moisture to produce some isolated to widely scattered showers along its immediate boundary heading into the late evening and overnight (15-25% chance of rain). Unlike earlier in the week, shower activity will remain light and brief. Drier and cooler air will quickly move in behind the cold front overnight, and lingering breezy winds will also continue along the coast overnight.

The front from earlier in the week continues to linger along the southern Peninsula and near the Keys which will help create isolated to scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms near the Southeast Florida coast (20-40% chance of rain). This front will eventually dissipate later tonight ahead of the next cold front moving through the state.

High temperatures will reach the upper 60s to middle 70s across North Florida, upper 70s to lower 80s across Central Florida and middle 80s across South Florida. Low temperatures will dip into the middle to upper 40s across North Florida, 50s to lower 60s across Central Florida and middle 60s to lower 70s across South Florida.

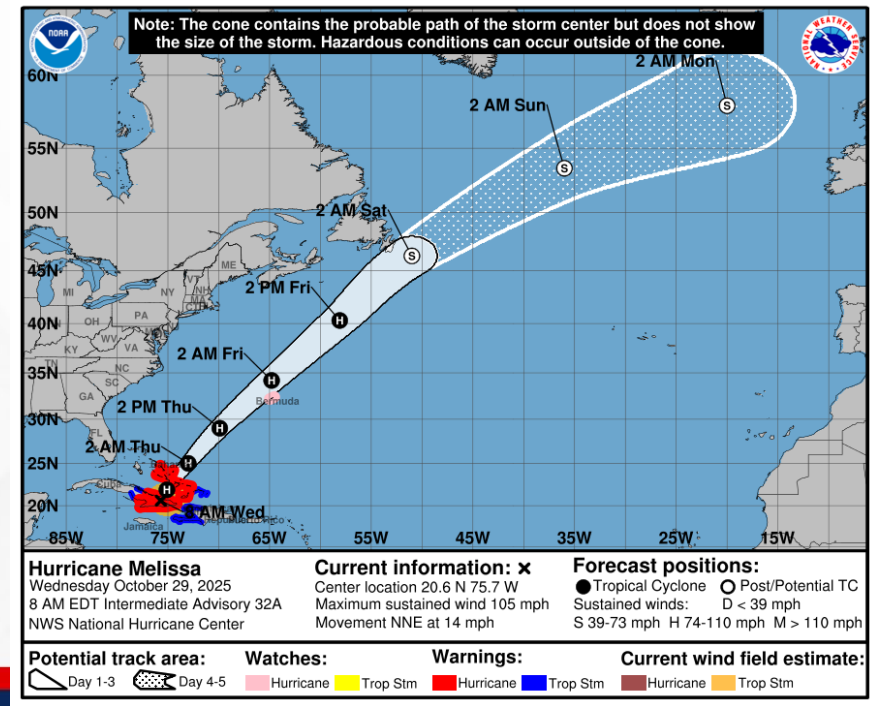
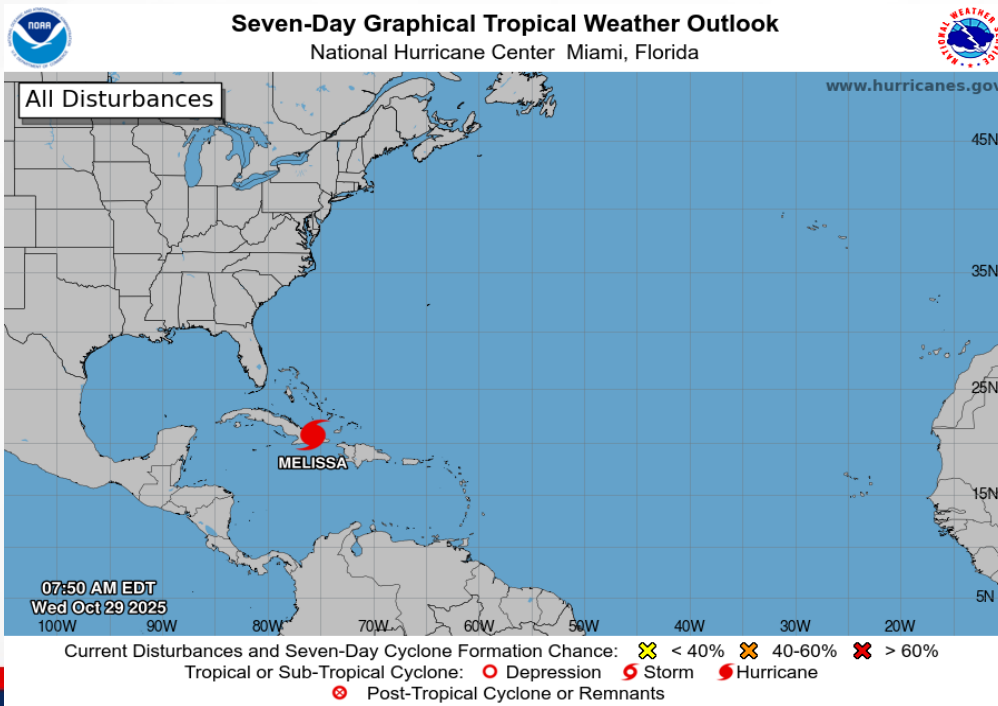




Tropical Weather

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

Hurricane Melissa: As of 8:00 AM EDT, Melissa is located about 45 miles northwest of Guantanamo, Cuba and is moving north-northeastward at 14 mph. A faster northeastward motion is expected during the next few days. On the forecast track, the core of Melissa is expected to move offshore of eastern Cuba this morning, move across the southeastern or central Bahamas later today, and pass near or to the west of Bermuda late Thursday and Thursday night. Maximum sustained winds are near 105 mph with higher gusts. Melissa is expected to remain a powerful hurricane when it moves across the Bahamas later today and passes near Bermuda on Thursday night. ***Melissa poses no direct threat to Florida; however, this system continues to be closely monitored.***





Coastal Hazards & Hydrology

Rip Currents: Breezy winds and large ocean swells associated with a strong cold front moving through the state will bring a **high risk for rip currents** nearly statewide. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Marine Hazards: Large ocean swells associated with a passing cold front and breezy post-frontal winds will create wave **heights of 5-8'** along the Panhandle this afternoon and evening, and a **High Surf Advisory** has been issued for coastal Gulf County. The rest of the Gulf and West Coasts will see wave heights near 1-3'. East Coast beaches will see wave **heights of 2-5'** throughout the day associated with a large ocean swell over the Carolina coastline.

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** remain in effect 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. Just enough moisture will be available ahead of an approaching strong cold front will be capable of producing scattered rainfall as it moves across the state. The best chance for potentially locally heavy rainfall will remain along the Panhandle where rainfall totals could reach upwards of 0.5-1". Throughout much of the state rainfall within shower activity should remain light keeping rainfall totals below 0.5". Thunderstorms developing along Southeast Florida this afternoon and evening could produce locally heavy downpours along the coast and may lead to rainfall totals upwards of 2-3".

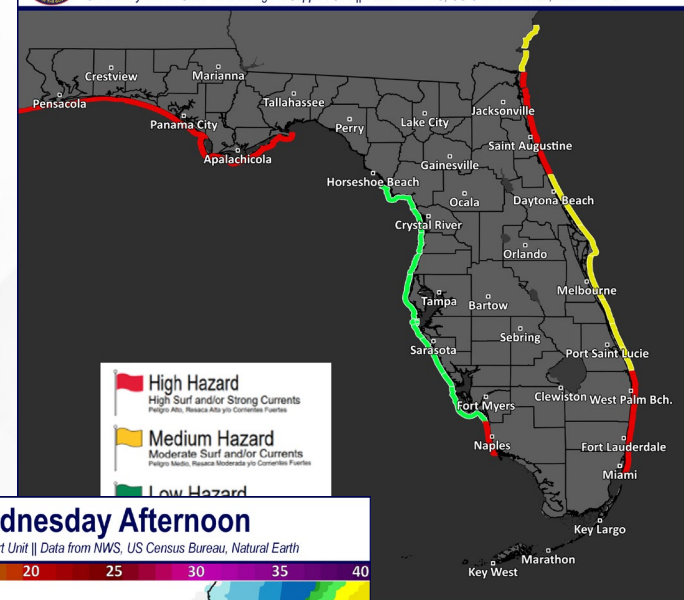
Riverine Flooding: Following the recent heavy rainfall on Sunday, water levels for the [St. Johns River at Astor](#) have risen back into **moderate flood stage**. Additional points along the headwaters of the St. Johns River including [Deland](#), [Sanford](#) and [Lake Harney](#) are all forecast to 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 13.95 feet, which is within the operational band and is 1.09 feet below normal for this time of year.



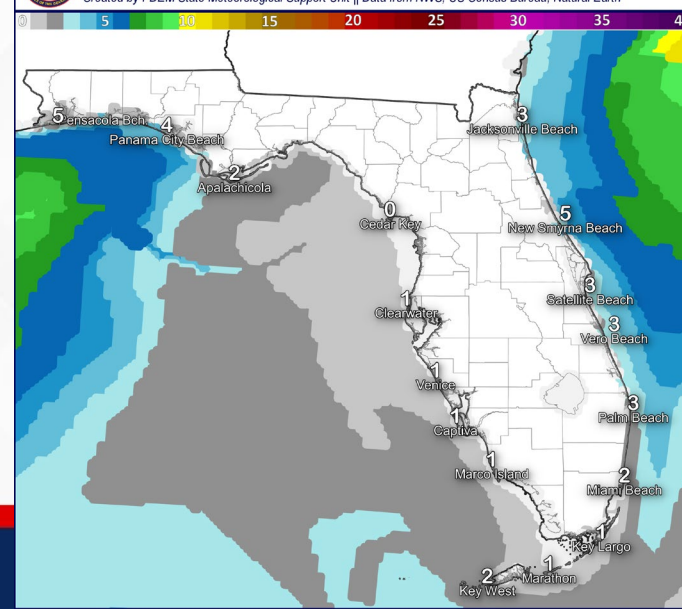
Rip Current Risk: Wednesday

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



Wave Heights: Wednesday Afternoon

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



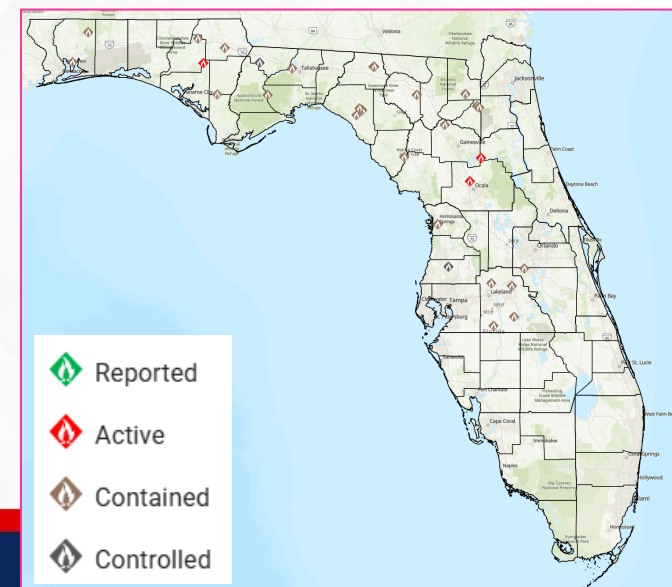
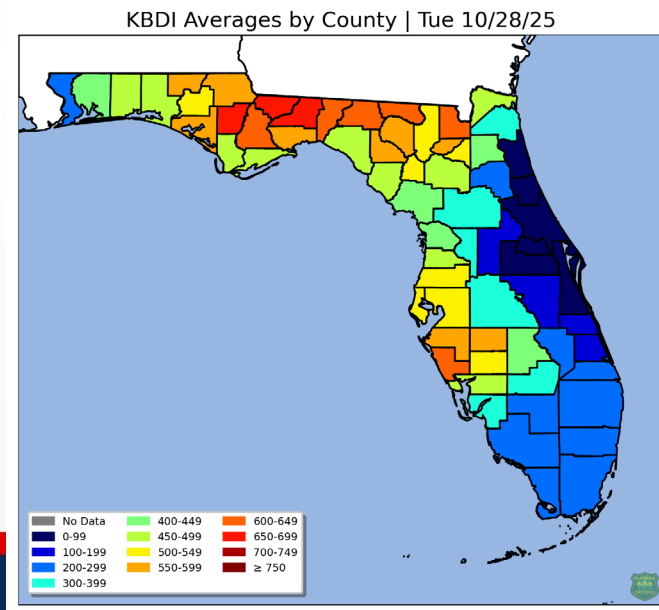
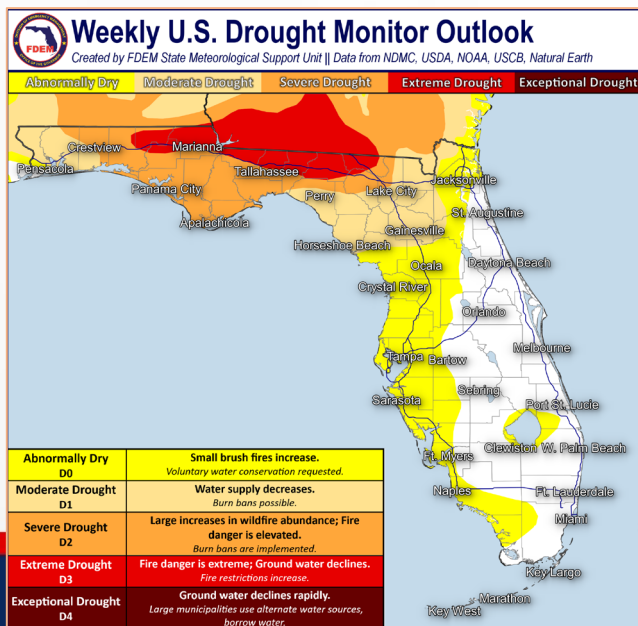


Drought & Fire Weather

Fire Weather: Enough moisture along another approaching cold front will bring isolated to scattered showers, with the best chance along the Panhandle and western Big Bend. Breezy and gusty winds will develop behind the cold front across the Panhandle and Big Bend leading to **wind gusts upwards of 20-25 mph** and **30-35 mph** closer towards the coast. A **Wind Advisory** has been issued along coastal portions of the Panhandle through late tonight where wind gusts could **reach upwards of 40 mph**. As the front moves through northern Florida and into central Florida today, then a few brief showers may develop along the front as it moves through. Drier conditions will follow behind the front as northwesterly winds build. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are 18 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 80 acres.

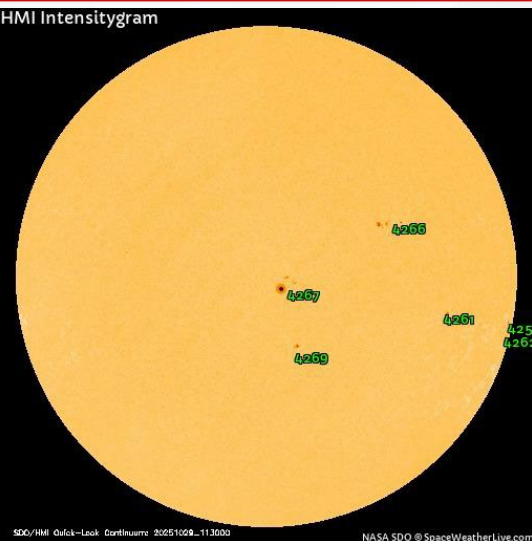
Drought: Although rainfall chances have generally been very low the past week, very wet soils from a rather wet early October has kept any drought in check across much of the Florida East Coast. However, a different story is unfolding across the western Peninsula and I-75 corridor where some slight expansion 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 **383 (-9)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **28** Florida counties (Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, DeSoto, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hardee, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee, Union, Wakulla, and Washington) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

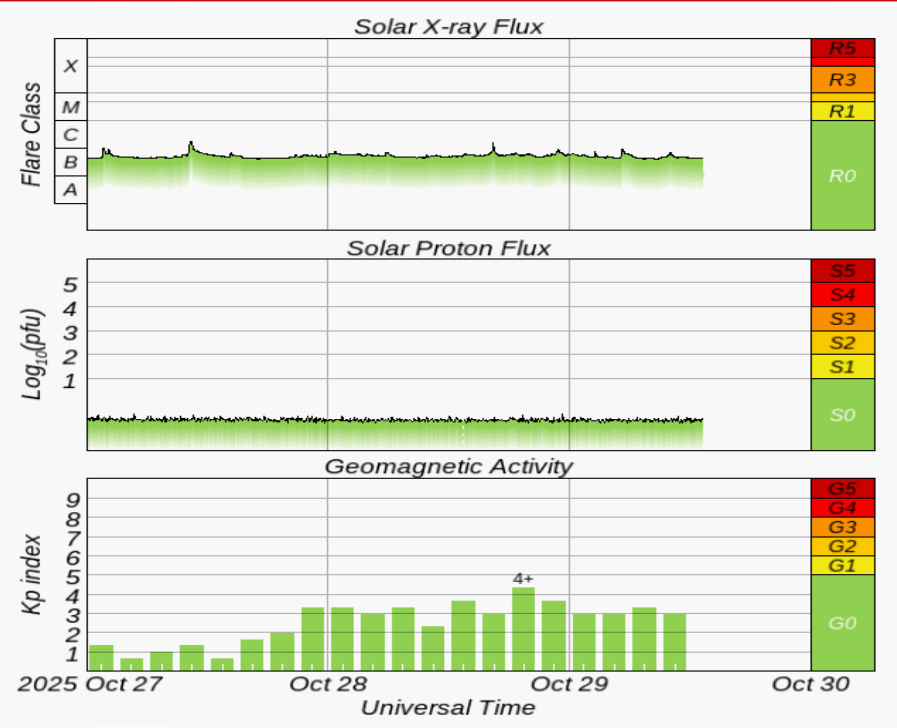
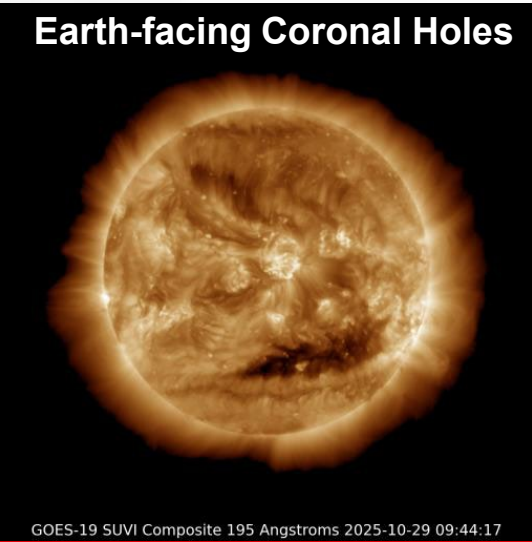




Space Weather



Current Sunspots



Solar Flare Risk	Active Watches & Warnings	Past 24 hours
M-class: 5%	Geomagnetic Storm: None	C1 Solar Flare
X-class: 1%	Radiation Storm: None	No Radio Blackout

48-Hour Geomagnetic Forecast	
10/29	10/30
Max Kp= 5 (G1)	Max Kp= 5 (G1)
Chance of minor activity = 30% severe activity = 15%	Chance of minor activity = 20% severe activity = 5%

Space Weather: Solar activity will remain very low through the end of the work week as moderate (C-class) solar flares will be possible, but all current sunspots remain stable. Coronal Hole High Solar Stream (CH HSS) winds will continue to flow towards the Earth leading to enhanced solar wind conditions. The Earth's geomagnetic field will see active conditions, with minor (G1) geomagnetic storming conditions forecast. There is also a chance for moderate (G2) geomagnetic storming conditions to occur with ongoing CH HSS conditions. The overall space threat to Florida is 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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