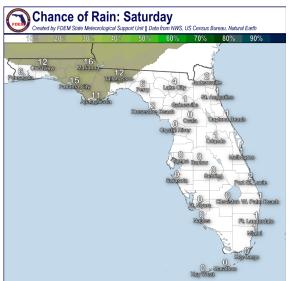






...Warm and Dry Conditions Remain the Theme Through Early Next Week... Weak Frontal Boundary Approaches North Florida Saturday and Saturday Night... Appreciable Shower Activity Not Expected...Drought Worsens as First Exceptional Drought in Nearly 14 Years Introduced on this Week's Drought Monitor to Florida... Sensitive to Elevated Wildfire Conditions Continue Each Afternoon... Dense Fog Chances Each Morning Across North and Central Florida... Another Frontal System Approaches the Panhandle on Tuesday...

Friday - Saturday:



After a rather foggy morning across North and Central Florida, another sunny and dry day is on tap for the Sunshine State. High pressure will remain anchored across the Southeast U.S. as a weak disturbance traverses the Ohio Valley with an attendant cold front extended southward across the Lower Mississippi Valley. The greatest forcing for showers will remain further north closer to the disturbance, however an isolated shower or two is possible ahead of this front across the far western Panhandle Friday night and spreading eastward towards the Big Bend region on Saturday (10-15% chance of rain). Any activity that does develop will be brief and light in nature, though a heavier downpour cannot be ruled out. Afternoon high temperatures will rise into the upper 70s to middle 80s statewide, which will approach record highs across North Florida for this time of year.

Sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions

will remain across North Florida given the ongoing significant drought and very dry vegetation/soils. Overall wildfire parameters will remain modest with relative humidities staying above critical thresholds (40-50% RH values) and generally light winds, though the background drought conditions will at least create a low to moderate risk for wildfire development until a significant wetting rain occurs. Winds will increase Saturday afternoon across North Florida with the frontal passage, with a few gusts upwards of 20 mph possible.

High pressure will continue to promote clear and calm conditions Friday and Saturday nights with additional rounds of **fog and low cloud** development. A light southwesterly wind ahead of the

weak frontal boundary will usher in enough low-level moisture for locally dense fog each night, especially across the Big Bend region Friday night and West-Central Florida Saturday night where current forecast guidance highlights the highest chances for low visibilities. However, patchy dense fog will be possible in any area across North and Central Florida each night and Dense Fog Advisories will be issued as conditions warrant. Please exercise caution when driving in low visibility and maintain safe driving distance between other vehicles. Low temperatures will fall into the middle 50s across the Suwannee River Valley Friday night before warming into the lower 60s Saturday night. Lows in the upper 50s to middle 60s can be expected most elsewhere, with upper 60s to lower 70s across Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys.

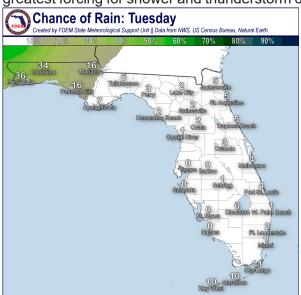






Sunday - Tuesday:

High pressure will briefly build back in across the Southeast U.S. on Sunday, helping to push the mostly dry frontal boundary through Central Florida and ushering in a drier continental airmass. Winds will turn from the east and northeast along the Florida East Coast, which could lead to a few isolated onshore-moving coastal showers along the Treasure and Space Coast Sunday and Monday (10-15% chance of rain). However, any activity that may develop will remain brief and light in nature. This high pressure will slide eastward off the local Atlantic waters Monday night and Tuesday ahead of the next approaching frontal system. Computer forecast models are in general agreement that the greatest forcing for shower and thunderstorm development will remain displaced north of the Panhandle



on Tuesday closer to the low-pressure system tracking across the northern Ohio Valley. Still, there will be enough moisture and ingredients available for a few isolated to widely scattered showers or even embedded thunderstorm across the far western Panhandle on Tuesday (20-35% chance of rain). There remains some disagreement amongst computer forecast models on exactly how far east any of this activity makes it Tuesday night and into early Wednesday. As of now, activity appears to remain confined west of the Apalachicola River Basin. However, trends in computer forecast models will continue to be monitored regarding any light rainfall chances to portions of the Panhandle. Regardless of any rainfall across the Panhandle during the middle of next week, activity does not appear significant enough to relieve any of the ongoing drought conditions. As such, some wetting rainfall of the surface layer is possible with some of this shower activity but

sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions will remain given the very dry background conditions. Highs will reach into the lower to middle 80s statewide through Tuesday, with a few locations across North Florida likely approaching or eclipsing record highs each afternoon.

Clear and calm overnight conditions will prevail through the forecast period. As winds shift back from the south and southwest on Monday and Tuesday nights, low-level moisture will be ushered in off the Gulf leading to additional **low cloud and fog** development across the Nature Coast, Suwannee River Valley, and Panhandle. **Locally dense fog** may certainly develop in a few locations and additional **Dense Fog Advisories** will be issued as conditions warrant. Lows will cool off post-front across North Florida Sunday night reaching the lower to middle 50s, warming back into the upper 50s to lower 60s Monday and Tuesday night. Lows will remain in the middle 60s across Central Florida and upper 60s to lower 70s across South Florida each night.

Tropical Weather:

Tropical development is <u>not expected</u> during the next 7 days in the Atlantic basin. Please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <u>website</u> for the latest on the tropics.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk of flash flooding across Florida during the next 5 days. A few isolated showers or even localized heavy downpour is possible across the Panhandle Friday night and Saturday, though any rainfall will remain below a few tenths of an inch, at most. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) website.

Riverine levels at the headwaters of the St. Johns, including <u>Lake Harney</u> and <u>Sanford</u>, remain at Action Stage (*bank-full*). Water levels will continue to slowly decline as the river continues to

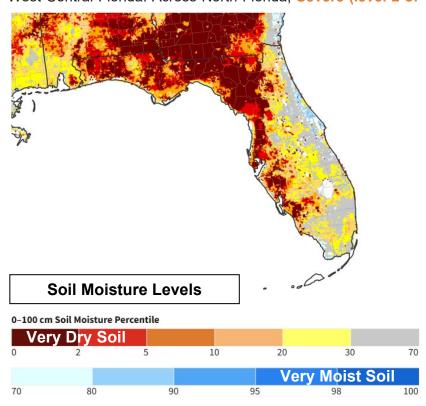




discharge. There are no other riverine concerns statewide. For more information, visit the <u>River Forecast Center</u>. Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.76 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.16 feet <u>below</u> normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

The past week was almost entirely dry across the entire Sunshine State as temperatures warmed to above seasonable levels. As such, no improvements were made to this week's <u>Drought Monitor</u> and further degradation was seen. Across South Florida, <u>Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)</u> was introduced across interior Collier, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties with expansion of Abnormally Dry (*emerging drought*) towards the Southeast coastline. <u>Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4)</u> was also introduced across Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades county, as well as around Lake Okeechobee where rainfall departures from the past month have neared 2-3 inches. <u>Moderate Drought</u> remains in place across much of West-Central Florida with further expansion into Polk County and northward along the entire Nature Coast. Rainfall departures from the past 60 days have grown to 4-6 inches across West-Central Florida. Across North Florida, <u>Severe (level 2 of 4)</u> to <u>Extreme (level 3 of 4) Drought</u>



have remained in place, with expansion southeastward of the Extreme Drought into much of Suwannee, Columbia, and western Baker County. Severe Drought was also added to much of the Forgotten Coast along Taylor and Dixie counties. An Exceptional Drought (level 4 of 4) was introduced to northern Gadsden, Leon, and Jefferson counties where streamflows have reached very low levels, vegetation has become very dry, and agricultural impacts have worsened. This is the first Exceptional Drought seen in the state of Florida since February 2012, nearly 14 years! Lake Talquin near Tallahassee is at especially low levels, comparable to levels from the 2011/2012 drought. Boating conditions in surrounding lakes and rivers have become impossible in some areas.

Long-term rainfall departures continue to decline across the Panhandle, and significant rainfall is not expected over the next week as temperatures remain above seasonable levels. As such, worsening drought conditions are expected over the next week across much of the state.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 494 on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are 42 Florida counties (Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafeyette, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Nassau, Okaloosa, Pasco, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger). County-enacted Burn Bans are in effect for the following counties: Alachua, Citrus, DeSoto, Duval*, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hardee, Hillsborough*, Jefferson, Liberty, Manatee, Orange*, Pinellas*, Sarasota, and Union.*Yard debris burn is always prohibited.





A relatively moist airmass will remain in place across much of the state through Saturday as southerly winds usher in enough low-level moisture to keep relative humidities above critical thresholds (40-50% RH values). However, given the very dry background conditions and ongoing drought, sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions will be possible each afternoon across the I-10 corridor in Northeast Florida. Relative humidities drop near critical thresholds on Sunday and Monday in the wake of the frontal passage (35-40% RH values) before southerly winds usher in higher humidities again on Tuesday. Sensitive wildfire conditions can be expected across North and Central Florida during the forecast period, with locally elevated wildfire concerns expected for areas experiencing long-term significant drought. While winds through the forecast period will generally remain light statewide, extremely dry soils/vegetation can lead to easier wildfire ignitions. Winds will increase on Saturday afternoon across North Florida ahead of the next frontal passage, with a few gusts upwards of 20 mph possible. Please use extreme caution when dealing with any activities involving flame, or with materials that can cause sparks. Areas of fog and low clouds during the morning hours this week may further reduce visibilities near any ongoing wildfires or active burns. According to the Florida Forest Service, there are currently 57 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 632 acres.

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Southerly to southeasterly winds ahead of the next dry frontal passage this weekend will yield offshore flow and a low to moderate risk for rip currents for all East Coast beaches this weekend. However, these winds will bring an onshore component to all Panhandle beaches bringing a return of a high risk for rip currents this weekend and lingering into early next week. A brief relaxation back to moderate levels is possible on Monday before southerly winds ramp up again ahead of the next frontal system Tuesday, with a return of a high risk. Winds will turn onshore again Monday and Tuesday along the East Coast with a moderate risk for rip currents persisting. Florida West Coast beaches can expect low rip current conditions during the next 5 days. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.

Calm marine conditions can be expected throughout the weekend and into early next week as wave heights remain at 1-3' for statewide beaches. A building ocean swell across the Gulf on Tuesday ahead of the next frontal system may yield surf of **3-4**' for Panhandle beaches. Similarly, breezy onshore winds may bring surf **upwards of 4**' for Florida Key beaches Tuesday and Tuesday night. There is no risk of coastal flooding statewide through the forecast period.

The latest <u>Blue-Green Algae</u> report shows algal bloom conditions were observed within Lake Okeechobee at low to <u>moderate bloom potential</u> along the southeastern shoreline of the lake. <u>Moderate bloom potential</u> has also been observed along portions of the St. Johns River downstream to Doctor's Lake, the Shands Bridge, and Lake Jessup. The Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries have not reported any algal bloom conditions.

NWS Mobile Daily Hazards
NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards
NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards

NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards

NWS Key West Daily Hazards

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

Pensacola Panama City Tallahassee Gainesville Jacksonville Daytona Beach
Orlando Tampa Fort Myers West Palm Beach Miami Key West
Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service
For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click here.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather







Florida NCAA Division I Football Forecast

All times are in ET



FSU vs. NC State	Friday 8:00 PM EST	Raleigh, NC
	Mostly cloudy skies with light winds.	
Kickoff Temperature: 60°	Halftime Temperature: 60°	Final Whistle Temperature: 60°

#15 Miami vs. Virginia Tech	Saturday 12:00 PM EST	Blacksburg, VA
Partly Sunny with a slight chance for an isolated shower after kickoff.		
Kickoff Temperature: 63°	Halftime Temperature: 62°	Final Whistle Temperature: 62°

ı	#24 USF vs. UAB	Saturday 3:00 PM EST	Birmingham, AL	
	Mixture of sunshine and cloud cover with wind gusts upwards of 15 mph.			
	Kickoff Temperature: 76°	Halftime Temperature: 73°	Final Whistle Temperature: 70°	

UConn vs. FAU	Saturday 3:00 PM EST	Boca Raton, FL
Mostly sunny skies with wind gusts upwards of 15 mph.		
Kickoff Temperature: 80°	Halftime Temperature: 79°	Final Whistle Temperature: 76°

FAMU vs. B-CU	Saturday 3:30 PM EST	Daytona Beach, FL
Mostly sunny skies with wind gusts upwards of 15 mph.		
Kickoff Temperature: 80	° Halftime Temperature: 78°	Final Whistle Temperature: 74°

Jax St. vs. FIU	Saturday 3:30 PM EST	<u>Miami, FL</u>
	Mostly sunny skies with light winds.	
Kickoff Temperature: 80°	Halftime Temperature: 78°	Final Whistle Temperature: 76°

Oklahoma St. vs. UCF	Saturday 4:00 PM EST	Orlando, FL
	Mostly sunny skies with light winds.	
Kickoff Temperature: 82°	Halftime Temperature: 77°	Final Whistle Temperature: 71°

#23 Tennessee vs. UF	Saturday 7:30 PM EST	Gainesville, FL	
Mostly sunny skies with wind gusts upwards of 15 mph.			
Kickoff Temperature: 72°	Halftime Temperature:68°	Final Whistle Temperature: 66°	



