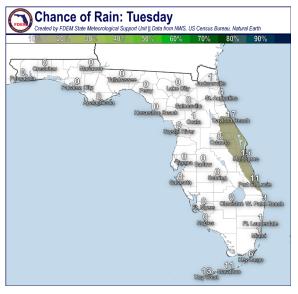






...Dry Conditions Across the State Through Wednesday With Light Sprinkles Along the East Coast...Rain Chances Return to North and Central Florida Thursday and Thursday Night; Best Chance of Rain to Remain Along the Panhandle and Big Bend...Embedded Rumbles of Thunder Closer Towards the Coast...Cold Front to Sweep Through the State Thursday and Thursday Night...Dry Conditions Return Friday and Saturday...Relative Humidity Values to Fall Below Critical Thresholds Across North Florida Friday and Saturday Afternoons...Patchy Fog Possible Tuesday and Wednesday Nights for the Big Bend and Nature Coast...Improvements Made to the Drought Monitor Courtesy of Widespread Rainfall...



Tuesday – Wednesday:

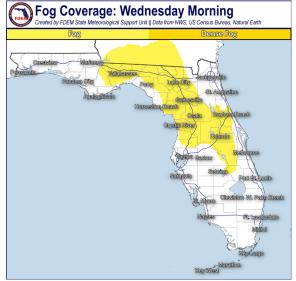
After a cold start to the week across North Florida. conditions will continue to gradually warm up beginning on Tuesday. High pressure over the southeastern states will weak before shifting offshore late on Wednesday leading to mostly dry conditions across the state. An upper-level feature just off the Florida East Coast may allow for light sprinkles or a brief shower along the portions of the coastline, but any activity will be light and brief in nature both days (15-20% chance of rain). Breezy winds will linger throughout the Peninsula on Tuesday with wind gusts reaching 15-20 mph, before subsiding tomorrow with locally gusty winds along the Southeast Florida coast and Keys. As moisture recovers across the state from the dry start to the week, patchy fog will be possible overnight and into the early morning hours Tuesday and Wednesday nights across low-lying areas

of the Suwannee Valley and Nature Coast. Showers will start to approach and move onshore along the Panhandle coastline late Wednesday and into Thursday (30-45% chance of rain).

High temperatures will return to the upper 50s to middle 60s across North Florida, lower to middle 70s across Central Florida and middle to upper 70s across South Florida on Tuesday. By Wednesday afternoon temperatures across North Florida will return to the middle to upper 70s and possibly the lower 70s. Low temperatures will dip into the **upper 30s** to upper 40s across North Florida, 50s across Central Florida and upper 50s to middle 60s across South Florida Tuesday night. Wednesday night low temperatures will fall into the 50s and lower 60s across North and Central Florida and 60s to lower 70s across South Florida.

Thursday – Saturday:

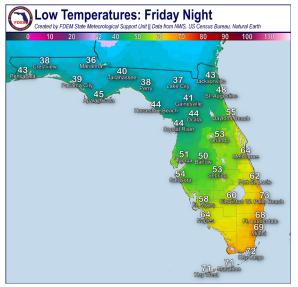
The next frontal system will approach the state Thursday morning as a warm front lifts northward from the gulf waters. As this warm front does so, it will pull scattered to widespread shower activity northward into the Panhandle and Big Bend by the afternoon and



evening hours. The same frontal system will have its accompany cold front also pushing eastward helping to bring light to moderate rainfall throughout northern and western Florida on Thursday and may bring an embedded thunderstorm or two closer towards the coastal waters (35-75% chance of rain). The greatest chance for shower activity will remain along the Panhandle and Big Bend with more scattered showers possible, compared to Central Florida and the West Coast which will see more of an





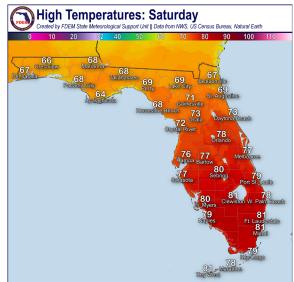


isolated chance. Due to the lack of favorable atmospheric environmental conditions, organized thunderstorm activity is not expected but a gusty shower or thunderstorm cannot be fully ruled out. This rainfall is not expected to be a wash out, which will help to bring much needed rainfall and soak into the grounds to help with drought conditions. Eventually as the cold front pushes eastward into the state it will help to bring isolated to scattered showers across the rest of the state Thursday afternoon and evening (35-50% chance of rain). As the front crosses through the state Thursday night and into Friday, lingering showers along the immediate frontal boundary may continue throughout the Peninsula (35-50% chance of rain). Behind the cold front another round of reinforcing dry will follow behind on Friday and into Saturday across North and North-Central Florida, allowing for relative humidity values to fall into critical

thresholds (30-35%). Depending on the timing of the front and how quickly it pushes offshore from the Peninsula, isolated showers may linger across South Florida and Keys on Friday and Saturday (10-15% chance of rain).

High temperatures will return to the upper 60s to lower 70s across North Florida, upper 70s to lower 80s across Central Florida and lower to middle 80s across South Florida. Similar conditions can be expected on Friday, but cooler air will arrive to the Panhandle dropping temperatures into the 60s to lower 70s briefly. By Saturday conditions return to Thursday's high temperatures. Low temperatures will

dip into the 50s across North Florida, lower to middle 60s across Central Florida and upper 60s to lower 70s across South Florida Thursday night. Colder air returns Friday night across North Florida will low temperatures dropping into the **upper 30s** to middle 40s. Central Florida will see low temperatures in the middle 40s to middle 50s. South Florida will see low temperatures in the upper 50s to upper 60s. Temperatures will warm back up slightly Saturday night across North Florida will low temperatures only reach the 40s to 50s, except for a portion of the upper Suwannee Valley which could see temperatures in the **upper 30s**. Central Florida will see low temperatures return to the middle 50s to lower 60s.



Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk for flash flooding over the next five

(5) days. Locally heavy rainfall across portions of the Panhandle or Big Bend will be possible with a cold front moving across the region late Thursday and into Thursday night. Rainfall totals are forecast to remain below an inch; however, repeated heavy shower activity or embedded thunderstorms could produce locally higher totals upwards of 1-2". There is uncertainty between computer model guidance in terms of how much rainfall and where the rainfall will occur. Regardless, any rainfall will continue to benefit the ongoing drought conditions across North Florida. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) website.

There are no riverine concerns at this time. For more information, visit the <u>River Forecast Center</u>. Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.53 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.20 feet below normal for this time of year.





Drought & Fire Weather:

Exceptional drought (level 4 of 4) was removed from the northern Panhandle and Big Bend on this week's <u>Drought Monitor (12/11)</u> following beneficial and widespread rainfall. Additional improvements were made along the Panhandle given the widespread 2-3" of rainfall steadily over a few days from 12/4 to 12/9. Since this widespread rainfall was widespread over several days, it allowed rainfall to soak into deeper layers of the ground soils rather than running off. Locally higher totals were near 3-4" along the western Panhandle which helped to remove **severe drought conditions** and **extreme drought** throughout the Big Bend and northern Suwannee Valley. A stream of heavier rainfall along the I-4 corridor helped to improve conditions along portions of Hernando, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties as they saw swaths of 2-3". Unfortunately for South Florida moderate drought conditions continue to expand further, now covering nearly all of the region. Lack of rainfall and above normal temperatures across South Florida continue to lead to drying conditions and further worsening of drought, especially with the late start to the wet season this year.

Changes this week will likely be minimal after rainfall was minimal over the last week. The greatest rainfall totals of 0.5-1.5" occurred along the immediate Treasure Coast and the Keys, which should help to keep abnormally dry (emerging drought) conditions in place. Abnormally dry conditions may expand into Indian River and St. Lucie counties where 30-day rainfall totals are reaching 1-2" below normal with pockets of 3" below normal. Due to recent beneficial rainfall across the Panhandle and North Florida from the last update, conditions will largely remain unchanged. Even with conditions drying out over the last few days following the heavy rainfall, top and mid-layer soils still remain moist.

The <u>Keetch-Byram Drought Index</u> average for Florida is **414 (+3)** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are <u>16</u> Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

After a dry start to the week, relative humidity values will recover across the state beginning today ahead of an approaching cold front. This next frontal boundary will move across the state beginning Thursday afternoon and into Friday bringing some scattered to widespread rainfall across North and into Central Florida. Once the cold front moves through dry conditions will return from west to east through the end of the forecast period. This will allow for relative humidity values will fall **below critical thresholds** Friday and Saturday afternoons throughout North Florida and extending into North-Central Florida. Leading up to the rainfall on Thursday, **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions** will be possible throughout North and West-Central Florida due to the longer-term drought conditions and recent dry conditions. **Locally sensitive conditions** will likely return on Friday and Saturday following the rainfall for areas that missed out on any heavier rainfall. According to the <u>Florida</u> Forest Service, there are currently 17 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 92 acres.

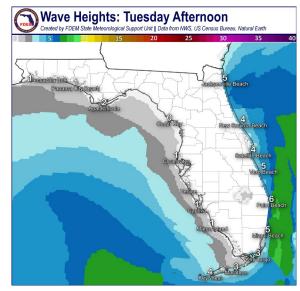
Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Brisk easterly to southeasterly winds can be expected along all beaches through Thursday leading to onshore flow for the East Coast leading to a **high risk for rip currents** and an **elevated risk** for the Panhandle. As a cold front moves through Thursday night and into Friday, winds will begin to shift from the southwest to the northwest allowing for onshore winds to return for West Coast beaches and likely creating a **moderate risk for rip currents**. Offshore flow will return to the Panhandle, but brisk winds will likely keep the **moderate risk** in place. Winds will flow parallel to the coast for the eastern half of the state keeping the **high risk** in place through the end of the week. West Coast beaches will return to a low risk by Saturday. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.





High surf conditions can be expected along the Florida East Coast as wave heights of 4-7' linger along the coast. Larger breaking waves upwards of 8' cannot be ruled out along some Treasure Coast beaches Tuesday afternoon. Wave heights will gradually decline Wednesday and into Thursday reaching 2-4' by Thursday afternoon. As brisk northeasterly winds return on Friday and into Saturday isolated breaking waves could reach upwards of 5' along portions of the Space and Treasure Coasts. Panhandle and Gulf Coast beaches can expect wave heights of 1-3' to persist for the next several days. Onshore winds returning Thursday with the next frontal system will allow for wave heights to reach 4' along numerous Panhandle beaches with possible breaking waves upwards of 5' Friday morning. By Saturday morning all beaches will return to 1-2'.



The latest Blue-Green Algae report shows algal

bloom conditions were observed within Lake Okeechobee at moderate to high bloom potential with the highest concentrations along the southern shoreline of the lake. High bloom potential was also observed within the Charlotte Harbor near the Gator Slough Canal, Lake Thonotosassa in West-Central Florida. Moderate bloom potential was also observed along a portion of the Panhandle in Pensacola Bay, the Dorothy B. Oven Park within the Ochlockonee Bay, Harbor Lake and Lake Avalon in Big Cypress Swamp.

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 rest of the week!

Kennedy Tartt, Assistant State Meteorologist Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather



